Moss Side West Pride in Place Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Date: 22 October 2026

Time: 17:30 – 19:30

Location: Positive Futures, Moss Care St Vincents Housing Association

Present [Resident names redacted from published public document]

Board members:

Hassan Hassan, Chair

Gabrielle Cox, Vice Chair

Afzal Khan, MP

Mahdi Mahamed, Councillor Moss Side

Angeliki Stogia, Councillor Whalley Range

Secretariat:

Sally Coates, MCC Neighbourhood Project Lead Secretariat:

Observers and other attendees:

Yasmine El-Gabry, Afzal Khan MP's office

Sarah Pope, MHCLG

Apologies:

Some resident board members could not attend.

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome to the new board**

The Chair welcomed all board members to the meeting and into their new role as Pride in Place board members. All members introduced themselves.

A board member asked that board members be bcc'd into emails for GDPR purposes, and that email addresses aren't shared further. The chair explained that as a group they can determine how best to communicate with each other and how best to meet GDPR requirements. The Chair confirmed this can be agreed at the first official board meeting.

The Chair then invited Afzal Khan MP to welcome all members to the board. Afzal expressed his pride in the number of people that showed an interest in being a board member, stating Pride in Place is a unique opportunity for residents to shape investment in Moss Side. He expressed his happiness at being involved in Pride and Place and explained that he will do his best to attend meetings as often as possible. Finally, Afzal thanked all members for giving their time and commitment to the board and to the programme.

2. Wider Pride in Place Opportunity

The Chair invited Sarah from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to introduce herself and the programme to the board. Sarah gave an overview of the Pride in Place Programme across the country explaining that there are some phase one areas and now some phase two areas. Sarah explained Moss Side West was announced later than others and so they are working to a different timeline, they are not behind and don't need to play catch up.

Sarah explained that this is an opportunity for the board to be a voice, to support residents to be heard and to hold services to account, she explained that residents are best placed to determine what projects take place and what changes can be made and offered her support as the programme progresses.

3. MCC as accountable body

Sarah also supported with offering an overview of MCC's role as an accountable body.

As the Accountable Body, the Council will:

- Act as link between MHCLG and the Neighbourhood Boards
- Manage the programme funding on behalf of the Neighbourhood Board
- Ensure that all funding decisions are appropriate, fair and transparent
- Provide advice, guidance and support to the Neighbourhood Boards to enable effective decision-making and delivery
- Provide secretariat and administrative support to the Neighbourhood Board, including organising meetings and supporting programme activity
- Take formal decisions where required, in line with the Council's governance and decision-making processes
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements, including procurement, subsidy control and financial regulations.

4. Meet the board – who are we?

The Chair gave Councillors the opportunity to introduce themselves in more detail to support residents to learn more about them.

Councillor Stogia gave an overview of her background and her work life, sharing her journey to becoming a councillor and now a PIP board member. Councillor Stogia expressed that she is passionate about listening to residents and being able to tell them 'You said, We did' and that she has a real interest in the legacy of Pride in Place and what this might lead to whilst wanting to ensure that projects are what residents want.

Councillor Mahamed went next sharing some insight into his background and how meeting other councillors and residents ignited his interest in politics, leading to becoming a councillor. Mahdi discussed how Pride in Place funding is a good opportunity to invest in the area and mentioned that it can act as a catalyst to bring in more funding to make change. He also shared that he runs a charity and hopes to make positive contributions to the board to support residents.

5. Group activity

The Chair asked board members to share;

- Their reason for joining the board
- A strength that they can bring to the board
- What they value in Moss Side and what board members would like to protect

Each member shared how they were connected to Moss Side, and what had encouraged them to want to be on the Board. There was a wide range of lived experience, involvement in local groups across different communities, and occupational and professional skills which would be useful to the Board. The Board was glad to welcome a young local person as member. There were many comments about being proud to be part of the Moss Side community. Asked what they value and/or want to protect, there were varied comments: the sense of community; importance of community cohesion; how walkable and accessible it is; that it values diversity; that it feels like home.

The Vice chair, Gabrielle summaries the group's contribution in summary of reflection. Gabrielle then contributed by reflecting on her journey: talked about the way in which Moss Side had changed over time and stressed how much work had been done by members of the community over the years to bring people together, to tackle problems, and to bring us to the point today where Moss Side is no longer seen as a place of crime and violence. She welcomed the strongly positive attitudes and views of Board members but said we should not be complacent about the challenges facing the community. She was pleased to be part of a group of people who wanted to make a difference.

6. Our Journey to February

The Chair introduced this item, reminding the board that tonight is about exploration and forming the board, not about making investment decisions. It was explained that the board is currently in the "Form & Mobilise" phase (October). The possible roadmap was detailed to as follows:

- November – Understand & Listen: Complete the forming stage, Engaging with residents, gathering evidence, and identifying local assets.
- December – Vision, Priorities & Outcomes: Agreeing on the changes the board seeks to make.
- January – Appraise, Develop & Draft: Determining what could deliver those changes and drafting the plan.
- February – Assure, Approve & Submit: Finalising the plan so the board can stand behind it.

The Chair emphasised the guiding principle for the board moving forward: "Listen. Understand. Then decide." It was reiterated that the board's focus should remain on improving lives, opportunity, young people, and quality of life, as a guide to its work.

7. Reflections and what happens next

The Chair invited board members to share one thing (or in a word) that gave them confidence or excitement about the road ahead. Members expressed optimism about the diverse lived experiences and professional skills around the table, the genuine passion for Moss Side West, and the collective commitment to making a long-term, positive difference for residents.

Next Steps:
The Chair outlined the immediate next steps for the board:

- Tonight: Members were encouraged to continue with conversation, and networking to build connections.
- Survey & Skills Audit: Members were asked to complete a short survey and skills audit to help best support them organise and deliver board's meetings, work and future activities.
- First Formal Board Meeting: Members were informed that the first official board meeting will take place soon, where formal governance arrangements (such as GDPR communication preferences and terms of reference) will be agreed.

The Chair thanked all members for their time, commitment, and positive contributions to the first gathering. The meeting closed with informal networking and departure.