

# Leigh Neighbours Partnership Board

## Big Local Plan 2013 - 2018

December 2012

Leigh Neighbours  
PROJECT

Local Trust | Big Local

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## **Introduction -**

### **Who are we?**

We are the Leigh Neighbours Partnership Board, a group of local residents and others who work in our project area. We have come together to lead and manage the delivery of a range of projects and programmes funded by an award of £1million from the lottery's Big Local funding stream. We are volunteers and do not receive any sort of financial reward for being Board members (though we do sometimes get tea and biscuits at our meetings). We represent our community – we are older and retired and we are younger and still at school, we have lived here all of our lives and we have come to live here recently, we have different faiths. Some of us work and some of us don't. We all want to make our neighbourhood a better place to live.

Over the next six months we plan to become a charity and a company limited by guarantee. This will mean that the Board becomes a legal entity. We also plan to establish a separate community interest company which is owned by the charity. Any profit that the community interest company makes will be paid to the charity. We intend that the community interest company will be the organisation which purchases, refurbishes and lets properties in our area.

A full list of who we are can be found at the end of this Plan in Appendix One.

### **Who are you?**

This Plan has been written for a number of different audiences:

- Local residents so that they can see what is planned and how the plan reflects their aspirations and how they will be addressed
- For us, Partnership Board, to use as a reference tool
- The Local Authority so that they can see what is planned and can work with the Board
- Local community organisations, groups and charities, so that they understand the context that we will be operating in, and are therefore able to contribute if they choose
- Local Trust – the organisation managing the lottery money (Big Local), so that they know what we are planning to do.

### **Why have we written a Plan?**

Our Plan has been written for a number of different reasons:

- Because if we are going to spend £1million+ over a 10 year period, in ways that affect around 4,000 residents, local schools, businesses and community groups, then we need to have a clear understanding of what you are going to do and why we are

doing it.

- So that we have a timeframe and timescale for our activities and plans
- So that we have a road map which will help us stay on track and which will help us to monitor our performance. It will be reviewed annually
- Because local people need to see what is going to happen and how it reflects their aspirations and vision for their community in 10 years time...and to be consulted on what is planned.
- Because the organisation managing the lottery funds (Big Local) need to have a written Plan which shows what is planned.

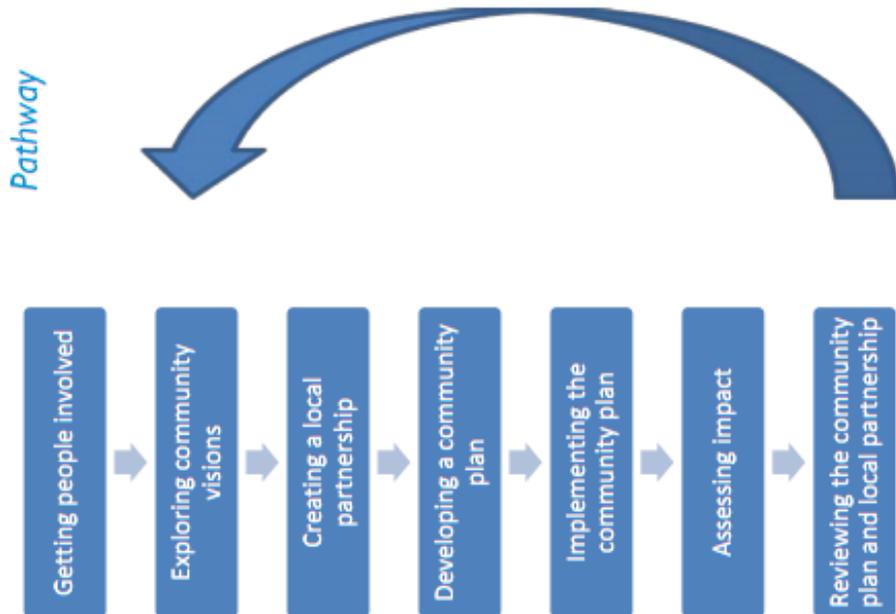
### **How did we get here, where have we come from?**

In early 2010 the local authority managed to secure money from the Government's 'Connecting Communities' fund. An informal partnership between Council officers and Citizens Advice Bureau in Leigh was formed with the aim of trying to develop and support groups, events and activities which would help develop community spirit and cohesion. Understanding what local people thought were problems locally was important, so we held a number of public meetings alongside a questionnaire circulated to every household. From these meetings evolved a Residents Association, a modest grant scheme for local residents and organisations and a sophisticated understanding of how large the challenge was locally to make a real difference.

In the Summer of 2010 we were approached by the lottery with an offer of between £1m and £2.5m to work on a 10 year project which would also have an endowment element to it. Whilst we waited for the lottery to appoint an agency to manage this new fund (Big Local) we got on with doing things which would help and support the community on a day to day basis as well as laying some of the foundation stones for when our lottery award would be available.

The lottery awarded the contract to manage their Big Local fund (£200million) to a consortium led by CDF (Community Development Fund). They have established an organisation called 'Big Local' which has developed a 'Pathway' which each locality (a 'Big Local' area) must complete before they can begin to access their £1million award.

## Timeline

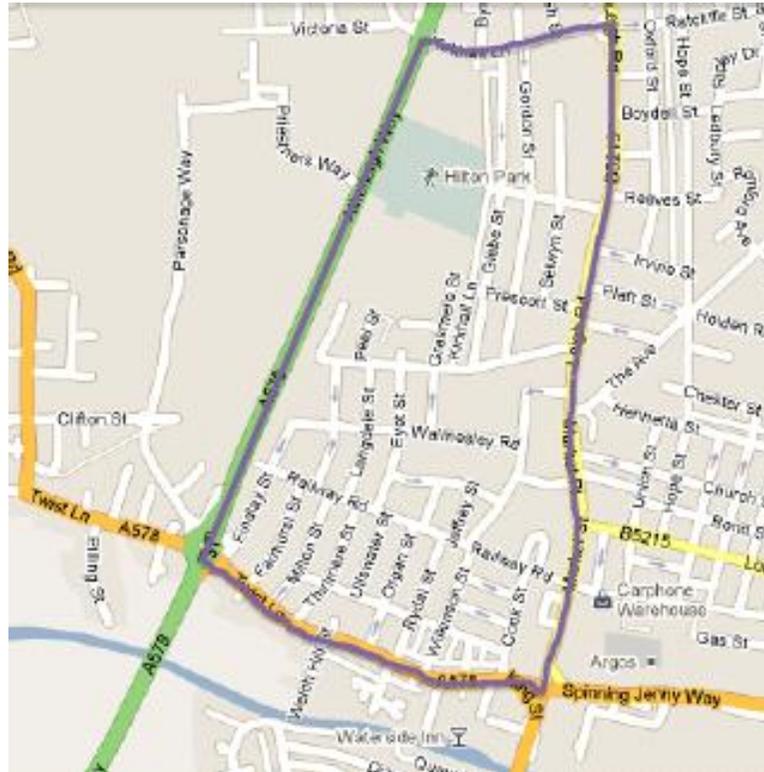


We've worked our way through the Big Local Pathway, getting people involved, consulting with them and understanding what they want to see happen locally, forming ourselves into a Partnership Board and writing a Plan which describes what we want to achieve with our money and how we'll do it.

Whilst we have young people attend our Partnership Board meetings on a regular basis, we are keen that young people have a real input into our thinking and so have worked with the Council's Youth Services section to pilot a Youth Council – a group of young people from the area who discuss our ideas and proposals and have an input into our discussions. We've supported the Youth Council with some of our Pathway funding and they've made a DVD which describes what they'd like to see in the area.

