

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods

Date: 12 January 2026

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Wards Affected

Carlton, Carlton Hill, Cavendish, Porchester, Phoenix, Gedling, Netherfield, Colwick and Trent Valley

Purpose

To provide a further update on the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme.

Recommendation:

THAT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Note the further update.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 On 6 March 2024, the Council was notified by the former Government that the Long Term Plan for Towns funding programme that had been originally announced in September 2023 had been extended from 55 to 75 towns and would now include Carlton. The former Government Minister confirmed that each town will receive “endowment-style” funding and support worth up to £20m over a 10-year period.
- 1.2 Gedling Borough Council, as the accountable body for the programme, subsequently established a Town Board ('the Board') and appointed Sir John Peace to the role of interim independent Chair.
- 1.3 In full consultation with the local community, the Board developed a draft 10-year vision for Carlton including a 3-year investment plan outlining how funds would be allocated. The draft plan included interventions to address the needs and priorities of Greater Carlton and refers to the themes of the former guidance.
- 1.4 The work of the Board was stopped in December 2024 as the Labour Government paused the programme. In this period, the Board awaited the publication of a new prospectus and technical guidance by MHCLG. A transition from the Plan for Towns was driven by the need to address the disparities in funding and support for different areas across the UK. The Plan for Towns had been deemed restrictive and further flexibility was desired for its allocation of funding. A shift would also allow the programme to reflect a broader government initiative to focus on community-led change.
- 1.5 The new Plan for Neighbourhoods guidance and prospectus was published on 7 March 2025 as part of the government's plan to ensure that nowhere is left behind. The Plan for Neighbourhoods programme aims for Neighbourhood Boards to drive growth locally by improving the physical and social infrastructure of their community, delivering tangible improvements to the everyday lives of these communities by targeting three strategic priorities: thriving places, stronger communities, and taking back control. The three priorities identify a range of measures under the themes of:
 - Regeneration, high streets, and heritage
 - Housing
 - Work, productivity and skills
 - Cohesion
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Transport
 - Safety and security
 - Education and opportunity

- 1.6 Further information and guidance for the Plan for Neighbourhoods prospectus can be found through the following link:
[Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus)
- 1.7 The government supported the establishment of new Neighbourhood Boards with the expectation that each board will, in partnership with their local authority, develop a '10 year Regeneration Plan', setting out their vision for the next decade alongside a more detailed 'Investment Plan' for the first 4 years of the programme. The Council, as the accountable body, was required to submit the '10 Regeneration Plan' and '4 year Investment Plan' to MHCLG by Friday 28 November 2025.
- 1.8 On 19 March 2025 Cabinet approved arrangements for the creation of a Greater Carlton Neighbourhood Board and to develop appropriate processes that would ensure compliance with the £20 million funding award.
- 1.9 In March 2025, the Council appointed external consultants, Mutual Ventures to provide appropriate expertise to support the Greater Carlton Neighbourhood Board in the planning and delivery of the community and stakeholder engagement required as part of its objectives.
- 1.10 As part of the Board's re-establishment, Sir John Peace announced that he would be stepping down from his role as interim independent Chair. In April 2025, David Stewart was appointed as Sir John Peace's successor.
- 1.11 Neighbourhood Boards work in partnership with the local authority to deliver the strategic objectives of the programme, putting local people at the heart of the Regeneration Plan for their area. In the Board's mobilisation phase and in the development of its first 4-year Investment Plan, the Board has met on a monthly basis to ensure progress is reviewed and monitored. Further details on the Board membership along with other programme information can be found through the link below:
[Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods - Gedling Borough Council](https://www.gedling.gov.uk/our-council/our-council-meetings/plan-for-neighbourhoods)
- 1.12 To comply with the requirements of the Plan for Neighbourhoods: prospectus, Gedling Borough Council, as the accountable body, confirmed its board membership and resubmitted its proposals to alter the plan's place boundaries to MHCLG on the 22 April 2025 (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.13 The proposed boundary changes include Netherfield Lagoons, Stoke Bardolph, Mapperley local centre, Lambley Lane recreational ground and

Gedling Country Park. The amendment provides opportunities to deliver projects that will enhance green spaces and the public realm within the enlarged boundary.

