# Leigh Neighbourhood Board

## 5.00pm, 22 June 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
Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Lead Member for District Centres & Night Time Economy
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
Adam Wignall, Greater Manchester Police
John Herriot, Leigh Sports Village
Dave Radley, DMR Training
Lloyd Jolley, Director - WJ Structures Ltd
Matt Collier, JJ Harrison PVC Products Ltd
Youth Board Representative

**Apologies:**
Maxine Mealey, Wigan & Leigh College – Assistant Principal
Adele Adjetey, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh and Atherton
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge
Jay Cullen, Edge Hill University
Kevin Parker-Evans, Wigan, Wrightington & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust
Stewart McGarrie, Absolute Leigh Facebook Group
Danny Melling, Premier Education
Natalie Hatton, Deputy Head – St John's Primary School

**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
Karen Campbell, Senior Youth and Community Voice Worker
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.

### 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 related to any items within the agenda. No declarations were raised.

**4. Branding Concepts**

Attain Group Ltd updated the Board on the results of the branding concept survey and the Attain team invited the Board to discuss the two concepts presented. A discussion took place and the Board decided to take a vote on the two brand concepts.

**Vote 1:** Board to vote on their preference between the following two brand concepts a) Concept one and b) Concept two.

**Result:** Board members voted 10 in favour of a) Concept one and 2 in favour of b) Concept two.

**Decision:** Option a) Concept one was approved

Attain Group Ltd will produce colour and text options for the preferred concept along with initial website development content, working with a subgroup of the Board comprising Steven Tomlinson, Chair Alex Grundy, Paul Costello and Jo Francis. Agreed options will be presented to Board for approval.

**Vote 2:** Board to vote on establishing a subgroup to produce colour and text options along with initial website development content.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously to establish a subgroup to produce colour and text options along with initial website development content.

**Decision:** Board approved the establishment of a subgroup that will produce colour and text options along with initial website development content for the Board.

**5. Town Centre Update**

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

- There have been serious incidents associated with anti-social behaviour in recent weeks that are being dealt with by GMP and partner agencies.
- The recent events held at Leigh Sports Village have been very successful with positive feedback from residents and the business community.
- Leigh Feast took place recently in Lilford Park, the event was very successful and well attended.
- The current Public Space Protection Order will come to an end in October and will be replaced by a new version. The new order is currently under consultation and the Board are asked to feed their views into this.

Councillor Keith Cunliffe informed the Board that the annual Rock and Stroll at Lilford Park will take place in July and Paul Costello noted that there will also be an open day at Spinners Mill soon.

**Action 1:** Secretariat to forward the draft Public Space Protection Order to all Board members.

**6. Call for Projects: Review of Applications**

Service Manager - Regeneration noted that members had been provided with copies of all the applications received and a summary table of the applications. She then presented an initial overview of the applications received for the main Leigh Fund and the Community Fund, including the types of organisations applying, the types of activity, what the gaps are and what types of projects have been submitted.

There has been a good response to the call for projects with 89 project applications received for the Leigh Fund and 24 applications received for the Community Fund.

The process for the appraisal of applications was explained. Submitted projects will be assessed on the following criteria: strategic fit, benefits, value for money, match funding, deliverability, sustainability. The importance of a fair, robust and transparent approach to appraisal was emphasised.

The Service Manager – Regeneration noted that:

- The Board has received a large volume of applications, it will take a considerable amount of time to complete the appraisal
- The total value of all the applications received exceeds the funding available to the Board
- The projects supported by Board will need to align with annual funding profile from government
- The Board must keep in mind their priorities as set out in the Regeneration Plan
- Information in applications is not always compete/clear
- There may be opportunity for the Board to part fund projects and/or more for similar projects to work together.
- The exercise under the next item of the agenda will enable the Board to consider in practice the time required for initial review and any common issues and/or queries about applications.

The Board split into small groups to undertake an initial assessment of a sample of project applications with regard to the strategic fit against the Board's key priorities as set out in the Regeneration Plan on the following basis:

- Very High = Excellent strategic fit
- High = Good strategic fit
- Medium = Reasonable strategic fit
- Low = Poor strategic fit
- More information required = Unable to categorise at present

The Board discussed the process of accessing the strategic fit of each application in small groups and agreed they would be happy to use this process for the initial assessment of all applications under the Leigh Fund.

**Vote 3:** Board to vote on approving the process of evaluating the projects' strategic fit and assessing the projects in small groups.

**Result:** Board members voted unanimously on approving the process of evaluating the projects' strategic fit and assessing the projects in small groups.

**Decision:** Board approved the process of evaluating the projects' strategic fit and assessing the projects in small groups.

**Action 2:** Secretariat to arrange the application 'sifting' sessions to enable the initial assessment against strategic fit.

The Chair referred to his correspondence to the Board in which he emphasised the importance of ensuring the Board remains consistent, transparent and fair in the decision-making process. Recognising that every application must be judged on its merits and treated consistently to ensure that the Board remains fair and impartial in its approach. In the interest of transparency and good governance, correspondence that is project specific will be formally recorded.

The Secretariat noted that the Board has a Conflict of Interest procedure that will be observed through the project appraisal process (as an integral element of the operation of the Board).

**8. Finance Update**
Project Manager – Regeneration advised the Board that the financial update will be sent to Board members following the meeting.

**Action 3:** Secretariat to forward the financial update to all Board members.

**9. Overview of constituents' representations**
No verbal update was given.

**10. Any Other Business**
The Chair thanked all Board members for their attendance and continued support.

**11. Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 6.00pm-8.00pm at the Leigh College Campus.

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.