Leigh Neighbourhood Board

6.00pm, 28 July 2026

Present at the meeting:

Alex Grundy (Chair), Owner - Café Stella
Councillor Keith Cunliffe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration
Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group
John Herriot, Leigh Sports Village
Dave Radley, DMR Training
Youth Board Representatives

Apologies:
Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton
Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University
Kevin Parker-Evans, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Danny Melling, Premier Education
Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John's Primary School
Matt Collier, JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd
Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd
Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates
Adam Wignall, Greater Manchester Police
Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business

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
Stephanie Dermott, Pride in Place Project manager (Phase 2)
Tracey Wormald, Communities Team

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair, Alex Grundy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the Board that he had received an offer from Danny Melling to resign from the Board due to current work commitments.

The Board discussed this and decided to vote on accepting Dany Melling's resignation with the option for him to rejoin the Board if his work commitments change in the future.

Vote 1: Board to vote on accepting Danny Melling's resignation with the option for him to rejoin if his work commitments change in the future.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to accept Danny Melling's resignation with the option for him to rejoin the Board if his work commitments change in the future.

Decision: Board accepted Danny Melling's resignation with the option for him to rejoin the Board if his work commitments change in the future.

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting
The Chair confirmed the minutes from the last meeting held on 22nd June 2026.

3. Declarations of Interest
Board members were asked to declare if they have any interests at the start of each agenda item. Board members who declare an interest will be asked to leave the room during the discussion and voting on the relevant project.

4. Branding Update
Project Manager - Regeneration updated the Board on the progress of the Branding and Website commission. The branding subgroup met on 22nd July 2026 and discussed the use of a more meaningful colour palette and the removal of the speech bubble and hashtag icon within the proposed logo. A bank of words to follow the "Leigh will be…" tagline will also be developed.

Attain will develop these options further and present their revised branding concepts at the next Branding Subgroup meeting on 30th July.

5. Town Centre Update
The Leigh Town Centre Manager updated the Board on the following:

- There have been further serious incidents associated with anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in recent weeks, notably around the cenotaph area, that are being dealt with by GMP and partner agencies.

6. Community Fund
Tracey Wormald – Communities Team (Wigan Council) updated on the evaluation of the Community Fund applications on behalf of the Board, including the process and recommendations. A small number of applications were identified for further discussion with the Board.

The Board then voted on whether to approve the recommendations for funding. This was carried out as three separate votes to allow Board members with conflicts of interest to leave the room during voting on those specific projects.

Vote 2, 3 and 4: Board to vote on whether to approve the recommended projects to receive grant funding from the Communities Fund.

Result: Board members voted to approve all of the recommended projects to receive grant funding from the Communities Fund. All eligible Board members voted in favour, except for one abstention on each vote.

Decision: Board approved the recommended projects to be awarded funding from the Communities Fund.

Action 1: Secretariat to finalise the funding agreements and feedback to the successful and unsuccessful applicants.

7. Call for Projects: Review of Applications
Service Manager – Regeneration updated the Board on the outcome of the Board's strategic fit ('sifting') sessions and subsequent work to evaluate and financially profile the submissions.

The funding is significantly oversubscribed, so it will not be possible to fund all projects. There is a particular pressure on revenue budget and also an imbalance in the annual amounts available to Board from government and the timing of funding sought by applicants. It is important to balance quick wins / visible impact with projects will provide transformational change and longer-term financial sustainability.

Concerns were raised by some Board members that the geographical spread of projects away from the priority high-street area may reduce the impact of the investment. It was therefore proposed to look at how projects are distributed around the priority area (e.g. within different radii of Bradshawgate)

Action 2: Secretariat to carry out spatial mapping of applications.

8. Quick Win Project Update
Project Manager – Regeneration advised the Board that an update will be sent to Board members following the meeting.

Action 3: Secretariat to forward the quick win update to all Board members.

9. Finance Update
Project Manager – Regeneration advised the Board that the financial update will be sent to Board members following the meeting.

Action 4: Secretariat to forward the financial update to all Board members.

10. Overview of constituents' representations
No verbal update was given.

11. Any Other Business
The Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance and continued support.

112. Date of next meeting
The next meeting will take place on Monday 21st September 2026 at 6.00pm-8.00pm at Leigh Sports Village Stadium.

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.