Pride in Fleetwood Board Minutes

The minutes of the Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 15 October 2026 at the Community Hall - Emmanuel on the Mount Church, Fleetwood.

Pride in Fleetwood Board members present:
Mark Spencer (Chair)
Lorraine Beavers MP
Councillor Ruth Duffy
Karen Pratt
Jesika Pook (VC)
Simon Hughes
Fiona Bradford
Lorraine Moffat
Liam Buswell
Amelia Sherry
Kirsty Soper
Carl Fern
John McCellan
Yvonne Johnstone

Andrea Wallace, Programme and Governance Officer – Pride in Fleetwood

Apologies for absence:
Holly Martinez
Zowi Whittaker

Wyre Council Officers present:
Clare James, Director of Finance, Property and Legal (CFO - S.151 Officer)
Mark Broadhurst, Assistant Director of Housing, Leisure and Communities
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Six members of the public or press attended the meeting.

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85 Welcome, apologies and introductions

The Chair, Mark Spencer welcomed all those present to the meeting.

The Board noted that Courtney Isherwood had stood down from the Board. The Chair placed on record the Board's thanks and appreciation for her

commitment, support and contribution in her roles as Co-Vice Chair and sub-group lead.

The Chair noted the application received from prospective Board member Zowi Whittaker, Sustainability and Environmental Director at Fox Brothers.

The Chair also welcomed Clare James, Section 151 Officer at Wyre Council, to the meeting.

The Chair drew attention to the revised layout of the meeting room and explained that this had been arranged to enable Board members to view presentation material to be displayed on the screen during agenda Item 7. He advised that it was proposed that agenda Item 7 be considered in private session and briefly outlined the reasons for this. It was explained that, in accordance with procedures, the Board would be asked to consider and determine whether the item should be heard in private session, with the press and public being excluded for that item only.

86 Declarations of interest

The Board noted the interests previously declared by the Chair and Simon Hughes. The Chair reiterated his role as Chair of Fleetwood Trust, and Simon's role as Executive Principal at Blackpool and The Fylde College and their respective connections with the HUB Fleetwood (former Fleetwood Hospital).

No further declarations of interest were made.

87 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Pride in Fleetwood Board held on Thursday 17 September 2026 were **approved** as a correct record.

88 Action log and matters arising not on the agenda

The Board reviewed the action log and noted that many of the outstanding actions related to the development of the Plan and engagement process, which would be considered elsewhere on the agenda.

The Chair invited members to raise any matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

During discussion, it was agreed that action 8.26.4 and 9.26.3 be merged together. It was also suggested that completed actions should be removed from future reports so that attention could be focused on actions that remained outstanding.

The Board noted the action log.

89 Decision Register

The Board noted the decision register.

90 Expenditure log

The Board considered the latest expenditure log and received an update on expenditure associated with the Fleet Fest event.

Members were advised that there remained an underspend within the engagement activities budget, with a balance still available.

The Board also received an update regarding the Administrative Assistant role. It was reported that the job description had been reviewed and a new post created to better reflect the duties being undertaken. The Board noted the change and the use of delegated authority to facilitate the review and implementation of the revised post.

The Board noted the expenditure update.

The Chair advised that agenda Item 7, our 4 year plan and 10 year strategy, would be taken at the end of the meeting. The Board noted the revised order of business.

91 Community led delivery model - Organisational models

The Chair introduced a report on options for the future community-led delivery model. Guidance was therefore sought from the Board on the preferred organisational structure to be included within the emerging Plan.

The Board was reminded of the options previously circulated and received an overview of the advantages and disadvantages of the various models available. It was noted that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's preferred model was a co-operative society, due to its established governance arrangements, straightforward structure and emphasis on community ownership. Members also considered alternative models, including a Community Benefit Society and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

During discussion, members expressed broad support for the co-operative model. It was considered that the model would provide a clear and well understood framework, whilst giving local people a greater sense of ownership and influence over future decision-making.

A number of members highlighted the importance of ensuring that the model was representative of the whole community. Concerns were raised regarding how vulnerable and less engaged groups could be encouraged and supported to participate in the co-operative and whether membership arrangements would achieve broad community representation. Members also discussed potential membership boundaries and sought clarification on whether participation could extend beyond the defined area. Further guidance was

requested on this matter.

Questions were also raised regarding the long-term future of the co-operative, including arrangements at the end of the ten-year pride in place programme and the development of an appropriate exit strategy. Further guidance was requested on this matter.

The Board indicated its support for the co-operative model as the preferred option, subject to further clarification regarding membership arrangements and exit strategy considerations. It was noted that the co-operative model would therefore be presented as the Board's preferred organisational model within the developing Plan.

92 Any other business

Andrea Wallace, Programme and Governance Officer introduced a report outlining a programme of community engagement and consultation to be delivered between 30 October and 4 November 2026. Members were advised that the programme would provide opportunities for residents to help shape the Fleetwood Ten-Year Vision and Four-Year Delivery Plan and included two Halloween community events together with a major consultation event, "Your Town, Your Voice, Your Future", to be held at North Euston, Fleetwood on 4 November 2026.

During discussion, Lorraine Beavers MP sought assurance regarding volunteer capacity and asked whether Board members would be available to support the consultation events. Members discussed volunteer requirements for future events, with it being suggested that reports should include an indication of the number of volunteers required to support delivery.

