

PRIDE IN PLACE

Leigh

Regeneration Plan

2026 – 2036

PRIDE IN PLACE
LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

Foreword

“We are excited to welcome the opportunities that this investment in our town can create. By working collaboratively with local stakeholders and the community, this government investment will help us revitalise Leigh town centre for future generations to enjoy. It will support the regeneration of Leigh by renewing a sense of pride in our community, embracing our heritage, and encouraging those who live and work here to reach their full potential.”

Jo Platt

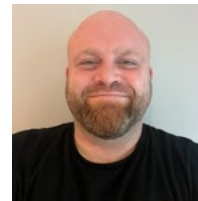
(Member of Parliament for Leigh and Atherton)



“This investment represents a real opportunity for local people and businesses to come together and shape the future of Leigh. By enhancing our town’s cultural, leisure, and business offer, we can create a place that residents are proud to call their own and a town centre that’s vibrant, cleaner, greener, and alive throughout the day and evening. With ambition, creativity, and community spirit, Leigh will continue to thrive and grow into a town full of opportunity and pride.”

Alex Grundy

(Chair)



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An aerial photograph of a city, likely Edinburgh, Scotland, showing a dense cluster of buildings with gabled roofs and a prominent church spire. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The word "Introduction" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Introduction

01

01 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Pride in Place Programme will provide £20 million of funding over 10 years, between 2026 and 2036, to invest in Leigh. This 10-year Regeneration Plan sets out how the funding will be used based on priorities of local people.

The strategic objectives of the Pride in Place Programme 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.

This plan puts local people at the centre of decision-making for the future of Leigh, giving the community long-term funding to positively change and shape the future for all who live and work here. It has been prepared by Leigh Neighbourhood Board, which has been set up to provide a voice for the wider community. The Board brings together a broad range of local stakeholders including community leaders, local businesses, the local authority, the police and the local MP, to oversee and deliver the Leigh Regeneration Plan.

This Plan is not starting from scratch. It will complement and capitalise upon work ongoing across the community and led by a range of stakeholders. It aims to tackle challenges head-on and work in partnership to shape a positive and vibrant future for Leigh.

The Board has reviewed the findings from community engagement and various data sources to identify local priorities, explore the types of interventions needed to deliver change and articulate an ambitious vision for Leigh.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Pittsburgh, showing a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, streets, and green spaces. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The sky is visible in the upper portion, showing some light clouds.

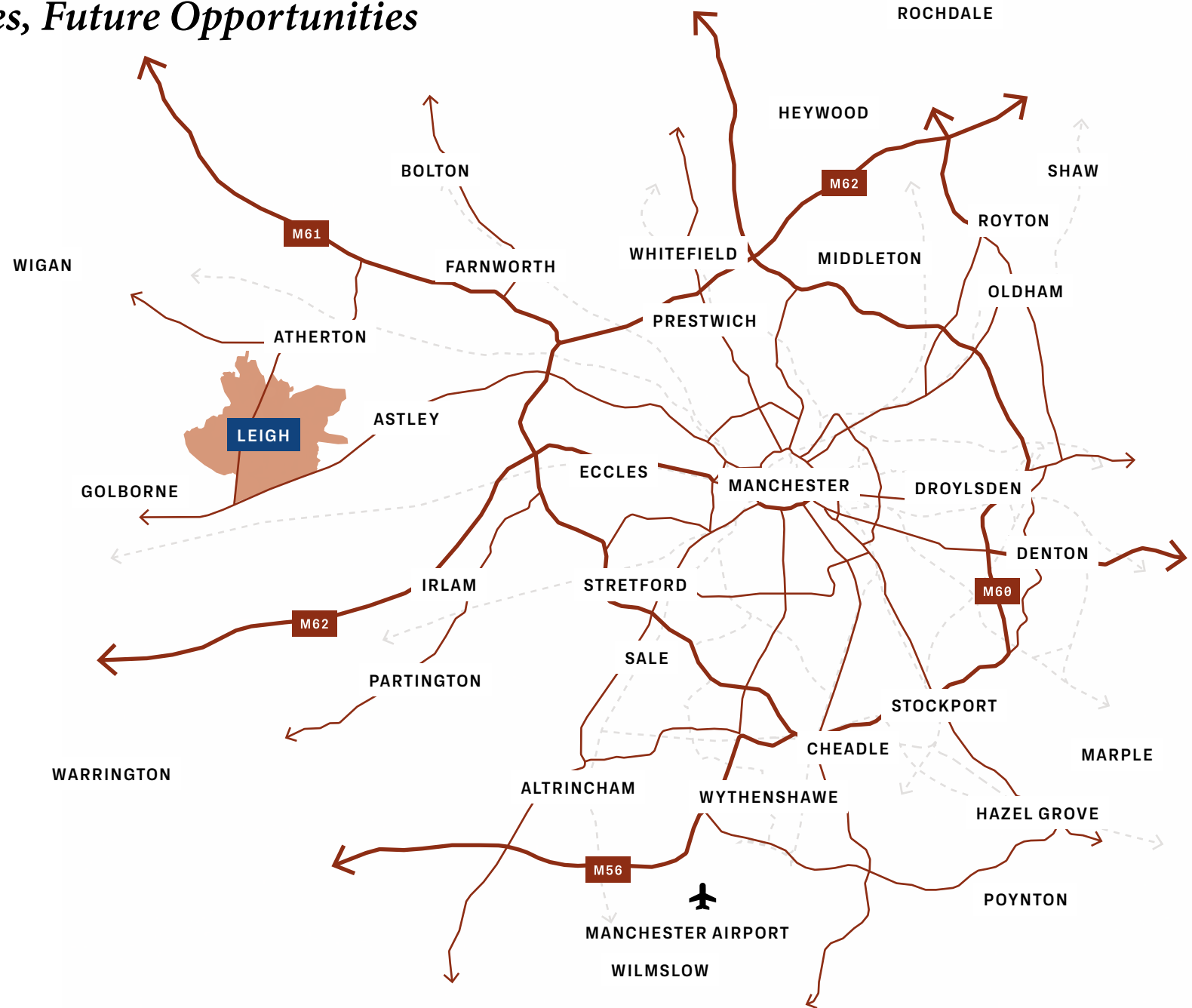
Local Context

02

2.1 Present Challenges, Future Opportunities

Location and Connectivity

Leigh has a population of approximately 45,000 and is located in the North West region of England, about 11 miles west of Manchester and 5 miles southeast of Wigan. The town benefits from good road and bus connections, including the guided busway to Manchester, but the absence of a direct rail or tram link contributes to continued reliance on car travel and issues of congestion and accessibility.



2.1 Present Challenges, Future Opportunities

Rich Industrial Heritage

Leigh is a town with a rich industrial heritage and proud local communities. Historically a mill town, its past is reflected in significant landmark buildings such as Spinners Mill, the Town Hall and the Turnpike Gallery, which remain central to the town's character.

Community, Sport and Leisure

Sport and leisure also play an important role in the local identity, with the Leigh Leopards Rugby League team, Leigh Sports Village and Pennington Flash Nature Reserve acting as focal points of pride for the town's residents.

Challenges in the Town Centre

Leigh town centre has experienced challenges in recent years and is perceived by many residents as having declined, with

particular concerns over levels of anti-social behaviour. Despite this, there remains a strong attachment to the town manifested in an underlying sense of resilience, passion and community spirit among local residents.

Economic Profile and Local Challenges

The local economy is characterised by both challenges and opportunities. Around 600 businesses provide an established base, but job density stands at 0.57 compared with 0.77 nationally, meaning 20 fewer jobs for every 100 working age people than is typical elsewhere. Educational attainment lags behind national levels and the majority of employment is characterised by low paid jobs with an underrepresentation of professional and managerial roles. Around one-fifth of residents

report a long-term illness or condition. These factors combine to suppress local aspirations.

Resident Perspectives

Engagement work undertaken to inform the Pride in Places Programme has captured the views of more than 1,500 residents. Although the town's local sports and green spaces are highly valued, socio-economic concerns are prominent; the condition of Leigh town centre and the occurrence of anti-social behaviour have been highlighted as the town's most serious issues. The views gathered point to only one in ten residents rating job opportunities as good. Younger people highlighting the town's limited local prospects as a challenge and given its easy connections to Manchester, Warrington and Liverpool, mean that it is relatively easy for the town's young people to leave.

Town Centre Retail

Spinning Gate Shopping Centre remains important as the town centre's primary retail hub and has won multiple awards over the years. However, the offer within the town's traditional high street, Bradshawgate has without doubt weakened. It is still important for its mix of retail, banking and cafés, but there is an increasing level of shopfront vacancy and a rise in numbers of discount, charity and vape shops which has had a damaging effect on public perceptions of the place. The presence of large format edge-of-town retail means the town centre needs to work harder and diversify to attract and retain visitors.

02 Local Context

2.1 Present Challenges, Future Opportunities

Strengths and Assets

The town has many strengths including a popular market with a traditional offer, a conservation area containing heritage assets to be protected and enhanced and passionate local businesses determined to bring vitality and activity back to their town centre - several such businesses are represented on the Board.

These strengths, alongside good further and higher education assets (Wigan and Leigh College and Edge Hill University on the doorstep), the town's wealth of community groups and networks; relatively affordable house prices, high levels of digital connectivity, the town's transport accessibility and its established sporting, recreational and cultural assets all provide good foundations for regeneration. Indeed, Leigh is already experiencing change around its edges, in terms of new housing developments, out of town retail and the College and facilities at Leigh Sports Village.

Investment and Future Opportunities

The key for the Pride in Place Programme and for Leigh's future prosperity is to find ways to better integrate these assets with the town centre and to find and promote the draws that will encourage more people to use Leigh town centre. In recent years, this has been helped with significant public investment being directed towards Leigh. The town has now been awarded £20 million through the Pride in Place Programme and this builds on £11.4 million from the Local Regeneration Fund, which is being directed at town centre improvements, shopfront renewal and the market's refurbishment. Other initiatives, such as an established series of town centre events are receiving additional investment to help sustain footfall. Although public perception expressed through the surveys

(the Board's own and MHCLG's Zencity survey) reflect concern around decline and safety, the combination of new funding, community involvement and strategic partnership working is beginning to create momentum for change. The Pride in Place Programme has provided the opportunity to build on what has been achieved so far and push this forward.

Spatial Targeting

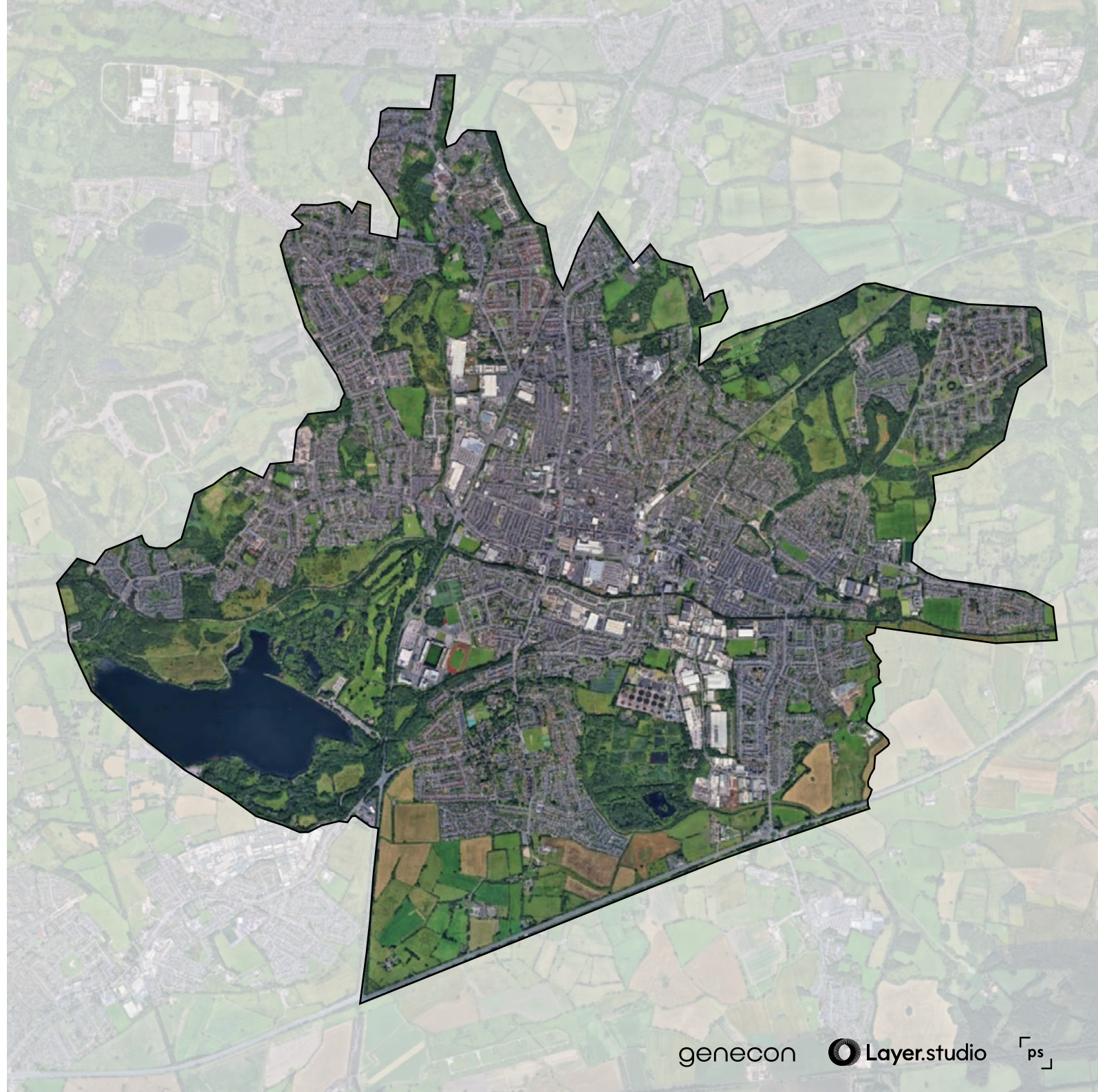
03

03 Spatial Targeting

3.1 Spatial Targeting

The boundary for the Pride in Place Programme includes Leigh town centre and the areas that surround it, forming its immediate catchment – extending across Westleigh, Lilford, Pennington, Bedford and Higher Folds. The southern boundary is formed by the A580 East Lancs Road. The area includes key green spaces of Pennington Flash, Pennington Park and Lilford Park. The A579 Atherleigh Way bisects the area north to south and the Bridgewater Canal runs through the area east-west.

The Neighbourhood Board is keen for the focus for funding and interventions to be centred upon the town centre. By addressing the challenges facing the town centre and harnessing its potential to drive economic growth and local pride, benefits will flow through the wider community.