## Where are we and what is our community like?

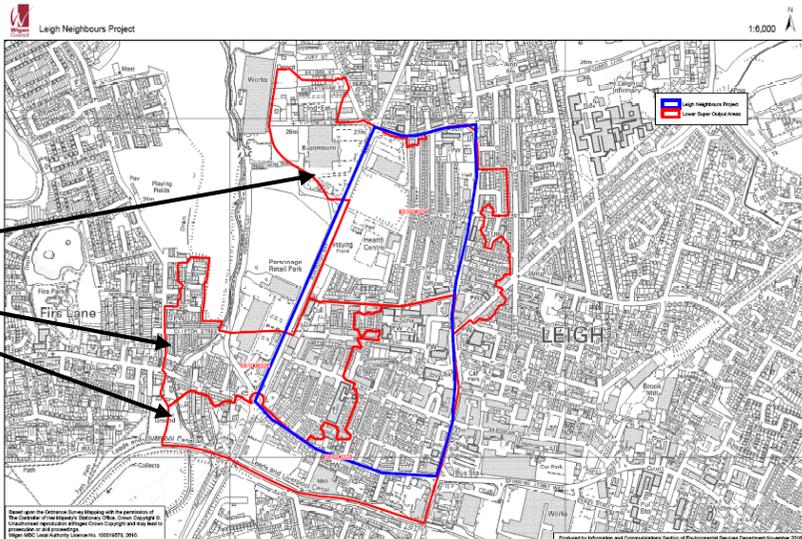
The boundary for our project area was agreed with the lottery back in 2010 and is fixed. Our area is bounded by Atherleigh Way to the West, Kirkhall Lane to the North, Leigh Road/Market Street and King Street to the East and Twist Lane to the South



There are around 1800 properties and 130 businesses in our area. There are four Infant and Primary schools in the area (Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, St. John's CE Infants, Leigh CE Infants and Leigh Central Primary), with most children then going to one of four high schools outside our project area (Bedford, Lowton, St. Mary's and Westleigh).

Local housing is predominantly Victorian terraces, some with gardens. There are also new build apartments and town houses too, built on brown-field sites. The majority of local properties are owner occupied, but there is a large percentage which are private rented properties. The majority of residents are extremely house-proud, but there are a sufficient properties in poor condition (in the main these are not owner occupied) to mean that values of houses for sale or rent are below those equivalents elsewhere in the Borough and the North-West.

It is also felt locally that residents in private rented accommodation tend to be transient and that there is a high turnover of residents. This doesn't help when addressing community spirit and social cohesion.

Area	Percentage of households Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency (2001)	
Lower Super Output Area – Hilton Park	13.4%	
Lower Super Output Area – Twist Lane	10.9%	
Lower Super Output Area – Railway Road/Twist Lane	18.5%	
Wigan Borough	4.7%	
North West	7.7%	
England	8.8%	

Describing the area in a few lines for a document like this is fraught with danger – generalisations are often meaningless and sometimes misleading, plus there is the chance of causing offence...that isn't the purpose of this Plan!

Here goes...The area isn't the most deprived in Wigan Borough, but it isn't the wealthiest either. Research shows that unemployment is an issue alongside low earnings for those in employment. Health is also a concern, with smoking and diseases related to smoking and lifestyle affecting people and their life expectancy.

Leigh has seen immigration before, people from other parts of Europe settled here after World War 2 and have successfully integrated into the community. The demographic changes which affected neighbouring boroughs, with significant populations settling from the West Indies and the Indian sub-continent in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's didn't really impact Leigh or Wigan. This meant that when the Home Office began to settle asylum seekers and refugees in the borough in the 1990's and then the European Community expanded just after the turn of the century and people from many of those countries came to live and work in Leigh, there was quite a culture shock for local people and organisations (one local primary school has children who speak 24 different languages at home). It's fair to say that the community is still coming to terms with these most recent changes and that the prejudice that these new residents often face is a barrier to good community relations.

Many residents have lived in our area for a long time (we met one person when we were doing the Planning for Real consultation who has lived in the same house on Glebe Street for 74 years). Many residents aspired to live in the area – it was well-placed for the market and the town centre, close to local jobs, well-placed for buses to Bolton, Wigan and Warrington, there were local schools and churches for all faiths. Many residents don't feel that the area is as desirable a place to live as it used to be. One of our key long term aims is to change that perception and to make this an area where people want to live and who are prepared to pay a premium to live here.

A comprehensive audit of our area has been undertaken. If you want to see our Community Profile please contact our Project Officer or see our website: [www.lnpb.org](http://www.lnpb.org).

## Section One – Shared Vision

We've asked lots of people what they think about our area, what they like about the area and what they dislike, what the issues are and what they think we could spend £1million on. We've used public meetings to listen to people, with flip-charts and post-it notes. We've used questionnaires (sent to every household so working people weren't excluded), conversations in people's front rooms, a formalised consultation methodology ('Planning for Real') and peer-led consultation with young people.

### What is 'Planning for Real'?

"Planning for Real"® is an eye-catching, 'hands on' consultation method which, by using a large scale, three dimensional model as a focus, enables local people to put forward suggestions to 'show' how an area can be improved or to point out specific problems. Local residents, often school children, make the 3D model on a scale of 1:250 or 1:500. This means that individual houses and, even front doors are recognisable and people can also identify familiar landmarks. The model is made up of small 600 x 600mm sections of polystyrene board, which means that they are easily transportable and can be taken to different locations where people naturally meet. By using the model as a focus, the consultation is non-confrontational and the suggestions are anonymous so that people do not feel inhibited in expressing their opinions.



At the consultation the model is put out on a large table (or tables) in the centre of the room. On other tables around the edge of the room are placed a range of suggestion cards or flags, which are also pictorial. In addition, a large number of blank cards are provided for people to write their own ideas.

Residents, of all ages, are invited to 'drop in' between specific times on a day or evening and given the opportunity to browse through all the suggestion cards and to select as many as they like and then place them on the model where they feel the issue is relevant. To help them, all the suggestions are categorised under issue headings and are colour coded. For example, all health suggestions are grouped together and are printed on light blue card, crime and safety on orange and so on. There are 8 issue categories in total and this means that, at a glance, the main issues for a particular area or place are easily apparent.

At the end of the session all the suggestions are recorded, including the location, issue and the number of suggestions placed.

We've worked hard to talk to all the different parts of our community: School children at Sacred Heart (who made our Planning for Real model) and St. John's schools, young adults from the area studying at local High Schools and through detached youth work. Older people living in sheltered accommodation at Selby Court, church goers at Kingsleigh Methodist and St. Mary's. We've talked to people who are new to the area through the Leigh Asylum Seekers and Refugees Project (LASARS) as well as the children of people from Eastern Europe through the Kamosi Youth Group. We've spoken to professionals working in the area...health, cleansing, fire, police, housing. We've consulted at the local college, at school sports days and stood on street corners. We've spoken to people who are very different, from

Mums and Dads at the Children's Centre to rough sleepers and people on their way to collect their Methadone script.

Our processes to get to where we are now have been discussed with Will Woan and Tessa Wiley from the lottery (before CDF became involved). We've made sure that our Big Local Rep (Suzanne Quinney) has been involved intimately in our planning and we've also included others from Big Local like the Chief Executive, Debbie Ladds.

One of the things that this Plan will do is to help local people understand which of their aspirations are realistic – what we can achieve ourselves or working in partnership with other agencies and what we can't make happen. For example, encouraging the local authority to install a pelican crossing on Twist Lane close to Selby Court as a result of our consultation with residents who live in Selby Court is possible. Persuading the health authority to open a maternity unit at the Infirmary probably isn't. We need to be very clear with regard to the many suggestions that were made about the derelict Hilton Park site and the ex Leigh East ARLFC site. What we found when we consulted with people using Planning for Real last year was that there were lots of people who wanted these old grounds to be used for a wide variety of purposes. The simple fact is that both of these spaces belong to private companies (Greenbank Partners and Grundy Hill Estates respectively) and that they have redevelopment plans which have received Planning Permission. This means that we need to be realistic in planning any use of these spaces, making sure that we are explicit in explaining that any uses of the spaces are temporary and that we can't make any significant investments on either site.

