Wigan

Local Development Scheme

September 2022

1 Introduction

1.1 This Local Development Scheme sets out:

- The development plan documents that make up the Wigan Local Plan.
- The timetable for emerging development plan documents, namely the Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan and a new Wigan Local Plan.
- The borough's adopted and emerging Neighbourhood Plans.

2 The Wigan Local Plan

2.1 The Wigan Local Plan (the development plan) sets out the spatial strategy for the borough and includes detailed economic, social and environmental land use policies. 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 Wigan Local Plan is made up of:

- **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 Core Strategy.
- **Policies Map:** This accompanies the Local 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 (adopted 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 (adopted 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 in July 2019, this now forms part of the development plan within the Standish Neighbourhood Area.

2.3 In addition to the Local Plan, the council has a suite of supplementary planning documents (SPDs) 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 will be undertaken when appropriate, to determine if updates to these plans are required. Any planned update will be reflected in a future Local Development Scheme.

2.5 The Council is at a preliminary stage of preparing a new Local Plan for the borough. Upon adoption, the new Wigan Local Plan will supersede the Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy (2013) and the saved policies within the Wigan Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006). A new Policies Map will also be prepared replacing the existing 2006 version.

2.6 A timetable for the preparation of the new Wigan 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, will include periods of consultation on issues, options and draft policies, as necessary.

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 2024
Consultation on Publication Plan (Regulation 19)	January 2025
Submission	May 2025
Examination	Summer / Autumn 2025
Adoption	2025/26

3 Places for Everyone Plan

3.1 The council is currently working in partnership with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and eight other districts in Greater Manchester to prepare the Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan. This replaces the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework which is no longer being taken forward following the withdrawal of Stockport Council in December 2020.

3.2 On adoption, the PfE Plan will be the strategic development plan of the nine districts to 2037 and will provide a vision and a series of strategic thematic policies and site allocations for development across the sub-region.

3.3 It will also establish new housing and employment requirements for each district and key locations for delivery, and outline the approach to strategic infrastructure, particularly transport, as well as environmental and social challenges.

3.4 Following an 8 week period of public consultation on the Publication version of the PfE Plan from August – October 2021, the PfE Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination in February 2022.

3.5 The timetable for the adoption of the PfE Plan is set out in Table 2. The dates for the examination hearing sessions are provisional and subject to change as they will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate.

Table 2: Timetable for the adoption of the Places for Everyone Plan

Stage	Date
Submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination	February 2022
Examination hearing sessions	November 2022 – March 2023
Adoption	2023*

* *Subject to the public examination timetable set by the Planning Inspectorate*

4 Neighbourhood Planning

4.1 As stated in Section 2, the Standish Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in July 2019 and became part of the development plan within the Standish Neighbourhood Area. This is the borough's first adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

4.2 As at September 2022, there are three other designated Neighbourhood Forums in the borough:

- Golborne and Lowton West Voice
- Abram Communities Together
- Leigh Central Forum.

4.3 All Forums are preparing initial drafts of their plans ahead of pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation.

4.4 Golborne and Lowton West Voice was designated in October 2019, and they are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Golborne and Lowton West.

4.5 Abram Communities Together was redesignated in November 2021, and they are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for Abram.

4.6 Leigh Central Forum was designated in April 2022, and they are preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for an area in Leigh town centre and environs.