

## Leigh Town Board

10.15 am, 19 July 2024

### Present at the meeting

Karen Cox (Chair), Spinning Gate Shopping Centre Manager  
Adele Adjeley, Senior Policy and Partnerships Officer  
Councillor Dane Anderton, Portfolio Holder for Police, Crime and Civil Contingencies  
Dorothy Bowker, Founder and Trustee – The Bridge  
Jo Platt, MP for Leigh (attended virtually)  
David Proctor, Assistant Director – Planning and Regeneration  
Alison Rushton, Vice Principal – Wigan & Leigh College  
Steven Tomlinson, Director – Nemiah and Leigh Means Business

### In Attendance:

Jonny Birkett, Managing Partner – Genecon  
Danny Crum, Layer Studio  
Lauren Gee, Senior Consultant – Genecon  
Eddie Pugh, Layer Studio

### Observers:

Jane Green – Strategic Finance Officer  
Carwyn Evans, Team Leader – Regeneration  
Joanne Berry, Neighbourhood Manager  
Melanie Lamb, Service Manager – Regeneration  
Martin Ledson, Team Leader – Regeneration

### 1 Welcome to the Board

The Chair opened the meeting, welcoming all board members & the newly elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Leigh, Jo Platt.

### 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Alex Grundy, Councillor Yvonne Klieve, Danny O'Neil and Lloyd Jolley.

### 3 Minutes and actions from last meeting

The Board considered a verbal update from the Chair, which informed the Board that no outstanding actions remained from the last meeting.

The Chair thanked all Board Members for their support in the work that had taken place since the last meeting.

The Chair also thanked all Board Members who attended the recent town centre walkaround (safaris) as organised by Genecon.

### 4 Update on Engagement

The Board considered a verbal update and presentation, provided by the Managing Partner – Genecon, Jonny Birknett, which advised the Board of the engagement activity since the last meeting of the Board and an overview of the survey findings.

### 5 Workshop session 1: Vision Document

The Board considered a verbal update of the Managing Partner – Genecon which requested Board Members finalise the vision statement which will form as part of the Board's final submission.

During its discussions, the Board discussed three key aspects of the vision statement and choosing the wording that best represented the vision for the project. These suggestions were then debated by the Board and fed back by the Managing – Partner.

## **6 Workshop session 2: Theory of Change**

The Board considered a verbal update of the Consultant – Genecon, Lauren Gee, which requested Board Members' input into the theory of change which would form part of the Board's final submission.

During its discussions, the Board were requested to discuss six high level outcomes for the project and what change would represent in a 10-year plan. These suggestions were then collated, fed back by the Consultant and debated by the Board.

## **7 Workshop session 3: Investment Plan Interventions and Project Priorities**

The Board considered a verbal update of the Managing Partner - Genecon and were requested to consider how the interventions align with the project priorities and objectives.

The Board worked in groups to identify interventions and link these to the objectives. Each group then presented their findings, before these were discussed as a wider group. These suggestions were then collated and fed back to the Board by the Managing Partner.

## **8 Finance Update**

The Service Manager – Regeneration informed the Board that the financial position had seen no substantive change since the last meeting of the Board.

The Consultant – Genecon provided an example breakdown of forecast expenditure across the three main themes over the 10 year project and advised that a pie chart of the breakdown would be shared with Board Members, so it would be visually easier to gauge how much spend was allocated per theme.

## **9 Submission and Next Steps**

The Managing Partner – Genecon advised Board Members of the following next steps:-

- Refining the submission document until Thursday 25 July 2024;
- Deciding on a final delegated authority to sign off the final submission before Thursday 1 August 2024;
- Using Thursday 25 July and Friday 26 July 2024 to reflect on the final document; and
- Submission of the final document on Thursday 1 August 2024.

The Board agreed that Karen Cox (Chair), Jo Platt MP, Dororthy Bowker, Steven Tomlinson and David Proctor will review the proposed submission and agree on the final submission.

*Leigh Town Board (19.7.24)*

**10 Reflections on the meeting**

The Chair invited Board Members to feedback any reflections that they had on the meeting and informed Board Members that Jo Platt MP had been fully supportive of the work undertaken thus far and would lobby the new Government where necessary.

The Chair also spoke about the recent retraction of Derek Beaumont from the Board. The Chair is having further discussions to enquire whether Derek/Leigh Leopards will continue to support the Board in some capacity.

**11 Any other business**

The Chair invited Board Members to share any other business, with Councillor Dane Anderton placing on record his and the rest of the Board's thanks to the Chair for her work in getting the Board to this juncture.

The Chair also suggested that we continue to do regular walk arounds of the town centre (walk & talk sessions) as a useful mechanism to identify issues/challenges.

The Service Lead – Regeneration informed the Board that it was hoped to have feedback from the Government post-submission, during the middle to end of September 2024. The next meeting of the Board would then take place in September 2024, where the Board's meeting frequency would then be determined.

The meeting concluded at 2:35pm