



There are growing rumours circulating within the borough that the current Leader of Wigan Council is preparing to retire and that Cllr Chris Ready has already been named by some councillors as his successor, despite no formal announcement having been made.

Given the significance of the Leader's role in shaping the borough's strategic direction, particularly in relation to key heritage and cultural projects such as the restoration of Haigh Hall, we are seeking clarity on the following:

1. What is the formal process for selecting a new Leader of Wigan Council?

The Leader of the Council is appointed every four years, by a vote undertaken by the full Council, made up of all 75 Elected Members (usually at its AGM meeting in May).
2. Who is eligible to stand?

Any Elected Member is eligible to put themselves forward for the role of Leader of the Council. This process is a political process and one that officers of the Council have no involvement in.
3. How are candidates nominated?

See answer to question 2.
4. Who votes or decides the outcome?

See answer to question 1 and 2.
5. What is the timeline and mechanism for formal appointment

There is no formal timeline in relation to the formal appointment for the Leader of the Council.
6. Has Wigan Council received any formal notification or indication from the current Leader regarding retirement, resignation, or succession? If so, please provide the relevant dates and documentation.

The current Leader of the Council's term of office for his position only ends in May 2026, and he has no obligation to inform anyone of retirement, resignation, or succession until that time.
7. Have any discussions, meetings, or internal communications taken place regarding the appointment of a new Leader or potential successor?

Should any meetings take place, these meetings would be private and confidential between the parties involved and that were deemed relevant.
8. Has any communication, internal or public, been drafted or prepared regarding a potential leadership transition?

No.