PRIDE IN PLACE
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Gorton South Pride In Place Neighbourhood Board

Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday 15th July 2026 6pm

Location: Gorton Hub – Peter Pan Room

Chair: Jo Sharples

Secretariat: Michael Fletcher, Manchester City Council

Board Members:

[Resident names redacted from published document]

Suzanne Richards, Councillor for Longsight

Julie Reid, Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey

Observers and other attendees:

Katie McCall, Strategic lead, Manchester City Council

Sarah Taylor, Neighbourhood community development officer, Manchester City Council

Fowsia Cali, Neighbourhood community development officer, Manchester City Council

Apologies:

Fesl Reza Khan, Councillor for Levenshulme

Hannah Spencer, Member of parliament for Gorton and Denton

Agenda Items:

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the Gorton South Board.

Board members introduced themselves and outlined their roles within the community.

Katie McCall provided an overview of the Pride in Place journey to date and the work undertaken to establish the Board.

The chair outlined the agenda and the focus of the meeting, which was to ensure that all administrative requirements were completed and the necessary documentation was signed.

2. **Programme overview (for information)**

Katie McCall proposed that the presentation be taken as read, as the slideshow had been circulated in advance. The Board agreed to this approach.

The key milestones and project timelines slide were highlighted and discussed with Board members.

Katie McCall advised that Michael Fletcher, (secretariat) would be the primary officer support for the Board, particularly for the Chair. It was also noted that additional support would be provided by Manchester City Council throughout the programme.

3. **Communication and engagement update – Central Neighbourhood Team**

Sarah Taylor and Fowsia Cali delivered a presentation outlining the engagement activity undertaken to date, along with an overview of the proposed engagement plan to be delivered by Neighbourhood Community Development Officers.

Board members raised questions regarding future communications and engagement activity. The Chair acknowledged these points and confirmed that they would be explored in more detail at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked Sarah and Fowsia for their work to date and recognised the significant effort that had gone into delivering the engagement programme. Discussions also took place regarding future engagement opportunities, with a range of potential approaches considered.

ACTIONS

- Fowsia Cali and Sarah Taylor to prepare a reflection report for the Board, summarising engagement activity to date and key learning points, recognising the extensive work undertaken since engagement began and the value of taking stock before progressing further.
- The secretariat to provide a copy of the presentation for the Chair to circulate to Board members.

4. **Terms of reference**

The Chair invited Board members to raise any concerns regarding the Terms of Reference (ToR), particularly around the expectations and responsibilities associated with Board membership.

The Chair emphasised the importance of working collaboratively to maintain member engagement and ensure the Board remains motivated and effective. It was noted that Board membership is subject to a three-year rotation cycle, with membership arrangements to be reviewed annually.

Beth Powell highlighted the importance of taking time to reflect on progress to date and develop a clear plan for future work.

The Board was advised that the interim Terms of Reference must be signed to enable the Board to operate while a bespoke Terms of Reference is developed and submitted alongside the Investment Plan.

Cllr Suzanne Richards suggested the board explore opportunities for team building and relationship development to strengthen Board cohesion and support effective decision-making.

Cllr Suzanne Richards suggested the board develop a ‘jargon buster’ guide and facilitate discussions to help define the Board's own values and ways of working.

It was suggested the board use the Investment Plan deadline as a milestone to help structure the board's work programme and future priorities.

ACTIONS

- Develop a proposal for the annual review of Board membership.
- Michael Fletcher to circulate the Nolan Principles for consideration and inclusion within the Board's Code of Conduct.

5. Code of conduct

The Chair emphasised that kindness, courtesy and mutual respect should be fundamental principles of the Board's work. Members agreed that supporting and caring for one another would be essential to fostering a positive and effective working environment.

The Board discussed the value of developing a more personal, member-led document that reflects the group's shared values, behaviours and commitment to working together constructively.

Suggestions were also made to establish clear guidance on what constitutes a gift or hospitality that should be declared by Board members, to promote transparency and good governance.

6. Conflict of interest policy

The Secretariat advised Board members that the declaration forms should be signed and dated on the final page. This provided an opportunity to explain the Declaration of Interests process and discuss its purpose and requirements.

Board members sought clarification on several points within the documentation, resulting in a wider discussion to ensure a shared understanding of the requirements and expectations.

Copies of the completed documentation were collected from each Board member. Guidance and support were provided throughout the process by the Secretariat and Katie McCall.

The Secretariat advised that any Board members with further questions or concerns regarding the documentation could contact the team for additional guidance and support.

7. Proposed boundary adjustments

The Chair advised that the final decision regarding potential boundary additions did not need to be made at this meeting. Members were encouraged to take time to review the proposals, reflect on the information presented, and bring feedback to the next meeting. Katie McCall provided further clarification on the process and timescales for making any future changes, noting feedback to MHCLG would be that there is an intention from the board to expand the boundary to include communities and hyper local community assets that would benefit from investment from the programme.

Board members expressed an interest in the proposed boundary extensions and exclusions and discussed the potential implications of these changes

Cllr Julie Reid raised questions regarding several of the proposed boundary areas, particularly in parts of South Gorton which needed investment.

Cllr Suzanne Richards clarified that, while some projects or assets may sit outside the designated boundary, investment could still be considered where there is a clear benefit to residents within the area, particularly where there are strong links to local green spaces and community assets.

Beth Powell requested that the Board be provided with an overview of existing funding streams, planned projects and ongoing activity within the current boundary area to help inform future discussions. Katie McCall explained that Manchester City Council's Growth and Development team is already compiling this information and that it will be shared with the Board ahead of the autumn decision-making process.

ACTIONS

- The Secretariat to arrange for large-scale maps of the boundary area to be printed and available for the next Board meeting.

8. Any other business (AOB)

The Chair emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Board has strong and representative membership that reflects the diversity of the local area.

Members discussed the need to strengthen the representation of young people and considered whether a dedicated youth voice should be incorporated into the Board's future arrangements.

The importance of engaging with a wider range of residents and VCSFE organisations was also highlighted.

Joise Johnson noted that efforts should be made to reach smaller, community-based groups and not rely solely on larger organisations, such as the Youth Zone, Gorton, for representation and engagement.

The group identified local Scout groups and schools as potential partners that could help broaden participation and ensure a wider range of voices are heard.

Members also discussed the possibility of establishing a Pride in Place youth board or similar forum involving local schools, recognising that this could help improve diversity, representation and engagement with younger residents.

Katie McCall reminded Board members of the need to begin recording mileage and any other eligible expenses in line with the programme's procedures.

The Chair also highlighted the need to appoint a Vice-Chair. It was agreed that the secretariat would lead the process and bring forward proposals for consideration at a future meeting.

ACTIONS

- Michael Fletcher to coordinate the process for appointing a Vice-Chair

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Board discussed arrangements for future meetings. It was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with the Chair and circulate a selection of potential meeting dates for Board members to vote on using an online poll.

Members indicated that a meeting time of **5:30pm to 7:30pm** may be more suitable and accessible for attendees.

The Board also suggested alternating the day of the week on which meetings are held to maximise attendance and accommodate different commitments.

ACTION

- Secretariat to circulate poll to members of the board