03 Spatial Targeting

3.2 Local Assets

Key

★ Listed Buildings

— Bridgewater Canal

● Green Open Spaces

Key Spaces:

01 Pennington Flash

02 Lilford Park

03 Pennington Hall Park

● Educational Establishments

01 The Westleigh School

02 Wigan and Leigh College

03 Bedford High School

● Town Centre Core Area

Other Key Assets:

A Spinners Mill

B Leigh Sports Village

C Parsonage Retail Park

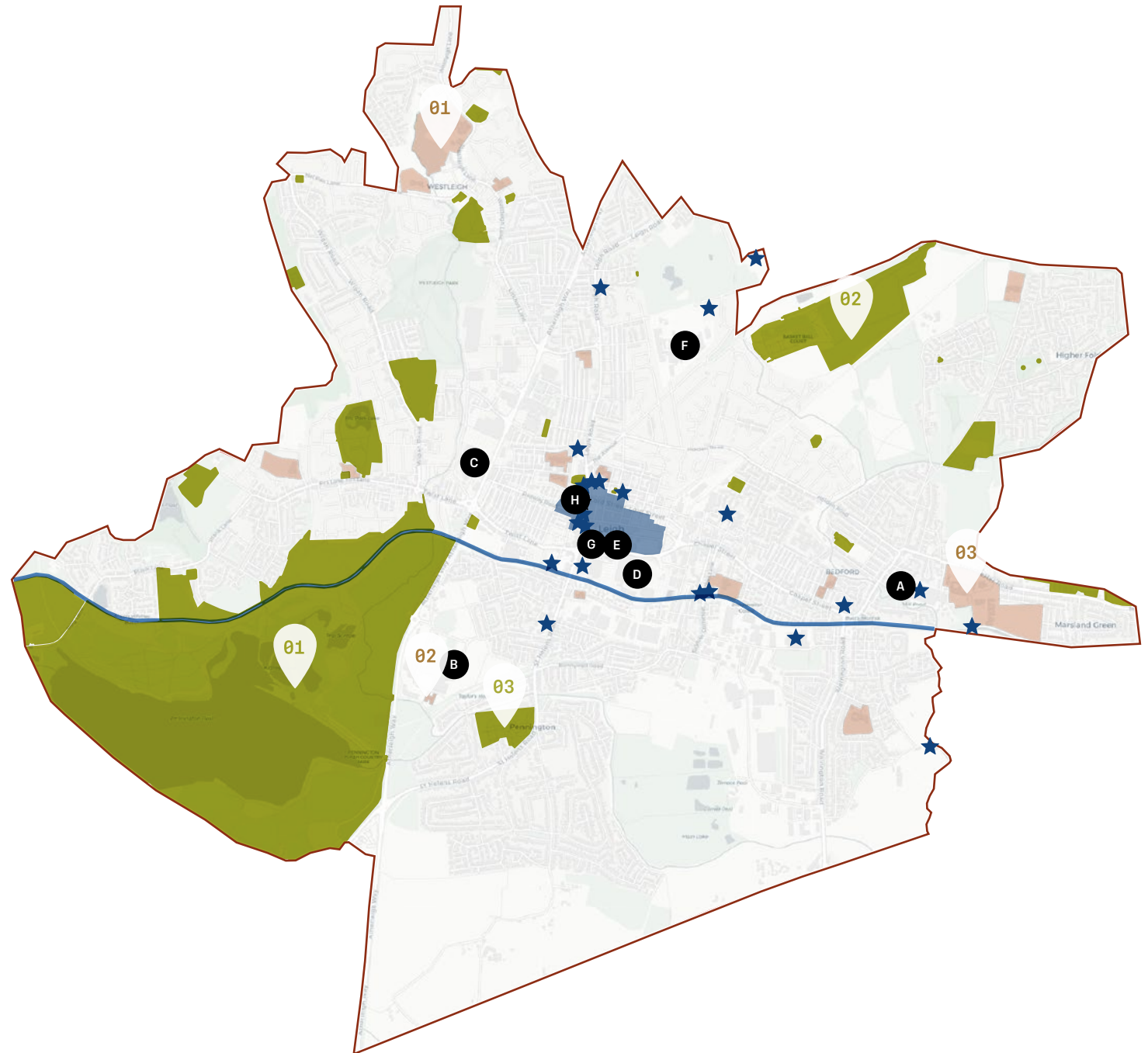
D The Loom Retail Park

E Spinning Gate Shopping Centre and Leigh Market

F Leigh Infirmary

G Bus Station

H Town Hall / Civic Centre / Turnpike Centre



03 Spatial Targeting

3.3 Local Opportunities



Celebrate local heritage



Breathing new life into the high street



Supporting independent traders



Nurturing growth and participation in the cultural and creative sectors



Making the most of natural and recreational assets



Revitalising Leigh Market



Capitalising on events to drive footfall



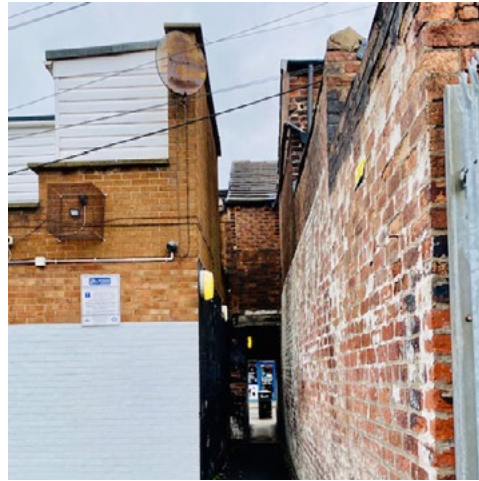
Supporting community engagement and delivery

03 Spatial Targeting

3.4 Local Challenges



Tackling grot spots and fly tipping



Accessibility and legibility



Bringing vacant sites and buildings back into use



Ensuring that the town centre is accessible for all



Activation in the day time and evening



Poor condition and underinvestment in premises



Taking action on illegal activity



Untidy public realm and sites creating negative perceptions

An aerial photograph of a city, likely a university town, with a semi-transparent orange overlay. The city features a dense cluster of buildings, including a prominent church with a tall spire. The background shows rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

Vision for the Future

04

04 Vision for the Future

4.1 Vision Statement

The Leigh Neighbourhood Board members have agreed the following Vision Statement as the foundation of their Pride in Places Programme:

Leigh is a proud town rooted in rich heritage and driven by strong communities. Together, we will rise to every challenge, unlocking Leigh’s full potential as a vibrant, inclusive and aspirational destination.

From the buzzing Sports Village and bustling market to the natural beauty of Pennington Flash, Leigh’s unique assets will be celebrated. We will build on their success to diversify and promote the town’s offer. Through creative repurposing of spaces and a bold cultural revival, the town will evolve into a place where people choose to live, visit and thrive. Leigh will become a natural choice for investment, expanding the local economy and providing opportunities for people to work locally in well-paid and secure jobs.

Local people, businesses and partners will collaborate to shape a dynamic town centre – alive with cultural, social, commercial and retail activity, day and night. A revitalised streetscape – clean, green and safe – will foster safety, pride and connectivity. Effective partnership working and a shared sense of social responsibility will underpin delivery. Young people and families will be empowered to curate and participate in diverse activities, gaining skills, confidence and improved health and wellbeing, enabling all to play their part in the wider Leigh community.

Leigh’s social, cultural, commercial and green spaces will be well connected and accessible. Safe and pleasant pathways will encourage people to walk and ride. A more accessible and attractive public transport network will benefit local communities and make the town better connected to neighbouring areas.

Through adaptation, reinvention and celebration, Leigh will flourish—becoming a resilient town of opportunity, creativity and shared prosperity.

04 Vision for the Future

4.2 10-year Detailed Vision

Leigh is a town with a rich heritage and a spirit shaped by resilience, creativity and strong community ties. But like many town centres it has struggled to fully meet the myriad of challenges confronting post-industrial towns.

"The people are really friendly. We moved here 3 years ago. We were surprised how friendly the people are."

"Very small selection of decent shops. Good if you like charity shops, vape shops, mini markets or need a barbers. Otherwise not a great shopping experience."

"Traffic piles up very quickly and jams all routes, causing buses to be very unreliable."

"There was once a time when the benches were full of the elderly who felt safe meeting their friends. And young adults could buy their 'going-out' outfits ready for a fun-filled weekend in the packed and vibrant pubs and bars. Not any more..."

"As a woman I wouldn't walk anywhere in Leigh on my own at night, and even some places in the day."

04 Vision for the Future

4.2 10-year Detailed Vision

Meeting Challenges Head-On

The Leigh Pride in Place Programme is aimed squarely at meeting these challenges head-on. At the heart of this transformation is collaboration. Local people, businesses and partners will shape Leigh's future together, guided by shared values and a shared commitment to building a stronger, safer and more vibrant town; one they are proud to call home. Young people and families will be empowered to take part, gaining skills, confidence and wellbeing along the way.

Aligning with Wider Ambitions

As part of the Council's ambition to create a fairer, greener and more connected borough, Leigh will take centre stage in the journey towards Progress with Unity - a future built on shared prosperity, opportunity and pride of place. Over the coming decade, Leigh will grow into a vibrant, inclusive and forward-looking

town alive with culture, enterprise and connection. This vision aligns with Wigan Council's Progress with Unity priorities and Greater Manchester's ambitions for sustainable growth and inclusive communities. Leigh's transformation will show how local character and collective ambition can come together to build something exceptional.

Revitalising the Town Centre

The town centre will once again become a thriving heart of activity: a place for people to gather, shop, create and celebrate, day and night. Old spaces will find new purpose as creativity breathes life back into familiar streets. Historic buildings and underused sites will be transformed into spaces for art, culture and community. Streets will be cleaner, greener, safer, and designed for people, not just traffic. With thoughtful lighting, planting and design that reflects Leigh's character and ambition.

Celebrating Leigh's Unique Places

From the buzzing Sports Village and the welcoming market to the natural beauty of Pennington Flash, Leigh's unique places will be celebrated, enhanced and better linked. These assets, so deeply loved by residents, will form the foundation for new opportunities in culture, learning and enterprise.

Improving Connectivity and Accessibility

Transport links and movement across the town will continue to be improved in line with local and regional strategies - this is an important part of the wider context for growth and prosperity, rather than the central focus of this programme. What matters most is that people can enjoy, explore and engage with Leigh's cultural, commercial and green spaces safely and comfortably.

Through creativity, connection and community pride, Leigh will continue to evolve embracing change while staying true to its roots. It will become a confident, connected town where opportunity thrives and every resident feels part of a positive, united future.

04 Vision for the Future

4.3 Areas, Changes, and Measures of Success

Focus Areas for Transformation

Transformation across Leigh will focus on strengthening identity, improving quality of place and enabling opportunity. In the core of the town centre, centred upon Bradshawgate and Market Street, targeted investment will revitalise shopfronts, public realm and green infrastructure, re-establishing this area as the heart of the town's social and commercial life.

Investment will synergise existing projects in the town in particular at Civic Square and Leigh Market. Civic Square will be reimagined as a welcoming, flexible events space hosting festivals, markets and performances that celebrate Leigh's heritage and creativity. The comprehensive refurbishment of Leigh Market will modernise facilities, attract new traders and reinforce its role as a vital local anchor and community hub.

Enhancing Gateways and Connections

Key gateways, such as the Twist Lane and Spinning Jenny Way junction, will be enhanced to create a stronger sense of arrival, with improved streetscapes that reflect Leigh's pride and identity. Better connections between the canal, Pennington Flash and Leigh Sports Village will integrate these destinations into a unified leisure and tourism offer, encouraging active lifestyles and attracting visitors. Cleanliness, safety and wellbeing will be supported by improved lighting, visible patrols and community-led initiatives promoting shared responsibility for public spaces.

Transport and Accessibility Improvements

Transport and accessibility improvements will prioritise walking, cycling and inclusive mobility. Upgraded bus stops, improved waiting environments and safer routes will make public

transport more attractive and reliable. Longer-term investment will seek to secure a rapid transit connection, linking Leigh directly into the Greater Manchester network and opening new economic and employment opportunities.

Measuring Progress

Progress will be measured through tangible outcomes that reflect both place and people:

- Increased footfall, dwell time and visitor satisfaction in the town centre.
- Lower vacancy rates.
- Growth in business confidence, investment and local employment.
- Improved perceptions of safety, cleanliness and wellbeing.
- Greater community participation in cultural and civic life.
- Enhanced accessibility and connectivity between key assets.

Leigh's 2035 Vision

By 2035, Leigh will be recognised as a confident, connected and creative town - one that honours its heritage, empowers its people and delivers shared prosperity for all.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely a university town, with a semi-transparent orange overlay. The city features a dense cluster of buildings, including a prominent church with a tall spire. The background shows rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

Strategic Case for Change

05

05 Strategic Case for Change

5.1 Setting Priorities and Objectives

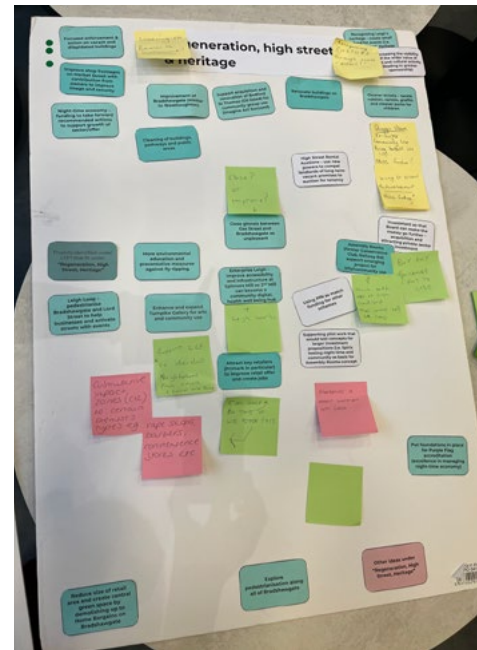
Over the past two years, considerable work has been undertaken, led by the Board and in collaboration with public, private, and third sector organisations active in Leigh, to understand people's views and priorities for our town.

The core of this activity has centred on local involvement which has included events, surveys, conversations and Board workshops. The Board has listened, explored opportunities, debated its priorities in shaping this Regeneration Plan.

The new Neighbourhood Board (made up of residents, community representatives, local business people and public sector) is passionate about Leigh's future. Working alongside businesses organisations, the MP and the Council, the Board has gained wider insight into what really matters to residents across the area.

Key engagement activities have included:

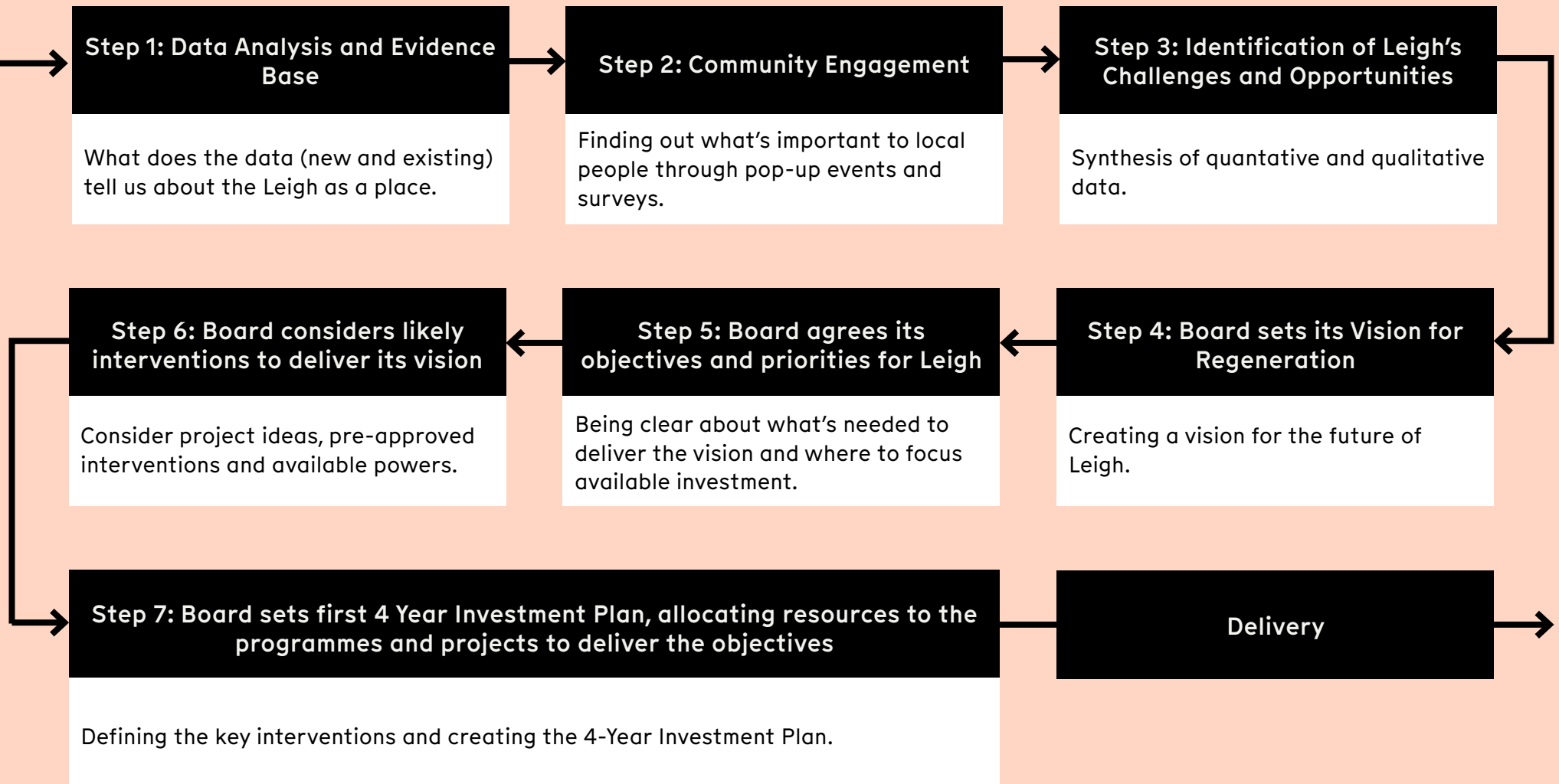
- Public survey, pop-ups and drop-ins at key locations and events to raise awareness and capture views.
- Call for potential projects amongst the community to inform project identification.
- A series of Board workshops and several stakeholder sessions to shape and test the vision, the case for change and the key priorities with reference to potential project ideas emerging from consultation, pre-approved interventions and list of powers.
- "Town Safaris" (walking tours across the town) where Board members and other local stakeholders were able to share lived experience of the issues and places that matter most to them.



05 Strategic Case for Change

5.1 Setting Priorities and Objectives

The steps below summarise the Board's approach to shaping the Regeneration Plan, its vision for Leigh and defining priorities for the town aligned with government's Pride in Place objectives.



05 Strategic Case for Change

5.2 Data and Consultation Feedback

This section sets out the strategic case for change for Leigh, identifying its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and forces for change.

These have been informed by an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data that identified the key challenges and priorities for the Regeneration Plan.

Annexes A and B provide more detail on both data analysis and results of the engagement with the local community.

Summary Analysis - Emerging Priorities

Analysis presented here has been drawn together from a combination of government's data book, messages returned from respondents within government's Zensity survey and the Board's own complementary data and wide-reaching survey.

The data highlights that Leigh faces significant interconnected challenges.

