ein our Rhyl | BALCHDER BRO CHI SY'N ARWAIN – GYDA CHEFNOGAETH LLYWODRAETH Y DU | PRIDE IN PLACE LED BY YOU – BACKED BY UK GOVERNMENT

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Friday 24th April 2026 Board Meeting Minutes	
Meeting: Date: Time: Location:	**Ein Rhyl / Our Rhyl Board** **Friday 24th April 2026** **4.00pm-5.00pm** **Online via Teams**

Board Member Attendees:	Craig Sparrow, Chair		Gill German, MP		[Vacant,] MS	
	Cllr Jason McLellan		Cllr Barry Mellor*		Nadeem Ahmed	
	Sue Nash		Julie Pierce		Emma Watling	
	Linzi Jones		Justin Bell		Leonie Wainwright	
	Jonathan Pico**		Simon Keeting			
Advisory/ Support:	Peter James		Natalie Nolan		Tony Ward	
	Tom Barham		Janine Downing		Martin Williams	
	Programme Support					
Apologies:	Shown in red					

*Was available for the original meeting date.
**Late arrival.

1.	Welcome Apologies and Declaration of Interests Apologies were received from Cllr Barry Mellor*, Tony Ward (Advisory) and Tom Barham (Advisory). Due to the pre-election period, the MS position will remain vacant until after the elections. Natalie Nolan (MHCLG, UK Government) who is an advisor to the Our Rhyl Board was introduced for the benefit of the new Board Members. No declaration of interests were raised.	4.00pm 5 mins

2.	Minutes from 27th March 2026 Board Meeting The Board Minutes from the 27th March 2026 Board meeting were submitted and confirmed as a correct record.	5 mins
3.	Appointment of Vice-Chair The Board were informed that Emma Watling and Justin Bell had expressed their interest in the Vice-Chair role. The Chair thanked the two Members for considering this additional responsibility and proposed that both Members undertake a 6-month rotating Vice-Chair position. It was suggested that Emma Watling undertake this role for May-26 to October-26 handing over to Justin Bell for November-26 to April-27. The two Members and wider Board accepted this proposal. In relation to an action from 27th March Board meeting where appointing a Local Authority Senior Officer onto the Board was discussed, the Chair provided an update. The Chair informed the Board that he met with MHCLG in April and it was agreed that the Local Authority Senior Officer representative remain as an advisor to the Board at this time.	5 mins
4.	**Approval**: Monitoring Return to UK Government The Board were informed that the Local Authority, as the Accountable Body, are required to submit a monitoring return on behalf of the Board in relation to activities, funding spent and funding forecasts. This is facilitated through UK Government's online portal, which opened on 1 April 2026. UK Government require that, as the Accountable Body, the Local Authority's Section 151 Officer (Chief Financial Officer) signs-off on the return, that the Board sign-off on the information provided within return and that the information is made publicly available. Monitoring returns will be required every April and every October. The Board were informed that for the April monitoring return updated Board details have been provided and capacity spending to date will be submitted as shown in Appendix 1 Monitoring Return Information. UK Government allow for the grouping of financial data where appropriate. It was explained that UK Government have provided capacity funding to the Local Authority in 4 tranches with the most recent tranche of £150,000 received earlier this month (April 2026).	20 mins

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	This capacity funding has so far facilitated the establishment of this independent Board, funded prior engagement, workshops and, commissions and will continue to fund upcoming/future community engagement. Ongoing management costs, such as communications and Board / programme support has been funded from this capacity funding and it will be an ongoing use of this funding. Branding, plan development and website development have also been funded from the capacity funding across several external providers. Other ancillary expenditure has also been covered from these funds such as printing, display materials, advertising and stationery. Of the £600,000 capacity funding provided by UK Government, £227,168.65 has been spent and £372,831.35 remained at the end of the last financial year (ie as at 31 March 2026). The Board were informed that the remaining capacity funding amount reduces on a daily basis as it funds the ongoing Board/programme support and communications costs. Upcoming/future community engagement will also be funded from this remaining capacity funding. The Board were also reminded that once the previously agreed new/additional programme support / Secretariat roles are appointed this will have a larger financial impact on the remaining capacity funding than is currently the case. It was explained that UK Government will not be providing any more capacity funding and once the capacity funding is spent, all the ongoing and future expenditure of the Board will need to be borne from the revenue portion of the delivery funding. Delivery funding of this programme is split as 75% capital and 25% revenue – the Board were reminded that this will add an ongoing pressure to the revenue funding that is available for project delivery and that is specified within the Pride in Place Programme guidance. Going forward, in addition to capacity funding activities and Board details, the monitoring return will also need to include the following: -Projects delivered using programme funding -Projects planned using programme funding -Forecast capacity funding spend -Forecast programme delivery funding spend -Outputs The forecasts will be prepared following the planned summer engagement and once grading for the new roles has been determined. The Board were informed that the monitoring return information has to be submitted no later than 30th April.	