We've used the broad subject areas from Planning for Real as a way of organising our thoughts around how we deliver the huge range of improvements that are needed locally. (We've added two extra themes – 'Community Spirit' to cover all of the feedback we've had around the lack of community spirit locally and the overwhelming demand for actions which will help encourage it; and 'Financial Matters' – this is a recognition that many of the problems in our area are a result of poverty or low income and that we can make massive improvements to the quality of people's lives by using our financial resources to help...by providing low interest home improvement loans, by encouraging children to save in school, by diverting people away from high interest lenders such as Brighthouse, doorstep lenders and payday lenders.)

Planning for Real themes:

- Community Facilities
- Crime and Community Safety
- Education, employment and Training
- Environment
- Health
- Housing
- Leisure
- Traffic and Transport

Over the next couple of pages we've listed each of the areas we are going to address over the next 5 - 10 years along with a summary of what people are interested in seeing happen, a short case study showing some of the things that we've already done and which we think we can do elsewhere and a table showing the 'HIGH' priority suggestions which came from the Planning for Real consultation.

## **Community Facilities**

Local people have identified a range of resources and facilities which they'd like to see – somewhere indoors for children to play, outdoor play areas, youth shelters, a community centre. They recognise the value of events and activities in local life and would like there to be low cost venues where these could be arranged.

'Free activities for us so we don't get bored and do anything bad.'

### **Case Study – Residents Fund**

We've had a fund for local residents, groups and organisations to bid into for over two years now. People from across the area have taken up on the opportunity. We've given over £5,000 to local projects which meet criteria around bringing people together, environmental improvements, activities for young people and developing civic pride. Successful bids have included:

- Forty hanging baskets on Gordon Street
- A pilot education project at Sacred Heart school
- Spring bulb planting at Windermere Grove
- Improvements to the alley behind Peel Street
- Contribution to improvements at St. John's Community Garden
- Alley greening behind Grasmere Street
- Football kit for a new young people's football team
- A greenhouse for Leigh CE Infants school
- Funds for materials for *Carpe Diem* sewing and crafts group
- Support for young people to be trained around sexual exploitation



< Football Kit

Grasmere Street Alley Greening >



## Planning for Real results – Community Facilities

### Amenities and Facilities

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Non given	Nappy Change facility	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Non given	Public toilets	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Medium	Toilets with accessible facilities	Leigh Road
Medium x 1 Long x 1	Youth club / centre	Leigh Road cluster; and Fairhurst Street cluster
Medium x 1 Long x 1	Youth Shelter	Leigh Road; and Bengal Street cluster
Long	Cash Point	Leigh Road
Long x 2	Community Centre	Leigh Road cluster; and Schools etc. cluster

### Other Community Needs

Non given	Car sharing scheme	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Non given	Need to have a Council for Leigh	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Short	Mediation between Eastern European residents and other residents to get on with one another in this area	Boughey, Cook, Hill, Organ, Wilkinson, & Youd
Medium x 2	Better links between school and community	Schools etc. cluster; and Leigh Road cluster
Long	Disabled access	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage & Walmesley

**Community Spirit** – People feel that there is a lack of community spirit and would like there to be more of it. They feel that people from different backgrounds don't always mix, and that this isn't good. People recognise that community spirit and pride is difficult to measure, but that they want more of it. There are lots of suggestions around events and activities that will bring people together. Some of these have been piloted, including Big Jubilee Lunch events and the Residents Association Bingo Club.

'Adults judge young people on the streets. But they have nothing else to do.'

**Crime and Community Safety** – People don't always feel safe, they worry about anti-social behaviour and about drugs and drug dealing. They don't feel that there is sufficient visible police patrolling. They are concerned about the amount of derelict land which there is locally. They want to live in an area where they feel safe, where anti-social behaviour is dealt with appropriately and where crime is under control through the targeting of individuals and through Neighbourhood watch schemes as well as through the deterrent feature of regular, visible foot patrols.

'House security measures needed.'

**Case Study – Smartwater**

'Smartwater' is a form of chemical DNA which is used to mark property to make it less attractive to thieves and much easier to return to the victims of burglary if their property is stolen. We've worked in partnership with the Council, Greater Manchester Police and Smartwater themselves to security mark valuable and property across the area.

**Planning for Real Results – Crime and Community Safety**

**"Actions / Needs"**

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Short x 2 Medium x 3 Long x 1	More Police foot patrols	Boughey, Cook, Hill, Organ, Wilkinson & Youd; Kirkhall & Glebe; Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage & Walmesley; General / area wide; and Bengal, Buchanan, Dorning, Grasmere, Jaffrey, Peel & Windermere
Short x 1	Protective fencing	Fairhurst, Findlay, Milton, Newton, Railway, Rydal & Thirlmere
Short x 1	Trimming back shrubs	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage & Walmesley
Medium x 1	Security cameras	Fairhurst, Findlay, Milton, Newton, Railway, Rydal, & Thirlmere; and

Long x 1		General / area wide
Non given x 1	Security lights	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Long x 1	House security measures	Boughey, Cook, Hill, Organ, Wilkinson & Youd
Long x 1	Zero tolerance to drugs and gangs	Chadwick, Gordon, Prescott & Selwyn

## Education, employment and training

Local people have concerns about a range of issues affecting people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. There are suggestions for breakfast clubs, for ESOL courses, for youth provision, for after-school clubs, for literacy classes and for business start-up support. Local people want to see opportunities to learn effectively maximised, for young people to have the best start in life they can get and for older people to have the opportunity to retrain and to have support if they want to establish their own start-ups. The vision is about opportunity, useful activities and for more employment which is better paid.

'If young people choose not to go to college it's very hard to get on an apprenticeship. Cost of courses are also a problem.'

'A place where I can volunteer my skills to teach e.g. IT skills.'

### Case Study – Education and Training. Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School - Reading Project

We applied to Leigh Neighbours project for a grant of £500 to provide a set of 50 story and rhyme packs for our reception children. At our school the children begin school with very low scores in communication, language and literacy. It was our hope that the packs would raise awareness & promote of language and reading skills. Hopefully parents would spend quality time with their children sharing books, children would enjoy listening to a variety of stories and rhymes and be exposed to good quality books and activities.

We created 25 rhyme packs (blue bags) and 25 story packs (red bags). Each pack is different in some way, so that each child can work their way through the 50 packs and each one will offer something different. They tend to have rhyme one week, story the next. We purchased many different story books with CDs and nursery rhyme books with CDs. We also bought some Nursery rhyme CDS, storybooks and a number of props, eg tea set, small play mat and animals, dinosaur's etc... In each of the packs the children would each get a combination of items. Eg The tiger who came to tea has a CD of the story and tea set. Hairy McLary has a magnetic activity set etc... we also produced activity cards for the parents, suggesting things that they could talk about with their child and activities they may complete. Needless to say we spent the full amount of money.

We initially invited the children's parents to join the project. At first uptake was slow but once the packs started going home more children have joined in. The children appear to be enjoying the packs, they peep inside them when they are given them to see what's inside and talk about what they have read. Towards the end of the year we will send a questionnaire out to parents asking for feedback. Although it is early days, we believe it is working and helping. Children are being given access to a variety of different books and rhymes and parents have everything in a bag they need. Also if the

parent isn't able to do anything with the child they can access some of it themselves, eg, play the story CD and follow the pictures in the book or listen the nursery rhymes. It was hoped to send the packs out at the open evening, but this year they weren't ready in time. We plan to do this next year and change them at the inspire session to kick start their learning.

Mrs. Jennifer Warner – Deputy Headteacher.

As a response to the Sacred Heart pilot (and so that our Residents Fund remains focused on initiatives by local residents), we've decided to establish a separate Education Development Fund which schools can make bids to for funds up to £1,000 to support events, projects or initiatives which deliver educational benefits for children from our project area.

