

# Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Board

## Note of meeting – 2 September 2025

Draft pending formal approval

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### Present

1. Fiona McKenzie (Chair)
2. Councillor Douglas Reid
3. Councillor Graham Boyd substituting Councillor Barry Douglas
4. David Cameron
5. Inspector Stuart Dougan substituting Chief Superintendent Suzanne Chow
6. Craig Hume

### Apologies

1. Lillian Jones MP
2. Billy Bowie
3. Eddie Fraser
4. Angela Cox
5. Lynne McNiven
6. Chris McMail
7. Councillor Barry Douglas
8. Chief Superintendent Suzanne Chow

### In attendance

1. Norman Gill
  2. Karen Purves
  3. Richard Grieveson
  4. Pamela Clifford
  5. Siobhan McGale
  6. Barbara McNaughton
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## 1. Welcome and introductions

- 1.1 Fiona welcome those in attendance and introductions were made.

### **Actions Arising:**

Not applicable.

## 2. Chair Update

- 2.1 Fiona recognises the enormous amount of work that has been carried out by Norman and Alan to refine the strategy to ensure it reflects the new UK Government guidelines while also aligning with the growing ambition of partners.
  - 2.2 While it is taking time for funding to be released, it has allowed time to explore what is truly possible, to strengthen relationships, and to connect the willing players across the system. An ambitious masterplan that connects the resources invested in capital projects across Kilmarnock is emerging and *We Make Kilmarnock* has the potential to be a key enabler in this approach.
  - 2.3 This process has been enriched by the energy and commitment of council officers and elected members, who have recognised the opportunity to align wider capital projects with this funding. By maximising resources across the town, Fiona feels we have the opportunity to create a genuinely joined-up approach – one that multiplies opportunity and accelerates transformation. National
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investment, local authority vision and community voice coming together to deliver change that is greater than the sum of its parts. Place-based leadership in action:

- 2.4 Fiona extended thanks to Pamela and Richard for attending and sharing a presentation that underpins this collaborative vision to Connect Kilmarnock and looks forward to hearing how it sparks our collective imagination and shapes the final version of Kilmarnock's Plan for Neighbourhoods.
- 2.5 Walking through the town centre recently, Fiona sensed a shift in energy. People have commented on the difference the removal of the multi-storey car park has made to the views and the light at the top of the town. And, despite the dreadful circumstances of the fire, it was great to hear the creative ideas people are sharing about what this space could become – how it has opened up a new view to the river. What more can we do together?
- 2.6 Last month Fiona visited 'Aberdeen Inspired' and the *Our Union Street* project with Pamela. She was impressed with what they had achieved – much of it really simple- creative lighting, public art, clean streets, suspended umbrellas, stronger connections to parks – was really inspiring. Fiona felt that although their scale may be larger, there is no reason the same, or more could be achieved in Kilmarnock. This is the time to stop dwelling on what hasn't happened in the past, and to focus instead on what we can make happen now. When we get through a meeting without reference to past disappointments, we will know we are making progress.
- 2.7 Looking ahead, Fiona would love for us to start talking about the values that should guide us as we move towards operationalising our vision. Kilmarnock's motto – *Virtute et Industria*, "By virtue and industry" – captures it perfectly: working hard to do the right thing, not the easy thing. If we hold fast to that, then this moment in time offers us a real opportunity – not just to talk the talk, but to walk the walk. Let's not just say it. Let's dae it.

#### **Actions Arising:**

Not applicable.

### **3. Actions from Previous Meeting**

- 3.1 Aberdeen Inspired has been invited to come and visit and FMcK working on a suitable diary date.
- 3.2 Fiona has contacted Columba 1400 to look at leadership experiences for the Board.
- 3.3 Scotland's Towns Partnership have been contacted regarding potential parking benchmarking and awaiting response. BMCN will chase up.
- 3.4 BMcD to link with Ayrshire College regarding parking investigations. Response unknown.
- 3.5 NG and KP will liaise with EF regarding Risk Management Centre visit.
- 3.6 No response from UK Government regarding approval for a funding manager which FMcK finds disappointing. Cannot proceed until approval granted.

#### **Actions Arising:**

- FMcK to diary Aberdeen Inspired visit
- BMcN will contact Scotland's Towns Partnership again
- NG and KP to organise RMC visit

## **4. Update from 1 September Session**

- 4.1 RC and PC gave a presentation on Connecting Kilmarnock: A Place Based Approach.

### **Actions Arising:**

Not applicable.

## **5. Submission of Regeneration Plan**

- 5.1 NG gave an update on the Regeneration Plan of timelines, governance and initiatives. He will ensure the Regeneration Plan is aligned with the Regeneration Plan presented by Council officers.

### **Actions Arising:**

Not applicable.

## **6. Initiative Update**

- 6.1 Frame PR Agency have started work and getting ready to go out with publicity in a few weeks. Members asked to feed any good news stories to NG or FMcK to pass onto FramePR.
- 6.2 DR asked about the possibility of creating awards to help highlight and promote good work. BMcN stated that Vibrant Community Awards had been used in the past and were successful in creating good news stories in communities.
- 6.3 All agreed it would be useful to invite Greener Communities to attend a meeting as the Brighten Up Kilmarnock initiative needs to align with plans.
- 6.4 Town Centre Radios continues to grow with increased business users. SD said the Police are delighted with the radios, especially now in the lead up to Christmas and NG is keen Frame PR do good news stories around the radios.

### **Actions Arising:**

- All to feed good news stories to NG or FMcK.
- KP to liaise with RG re Greener Communities review and future presentation to the Board.

## **7. Decisions required**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. AOB:**

- 8.1 LJ has asked if the meetings can fall on a different day. NG will put out a poll to members.

### **Actions Arising:**

- NG will poll members regarding a different day for meetings.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

- 9.1 Tuesday 21 October 2025, from 3pm to 5pm at Centrestage.

## **Further information**

Visit the [East Ayrshire Council: Kilmarnock Neighbourhood Board](#) webpages.