



AGENDA 21



Wigan
Council

The Agenda 21 Plan for the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What the Agenda 21 Plan is for

The Prime Minister asked every local authority in the UK to produce a Local Agenda 21 Plan by December 2000.

Wigan's Local Agenda 21 Plan is part of a network of similar plans covering the whole country as well as an integral part of Wigan's own Community Plan.

Local Agenda 21 Plans show how the local community aims to achieve sustainable development. This means assessing the local environmental, social and economic situation and addressing the long term impacts locally and globally on the quality of life that we will hand down to present and future generations.

By setting out our Vision, Key Themes and Objectives (that is, the most important problems facing the community and what we aim to do about them), our Agenda 21 Plan is

Challenging the way we live for the *new millennium*

How to find out more about the Agenda 21
Plan for Metropolitan Wigan

A copy of the full plan can be obtained from:

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Wigan Council, Civic Buildings,
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Contact: Janet Withington,
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Or visit:
www.wigan.gov.uk



Why we need a Local Agenda 21 Plan

"If present policies continue, the world in the 21st Century will be more crowded, more polluted, less stable economically and ecologically, and more vulnerable to violent disruption than the world we live in now".

Millennium Institute "Global 2000 Revisited".

Whilst some of the more critical problems facing the planet may seem a long way or a long time off, we cannot insulate ourselves from their effects. Nor can we escape the responsibility to do something about them.

We also have problems close to home: pollution, waste, traffic congestion, pressures for development, loss of wildlife, crime, health, poverty.

A Vision for Sustainable Development



There needs to be a vision, which we can all share, of how we want our Borough to develop in the future. That vision has to be based on the principles of 'sustainable development' namely:

- ◆ MAKING SURE THAT EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE
- ◆ RAISING PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THEIR WORLD
- ◆ GIVING PEOPLE MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN LIVES, AND A GREATER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS OTHERS
- ◆ PROTECTING THE LONG TERM INTERESTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
- ◆ TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE LINKS BETWEEN ONE COURSE OF ACTION AND ANOTHER

How the Agenda 21 Plan fits into the Boroughs' overall intentions



Wigan Council is working with various partners, such as the Police, health authorities, Wigan Borough Partnership and voluntary and community organisations to achieve the vision for the Borough's future. The Leader of the Council, Lord Peter Smith, has set up a Leader's Forum to bring the main partners together. The Forum oversees a Community Plan and seven main Partnerships take responsibility for specific topics such as Health and Community Safety. One of these bodies, the Environment and Development Partnership, oversees the Agenda 21 Plan which feeds into the Community Plan and considers both Agenda 21 planning and overall strategic planning for the Borough.

How the Agenda 21 Plan was prepared



The Council invited a wide range of interested and concerned members of the public, people from business and industry, voluntary and community groups and public sector organisations to help shape the Agenda 21 Plan. They took part in four topic groups as well as commenting in writing.

In addition, a Local Agenda 21 Roadshow Bus toured the Borough to find out what people were concerned about and their ideas for improving the environment and quality of life.

Leaflets, posters, a telephone hotline, press coverage and a dedicated Agenda 21 website also attracted responses.

Schoolchildren attended "Children's Parliament" events and hundreds of people across the Borough have taken part in a Parish Map project.

Nevertheless, we need to actively involve many more people if the actions of governments, businesses and individuals are to be influenced for the better.

What happens next?



The Agenda 21 Plan has been published and sent to the government.

Sustainable development is also increasingly part of central and local government's core concerns, as it is with other public sector and private organisations. The issues raised in the Agenda 21 Plan will be taken up through the Community Plan and, where they affect Council services, through the Council's Best Value Performance Plan.

How the Agenda 21 Plan Works:



The plan is organised around four main sustainability issues:

- 1. Understanding the problems and being part of the solutions**
- 2. The Economy**
- 3. Social Issues**
- 4. The Environment**

These are then broken down into **26 Key Themes** and **42 Objectives**, which were identified by the Agenda 21 Topic Groups, and these are outlined below.

The first section of the full plan explains **what is important** about these objectives and describes the **indicators** which will tell us how much progress is being made, what **targets** we will set ourselves and the main **actions** that are needed.

The actions are then explained in more detail in the second part, the **Action Plan**, which says what will happen, who will be responsible, how it will be paid for and when it will be carried out. Some problems will require action which is beyond local control, such as by government or multi-national companies; these are also described.

Understanding The Problems And Being Part Of The Solutions:



one

Raising awareness and encouraging involvement in every sector of the community through education and publicity.

Objective 1.1: To identify the quality of life issues to which people give priority and ensure they are addressed in the implementation of the Local Agenda 21 strategy.

Objective 1.2: Through environmental education, disseminating 'best practice', community participation and local 'ownership' of projects, to enhance people's awareness and understanding of sustainable living, particularly in relation to the natural environment, energy efficiency, transportation and pollution.

Objective 1.3: To improve awareness about waste issues amongst those who are responsible for creating and disposing waste and, through education, minimise waste and litter



two

Promoting sustainable development within the education sector.

Objective 2.1: To ensure that, by September 2000, all schools and colleges in Wigan have addressed the curriculum requirements for the inclusion of citizenship and sustainable development within their own curriculum.

