

Pride in Fleetwood Board Minutes

The minutes of the Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Thursday, 17 September 2026 in 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
Holly Martinez
Kirsty Soper
Carl Fern

Apologies for absence:

Yvonne Johnstone
Courtney Isherwood (VC)
Marianne Unwin
Joanne Billington
Andrea Wallace
John McCellan

Wyre Council Officers present:

Sara Ordonez, UKSPF Programme Manager
Josh Potts, Corporate Support Manager (Exec. Asst. to Chief Exec. & Leader)

71 Declarations of interest

Carl Fern declared an interest in item 11 as a business owner. There were no further declarations made.

72 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Pride in Fleetwood Board meeting held on 20 August 2026 were **approved** as a correct report by those members who had been in attendance.

Lorraine Beavers MP sought an update regarding the Mini Golf project. It was confirmed that an update would be requested and circulated in due course.

73

Action log and matters arising not on the agenda

The Chair reviewed the action log and provided updates on outstanding actions and matters arising from previous meetings.

It was noted that Actions 4.25.3, 4.26.4, 4.26.6, 7.26.2, 7.26.3, 8.26.3, 8.26.5, 8.26.6, 8.26.7 and 8.26.8 had been completed.

In relation to Action 4.26.5, it was reported that the Beach Park questionnaire had been issued and that the council's consultation response had been submitted to Government. An application for funding of £120,000 was being prepared and further information was awaited.

Action 4.26.7 remained ongoing. It was reported that opportunities for town centre Wi-Fi provision were being explored, including consideration of arrangements in Blackpool.

With regard to Action 5.26.1, the document had been prepared and would be shared with Mark before being brought to a future Board meeting.

For Action 6.26.2, community facilities information had been shared and further information had been requested from Wyre Council.

Action 6.26.3 remained ongoing pending confirmation as to whether Wyre Council could share information regarding the building owner.

In relation to Action 7.26.1, Lancashire County Council had assisted in evaluating and costing potential projects, with opportunities for match funding being explored. It was further reported that United Utilities had offered to improve wheelchair accessibility between the route to the beach and the promenade, with works potentially taking place in February or March 2027. Lorraine agreed to involve Jess in future meetings where appropriate.

Action 7.26.5 would remain open pending the appointment of a representative from Fox Bros.

Action 8.26.1 had been referred to LCCA and Sara agreed to seek an update regarding the timescale for consideration.

The action log was noted.

74

Decision register

The Board considered their decision register.

The decision register was noted.

75

Expenditure log

Sara Ordonez, UKSPF Programme Manager at Wyre Council, presented the

Board's updated expenditure log, attached to these minutes.

An update was provided on the Summer Connectivity programme. It was noted that formal sign-off was required and that delivery of the programme was being undertaken through Fleetwood Town Community Trust. Mark, in his capacity as Chair, agreed to provide the necessary sign-off.

The Board received an update regarding the installation of speakers and microphones.

Following discussion, the Board noted the expenditure log.

76 Sub-group verbal updates

The Board sub-group leads provided verbal updates on the progress of each established sub-group.

76a Engagement

The Board received an update on arrangements for the upcoming Fleet Fest engagement event.

It was reported that three rides and two large gazebos would be in place for the event, which would take place from 12 noon to 6pm.

The need for additional volunteers was discussed and Board Members considered potential attendance and support arrangements.

The Board discussed arrangements for distributing the public survey, including the use of QR codes on the website and at the event.

Representation from priority area organisations was considered. It was noted that a request would be made to Blackpool and The Fylde College regarding attendance by a member of staff, and that questions had been submitted to Andrea.

Members were advised that support from volunteers would be welcomed to assist with event pack down activities.

An update was also provided on the event scheduled for 7 October, which was progressing well and due to be launched publicly in the near future. It was noted that a map of the walking route and a digital walk through were currently being developed.

The Board further considered a proposal from a company offering digital hub provision in town centres. The proposal had been circulated to Board Members and feedback was requested for consideration at the next meeting.

The update was noted.

76b Quick wins

The Board received an update on the small grants proposal.

It was reported that the initial proposal would allocate £50,000 across a number of categories, including young people, families and SEND provision, with two grants to be awarded within each category. It was proposed that members of the public would be invited to vote on the projects, with the scheme operating for an initial six-month period. Board Members noted that the proposal paper had previously been circulated by email. It was further reported that, in future years, funding of up to £100,000 per annum was being considered.

The Board discussed including the small grants proposal as part of the wider public consultation exercise and expressed support for the initial £50,000 programme as a means of delivering early outcomes.

Members recommended that eligibility criteria be developed to ensure that funded projects could be delivered within reasonable timescales and budgets.

The Board also discussed the importance of ensuring that residents were aware that grant funding had been provided through the Pride in Fleetwood Board.