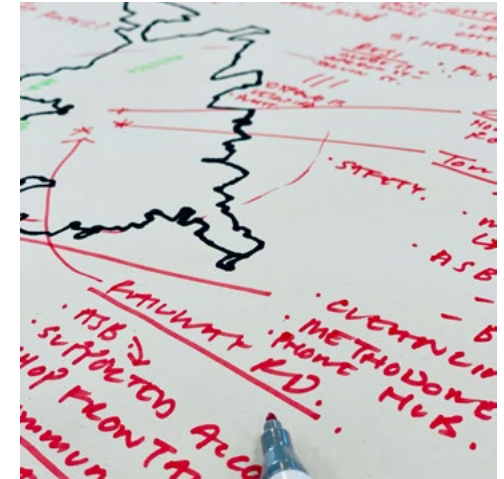
Town centre decline, safety concerns and high deprivation drive lower pride and cohesion, low qualifications, weak productivity and limited job density. Health inequalities compound these issues, with ill-health driving economic inactivity and poor educational outcomes restricting future prospects. Weak education and job prospects drive low aspirations, outward commuting and cycles of deprivation. Poor transport and service access deepen exclusion for already disadvantaged groups.

Significant investment is therefore required to improve Leigh's long-term resilience and opportunities for its residents. The Pride in Place Programme provides an opportunity, with initial

investment, for the promotion of greater partnership working and the improved facilitation of a co-ordinated approach to programmes and funding designed to tackle the town's underlying issues.

Emerging priorities from the data analysis:

- Town centre regeneration (cleanliness, shops, culture, vacancy reduction).
- Crime, ASB and cohesion (visible action on drugs, safety, community trust).
- Skills and opportunity for young people (education, apprenticeships, better job mix).
- Public transport and service access (particularly for health and learning).



5.3 Issues, Evidence and Board Response



Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage

Headline Data: Town centre decline and neglect persist. Vacancy rates are 11.6% vs 10.4% nationally, only 44% of residents are satisfied and 55% expect further decline, despite above-average footfall.

Community Feedback: Most residents feel the town centre is run-down, unsafe and full of empty or low-quality shops; over half rate it “not good at all” and improving the high street and market was one of the top things people said they want changed by 2034.

Board Response: Key focus needs to be on physical regeneration, heritage renewal, town-centre investment and cultural activity to improve appearance, vitality and pride.



Safety and Security

Headline Data: Crime deprivation is three times the national average, with 33% of neighbourhoods among the most deprived for crime. Antisocial behaviour, drugs and litter feature highly among people’s concerns; three in five residents feel unsafe.

Community Feedback: Safety dominates community priorities - 36% of residents said they would invest in it, with alcohol, drugs and begging repeatedly cited as issues requiring action, especially among women and parents. People describe the town centre as intimidating, particularly at night.

Board Response: Strengthening existing community safety measures (that are already starting to have a positive impact), environmental design, multi-agency enforcement and visible presence to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour are priorities for action.

5.3 Issues, Evidence and Board Response



Cohesion and Civic Pride

Headline Data: Low trust and civic pride persist. Social trust is 12% below national average, 55% feel no local influence and only 30% of people are proud of their community.

Community Feedback: Residents express a strong affection for Leigh's people and sports culture but there is a frustration at the state urban decline and the lack of pride; many say the community spirit seen through the rugby club and local volunteering should be built on to restore belonging and optimism.

Board Response: Promoting further community engagement, establishing more local events, creative and cultural activities and boosting voluntary sector involvement to build cohesion and shared identity should form the main response to boost cohesion and pride in Leigh.



Work, Productivity and Skills

Headline Data: Productivity is low (£53.8k/job vs £62.8k nationally) and Leigh has low job density (0.57 vs 0.77 nationally); resident's qualifications are lower than average and 16% of local people have no qualifications; local employment opportunities are also limited.

Community Feedback: Only 8% of residents think job opportunities are good and many young people say they must leave Leigh for better prospects; residents link poor local employment to lack of higher-skill roles and limited opportunities for training or progression.

Board Response: Supporting businesses to locate in Leigh, enabling business growth, promoting enterprise development, increasing skills development and creating strong employment pathways are all needed to strengthen the local economy and raise aspirations.

5.3 Issues, Evidence and Board Response



Health and Wellbeing

Headline Data: Health deprivation is three times national average; healthy life expectancy is three years below the England average; 30% of economically inactive residents cite ill-health or disability as the cause.

Community Feedback: People value parks, Pennington Flash and the Sports Village, frequently describing these as Leigh's "best assets"; they want these to be maintained and better connected to everyday town life to support community health and wellbeing.

Board Response: Promote health improvements through the encouragement of more active lifestyles, the expansion of wellbeing facilities and the broadening of community-based health outreach activities to reduce inequalities and improve quality of life.



Education and Opportunity

Headline Data: Only 47.6% of residents hold Level 3+ qualifications (c.10% below the national average) and 39% are in the most deprived quintile for education/skills. There is an under-representation of professional/managerial roles with a dominance of routine, low-paid jobs. Consequently, aspirations are low and many young people become trapped in low-skilled, low-paid jobs, commute out for work or just leave the area in search of better opportunities.

Community Feedback: Young people have expressed that safety and a lack of things to do and opportunities were their main concerns; parents and students alike called for more training options, apprenticeships and better links to employers to help young people stay and succeed locally.

Board Response: Expand education-employer collaboration, skills and apprenticeship programmes and enrichment opportunities to raise attainment and encourage greater aspiration.

5.3 Issues, Evidence and Board Response



Transport and Connectivity

Headline Data: Although the town boasts 91% gigabit broadband connectivity, residents face limited public transport accessibility, long hospital access times (56 mins vs 41 mins nationally) and low satisfaction with services.

Community Feedback: While 55% rated public transport as good, many complained about reliability and congestion and said the lack of a train or tram connection leaves Leigh isolated; people expressed their desire for better local transport links to jobs, educational opportunities and to Manchester.

Board Response: Lobby for improved local transport options to boost connectivity between key destinations, broaden accessibility and better coordinate long-term public transport infrastructure planning to address socio-economic issues.



Housing

Headline Data: Housing affordability is good (5.8× earnings vs 7.7 nationally) but local rental stock is poor-quality, with a high concentration of HMOs and a rising homelessness issue which is negatively impacting neighbourhood cohesion and perceptions of Leigh.

Community Feedback: Residents often associate poor housing and visible homelessness with wider town decline and safety issues; feedback calls for higher standards, better management of HMOs and more affordable, good-quality homes to restore pride in local neighbourhoods.

Board Response: Strengthen housing standards, improvements to the quality housing stock, a more balanced tenure mix and affordable housing delivery to support sustainable communities in Leigh.

5.4 Priorities for Change

Bringing all the responses together from the data and community feedback, the Board has identified eight priorities (A to H) for the lifetime of the programme. However, the Board has debated these eight priorities at length and has agreed that it wants a real focus on the two key issues of town centre decline and crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre. This has resulted in the Board agreeing that there should be a particular focus on Priorities A and B as its key focus for the first investment period. Despite this emphasis, the Board has recognised that it still wants to see some opportunities brought forward against the other Pride in Place Programme themes and will make some investment available as it allocates and approves funding.

As the programme progresses into subsequent investment periods project activity will contribute more broadly across all objectives.

A: Transforming how people see and experience our town

A focus on cleaning up the town and encouraging culture and heritage to flourish. Ensure Leigh has a welcoming, modern, dynamic town centre with a vibrant shopping area and a strong day and night-time economy. A network of high quality green and public spaces will help attract both people and investment.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Safety and Security
- Cohesion

B: A town that feels safe and welcoming

Create safe, welcoming neighbourhoods and a town centre where people feel confident to live, work and visit. Strengthen partnerships between local enforcement and police provision supported by a much more visible presence to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, to create a town which feels safe and welcoming.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Safety and Security
- Cohesion

5.4 Priorities for Change

C: An active community with a thriving culture

Create spaces supporting the community, including spaces for cultural and creative activity. Build on the Leigh's traditional market and events programme, supporting a regular and diverse programme of events and cultural activities animating the town at all times of the day, creating positive activities that will draw people in throughout the year.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Safety and Security
- Health and Wellbeing
- Cohesion
- Work, Productivity and Skills

D: Increasing aspirations and ambition

Create an environment that encourages community wealth building, where people know they can achieve and fulfil their ambitions within the town. With particular focus on Leigh's young people and families, ensure access to quality education and skills development; promoting pathways to local employment and good job opportunities, encouraging people to participate and be active in their local communities.

Theme alignment:

- Education and Opportunity
- Cohesion
- Work, Productivity and Skills

E: Backing Leigh's businesses

Businesses and entrepreneurs will be encouraged to start, adapt and grow creating employment and opportunity in Leigh. Partnerships will be strengthened between businesses and skills providers creating pathways of opportunity. Create the conditions that will encourage inward investment and business confidence so that local businesses can help shape the future of the town drawing people and investment in.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Work, Productivity and Skills

5.4 Priorities for Change

F: Better transport and active travel around the town

Working with transport providers to improve public transport pathways and connections, so that residents and visitors have access to affordable, safe, regular and convenient routes and services connecting Leigh's neighbourhoods, town centre and key destinations, particularly the community, education and sports facilities at Leigh Sports Village and Pennington Flash.

Theme alignment:

- Transport
- Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity
- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage

G: Leigh as a champion for healthy lives and wellbeing

Promote healthy lifestyles and wellbeing across Leigh. Expand opportunities for residents to take part in sport, arts, culture, volunteering and community activities that reduce inequality and improve quality of life, including the quality of local neighbourhoods, to help reduce deprivation and raise aspirations. Build strong partnerships and support opportunities in the health and care sector.

Theme alignment:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cohesion
- Education and Opportunity

H: Improve skills, training and access to jobs

Collaboration with education providers, businesses and community organisations working across Leigh to lobby for support and promote the skills and employment-related support services available across the town and wider borough. Increase employment and ensure Leigh's businesses have access to the talent needed for growth.

Theme alignment:

- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Education and Opportunity

05 Strategic Case for Change

5.5 Alignment with Pride in Place Programme Objectives

The Pride in Place Programme is underpinned by three strategic objectives: to create thriving places; to build stronger communities and to empower people to take back control. However, it is important to recognise that government's pre-approved interventions and the Board's local priorities are not explicitly tied back to one single objective.

The Board is looking to support types of activity that will realise the change that the community in Leigh wants to see, and this will contribute to change within multiple categories. This reflects the complexity and interdependency in the economic and social challenges that Leigh is seeking to address.

PiPP Strategic Objective 1: Create thriving places

Regenerating the town, improving the economy, enhancing public spaces and making Leigh attractive to residents, visitors and investors.

Relevant Local Priority:

- **A:** Transforming how people see and experience our town
- **E:** Backing Leigh's businesses
- **F:** Better transport and active travel around the town

Key Interventions:

Town centre renewal – bringing vacant units back into use, improving shopfronts, public realm improvements, activating the town through events and cultural activity.

Clean, green and safe streets – deployment of new Community Safety and Environment Officers, lighting, CCTV, targeted enforcement.

Transport improvements – bus upgrades, active travel links, rapid transit advocacy.

Skills and enterprise – supporting local businesses and innovation.

5.5 Alignment with Pride in Place Programme Objectives

PiPP Strategic Objective 2: Build stronger communities

Building cohesion, encouraging participation, promoting health and wellbeing and strengthening cultural identity.

Relevant Local Priority:

- **B:** A town that feels safe and welcoming
- **C:** An active community with a thriving culture
- **G:** Leigh as a champion for Healthy Lives and Wellbeing

Key Interventions:

Clean, green and safe streets – deployment of new Community Safety and Environment Officers, CCTV, lighting, targeted enforcement.

Cultural and community activation – festivals, events, heritage trails, markets.

Health and wellbeing – sports participation, community hubs, outreach programmes.

Housing and neighbourhood renewal – tackling poor stock, promoting ethical lettings.

PiPP Strategic Objective 3: Empower people to taking back control

Empowering residents, improving skills, supporting local employment and giving people pathways to shape their future.

Relevant Local Priority:

- **D:** Increasing aspirations and ambition
- **H:** Improve skills, training and access to jobs
- **E:** Backing Leigh's Businesses

Key Interventions:

Skills and enterprise – apprenticeships, learning hubs, small business support, innovation spaces.

Health and well-being – community hubs supporting personal development and inclusion.

5.6 Potential Interventions and Use of Powers

The Board has considered the outcome of community consultation, the challenges and opportunities facing Leigh, initial project ideas from the community, the pre-approved types of interventions and the powers available to the Council and partners. At this point, the Board has not committed to fund specific projects, but has a good understanding of the types of projects and activities it wants to support in order to deliver the vision for Leigh.

As recognised above, this programme will build upon existing activity – it is not starting from scratch. There are already projects on the ground delivering positive change and powers in use that are delivering positive results. But there is the scope and the need to do more. This programme provides a unique opportunity to accelerate and add to existing activity to create

visible change. It will create momentum, enabling pipeline/concept projects that are stagnated due to lack of capacity or resources to progress. It will also provide longer-term funding certainty where activity is funded for short periods of time.

The following 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 throughout the programme. Subject to due diligence, the programme will support several large capital projects that relate to site and building acquisition; redevelopment and refurbishment of premises. Enabling vacant and under-utilised buildings and sites to be brought into active use will have multiple benefits across the programme's objectives and priorities. 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.

In Leigh, the Council is already using s215 powers to require land/premises to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of an area. The Council is also well advanced in consulting upon the introduction of a High Street Rental Auction (HSRA) zone in Leigh. Waste amnesties and community clean-up/ litter-picking events have been well supported.

5.6 Potential Interventions and Use of Powers



Safety and Security: this will be the focus for revenue funding in the first investment period. Some capital activity is expected to address safety by design principles across the town centre and surrounding areas, but most activity requires revenue funding. Funding will enable more focused and targeted enforcement action, particularly where there are hot-spots and complex cases that cut across statutory regimes, such as housing, licensing, trading standards, environment and planning. 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.

There has been positive feedback from community on recent cross-partner work in the town centre to address safety, with active patrols of the Public Space Protection Order area, coordinated action on criminal activity and targeting of anti-social behaviour. The potential benefit of co-location of services will be explored to continue this positive trajectory.



Cohesion and Civic Pride: the programme places 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.

05 Strategic Case for Change

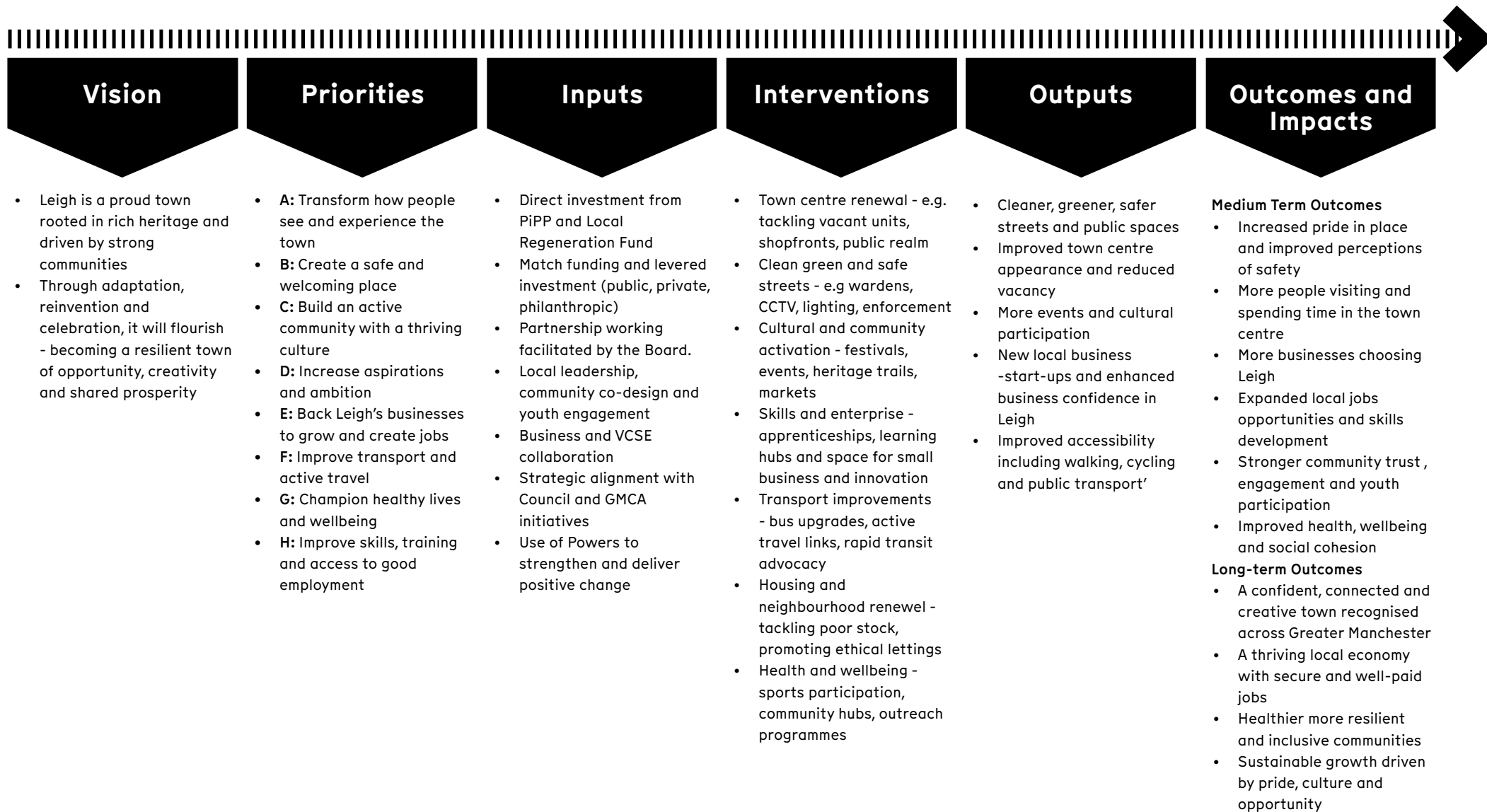
5.7 Theory of Change – Bringing the Plan Together

The Theory of Change for the Leigh Pride in Place Programme sets out the logical pathway between the town's shared vision, the strategic objectives agreed by the Board and the long-term impacts sought for the community. It illustrates how investment, partnership working and community action will combine to deliver visible change in the short term and lasting improvements in the town's prosperity, health and pride of place over the next decade. By linking inputs and activities to measurable outcomes and impacts, the Theory of Change provides a clear framework for delivery, monitoring and evaluation - ensuring that every intervention contributes meaningfully to Leigh's transformation into a resilient, connected and inclusive town.

