

Leigh Neighbourhood Board

6.00pm, 15 September 2025

Present at the meeting:

Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business (Acting Chair)
 Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton
 Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
 Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
 Danny O’Neil, Greater Manchester Police
 Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
 Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal
 Dave Radley, DMR Training
 Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust
 Danny Melling, Premier Education
 Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University
 Reece, Youth Board Representative
 Khaya, Youth Board Representative

Apologies:

Alex Grundy (Chair), Owner - Café Stella
 Councillor Keith Cunliffe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
 Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy
 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
 Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John’s Primary School
 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
 Joanne Berry, Neighbourhood Manager
 John Rigby, Genecon Consultants Ltd

1. Welcome and Introduction

Steve Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, standing in as Acting Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

The Service Manager – Regeneration confirmed that the minutes of the previous meeting have been approved and published. Items for action were:

- 1) Potential for the Board to evolve into a vehicle / cooperative that could buy property and enter into contracts – this will be explored further in future.

Leigh Neighbourhood Board (15.09.25)

- 2) Investment barriers into Leigh – Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust and the Acting Chair, mentioned issues with attracting investment including out of town landlords demanding unrealistic prices and the importance of communication between different teams within the council and external stakeholders.

3. Strategic Ambition & Context

The Service Manager – Regeneration presented an overview of drivers for growth, wider investments and ambitions being progressed in Leigh including transport, education, culture and Levelling Up Fund.

The Acting Chair raised a query about progression with implementing TfGM's Greater Manchester Rapid Transit Strategy (July 2024), which outlined future plans for expanding the Metrolink network.

Action: The Secretariat will request an update from the Transport Planning Team.

The Service Manager – Regeneration offered to arrange further presentations, at future meetings, on topics of interest to the Board. The new Chief Executive of LSV would like to speak to the Board about the masterplan for the campus that is being developed.

Action: Board to consider potential future agenda items.

4. Vision and Objectives

The Team Leader – Regeneration Strategy and Transformation outlined work that has taken place to develop the draft vision, based on feedback from the workshop in July 2025. Initial feedback was requested from Board members, with opportunity to provide further feedback following the meeting.

Jo Platt MP drew attention to the reference to 'cycleways' in the draft vision and requested that it be removed in favour of focusing on improving accessibility. The Board agreed.

Councillor Dane Anderton suggested that the vision is too long, and the language used should be more to the point.

The Board were asked for volunteers to help review the feedback and finalise the Vision statement.

Action: Secretariat to circulate the draft vision to all Board members following the meeting. Board members will be given one week to respond.

Action: Secretariat to invite Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer, and Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal, to a workshop to finalise the Vision.

The Team Leader – Regeneration Strategy and Transformation provided an update on the development of objectives. The Secretariat and consultant team are considering whether the previous LTPT objectives are still relevant, and whether there are any gaps that need to

Leigh Neighbourhood Board (15.09.25)

be covered to align with new PfN Themes and Interventions. Volunteers from the Board will be invited to a workshop to help finalise them. The Acting Chair volunteered to take part.

Action: Board members to be sent draft objectives for comment and be invited to take part in a session to finalise the objective.

Action: Secretariat to set up workshop to review objectives, inviting the Acting Chair and other volunteers.

5. Review of Projects/ Interventions

The Service Manager – Regeneration stated that the information to be provided to the government will not be project level but is allocated against intervention categories which provides more flexibility.

A workshop session took place to consider projects that have come forward within each theme / intervention category, and the relative proportion of funding that should be allocated to each. Consideration was given to the relative numbers and types of projects coming forward and intervention categories where no potential projects have been identified to date.

A vote took place to establish whether funding should be allocated to interventions providing “Support for non-domestic energy efficiency measures and decarbonisation in local businesses, high streets, and community infrastructure” despite no projects currently being identified.

Vote: Should “the door be left open” to projects delivering energy efficiency and decarbonisation measures?

Result: Board members voted unanimously to explore potential initiatives further.

Decision: The relevant intervention category will not be excluded from funding at this stage.

Discussion took place to consider whether allocating funding against every theme would spread the budget too thinly and risk not achieving anything meaningful. Alternatively, funding could be focused on the themes that stakeholders deem most important and actively exclude themes which are lower priority. A conclusion was not reached in this point at the meeting.

An exercise followed using Mentimeter where Board Members were individually asked to indicate how they would prioritise funding across the themes.

The Service Manager – Regeneration explained that the secretariat and the consultant team would use the information from the workshop session to develop a first draft Investment Plan – allocating capital and revenue funding across the intervention categories. This would provide a basis for volunteers from the Board to develop further in a workshop session before the next Board meeting.

Leigh Neighbourhood Board (15.09.25)

Action: Secretariat to request for volunteers from the Board to work to review and shape the draft Investment Plan (funding allocations) in advance of next Board meeting.

6. Overview of constituents' representations

Not covered due to time constraints.

7. Reflections on the meeting

Not covered due to time constraints.

8. Any Other business

The Acting Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance.

9. Next meetings

Monday 13 October, 6-8pm

Monday 3 November, 6-8pm

The meeting concluded at 20.15pm