Consideration was given to the name of the subgroup responsible for the programme, with members discussing whether an alternative title would be more appropriate.

The Board felt that the eligibility criteria should also include that in order to access the funding, it needed to be shown that funding could not be accessed from other existing sources such as Fleetwood Town Council or Wyre Council, and to be able to demonstrate implementation within six months of the awarding of the funding.

The Board supported the proposal in principle but requested that a final decision regarding the additional caveats be sought via e-mail within one week of the Board meeting, with a non-response being taken as agreement. In order for the Small Grants fund to become recurrent annually it would need to be included within the Four Year Plan.

The update was noted.

76c Accessibility

The Board received an update on accessibility mapping work across Fleetwood.

It was reported that mapping of dropped kerbs and community assets had been completed and shared. Jess advised that the information

would be discussed with community researchers in October, with a view to planning targeted engagement activities for residents identified as physically disabled or vulnerable. It was also noted that Lancaster University would be invited to participate in this work.

The Board requested that information relating to UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects be sought from Wyre Council, subject to the data being available for sharing.

The update was noted.

76d Families and young children

It was agreed that the work on this sub-group be combined with the SEND sub-group until the end of November.

76e Lord Street

The Board received an update regarding improvement works on Lord Street.

It was reported that a number of shop shutters had been identified as potential locations for public art and Blackpool and The Fylde College had been engaged to assist in identifying artists.

Members discussed opportunities to involve additional street artists in the project.

It was agreed that Lord Street improvements would be included as a standing item on future Board agendas.

The update was noted.

76f Young people

The Board received an update on opportunities to improve provision for young people within Fleetwood.

Members were advised that options for a skate park had been explored and that Lancashire County Council's Youth Team had been engaged to support the development of the proposals.

The Board discussed both indoor and outdoor youth provision and considered examples of delivery models used elsewhere.

It was agreed that the proposals would form part of the public consultation at the forthcoming engagement event.

The Board also discussed the potential recruitment of an additional young person to the Board. The Chair requested that an expression of interest be shared with him for consideration, with the possibility of

future appointments to be explored.

The update was noted.

76g Post 16 education

The Board received an update on Post-16 education initiatives within Fleetwood.

Members were advised that work was progressing on proposals for a dedicated Fleetwood campus, with discussions taking place with Lancaster University regarding the use of shared spaces and facilities.

The Board also received an update on a project aimed at improving engagement with young people at the early stages of their educational journey. It was reported that opportunities were being explored to utilise local businesses to provide training, skills development and pathways into employment.

The update was noted.

76h SEND

The Board received an update from the SEND Sub-Group.

Members were advised that the sub-group would be expanded to include additional individuals with relevant knowledge and expertise.

It was noted that supporting documents had been circulated to Board Members for consideration.

The Board further noted that an action plan had been developed to support the progression of the sub-group's work programme.

The update was noted.

77 Small Grants

The Chair provided a verbal update on the small grants proposal.

The Board considered proposals for the allocation of £50,000 of Small Grants funding over the next six months.

Members were invited to approve the proposed allocation and were asked to notify the Chair within one week should they have any objections to the proposal.

It was agreed that Sara would circulate Wyre Council's grant eligibility criteria to Board Members. Members further agreed that the eligibility criteria would be reviewed alongside grants available through Fleetwood Town Council to avoid duplication of funding opportunities.

The Board also agreed that the wider Small Grants Proposal would form part of the ongoing public listening exercise.

Members highlighted the importance of ensuring that successful projects clearly promoted the involvement of the Pride in Fleetwood Board, and it was agreed that visible acknowledgement of the Board would be included within the grant criteria.

It was noted that the proposed allocation of £50,000 for the Small Grants Programme be endorsed, subject to any comments being submitted to the Chair within one week, and that the actions outlined above be progressed.

78

The Lancaster University Higher Education project

The Board received a verbal presentation from representatives of Lancaster University regarding the Higher Education Project.

Members were advised that Lancaster University had been undertaking work to develop a Community Health and Information Hub, aligned to the objectives of the NHS 10 Year Plan, particularly in relation to prevention and community-based healthcare.

It was reported that the University was seeking to establish a long-term partnership with Fleetwood focused on improving health outcomes, addressing health inequalities and widening access to careers in medicine. The Board was informed that an innovative placement programme had been developed to enable medical students to undertake community-based learning within Fleetwood. The programme would provide students with practical experience of healthcare delivery in community settings whilst generating evidence based research that could be shared locally.

Representatives advised that discussions were ongoing regarding the development of a physical hub and that the project team had engaged with Blackpool and The Fylde College as part of this work. The importance of co-designing the project with local communities was emphasised. Members also heard about proposals for learning hubs that would allow medical students to study closer to home.

