



# LDF

## WIGAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY



### Health and recreation Final Topic Paper 1

AUGUST 2011

### Core Strategy Submission Version



Places Directorate  
[www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy)

## Contents

<b>ONE</b>	Introduction	<b>2</b>
<b>TWO</b>	Key plans, policies and strategies reviewed	<b>6</b>
<b>THREE</b>	Other key evidence reviewed	<b>14</b>
	<b>Key sources of information</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>Climate change considerations</b>	<b>38</b>
	<b>Key community and stakeholder involvement</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>Infrastructure audit</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>FOUR</b>	Key messages	<b>59</b>
<b>FIVE</b>	Main spatial planning issues identified	<b>63</b>
<b>SIX</b>	Main infrastructure issues identified	<b>65</b>
<b>SEVEN</b>	Main sustainability issues identified	<b>67</b>
<b>EIGHT</b>	Our sustainability framework	<b>68</b>
	<b>Baseline position</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>NINE</b>	An assessment of legality and soundness	<b>76</b>
<b>TEN</b>	Next steps	<b>84</b>

## ONE

## Introduction

### Purpose of this document

**1.1** This is Topic Paper 1 on 'health and recreation'. It is one of 13 topic papers that we have produced to help ensure that our Local Development Framework Core Strategy is properly backed by robust and credible evidence. The 13 topic papers are:

1. Health and recreation
2. Community safety and neighbourhood quality
3. Community development and involvement
4. Education and learning
5. Economy and employment
6. Housing
7. Retail and centres
8. Accessibility
9. Built environment and landscapes
10. Wildlife habitats and species
11. Energy
12. Waste
13. Natural resources and pollution

**1.2** Each topic paper provides a summary and analysis of the evidence which informs the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal. The evidence is set out in detail in a series of evidence reviews of the same name which sit alongside the topic papers. This topic paper focuses on the following policies:

- CP1 'Health and wellbeing'
- CP2 'Open space, sport and recreation'
- SP5 'Greenheart'

**1.3** We have combined the evidence gathering stages for both the Core Strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal, to streamline the documentation produced and avoid duplication. This has ensured that sustainable development is embedded in the process

of producing the Core Strategy. This topic paper also sets out how we have engaged with the community and other stakeholders and established the legality and soundness of the policies. More details of this are set out in Section 9 'An assessment of legality and soundness'.

**1.4** Each topic paper can be read in isolation but, inevitably, there are important related matters in other topic papers and evidence reviews. The key related topic areas for 'health and recreation' are:

- Accessibility
- Wildlife habitats and species
- Built environment and landscapes
- Education and learning
- Retail and centres
- Natural resources and pollution

**1.5** Rather than preparing an additional report on climate change, we have considered this important theme within each topic paper. This is to make sure that it is not viewed as a 'stand alone' issue.

## **How the Local Development Framework will be used**

**1.6** The Local Development Framework is the planning strategy for the borough. The Core Strategy is the principal development plan document in our Local Development Framework. It sets out what development is needed for the next 10-15 years, where this will go and how it can be achieved. For the most part the details will be determined in other policy documents that will make up the Local Development Framework. These will include an Allocations and Development Management Plan, area action plans and supplementary planning documents. All of these other documents will have to conform to the Core Strategy and be equally founded on a robust and credible evidence base.

**1.7** We have to work with national and European legislation on Sustainability Appraisal and national and regional planning policy. Of particular importance to health and recreation are Planning Policy Statement 1 'Delivering Sustainable Communities, Planning Policy

Guidance 17 'Planning for open space, sport and recreation' and the Regional Spatial Strategy , which is currently part of the development plan for the borough but will be revoked once the Decentralisation and Localism Bill is enacted.

### 1.8 Health and recreation are key issues for the borough:

- Currently around two thirds of adults and a quarter of children are overweight or obese (around one fifth of the population is obese)
- More than one in five people have a limiting long-term illness.
- Nearly one-third say that they take no regular exercise and a similar number smoke.
- Only a small proportion of children eat well.
- One third drink alcohol at hazardous or harmful levels.
- Breastfeeding of babies is well below the national average.
- Rates of circulatory disease, although falling, are still high.
- The number of people suffering mental health problems is increasing.
- Average life expectancy is significantly below the national average, 79.8 for females (2.0 below England average) and 75.6 for males (2.3 below England average).
- Health inequalities within our borough mean that there is a 7-8 year gap in life expectancy between our most deprived and least deprived neighbourhoods.
- We do not make the most of the significant opportunities that the countryside and open spaces of the borough offer to help improve health and well-being.

