



Could you please provide the following information. For projects from January 2024 up to date and for ongoing work and upcoming, planned work

Public art

1. What is being done to make the town hall space more inclusive in terms of race, and LGBT inclusion?
2. What artworks have been installed or removed to help with this? Paintings linked to empire and slavery for example.
3. What public art more generally, has been commissioned to improve diversity and inclusion?
4. What public art more generally, has been removed, or given greater context, or reviewed for links to offensive or outmoded issues - statues linked to empire and slavery, for example

A changing exhibition from the Council's Drumcroom collection is sited at the town hall, in the public areas of the building. The works within the collection promote arts education and are inclusive in nature.

There are no artworks within the town hall linked to empire and slavery.

Frankie – a non-binary puppet was commissioned in 2024 as part of the 'Streets Apart Festival' in Wigan. Frankie regularly featured within town centre events such as Pride to positively promote diversity and inclusion.

A review of the boroughs permanent public art/sculpture was undertaken in 2021/22 to identify any pieces that had links to outmoded issues. The review did not present any pieces that required the context to be updated.

Local museums

5. What is being done to make local museums (if applicable) more inclusive in terms of race, and LGBT inclusion?
6. What displays have been added or updated to help with this? For example, have outdated displays been taken down?

Wigan Museum has worked with Global Friends - a local youth group with diverse backgrounds, to create new digital content online and in the museum. Wigan Museum has also consulted a range of different community groups to feed into development of planned new gallery content, and is committed to working with a range of groups across the borough to co-curate new content. This includes We are Explorers CIC and Everything Human Rights.

No displays have been identified as being out of date or taken down in this context. A new NLHF funded project will be creating new content for 2027 and consultation and co-curation with our communities is baked into the development process to ensure that the new content is inclusive and reflective of the changing demographics of the borough.

7. What research is being undertaken?

There is a small collection of ethnographic material in the museum collections – this collection will be researched in the near future as part of a planned longer-term decolonisation project to ensure the collections are properly understood and contextualised.

8. What tours are available?

There are no tours currently available.

9. What advice on racial inclusion and LGBTQ issues is provided to staff?

Introduction to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion is a mandatory core online module that all members of Wigan Council must undertake.

Libraries

10. If applicable, what is being done to make local libraries more inclusive in terms of race, and LGBT inclusion?

Wigan Borough Libraries continue to maintain and add a broad and inclusive range of stock that reflects and supports our diverse communities. This includes a wide selection of materials related to LGBT themes and race across a number of library locations. In addition to physical stock available in our libraries, we also offer a range of inclusive titles through BorrowBox, ensuring customers can access relevant eBooks and eAudiobooks at any time. Wigan Borough Libraries champion inclusivity, with regular LGBTQ+ and race-positive displays across our spaces. We also work with diverse authors and facilitators to ensure our offer reflects and celebrates all of our communities.

11. What books have been added to stock in relation to this?

12. What books have been removed or moved to a reserve stack, or a less prominent place, because their content might be problematic; for example, outdated, racist, homophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic?

No stock has been removed and we have no current titles on our to be withdrawn list. Wigan Libraries operates on zero-tolerance towards materials that contain discriminatory, harmful, or offensive content, including material that is racist, homophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic, or otherwise prejudicial. Stock is reviewed regularly across all branches and if material is found to breach our standards or no longer aligns with our values, it is withdrawn from circulation. This approach ensures our collections remain safe, inclusive, and reflective of our commitment to equality and diversity.

13. Can you provide details of any complaint received in the timeframe relating to the above issues?

Zero complaints received in this timeframe