Annex C Impact Measures (ONS - aligned for the Leigh PiPP) provides an indication of the metrics which can be used to monitor progress.



5.7 Theory of Change – Bringing the Plan Together



05 Strategic Case for Change

5.8 Summary of 4-Year Investment Plan

The Government is making available a total of £19.5 million over the full 10 years of the Pride in Place Programme. Over the first investment period - 4 years (from April 2026 to March 2030), £6.6 million is being released by the government, and in addition approximately £0.4 million is available from capacity funding. Therefore, the total available to Leigh will be £7 million as summarised below:

- Capacity grants: £0.40m
- Revenue grants: £1.35m
- Capital grants: £5.31m

The following table illustrates how the Board intends to prioritise the available funding. In line with the Board's prioritisation of its objectives into primary and secondary categories, the Board has agreed that the majority of the funding in the first four years will be targeted at the two themes of 'Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage' and 'Safety and Security', spatially focused on

Leigh town centre where it can deliver benefits for all residents and businesses in the area. Interventions that primarily align to these themes are also expected to deliver benefits across other themes.

The Board is directing funding towards the 'Cohesion' theme which can encompass a wide range of interventions that contribute to building community cohesion, developing social and human capital and investing in capacity building and infrastructure for community groups. The Board is proposing to establish a fund which local community groups can apply for.





In addition, the Board have allocated funding towards the 'Work, Productivity and Skill' theme, acknowledging the economic challenges faced by many Leigh residents in terms of their access to good quality jobs, held back by poor skills levels.

The Board recognises that this is only an illustration at this stage and that it will retain ability to adjust this profile as it moves forward and as project investment requests are received and appraised (see following sections for details of the proposed project selection and appraisal process).

In the subsequent, second and third Investment Period, the Board expects to shift its focus more broadly as tangible results are delivered on safety and perceptions of the town centre as a result of activity in the first investment period.

5.8 Summary of 4-Year Investment Plan

Investment Period 1 (2026/7 - 2029/30) - illustrative funding profile

	PiPP Theme	Revenue Grants	Capital Grants	Total (Capital and Revenue Grant)	%
	Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage	£202,800	£3,979,500	£4,182,300	63%
	Safety and Security	£743,600	£530,600	£1,274,200	19%
	Cohesion	£338,000	£530,600	£868,600	13%
	Work, Productivity and Skills	£67,600	£265,300	£332,900	5%
	Totals:	£1,352,000	£5,306,000	£6,658,000	100%

Programme management costs at 6% of total revenue and capital grant and prioritised from capacity funding.

5.8 Summary of 4-Year Investment Plan

Quick Win Projects

Leigh's Neighbourhood Board is keen to be seen to 'hit the ground running' with the delivery of Pride In Place Funding. The potential to support quick win projects has been discussed and the following are examples of quick win activity that the Board are exploring:

Safety and Security: campaigns to support reporting across both residents and local businesses in Leigh and actions to maintain a zero-tolerance of ASB in the town centre.

Community Cohesion fund: establishment of a fund to invest in community cohesion, developing social and human capital, capacity building and infrastructure for community groups. It is anticipated that it will be opened to applications from across Leigh's third-sector organisations, charities, community interest companies (CICs) and informal community groups.

Funding tiers may be established to accommodate both small-scale projects and larger initiatives. Applicants will be able to bid for either capital or revenue grants (or a combination), depending upon the nature of their project proposal. Applications will be assessed based on criteria such as community impact, alignment with priorities, deliverability and value for money.

Leigh Youth Board Small Projects Fund: Leigh's Youth Board have been building their own capacity and membership and participate in the Leigh's Neighbourhood Board (through a rotating representatives system). This reflects a commitment from the Board to youth engagement and representation, ensuring that younger voices are directly involved in debate and decision-making.

The Youth Board is currently leading its own consultation to gather insights from young people

from across Leigh and the aim is that this will inform future project development. To support this, it is proposed to establish a Youth Board Small Projects Fund to support youth-led initiatives.

Youth members will lead the Fund's direction, be involved in reviewing applications and making funding decisions with adult advisors and community stakeholders providing support, mentoring and oversight to ensure proper governance and financial accountability. It is hoped that this will empower Leigh's young people to come together and deliver projects that matter to them, whilst helping them building skills in leadership, budgeting and civic engagement.



Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

06

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.1 Regional and Local Programmes and Projects

1: Progress with Unity

Progress with Unity is a new movement for change across the borough, between residents, businesses, public services and community organisations. Its foundations are built on deep engagement and a commitment to keep listening and learning from residents to achieve lasting change. Progress with Unity missions: “create fair opportunities for all children families, residents and businesses” and “make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them” are completely aligned to the objectives of the Pride in Place Programme.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity

2: NorthFold Growth Location

NorthFold is one of the six Growth Locations in Greater Manchester – nationally significant areas that will drive housing and economic growth. NorthFold extends across the boroughs of Wigan and Bolton, stretching from the M6 (junction 25) to the M61 (junction 5), including Leigh. Development and investment opportunities across NorthFold will leverage thousands of new homes, create new jobs in target sectors and improve east-west transport infrastructure.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity

3: Mayoral Development Zone

The creation of a Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) in Leigh was one of three commitments for Wigan made in the Greater Manchester Investment Strategy (2025). An MDZ covering Leigh and the surrounding area will promote accelerated growth and opportunity with key focus upon the proposals for a University Campus for Health and Social Care and developing the case for rapid transit connectivity to Leigh.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport, Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.1 Regional and Local Programmes and Projects

4: Civic Square and Market Street

Funded through Local Regeneration Fund (LRF), this project will improve connectivity in the town centre. It will include a high-quality public realm scheme to upgrade the Civic Square, an open space in the historic heart of Leigh town centre, which will provide scope for cultural and community events to expand and give people a new reason to come into the town centre and to increase dwell time. Complementary improvements to the adjacent road on the B5215 Market Place will provide new crossing points to better connect the Square and civic area back into the town centre. Bus stops and shelters are also planned to be relocated closer to the Square to provide more appeal for public transport use, making the Civic Square a 'destination.'

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Transport
- Safety and Security

5: Town Centre Building Grant Scheme

Funded through Local Regeneration Fund (LRF), a shopfront and building grant scheme is providing grant funding to property owners/tenants to enhance their premises. This supports businesses in Leigh's central area to improve their premises and create a more attractive town centre.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Work Productivity and Skills

6: Leigh Market Refurbishment

Funded through Local Regeneration Fund (LRF), refurbishment of Leigh Market will create a more attractive environment for both customers and traders and ensure a sustainable, vibrant future, while completing vital repairs to the market building.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Work Productivity and Skills

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.1 Regional and Local Programmes and Projects

7: Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Greater Manchester Police and partners are leading increased activity to reduce crime and ASB across town centres and communities. This has included activity such as Safe4Summer, a part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Summer Initiative which included: increased police visibility in crime hotspot areas; engagement with communities, businesses; and young people; tackling issues like illegal e-bike use, drug dealing and knife crime, promoting safety across public transport networks; and additional enforcement and trading standards activity. The Council has invested funding in Community Safety and Environment Officers to provide a visible and reassuring presence to members of the public and businesses in Leigh town centre and where appropriate discourage certain activity / behaviour in the town centres. There may be opportunity to extend these contracts.

Theme alignment:

- Safety and Security
- Cohesion
- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage

8: Cultural and Community Events

An events programme has been established in Leigh that has delivered occasions such as Light Up Leigh, Christmas Lights Switch On and Leigh Feast. Developments such as the refurbished Civic Square and Market Hall will provide further opportunities to deliver a broader range of events and community activity, supported by the Cultural Strategy.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Cohesion

9: New Transport Interchange

A new transport interchange is proposed in the centre of Leigh. This will upgrade the current bus station, modernising and improving the passenger experience. This will improve accessibility, connectivity and improve the visitor experience, as well as acting as a catalyst for wider regeneration.

Theme alignment:

- Transport
- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Housing

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.1 Regional and Local Programmes and Projects

10: University Campus for Health and Social Care

As part of the Civic University agreement between Wigan and Edge Hill University, a new University campus building is proposed in the town centre to be delivered in partnership with Edge Hill University. This Health and Social Care Hub will respond directly to the urgent need for a skilled health and care workforce and provide life changing educational and employment opportunities for Leigh's residents, supporting local economic growth.

Theme alignment:

- Education and Opportunity
- Work, Productivity and Skills

11: High Street Rental Auctions

Following new legislation that came into force in December 2024, High Street Rental Auction (HSRA) can be used to encourage building owners to re-engage with prospective tenants and bring their properties back into use. Consultation on the designation of a HSRA zone in Leigh town centre was launched in October 2025. This will help encourage landlords to re-engage with long-term empty buildings and provide an opportunity to take action on persistently vacant units. If a landlord fails to engage or there is little co-operation with the local authority, a HSRA auction can be progressed to match eligible premises with a business, community or residential tenant.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration High Streets and Heritage
- Safety and Security

12: Leigh Town Centre Transport Improvement Scheme

City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding has been secured from TfGM to further develop the business case for the Leigh town centre Transport Improvement Scheme, which aims to create a safer, more connected and vibrant town centre by reducing traffic, improving public realm and promoting active travel.

Theme alignment:

- Transport
- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Safety and Security

6.2 Local Masterplans and Strategies

1: Wigan Borough Local Plan: Planning for the Future to 2040 (Draft)

The Local Plan, on adoption, will guide development across the borough to March 2039. It sets out a policy framework to manage development and inform the determination of planning applications; lead regeneration of our towns and neighbourhoods and address social, environmental and economic challenges; allocate land to meet our future housing and employments needs; and promote the development of supporting infrastructure. It includes a suite of policies based around seven key themes - Homes, Jobs, Town and Local Centres, Transport, Places, Environment and People. It also has a specific policy for Leigh town centre, focusing on enhancing the town centre as the focus for shopping, offices, education, leisure, entertainment, arts, tourism and cultural uses serving the east of the borough. As well as improving accessibility with surrounding areas.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity

2: Leigh Strategic Regeneration Framework

The Strategic Regeneration Framework establishes an exciting and ambitious vision for Leigh town centre over the next 10 years. It sets the “route-map” for ensuring that Leigh is a vibrant town centre which plays its part in supporting the sustainable growth of the borough and wider region. There is a strong focus on ‘place’ but recognises that Leigh’s people are critical to delivering the vision and with clear links to other areas of activity centred upon meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. It sets a clear framework to ensure that development is of the highest quality and integrated with its surroundings.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity

6.2 Local Masterplans and Strategies

3: The Fire Within - The Forge

Wigan's five-year cultural strategy will guide the work of the borough's cultural sector, building on the success of its predecessor, The Fire Within. It focuses on providing cultural education and opportunities for young people; promoting mental and physical wellbeing; providing skills and training for the creative industries; investing in local talent and spaces to showcase talent within the borough.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Education and Opportunity

4: Leigh town centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan

This sets out how the Leigh Town Centre Conservation Area may be preserved and enhanced. It aims to: encourage high quality developments that are sympathetic to enhance the conservation area; and avoid deterioration and harm to the conservation area, so they can continue to be enjoyed by current and future residents of the borough.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage

6.2 Local Masterplans and Strategies

5: Wigan Borough Transport Strategy

The Transport Strategy sets out key transport challenges and a commitment to address them, to achieve a more sustainable and accessible transport system to support the travel needs of everyone who lives in, works in or visits Wigan Borough. This will ensure that the transport networks will support the significant economic development forecast to 2030. This includes improving rapid transit services in Leigh and enhancing the bus network.

Theme alignment:

- Transport
- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Cohesion
- Safety and Security.

6: Together we are Greater Manchester

The Greater Manchester Strategy sets out the vision for the GM City Region for the next decade (2025-2035). By creating the conditions for our people and our businesses to succeed, it aims to unlock economic growth, ensuring residents can live well will fix the “foundations of life”: shelter, safety, mobility, opportunity and support, deliver a greener city region and create a once in a generation opportunity to tackle all forms of inequality. This also sets the framework for the allocation of resources across Greater Manchester.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Housing
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Safety and Security
- Education and Opportunity

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.2 Local Masterplans and Strategies

7: GM Wide Transport Strategies

TfGM has produced several transport focused strategies, which aim to create a world-class, integrated network by 2040 and prioritise sustainable travel and economic growth through initiatives such as the Bee Network. This includes goals aim to shift more journeys to active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) and public transport and achieve zero net growth. Significant investment is taking place in to improve the active travel network and improve the public transport provision within Greater Manchester. Some of the key strategies / documents are:

- Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 - This sets out a commitment to providing a transport system which is sustainable, efficient, integrated, affordable and reliable; and supports a target of net zero carbon by 2038.
- Draft Greater Manchester Rapid Transit Strategy (July 2024) - Leigh is identified as one of the “GM Hubs” which will ensure seamless journeys over the City Region, underpinned by integration with a wide range of other public transport, active travel and shared mobility modes.
- Greater Manchester Bus Strategy - This sets out Greater Manchester’s vision for the future bus network: to make the bus the first choice for more journeys, as part of the Bee Network.
- Streets for All - This strategy places a strong emphasis on reducing traffic, improving safety and on improving the street environment. It takes a people-centred approach to street planning, design and network management to deliver the Bee Network, support growth and productivity and meet decarbonisation targets.
- Business Case Development for Rapid Transit Lines in GM - A Strategic Outline Case is to be prepared for expanding Metrolink connections to Salford Crescent and Salford Quays and out to the North-West of the city-region including options for links to Leigh, Wigan and Bolton.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Cohesion
- Safety and Security

8: Leigh Sports Village (LSV)

A masterplan is currently being developed to maximise the growth potential of the site, provide better links to Leigh town centre, the wider borough and Greater Manchester. The aim is to ensure the range of uses at LSV continue to grow and enable access to better health, wellbeing and education opportunities across the community.

Theme alignment:

- Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
- Work, Productivity and Skills
- Cohesion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Transport
- Education and Opportunity

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.3 National Policy

This section demonstrates how each of the Leigh local priorities aligns with national policy.

Priority A - Transforming how people see and experience our town

This priority supports national goals for regeneration, placemaking, and town centre renewal. It aligns with the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and the National Planning Policy Framework (2025), promoting design quality, heritage protection, and sustainable growth. Echoing the Pride in Place agenda, it emphasises culture, green space, and a vibrant day and night economy.

Backed by initiatives like the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, these policies will drive Leigh's physical transformation and rebranding as a modern, welcoming, and confident town centre.

Priority B - A town that feels safe and welcoming

This priority aligns with national commitments to community safety, resilience, and partnership working. Key frameworks include the Safer Streets Fund, the Serious Violence Duty, and Violence Reduction Units, supporting joint action to reduce crime.

These complement the Pride in Place agenda's aim to create welcoming neighbourhoods where people feel confident and secure. The NPPF (2025) also promotes safe, accessible places through secure-by-design principles. Together, these policies strengthen multi-agency safety work and enable visible enforcement, CCTV upgrades, and improved public spaces.

Priority C - An active community with a thriving culture

This priority supports the Government's cultural and place-based regeneration agenda. National programmes like the Cultural Development Fund, Arts Council England's Place Partnerships, and the UKSPF Community and Place strand expand cultural access and creative industry growth.

The Community Ownership Fund helps local groups revitalise assets for creative spaces and events. Together, these policies enable Leigh to build a diverse cultural programme, energise its market and town centre, and foster year-round community activity that enhances safety, belonging, and economic vibrancy.

Priority D - Increasing aspirations and ambition

This priority supports the Government's goal to expand opportunity, strengthen families, and raise educational attainment. The Get Britain Working Strategy promotes employment support and local welfare-to-work pathways, while Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) set priorities for skills provision.