**1.9** Sport and physical activity are key issues in promoting healthy lifestyles. The Local Development Framework can help to protect facilities for sport and recreation and identify the need for new facilities, allocating land and buildings accordingly. It can also seek to ensure that areas are planned in a way that enables people to access work, shops, services and other facilities - including for sport and recreation - close to where they live or by public transport, so that walking and cycling become more attractive options for more trips, or parts of trips. In this way people can be more active as part of their everyday lives. The Local Development Framework can also consider the need for new health facilities and allocate land or buildings for them, ensuring that they are accessible from residential areas. Further information on accessibility is available in Topic Paper 8.

## How the Sustainability Appraisal framework is used

**1.10** The purpose of the Sustainability Appraisal is to appraise the social, environmental and economic effects of strategies and policies in the documents that form the Local Development Framework. This has been done from the outset in preparing the Core Strategy to ensure that decisions are made that accord with sustainable development.

**1.11** A framework of sustainability objectives has been used to test and ask questions of each approach considered in the Core Strategy. The appraisal process has a number of set stages that must be followed, but each stage has been revisited as new information became available.

**1.12** This topic paper contains the information we have used to help us establish the issues for health and recreation. This information has helped us to establish a set of sustainability objectives and sub-questions to tackle these issues. These are set out in Section 8 'Our sustainability framework'.

### Viewing documents

All documents related to the Core Strategy are available to view on our website at: [www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy).

Paper copies of the Core Strategy, Sustainability Appraisal and the 13 Topic Papers are also available at:

- All our public libraries (except the children's library)
- Wigan Town Hall\*
- Wigan Life Centre, College Avenue, Wigan, WN1 1NJ\*

*\* Until January 2012, when documents will be available at The One Stop Shop, Wigan Life Centre, The Wiend, Wigan, WN1 1NH*

## TWO

## Key plans, policies and strategies reviewed

**2.1** This section focuses on the most relevant published plans, policies and strategies and draws out the key messages for the Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal. The plans and strategies which provide support for policies CP1 and CP2, and contribute to policies SP1, SP3, SP4 and SP5 from a health and recreation perspective are:

### National plans, policies and strategies - Health

Documents published by UK Government unless stated otherwise

#### **Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post-2010 (The Marmot Review) (February 2010)**

The Marmot Review sets out the implications of health inequalities and identifies the evidence most relevant to future policy and action. The review states that inequalities in health arise because of inequalities in society – in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. Action to reduce inequalities in health does not require a separate health agenda, but action across the whole of society and the many factors that determine health. The review sets out 6 policy objectives which aim to improve health and wellbeing for all and reduce health inequalities:

1. Give every child the best start in life
2. Enable all children young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
3. Create fair employment and good work for all
4. Ensure healthy standard of living for all
5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
6. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention

The Local Development Framework can shape environments which make it possible for people to make healthier choices about exercise, local services, travel, food, nature and leisure, as well as supporting the provision of new and improved healthcare

facilities, better housing and increased opportunities for better education and employment. It therefore has the ability to impact positively upon all 6 policy objectives listed above.

### **Healthy Lives, Healthy People: The Public Health White Paper (November 2010)**

Healthy Lives, Healthy People responds to the Fair Society, Healthy Lives report and adopts its life course framework for tackling the wider social determinants of health. The paper sets out the commitment to protecting the population from serious health threats; helping people live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives; and improving the health of the poorest, fastest.

The report states that improving the environment in which people live can make healthy lifestyles easier and that the environment we live in is one of the influences on our social and cognitive development, self-esteem, confidence, personal resilience and well-being, which impacts on our health and our life chances.

The statutory duties of local authorities to improve the health and wellbeing of their populations will also significantly increase and this needs to be reflected in the Local Development Framework. The establishment of the National Public Health Service, 'Public Health England' and the intended move of Public Health from the NHS into the local authority will both necessitate and facilitate closer partnership working. This change, along with the initiation of local Health & Wellbeing Boards, will provide an appropriate base for more holistic approaches to health and wellbeing.

