



Wigan♥
Council

Wigan Local Development Scheme

February 2025

1 Introduction

1.1 This Local Development Scheme sets out:

- The documents that make up the development plan for Wigan Borough.
- The timetable for the preparation of a new Wigan Borough Local Plan.
- Details of any Neighbourhood Plans in preparation or known to be planned.

2 The development plan for Wigan Borough

2.1 The development plan sets out the spatial strategy for the borough and includes detailed economic, social and environmental land use policies for development and conservation. In accordance with legislation, all planning applications in the borough should be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

2.2 The development plan for Wigan Borough is made up of:

- **Places for Everyone Plan (March 2024):** The strategic development plan for nine Greater Manchester districts, including Wigan Borough, to 2039, which includes a vision and a series of strategic thematic policies and site allocations for development across the sub-region. It establishes new housing and employment requirements and key locations for delivery, and outlines the approach to strategic infrastructure, particularly transport, as well as environmental and social challenges.
- **Saved policies within the Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy (September 2013):** The long-term spatial vision and planning strategy to 2026, which includes spatial policies and core policies relating to health, the economy, housing, environment, retail and transport. It also includes a key diagram covering the plan area.
- **Saved policies within the Wigan Replacement Unitary Development Plan (April 2006):** Policies not replaced by the Local Plan Core Strategy.
- **Policies Map:** This accompanies the development plan. It identifies key areas for growth, employment and housing development, areas of protection and sites to which particular designations and policies apply, all on an Ordnance Survey map base.
- **Greater Manchester Joint Waste Development Plan Document (April 2012):** This sets out a waste planning strategy and policies to 2027, which enables the adequate provision of waste management facilities

in appropriate locations for municipal, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition and hazardous wastes.

- **Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan (April 2013):** This sets out a planning policy framework to inform minerals developments and associated infrastructure up to 2028, whilst protecting the environment and communities from adverse impacts.
- **Standish Neighbourhood Plan (July 2019):** Following a successful referendum, this forms part of the development plan within the Standish Neighbourhood Area.
- **Golborne and Lowton West Neighbourhood Plan (July 2023):** Following a successful referendum, this forms part of the development plan within the Golborne and Lowton West Neighbourhood Area.

- 2.3 In addition to the development plan, the council has a suite of supplementary planning documents and more informal predecessor guidance, which can be viewed at www.wigan.gov.uk/spd.
- 2.4 A review of the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Minerals Plans is pending, and the Local Development Scheme will be updated once the timeframe for this has been confirmed.

3 Wigan Borough Local Plan

- 3.1 The Council is in the process of preparing a new Local Plan for the borough. Upon adoption, the new Wigan Borough Local Plan will supersede the saved policies within both the Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy (2013) and the Wigan Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006). A new Policies Map will also be prepared replacing the existing 2006 version.
- 3.2 A timetable for the preparation of the new Wigan Borough Local Plan is set out in Table 1. The preparation of the pre-submission version of the plan, as part of the Regulation 18 stage, is well underway with consultations on 'Issues and Opportunities' and 'Options and Preferences' having taken place in late 2022 and late 2023 respectively. Consultation on an initial draft of the Local Plan is planned this year.

Table 1: Timetable for the preparation of a new Wigan Local Plan

Stage	Date
Preparing the pre-submission version of the local plan (Regulation 18)	October 2022 – December 2025
Consultation on Publication Plan (Regulation 19)	January 2026
Submission	May 2026
Examination	Summer / Autumn 2026
Adoption	January 2027

4 Neighbourhood Planning

- 4.1 As stated in Section 2, the development plan includes two adopted Neighbourhood Plans covering designated Neighbourhood Areas in Standish and Golborne and Lowton West.
- 4.2 As at February 2025, there are four designated Neighbourhood Forums in the borough:
- Standish Voice
 - Golborne and Lowton West Neighbourhood Forum
 - Abram Communities Together Neighbourhood Forum
 - Leigh Central Forum
- 4.3 Standish Voice and Golborne and Lowton West Neighbourhood Forum have both been redesignated post adoption of their Neighbourhood Plans, until May 2025 and January 2030 respectively.
- 4.4 Abram Communities Together are designated until November 2025, with their Plan being recently approved at referendum on 30 January 2025. The Abram Neighbourhood Plan is scheduled to be formally adopted by the Council in May 2025.
- 4.5 Leigh Central Forum is designated until April 2027. Initial work on a Neighbourhood Plan for Leigh town centre and environs has stalled, and a Neighbourhood Plan is no longer anticipated.