Findings from engagement with residents were outlined, with concerns having been raised regarding mental health support, a lack of activities, access to healthcare professionals, whole-household approaches to improving health and funding pressures facing health-related charities. It was noted that these issues reflected concerns identified through local GP services.

The Board was advised that the concept of health clinics involving trainee medical students had been positively received by residents involved in the engagement work.

During the discussion, members highlighted the potential benefits of increasing higher education opportunities within Fleetwood and considered that the presence of university facilities could help raise aspirations amongst local young people. It was felt that the proposal aligned well with the existing objectives of the Pride in Fleetwood Board and the work being undertaken with Blackpool and The Fylde College.

The Board discussed whether Pride in Fleetwood was the most appropriate forum through which to progress the initiative. Whilst some concerns were raised regarding alignment with priorities identified through previous engagement activities, members agreed that residents should be consulted on the proposal and made aware of the opportunities it could provide. It was noted that representatives from Lancaster University would attend future engagement events and activities.

Members also suggested that research being undertaken by the Board's sub-groups should be aligned with the partnership's work in order to maximise collaboration and support the gathering of local evidence and data.

The update was noted.

79

An accessible paddling pool for Fleetwood

The Board received a verbal update from Lorraine Beavers MP regarding proposals for an accessible paddling pool in Fleetwood.

Members were advised that United Utilities had pledged £1.5 million towards the development of an accessible paddling pool, which would incorporate a range of splash pad features designed to improve accessibility and inclusivity. It was reported that discussions were ongoing to identify the most cost-effective operating model for the facility.

The Board noted that Wyre Council had been engaged in the project and that arrangements were being made for the transfer of the land to Fleetwood Town Council.

Members discussed opportunities to provide refreshments at the site, including the potential use of a catering van to generate income that could contribute towards the ongoing operation of the facility.

The Board also considered the future use of adjacent land and discussed the possibility of creating a disability-friendly park to complement the paddling pool development.

It was reported that United Utilities intended for the paddling pool to be operational by May.

Members discussed the potential for Fleetwood Town Council and other local organisations to work collaboratively in managing and operating the facility. The Board also considered how the project could be incorporated within the emerging 10-year strategy for Fleetwood.

It was noted that design work was currently being undertaken by United Utilities. Members discussed the possibility of requesting a wider masterplan for the surrounding area to maximise the benefits of the investment.

The update was noted.

80

The Grimsby Model: Grants for business on the high street

The Board received a verbal update from Lorraine Beavers MP regarding proposals based on the Grimsby Model to support business growth and regeneration within Fleetwood town centre.

It was noted that details of the proposal had previously been circulated to Board Members for consideration.

The Board discussed proposals for grants of up to £20,000 to encourage new businesses to establish themselves within Fleetwood.

Members also considered grants of up to £10,000 to support existing businesses, including business development, recruitment, shopfront improvements and other measures to enhance sustainability and growth.

The Board discussed the development of eligibility criteria to ensure that supported businesses delivered community benefit and reflected the needs and aspirations of local residents.

Proposals to support market traders were also considered. Members discussed grants of up to £5,000 to assist traders in establishing or improving market stalls. The potential for rent free periods as an incentive to attract traders and increase footfall was also explored.

It was reported that discussions had taken place with the local Business Forum and members considered options for promoting and marketing the scheme.

The Board discussed seeking support from Wyre Council and explored opportunities for partnership working to maximise the impact of the programme.

Members also considered whether the scheme could be complemented by additional measures, including discretionary business rates relief, the identification of Lord Street as an incentive zone and the potential use of turnover based rental arrangements.

The Board discussed Wyre Council's existing business support offer and considered how it could align with the proposed scheme.

It was noted that the proposal involved funding of £1 million over a three-year period, comprising £500,000 in 2027/28, £300,000 in 2028/29 and £200,000 in 2029/30.

Following discussion, the Board **approved** the inclusion of the proposal within the Pride in Fleetwood Four Year Plan.

81 Developing the Pride in Fleetwood 4 Year Plan (2026 to 2030)

An update was provided on the progress of the Pride in Fleetwood 4-year plan.

The Board advised that the plan must be shared with the community, and they must be consulted on the projects included. The board discussed project management basics training for board members.

The update was noted.

82 Community led delivery model options

Mark Spencer, Chair of the Pride in Fleetwood Board, introduced a discussion on options for a future community-led delivery model, including the potential establishment of a Pride in Fleetwood Community Interest Company (CIC) or the use of an existing community-based organisation.

It was agreed that Board Members would review the information provided and that a more detailed discussion on the preferred delivery model would be scheduled for a future meeting to support the requirements associated with becoming an initial adopter of the community-led delivery model.

The update was noted.