Initiatives such as Family Hubs, Start for Life, and the Youth Guarantee help young people and families access opportunities locally. Together, these policies foster aspiration, build community wealth, and ensure Leigh's residents can achieve their potential close to home.

This section demonstrates how each of the Leigh local priorities aligns with national policy.

06 Alignment with Other Programmes and Investments

6.3 National Policy

Priority E - Backing Leigh's businesses

This priority supports national goals for enterprise growth and productivity. It aligns with the Get Britain Working Strategy and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (People & Skills and Business Support pillars), which promote start-ups, innovation, and employer-led training.

Further alignment with Growth Hubs, the British Business Bank, and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 encourages private investment and local partnerships. Together, these policies drive entrepreneurship, job creation, and confidence across Leigh's business community.

Priority F - Better transport and active travel around the town

This priority reflects national goals to improve connectivity. It aligns with Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements, promoting affordable, reliable public transport.

The Active Travel England framework, Active Travel Fund, and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) support safer routes for cycling, walking, and wheeling. Together, these programmes enhance movement across Leigh - linking neighbourhoods, the town centre and key destinations like Leigh Sports Village and Pennington Flash - while advancing safety and environmental ambitions.

Priority G - Leigh as a champion for healthy lives and wellbeing

This priority supports the national Levelling Up Mission on Health and the NHS's move toward neighbourhood-based care. It aligns with the NHS Neighbourhood Health Guidelines 2025/26, promoting integrated local health teams, and with Office for Health Improvement & Disparities frameworks for "Healthy Places."

Complementary initiatives like Social Prescribing and the Active Travel Fund encourage physical activity and wellbeing. Together, these policies foster healthier communities, better access to sport and culture, and stronger neighbourhood connections that help reduce inequality.

Priority H - Improve skills, training and access to jobs

This priority aligns with national employment and skills policy, including the Get Britain Working Strategy, Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), Skills Bootcamps 2025–26, and upcoming Apprenticeship Reforms (2025).

These initiatives aim to match skills to employer demand, expand access to quality training and remove barriers to work. In line with the UKSPF People and Skills pillar, this priority promotes inclusive economic growth, ensuring residents gain the skills and opportunities to thrive in Leigh's evolving economy.



Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

07

07 Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

7.1 Collaborating with Delivery Partners

The Board is committed to securing additional public, private and philanthropic investment. This will ensure that a strong programme of projects and interventions are delivered which will change perceptions of the town, meet the needs of residents and act as a catalyst for wider investment. By securing a diverse package of funding, this will allow Leigh to achieve the ambitious vision, outcomes and objectives set out in this 10-year Regeneration Plan.

The Board will continue to co-develop an ambitious long list of capital and revenue projects and programmes with Leigh's residents, communities, businesses and other key local stakeholders and delivery partners. The Board will work with its delivery partners to prioritise the long list of existing and concept projects and programmes using key criteria linked to stakeholder and community engagement, strategic fit, socio-economic

impact and deliverability of each project.

The project selection and assurance process undertaken by the Board will favour projects where there are opportunities to secure matched and leveraged funding. This will maximise available investment and ensure that the PiPP funding will deliver value for money for Leigh residents.

Once identified as a priority project, the Board will work with its delivery partners to secure the co-funding and leverage additional funding to implement the projects and programmes and monitor and evaluate progress.

Through engagement with sub-groups, the local community and wider stakeholders to develop a long list of intervention ideas, the Board has identified a variety of potential funding sources that could be utilised to deliver projects and programmes across multiple programme themes.



07 Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

7.2 Sources of Funding

There are a wide variety of public and private sector organisations which provide potential funding sources for the diverse portfolio of projects and programmes which could fall within the 'on-menu pre-approved' interventions. The Neighbourhood Board will work with local delivery partners to identify and secure the most appropriate funding:

Central Government and National Programmes

Grant funding for regeneration projects and activity may come from relevant government departments, such as MHCLG and DfT. Recent national programmes have included Future High Streets Fund and Local Regeneration Fund (formerly Levelling Up Fund). New opportunities which arise will be evaluated for eligibility and alignment with the programme and funding applications made where appropriate.

Public organisations and non-departmental public bodies such as Arts Council England, Homes England, Historic England, Sports England and Visit England have open funds to support the delivery of their strategies and ambitions in local communities, some of which align with the Board's vision for Leigh.



07 Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

7.3 Funding Opportunities

Funding opportunities include:

Local Regeneration Fund

Leigh has a current LRF programme which will invest £11.4m in the town centre on a regeneration programme which includes improvements to Leigh Civic Square and Market Street, a Town Centre Building Grant Scheme and redevelopment of Leigh Market Hall.

Homes England

The Government's housing and regeneration agency for England. Its role is to use its land, capital and influence to get more high-quality homes and thriving places built. Programmes include the Affordable Homes Programme which provides grant funding to support the capital costs of developing affordable housing for rent or sale.

National Lottery Heritage Fund

A broad range of projects may be eligible for heritage funding from between £10,000 and £10 million. This competitive funding programme operates at two levels and is open to a range of capital and revenue projects that seek to pass down heritage through the generations.

Sports England

Responsible for growing and developing grassroots sport and getting more people active across England. The Movement Fund offers up to £15,000 for physical activity projects in the community. The focus is on people who face barriers to activity and projects designed to help them.

Arts Council

The national development agency for creativity and culture. Invests in artists and organisations that

make and deliver exceptional, inspirational work for our communities.

Health / Education funding

Potential opportunities to secure government grants also exist within the education sector such as the University Health and Social Care Campus.

Crime / ASB funding

Other funding/support may be secured to target crime and ASB, such as the Safe4Summer initiative which was a part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Summer Initiative.

Start Up Loans

Offers entrepreneurs between £500 and £25,000 at a fixed interest rate, alongside 12 months of free mentoring and access to business support resources.

Projects and programmes could potentially access some of the funding streams that are available within the Greater Manchester City Region. Partner organisations such as Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and The Growth Company provide a variety of funding streams and opportunities. The integrated settlement, which replaces separate funding pots from different government departments, provides Greater Manchester with greater freedom and flexibility to fund local priorities. The development of an integrated pipeline aligned to the GM 10-year Plan will ensure that the use of revenue and capital funding contributes to the economic and social progress across the city region and Leigh is well positioned to benefit from this investment.

07 Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

7.4 Regional Government

Potential funding opportunities from GMCA cover a wide spectrum including:

Culture: supporting wider participation in culture and the arts, support art organisations and promoting wellbeing and community pride (funds such as the Collaborate Fund and Inspire Fund).

Economy, work and skills: Supporting innovation and growth in the foundational and frontier sectors of the economy and enhancing skills and career pathways, delivered through or in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership and Growth Company e.g. the Adults Skills Fund and Foundational Economic Fund.

Health, wellbeing and equality: supporting the delivery of health and social care through the Integrated Care Partnership.

Regeneration, homes and development: supporting communities and places to thrive - from town centres, commercial space and new homes, to public realm enhancements and activation of community spaces (funds such as Brownfield Housing Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund / Local Growth and Place Fund).

Environment: supporting nature recovery, environmental resilience and tackling climate change (fund such as the Decarbonisation Fund and Green Spaces Fund).

Transport: Transport for Greater Manchester are responsible for co-ordinating transport services across Greater Manchester and funds a range of services and activity associated with public transport infrastructure, services (frequency and routing) and active travel (such as Bee Network, City Region Sustainable Transport Fund).



07 Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

7.5 Local Government

Wigan Council are leading or involved in several projects and strategies within the Leigh PiPP area, some of which are identified in Section 5. Council funding and projects can be powerful tools to leverage additional funding from other sources—public, private and third sector. This includes the following:

Match Funding

Many external funders (e.g. UK Government departments, National Lottery, Arts Council or private foundations) require applicants to demonstrate local commitment through match funding. Council investment can act as the initial seed funding to unlock larger grants, show that the project has local political and strategic backing, reduce the financial risk for other funders.

De-risking Investment

By investing in feasibility studies, masterplans or infrastructure (e.g.

roads, utilities), the Council can make sites or projects more attractive to private developers or institutional investors, reduce upfront costs and risks and encourage commercial investment.

Asset Utilisation

The Council could use their land, buildings or other assets as part of the funding mix and to enable schemes to come forward.

Grant Funding

The Council currently offers two grants schemes that support community projects:

- The Brighter Borough Fund: Initiative provides a fund for councillors to propose and support schemes that improve the environment and benefit the community within their Wards. Community and voluntary organisations can apply for funding.

- Supporting Communities Fund: The fund aims to improve community wellbeing by reducing loneliness, developing and promoting community cohesion, building on community spirit and bringing communities together. Funding is available to grass roots organisations working within Wigan Borough.

In addition, the Council operate “Match my Project” which is a social value platform, connecting businesses with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations across the Borough. Community organisations can request support (time, resources, training, funding) whilst businesses looking to fulfil their social value commitments can do so in a meaningful and targeted way.

07 Match Funding and Leveraged Investment

7.6 Other Funding Sources

Outside of public funding sources, there will opportunity to work with other organisations to explore a range of funding sources, depending on the project types that come forward. Working with these organisations represents a major opportunity to deliver impactful and sustainable interventions. This includes:

- Charities, trusts and foundations e.g. Football Foundation's Lionesses 'HERE' to Play Fund grants to make football facilities more inclusive, safe and welcoming for women and girls;
- Community interest companies e.g. Leigh Means Business CIC established in 2021 to support the local business community; National governing bodies e.g. FA, UK Athletics, UK Sport; and
- Private sector and existing public / private sector partnerships/community interest companies

The Board has expressed an interest in exploring the opportunity to establish as a separate entity (potentially such as a Community Benefit Society (CBS)). This could provide a vehicle to unlock additional investment for regeneration and growth in Leigh, aligning with the Regeneration Plan's vision. This would operate with a clear social purpose and act as a partner for public, private and philanthropic funders seeking to support initiatives.

The CBS could act as a delivery arm for projects, attract match funding and leverage its status to access grants and investment streams not available to public bodies. It could also provide a transparent and accountable structure for engaging residents, businesses and stakeholders in shaping and benefiting from regeneration efforts. Assets could be acquired and held and profits reinvested into community priorities.





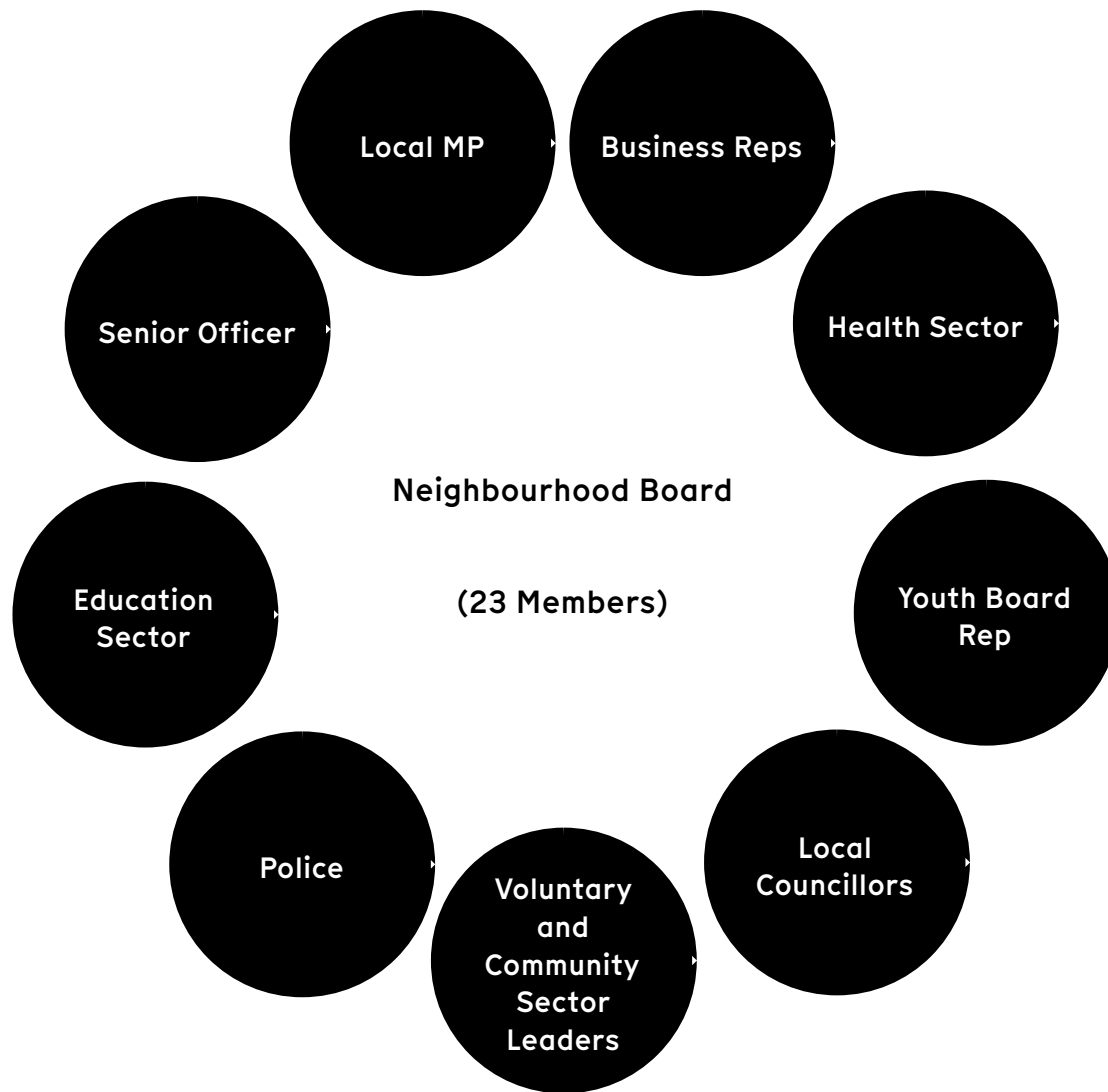
Community and Stakeholder Engagement

08

8.1 Neighbourhood Board membership and leadership

The Board is made up of representatives from the community of Leigh covering a wide range of sectors. The Board are responsible for being the voice of the wider community and ensuring that investment through the programme reflects the community's priorities and will transform how people see and experience our town.

The Board comprises 23 members led by an independent Chair – who is a successful local entrepreneur and business owner. Other members include; the local MP, local business people, representatives from the health and education sector, police, leaders from the voluntary sector, local Councillors, a senior officer from the Council and representatives from the Youth Board. Full membership details and details of meetings are published on the Council webpages at Leigh Neighbourhood Board and at Annex D.



08 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

8.1 Neighbourhood Board membership and leadership



Image showing some of the Leigh Neighbourhood Board Members at Leigh Sports Village.

08 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

8.2 Ways of working

The Board has bespoke Terms of Reference (ToRs) which are annexed. These ToRs cover:

- The roles and responsibilities of the Board, accountable Body (Wigan Council) and the secretariat (Wigan Council)
- The approach to and protocols for decision-making and voting
- A code of conduct and declarations of interest in line with the Nolan Seven Principles of Public Life (signed by all members)

The Board aims to make all its decisions by consensus. Where this is not possible decision-making is by majority vote, with a minimum of 75% majority required. Each Board Member (including the Chair) has one vote and no Board Member has a casting vote. Meetings are held on a monthly basis throughout the development and delivery of the programme. Agendas are agreed with the Chair in advance and published on the Leigh Neighbourhood Board website.

Early Board meetings have focused on engagement, understanding the programme, preparing the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan. As the programme progresses the Board's activities will evolve to project appraisal, overseeing the allocation of funding to projects, project and programme

monitoring and delivery. The Board is able to establish sub-groups to deal with specific issues and pieces of work and then report back to the main Board.

To ensure the views of young people are fully explored and feed into the decision-making process, a Youth Board has been established to complement the main Board. The Youth Board are leading upon future consultation and engagement with young people. To ensure integration between the two Boards, at least one Board member attends the Youth Board meetings and two Youth Board members attend the main Board and have one (combined) vote.

08 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

8.3 Engagement to date

Since the launch of the programme, the Board has engaged with the community to explore its priorities for investment and input into the PiPP priorities.

Community Drop-in Events

A range of drop-in events were held across the town which aimed at giving a broad spectrum of people the opportunity to engage and have conversations about the PiPP for Leigh. It also helped reach those groups identified as potential non-respondents to our PiPP consultation survey. This included visitors to the town, younger people and older people.

Drop-in venues included:

- Leigh Youth Hub
- Leigh Library
- Leigh Market
- Leigh College
- Parsonage Retail Park
- Leigh Feast Festival

A range of activities were used to engage people. These included 'voting' activities on the investment themes using ping-pong balls, allocating sticky dots to rate Leigh as a place to live, work and visit and quick-input activities for people to say how they would describe Leigh in three words and what change they would like to see in ten years' time and what aspects of the town they would like to retain and improve.

Town Safaris

Board members participated in Town Safaris – walking through the town as a group gathering information and discussing key issues impacting the town, such as safety and security and potential high street regeneration opportunities and priorities. Town Safaris took place at different times of the day to gain different insight and perspectives, particularly around safety and security and ensure full coverage of aspects of town life, e.g. the night-time economy. Results were included within the consultation and informed further Board engagement.