## Planning for Real Results – Education and Training

### Education and Schools

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Non given	Support for parents with homework	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Short x 1 Medium x 2	After School Club	Kirkhall & Glebe Street cluster; Bengal Street cluster; and Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre cluster
Short x 1 Medium x 1	Bullying problems	Schools etc cluster; and Bengal Street cluster
Short	ESOL classes	Kirkhall & Glebe
Short x 3	Healthy eating to be encouraged at School	Bengal Street cluster; Coniston Street cluster Kirkhall & Glebe
Short x 1 Medium x 1	Homework Club	Bengal Street cluster; Schools cluster
Short	Language barrier	Kirkhall & Glebe
Short	Support for non-attendeess	Bengal Street cluster
Medium x 2	Activity clubs / youth provision	Bougey Street cluster; and Bengal Street cluster
Medium	Enforcement, discipline and role models	Twist Lane
Medium x 1 Long x 1	Youth provision	Schools etc cluster Fairhurst Street cluster

<b>Employment and Enterprise</b>		
Short x 1 Medium x 1	Locally run growing and selling food scheme	General / area wide; and Hilton Park & Leigh East
Short x 1 Non given	Guidance and support for those starting work	Kirkhall & Glebe; and Town Hall, Library etc. cluster
Non given	Job Search Club including job specific training and retraining opportunities	Town Hall, Library etc. cluster
Non given Long x 1	More support for those seeking work	Town Hall, Library etc. cluster; and Bengal Street cluster
Long	Equal opportunities needed	Bengal Street cluster
<b>Training</b>		
Short x 2	Childcare training	Kirkhall & Glebe; and Schools etc. cluster
Long	Evening classes	Schools etc. cluster
Long	More vocational training for 13 – 16 year olds	Bengal Street cluster

## **Environment**

The impact of environmental crime – dog-fouling, fly-tipping, litter etc is felt keenly by local people as is the lack of green space and of areas for children to play safely. People want to live in an area which is clean – cleaned regularly by the Council as well as respected by residents. They see issues such as graffiti, fly-tipping and dumping rubbish as much crime and community safety issues as environmental issues. They want enforcement action taken against people who don't respect the area where they live. They want to make a difference themselves by getting involved in clean-up campaigns, by greening activities, by developing allotments and through planting schemes. They want to see more litter bins and aesthetic improvements to empty shop units and houses. There are real concerns about the impact that the number of large vacant retail/commercial properties (the old Fire Station/Bowling Alley, the old college building on railway Road, the old B&M Bargains also on Railway Road) have on the local area – do they drag the area down, are they targets for vandalism, do they send the wrong message to prospective tenants and investors?

'Clean up needed.'

'Community vegetable garden/allotments/community garden.'

'Help to keep our church 'green space' maintained.'

## Planning for Real Results - Environment

### New Amenities and Facilities

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Short x 1 Medium x 1	Community Garden	Bougey Street cluster; and Bengal Street cluster
Short x 1	Community Vegetable Garden	General / area wide
Short x 1	Dog free zone	Hilton Park and Leigh East
Medium x 1	Muck about area	Hilton Park and Leigh East
Medium x 1	Seating area	Hilton Park and Leigh East
Medium x 1	Space for children – no other green spaces to play	Hilton Park and Leigh East
Long x 1	Landscaped park area	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage , & Walmesley

## Health

Concerns expressed by local people focus on issues around healthy eating and the availability of locally grown fresh produce, counseling resources and parenting. There is an overlap with other themes too – drinking and drug-taking are frequently raised as issues in the context of crime and community safety. There is no single vision around health for the area though the issues identified through the Planning for Real consultation support the health issues identified through research by the PCT...the impact of smoking, the impact of drugs and alcohol, especially when measured through hospital admissions, the need for healthy eating and people having their ‘five per day’.

‘Leigh has no sexual health service that’s easily accessible, also for teenagers.’

## Planning for Real Results - Health

### Services and Facilities

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Short x 1 Medium x 1	Needle exchange point	Coniston Street cluster; and Leigh Road cluster
Short	NHS Dentist	Leigh Road cluster
Long	Doctors to speed up waiting times	General / area wide

Long	Respite Care facilities	Coniston Street cluster
<b>Well Being</b>		
Short	No smoking in play areas	General / area wide
Medium	Healthy eating to be encouraged at Schools	Schools etc. cluster
Medium	More information on healthy meals	Schools etc. cluster
Medium	Support and counselling for those with mental health issues	Leigh Road cluster
Medium	Support and counselling for teenage mums	Bougey Street cluster
<b>Training</b>		
Short x 2 Medium x 1	Parenting classes	Schools etc. cluster; Coniston Street cluster; and Bengal Street cluster

## Housing

Residents have expressed a wide range of concerns related to housing both through public meetings and via the Planning for Real consultation. There is wide spread agreement that issues around private let properties – both physical condition and tenants – need to be addressed if the area is to improve and if the value of property is to match that in surrounding areas of the borough. The vision that local people have is of an area where all property is in a good state of repair, where the local authority adopts a timely and proactive role in addressing community concerns and where people aspire to live.

‘Better control of housing conditions and enforced upkeep of housing.’

## Planning for Real Results - Housing

### Housing / condition

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Short	Damp and condensation to be tackled	General / area wide
Medium	Double glazing	General / area wide
Non given Medium x 2 Long x 1	Improved drainage	Kirkhall & Glebe (prioritised 3 different locations – one where no timeframe was given, and 2 where it was seen to be MEDIUM term); and Bougey Street cluster
Medium	Rebuild boundary walls	General / area wide

Medium	Repairs to the outside of houses	General / area wide
Medium	Sound proofing	General / area wide
Long	Better control of housing conditions and enforced upkeep	General / area wide
Long	Housing to meet a variety of needs	General / area wide

## Leisure

Residents have a long list of things that they'd like to see provided in the area: play areas, places for teens to socialize, sports pitches, skate parks, Summer Clubs, sports activities, an art club, basketball facilities and more. There is a significant overlap here with many suggestions made under the 'Crime and Community Safety' theme – the local concern about 'young people hanging about' could be addressed by improved leisure resources. Their vision isn't about reproducing the facilities available at places like Leigh Sports Village, but about having a range of resources within easy reach which help local people stay physically and emotionally healthy.

'Not enough youth clubs!'

'Something or somewhere for 14 – 18 year olds to go and socialise.'

### Case Study – Activities for Young People

The library service applied to the Residents Fund to help pay for some activities for young people – they'd been experiencing some problems on Friday evenings and the young people they'd spoken to had said that there wasn't anything to do. Our funding helped pay for a series of workshops where young people were able to learn about writing and recording their own music. The project wasn't an overwhelming success. It was a pilot though, so we still learnt a lot about how we might work in partnership with the library service in future and what works and what doesn't work.

## Planning for Real Results - Leisure

### Children and Young People - Indoor Provision

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Short	Art Club for children 4 years +	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley
Short	Free swimming and access to activities for children (e.g. dance and sport)	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley
Medium	Activities for young people - existing group meet here	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre

	(youth services)	
Medium	Summer Club	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre
Medium	Youth theatre	Leigh Road
Long	Art Club for children	Bengal, Buchanan, Dorning, Grasmere, Jaffrey, Peel & Windermere
Long	Recording studio / rehearsal rooms	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre
Long	Something or somewhere for 14-18 year olds to go to socialise	Fairhurst, Findlay, Milton, Newton, Railway, Rydal, & Thirlmere
Long	Youth theatre	Kirkhall & Glebe
<b>Children and Young People - Outdoor Provision</b>		
Medium	Playground for under 5's	Leigh Road
Medium	Provide outdoor activity / sports session - young people etc.	Bengal, Buchanan, Dorning, Grasmere, Jaffrey, Peel & Windermere
Medium	Skateboard / rollerblade park	Leigh Road
Long	Playground for under 5's	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley
Long	Skateboard / rollerblade park	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre
Long	Basketball pitch	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre
Long	Bike or skate park	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre
Short	Craft group for women	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley
Medium	Free multi gym	Leigh Road
Long	Indoor bowls	Schools, former Bowling Alley, former Fire Station, Wigan & Leigh College, & Wigan Centre

## Traffic and transport

Suggestions around transport are concerned with speed, parking, the condition of road surfaces, cycle-friendly schemes like bike lanes and secure bike lockers and the need for Pelican or Zebra crossings on Twist Lane and Kirkhall Lane as well as close to schools on

Windermere Road and Walmesley Road. The local vision is about making the area a safer place for people who aren't in a car – for pedestrians, for cyclists for children and for the elderly.