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	The Board discussed the monitoring return, with a focus on the ensuing financial position once the capacity funding has been exhausted, given this will reduce the revenue funding available for project delivery. The Board discussed the need to keep an oversight of this aspect to ensure the Board can continue to cover its ongoing operational costs. The Board were asked to approve the monitoring return to enable its submission to UK Government by 30th April. The Board proposed and seconded the motion to approve the monitoring return and the Board voted in favour of its submission. **Action:** The Programme Manager to submit the Monitoring Return to UK Government.	
5.	**Discussion**: Action Group & Engagement Suggestions Following on from the 27th March Board meeting, the Board continued the discussion around upcoming engagement and action groups and how this could be put into action noting the limited Board support available to facilitate events. It was suggested that several action groups form with specific themes and these could be focused on youth, town centre, events/culture and environment/well-being. These events should focus on highlighting the Our Rhyl programme and collecting feedback on what members of the community love about their town, what they see as Rhyl's strengths/opportunities as well as what improvements they would like to see across the town that would make a difference to them. An underlying set of questions could be used to provide a structure to each engagement. Members were asked which group they would be willing to evolve and participate in and to provide a list of upcoming events, existing group meetings and one-off ideas (supermarket, schools etc) that could be attended to gain input from as much of the community as possible. Action group membership could therefore evolve organically with additional action groups established once feedback has been gathered as applicable. The Board discussed that it was an evolving not static process. Natalie Nolan from MHCLG added that the underlying ethos of this programme is people, power and place. It's about people coming together and sharing the power to enable their changes in their place. She further explained that the engagement aspect of the programme is very important and the ongoing engagement can harness what already exists.	20 mins

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	The Board provided input of groups and events that they are already involved in and engagement can be incorporated within this. It was expressed that the Board needed to move forward swiftly to undertake this refreshed engagement sooner rather than later. Direct MP engagement work will also be going out in May and this can sit alongside the additional Board engagement. **Action:** All Board Members to provide information on groups, events and networks they are involved in across Rhyl to incorporate within the Summer engagement by 1st May. **Action:** The Programme Manager to provide a schedule of engagement events following receipt of the above action information. **Action:** The Board to then begin its refreshed engagement.	
6.	AOB The Chair informed that DVSC will be providing Board development for all Board Members. The Board requested that the website be updated with the new Board Members and it was explained that pen profiles were almost complete and all this information will be uploaded in the near-term. The Board also acknowledged that an external website existed that is using similar Our Rhyl branding as well as other Our Rhyl copyright information such as photographs. It was confirmed that this external website was not connected to Our Rhyl and contained incorrect information. It was agreed that a request would be made to have the external website taken down as it was causing confusion. **Action:** The Board to request the external website is removed.	5 mins
7.	Date of next meeting: In-person meeting at Rhyl Youth Centre 19th June 2026, 3-5pm Meeting Close	5.12pm

Appendix 1 Monitoring Return Information

- UK Government require that the Accountable Body submit a monitoring return via its online portal
  - The returns will be required every April and October
  - Spending can be submitted as grouped information
  - UK Government require the monitoring return be signed off by DCC's Section 151 Officer (as Accountable Body), by the Neighbourhood Board and information be made publicly available following submission to MHCLG
  - Grouped capacity spending for financial years 2024/25 and 2025/26 is as follows:

Capacity Funding In from MHCLG	Amount
2024-2025	50,000
2024-2025	200,000
2025-2026	200,000
2026-2027	150,000
Total Capacity Funding	**600,000**

FY 2024-2026 Capacity Spending		MHCLG Category
FY 2024-2026: Training Refreshments.	75.00	Training - ongoing
FY 2024-2026: Board and programme support & ongoing communications support.	43,757.51	Management costs - ongoing
FY 2024-2026: Multiple providers for branding development, plan development and website development.	108,450.96	Consultancy - concluded
FY 2024-2026: Business, third sector and youth sector engagement, online and in-person town centre surveying.	70,512.79	Community outreach and engagement - ongoing
FY 2024-2026: Printing, display materials, advertising and stationery.	4,372.39	Other - as required

Total Capacity Funding Received 2024-2026	**600,000.00**
Total Capacity Funding Spent 2024-2026	**227,168.65**
Remaining Capacity Funding for Ongoing Management Costs & Engagement	**372,831.35**

- Financial forecasting will be provided following the clarification of ongoing engagement & action group work, additional Board support resourcing and anticipated near-term project delivery

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