Following consideration of the report, the Board:

- approved expenditure of £2,919.12 from the Pride in Place budget for the Delivery Plan and Vision engagement and consultation activity set out in the report;
- approved the delivery of "Your Town, Your Voice, Your Future" on 4 November 2026 at North Euston, Fleetwood;
- approved the issuing of formal invitations by the Chair to relevant stakeholders; and
- approved promotion of the event to the wider community, including registration through Eventbrite.

Andrea Wallace introduced a second report setting out a proposed programme of community engagement, consultation and events for the period 5 November 2026 to 31 March 2027.

Members discussed the proposed programme in detail. Questions were raised regarding the proposed expenditure, the anticipated outcomes and the methods that would be used to measure engagement and evaluate the success of individual events. Members emphasised the importance of ensuring that public funding was used effectively and that future activities demonstrated clear value for money and meaningful community engagement.

It was noted that the proposed programme had been developed in line with the Board's previously agreed engagement plan, with support from Becca Murdoch of Fleetwood Arts. Members requested further information on a number of the proposed events before making a decision on the programme as a whole.

The discussion also considered the balance between ongoing consultation and progressing delivery of projects. Members highlighted the need to continue engaging residents whilst ensuring that projects were brought forward and delivered within programme timescales. Suggestions were made regarding the collection of engagement data, evaluation measures and mechanisms for reporting to residents on how consultation feedback had influenced decision making.

Following discussion, the Board **agreed** that members would be given one week to review and provide comments on those events scheduled to take place before the next Board meeting, including the proposed Family Firework Display on 5 November 2026.

It was further **agreed** that Becca Murdoch would be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the wider programme of events before any further decisions were taken.

The Board also requested that future reports include information on anticipated engagement outcomes, evaluation measures and associated risks for proposed activities.

Andrea Wallace introduced a third report proposing minimum match-funding ratios for community groups, small businesses and larger businesses applying for Pride in Place funding, together with a waiver process designed to ensure that match-funding requirements did not prevent worthwhile community projects from proceeding.

Members discussed the proposed approach and considered the need for flexibility when assessing applications. Reference was made to the value of volunteer time and in-kind contributions and the importance of ensuring that funding arrangements remained proportionate to the circumstances of individual applicants.

It was noted that all funding applications would continue to be considered on a case-by-case basis and brought before the Board for determination. Members also discussed the potential role of sub-groups in considering requests for match-funding waivers and the opportunity to secure alternative forms of contribution where financial match funding was not available.

The Chair concluded that the report should be considered further by members before a final approach was agreed. Members were therefore asked to review the proposed guidance in detail, with the matter to be brought back to a future meeting for formal consideration and approval.

93 Date and time of the next Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting

The Chair advised that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday 12 November 2026, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, at the Community Hall, Emmanuel on the Mount Church, Fleetwood.

The Board noted the revised meeting date.

94 Our 4 year plan and 10 year strategy

The Board considered whether agenda Item 7 should be heard in private session due to the inclusion of commercially sensitive information relating to future funding arrangements. Following discussion, the proposal was put to the vote and was not supported.

The item was therefore considered in public session.

The Chair introduced the item and highlighted that the current programme of projects exceeded the available funding allocation by approximately £3 million.

Members provided initial comments on the draft and discussed project phasing, priorities and affordability. It was noted that amendments could still be made before the Plan was finalised and submitted to MHCLG.

Members sought further information on a number of proposed projects, including the Post-16 Education Hub, health related proposals and the proposed partnership with Lancaster University. Clarification was provided that the projects had been identified through the work of the Board's sub-groups and previous engagement activity.

Discussion also took place regarding the proposed Milton Street MUGA and play area. Members highlighted the importance of the facility to the local community and supported further consideration of options to retain and improve the site, including the potential for a feasibility study.

Members commented on the level of detail contained within the project spreadsheet and noted that additional narrative and supporting information would be required before wider public consultation. A number of amendments and corrections were identified during the discussion.

The Board also emphasised the importance of ensuring that projects were supported by evidence from consultation activity, had realistic delivery costs and clearly identified partner contributions and match-funding opportunities.

Andrea Wallace proposed that the Board review the draft Plan theme by theme. The relevant sub-group leads introduced projects relating to accessibility, SEND, post-16 education, Lord Street, young people and families, young people, small grants and engagement activity.

Members reviewed each theme in detail and provided comments, suggestions

and amendments, which were incorporated into the project spreadsheet during the meeting.

In considering the overall programme, members discussed the need to balance the budget across the proposed projects. Clare James, Section 151 Officer at Wyre Council advised that further consideration should be given to the distinction between capital and revenue expenditure.

The Board also discussed the strong public support for the People's Pier, which had been highlighted through previous consultation and engagement activity. The Chair explained that the project was not currently included within the draft Plan as it remained at an early stage of development, with a number of legal and planning matters still to be resolved. Following discussion, the Board expressed its support for the project and agreed, in principle, to contribute £25,000 towards the cost of a feasibility study through the small grants pot. Members also noted that a significant amount of capital funding remained unallocated within the overall ten year funding programme, which could provide an opportunity for the Board to consider a future funding request from the project as it progressed.

Following the review, the Chair advised that a revised document, including a simplified version, would be prepared for public consultation to enable residents to comment on the proposed projects and priorities.

Andrea Wallace advised that further narrative would be developed with the sub-group leads for each project and that an updated version of the spreadsheet would be circulated to members. The updated plan would then be submitted to the next Board meeting for approval.

The Board also agreed that an expression of interest should be submitted to Lancashire County Council in relation to the Milton Street play area, with Cllr Duffy taking this action forward.

The meeting started at 5:30pm and finished at 9:16pm.

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