**2.2** Other key national plans, policies and strategies which provide support for policies CP1 and CP2, and contribute to policies SP1, SP3, SP4 and SP5 from a health and recreation perspective include:

- **The role of local government in promoting wellbeing (Local Government Improvement and Development/National Mental Health Development Unit, 2010)**  
- This acknowledges the role the Local Development Framework has in shaping communities, which in turn affects the way people behave, how they feel about



themselves and their aspirations. It provides evidence that highlights the importance of nurturing psycho-social wellbeing in local populations and promotes a wellbeing approach to policy and service design.

- **Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Good Practice Note 5: Delivering Healthy Communities (2009)** - Spatial planning has a key role to play in shaping environments which make it possible for people to make healthier choices about exercise, local services, travel, food, nature and leisure.
- **Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England (2008)** - This identifies planning as one of the several tools that can be used to help fight obesity and giving evidence of the obesity crisis in the country and what needs to be done to reverse the trends.
- **Natural Health Service (Natural England, 2009)** - This identifies the key role of planning in providing and improving open spaces and natural habitats and the positive effects these can have on health and wellbeing.

## National plans, policies and strategies - Recreation

Documents published by UK Government unless stated otherwise

### **Planning Policy Guidance 17 'Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation' (July 2002)**

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives. This document covers assessments of needs and opportunities, setting local standards, maintaining an adequate supply of open space and sports and recreational facilities, planning for new open space and sports and recreational facilities and planning obligations. This guidance was used when producing the Wigan open space, sport and recreation needs assessment (2007).

**2.3** Other key national plans, policies and strategies which provide support for policies CP1 and CP2, and contribute to policies SP1, SP3, SP4 and SP5 from a health and recreation perspective include:

- **Nature Nearby (Natural England, 2010)** - This gives guidance on the amount, quality and visitor services Natural England believe people are entitled to and providing advice on how they can be delivered. It is discussed further in section 3.
- **Fair Play: A Consultation on the Play Strategy (2008)** - This looks at how more and better opportunities for play can be delivered and the roles of various sectors in delivering play facilities, including planning.
- **Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces (2008)** - This guide explains how good play spaces can give children and young people the freedom to play creatively, while allowing them to experience risk, challenge and excitement. There is also advice on how play spaces can be affordably maintained.
- **Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)** - This provides overarching planning policy to protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas and the provision of good quality open space to improve people's quality of life.
- **Assessing Needs and Opportunities: a companion guide to PPG17 (2002)** - This sets out how local authorities can use the planning system to help deliver accessible, high quality and sustainable open spaces and sport and recreation facilities which meet local needs and are valued by local communities and providing the framework under which our Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study was prepared.

### **Regional / sub-regional plans, policies and strategies**

#### **The North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021**

The Regional Spatial Strategy forms part of the development plan for the borough, setting the context for our Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents.

There is one specifically relevant policy: Policy L1 Health, Sport, Recreation, Cultural and Educational Services Provision requires all plans, proposals and schemes to provide such facilities for all members of the community. The policy lists a set of considerations that proposals for development should take into account, such as community consultation and accessibility.

**2.4** Other key regional plans, policies and strategies which provide support for policies CP1 and CP2 and contribute to policies SP1, SP3, SP4 and SP5 from a health and recreation perspective include:

### Health

- **Healthier Horizons for the North West (NHS North West, May 2008)** - This provides comparison figures for the North West and other regions. The report states that wellbeing, prevention and self care are increasingly important, both on a population and an individual basis and planning has a role to play in finding solutions.

### Recreation

- **Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)** - This discusses planning and managing the network that connects urban and fringe areas, the 'growth support' function it can play and providing methods for identifying spatial priorities for strategic green infrastructure. Haigh and Pennington Flash Country Parks are identified as destination parks in the sub-regional context and Greenheart and the Mosslands are identified as natural and landscape heritage core areas.
- **The North West Plan for Sport and Physical Activity 2004 - 2008 (Sport England North West, 2004)** - This aims to increase participation in sport and physical activity and widen access and reduce inequality in participation amongst priority groups by enhancing sporting infrastructure, improving health and well being, developing education and skills, benefiting the economy and creating stronger and safer communities.

