Benchill South and Wythenshawe Pride In Place Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Date and Time: Friday 17 July 2026

Location: Benchill Community Centre

Chair: Eamonn O'Neal

Secretariat: Sally Coates

Board Members:

[Resident names redacted from published document]

Karen Wilson, Vice Chair

Sarah Storey, Vice Chair

Emma Taylor, Councillor for Sharston

Astrid Johnson, Councillor for Woodhouse Park

Sam Lynch, Councillor for Northenden

Mike Kane, MP

[redacted] Resident

[redacted] Resident

[redacted] Resident

[redacted] Resident

[redacted] Resident

[redacted] Resident

[redacted] Resident

Observers and other attendees:

Tom Wiseman, Strategic Lead South Neighbourhood Team, MCC

Sophie Jones, Mike Kane MPs office

Apologies:

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair, Eamonn O'Neal, welcomed attendees to the inaugural meeting of the Benchill South and Wythenshawe Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board and thanked everyone for attending.

The chair checked that members were comfortable in the meeting room. He encouraged board members to alert him of any reasonable adjustments required to meet individual needs

Introductions were made.

Apologies received:

N/A

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members completed Declarations of Interest forms and submitted them to the Secretariat.

No declarations of interest were made in relation to any agenda item.

3. **Programme Overview**

A Programme Overview presentation was circulated to members in advance of the meeting to introduce the Pride in Place Programme. The chair gave a brief explanation of how the Pride in Place area was selected.

The chair went through the presentation outlining the purpose of Pride in Place in supporting ambitions for the area.

The board noted that whilst Pride in Place funding should not replace statutory services, the Board has an important role in highlighting local priorities and influencing partners and other statutory services to respond to community concerns.

Tom W gave a brief explanation of project spend for 25/26 and 26/27.

Members discussed several aspects of the programme, including:

- How funding can be allocated across priorities and the flexibility available to the Board when determining local priorities.
- The setting up of subgroups including a youth subgroup led by Karen and community/residents subgroup led by Sarah (vice chairs)
- Future opportunities for community-led projects and investment through the programme.

Eamonn outlined key programme milestones:

- 17 July 2026 – Deadline for Manchester City Council to submit Board Membership Confirmation and Pride in Place Boundary Confirmation. ·
- 30 November 2026 – Deadline for submission of the 10-Year Regeneration Plan and 4-Year Investment Plan.

4. Terms of Reference

The Board considered the draft Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy alongside the wider governance arrangements for the programme.

The chair highlighted the need for transparency and explained that minutes and confirmation of decisions will be made publicly available where possible/appropriate.

Decision

Members agreed that the Terms of Reference provide a foundation for supporting the work of the board but that they may need to be reviewed as the programme progresses.

It was agreed that the board will review section 4 of the terms of reference, particularly the points regarding membership of the board, to ensure the whole board doesn't change at the same time creating any risk to the programme.

5. Code of Conduct

Decision

The Board approved and adopted the Code of conduct.

6. Conflict of Interest Policy

Decision

The Board approved and adopted the Conflict-of-Interest policy.

7. Boundary Adjustments

The chair shared a map showing the existing boundary area and the proposed adjustments to the Pride in Place boundary.

Members were advised that the original boundary set by Government was based on deprivation data and national programme criteria.

Members were also advised that investment can still be made in assets and activities outside of the designated boundary where there is a clear benefit to residents within the Pride in Place area.

It was noted that the proposed boundary change aligns with the old boundaries when Benchill existed as a ward and therefore the changes would support community connection. It was also noted that the boundary changes bring in more community assets into the target area enabling more community voices to be heard.

Decision

The board supports the proposed boundary changes by unanimous decision.

Action

- MCC to feedback to Government regarding the programme boundary submission and opportunities for future boundary reviews to better reflect the neighbourhood.

8. Engagement Update

This will be shared at the next meeting as part of a workshop.

9. Record of Decisions

- The Board approved and adopted the Terms of Reference.
- The Board approved and adopted the Code of conduct.
- The Board approved and adopted the Conflict-of-interest policy.
- The Board approved an amended boundary proposal.

10. A.O.B

Key discussion points included:

- A preference for meetings to take place during the daytime, generally up until midday on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Next meeting was agreed for Thursday 23rd at 10am to hold a workshop to look at the community engagement that has already taken place and to map across current early priority considerations
- Suggestion was made to agree on a date ahead of the submission of the Regeneration Plan due by 30th November.
- The view that meetings should be held every two weeks if possible, during the initial stages of the programme to maintain momentum. ·
- A preference for face-to-face meetings, whilst retaining the option to consider hybrid arrangements where appropriate. ·

- Potential venues for future meetings: Benchill Community Centre; Forum Library; Etrop Court.
- Members asked about the opportunity for training/capacity building as they had not been a part of a board before. Sally confirmed they'd be working with the other Neighbourhood project leads across the City to establish a training assessment document and an accessibility needs document that we can share with the boards to determine a training offer.
- Board members took this as an opportunity to check whether others in the room had first aid training and expressed their medical needs.
- Board members asked about the possibility of remuneration to cover travel expenses, caring responsibilities etc. Tom advised he would share the draft remuneration policy with the chair and that the decision making around this will be up to the board.
- The chair explained he was discussing with the other Manchester chairs the possibility of creating digital spaces such as a website and Social Media platforms through which members of all boards can share intelligence and ideas. The chair explained that any costs for this would be borne out of the PiP budgets but across five areas shouldn't be an issue. Members agreed that this is an idea worth pursuing
- Mike Kane MP thanked all members for attending the first board meeting.
- Eamonn thanked all for their time and for being a part of the Pride in Place Programme.

Actions

- Sally to send a poll out for members to vote on a meeting date for November.
- Sally to speak with colleagues to develop training needs assessment and accessibility needs documents to be shared with board members
- Tom to share the draft remuneration policy with the Chair.
- The chair to contact colleagues about co-creating digital assets
- Sally to book room for next meeting

11. Date of Next Meeting

- 23rd July 2026: 10 am to 12pm

Future Board meetings:

- 11th August 2026