- 1.14 For revenue capacity, £250,000 was provided over the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years. An additional £200,000 of capacity funding was released at the start of the 2025/26 financial year. Capacity funding has been made available to local authorities to establish Neighbourhood Boards and undertake the community engagement in the development of their Regeneration Plans. Delivery funding will be released from the beginning of the 2026/2027 financial year, allowing the Regeneration Plan and projects to be developed in the ensuing year.
- 1.15 In June 2025, the Neighbourhood Board took part in a working group activity to review and refine the vision, investment priorities and final list of interventions identified as part of the previous Long Term Plan for Towns progressed in 2024. The findings and outcomes from the session would shape new proposals for the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods.

The Board's considerations were informed by:

- MHCLG data
- LTPfT consultation (2024)
- Recent council consultations (including a Resident Survey from 2021 and Parks and Open Spaces Survey's from 2023 and 2024)
- Relevant recent strategies including the UKSPF and local growth frameworks.

- 1.16 Over the summer of 2025, our programme consultants, Mutual Ventures, led a targeted engagement process consulting key stakeholders to support the development of the '10 year Regeneration Plan' and '4 year Investment Plan'. With Board agreement, proposals and feedback gathered from the 2024 Greater Carlton Long Term Plan for Towns Community Consultation were considered as part of this development of the Regeneration Plan and 4-year investment plan.
- 1.17 Key findings from the Greater Carlton Long Term Plan for Towns Community Consultation 2024

727 participants completed a survey as part of a community consultation exercise between 15 July and 30 August 2024. The purpose of the campaign was to gain feedback that would support the Board in deciding how the Greater Carlton Long Term Plan for Towns funding should be expended.

Following the public survey, further targeted engagement was undertaken over the period of 1st September to 24th September 2024. The purpose of this targeted engagement was to delve deeper into challenges and opportunities raised in the first round of consultation. This round of consultation targeted three key groups through dedicated workshops and 1:1 engagement with young people, high street businesses, and larger employers.

The most common themes in the feedback received across these areas of engagement included suggestions concerning:

- The improvement of public spaces and green areas
- Support for local businesses
- The improvement of sports and leisure facilities
- An increase in community events and spaces
- Improvements in infrastructure maintenance and connectivity
- Measures to increase safety and security

Further information from the Greater Carlton Long Term Plan for Towns consultation from 2024 can be found within Appendices 2, 3 and 4.

1.18 [Summary of the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods Targeted Engagement 2025](#)

Mutual Ventures led a targeted engagement and consultation exercise with key stakeholders between July and August 2025, to support the development of project themes that would be included in the '10 year Regeneration Plan' and '4 year Investment Plan'. To complement the extensive consultation that informed the original 10-year vision, Mutual Ventures on behalf of the Board reengaged with local organisations, businesses, and key stakeholders, through targeted one-to-one discussions. These discussions provided an opportunity to revisit priorities, assess evolving needs, and ensure that the Regeneration Plan reflects current aspirations and challenges across the Greater Carlton area, borough, and region. The further stakeholder engagement included:

- **Strategic partners**

To understand strategic priorities of key stakeholders including the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and education/skills providers.

- **Local organisations**

To understand likely costs, anticipated timescales and identify potential specification requirements.

- **Local businesses**

To understand the nature of current and future business requirements (business advice, business grants, employment corridor improvements etc).

- **Council projects**

To understand the scale, funding requirements and strategic alignment of GBC's corporate Gedling Plan projects.

Further information from the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods Targeted Engagement 2025 can be found within Appendix 5.

1.19 In October 2025, it was agreed by the Board that the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods '10-year Regeneration Plan' will focus on targeted investment and partnership working across five priority areas, that make up the Board's investment priorities:

- 1. Skills and Learning:** Supporting residents to shape their own futures by providing opportunities to learn, retrain, and develop new skills.
- 2. Youth and Aspirations:** Empowering young people to achieve their full potential through safe, accessible community spaces and education activities.
- 3. Health and Wellbeing:** Investing in green spaces, heritage and leisure assets, and community hubs to improve physical and mental wellbeing. Supporting community organisations to deliver inclusive activities and events.
- 4. Local Economy and Business Growth:** Enhancing high streets and retail areas and providing tailored support to help local businesses grow and innovate.
- 5. Safety and Feelings of Safety:** Investing in crime and antisocial behaviour prevention to ensure more people are safe and feel safe in their communities.

1.20 The Board's full Vision and Mission statement for the Greater Carlton Plan for Neighbourhoods can be found within Appendix 6.

1.21 On 30 October 2025 the Board met to approve the final proposals for the '10 year Regeneration Plan' and '4 year Investment Plan'. Both plans support the Board's ambitions of making Greater Carlton a more thriving, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can live well, dream big, and shape their own futures.