'Cycle lanes needed.'

'Reduce speed/20 mph.'

### Case Study – Traffic and Transport

We've not really focused on any big traffic and transport issues yet, though we have explored working with the Council's Highways Department and have achieved some modest improvements. We've arranged for some 'No Entry' markings to be painted on Gordon Street next to St. John's CE Infant school to try and reduce risk to parents and children from motorists who drive the wrong way. We've also arranged for some 'I' bars to be painted to ensure that residents can get access to their gated alleys.

### Planning for Real Results – Traffic and Transport

#### Speed / Reduction Issues

Timeframe	Suggestion	Street Cluster
Short	Lower speed limit	Fairhurst, Findlay, Milton, Newton, Railway, Rydal, & Thirlmere
Short x 2 Medium x 1 Long x 1	Reduce speed	Fairhurst Street cluster; Kirkhall & Glebe cluster; Coniston Street cluster; and Twist Lane cluster
Short	Speeding problem	Fairhurst, Findlay, Milton, Newton, Railway, Rydal, & Thirlmere
Short	Traffic calming	Fairhurst, Findlay, Milton, Newton, Railway, Rydal, & Thirlmere
Long	20 mph speed limit	Bouhey, Cook, Hill, Organ, Wilkinson & Youd
<b>Parking Issues</b>		
Non given	More parking in central area	Town Hall, Library, Civic Square, St. Mary's Church, Bengal Street CP and toilets
Medium	Parking – too many cars	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley
Medium x 1 Long x 1	Parking for disabled needed	Fairhurst Street cluster; and Bengal Street cluster.
Long	Dangerous parking	Bengal, Buchanan, Dorning, Grasmere, Jaffrey, Peel & Windermere

Long x 1	Parking scheme for residents	Boughey, Cook, Hill, Organ, Wilkinson, & Youd
<b>Traffic Issues</b>		
Short	Cars driving the wrong way up street	Chadwick, Gordon, Prescott & Selwyn
Short	“No entry” to be painted on road	Chadwick, Gordon, Prescott & Selwyn
Long	Too much traffic	Twist Lane
<b>Amenities / Facilities</b>		
Short	Improved bus service	General / area wide
Short	Gritting of roads / pavements	Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley
Short x 1 Long x 2	Traffic lights needed	Fairhurst Street cluster; Twist Lane cluster; and Bengal Street cluster
Short x 1 Medium x 1 Long x 1	Zebra crossing needed	Fairhurst Street cluster; Kirkhall & Glebe cluster; and Bengal Street cluster
Medium	Cycle lanes	Leigh Road
Medium x 1 Long x 1	Light controlled pedestrian crossing	Fairhurst Street cluster; and Twist Lane
Medium	Improved road surfaces	General / area wide
Medium	School crossing patrol	Twist Lane

### What does this mean as a vision for 2023?

Local people want the area to be safer and healthier. They want there to be employment and work experience opportunities, especially for young people so that they have a positive future to look forward to. They want the area to be clean and green. They want property to be kept in good condition and for both sale and rental prices to be competitive. They want there to be lots of community spirit with people from all backgrounds getting on together, mixing together and respecting each other.

We haven't identified one single success factor for the end of our 10 year project, but one thing that we're thinking about is the value of property, whether it be sales on the open market or rental values. If the value of property has increased in 10 years so that it is at least equal that of similar properties elsewhere in the borough, or even higher, then we'll have an area that people want to live in rather than leave and we'll have a success measure which also reflects:

- Increased sense of community

- More community spirit
- Environmental improvements
- Support for people with training, apprenticeships and business start-ups
- Outstanding schools
- An area where people feel safe where there is minimal crime

## **Section Two – Priorities**

### **What do we want to focus on first?**

We want to focus on a number of areas. These were identified as being important in maintaining momentum and encouraging local participation in our Pathway Funding application made in July 2012.

We want to focus on four areas for the first two years of our project. We are not going to focus on these four to the exclusion of anything else, but they are going to take up the majority of our time and effort.

We held a special meeting of our Partnership Board in October 2012 to talk about a draft of this Plan and to see whether we agreed on the priorities that had been identified for Years One and Two...we agreed on the priorities identified later in this section. We also did a lot more thinking and talking about what sorts of things we'd like to do to help bring different communities and people of different ages together.

The areas we are going to focus on in Years One and Two are:

- Community Facilities and Community Spirit
- The Environment
- Housing
- Financial Matters

### **Community Spirit**

We want to pilot a range of events and activities which will help develop community spirit and which will provide things for people of all ages to do. We want to understand what works and what doesn't work and how we can work in partnership with others. We want to explore activities which are sustainable – which will develop a life of their own rather than just be 'parachuted in'. We don't have to organise everything ourselves, we might commission other agencies to help deliver and to add value.

We are currently exploring partnership working with Community Arts Northwest (CAN) based in Manchester. They are encouraging us to think about using some of our lottery award to generate grant funding from the Arts Council which would generate an activity programme worth around £50,000 if we invested £10,000.

We might choose to invest in the Residents Association who've developed a Bingo Club which brings together older people who are isolated or lonely in order to help them expand their activities...like their recent trip to the illuminations at Blackpool. The Residents Association might have other ideas about ways that they can support other sections of the community. We might want to invest in young people – providing them with the

opportunity to learn through organising their own activities and events. We might want to think about ways that we can support the less well off in our community, working with agencies like CAB, LASARS and local churches to provide hardship relief, establish a food bank, a clothes bank or similar.

Earlier in 2012 we received funding from the Big Lunch project to help us support events and activities which brought people together to help celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. We've been told that we'll receive more financial support next year. We'd like to add to this grant in order to support a range of organisations ( the Residents Association, Youth Services/Kamosi, the library service, LASARS) to deliver more events based around food which bring people together, especially younger and older people and people from different backgrounds and communities.

We'll aim to start doing things in Summer 2013 with a view to embedding them in 2014.

Big Jubilee Lunch events at Leigh Library – supported by Leigh Neighbours and funding from Big Lunch



## Environment

We want to make a start on doing things which will begin to make a real visible difference to our area – our experiences working on the St. John's Community garden have shown what a difference a lot of hard work and some small amounts of money can make.

We want to work with the Council in rolling out our clean up campaign now that we've seen the impact and effectiveness of our pilot on Walmesley Road. Planning for Real has identified a couple of areas for us already, as well as residents on Walmesley Road looking forwards to getting things off to a good start early in 2013.

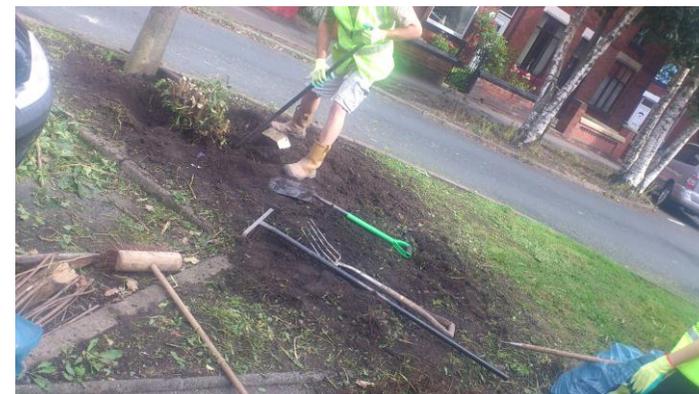
We want to identify a number of different sites for community gardens and work with the owners and local residents to develop them as a local asset. We want to establish local allotments on derelict land as sustainable community led projects. We want to roll out our alley-greening scheme

across the area. We'd like to do all of this in time for Summer 2013.

