

Pride in Fleetwood Board Minutes

The minutes of the Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 19 March 2026 at the Memorial Hall - Emmanuel on the Mount Church, Fleetwood.

Pride in Fleetwood Board members present:

Mark Spencer (Chair)
Lorraine Beaver MP
Councillor Ruth Duffy
Michael Gray
Yvonne Johnstone
John McLellan
Amelia Sherry
Courtney Isherwood (VC)
Fiona Bradford
Simon Hughes
Connor Pennington
Francesca Spore
Kirsty Soper
Karen Pratt
Holly Martinez
Jesika Pook (VC)
Lorraine Moffat

Apologies for absence:

Liam Buswell

Failed to attend or tender apologies for absence:

Patrick Hayton

Wyre Council Officers present:

Marianne Hesketh, Director of Communities (Wyre Council)
Marianne Unwin, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager (Wyre Council)

Two members of staff from the office of Lorraine Beavers MP and one member of the public attended the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence, welcomes and introductions

The Chair welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the Pride in Fleetwood Board. The Board members introduced themselves and their connection to Fleetwood.

2 Declarations of interest

None received.

3 Pride in Fleetwood overview

The Chair and Lorraine Beavers MP provided an overview of the Pride in Fleetwood funding, noting that £20 million had been allocated to the initiative over a ten year period, with smaller disbursements in the early years and larger allocations scheduled for later years. A document detailing the full funding allocation was circulated to Board members and appended to the minutes.

It was reported that an initial £150,000 had been received to support board development, community engagement and early project work. It was also confirmed that the funding was targeted at the Pharos ward and parts of the Mount ward, with a particular focus on areas experiencing the highest levels of deprivation. However, it was acknowledged that areas outside these boundaries might also benefit from specific projects.

4 Draft terms of reference and declarations of interest arrangements

The Chair introduced the item and explained the purpose of establishing terms of reference for the Board.

The Board discussed in detail the content of the draft terms of reference as published in the agenda, specifically addressing Board membership, Board proceedings and accountable body arrangements.

The Board highlighted the following points:

- The Chair confirmed that he had appointed two Vice Chairs for the Board: Courtney Isherwood and Jesika Pook.
- The terms of Board membership were clarified as an initial four year period, with the possibility of three year renewals to allow flexibility and support the retention of active members.
- It was noted that membership would be reviewed annually to ensure continued engagement and an appropriate mix of skills.
- Conflicts of interest forms were to be completed annually, and declarations of interest remained a standing item at every meeting. The Chair requested that any Board members who had not yet submitted their forms do so at their earliest convenience. Members with concerns about potential interests were encouraged to speak with the Chair prior to meetings.
- Member profiles, including photographs, were required for publication on the website.
- Attendance expectations were clarified, with emphasis placed on the importance of notifying the Chair of any apologies.
- It was agreed that Board meetings would take place monthly for at least the first year.
- The definition of quorum for the Board was clarified.
- The Board accepted the wording regarding funding at section 12.4,

noting that amendments might be sought at a future meeting following consultation with relevant Ministers and further guidance from MHCLG. It was agreed that this issue would remain a recurring agenda item until resolved.

- Communications were to be centralised. Board members were encouraged not to make individual announcements about Board decisions on personal social media accounts unless sharing official posts or content approved by the designated communications lead.
- Following detailed discussion, the Board accepted the defined boundary set out in Appendix 1 but agreed that expenditure outside this boundary might be permissible where a strong benefit to the target area could be demonstrated. It was acknowledged that principles for determining such decisions would need to be established.
- DBS checks for Board members were discussed, and it was **agreed** that these would require renewal every three years with annual declarations. Records would be held centrally, and processes would take into account members under the age of 16.

It was **agreed** that the following amendments be made to the Pride in Fleetwood Board – Terms of Reference (draft), with the amended version to be submitted to the next Board meeting for formal adoption:

- Paragraph 6.3 to be amended to allow reappointment for further three-year periods.
- Paragraph 6.12 to be amended to replace “the council’s website” with “the Pride in Fleetwood website”.
- Section 12 (Communications) to be renumbered as Section 13.