## Local plans, policies and strategies

Documents published by Wigan Council / Wigan Borough Partnership, unless otherwise stated.

### **Wigan Replacement Unitary Development Plan (2006)**

Open Space, Sport and Recreation policies are contained within Chapter 12 of the Unitary Development Plan. There are no specific policies in the Unitary Development Plan on health, but the general amenity and design policies apply, along with accessibility policies. Some accessibility policies are being replaced by policy CP7, Accessibility in the Draft Core Strategy. Others will remain in force until they are replaced by policies in other development plan documents that form part of the Local Development Framework. Further details are available in Topic Paper 8, Accessibility.

## Recreation

### **Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)**

This study was undertaken by Knight Kavanagh and Page in conjunction with Wigan Council to meet requirements set out in Planning Policy Guidance 17. It considers supply and demand issues for open space and provides the base for the audit of facilities, given in section 3 of this topic paper. It is arranged under the pre-defined headings: general open space issues (including the results of a residents' survey), parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace, green corridors, amenity greenspace, provision for children and young people, allotments, community gardens and city farms, cemeteries, churchyards and other burial grounds, and civic spaces.

The study also incorporates an assessment of sports facilities in accordance with the methodology provided in the Sport England 'Towards a Level Playing Field – A guide to the production of playing pitch strategies' for assessing demand and supply. It includes a quantitative summary of provision for outdoor pitch and non-pitch sports facilities and indoor facilities.

### **Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Strategy and Action Plan (2007)**

This follows on from the Needs Assessment and sets out how open space provision can help meet the objectives of the Community Plan by addressing the issues raised for the borough, which include:

- Improving the quality of facilities within phased programmes
- Ensuring provision is of an appropriate distribution, quantity and quality
- Consulting with sporting community and local residents to identify necessary improvements
- Ensuring sites lost through closure are replaced by facilities of an equal or improved standard
- All partners and stakeholders working together through appropriate mechanisms to provide facilities
- Facilities should be accessible to all
- The demand for facilities should be continually reassessed.

**2.5** Other key local plans, policies and strategies which provide support for policies CP1 and CP2 and contribute to policies SP1, SP3, SP4 and SP5 from a health and recreation perspective include:

#### **Health**

- **Living Well in Wigan Borough – Joint Public Health Strategy (2007)** - This is the first Joint Public Health Strategy for the borough, produced by the Primary Care Trust and the Council. It is crucial to the spatial planning agenda as it focuses on the wider determinants of health, such as lifestyle and deprivation issues. There are major health inequalities in the borough that need tackling and these are set out in the document.

## Recreation

- **Wigan Allotment and Community Garden Strategy (2011)** - This has the the key aim of increasing allotment provision in accordance with statutory requirements and best practice. By enhancing the use of allotments it also seeks to increase the health of Wigan residents particularly within target communities suffering from the greatest health inequality. This strategy is discussed in more detail in section 3.
- **Greenheart Action Plan (2008)** - This is the action plan for the development of the Greenheart Regional Park. It is discussed in more detail in the section 3.
- **A Parks and Green Spaces Strategy for Wigan Borough (2008)** - This sets out a strategy to develop parks and green spaces across the borough in line with available resources. Detailed work and consultation at township level has helped inform the priorities. It is discussed in more detail in section 3.
- **Wigan Children's Play Strategy and Action Plan (2007)** - This sets out the vision for the development of 'Play' across the borough and acknowledges the importance and value of play for children and young people together with policies and actions for maximising the quality and quantity of play opportunities across the borough. It is discussed in more detail in section 3.
- **Taking SHAPE for the future: 2006-2012 (Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust)** - This seeks to enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities, halt the increase in obesity, increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by people from priority groups. It also provides profiles of participation and a general audit of public, private and voluntary sector facilities across the borough. Further detail on this document is set out in section 3.

**2.6** There are other relevant plans, policies and strategies that contribute to the health and recreation evidence base. These are summarised in our 'health and recreation evidence review' which is available on our website.

## THREE

# Other key evidence reviewed

## Key sources of information

**3.1** This section brings together and analyses the key evidence relating to the health and recreation topic area. It outlines key characteristics, trends, issues and opportunities and supports the policies relating to health and recreation in the Core Strategy. It also gives an overview of the infrastructure, climate change considerations and a summary of stakeholder and community involvement.