St. John's Community Garden – before and after



Walmesley Road Clean-Up



## Housing

We want to develop a strategic relationship with the Council's Private Sector Housing Team as well as with Wigan Housing Solutions. We want to identify all of the private let properties in our area which we don't think are up to scratch and work with the Council to encourage landlords to improve them. Whilst it might be true that one good property in a street can help raise standards, it's also true that one bad property can drag others down – some residents rightly refer to this as the 'broken window' situation – the theory that maintaining urban environments in a well ordered condition may stop further vandalism and escalation into more serious crime. We've had a debate within the Partnership Board about whether people living in rented properties really care about where they live, whether they will invest their time and energies into an area where they don't have a financial stake. We decided that people will – that the evidence for this lies elsewhere in the borough- in the pride that people living in

properties managed by Wigan and Leigh Housing (former Council housing) take in their gardens for example. We also recognise that not all tenants in private let properties are bad tenants, many are being exploited by unscrupulous landlords. (The Government recognized this with the publication in August 2012 of guidance for local authorities: 'Dealing with Rogue Landlords'.) Tenants might be afraid to complain because they fear the consequences, because they don't know their rights or because they can't afford the cost of moving to a different address.

We'll expect the Council to be proactive and to use the full range of statutory enforcement instruments at their disposal to encourage landlords to take action. If landlords are not willing to take action then we'll encourage the Council to compulsorily purchase the properties or we'll offer the landlords the market value and refurbish them ourselves, keep them in local ownership (we intend to set up a community interest company to do this. The company will own the properties and the profits will be paid to the charity which we'll establish) and let them through Wigan Housing Solutions (WHS). We'll also work with WHS and the Credit Union to offer low interest improvement loans to landlords. Being given a low interest loan will come with the proviso that landlords then let their properties through WHS. We want to start working on these initiatives as soon as possible – we recognise that it will take time for any real impact to be felt so the sooner we start the better.

What we want to have in place fairly soon after we start working with the Council is a detailed list of every property in the area which needs attention (whether for external repairs, internal repairs or because of problem owners/tenants) and to have a clear plan of action for each of them. This plan will be monitored by a joint working group on a quarterly basis. We'll expect to see significant improvements by the end of Year One.

We want there to be a change of attitude over time – we want our area to be a place that people want to live in, not where people are trying to leave. We'll work towards encouraging a reduction in the number of properties which are private lets, so that there are more owner-occupiers. We'll look at a range of financial incentives to encourage people to live locally – we'll offer low interest home improvement loans, we'll purchase and rent our own properties, we'll explore low cost mortgages through the Credit Union and shared equity schemes for first time or low income buyers.

As part of our thinking around Education employment and training we want to explore opportunities to work with Wigan and Leigh College to use local people to develop skills – as plumbers, plasterers, electricians, joiners - which we can use to help refurbish properties. We might sponsor individuals as they go to college or we might work with local building firms to help fund apprenticeship opportunities in a range of professions and trades.

We should emphasise that these plans aren't just what we'd like to see. We've met with the local Member of Parliament – the Rt. Hon Andy Burnham MP, and with the Leader of the Council – Lord Smith of Leigh, and they are both enthusiastic about our approach – to work in partnership with a number of agencies, addressing the issues which result from the high proportion of private let properties locally and using our lottery award to kick-start regeneration as well as to lever in additional funds.

**24 Cook Street** – empty and boarded up for at least five years.

This is a prime example of the sort of property that would be a focus of our partnership working with the Council and WHS.



## **Financial Issues**

We want our lottery award to work hard for us, for it to have a real impact, not just in terms of the interest it generates whilst on deposit, but as something which generates social value.

We want to develop a positive working relationship with the local Credit Union (which has a branch in our project area) and to investigate the local social benefits that would result from our lottery award being held by the credit union rather than in a fund in London.

We want to investigate whether the credit union can manage a low cost loan scheme for house improvements for local residents and private landlords. This scheme could be similar to the way that they provide loans for white goods (working with a trusted local supplier which provides goods to the value of the loan and paying the supplier directly) – we'd identify a trusted local building firm which would undertake improvement works at an agreed cost and they would be paid directly for that work and the loan repaid by the applicant.

We want to look at ways that the credit union can support business start-ups, micro businesses and small businesses with low cost business loans.

We want to understand the extent that poverty affects our community and to work with the credit union to support local residents with saving plans and with low cost loans to discourage the use of pay day loans, conditional sales (by companies like Bright House), doorstep lenders and loan sharks.

We want to encourage children in our schools to develop good saving habits by working in partnership with the credit union. We want to explore the possibility of working with Youth Services on financial literacy skills for young people locally.

We want to explore the possibility of baby bond schemes which will give people a good start in life...to go to college or university, to start their own business or as a deposit for a house.

We think that all of these ideas will help improve our area, will improve the quality of life for local people and will make the area a more attractive place to live and settle. We intend to use initiatives like these to develop community spirit and a civic society.

### **Being positive**

At our Special Board meeting of 13 October we agreed that we want to create a 'buzz' about the area, to start to change perceptions as quickly as possible:

- To badge up and to celebrate our achievements
- To be positive about the area at all times
- To get as many people as possible involved in the Board and in the project

We'll adopt these principles as we deliver our priorities in Years One and Two.

## Section Three – Overall role and approach

### Overall role and approach.

Our approach to date has been a pragmatic one and we've followed CDF and Big Local guidance as closely as possible – following the various stages of the Big Local Pathway, seeking advice and guidance from our Local Rep, making contact with officers based in London and attending as many events and seminars as possible. We recognise that the Big Local approach isn't 'one size fits all' and that within the broad terms of the guidance available from Big Local, we can develop our own local 'flavour' or way of working. We have used start-up funds from both phases of 'Getting People Involved' and have drawn down £18,000 of 'Pathway Funding' to continue the work begun with 'Connecting Communities' funds (obtained from the last Government) and to ready ourselves for the start of our Big Local funding.

Our lottery award offers a significant opportunity for us to make a difference locally (in the absence of other initiatives which might kick start improvements in the area – Urban Renewal Funds, Single Regeneration Budget (SRB), Coalfield Challenge etc). We are comfortable in adopting the four programme outcomes for Big Local:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live

We recognise that our consultation has shown that there are a huge number of issues which local people want addressing. We also recognise that some of the issues will take a long time to resolve and that therefore we need to adopt a long term view of our work – that whilst we can make some changes quickly, many issues will take years rather than months to fix and that we shouldn't adopt a quick fix sticking plaster approach but make sure that we have a sustainable long term strategy. We'll do this by working in partnership with a range of agents as well as empowering and equipping local people to make changes to their community.

## Section Four – Outcomes

### Outcomes

We recognise that if we are going to be an effective Partnership Board and deliver real changes locally then we need to have ways of measuring what we've done and whether it has made any difference. We see *outcomes* as being changes to peoples lives. For example: whether they feel safer than they did 12 months ago.

We've decided that the best way for us to measure changes locally is to use, as far as possible, measures for which there is an existing definition, data baseline (available through the Council's WISDOM website) and survey methodology.

Our measures are identified below, we would collect these through an annual survey, with a baseline survey undertaken as soon as possible.

Improvement Areas	Outcomes
Community Facilities	Local people feel that there are a range of community facilities which can be accessed locally
Community Spirit	Percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together  Percentage of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood  Overall/general satisfaction with local area
Crime and Community Safety	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour  People feel safer
Education, Employment and Training	Overall employment rate  People feel more confident and have more skills
Environment	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (graffiti, litter, detritus, fly-posting and fly-tipping)  Property and Land that has been vacant or derelict for more than five years
Health	Self-reported measure of people's overall health and wellbeing
Housing	Average sale or rental value
Leisure	Adult participation in sport. Active library membership

## **Section Five – Action Plan...process, activities and projects**

Everyone involved with the Board is excited by the possibilities that having £1million presents. We'd like to do everything now, but we also recognise that we need to plan what we do and how we do it carefully and that we need to test some of our ideas out rather than jumping in feet first. We also want to make a start on the issues which we know matter most to local people which we've identified earlier in this Plan is the section headed 'Priorities'.

We had a special Board meeting in October 2012 to discuss a draft Plan which had been prepared and which served as a starting point for discussions. At the meeting we agreed the priorities we wanted to look at in the first two years as well as identifying some of the things we wanted to look at alongside the Planning for Real suggestions. All of this can be found in the action plans below.

