Leigh Neighbourhood Board

6.00pm, 27 April 2026

Present at the meeting:

Alex Grundy (Chair), Owner - Café Stella
Councillor Keith Cunliffe, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Children and Families
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration
Paul Costello, Leigh Spinners Mill / Leigh Preservation Trust
Jo Francis, Lillies Cocktails & Small Plates
Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal
Adam Wignall, Greater Manchester Police
John Herriot, Leigh Sports Village

Apologies:
Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University
Dave Radley, DMR Training
Kevin Parker-Evans, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd
Matt Collier, JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd
Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group
Danny Melling, Premier Education
Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John's Primary School
Youth Board Representative

In Attendance:
Paul Blinkhorn, Constituency Support Officer
Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration
Stuart Hurst, Project Manager – Regeneration
Martin Ledson, Team Leader - Regeneration Strategy and Transformation
Joanne Berry, Leigh Town Centre Manager
James Jacobs, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Sarah Pope, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Jackie Salt, Attain Group Ltd
Stuart Gent, Attain Group Ltd
Catriona Masson, Attain Group Ltd

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

The Chair, Alex Grundy, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

The Chair confirmed the minutes from the last meeting held on 16th March 2026.

3. Declarations of Interest
The Chair asked Board members if they have any declarations of interest regarding any items within the agenda. No declarations were raised.

4. Government Pride in Place NW Delivery Manager
Sarah Pope, Pride in Place NW Delivery Manager provided feedback on the approval of the Regeneration Plan for Leigh. The NW Delivery Manager thanked the Chair and Board for the work they have done to produce an excellent plan with engagement at the heart and highlighted the positive link with young people and the Youth Board.

Paul Costello asked moving forward how do we put questions to the NW Delivery Manager?

Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration confirmed that any questions can be asked through the Chair and the Secretariat.

5. Branding Workshop
Jackie Salt, Attain Group Ltd updated the Board on the results of the branding survey and the Attain team facilitated a workshop session to investigate names and a brand for the Board. After further discussion the Board decided to take two brand names to a vote.

Vote 1: Board to vote on their preference between the following two brand names a) “Leigh Will Be” and b) “What Leigh Needs”.

Result: Board members voted 7 in favour of a) “Leigh Will Be” and 4 in favour of b) “What Leigh Needs”.

Decision: No decision - the Board required 75% majority to pass a decision. At 64% the threshold was not reached.

The Board had further discussions and decided to vote for a second time.

Vote 2: Board to vote on their preference between the following two brand names a) “Leigh Will Be” and b) “What Leigh Needs”.

Result: Board members voted 9 in favour of a) “Leigh Will Be” and 2 in favour of b) “What Leigh Needs”.

Decision: option a) “Leigh Will Be” was approved.

The Board discussed whether the 75% threshold for decision making is too high. The Chair reiterated the rationale is to ensure consensus decision making from the Board. The conclusion was that the threshold should continue to be 75% but will be monitored moving forward.

Action: The Chair Alex Grundy asked the secretariat to provide a list of all votes and decisions made to far.

6. Quick Wins Project Update
Project Manager – Regeneration referred members to the written update and summarised progress of each of the five approved quick win projects, noting: status, issues and risks, finance and expected timelines. Two projects have been completed to date.

Deep Clean of the Town Centre
An audit has been completed re: cleaning and repairing runoff gullies and cracked flags And a quote received of £6,375 to clear out gullies plus a further £2,000 to replace damaged gullies.

Replacement of up to 250 cracked flags is estimated to cost a minimum of £18,000. It is proposed this is to take place as a separate project. Works previously approved will be postponed in order to take place in conjunction with cleaning and repairing runoff gullies.

Vote 3: Board are asked to approve amended budget of up to a maximum of £14,000.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the amended budget of up to a maximum of £14,000.

Decision: Board approved the amended budget of up to a maximum of £14,000.

Action: The Board asked the secretariat to email the scope of works for the CCTV Upgrade for Bradshawgate.

7. Programme and next steps

Call for Projects
Service Manager - Regeneration updated the Board on the background of the call for projects including the main Leigh Fund and the Community Fund.

Team Leader- Regeneration Strategy and Transformation informed the Board that the application forms and guidance forms are now complete and uploaded to the website which is ready to go live. Support for applicants will be provided in the form of webinars and drop-in sessions at Leigh Library and contact email address for queries.

Letters have been drafted to previous respondents, community groups and organisations that submitted projects ideas under Long Term Plan for Towns.

The Chair Alex Grundy asked is the language used in the application forms and guidance jargon free.

Team Leader- Regeneration Strategy and Transformation informed the Chair that the documentation is written to be as straight forward as possible and avoid the use of jargon.

Cllr Anderton asked if the Love Leigh logo could be taken off the leaflet and replace this with the Pride in Place street sign logo.

Team Leader- Regeneration Strategy and Transformation confirmed that this would be actioned before the launch. Links to all material will be shared with Board members upon launch to share.

Team Leader- Regeneration Strategy and Transformation presented to the Board the marketing options and proposed budget to ensure the "Call for Projects" is well publicised in the local community. The Board discussed the options and took the decision to vote.

Vote 4: Board are asked to approve the proposed marketing options and allocate a budget of up to £3,500 and delegate to the secretariat to administer.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the proposed marketing options and allocate a budget of up to £3,500 and delegate to the secretariat to administer.

Decision: Board approved the proposed marketing options and allocate a budget of up to £3,500 and delegate to the secretariat to administer.

Pride in Place Monitoring Return
Project Manager – Regeneration informed the Board that the monitoring return will be completed and submitted by 30th April with delegated approval from the Chair. The monitoring return covers the following:

- Capacity funding activities (spend and project activity)
- Projects planned to use programme funding
- Neighbourhood board details
- Forecast capacity funding spend
- Forecast programme delivery funding spend
- Outputs

8. Finance Update
Project Manager – Regeneration advised the Board of the spend to the end of the financial year and the Board are asked to approve the proposal to fund the remaining costs of the quick win projects from the main programme year 1 allocation (rather than the capacity fund) and carry over the remaining capacity funding.

Vote 5: Board are asked to approve the proposal to fund the remaining costs of the quick win projects from the main programme year 1 allocation (rather than the capacity fund) and carry over the remaining capacity funding.

Result: Board members voted unanimously to approve the proposal to fund the remaining costs of the quick win projects from the main programme year 1 allocation (rather than the capacity fund) and carry over the remaining capacity funding.

Decision: Board the proposal to fund the remaining costs of the quick win projects from the main programme year 1 allocation (rather than the capacity fund) and carry over the remaining capacity funding

9. Overview of constituents' representations
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton updated the Board on the following:

- Good feedback received about the shopfront scheme.

- Further issues have been raised with adult anti-social behaviour especially near the cenotaph. The police have been informed and will increase patrols.

10. Town Centre Update

The Leigh Town Centre Manager updated the Board on the following:

- Ongoing plan in place to address youth ASB in the town centre
- Ongoing work taking place in relation to adult ASB including signposting to support services and enforcement action against most prolific individuals
- Cenotaph is a location of concern – police and the wardens are patrolling, and other tactics are being explored in a bid to take back control of the area.

11. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance and continued support.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 22nd June 2026 at 6.00pm-8.00pm at the Leigh College Campus.

The meeting concluded at 8.40pm.