**3.2** The main sources of information used are:

### National - health

- Tackling Obesities: The Foresight Report (UK Government, 2008)
- Physical Activity and the Environment (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, 2008)
- Health, place and nature: How outdoor environments influence health and well being: Knowledge base (The Sustainable Development Commission, 2008)
- English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (UK Government, 2007)
- Physical Activity and the Built Environment (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2006)

### National - recreation

- Green Flag Awards (Civic Trust, ongoing)
- School Sites and Community Sports Provision (Sport England, 2004)
- Intensive Use Sports Facilities Revisited (Sport England, 2004)
- Active Design (Sport England, 2007)
- Design for Play: A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces (UK Government, 2008)
- Planning for Sport in Growth and Regeneration Areas (Sport England, 2007)

## Regional / sub-regional - health

- Projections of limiting long term illness for Greater Manchester districts (University of Manchester, 2007)
- North West Regional Intelligence Unit Health Evidence Paper (North West Regional Intelligence Unit, 2008)

## Local - health

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (Wigan Council and Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust, 2008)
- Wigan Health and Lifestyle Survey 2005 - 2006 (Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust)
- Public Health Annual Report 2008-09 (Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust)
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust, 2011)
- Parks Regeneration and Greenspace Strategy (Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, 2008)

## Local - recreation

- Green Vision: Greenheart Vision Document (Wigan Council, 2008)
- Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust website: [www.wlct.org](http://www.wlct.org)
- Greenheart website: [www.visitgreenheart.com](http://www.visitgreenheart.com)