We'll be working with a number of local organisations to help us deliver our priorities, these include:

- Wigan Council
- Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
- Groundwork
- Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
- Wigan Housing Solutions (WHS)
- Unify Credit Union
- Wigan Library Service
- Community Arts Northwest (CAN)
- NHS Ashton Leigh Wigan

All are trusted organisations with local or national credibility.

Detailed below is our Action Plan for the first two years of our project. It ties in with our priorities and is reflected in our budget. Our outcome measures will be able to test whether we've achieved what we set out to do.

Theme	Projects	Actions	Timescale	Cost
Community Spirit and Community Facilities	Food Project	Create food bank using local supermarkets Create a community café (empty shop unit) Develop an intergenerational and community cohesive food and cookery event Grow and sell food  Mela	Operational by end Year Two  Open by end Year Two  Summer 2013  Sites identified and prepped by end Year One  End Year Two	Admin and distribution costs: £5,000  Set up costs: £10,000  Match funding: £2,500  £2,000  Insurance, PA, marquee etc: £5,000
	Making the Community Plan easier to understand	More photos Use local people as artists	February 2013	Pathway Funding available: £1,000
	Young People – Pilot the planning and delivery of an event or activity	Working alongside adults	Summer 2013	£1,000 - £2,000
	Community Arts Project	Work in partnership with Community Arts Network (CAN) to pilot a range of arts activities	Year One	Match fund contribution: £10,000 – generates a £50,000 project
	Services for parents – nappy change facilities	Work with library, town hall and others to co-ordinate provision of baby change facilities	Year One	Improvement grants available – match funding up to £1,000 available per venue Set aside £5,000 in Years One and Two
	Youth Club/Youth Shelter	Undertake feasibility study in partnership with stakeholders and other agencies – Council, Police, Youth Services	Year One	£5,000 for feasibility study (Successful agent must give work experience to at least two local young people as part of the commission) £1,000 for research visits by Board members.
	Community Centre	Undertake feasibility study in partnership with stakeholders and other agencies – Council, Police, Youth Services	Year One	£5,000 for feasibility study (Successful agent must give work experience to at least two local residents as part of the commission)

				£1,000 for research visits by Board members.
	Mediation training	Provide mediation training to volunteers from the area, may include Homewatch organisers, Young People...	Year One, Year Two	£3,000 in Years One and Two = £6,000

Theme	Projects	Actions	Timescale	Cost
Environment	Clean up campaign	Bouhey Street cluster; General / area wide; Hilton Park & Leigh East cluster; Bengal Street cluster; and Kirkhall & Glebe cluster	Years One and Two	Community clean up pack - £250 each = £1,250
	Work with Council to explore alternatives to deal with Dog Mess Problem including bins	Develop working group Explore ideas from elsewhere Trial ideas Assess impact Explore prosecutions	Year One	£1,500
	Greening activities...flowering shrubs, planted areas, parking bays, trees, community gardens...	Explore options available Identify areas (PfR = Coniston, Eyet, Langdale, Vicarage, & Walmesley	Years One and Two	£2,000
	Pavements and drainage and street lighting	Consult with Council Highways Section to identify their renewal/improvement programmes	Year One	
	Pest Problem	Work with Council Pest Control section to identify areas of concern and sources of problems and address	Year One	

Theme	Projects	Actions	Timescale	Cost
Housing	Work with Council to identify and target priority properties	Form working group (Council Officers, Wigan Housing Solutions, Project Officer, Board members) Identify key properties in Glebe Street Identify landlords or tenants of key properties Notify landlords of expectations, timeframe and opportunities available. Notify tenants of funding opportunities available. Monitor progress. Develop portfolio of Board owned properties	Begin as soon as possible. Aim to have identified properties on Glebe Street and have action plans against each by end of Q2 of Year One. Substantial improvements in at least 75% of properties by end Q4 Year One.	Set aside £50,000 for low interest loans for landlords and tenants. Interest charged at 6% will generate £3,000 interest.
	Develop training and employment opportunities	Develop apprenticeship opportunities with W+L College and local building firms to refurbish properties locally – either private lets or houses we've bought and are refurbishing	Year One	Cost per apprenticeship - £5,000. Aim to have 5 trade apprenticeships: £25,000
	External repairs – walls, fences etc	Work with Council to pilot external improvement schemes working with volunteers, apprentices, community service	Year One	Pilot scheme: £5,000

Theme	Projects	Actions	Timescale	Cost
Financial Matters	Low interest improvement loans for private landlords	Work in partnership with Credit Union	Years One and Two	£20,000 each year
	Low interest improvement loans for local homeowners	Work in partnership with Credit Union	Years One and Two	£20,000 each year
	Low interest business start up loans	Work in partnership with Credit Union	Years One and Two	£20,000 each year
	Low interest study loans	Work in partnership with Credit Union	Years One and Two	£20,000 each year
	Hardship Relief Fund	Work with CAB, LASARS, local churches to explore benefits of a hardship fund for local families	Years One and Two	£2,500 each year
	Financial Literacy	Develop training opportunities for local	Years One and Two	

		residents		
	Baby Bond scheme	Investigate feasibility of Baby Bond scheme for children born in the area who remain until 16 years.	Year One	
	School savings Scheme	Work with local schools to explore savings schemes for pupils	Years One – Ten	£1,000 per year

### Other issues to be addressed in Years One and Two

Theme	Projects	Actions	Timescale	Cost
Crime and Community Safety	Extend Smartwater initiative	Work with GMP, Council and Smartwater to extend community safety initiative	Year One	£5,000
Education, employment and training	Convene brains trust and explore educational development opportunities for years 2, 3, 4, 5	Work with local heads to explore opportunities to enhance local provision.	Year One	£10,000
	Investigate apprenticeship scheme	Talk to Wigan and Leigh College and local building firms to explore sponsorship of an apprenticeship scheme	Year One	
Health	Food project	Work with Heath Trainer team to support Food Project	Year One	
Traffic and Transport	Pelican Crossing on Twist Lane	Work with Wigan Council to support installation of Pelican crossing on Twist Lane	Year One	

### Multi-impact actions

- Mobilising community action and debate
- Inter-generation and cohesion work. Skills for young people. Inclusive decisions
- Skills/apprenticeships – facilities regeneration
- Mobilising energy > ideas > priority
- Use money for empowerment – not just to spend – especially income generated
- Get the community (i.e. different cultures) to come together

## Section Six – Communications Plan

### Communications

Big Local in our area is delivered by a Partnership Board which works with local people and a range of agencies – the Council, the Police, the Credit Union, churches, schools... Board members aren't elected but do represent the local community. We think it's important therefore that our decision-making and actions are accessible and transparent. Our aim is to make our plans publically available as well as the notes of our meetings, our project appraisals, photographs, videos and so on. We have developed a mechanism where local people can contact the administrator for the project, or any Board member directly. We have also developed ways that local people can comment on individual initiatives or pilots.

Here is what we have already done or plan to do:

**Website:** we've set up a website for the Partnership Board ([lnpb.org.uk](http://lnpb.org.uk)). It has details of the range of issues we're going to tackle, what our vision is, and how we're going to deliver. It has minutes of all of our previous meetings, a copy of this Plan and an interactive map showing what we've done in the past and what we're doing next. There is a list of Board members and an email address so that people can contact them directly. We've created a special tab for young people so that they can design and develop their own look and feel – including developing a Facebook site if they feel this is more appropriate. We'll also develop a Twitter site.

**Newsletter:** we got some Pathway funding for a newsletter and intend to publish every four months. The newsletter will be hand delivered to every residential and business property in the area.

**Local consultation and area specific leafleting:** if we are working on a local initiative which might be contentious we'll consult with people living in that area – by questionnaire, by organising a focus group or by door knocking. We'll always let people know that something is happening on their street by leafleting individual houses.

**Annual meeting:** we intend to hold an annual meeting for local people. We'll outline what we've achieved over the past twelve months and set out our plans for the next year.