83 Any other business

Under Any Other Business, members received an update regarding the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Community-Led Programme. It was noted that Board Chairs had been invited to attend a meeting in London and that further guidance was expected to be issued within the next three to four months.

The Board was advised that the Christian Fen proposal would be presented at a future meeting.

Members were informed that the Administrative Assistant position would be re-advertised. It was noted that support had been offered by Regenda and the local GP Practice.

The Board discussed opportunities to gather views from Fleetwood residents attending the College. It was agreed that a set of standard questions would be developed and shared with Simon, and that the questions would also be published on the Pride in Fleetwood website.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 15 October 2026 at 17:30pm.

Date of Publication: 23 September 2026.

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CAPACITY FUND £150,000 -expenditure

MHCLG category	Activity	Total (£)
management costs	DBS Checks (£21.50 per member)	5,409.21
	Web domain package with domain protection/website builder/emails	
	Venue costs - plus board member selection workshop to 31 July	
	Wyre Programme Support costs including Secretariat function	
other	Train travel to London (return) for Chair Mark Spencer obo Pride in Fleetwood Board.	214.27
	ID badges & printed lanyard for Pride in Fleetwood	
community outreach and engagement	Pride in Fleetwood engagement expenses - Chaucer School event	5,339.12
	4 & 8 July Meet the Board engagement events	
	Marketing	
	Fleetwood Festival of Transport engagement	
	SEND consultation	
Management costs	Temporary full-time management support service to the Board to progress the Plan to for payment to 31/07/2026	11,000
Project costs	Summer Connectivity (part payment 50%)	6,280
	Pride in Fleetwood Event 19 September	21,600
GRAND TOTAL (rounded)		49,842
BALANCE REMAINING (rounded)		100,158

Note: The above is for work completed, including costs for which an invoice is currently being progressed.

CAPACITY FUND £150,000 – Current commitments

MHCLG category	Activity	Running Total (£)
management costs	Venue hire (allocation Sep to Mar 2027 based on current costs)	245
	Board staff (2 posts) *	61,992
	DBS Check (new member CF)	21.50
	Speakers and microphones for Board meetings	TBC
community outreach and engagement	Fish, Food and Music Festival & associated prize draw Nintendo Switch £238.32 & Marine Hall tickets £80	318.32
	Pride in Fleetwood Event 19 September (retention)	2,400
	7 October – Fleetwood Place Tool Kit workshop (All day event)	TBC
	Halloween Engagement Event	TBC
Project costs	Summer Connectivity (final payment awaiting sign off from Board on report submission)	6,280
	High Street theme group – vacant shops shutter art programme	TBC
CURRENT COMMITMENT GRAND TOTAL (rounded)		71,257
BALANCE REMAINING INCL. CURRENT COMMITMENTS (rounded)		28,901

*This allocation is based on current estimated commitments. The host organisation grant includes provision for two fixed-term posts, posts from 31 July for Programme and Governance officer and 07 September 2026 for the admin support.

REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET (10-year programme)

Pride in Fleetwood will receive funding and support circa £20 million. The funding will be split 63% capital and 37% revenue, and will be paid to respective local authorities in line with the following profile:

Grant type (£) '000	25/26 'year zero'	26/27 Year one	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	Total
Capital funding	0	120	670	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	1,460	12,430
Revenue funding	150	270	690	690	770	770	770	770	770	770	770	7,170
Total	150	390	1,360	2,150	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,230	19,600

- Values are rounded.
- Funding post financial year 2028/29 will be reviewed at the next Spending Review.
- Revenue funding will be paid out across two tranches in Year 1 (2026/27) of the programme – 50% will be made at the start of the financial year, and the remaining 50% on approval of the Pride in Place Plan.
- Time spent by the Local Authority to establish and support Pride in Place will be documented.

Phase split of Funding

- **Period 1:** the 2026 to 2027 financial year to the 2029 to 2030 financial year (4 years)
- **Period 2:** the 2030 to 2031 financial year to the 2032 to 2033 financial year (3 years)
- **Period 3:** the 2033 to 2034 financial year to the 2035 to 2036 financial year (3 years)

INVESTMENT PERIOD 1 – CURRENT SPEND ALLOCATIONS

	2026/27			
Grant type (£)	Budget	Spent	Committed /allocated	Remaining total
Revenue	420,000	49,842	71,257	298,901
Capital	120,000	0	0	120,000
Cumulative Total	540,000	490,158	418,901	

Other, period 1

	2027/28		2028/29		2029/30	
Grant type (£)	Budget available	Committed	Budget available	Committed	Budget available	Committed
Revenue	690,000	89,252	770,000	91,167	770,000	96,167
Capital	146,000	0	146,000	0	146,000	0

- Revenue budget for 2026/27 includes the balance of the £150,000 capacity funding brought forward from 25/26
- Values are rounded