

# Leigh Pride in Place Programme

## The Leigh Fund - Guidance Notes

### What are the strategic objectives for the Pride in Place Programme?

The strategic objectives of the Pride in Place Programme, from the government's prospectus, are:

- Building stronger communities: Enhancing relationships and a collective sense of belonging to foster community cohesion and resilience.
- Creating thriving places: Ensuring vibrant neighbourhoods with busy high streets, a good range of local amenities, and high-quality physical infrastructure.
- Empowering people to take back control: Giving communities the power to decide on projects that best rebuild and transform their neighbourhoods.

The Pride in Place Programme: Prospectus can be found here: [Pride in Place Programme: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

### What types of projects are the Board looking to fund?

The following extract from the Regeneration Plan provides an indicative summary of the key types of activity and utilisation of powers that the Board expects see over the initial period of the programme:

**Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage:** this will be the focus for capital funding. The programme may support several large capital projects that relate to site and building acquisition; redevelopment and refurbishment of premises. In addition, there is potential to expand the current building grant scheme; support the enhancement of public realm and public spaces; and grow the local events and cultural programme through new commissions.

**Safety and Security:** this will be the focus for revenue funding. Some capital activity may address safety by design principles across the town centre and surrounding areas, but most activity requires revenue funding. There will be a focus on quick-win activity, such as campaigns and awareness raising – working with the networks already established within the community and with statutory agencies. The potential to refresh the existing Pubwatch and Shopwatch schemes will be explored. Funding will enable more focused and targeted enforcement action, and the co-location of services will be explored following positive feedback on recent cross-partner work to address safety, and coordinate action on criminal activity and anti-social behaviour.

**Cohesion and Civic Pride:** the programme has a strong emphasis on investing in community groups across Leigh – enabling groups to identify what they need in order to deliver impactful activity and giving them flexibility to do so through establishing a dedicated community fund. It is proposed that this will offer both capital and revenue funding at different tiers to cater for small projects and larger scale activity, reflecting the wide range of community groups in the local area. This is

expected to capture a wide range of activity such as investment in community buildings, sporting equipment/ facilities, local festivals/events, heritage trails, supporting volunteering and social action projects.

**Work, Productivity and Skills:** there is potential for a range of activity from supporting local placements and apprenticeships, to addressing the need for better quality space for local businesses and supporting the progress of the proposed Health and Social Care Campus.

### **How much money can I ask for?**

The Leigh Fund will fund medium to large capital and revenue projects primarily focused on the top two Regeneration Plan objectives:

- Transforming how people see and experience our town, and
- A town that feels safe and welcoming

The total investment available during the first four-year investment period is £6,658,000 (£5,306,000 capital and £1,352,000 revenue). For a more detailed breakdown across themes, please see page 38 of the Regeneration Plan.

### **How will projects be assessed (what are the evaluation criteria)?**

The Board will review the projects and select an overall pipeline of projects which deliver the objectives of the Regeneration Plan, offers value for money and can be accommodated within the funding that is available.

Key considerations for assessing individual projects will include (but not be limited to):

- Strategic fit – does the project help to deliver the aims and objectives of the regeneration plan?
- Benefits – what outputs and outcomes will the projects deliver?
- Value for money – do the benefits justify the level of investment required?
- Match funding – would the investment from the Board unlock further funding to support the delivery of the project and help to maximise the value of the investment?
- Deliverability – is there an organisation in place to receive the funding, with the capacity and experience to manage the project?
- Sustainability – are measures being taken to minimise that the environmental impacts? Will the project continue to operate / deliver benefits once the funding ends?

### **Who will make the decisions?**

Decisions will be made by the Neighbourhood Board.

### **When will I be told if I'm successful or unsuccessful?**

The Board expect to make initial decisions about priorities for funding in summer 2026.

For well-developed projects, with certainty over costs and a delivery organisation in place, this may be a final decision. However, for more complex projects, which require further project development, this might be an in-principle decision subject to further project development, tendering, or additional supporting evidence.

### **Will I be able to submit another application for funding in the future?**

The Board currently expects there to be future funding rounds and applicants may choose to resubmit projects based on feedback received, or submit alternative projects for consideration.

### **If my project is successful, when will funding be released and what conditions will there be (for example in relation to the drawdown of payments, monitoring and evaluation)**

The first step would be for a Grant Agreement to be issued and signed. The Grant Agreement will specify the terms and conditions for the receipt of the grant and the process for claims and payments. The payment would usually be paid in arrears with proof of outputs.

### **What will be the reporting and monitoring requirements?**

Successful applicants will be required to provide periodic updates on progress, project finances and performance against the agreed outputs. An end of project review will also be required to help the Neighbourhood Board understand impact and learning and understand what difference has been made locally. Templates will be provided.

### **Can I use AI to help complete my application?**

We appreciate that there is a growing use of AI and this may help some people to produce funding applications more quickly and easily, for example to structure, proof or write parts of applications.

In some cases, using AI tools in this way could enable people and organisations to apply for funding where they would not have been able to do so – whether that's because of capacity or expertise, or because it supports an access need.

Therefore, we will not reject a funding application because AI was used, but we would encourage you to use with care to ensure that it does not affect the quality of your submission.

Over reliance on AI could make the application feel generic and may not capture the personality, knowledge and strengths of your organisation. AI can also produce inaccurate results, lack depth and local context and include inappropriate use of

jargon. Ultimately you are responsible for the accuracy of the information you submit in your application so use AI with care.

**My application includes confidential or sensitive information - how will this information be held and who will it shared with?**

The application will be submitted to Wigan Council and shared with the Neighbourhood Board.

When you submit a funding application on behalf of your organisation or community group, we collect basic personal information about the named representative, such as your name, role, and contact details.

We use this information to:

- administer and assess your funding application
- share your name and role with our Neighbourhood Board, who review applications and make funding decisions

We process this information under our public task functions as a local authority, supported by relevant legislation such as the Localism Act 2011.

We do not collect special category data for this purpose.

Your information is kept securely and only for as long as needed to administer the grant and meet audit and financial requirements. You can find more about your data protection rights in our main privacy notice.

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/DataProtection-FOI-Stats/Privacy-notices/Data-Primary-Privacy-Notice.aspx>

By applying, you acknowledge that the representative's name and organisational details will be shared with the Board as part of the assessment process.

**I still have questions about the application process, who can I speak to?**

You can find out more information by attending a drop-in session or webinar. Details about these sessions can be found at [www.wigan.gov.uk/leighprojects](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/leighprojects).

Please get in touch to register for either of these events, or for further advice at [leighprojects@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:leighprojects@wigan.gov.uk).