**Media relations:** we'll look to work with the local media, but will be conscious that our project area is closely defined and that therefore our stories might not have wide appeal.

**Language:** we recognise that not everyone who lives locally uses English as their first language. We'll make sure that there is a Google translation facility on our website. We'll engage a translator for meetings and suchlike if we think we'll need one, and will translate documents into community languages.

**Accessibility:** we recognise that some people access documents, websites etc in different ways. We've designed our website so that users with sight impairment issues can define their own background colours. We'll always provide documents in large print if required and will explore translations into Braille if we're asked. We try and use Plain English wherever we can (but accept that we don't always succeed) so will commission specialists to produce easy to understand versions of large and complicated documents like this one. We're looking at how we can commission the Youth Council to produce a 'Plain English' version of our Plan as well as a 'Plain Slovak' version too.

**Sharing the Plan:** once we're completely happy with our Plan we'll hold a series of public meetings to share the details with local people.

## **Section Seven – A plan for our entire Big Local area**

### **Our Plan**

Hopefully readers of this Plan will recognise that we're taking a measured approach to making sustainable change to our area over the 10 year term of our lottery award. We're looking to develop projects and initiatives which will deal with those issues which people see as soon as they step out of their front door as a priority in our first two years. These issues affect the whole area even though they are sometimes specific to individual streets or clusters of streets. We're also taking a strategic approach to some of the bigger concerns for our area – money matters, health, crime and community safety, which we know will take a longer time to deliver.

This Plan is the culmination of nearly 3 years work – public meetings, community projects, initiatives paid for through the Residents Fund, developing good and close working relations with local schools, the Police, local churches, residents, volunteers, Youth Services. Consultation through Planning for Real with over 700 local people (young people, older people, people who've lived here all of their lives and people from other countries, men and women), the establishment of an independent Residents Association (Leigh Central Residents Association), door-knocking, the constitution of a Partnership Board, applications for funds and resources from Big Local, Keep Britain Tidy, Big Lunch, the Woodland Trust, work with the Probation Service and Wigan Council's Youth Offending Team and the boundless enthusiasm and optimism of local people. It represents the hopes and ambitions that we have to make our area better, not just for today, but for the next 10 years and for 10 years after that. The Plan will affect everyone who lives in our area, and our Communications Plan will ensure that everyone in the area has the opportunity to understand, contribute to the debate and participate.

## **Section Eight – Real issues, big challenges and trying new things**

### **Real issues**

Our Plan is based on five distinct phases of consultation

- Baseline questionnaire sent to all residents
- Public meetings organised by Leigh Neighbours project
- Consultation by Leigh Central Residents Association
- Planning for Real
- Focus groups with young people by Youth Services

as well as the observations and insights of residents and officers who work locally.

Our evidence base for our Plan is substantial and objective. We are determined to address issues that affect people on a day to day basis as well as issues which have a longer term impact. We know that by working together and in partnership with other agencies we can make a lasting positive difference to our area.

## Section Nine – Budgets

### Budgets

Over the next five pages you'll find a number of tables which show our financial planning in both detailed and summary form.

Our budgets are based on actual data wherever possible, and on informed estimating where not. We'll review our financial planning alongside the rest of the Plan in 12 months and will revise our budget in the light of that review.

We'd like to flag the fact that we may need to make a submission to Big Local for additional funds part way through our financial year in order to take advantage of opportunities in the Housing Sector.

### Summary Budget – Years One to Five

Year	One	Two	Three	Four	Five		Total
Expenditure	257,750	166,950	93,200	93,200	93,200		704,300
Income	14845	14506	9642	7778	5914		52685
What is our endowment total?	14845	29351	38993	46771	52685		52685

## Headline Budget – Expenditure – Years One to Five

Year	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Category Total	% of money spent over 5 years
<b>Theme</b>							
Community Spirit	29,500	33,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	92,500	9.25%
Environment	4,750	3,250	5,000	5,000	5,000	23,000	2.30%
Housing	80,000	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	110,000	11.00%
Financial Matters	83,500	83,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	170,000	17.00%
Community Facilities	7,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	42,000	4.20%
Crime and Community Safety	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	4.00%
Education, employment and training	15,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	60,000	6.00%
Health	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	4.00%
Leisure	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	4.00%
Traffic and Transport	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	40,000	4.00%
Contingency							
<b>Miscellaneous costs</b>							
Partnership running costs		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	0.40%
Project Officer *	18,000					18,000	1.80%
Residents Fund		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	20,000	2.00%
Newsletter		1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	4,800	0.48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>257,750</b>	<b>166,950</b>	<b>93,200</b>	<b>93,200</b>	<b>93,200</b>	<b>704,300</b>	<b>70.43%</b>
1,000,000							
What is left of our £1million after this period?	742,250	575,300	482,100	388,900	295,700		

\*This was discussed and agreed by the Board at their meeting of 18 October 2012.

<b>Pathway Funding – Year One only.</b>	<b>£</b>
Partnership running costs	600
Project Officer	6,000
Youth Council running costs	722
Residents Fund	5,000
Newsletter	1,200
Working with Wigan Housing Solutions	3,000
Clean-up campaign – pilot	253
Contingency	1,222
Writing the Plan	2,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>

### Headline Budget - Income – Years One to Five

Year	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Category Total
Low cost loans - interest		3,000				3000
Capital - Interest	14845	11506	9642	7778	5914	49685
Property rental						0
Spare line						0
Spare line						0
Spare line						0
Spare line						0
Total for this period	14845	14506	9642	7778	5914	52685
Match levered funding	40,000					0
Contributions in kind	TBC					0

## Detailed 2 year budget – Expenditure

Period	Year One	Year One	Year Two	Year Two	Total
	Q 1, 2	Q 3, 4	Q 1, 2	Q 3, 4	
<b>Theme</b>					
Community Spirit	29,500		33,000		61,500
Environment	4,750		3,250		8,000
Housing	80,000				80,000
Financial Matters	83,500		83,500		167,000
Community Facilities	7,000		5,000		10,000
Crime and Community Safety	5,000		5,000		10,000
Education, employment and training	15,000		15,000		10,000
Health	5,000		5,000		10,000
Leisure	5,000		5,000		10,000
Traffic and Transport	5,000		5,000		10,000
Contingency					0
<b>Miscellaneous costs</b>					0
Partnership running costs			1,000		1,000
Project Officer	18,000				18,000
Residents Fund			5,000		5,000
Newsletter			1,200		1,200
<b>Total</b>	257,750	0	166,950	0	424,700

## Appendix One

### Partnership Board members, attendees and support – September 2012

Helen Ahmed	Headteacher, Sacred Heart Catholic School
Mehmood Ahmed	Youth Worker, Wigan Council
Lisa Brew	Resident, Co-chair
Jean Coates-Topping	Resident, Manager – Willow Project
Reverend Kevin Crinks	St. Mary the Virgin Church
Reverend Mark Street	Kingsleigh Methodist Church
Christine Farnworth	Resident
John Gredecki	Resident
Susan Gredecki	Resident, Co-chair
Councillor Susan Greensmith	Ward Member
Christopher Harris	District Manager, Citizen's Advice Bureau
Inspector Simon Monks	Neighbourhood Policing Team, Greater Manchester Police
Mo Lambourne	Resident
Joyce Morris	Resident
Councillor Peter Smith	Ward Member
Anita Thorpe	Resident
Audrey Ward	Resident
Councillor Myra Whiteside	Ward Member

### Young People who also attend Board meetings

Adrian	Resident
Adriana	Resident
Patricia	Resident
Patryck	Resident
Sam	Resident
Youth Services staff supporting young people	Karen Freeman, Carolyn Casey, Deb Hall.

### Partnership Board support

Lynn Kay	Locality Development Officer, Wigan Council
Suzanne Quinney	Big Local Representative
Stephen Ruffley	Project Officer, Leigh Neighbours Project
Andrew Sharrock	Operational Partnership and Locality Development Manager, Wigan Council
Sue Shaw	Citizen's Advice Bureau