Leigh Neighbourhood Board

6.00pm, 3 November 2025

Present at the meeting:
Alex Grundy (Chair), Owner - Café Stella
Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
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
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration
Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group
Adam Wignall, Greater Manchester Police
Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal
Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust
Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John's Primary School
Khaya, Youth Board Representative
Elenor, Youth Board Representative

Apologies:
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton
Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd
Matt Collier, JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd
Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates
Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
Dave Radley, DMR Training
Danny Melling, Premier Education
Kevin Parker-Evans, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust

In Attendance:
Paul Blinkhorn, Constituency Support Officer
Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration
Martin Ledson, Team Leader – Regeneration Strategy and Transformation
Stuart Hurst, Project Manager – Regeneration
Joanne Berry, Neighbourhood Manager
John Rigby, Genecon Consultants Ltd

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.

3. Regeneration Plan
Service Manager – Regeneration outlined work that has taken place to develop the draft Regeneration Plan, which was circulated to Board members for comment. No substantive edits were proposed by Board Members, and the minor changes received will be addressed by the secretariat along with other non-substantive changes identified by the secretariat and

consultant team during proofing. Completion of the foreword and induction sections are the only substantive changes needed to the draft Regeneration Plan.

Service Manager – Regeneration explained that the submission to government requires a series of questions to be answered on aspects of the Regeneration Plan (including, engagement, allocation and management of funds) and Investment Plan and attaching the Regeneration Plan document. The deadline for submission is midday 28th November 2025.

The Board were asked to approve the draft Regeneration Plan and give delegated authority to the Chair to approve the final version of the Regeneration Plan. The Board were also asked to give delegated approval to the secretariat to complete the submission of responses to the government portal.

Vote 1: Approve the Regeneration Plan as substantive draft for submission.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the Regeneration Plan.

Decision: Board approved the Regeneration Plan as a substantive draft for submission.

Vote 2: Delegate authority to the Chair to approve final version incorporating edits.

Result: Board members voted unanimously for the Chair to approve final version.

Decision: Chair given delegated approval to approve the final version of the Regeneration Plan.

Vote 3: Delegate submission of responses associated with the Regeneration Plan and the Regeneration Plan document via government portal to the secretariat in before midday 28th November.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to delegate the submission of the Regeneration Plan and associated responses to the secretariat.

Decision: Delegate approval of the submission of the Regeneration Plan and associated responses to the secretariat.

The Board also acknowledged the need for accountable body approval for the submission of the Regeneration Plan. This is being sought via Wigan Council's Cabinet, on 18th November 2025.

4. Programme and next steps

Service Manager – Regeneration outlined the draft programme of work and next steps up to June 2026. It was explained that a call for project would take place in January 2026 to enable project to start in April 2026.

Service Manager – Regeneration explained that if Board commissioned the branding and website development previously discussed and waited for the conclusion of this work before issuing the call for projects, it would be likely to mean that the call for projects would be pushed back to March 2026. This would postpone delivery as Board would need to allow for a period for proposals to be prepared, submitted and then evaluated before funding is awarded. . A discussion followed about the relative benefits of having the branding in place at launch of the call for projects versus concerns about the impact on the overall programme.

Vote 4: Approve to reduce the scope of marketing, branding and website commission to allow a quick tender exercise to enable a call for projects in February.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the reduced scope of marketing, branding and website.

Decision: The scope of the marketing, branding and website commission will be reduced.

The Chair asked if there will still be capacity funding available for quick win projects to take place before April 2026.

Service Manager – Regeneration explained that at the last meeting the Board approved programme management costs would be funded through the remaining capacity funding. A discussion followed about whether the capacity funding should be used to fund quick win projects to take place prior to the start of the investment programme (before 31 March 2026).

Vote 5: Approve to move in principle capacity funding to fund quick wins and top programme management up from revenue funding.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the move capacity funding to fund quick wins and to top programme management up from revenue grant funding.

Decision: Capacity funding will be made available to fund quick wins and programme management will be topped up from revenue grant funding.

Vote 6: Approve to move up to £100k capacity funding to fund quick wins and top programme management from revenue funding.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve up to £100k capacity funding to fund quick wins and top programme management from revenue funding.

Decision: Up to £100k capacity funding will be made available to fund quick wins and programme management will be topped up from revenue funding.

The Board agreed to hold an additional meeting to focus on potential quick win projects.

5. Overview of constituents' representations
Paul Blinkhorn, Constituency Support Officer updated the Board on the following:

- A closure order has been issued to a premises on Bradshawgate in the town centre.
- High Street Rental Auctions is one of the key new powers from government and, subject to the outcome on consultation, is due to start in January 2026. The consultation is currently on-going and closes on 6 November 2025.

- Owners of a property in the town centre are being contacted to highlight the activity of the businesses in their premises.
- Government is currently reviewing the licencing legislation for it to be more applicable to modern town centres. The Council is looking at ways of implementing Cumulative Impact Zones to restrict certain businesses like barbers, off licenses and vape shops from saturating areas.

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

7. Any other business
Joanne Berry, Neighbourhood Manager updated the Board on the following points:

- Four Community Safety and Environment Officers (wardens) have been advertised with three currently appointed. They will work in rotation until the remaining post is filled. These are new full time temporary (12 month) posts within the Council with two covering Leigh town centre. It is anticipated that they will start at the beginning of December. They will play an important role, working in partnership with internal and external stakeholders to tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental issues, and will have Council enforcement powers.
- Funding has been made available to provide an increased Police presence in Leigh town centre between now and the beginning of December.
- The next Leigh town centre business meeting will be on Tuesday 11 November 2025, 6-8pm at Leigh Sports Village.

Action: Secretariat to send the new anti-social behaviour reporting leaflet to all Board members

Paul Costello queried how the Board could stay up to date with funding bids and potential match funding in Leigh. The Service Manager – Regeneration noted that the Council are not necessarily involved in all funding bids and therefore it is difficult to maintain a comprehensive record of all bids and opportunities, however the Council does signpost groups to funding opportunities where possible and in some instances supports groups with funding applications and/or provides endorsement of funding applications. The opportunities for match funding can be considered as project proposals are appraised by the Board and the secretariat will consider how they can update Board on funding opportunities in future Board meetings.

Steven Tomlinson noted that the Iceland store on Bradshawgate has now closed and the unit is vacant at ground floor. He noted that the high business rates associated with the property was understood to be a barrier to prospective occupiers. The need to ensure the vacant unit does not become a target for anti-social behaviour was noted.

The Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance.

8. Next meetings
Tuesday 25 November 2025, 6-8pm (Quick Wins)
Monday 15 December 2025, 6-8pm

Monday 26 January 2026, 6-8pm

The meeting concluded at 20.00pm