

## Leigh Neighbourhood Board

6.00pm, 16 March 2026

### Present at the meeting:

Alex Grundy (Chair), Owner - Café Stella  
Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy  
Councillor Keith Cunliffe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health  
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton  
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business  
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer  
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge  
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration  
Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust  
Danny Melling, Premier Education  
Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John's Primary School  
Youth Board Representative

### Apologies:

Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families  
Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University  
Dave Radley, DMR Training  
Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates  
Kevin Parker-Evans, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust  
Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal  
Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd  
Matt Collier, JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd  
Adam Wignall, Greater Manchester Police  
Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group

### In Attendance:

Paul Blinkhorn, Constituency Support Officer  
Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration  
Stuart Hurst, Project Manager – Regeneration  
Martin Ledson, Team Leader - Regeneration Strategy and Transformation  
Joanne Berry, Leigh Town Centre Manager  
John Herriot, Leigh Sports Village  
Neil Harris, Service Manager – Culture Arts & Heritage  
Jennie Crawford – Cultural Partnership Manager

### 1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair, Alex Grundy, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

The Chair confirmed the minutes from the last meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked Board members if they have any declarations of interest regarding any items within the agenda. No declarations were raised.

*Leigh Neighbourhood Board (16.03.26)*

#### **4. Leigh UK Town of Culture**

Service Manager – Culture Arts & Heritage and the Cultural Partnership Manager delivered a presentation updating the Board on the development of Leigh’s expression of interest for the UK Town of Culture competition.

Jo Platt MP informed the Board that c.60 community groups have been engaged with during the development of the expression of interest.

Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration asked whether cohesion is addressed in the expression for interest, with there being a plethora of different cultural backgrounds within the community. Service Manager – Culture Arts & Heritage indicated that this has been covered with the engagement and is referenced within the document.

Councillor Cunliffe queried if the makeup of the Leigh Neighbourhood Board was covered within the expression of interest. Service Manager – Culture Arts & Heritage confirmed that the Leigh Neighbourhood Board is referenced within the document.

**Vote 1:** Board to support the submission of the expression of interest.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously to support the to support the submission of the expression of interest.

**Decision:** Support was approved for submission of the expression of interest.

**Action:** Secretariat to circulate the expression of interest to Board members for comment.

#### **5. Leigh Sports Village Update**

John Herriot, Leigh Sports Village delivered a presentation updating the Board on the services, facilities and vision for Leigh Sports Village (LSV) and the ambition for LSV to better connect and integrate with the town centre moving forward.

The Chair, Alex Grundy, thanked John Herriot for this presentation and proposed to the Board that John Herriot is invited to join the Leigh Neighbourhood Board. John Herriot was asked to leave the meeting and a discussion followed.

**Vote 2:** Board to approve John Herriot to join the Leigh Neighbourhood Board.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously for John Herriot to join the Leigh Neighbourhood Board.

**Decision:** Board approved John Herriot to join the Leigh Neighbourhood Board.

#### **6. Quick Wins Approvals and Project Update**

Project Manager – Regeneration referred members to the written update and summarised progress of each of the six approved quick win projects, noting: status, issues and risks, finance and expected timelines. Two projects have been completed to date.

#### **Walking and Cycling Path to Leigh Sport Village**

*Leigh Neighbourhood Board (16.03.26)*

A quote has been received totalling £3,400 for the works to improve the path this is higher than the nominal amount allocated to this project on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 meeting. Approval for the £3,400 budget to complete the project is need by Board.

**Vote 3:** Board is asked to approve the scope of works and a revised budget of £3,400.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously to approve the scope of works and a revised budget of £3,400.

**Decision:** Board approved the scope of works and a revised budget of £3,400.

### **Freshen Up Grants**

Following a scoping exercise 19 properties have been identified as potential beneficiaries of freshen up project. Board is asked to approve the 19 properties identified and give delegated authority to the secretariat to administer the works within the £15,000 budget. A discussion took place regarding the relative merits of proposed “light touch” works (such as painting and vegetation removal) on improving the visual attractiveness of the town centre in the short term against the Board funding works to premises which may include national chain operators.

**Vote 4:** Board is asked to approve the 19 properties identified and give delegated authority to the secretariat to administer the works within the £15,000 budget.

**Result:** Board members voted 5 in favour and 6 against.

**Decision:** Board did not approve the project it will therefore not take place.

### **7. Branding and website development**

Service Manager – Regeneration gave an overview of the evaluation of tenders and summarised in the tender report. The secretariat and two Board members evaluated the tenders, with technical guidance and advice provided by Wigan Council’s IT department.