1.22 The full '10 year Regeneration Plan' can be found for review in Appendix 7.

1.23 Greater Carlton's Plan for Neighbourhoods initial '4 year Investment Plan' sets out an exciting list of interventions that will improve the community and provide meaningful impact across the following areas:

- Support for community organisations
- Improving green spaces
- Shop front improvement grants
- Improvements to sports facilities
- Business support and advice
- Feasibility studies
- Community Learning and Development
- Local centre and high street improvements
- Improvements to Heritage Assets and Parks
- Wellbeing and social cohesion

- 1.24 The full '4 year Investment Plan' can be found for review within Appendix 8.
- 1.25 On 19 November, Cabinet approved the Regeneration Plan and 4 Year Investment Plan, as the accountable body and the documents were submitted to MHCLG before the 28 November deadline.
A delivery group has now been established to develop projects which will deliver the 4 Year Investment Plan interventions. Further approval will be sought by the Board, prior to delivery, which will commence from 01 April 2026.

2 Pride in Place Impact Fund 2025

- 2.1 In the 2025 Spending Review, the Government announced funding for up to 350 places as the cornerstone of their support for communities. This includes 95 places selected for the Pride in Place Impact Fund. The funding will be delivered by local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales and targeted at areas 'in need' with the aim of building strong, resilient, prosperous, and inclusive communities (Gov.uk 2025). Further guidance on the Pride in Place Impact Fund can be found through the following link: [Pride in Place Impact Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#).
- 2.2 The Government has confirmed that the existing 75 Plan for Neighbourhood areas will be incorporated into the Pride in Place Programme, representing the first phase. It is advised that Local authorities, and Boards already established under the Plan for Neighbourhoods should continue to work on their regeneration plans, as well as any work on engagement and preparation for delivery of the programme, as set out in [Plan for Neighbourhoods: Regeneration Plan Guidance](#).
- 2.3 In addition to the written guidance confirming the incorporation of the Plan for Neighbourhood and Pride in Place programmes, verbal advice has been received from MHCLG confirming that there will be no material changes to our Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. It is within the gift of the Board and Council to continue under the brand of Plan for Neighbourhoods.

3 Alternative Options

N/A

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 To date the Council have received grant determination and memorandum of understandings for the capacity funding element of the grant which is designed to enable the Council to prepare and be ready for the grant delivery period and to enable essential support functions during the delivery phase. The expenditure profile is set out in the Initial 4 Year Investment Plan at Appendix 8.
- 4.2 Whilst MHCLG representation at the Greater Nottingham Neighbourhood

Board have given verbal assurance that grant funding is secured, the Council has not yet received any formal correspondence in terms of a grant agreement notification for the Initial 4 Year Investment Plan (outside of the capacity funding mentioned above). However, this formal grant agreement is expected to be received in January 2026, in readiness for planning and preparation of the first year of delivery.

- 4.3 In line with the Council's internal processes and governance arrangements the Council will not commit any expenditure for the delivery phase until a formal grant agreement has been received.
- 4.4 Other financial considerations are set out within the body of the report and the financial obligations of the Council are set out in the Legal Implications section below.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Government issued guidance on 7 March 2025 'Plan for Neighbourhoods' prospectus. This guidance lays out the requirements for the setting up and management of the funding. The Board is not a legal entity but is to work in partnership with the 'accountable body' which is the Gedling Borough Council in this case. The accountable body will be supporting the Board through its Secretariat function and/or by officer observers/advisors.
- 5.2 The local authority is responsible for the spend of the funding through the duties of the Section 151 officer and compliance with the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Contract and Procurement Rules must be followed in the delivery of the fund.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan include an Equalities Impact Assessment which have been formally approved by both the Board and Council to comply with its Standing Orders.

7 Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 The Regeneration Plan and 4 year Investment Plan considers carbon reduction and sustainability issues and interventions.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - GCPfN Boundary change
- 8.2 Appendix 2 - GCLTPfT Round 1 consultation - Overview 2024
- 8.3 Appendix 3 - GCLTPfT Round 1 consultation - Report 2024
- 8.4 Appendix 4 - GCLTPfT Round 2 consultation - Report 2024
- 8.5 Appendix 5 - GCPfN Engagement Overview 2025
- 8.6 Appendix 6 - 10-year vision and mission
- 8.7 Appendix 7 - GCPfN 10 Year Regeneration Plan

- 8.8 Appendix 8 - GCPfN Investment Plan and Capacity Fund
- 8.9 Appendix 9 - GCPfN EIA
- 8.10 Appendix 10 - GCPfN CIA

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None identified.

