Leigh Neighbourhood Board

6.00pm, 13 October 2025

Present at the meeting:
Alex Grundy (Chair), Owner - Café Stella
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton
Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business
Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration
Matt Collier, JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd
Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates
Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group
Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University

Apologies:
Councillor Keith Cunliffe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal
Adam Wignall, Greater Manchester Police
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
Dave Radley, DMR Training
Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust
Danny Melling, Premier Education
Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John's Primary School
Kevin Parker-Evans, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Reece, Youth Board Representative
Elenor, Youth Board Representative

In Attendance:
Paul Blinkhorn, Constituency Support Officer
Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration
Stuart Hurst, Project Manager – Regeneration
Joanne Berry, Neighbourhood Manager
Graeme Collinge, Genecon Consultants Ltd
John Rigby, Genecon Consultants Ltd
Danny Grump, Layer Studio
Sarah Brooks, Layer Studio

1. Welcome and Introduction
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. Vision and Objectives
Project Manager – Regeneration outlined work that has taken place to develop the final draft vision statement. A subgroup of Board members that included Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer and Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant

Principal reviewed the draft vision, removing the reference to cycleways and improving the overall language. Members agreed that the vision represented the programme and the community of Leigh.

Vote: Approve the final draft of the vision statement.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the vision statement.

Decision: The vision statement will be included within the Regeneration Plan.

Project Manager – Regeneration outlined work that has taken place to develop the final draft objectives. A subgroup of Board members that included Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd and Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates reviewed the draft objectives developed by Genecon Consultants and the accountable body.

The subgroup proposed two primary objectives and six secondary objectives. The proposed primary objectives are:

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

The primary objectives cover activity within the PiPP programme themes titled Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage and Safety and Security and would also compliment the secondary objectives.

The remaining objectives are:

- An active community with a thriving culture
- Increasing aspirations and ambition
- Backing Leigh's Businesses
- Better Transport & Active Travel around the Town
- Leigh as a champion for Healthy Lives and Wellbeing
- Improve skills, training and access to jobs

The Board are asked to agree the programme objectives.

Vote: Approve the final draft of the objectives.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the objectives.

Decision: The objectives will be included within the Regeneration Plan.

4. Investment Plan

The Service Manager – Regeneration explained the government payment schedule. Capital and revenue grant payments for the first investment period will be made to the accountable body on an annual basis starting from April 2026.

The Chair asked if the Board could secure loans against future grant payments so activity can start in earlier years.

The Service Manager – Regeneration stated that this is a possibility but could only be against grant within the first investment period as grant funds in periods two and three are committed but not yet secured and subject to approval of the Council's Finance Director (s.151 Officer) as accountable body.

Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group asked which funding does the programme management cost come out of.

The Service Manager – Regeneration explained that for the first investment period programme management cost will be funded through capacity funding. In future investment periods programme management costs will be funded through the revenue grant unless future capacity funding is made available by government.

The Service Manager – Regeneration outlined work that has taken place to develop the Investment Plan. Two funding examples were developed and discussed at the subgroup with the following Board members: Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd, Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates and Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust. The examples demonstrated potential allocations based on spreading funding across all eight categories of the programme compared to focusing on a smaller number of categories. The subgroup discussed the pros and cons of both and had suggested that a middle option was also produced to discuss at Board.

Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, explained the options presented and the discussion held at the subgroup. He noted that the first example was deemed too wide in scope, funding allocated against all eight themes was considered to stretch the funding too thinly, resulting in some relatively small funding allocations which may have limited impact. The second example which allocated funding against 'Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage' and 'Safety and Security' and 'Cohesion' was deemed better as it focussed funding on emerging priorities and provided a reasonable sum for each category. Example three was recommended for approval as it also included funding allocation against 'Work, Productivity and Skills' which is a priority area in view of local economic performance. It was noted that the broad scope of the government's categories means that it is considered possible to fund the full range of potential activity that the Board has considered on this basis. The sub-group therefore suggested that example three would be the most appropriate approach subject to further discussion and agreement at Board. A discussion followed.

Vote: Approve proposed investment plan example three, which allocates funding against 4 categories:

Result: Board members voted ten to one in favour of investment plan example three. It is noted that Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd voted for example two.

Decision: The Investment Plan example three will form the basis of the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan.

Vice Chair – expressed thanks to the Board Members who had committed additional time to subgroup activity in order to progress the items discussed at Board.

5. Regeneration Plan

The Service Manager – Regeneration outlined the approach of populating the Regeneration Plan template through refreshing the draft LTPT Vision and adding new information from further consultation, updated statistics and new government strategies. John Rigby, Genecon Consultants Ltd, explained the Regeneration Plan template to members, outlining the information that needs including in each section.

Danny Crump, Layer Studio presented two colour pallet options for the text and presentation of the document. Option one red brick and option to green. The Board are asked to agree a colour pallet option.

Vote: Approve the Regeneration Plan colour pallet option.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve option one ‘red brick’.

Decision: The Regeneration plan will be produced in the red brick pallet option.

6. Programme and next steps

The Service Manager – Regeneration outlined the timeline for the submission of the Regeneration Plan:

- Draft Regeneration Plan shared with Board members by 27th October 2025, and comments returned by 30th October 2025
- At Board on 3 November, a summary of feedback and proposed amendments will be presented, and Board will be approval of Regeneration Plan will be sought.
- Council approval process – Cabinet agenda to be published 10th November 2025 and Cabinet meeting for approval of the Regeneration Plan to take place on 18th November 2025.
- Submission to government by 28th November 2025

7. Board marketing and webpage

Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, presented to the Board a draft scope of works that could go out to tender for the Board’s branding, marketing and production of a webpage.

There was a discussion on whether the scope of works should include social media and content creation due to the potential cost. It was suggested that this should be investigated further and more information provided as it is not an immediate priority and could be added as a “bolt on” at a later date.

It was suggested that a Board Communications Subgroup is put together. Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd, Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates and Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton, volunteered to be part of the subgroup. The Board were asked to approve delegated authority and £50,000 budget from the Capacity Fund to finalise to scope of work and tender for contract.

Vote: Approve delegated authority and £50,000 from the Capacity Fund budget to finalise to scope of work and tender for contract.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve delegated authority and £50,000 from the Capacity Fund budget to finalise to scope of work and tender for contract.

Decision: Develop a scope of works and tender for contract up to £50,000.

Action: Arrange subgroup meeting and accountable body assist in the tender process.

8. Overview of constituents' representations
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton reported that there is a lot of positivity from residents and businesses decrease in incidents of ASB, but there is concern that the ASB problems may start to return if the police presence is reduced back over the coming months.

Jo Platt MP for Leigh and Atherton also noted:

- Some changes of personnel within Government departments.
- High Street Rental Auctions is one of the key new powers from government and subject to the outcome on consultation and is due to start in January 2026. The consultation is currently on-going and closes on 6th November 2025.
- The emerging Devolution and Empowerment Bill will bring new powers that will have local benefit, for example right to buy of community assets. Additional funding to be made available through the Pride in Place Impact Fund
- 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.

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

10. Any other business
The Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance.

11. Next meetings
Monday 3 November 2025, 6-8pm

The meeting concluded at 20.10pm