Seven tenders were received, and 60% quality and 40% price weightings were applied to the scores. Attain was ranked 1st overall and met all satisfactory requirements on quality.

Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business queried whether the number of days allocated to complete the work was sufficient. Service Manager – Regeneration gave assurance to the Board that the tender included the tasks specified in the brief and the Council’s IT Team had thought the time is adequate.

**Vote 5:** Board are recommended to approve the appointment of Attain Group Limited to deliver the Branding, Website Design and Development commission.

**Result:** Board members voted 10 for and 1 against to approve the appointment of Attain Group Limited to deliver the Branding, Website Design and Development commission.

**Decision:** Board approved the appointment of Attain Group Limited to deliver the Branding, Website Design and Development commission.

*Leigh Neighbourhood Board (16.03.26)*

## **8. Call for Projects**

Team Leader - Regeneration Strategy and Transformation updated the Board on the proposed processes for the “call for projects”, project evaluation and decision making. The process will be split into 3 funding routes detailed below:

- **Call for projects**

Medium to large capital and revenue fund to address the top 2 Regen Plan objectives: “Transforming how people see and experience our town” and “a town that feels safe and welcoming”

- **Community Fund**

Small grants to support local groups to operate (running costs, equipment, activities, outreach, capacity building)

- **Youth Fund**

Small fund to enable young people to have direct influence and impact on their town through defining aims of the fund, administering the grant and delivering change

A draft application form has been developed with the aim of launching the call for projects in early April. A discussion took place and it was recommended that the following votes would take place.

**Vote 6:** Board approve the proposed procedure for the main project call.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously to approve the proposed procedure for the main project call.

**Decision:** Board approved the proposed procedure for the main project call.

**Vote 7:** Board are asked to give delegated responsibility for managing the application process and associated communications to the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously to give delegated responsibility for managing the application process and associated communications to the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair.

**Decision:** Board gave approval to delegate responsibility for managing the application process and associated communications to the secretariat, in consultation with the Chair.

## **9. Programme and next steps**

Service Manager – Regeneration provided a brief overview of programme next steps.

Service Manager – Regeneration provided an overview of the Pride in Place Monitoring Guidance. Noting the first monitoring return must be submitted to government by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Board is asked to give delegated authority to the secretariat to complete and submit the monitoring forms for the Leigh Pride in Place Programme.

*Leigh Neighbourhood Board (16.03.26)*

**Vote 8:** Board are asked to give delegated authority to the secretariat to complete and submit the monitoring forms for the Leigh Pride in Place Programme.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously to give delegated authority to the secretariat to complete and submit the monitoring forms for the Leigh Pride in Place Programme.

**Decision:** Board gave approval for delegated authority to be given to the secretariat to complete and submit the monitoring forms for the Leigh Pride in Place Programme.

### **10. Finance Update**

Project Manager – Regeneration advised the Board that there have been no substantive changes to the budget. It was noted that the main cost items for the remainder of the financial year will be final invoice for the consultant fees, expenditure on quick win projects and the remaining employee costs.

### **11. Overview of constituents' representations**

Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton updated the Board on the following:

- Invest in Leigh meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January at Leigh Works, attended by a range of developers and Homes England.
- A national taskforce has been set up for the “Shut Down Dodgy Shops Campaign”.
- Three dispersal notices have been issued in the town centre recently. GMP and the Town Centre Manager team are implementing plans to deal with the issues.
- A new High Street Strategy will be launched later this year.
- GMCA officers visited Leigh and Atherton on 13<sup>th</sup> March, Council officers supported the visit - discussed range of topics including Leigh Pride in Place, transport infrastructure and emerging proposals for the establishment of a MDZ.

### **12. Town Centre Update**

The Leigh Town Centre Manager updated the Board on the following:

- Youth anti-social behaviour – partnership plan to address the significant recent spike in youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Leigh Town Centre. A fortnightly meeting has been established to agree and monitor actions.
- Newsletter and the report it poster have been hand delivered to the town centre businesses by the Community Safety and Environment Officers.
- Business meeting to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 6-8pm at Leigh Sports Village.
- Barrie Jones has been shortlisted for district PCSO of the year.

### **13. Reflections on the meeting**

The Chair invited Board Members to feedback any reflections that they had on the meeting and any future meetings.

### **14. Any other business**

The Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance and continued support throughout the year.

### **15. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 6.00pm-8.00pm at the Leigh College Campus.

*Leigh Neighbourhood Board (16.03.26)*

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.