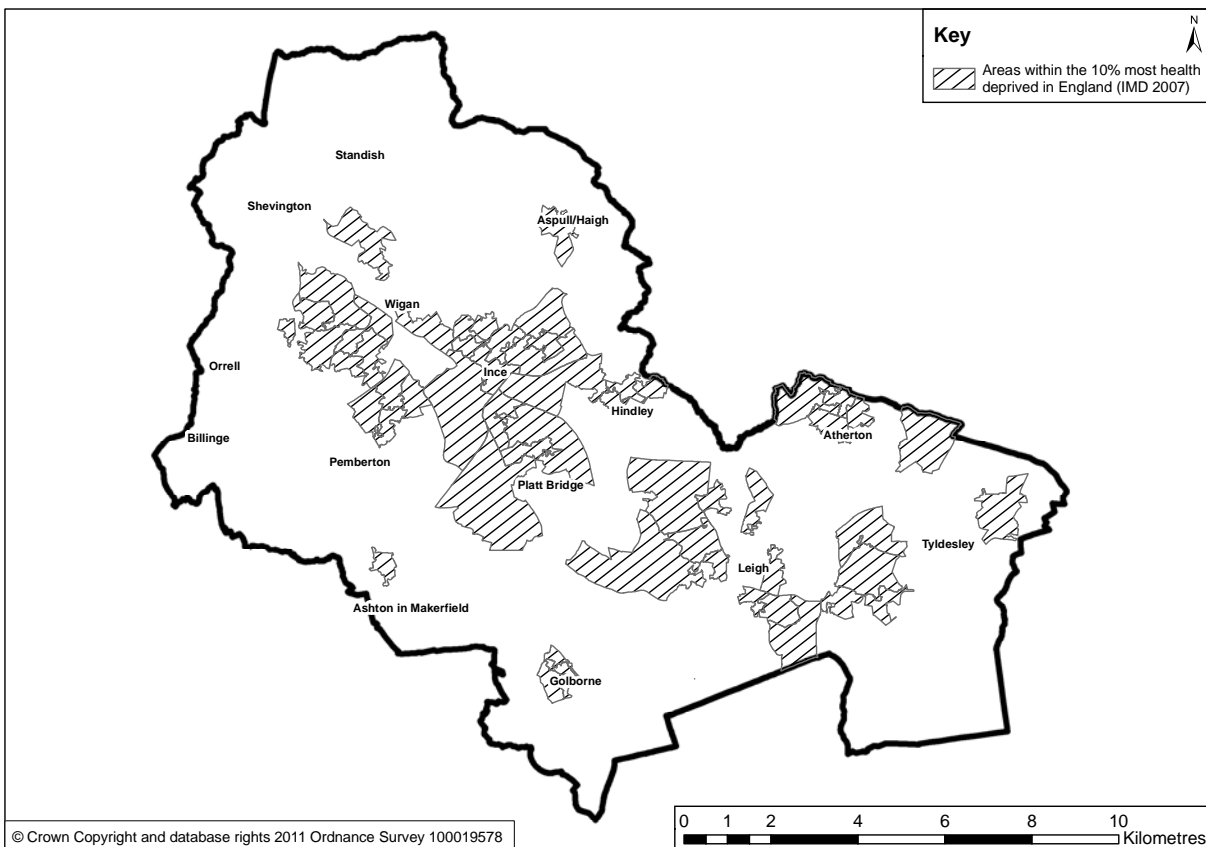
## Health deprivation in Wigan

**3.3** The English Indices of Deprivation (2007) used a number of indicators to capture the extent of deprivation in terms of health and disability. The health deprivation and disability domain identifies areas with relatively high rates of people who die prematurely, or whose quality of life is impaired by poor health, or who are disabled. The data is presented in Super Output Areas, each with a population of approximately 1,500 people. There are 200 Super Output Areas in Wigan Borough.

**3.4** A total of 53 Super Output Areas in Wigan (over 25%) fall within the 10% most deprived in England for health deprivation and disability (see Figure 3.1 below). Of these, 15 are within the 3% most deprived areas. The worst health deprivation is generally



concentrated in the centre of the borough close to the centres of Wigan and Leigh and the settlements of Platt Bridge, Hag Fold in Atherton and Higher Folds near Leigh, although there are pockets of health deprivation throughout the borough. All in all, over one-quarter of people live in areas that are amongst the 10% most deprived in England for health and disability, and no part of the borough is amongst the 40% least deprived.



**Figure 3.1 Areas within the 10% most health deprived in England (Indices of Deprivation 2007)**

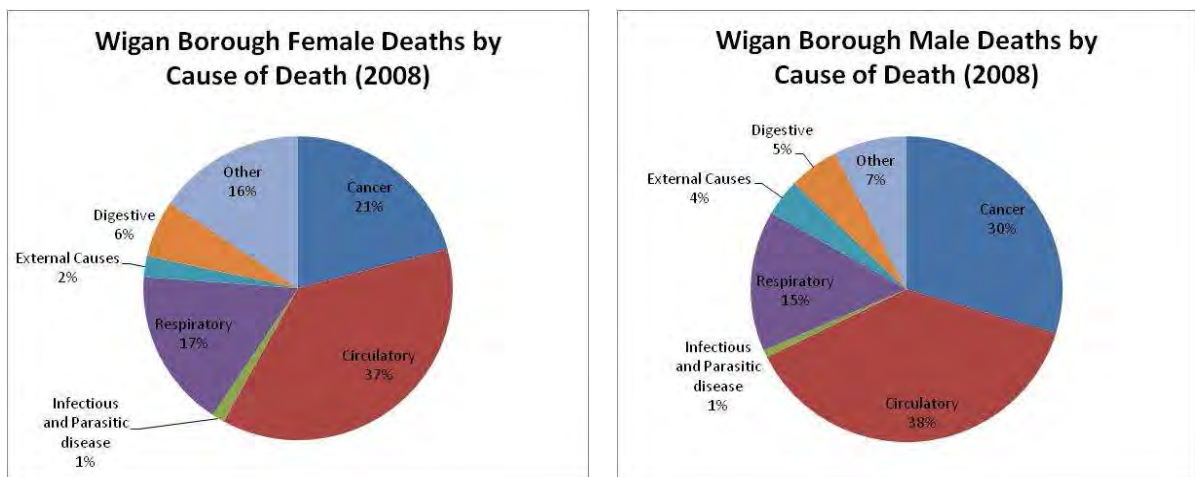
**3.5** The Indices of Deprivation 2010, which is an update of the Indices of Deprivation 2007, has recently been published by the Department of Communities and Local Government. An initial assessment suggests that in overall terms there has been some improvement but the borough still remains within the highest 20% most deprived in England. However in some domains, particularly health and crime, there are some doubts about the data and we are therefore not relying on this until further investigation has taken place.