08 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

8.3 Engagement to date

Neighbourhood Board Workshops

To develop the priorities underpinning the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan for Leigh, regular Board workshops were undertaken, building on the earlier Town Safaris and including considerations of the data analysis and community consultation activities. Board workshops focused on developing a clear vision for Leigh and creating the logic chain through agreement of a set of clear programme priorities and indicative set of activities to build a deliverable 4-year Investment Plan.



Consultation with the Community and Voluntary sector

Board members consulted with community and voluntary sector organisations, gaining an understanding of the landscape, the type of activity already being delivered, what is needed by the organisations and how the Pride in Place programme can support and further develop the sector.



Leigh Youth Board

The Youth Board are in the process of delivering their own consultation that will gather information on the priorities for young people and inform the future development of project activity.



8.3 Engagement to date

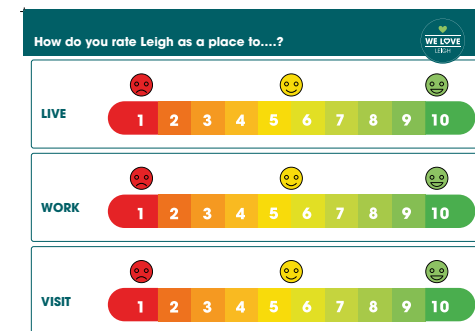
Online Research Survey and Drop in Sessions

A wide range of engagement has taken place, including a widely publicised online survey and a series of drop-in events across the town. This was designed to give as many local people as possible the opportunity to provide feedback on Leigh and say how they would invest the funding.

More than 1,500 people took part in this engagement, this included 1,250 survey responses and over 250 people engaged at drop-in sessions at community venues throughout Leigh such as the Youth Hub, college, shopping centre and market.

The following summarises some of the insights from this engagement:

- People tend to feel that the town is run-down and unsafe and there is a general feeling that Leigh is on the decline.
 - There is a feeling that there are too many vacant properties and a limited shopping and night-time offer, with too many charity shops and take-aways, vape shops and barbers.
 - Public transport is perceived as good, but the lack of tram or train station is noted as a key limitation.
 - Fears over safety have a big impact on perceptions of Leigh and the town centre, this is particularly associated with anti-social behaviour from people under the influence of drink and drugs.
- People valued the parks, nearby countryside and Leigh Sports Village.
 - There was a strong sense of local identity and sense of community which people feel is important to protect. The majority of respondents did not rate Leigh town centre as a good place to live, work or visit.



How would you invest
£20 million in Leigh?

8.4 Future Community Engagement and Consultation

Community engagement is at the heart of the Regeneration Plan. Continued engagement will take place with the community of Leigh and key stakeholders throughout the life of the programme. The Board recognise that the short timeframe for production has constrained the scope for engagement. The Board are committed to expanding the breadth and depth of engagement in the delivery phase.

Key elements of the approach to engagement are expected to be:

- Developing branding and website for the Board
- Establishing regular communications: print media, social media, direct media (mail-outs, e-bulletins) and also word of mouth using contacts and networks in place
- Reflecting on how to better engage with under-represented groups

- Exploring mechanisms to reimburse volunteers and community organisations for their time and properly recognise the expertise they bring

Focusing on enabling greater participation amongst young people – building upon the Youth Board engagement survey, developing strong relationships with local schools, Wigan and Leigh College and all youth groups.

Building capacity within the VCSE sector – through working closely with Wigan Borough Community First who empower individuals and voluntary groups with expert advice, funding opportunities and innovative support to build stronger sustainable communities.

Ultimately working towards co-production and community delivery.

Key Elements of Engagement		
1	Branding and Website	For visibility of information
2	Regular communications	Regular updates via media and networks
3	Inclusion	Engage under-represented groups; recognise volunteers
4	Youth Participation	Work with schools, colleges and youth groups
5	VCSE Sector Capacity	Strengthen voluntary sector through advice and funding

Ultimate Goal: Co-production and community delivery

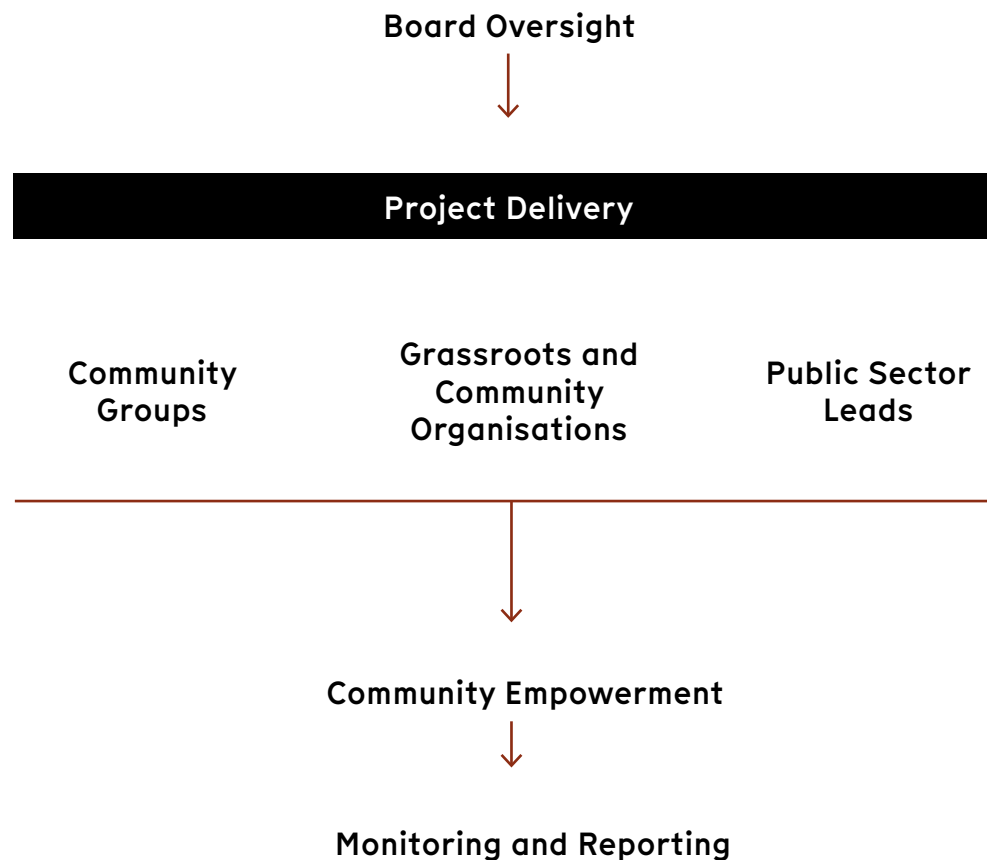
08 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

8.5 Delivering Interventions

The interventions funded by the programme will be delivered by a range of organisations and project leads. The Board will be responsible for overseeing the project appraisal and selection process - this will include considering whether proposed interventions have suitable delivery arrangements (including capacity, expertise and a named project lead) and whether there is a need for additional support or capacity building to ensure successful delivery (especially for grassroots projects). A fundamental principle of the programme is to put power back in the hands of the community and enable the community to deliver the change they need through devolving budgets to community groups.

This is reflected by the proposed establishment of a Community Cohesion Fund. Opportunities for co-design and co-delivery will be explored where the nominated project lead is the Council or other public sector body to ensure that projects remain reflective of community priorities.

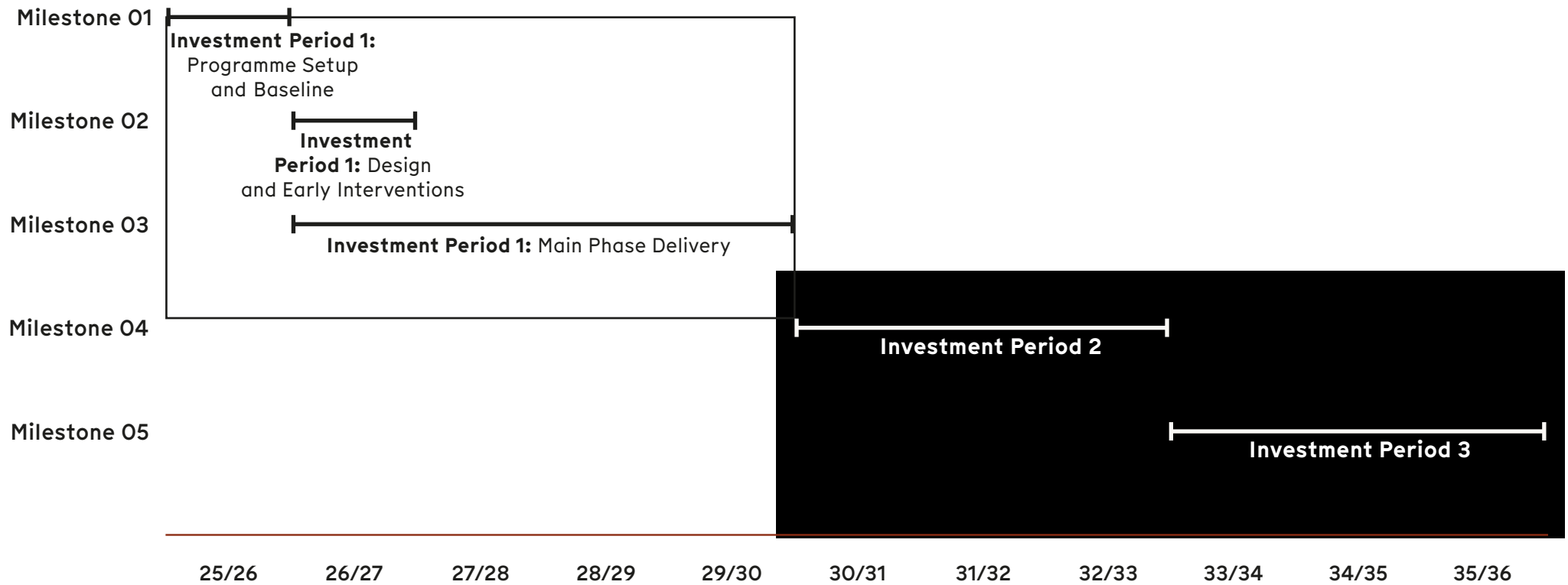
The requirement for periodic project monitoring will ensure that delivery is in accordance with the approach specified, on time and budget. Project monitoring reports will be collated and reported to Board by the secretariat.



08 Community and Stakeholder Engagement

8.6 Key Milestones

The following chart of key milestones outlines the phased implementation of the PiPP Delivery Plan across the three Investment Periods - from establishment through to legacy. It provides clarity on critical decision points, programme review moments and the sequencing of major interventions ensuring all stakeholders can track progress, adjust where needed and sustain momentum over the ten-year programme.



8.6 Key Milestones

Investment Period 1	01	Programme Setup and Baseline	Year 0: 2025-2026: Establishing the Board, agreeing long-term vision, ongoing engagement and establishing the framework for delivery in the first investment period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Board membership, sub-groups, Youth Board and governance arrangements • Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan prepared, submitted and approved • Marketing and branding for board established • Call for projects and appraisal of projects for 1st investment period • Exploring potential to establishing Board as separate entity • Engagement and capacity building (with focus on young people)
	02	Design and Early Interventions	Year 1: 2026/2027: Focus on improving safety, raising perceptions of the town centre and establishing the foundations for larger capital projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick win projects (e.g. street cleaning, safety campaigns, enforcement activity) • Further development of project design of major interventions (feasibility, business planning) • Community engagement and co-design/support community-led projects • Mobilisation of delivery partners and contracts
	03	Main Phase Delivery	Year 2-4: 2026/27-2029/30: Focus on enabling project delivery and maximising synergies between programme interventions and activity from complementary projects/programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of major infrastructure and development projects (site, building development/refurbishment and public realm projects) • Safety and environmental enhancements (CCTV, lighting, targeted enforcement projects) • Completion of LRF projects (refurbishment of Leigh Market, Civic Square activation) • Roll out of annual community and youth funds and support activity • Ongoing community engagement • Ongoing monitoring and adjustment at programme level
Investment Period 2 and 3	04	Investment Period 2	Year 5-7: 2030/31-2032/33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal progress evaluation against outputs and outcomes for Investment Period 1 • Stakeholder and community review/feedback • Adjustment of programme priorities, reallocation of resources, update Theory of change, risk register and performance targets • Celebration, dissemination and sharing initial successes • Prepare and approve Investment Plan for Period 2 (Yr5, Yr6, Yr7)
	05	Investment Period 3	Year 8-10: 2033/34 - 2035/36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue delivery of later phase interventions; scaling of cultural, social and community programmes • Continued monitoring and mid-cycle corrections • Final evaluation, lesson learned, impact assessment • Embedding sustainability: governance, maintenance, future funding • Legacy transition planning (what remains after core funding) • Celebration, dissemination and sharing successes

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Edinburgh, Scotland, showing a dense urban landscape with many buildings and a prominent church spire. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The word "Governance" is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

Governance

09

09 Governance

9.1 Governance and Transparency

The Community

The community is at the heart of the programme – the Board are responsible for being the voice of the local community and ensuring community priorities drive the activity and investment.

The Board

The Board will operate with executive functions. It has established its own Terms of Reference, which is available online at the Council website at Leigh Neighbourhood Board. The Terms of Reference are detailed in section 6.2 and are attached at Annex E. It includes:

- Board composition (including mandatory and non-mandatory membership and the role of Chair)
- Board meetings and proceedings (including frequency and format of

meetings, voting and quorum)

- Secretariat function and the role of the accountable Body
- Code of conduct and conflicts of interest
- Ability to establish sub-groups
- Wider governance
- Equality and social value
- Communications and personal data
- Review and dissolution of the Board

The Board Sub-Groups

The Board is large and to operate efficiently, subgroups will be set up to address specific issues and activity and report back to the Board. The Board has already established sub-groups to lead on aspects of the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan. Further to this the Board has set up a Youth Board that sits alongside the main Board and is part of the decision-making process. Further groups

will be set up, as required, as the programme progresses.

Wigan Council (Accountable Body and Secretariat)

The Council as accountable body has responsibility for ensuring that the Board operates in accordance with the PiPP guidance. This guidance sets the standards in line with the principles in Managing Public Money (MPM). The Council will continue to work closely with the Board to ensure that these requirements are in place and satisfy the six-monthly monitoring requirements.

The Board and Chair are executive roles and the programme will be delivered through a broader spectrum of partner organisations. As accountable body, the Council will monitor workload and offer support from officers and advisors. As currently

established the Board is not able to directly employ staff, hold assets or enter into any contractual arrangements – the Council (as accountable body) fulfils these roles on behalf of the Board. The Board has expressed an interest in becoming an entity with ability to fulfil these tasks directly, the Council and Board will work together to explore this.

The operation of the Board will be supported through the Council's established governance structures, including reporting to Senior Management Team (SMT) and up to Cabinet as appropriate. This will include periodic update reports on progress, finance and risk. The Council will utilise existing management structures to support the Board and fulfil its role as accountable body.

09 Governance

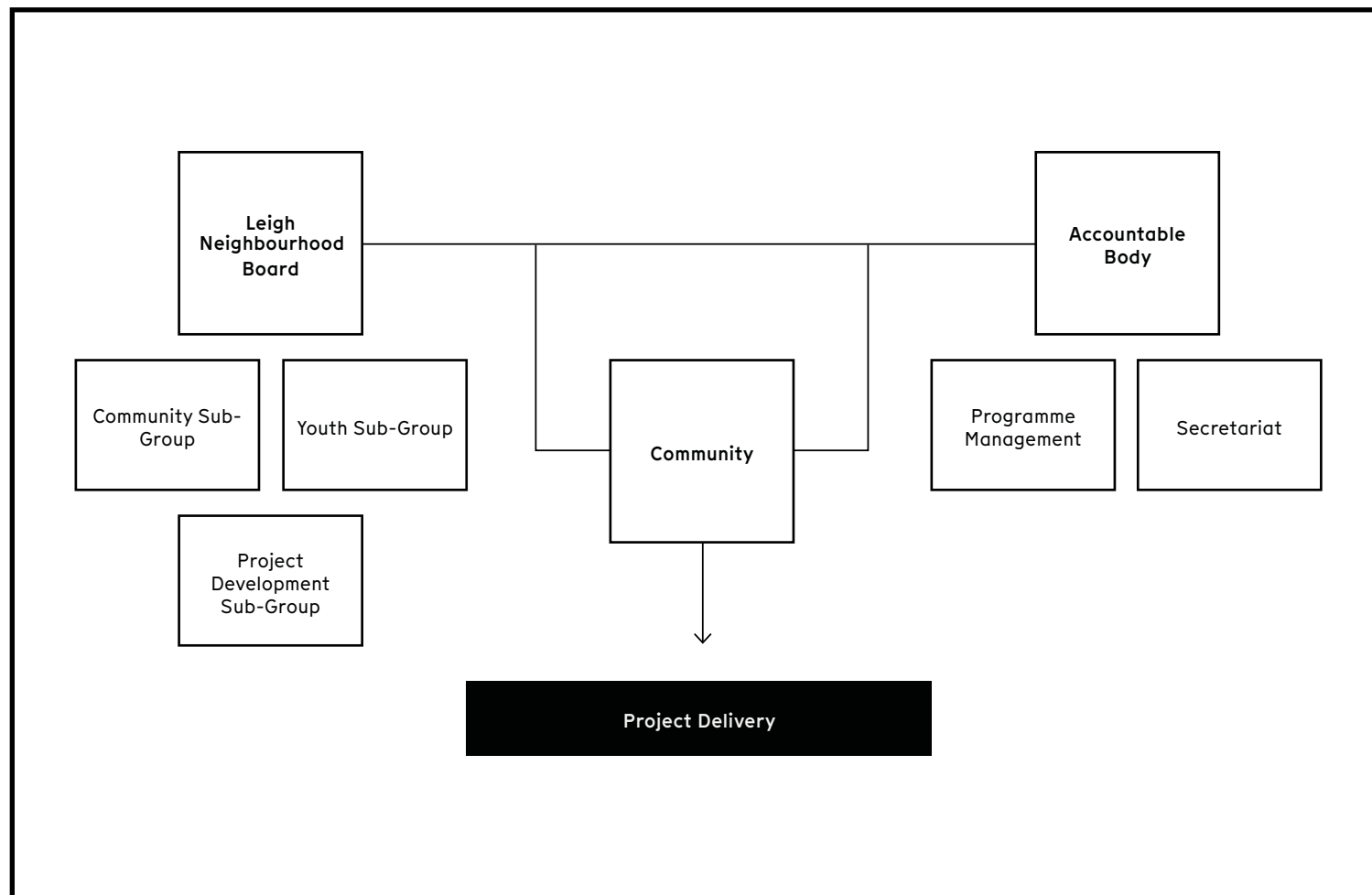
9.1 Governance and Transparency

All decisions are made in the first instance by the Board in accordance with voting protocol in the Terms of Reference, subsequently decisions must follow the Council's decision-making processes, as set out in the constitution.

