

Request

1. I would like to know the complete order of works for the Leigh Market project, including projected costings and what money is allocated to the contractors, whether that be Day Architects or Next Phase Consultants, or otherwise.

2. Furthermore, I would like to know why the timescale had been significantly altered and the reasons why a support package for affected traders is not yet confirmed.

Response

The projected costings for the Leigh Market project the scheme are exempt due to commercial prejudice (clause 43) – the information would harm commercial interests at tendering stage. The total budget for the scheme is £6.1 million, all fees and construction costs are to be within this amount.

In considering this request the Council has applied a Public Interest Test. Whilst we recognise the public interest in transparency and accountability in public spending and decision-making. In this case, we consider that the public interest in maintaining the commercial interests of both the Council and the contractors engaged on the project outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The original timeframe for delivery was driven by the government's timescale for Levelling Up Fund spending which was the end of March 2026. We now have greater flexibility on timeframe from government into 2027. We are therefore able to extend the lead-in time to allow more time to work collaboratively with traders on both the detail of the refurbishment and the arrangement for temporary relocation whilst the refurbishment work takes place. The support package is complex and dependent upon many factors in particular the location of the temporary market. This has recently been confirmed and this will allow further details of the support package to be developed in consultation with traders.

3. Can you please reveal the new revised plans for the levelling up scheme for Leigh and the projected costs for all 3 parts of this project?

As available: <u>Leigh Regeneration Project</u> the three projects in the Leigh Levelling Up Fund package are:

- i. Public Spaces and pedestrian experience (split into two sections):
 - a. Market Street/King Street Corridor
 - b. Civic Square
- ii. Shopfront and building grant scheme
- iii. Leigh Market refurbishment

The costs associated with the projects are set out below, noting both Levelling Up Fund cost and total project cost (which includes any match funding from other sources):

- i. Public Spaces and pedestrian experience: £4.8m LUF, £6.1m total project cost.
- ii. Shopfront and building grant scheme: £1,1m LUF, £1.2m total project cost.
- iii. Leigh Market refurbishment: £5.5m LUF, £6.1m total project cost.
- 4. What compensation will Wigan Council accept from the Levelling up fund when accommodating the temporary market on Doctors Nook Car park?

Wigan Council will not receive compensation from the Levelling Up Fund. The Levelling Up Fund was an award made by government on the basis of a competitive bidding process. No additional monies are available to Wigan Council from this fund.