Objective 2.2: To encourage good environmental practice in schools and colleges in the borough.



three

Equity: improving access to opportunities to improve quality of life.

Objective 3.1: To ensure that everyone has access to high-quality vocational training and employment opportunity.

The Economy



four

Encouraging businesses to be environmentally and socially responsible.

Objective 4.1: To minimise waste in all forms of business within the Borough

Objective 4.2: To increase the proportion of raw materials in use which come from sustainable supplies.

Objective 4.3: To encourage local sourcing of goods, services and labour.

Objective 4.4: To encourage community businesses (e.g. local Credit Unions, Co-ops and Local Exchange Trading Systems).

Objective 4.5: To ensure tourism in the Borough is managed sustainably.



five

Local development and regeneration which is more sustainable.

Objective 5.1: To give priority to new development and buildings which have a positive effect on the environment and use as few resources as possible.



six

Reclaiming and recycling derelict land.

Objective 6.1: To encourage the recycling of brownfield sites and the reclamation of derelict land.



seven

Improving town centres.

Objective 7.1: To create vibrant and varied town centres which will be the focus of retail, service, business, leisure, cultural and civic activities.



eight

Reducing the need to travel.

Objective 8.1: To reduce the number of longer journeys to places outside town centres through careful planning.

Objective 8.2: To reduce the number of unwanted journeys by encouraging greater use of new communication technology



nine

Reducing the use of private transport.

Objective 9.1: To bring about a reduction in the use of private motor vehicles (cars, lorries and other commercial vehicles).

Objective 9.2: To reduce the environmental, economic and social costs of private motor transport.



ten

Encouraging the use of public transport.

Objective 10.1: To increase the use of public transport relative to car use by improving quality and image, cost, convenience, accessibility, safety, cleanliness, low pollution and integration between services.



eleven

Encouraging other forms of transport.

Objective 11.1: To increase the proportion of journeys made on foot by bicycle, motorcycle and by taxi, relative to journeys made by private motor car

Objective 11.2: To investigate the potential contribution to be made by currently under used forms of transport, such as canals or new technologies.

Social Issues



twelve

Improving health.

Objective 12.1: To work together to provide accessible and high quality services which promote healthy living, prevent ill-health, provide health and social care when necessary and minimise the handicap of disadvantage and disability.



thirteen

Tackling poverty and promoting social inclusion.

Objective 13.1: To improve the physical and emotional well-being of individuals and families and the quality of the environment in which they live through joint planning of services.

Objective 13.2: To agree a common definition of poverty and map the incidence of poverty in the Borough.



fourteen

Sustainable housing and neighbourhoods.

Objective 14.1: To make neighbourhoods good places to live in by encouraging partnerships between residents and other agencies which ensure that local communities have a pivotal role in addressing their housing needs and the well-being of their neighbourhood.

Objective 14.2: To improve the standard of repair and maintenance in public and private sector housing stock.



fifteen

Crime and community safety.

Objective 15.1: Through the Borough's Community Safety Strategy, to plan, deliver and evaluate positive action that reduces crime, fear of crime, drug-related harm and offending behaviour through multi-agency work acting alongside local residents - with the aim of creating safe, healthy and thriving communities.



sixteen

Sustainable leisure and culture.

Objective 16.1: To ensure that high quality leisure and cultural activities are available to all and that such activities are managed sustainably.

The Environment



seventeen

Energy conservation and affordable energy.

Objective 17.1: To ensure that all residents of the Borough have energy efficient homes, irrespective of whether they live in council or private housing.

Objective 17.2: To improve the energy efficiency of public buildings and local businesses and, in doing so, make the most of technological innovation.

The Environment



eighteen

Reducing air pollution.

Objective 18.1: To measure air pollution in the Borough and take action to minimise it.



nineteen

Reducing water pollution and water wastage.

Objective 19.1: To measure and take action to minimise pollution of drinking water, rivers, canals, flashes and watercourses in the Borough.

Objective 19.2: To assess the extent of water wastage in the Borough and take action to minimise it.



twenty

Reducing land pollution.

Objective 20.1: To measure land pollution in the Borough and take action to minimise it.



twentyone

Reducing noise pollution.

Objective 21.1: To measure noise pollution in the Borough and take action to minimise it.



twentytwo

Managing access to, and recreational pressures on, the countryside.

Objective 22.1: To improve and create opportunities for safe, sensitive and attractive access to the Borough's countryside and recreational areas, close to where people live.



twentythree

Conserving and protecting the landscape, open spaces and habitats.

Objective 23.1: To conserve, protect and improve the quality of the Borough's landscape, open land and urban greenspaces.

Objective 23.2: To enhance and protect the Borough's biodiversity through the development and implementation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.



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Protecting our built and architectural heritage.

Objective 24.1: To conserve and protect the Borough's built, historic and architectural heritage.



twentyfive

Waste and recycling.

Objective 25.1: To improve and create opportunities for the sustainable management of waste within the Borough, in particular the recycling of household waste.



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Enhancing the quality of the local physical environment

Objective 26.1: To address the concerns of local residents about the quality of the local physical environment.