All funding and contractual decisions made by the Board will be subject to the Council's decision-making process to ensure accountability and transparency and will be formally recorded in accordance with the Board and the Council's governance procedures.

The Council also acts as secretariat to the Board, including circulating and publishing agendas and minutes in accordance with the programme requirements. A dedicated role has been created (temporary until March 2030) to support the Board. This post will also be responsible for ensuring accurate and timely reporting of programme performance.

The following "Assurance" section provides further detail on the process for appraising and approving investments.



9.2 Nolan Principles and Managing Public Money

Board members are expected to adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life, known as the Nolan Principles, as defined by the Committee for Standards in Public Life. They are Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Honesty, Leadership and Openness, and therefore these are embedded in the Board's Terms of Reference which members must sign up to.

P1	Selflessness	Act solely in terms of the public interest, not for personal gain.
P2	Integrity	Avoid placing yourself under any obligation to people or organisations that might influence you improperly in your work.
P3	Objectivity	Make decisions based on merit, using the best evidence and without bias.
P4	Accountability	Be accountable to the public for your decisions and actions and submit yourself to scrutiny.
P5	Honesty	Act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner, unless there are clear and lawful reasons for confidentiality.
P6	Leadership	Be truthful and act with honesty in all matters.
P7	Openness	Demonstrate these principles through your own behaviour and actively promote and support them in others.

Assurance

10

10 Assurance

10.1 Best Value Standards

The Council, acting as the accountable body, will ensure compliance with appropriate public contract regulations for funds delivered through the programme by implementing the following measures.

By implementing these measures, the Council will ensure that funds are managed in accordance with public contract regulations, maintaining integrity and public trust in the programme and ensuring Best Value.

Establishing clear procurement policies:

- Develop and disseminate comprehensive procurement guidelines that align with public contract regulations
- Ensure all staff and third-party delivery bodies involved are trained on these policies and procedures as necessary

Transparent selection processes:

- Use transparent, competitive processes for selecting projects
- Document and publish selection criteria and decision-making processes to maintain transparency and accountability

Robust monitoring and reporting:

- Implement a monitoring system to track the use of funds and compliance with procurement regulations, together with specific ring-fenced budget codes
- Require regular reporting from third parties on their procurement activities and compliance status

10 Assurance

10.2 Managing Public Money

The Board is working closely with the accountable body, Wigan Council, to ensure that robust governance, assurance and budget management procedures are in place for the programme.

The Council has extensive experience managing large-scale, multi-year grant funded regeneration programmes and projects.

The Council's decision-making capability is defined and is undertaken in line with the Council's financial regulations and agreed protocols, with Finance and Legal representation being integral to ensuring compliance with the Procurement Act and the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules.

Robust governance arrangements will be put in place at project and programme level to ensure that the Board has appropriate oversight, that the Council can

satisfy its responsibilities as accountable body and so enable accurate and timely reporting to government (noting the 6 monthly intervals indicated in guidance).

The governance section demonstrates the management structures that will be put in place to enable Project Leads to report to the Board and from an accountable body perspective the parallel structure of Council (internal) Boards, Senior Management Team (SMT) and Cabinet and Council when necessary.

All funded projects will be required to provide information to enable accurate monitoring as part of a monitoring return at 6 monthly intervals, this will include:

- Project Name
- Delivery Organisation
- Sector of Delivery Organisation
- Project Location

- Project Description
- Status of Project (Awarded/Proposed)
- Project Start/End Date
- Project Cost
- Actual and Forecast Annual Expenditure
- Associated Match Funding
- Associated Outputs/Project

10 Assurance

10.3 Risk Register

A programme level risk register will be compiled by the secretariat to report to the Board, Council and government. This process will ensure that all programme activity and financial information is effectively monitored and scrutinised and that risks and dependencies are fully considered to inform decision making. Key documentation will include:

- Regular progress reports to ensure that the project delivery position is readily available and understandable
- An approved budget with appropriate budgetary controls - with defined review, monitoring and reporting processes
- A project level risk register which is regularly reviewed, updated and reported on

All projects will be assigned a unique project code from the outset to track both grant income and project costs.

10.4 Project Selection

An assessment process is being developed which will allow the Board to identify, evaluate and select projects for investment. This process will ensure that the interventions align with the vision, priorities and the proportion of funding allocated to each theme in the Investment Plan. This includes evaluating awards to the local authority for the delivery of activity proposed by the Board.

The appropriate level of information required from the applicant will be specified, which will allow the projects to be appraised quickly, while balancing propriety, regularity, value for money and deliverability.

The Council, acting as the accountable body, will oversee a fair and robust appraisal process of project applications. Key considerations for the Council as accountable body will include financial and legal obligations.

Closing Statement

11 Closing Statement

11.1 Closing Statement

This Plan stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community works together. From the earliest conversations to the final shaping of priorities, local people have played a central role in the development of the Leigh Regeneration Plan. Local residents, businesses and organisations have shared their ideas, concerns and ambitions, shaping a plan that truly reflects the identity and priorities of Leigh. Their contributions have ensured that every theme - from town centre renewal to skills - is grounded in the lived experience of local people. The process has demonstrated what can be achieved when collaboration, listening and shared purpose sit at the heart of regeneration.

The Board is proud of what has been achieved so far and is united in its determination to deliver meaningful, lasting change through this programme. With clear priorities, strong governance and a commitment to openness and accountability, the Board now looks forward to translating the Plan into action. The enthusiasm and partnership that have guided this process will continue to drive delivery - ensuring that investment makes a visible difference to Leigh's streets, spaces and communities. With the groundwork complete, the focus now turns to delivery and momentum:

It is time to get on with the job.



Annex: Board Terms of Reference

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 1 - Overview

Introduction

As part of the UK Government's Plan for Change, a £1.1 billion Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund has been established. It aims to put decision making into the hands of local people to decide priorities and make towns places where people and businesses want to invest, creating new jobs and breathe new life into high streets and town centres.

Leigh is one of 75 towns which have each been allocated £20 million of "endowment-style" funding and support to invest over the next decade, which will be overseen by new Town Boards made up of local community leaders and employers, who will draw up their town's Long-Term Plan for the next 10 years. The Plans will focus on long-term strategic transformation as well as shorter-term improvements.

The government is to develop a toolkit, setting out a range of levers and flexibilities to drive improvement and unlock barriers to regeneration and development, which the boards will be able to utilise.

In addition, the government is also to establish an independent, consultancy-style High Streets and Towns Taskforce to support towns after their Long-Term Plan is submitted and provide capacity support.

Further information is about the funding is available in the Long-Term Plan for Towns: Guidance for Local Authorities and Neighbourhood Boards (published 4 March 2025) and Technical Guidance (published 12 March 2025) and any additional subsequent guidance.

Purpose / Objectives

The Leigh Neighbourhood Board will bring together community leaders, employers, young people, the local authority, and the local MP to develop a shared vision for their town and oversee the funding programme. The Board will drive the priorities for investment and work with Wigan Council to use the full suite of powers and flexibilities granted by the Government to help transform the high streets and town.

As part of the funding offer, the Neighbourhood Board is required to develop a 10-year Regeneration Plan for their town, with a 4-year investment plan, setting out the town's vision and priorities for investment and regeneration.

As set out in the government guidance, the Neighbourhood Board will be responsible for the following actions:

- Identifying the issues and priorities to focus on for the Regeneration Plan, including supporting a process of ongoing community engagement
- Working with the local authority to develop the Regeneration Plan for their town, setting out how local partners will use their knowledge, powers, assets and new funding to deliver for their communities
- Identifying opportunities for Board members to utilise specific powers, such as neighbourhood planning, to drive forward their Regeneration Plan
- Identifying opportunities to bring in additional philanthropic or private investment to support the Regeneration Plan for their town

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 1 - Overview

- Overseeing the delivery of projects set out in their Regeneration Plan

In addition, the Leigh Neighbourhood Board will also have oversight and will act in an advisory capacity on other regeneration activity in the town centre (such as the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 programme) to ensure that regeneration proposals are joined-up, interdependencies are managed across different workstreams, and benefits are maximised. However, the Neighbourhood Board will not have a decision-making role or responsibility with regard to other funds.

There are three broad investment themes over which the Plan for Neighbourhoods funding can be utilised:

- Thriving Places
- Stronger Communities
- Taking Back Control There

Regeneration Plans will need to include:

- A clear articulation, evidenced by local engagement, of the priorities of town residents;
- A plan for how the £20 million endowment-style funding and support will be deployed in line with investment themes to support these priorities;
- How local authorities, community groups and businesses are using their existing assets and resources to support these priorities;
- How the Neighbourhood Board intends to attract additional private and philanthropic investment to support these priorities; and
- How members of the Neighbourhood Board are using their existing powers and flexibilities - including but not limited to those in the Toolkit - to support these priorities

It will be an essential requirement to demonstrate how the plans have been developed in consultation with local people and are underpinned by a shared vision. Areas are expected to make a contribution, potentially through time and resource of key people, local match-funding or properties to include in regeneration projects.

Timescales

Expected timelines are as follows:

By 22nd April 2025

Local authorities to bring local partners together to form a Neighbourhood Board and start the process of setting out a long-term Regeneration Plan based on local priorities.

Spring 2025

Once the Neighbourhood Board has been set up, capacity funding will be released to support the development of investment plans, including additional community

By 28th November 2025

Regeneration Plan to be submitted to MHCLG.

April 2026

Release of year one delivery funding.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Chair

The fund guidance specifies that the Board must be chaired by a local businessperson or community leader, to ensure that local people drive the change. The guidance also states that the Chair will be invited by the local authority, considering who is best placed to convene partners and is respected figure in the community with an obvious passion for the place and local MP will be engaged as part of the process. The Chair will engage with the local authority to consider further appointments to the Neighbourhood Board. Elected representatives, such as MPs and local councillors, cannot chair the Neighbourhood Board.

Deputy Chair

A deputy chair has been appointed to help to provide capacity and continuity (should the Chair be unavailable). The Chair has decided that this role will be filled by a senior Council officer, currently David Proctor – Assistant Director, Planning and Regeneration.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Board Composition

The composition of the Board has been agreed between the Chair and local authority, in consultation with the MP.

- The Board must include as a mandatory requirement:
- Parliamentary representatives: the relevant local MP;
- Local Councillors: 2 councillors from the authority;
- A senior representative from the police: the Police and Crime Commissioner or a senior representative from the police.

The Board also includes a senior Council officer to ensure the Council facilitates and supports the operation of the Board and support the Chair and Members in ensuring the Board acts in accordance with government guidance and public finance regulations.

Board Members will be required to formally agree to these Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. In addition, Board Members must complete and sign 'declaration of interests' forms on an annual basis and adhere to the declarations of interest process at all times.

The membership of the Board will be reviewed on an annual basis according to the requirements of the funding programme.

The Board membership is listed at Appendix F.

Due to the requirements for transparency and accountability, it is proposed that Board Members are not normally able to propose substitutes in the event they are unable to attend a meeting. Substitutes will only be permitted upon invitation of the Chair and by exception with all correspondence via the secretariat.

In order to ensure commitment to the Board and continuity in decision-making, there will be minimum attendance requirements. If the threshold is not met the Board Member may be requested to withdraw from the Board. Members who do not attend on three consecutive occasions without reasonable explanations may be requested to leave the Board, at the discretion of the Chair.

Members may cease to be a member of the Neighbourhood Board by:

- serving notice on the Chair;
- being removed from membership by a majority vote of the Neighbourhood Board for conduct in breach of the Code of Conduct or otherwise prejudicial to the Neighbourhood Board, provided that any member to be so removed

- shall have the right to make representation to the meeting at which the decision is to be made;
- if the minimum attendance requirement is not satisfied.
- if it is wound up.

Members of the Neighbourhood Board who hold a mandatory role will cease to be a member of the Neighbourhood Board when they cease to hold the role that led to their appointment to the Board.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Board Meetings and Proceedings

Board meetings are the primary mechanism for conducting the business. Some procedural decisions may be made via electronic communications.

The Board shall meet at least four times per year, but additional meetings may take place at the discretion of the Chair, according to operational need.

No decisions shall be taken at any Board meeting unless a quorum is present which must include:

A minimum of eight Board members including the following as mandatory:

- The Chair or Deputy Chair
- One councillor
- Four Board members who do not represent the public sector.

The Board will seek to make decisions by consensus. Where this is not possible

decision-making will be by majority vote, with a minimum of 75% majority required. The 75% will be calculated on the basis of Board Members who are present and eligible to vote and will be rounded up to the next whole number. Each Board Member (including the Chair) will have one vote, and no Board Member will have a casting vote.

Voting may be taken in writing (remotely) where required between scheduled Board meetings with reasonable periods of notice for Board Members to participate.

Notice of at least two weeks will be given to Board Members for holding a Board meeting, unless in exceptional circumstances, and papers will be circulated 5 days in advance of the meeting taking place.

It is anticipated that from time-to-time the Board may wish to invite other organisations and representatives to all or part of Board meetings to contribute to specific agenda items, as observers or advisors. Invitations to non-Board Members are to be agreed with the Chair (issued and arranged via the secretariat).

The agendas of Board Meetings will be published on Wigan Council website 5 days in advance of meetings.

Draft minutes to be circulated within 10 working days of the meeting.

Minutes of Board meetings will be published within 10 days of minutes being finalised.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Secretariat

Wigan Council will act as secretariat to the Neighbourhood Board, including circulating and publishing agendas and minutes in accordance with the government's requirements.

A designated Council officer will directly support the Chair in dealing with correspondence and the day-to-day running of the Board. Wider support in the local authority will be drawn on as required subject to the availability of resources (for example, legal and financial services), see also paragraph 4.4 below.

This secretariat function will provide a direct route for the Council to ensure the Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and order of business are respected and adhered to in all Board meetings and will provide the route of escalation.

In order to ensure that the local authority can efficiently and effectively administer the Board and support the implementation or delivery of interventions the local authority may propose that Plan for Neighbourhoods revenue funding is directed to fund capacity (in terms of posts, parts of posts or consultant time).

Accountable Body

The Council is the accountable body for the Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund. Leigh will receive funding and support totalling up to £19,537,000 (Appendix B is the indicative funding profile provided by government), delivered through the powers as set out in Section 50 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020.

The Plan for Neighbourhoods (Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan and associated

documents) and any activity related to its implementation must be formally approved by the Council in its capacity as accountable body prior to submission to government. This will ensure the plans and expenditure proposed are subject to appropriate scrutiny, within budget and adhere to relevant legislative, policy and procedural requirements.

Wigan Council, as accountable body, has responsibility for ensuring that the Board operates in accordance with the MHCLG Assurance Framework. This framework sets the standards in line with the principles in Managing Public Money (MPM). The local authority will therefore work closely with the Board to ensure that these requirements are satisfied, and monitoring requirements can be reported in an accurate and timely manner.

Leigh Neighbourhood Board will employ no staff, hold no assets nor enter into any contractual arrangements. All delivery and operational matters will rest with the local authority as accountable body.

The Board and Chair are executive roles, and the practical delivery is expected to lie across a broader spectrum of partner organisations and advisors. As accountable body, the local authority will monitor workload and offer support from officers and advisors as far as practicable.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Code of conduct and conflicts of interest

Board members will be expected to sign up to agree the Leigh Neighbourhood Board Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct (see Appendix C) and adhere to the process for conflicts of interest (see Appendix D).

