Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU

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Draft Minutes of the Ein Rhyl / Our Rhyl Board Meeting

Date	5th December 2025
Time	3:30 – 5:00pm
Location	Rhyl Youth Centre / Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)
Present	**Members**: Craig Sparrow (Chair), Cyng/Cllr Barry Mellor, Gareth Davies MS, Cyng/Cllr Jason McLellan, Gareth Matthews, Sue Nash, Nadeem Ahmad, Wayne Jones, Lee Boycott **Advisors:** Martin Williams (Radar PR), Nick Bennett (Savills), Tom Barham (DVSC), Liz Grieve & External Funding Manager
Apologies	Gill German MP, Crispin Jones, Jane Moore, Jim Jones, Wesley Williams, Peter James (Welsh Government), Tony Ward (DCC), Rhyl Regeneration Programme Manager

1. Welcome, apologies and declaration of interest

The Chair welcomed the Board Members.

Apologies were noted.

No declarations of interests were raised.

2. Minutes from 7th November 2025 Board Meeting

The Board Minutes from the 7th November Board meeting were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.

3. Our Rhyl Regeneration Plan: Status Update

It was explained that the Our Rhyl Regeneration Plan was submitted to UK

Government on the 27th November, with receipt acknowledged from UK Government. The Portal closed at noon 28th November.

The process now will involve the following steps: All plans will be triaged to identify any gaps in information – if identified, UK Government will reopen the portal for that location to submit the required information. Then an assessment will be undertaken. At this stage, UK Government may issue a change request which would indicate they would like to see more detail on one or more sections of the plan. All plans will then the taken through a moderation panel with one of the following outcomes: a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is issued (this outlines the terms and conditions of the grant funding), a MoU with conditions is issued, or UK Government determine the place isn't ready and won't move forward yet. For those places with an MoU, the first delivery payment is expected in April 2026.

The Chair and Board members extended their thanks to the Rhyl Regeneration Programme Manager for all the hard work and efforts involved in submitting the plan on time.

It was explained that timescales for feedback from UK Government was unknown at this stage as there may be some additional back and forth with UK Government as they are assessing, but that the Board would be kept up to date with developments

4. Board Structure Review

The Board were presented with the slides concerning the Board Structure and it was explained that a new prospectus had been introduced by UK Government on Wednesday of this week, so there had not been a lot of time for Board members to digest the changes. Importantly, though, the Board noted that the new prospectus mandates that all boards should be working toward towards a community-led model by year three of the Programme. It was noted that there was lots of complexity to work through, but that there were several advantages to the Board in being its own entity, for example, its ability to apply for further funding in its own right to seek match funding to support projects and opportunities throughout the plan's delivery.

It was confirmed that this didn’t have to be a new body, it might mean an ‘anchor’ organisation or an alternative established board changing and adapting.

The Board felt it would be worthwhile having a session dedicated the prospectus changes in the New Year outlining what the changes would mean for the Board and their impacts. The Board were informed that DVSC could support this, and it was explained that UK Government would also be setting up a new team to help support this change. It was felt it was better to address and get to grips with this early to help the board grow, learn, and develop, learning from best practice.

Meanwhile it was agreed that the Board needs to review its own membership and structure, to recruit new members to the Board in readiness for the governance change and for the delivery of the Plan.

The Board discussed the various options presented. The Board noted that its original intention was always to establish stakeholder groups, as referred to in Option 3. The challenge of recruiting and supporting these groups was acknowledged, as this would need more resources than are currently allocated to support this work and a greater time demand on Board members who themselves are volunteers. It was felt that the mechanism for the stakeholder groups to inform the Board should be made more explicit. Nevertheless, it was agreed that this more inclusive approach would strengthen the visibility across the Rhyl communities.

DVSC presented a proposed structure informed by the Brighter Futures proposals which had already been shared with the Board. The Board recognised and agreed with the main drive behind the proposal, ensuring that community voices continue to be heard. It was explained that DVSC, as the Third Sector umbrella body, have been running an advisory Board across Denbighshire and have experience in that field and they could assist in this area However, they stressed there would need to be tight Terms of Reference for an advisory board if established. There was concern that the proposed structure presented through DVSC was divided - it was felt that there was no clarity on how decisions would be made and it was felt the multi-layered approach could take a substantial amount of time to reach conclusion and could impact on delivery. The proposal states that one organisation would be responsible for the management and administration of the Our Rhyl Board and the several proposed stakeholder groups feeding in. As it currently stands, this is where the County Council would need take action as the current Accountable Body: the Council would need to go out to tender for a provider as they would not be able to choose one organisation over others without going through the proper procurement processes. This is something the Board would need to consider as there would no additional money to support this exercise or to support the additional management and administration and it would be taken from the revenue allocation per annum.

The Board opted to defer any decisions today due to the a) the number of apologies received for today's meeting and b) the very recent receipt of the revised guidance. It was agreed that indicative costs for the proposals should be worked up so that an informed decision can be made in the New Year.

AGREED: The Board agreed to the principle that the future structure would involve stakeholder subgroups and indicative costs for the various proposals should be reviewed by the Board in the New Year.

5. New Board Member Process

The process and indicative timetable as shared in the slides was agreed except for a commitment to remain a member of the Board for 4 years (except in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the Chair) instead of 5 years as suggested in the slides.

It was felt that regardless of the structure decided upon, there was still a need to recruit to the Board, following recent resignations, and by recruiting it sets the Board in good position ahead of any changes in the Board structure.

It was agreed that the Community Representatives on the Board would oversee the disbursement of key fund grant monies on behalf of the Board, so this to be added to the Role Description. It was further agreed that the current Board Members would need to renew their own commitment to the Board, in line with the principles outlined, including automatic resignation for non-attendance.

AGREED: To progress with Board member recruitment.

AGREED: Board granted delegated authority to the Chair to approve the advertisement to be circulated.

AGREED: Board asked that applications be categorised, and the level of interest to also inform stakeholder group involvement.

ACTION: Chair to share with the Board a summary of recent responses to correspondence received.

6. AOB

The Board was concerned about mixed messages about what the Local Regeneration Fund (formerly Levelling Up Fund) was delivering and what this Board would deliver.

ACTION: Martin to issue comms to make clear the difference between the 2 programmes and highlight that no money from this Board has yet been spent on projects.

The Board confirmed its aspiration that it could look to acquire assets in the future to generate income, to have legacy into the future a way to fund future projects and ideas beyond Pride in Place.

As this was Nick Bennett’s last meeting, the Board passed on their best wishes and thanked him and the Savill’s team for all their efforts in supporting the Board and plan development.

The Meeting concluded at 5:00pm.