

item 8

Jarrow and Boldon CAF

11th June 2026

- **Susan Wear, Chair of Jarrow Forward**
- **Fiona Kelly, Partnership Manager, Jarrow**

Background

- Autumn 23 – Government announced 75 towns would receive £20m (75% capital, 25% revenue) over 10 years (Long Term Plan for Towns).
- Funding to focus on three themes; Safety & Security; High Streets, Culture and Heritage; and Connectivity.
- Requirement for independent board to be created (with the council as the accountable body) and a 10-yr plan produced.
- Jarrow Forward formed in March 2024 with mix of key partners across public, private and voluntary sectors.

Jarrow Forward Membership

- Government guidance - boards should include local community, employers, Council and MP and not be chaired by a politician.
- Chair is Susan Wear Brown (formerly NGI and Port of Tyne), Vice Chair is Geoff Thompson (South Shields FC). Also includes members from range of partner organisations.
- Board has; agreed Terms of Reference, created an Executive Group; conducted research into existing projects and national data; produced an outline plan; liaised and lobbied Government; held three workshops and undertaken community engagement.

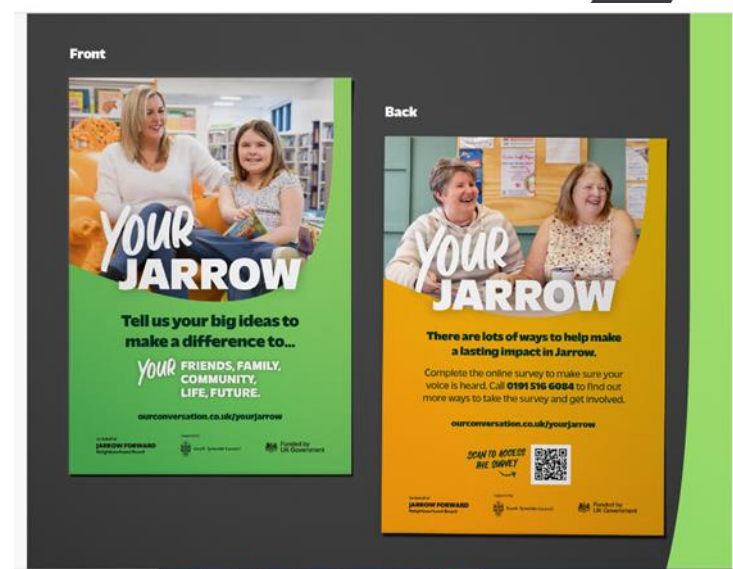
New Government Changes

- Jul 24 – previous plan submitted to Government, however fund put on hold until after General Election.
- Nov 24 – new Government confirmed that fund would continue.
- Mar 2025 – name changed to ‘Plan for Neighbourhoods’, funding start date pushed back to Apr 26 (£2m a year, 75% capital) and widened focus to three priorities; Thriving places; Stronger communities; Taking back Control.
- Summer 25 – Government guidance required each of the 75 towns (as part of PiP Phase 1) to create a 10-yr Regeneration Plan and submit by Nov 25.
- Sep 25 – programme branding changed to Pride in Place. Further 169 neighbourhoods included in scheme (including Biddick Hall – under PiP Phase 2).

Community Engagement

Mar-Jun 25 –Your Jarrow community consultation took place between Mar and Jun 25.

- Every house received Jarrow Festival brochure with advert;
- 1,500 residents responded to survey, including 500 young people;
- 100 groups and stakeholders engaged, including 7 focus groups;
- Bespoke community engagement to specific groups, comms, posters, social media, transport hubs and screens;
- Two workshops of key local and regional partners;
- Appointed a Partnership Manager – Fiona Kelly



Draft Plan – Key Research Findings

- Residents and young people want to see more opportunity for skills, leisure and creativity; safe playgrounds and green spaces; thriving town centre.
- While adults suggested youth centres, young people talked about better outdoor facilities and places to meet, being part of events and festivals. Partners and residents wanted to see an improvement in Jarrow's image and landscape, enhancing its key visitor sites and experiences.
- Businesses and schools looked for ways to support young people, grow their ambition and confidence through art and creativity, cultural events and soft skills.
- Many opportunities that residents did not know about and there was a real thirst for more information about things to do, see, take part in.

Vision and Values

“Inspired by its iconic history, Jarrow will once more be a vibrant creative and cultural centre, powered by the community, empowering its young people to be the best they can be.”

5 values: Life enhancing, innovative, engaging, sustainable, legacy.

3 Priorities:

- Better futures for Jarrow's young people
- A re-energised Jarrow town centre
- Connected, cohesive Jarrow community

Plan submitted to Government in October (one of the first) and signed off in April 2026

Working Groups

Working Group	Key Activities
Better Futures Chair: Andrew Watts, Grounwork North and South Tyneside	• Developing a play strategy • Identifying a site for a flagship adventure playground • Developing a centre for creative skills • Working with DWP and partners on the hub for 18-25 year olds
Re-energising the Town Centre Chair: Ian Beattie, Barbour International	• Generating ideas for physical improvements to re-energise the town centre - walking routes, subways etc • Festivals and events • Working with the NHS to develop ideas for bringing health services to the high street
Connected, Cohesive Communities	• Recently appointed Communications Lead –Rachel Bruce • Communications strategy for Jarrow

In addition, Community Growth Grant - £150,000 to be distributed in the form of grants of up to £5,000

UK Town of Culture

- Jarrow Forward is leading the bid for Jarrow to become the UK's first town of culture <https://ourconversation.co.uk/jarrow-town-of-culture/>
- Partnership-led bid, rooted in the town's heritage, creativity and ambition
- Shortlisting late Spring 2026, shortlisted towns receive £60,000 to develop their bid
- Winning town will have £3.5m to spend in 2028 on a year-long celebration of its culture and its contribution to the UK, with two runners-up receiving £250k each

I'm backing
JARROW
UK Town of
Culture 2028



UK TOWN OF CULTURE



Jarrow March Next Steps Fund

- October 2026 marks the 90th anniversary of the Jarrow March
- Jarrow Forward Neighbourhood Board wishes to recognise the ongoing significance of the March while promoting Jarrow as a place of opportunity, creativity and optimism
- Seeking to develop a fund to help young people into work, training and education
- May fund apprenticeships, scholarships, work experience or accredited training
- More information coming soon!

Thank you. Any questions?