The Code of Conduct applies to Board Members in all aspects of their activities as a Member of the Neighbourhood Board, including (but not limited to): -

a. at formal Neighbourhood Board meetings

b. when acting as a representative of the Leigh Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund programme

c. in taking any decision as a Board Member

d. in discharging your functions as a Board Member

e. at meetings with local stakeholders

f. at site visits

g. when purporting to act as a Board Member

Board members are expected to adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life, known as the Nolan Principles, as defined by the Committee for Standards in Public Life. They are Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty, Leadership and therefore these are embedded in the Code Conduct.

The following provisions shall apply to all Board members:

Board members are obliged to declare a conflict of interest if they, or the organisations they represent, or close relatives stand to gain financially from any decision taken by the

Neighbourhood Board.

In the event that there is a conflict of interest, the person conflicted shall immediately declare the nature of the conflict or potential conflict and withdraw from any business where the conflict would be relevant.

Whenever a person has an interest in a matter to be discussed at a meeting the person concerned will not be:

- entitled to remain present at the meeting during discussion of that matter
- counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting entitled to vote on the matter

The Board may, at any time authorise a person to remain in the meeting whilst a matter in which they have or may have a conflict of interest is discussed, provided that the conflict of interest is declared and the

person subject to the conflict of interest shall not be entitled to vote on the matter.

A zero-tolerance stance will be taken on any breach. Any breach, or perceived breach, will be escalated as follows: First to the secretariat and Chair; second to the s.151 and Senior Responsible Officer; third to an independent arbitrator in consultation with MHCLG, if deemed appropriate by the local authority as accountable body.

Board members are required to respect confidentiality of specific topics discussed at the meeting as requested by other members, local authority staff or guest speakers.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Sub-groups and Technical Working Group

The Board may choose to establish sub-groups.

Sub-groups may be established by the Chair as and when required to focus on particular investment strategies or projects, or to drive forward particular themes.

Sub-groups must include at least one Board Member and a representative of the local authority and named secretariat to ensure that the activity of the sub-group is coordinated and reported effectively to the Board.

It is anticipated that as the activity moves toward implementation the Board will be supported by a Technical Working Group, comprising representatives from the Neighbourhood Board organisations, other partner organisations and supported by consultants and local authority

officers. It is anticipated that this group will be complemented by sub-groups aligned with the three areas of focus of Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund (as specified in the government guidance Thriving Places, Stronger Communities and Taking Back Control.

Escalation and Wider Governance

The operation of the Towns Board will be reported through the Council's established governance structures, i.e. via the Director of Place to Senior Management Team (SMT) and Cabinet/Full Council as appropriate. This will include update reports on progress, finance and risk as and when appropriate.

Equality and Social Value

Where relevant, Board Members will draw on relationships with other community leaders and community groups to make sure

the engagement is diverse and representative of the whole community.

Contracts will strive to ensure opportunities for social value within the local area are optimised and accord with the accountable body's policies and procedures.

Communications

All email correspondence to the Chair about Board-related matters should be copied to the named Secretariat to ensure transparency and accountability. All correspondence must adhere to the Nolan principles. The Secretariat will intervene if the correspondence is deemed to breach the Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct. As far as practicable all business will be conducted in the Board meetings to minimise correspondence outside of 'Board-time'.

Any media activity or communications (including social media) about the actions of the Neighbourhood Board should be agreed by the Chair prior to circulation.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Section 2 – Terms of Reference

Personal Data

Wigan Council, as the accountable body for Leigh Neighbourhood Board, will be required to process personal data relating to Board members including:

- Board agendas and minutes
- Signed Code of Conduct
- Any Declarations of Interests that are made
- Pen pictures as a Board member

Board members must sign the form in Appendix E to agree that the personal detailed in 11.1 may be published on the Leigh Neighbourhood Board webpages and that documentation containing my personal data may be made available for public inspection and/or regulatory audit in accordance with any requirements set out by Government, subject to the right to request that personal data

which may cause distress, damage or harm may be suitably redacted before publication.

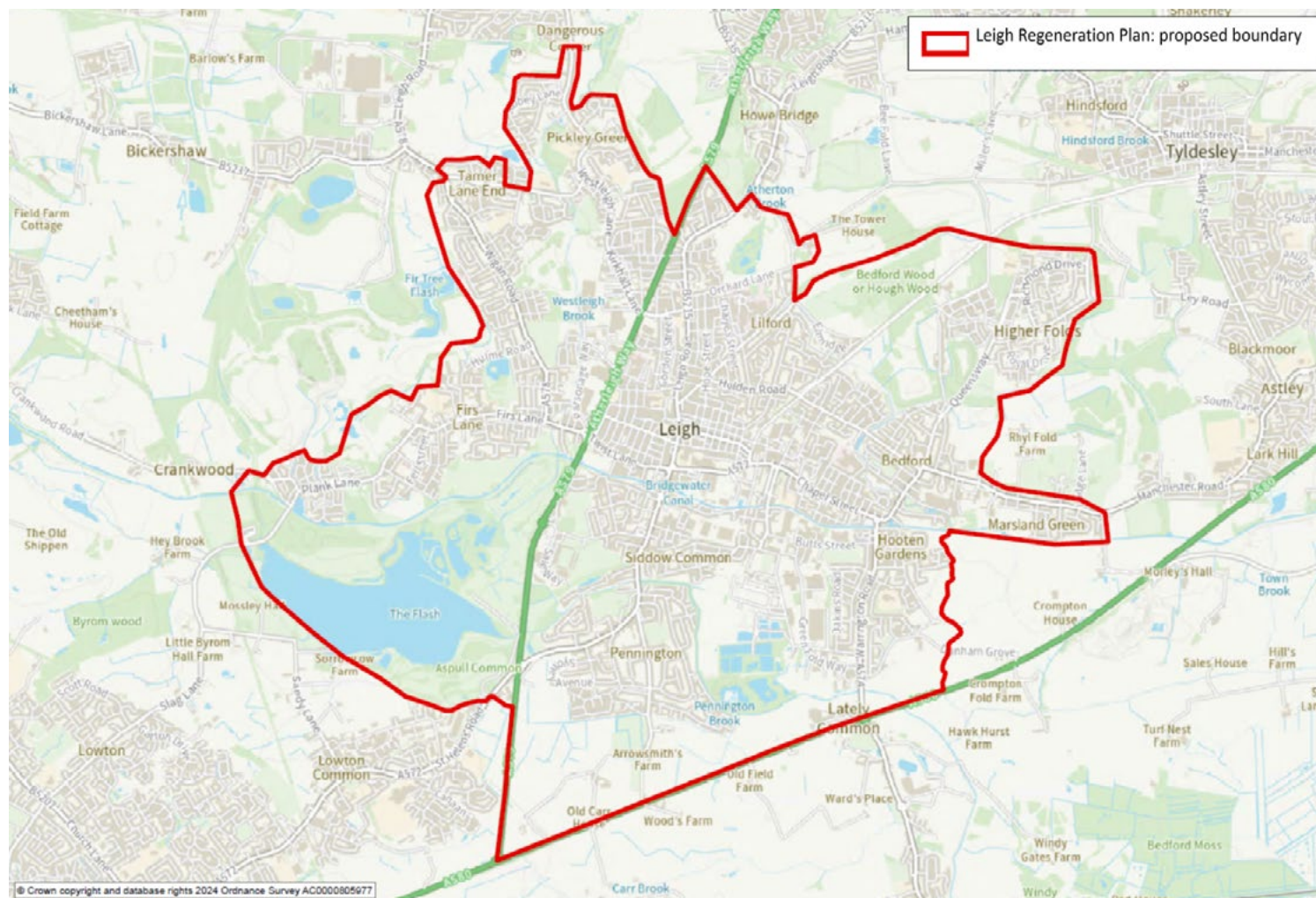
Review and Dissolution of Board

The Board membership and Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually in line with guidance received from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) relating to the Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund.

Dissolution of the Board will be considered and agreed by the Chair, in consultation with Board members, The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and S151 Officer and Director of Place of Wigan Council, upon completing the implementation of the Plan for Neighbourhoods Fund investment programme.

Appendix A. Boundary

Important note: the boundary indicates the area eligible for investment from Plan for Neighbourhoods, there is no guarantee that assets/services within the boundary will automatically benefit directly from Plan for Neighbourhoods funding. Interventions will be determined through the Regeneration and Investment Plan process.



12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix B: Indicative Funding Profile

The table below sets out the indicative Plan for Neighbourhoods funding profile advised by government.

Grant Type	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	29-30	31-32	32-33	33-34	34-35	35-36	Total
Total Revenue Funding	200	382	256	432	432	432	437	450	450	450	4599
Revenue Funding (Capacity)	200	150	-								
Revenue Funding (Grants)		232	256	432	432	432	437	450	450	450	3999
Capital Funding (Grants)		360	1,736	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	1,605	14936
Total											19537

Note: For revenue capacity, £250,000 was provided over the 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025 financial years.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix C: Code of Conduct

The Seven Principles of Public Life

All Board Members are required to observe and adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles) as membership of the Board is considered as consistent with holding public office:

Selflessness: Board members should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity: Board members must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, their friends, employer or organisation that they represent. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity: Board members must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability: Board members are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their position.

Openness: Board members should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty: Board members should be truthful.

Leadership: Board members should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly

support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Personal Judgement: Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.

Respect for Others: Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers, and its other employees.

Duty to Uphold the Law: Board members should uphold the law and regulations and, on all occasions, act in accordance with

the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.

Expectations of Conduct

Board members should base their conduct on a consideration of the public interest, avoid conflict between personal interest and the public interest and resolve any conflict between the two, immediately in favour of the public interest.

Board members should ensure any use of expenses, allowances, facilities and services provided from the public purse is strictly in accordance with any rules laid down on these matters and that any limits placed by the Board or Government on the use of such expenses, allowances, facilities and services is adhered to. Board members should at all times conduct themselves in a manner which will maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of the

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix C: Code of Conduct

Board and never undertake any action which would bring the Board, you, other Board Members or stakeholders generally, into dispute.

Board members should adhere to any requirements or guidance issued by Government on matters of governance relating to the Neighbourhood Board and adhere to the protocols for declaring and managing conflicts of interests set out below.

Protocols for Conflicts of Interest

Board members shall complete a declaration of potential and actual conflicts of interests using the pro-forma attached and consent to a version of this declaration being available for public inspection and/or regulatory audit in accordance with any requirements set out by Government, subject always to the right to request that personal information which may cause distress, damage or harm may be

suitably redacted before publication.

Board members undertake to keep their declaration of potential interests under review and actively raise any new or emerging issues around potential conflicts, as the Leigh Investment Plan develops and proposals are considered. You acknowledge that you may be required by the Board to withdraw from deliberation of decisions of the Neighbourhood Board in the event that you have a pecuniary (i.e. financial) interest (as defined by the Localism Act 2011) and on the understanding that:

The Board will take legal advice on your conflict of interest and, where appropriate, will seek guidance from Government.

The Board will consider whether the matter can be progressed and managed in such a way as to not give rise to a conflict of interest.

Appendix D: Declarations of Interest Policy and Record

The process for declaring conflict of interests (commercial, actual and potential) is set out below:

- Neighbourhood Board members must follow the established process for declaring interests, where the interest is yours, your spouse's, civil partner's, or somebody with whom you are living with as a spouse, or as if you were civil partners.
- A person's pecuniary interests are their business interests (for example their employment, trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which they are associated) and wider financial interests they might have (for example trust funds, investments, and assets including land and property).
- Neighbourhood Board Members must declare pecuniary interests (actual and potential), other relevant non-pecuniary interests (which could be reasonably regarded to be so significant that it could materially impact upon your

judgement of the public interest), gifts and hospitality.

- Neighbourhood Board members must complete a declaration of interests (at minimum on an annual basis), which the lead local authority will hold [and publish].
- Neighbourhood Board members must update their declarations of interest on a continual basis and record new interests as they arise.
- Neighbourhood Board members are responsible for declaring their interests before the Neighbourhood Board considers any decisions. If an interest has not been entered onto the Neighbourhood Board's register, then the member must disclose the interest at any meeting of the Neighbourhood Board at which they are present, where they have an interest in any matter being considered.
- The general principle is that no Board Member should be

involved in a decision where their personal or professional interests may conflict or reasonably be perceived as in conflict with the Boards decision-making.

- Where a Board Member declares an interest, they may be required to withdraw from the meeting for the duration of the item/matter under discussion and will not be permitted to vote on that matter.
- Neighbourhood Board members must follow the process for requesting an exemption.
- The lead local authority, engaging the secretariat where that service is provided by a third-party, must record:
 - actions taken in response to any declared interest
 - any gifts or hospitality given to the Neighbourhood Board or individual members

Leigh Neighbourhood Board: Register of Members' Interests

July 2025

As a Board Member of the Leigh Neighbourhood Board, I declare that I have the following disclosable pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests. Please state 'None' where appropriate, do not leave any boxes blank).

This includes where the interest is yours, your spouse's, civil partner's, or somebody with whom you are living with as a spouse, or as if you were civil partners.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix D: Declarations of Interest Policy and Record

Notification of change of circumstances:

Each Board Member shall review their individual register of interests before each Board meeting, submitting any necessary revisions to the Neighbourhood Board Chair and Council secretariat. Any recorded interests relevant to the meeting should also be declared at this point.

Even if a meeting has not taken place, a Board Member must, as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of any change to the interests specified below, provide written notification of that change to the Neighbourhood Board Chair and Council secretariat.

Type of Interest	Details (name of organisation and nature of interest, relationship, gift or hospitality)	Date of interest declared
Relevant business or commercial interest		
Land or property interest		
Personal relationship		
Gifts and hospitality (above value of £10)		

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix D: Declarations of Interest Policy and Record

Membership of Other Organisations

In addition to the organisations declared above, I am also a member of, or I am in a position of general control, a director of, a trustee of, or participate in the management of the following organisations:

Other Interests Not Declared Above

Member's Declaration and Signature

I confirm that having carried out reasonable investigation, the information given above is a true and accurate record of my relevant interests, given in good faith and to the best of my knowledge:

	Enter details
Date	
Member's Name (Capitals - in full)	
Signature	

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix E: Use of Personal Data

I acknowledge that Wigan Council as the accountable body for Leigh Neighbourhood Board will process my personal data in order to facilitate my membership of the Board. This will include:

- Board agendas and minutes
- My signed Code of Conduct
- Any Declarations of Interests I make
- My pen picture as a Board member

I acknowledge that my personal data as detailed above may be published on the Leigh Neighbourhood Board webpages and that documentation containing my personal data may be made available for public inspection and/or regulatory audit in accordance with any requirements set out by Government, subject to the right to request that personal data which may cause distress, damage or harm may be suitably redacted before publication.

I acknowledge that my personal data will be retained for one year after my Board membership ends.

I consent to the processing of my personal data as detailed above.

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix F: Board Membership

Organisation / Role	Name	Mandatory/ Non-Mandatory
Chair Café Stella, owner	Alex Grundy	Non-Mandatory
Member of Parliament (MP) for Leigh and Atherton	Jo Platt	Mandatory
Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer (representing Kate Green, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner)	Adele Adjetey	Mandatory
Greater Manchester Police	Superintendent Adam Wignall	Mandatory
Wigan Council, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families	Councillor Dane Anderton	Mandatory
Wigan Council Lead Member, District Centres and Night-Time Economy	Councillor Yvonne Klieve	Mandatory
Wigan Council, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health	Councillor Keith Cunliffe	Non-Mandatory
Deputy Chair Wigan Council, Assistant Director Planning and Regeneration	David Proctor	Non-Mandatory
The Bridge at Leigh, Founder and Trustee	Dorothy Bowker	Non-Mandatory
JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd	Matt Collier	Non-Mandatory
Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust	Paul Costello	Non-Mandatory
Edge Hill University	Jay Cullen	Non-Mandatory
Lillies Cocktails and Small Plates	Jo Francis	Non-Mandatory
St John's Primary School, Deputy Head	Natalie Hatton	Non-Mandatory
WJ Structures Ltd, Director	Lloyd Jolley	Non-Mandatory
Absolute Leigh Facebook Group	Stewart McGarrie	Non-Mandatory
Wigan and Leigh College, Assistant Principal	Maxine Mealey	Non-Mandatory
Premier Education	Danny Melling	Non-Mandatory
Wigan, Wrightington and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	Kevin Parker-Evans	Non-Mandatory
DMR Training	Dave Radley	Non-Mandatory
Nemiah and Leigh Means Business, Director	Steven Tomlinson	Non-Mandatory
Leigh Youth Board Representative	x 2	Non-Mandatory
Spinning Gate Shopping Centre		Non-Mandatory

12 Annex: Board Terms of Reference

Appendix F: Board Membership

Member's Declaration and Signature

I confirm that I have read and understood the Terms of Reference, including the Code of Conduct (Appendix C) and Use of Personal Data (Appendix E) and will adhere to these in my appointment to Leigh Neighbourhood Board.