5 Community consultation overview and early prioritisation

6 Community engagement strategy, including engagement events, web site and social media

Items 5 and 6 of the agenda were discussed together. The Chair introduced the item and referred to the successful consultation data developed by Lorraine Beavers MP’s office. He shared his initial thoughts and suggested five priority areas of focus: children and young people, families, accessibility (including mental health and sensory needs), post 16 education, and SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) support.

He proposed that the Board form sub-groups for each area, with members volunteering as leads. It was envisaged that these sub-groups would be established as soon as possible to gather additional consultation data for the Board.

The Board discussed the next steps in detail. While acknowledging the need for further work through sub-groups, members emphasised the importance of building public trust by delivering tangible early results.

Members debated how best to structure initial actions. Points raised included: the need for expertise to support sub-group leads; the value of hosting awareness and consultation events; the importance of a structured plan of

projects and engagement strategies; the benefits of partnership working with schools; ensuring both digital and face to face engagement; the potential use of incentives to encourage feedback from residents and businesses; the recruitment of volunteers for outreach; and the need to prioritise projects effectively. Members also discussed balancing 'quick wins' (such as installing lockers, water fountains or organising community events) with longer term projects (such as Lord Street regeneration and improvements to the Splash Pad).

The Chair reminded the Board that the deadline for submission of a four year plan to MHCLG was November 2026. He clarified that the initial capacity funding would be used both to support visible 'quick win' progress and to undertake robust consultation with Fleetwood residents to shape long term goals.

Following the discussion, the Board refined the initial key areas of focus and **agreed** to establish the following sub-group workstreams:

- Post 16 Education - Lead: Simon Hughes
Agreed to review this topic and produce an outline business case setting out next steps for a future meeting.
- Lord Street Regeneration - Leads: John McLellan and Cllr Ruth Duffy
Agreed to liaise with Wyre Council's Economic Development Team to review existing work and identify opportunities for the Board.
- 'Quick Wins' Projects - Lead: Courtney Isherwood (Vice Chair)
- Engagement Process and Volunteer Mobilisation - Lead: Connor Pennington
- Accessibility Improvements - Lead: Jesika Pook (Vice Chair)

It was **agreed** that a Board contact list would be developed and circulated to support collaboration.

7 Secretariat support

The Board discussed the need for dedicated secretariat support to provide administrative and governance functions. It was noted that, to date, administrative services had been provided by Lorraine Beavers MP's office and Wyre Council as a short term solution. However, the Board agreed that employing its own staff was necessary to ensure long term effectiveness and independence.

The Chair proposed the recruitment of two full time posts (governance and admin). These staff members would be hosted by an appropriate legal entity, such as a charity or third sector organisation, with expressions of interest to be sought from local employers. The hiring and hosting arrangements would be confirmed subject to Board approval.

Following further discussion, the Board **agreed** to proceed with the recruitment of a Development and Governance Officer and a Admin Support Officer, and for the Chair to coordinate the process for seeking expressions of interest and preparing the relevant job descriptions.

8 Community led delivery model

The Chair updated the Board that he had submitted an expression of interest to MHCLG to become an early adopter of the community led delivery model. He explained that the model included options either to use an existing legal entity or to establish a new not-for-profit organisation to manage the Board's funding and delivery responsibilities. It was noted that this was a competitive nomination process and that the Government had confirmed that only 15 Pride in Place Boards would be approved for early adopter status.

The Chair confirmed that further updates would be provided at a future meeting.

9 Any other business

The homeless health needs assessment partnership was noted as an ongoing project to inform future priorities of the Board.

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

It was noted that the date of the next meeting clashed with the Wyre Council Full Council meeting. As a result, alternative secretariat arrangements for that meeting would need to be sought.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 16 April 2026 at 17:30pm.

The meeting started at 17:30 pm and finished at 19:29 pm.

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