## Health issues in Wigan

**3.6** The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identifies the following as key health issues:

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD)
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Cancer – particularly lung, bowel, prostate, oesophageal and stomach
- Alcohol misuse
- Sexual health, including teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Obesity

**3.7** These health issues affect residents in all parts of the borough but are more prevalent in the most deprived areas (as identified in Figure 3.1). The main causes of death for both men and women are circulatory diseases, respiratory diseases, cancer and digestive conditions. The pie charts in Figure 3.2 below show mortality by cause for females and males.



**Figure 3.2 Mortality by cause for males and females (Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, 2010)**

**3.8** The Public Health Annual Report 2008-09 produced by Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust also identifies health issues affecting the people of the borough. The report focuses on the current recession and the burdens and challenges it will bring in terms of health. Issues from the report include:-

- Alcohol misuse is a growing cause of ill health and premature death, with only smoking and high blood pressure representing higher risk factors.
- Teenage drinking levels in Wigan are amongst the highest in Europe.
- Wigan has the 4th highest rate of alcohol related hospital admissions overall in Greater Manchester and the 20th highest nationally.
- Illicit drug use, although difficult to gauge, is seen as a problem. Recent concerns include the growing number of people using substances to improve their body image. This includes the relatively high use of steroids, particularly amongst young men, and the use of melanonin tanning injections.
- Rates of obesity are increasing, with childhood obesity being a particular concern.
- Breastfeeding, a major contributor to lifelong positive health outcomes for mother and baby, is way below the national average.
- Prevalence and incidence of HIV infection is low, but rates of sexually transmitted infections in Wigan and Greater Manchester are amongst the highest in the country.
- Teenage pregnancy rates are significantly higher than regional and national rates, although recent figures show that small consecutive decreases in rates are now occurring.
- Smoking is still the biggest reversible cause of ill health and premature death and is the largest single cause of health inequalities. On average one quarter of the over 16s smoke, but in some of the more deprived areas the figure rises to nearly half of over 16s.
- Cancer causes a quarter of all deaths, with a quarter of these cancer deaths attributable to lung cancer.
- Some less common forms of cancer, including primary liver cancer and malignant melanoma of the skin, are increasing. These are linked to alcohol consumption (liver) and UV light exposure (skin), especially from sunbathing and the use of sun beds.
- There has been a large decline in deaths from cardiovascular disease but the rates in Wigan are still higher than regional and national rates.
- The number of people using mental health services is steadily increasing, with residents in the most deprived areas of the borough more likely to be distressed and have severe problems and psychological distress.

- People living in the borough experience more domestic abuse than the inhabitants of any other borough in Greater Manchester.
- Job losses and prolonged periods of economic inactivity can create, embed and worsen the long term health problems for the unemployed.

**3.9** The Health and Lifestyle Survey of Wigan Borough in 2005/06 also shows that:

- One-in-eight residents considered their health to be poor over the last 12 months.
- More than one-in-five have a limiting long-term illness with above average levels of people on long-term sickness / incapacity benefits.
- Residents living in more deprived areas, notably Ince, Norley, Newtown and Whelley, and to a lesser extent several parts of Leigh, consistently reported poor health across a spectrum of areas, such as mental health, physical pain, poor diet and general well-being.
- There are correlations between the number of people who do not have any fruit and vegetables in their diet, obesity and multiple deprivation, with many neighbourhoods seeing over 1 in 4 adults obese or very obese and 10% of adults in some neighbourhoods eating no fruit or vegetables on a daily basis.
- Residents consider hospitals with a casualty department to be one of the hardest services and facilities to access. This is a particular issue in the former Leigh Central Ward.

**3.10** Further recent issues identified are:

- The number of obese people in Wigan is increasing more than the national average.
- By 2015 there will be in excess of 6,000 more older people (over 65) who have a limiting long term illness than now, increasing to 12,000 more by 2025.
- The rate of benefit claimants with a mental health problem is 35.2 per 1,000 people of working age – significantly higher than the national rate.

### **Health Inequalities**

**3.11** Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review) stresses the importance of reducing health inequalities and creating a fair society where everybody has an equal chance to live a healthy and fulfilled life. Currently, health inequalities exist at national, regional and local levels and are caused by inequalities in society, meaning the conditions

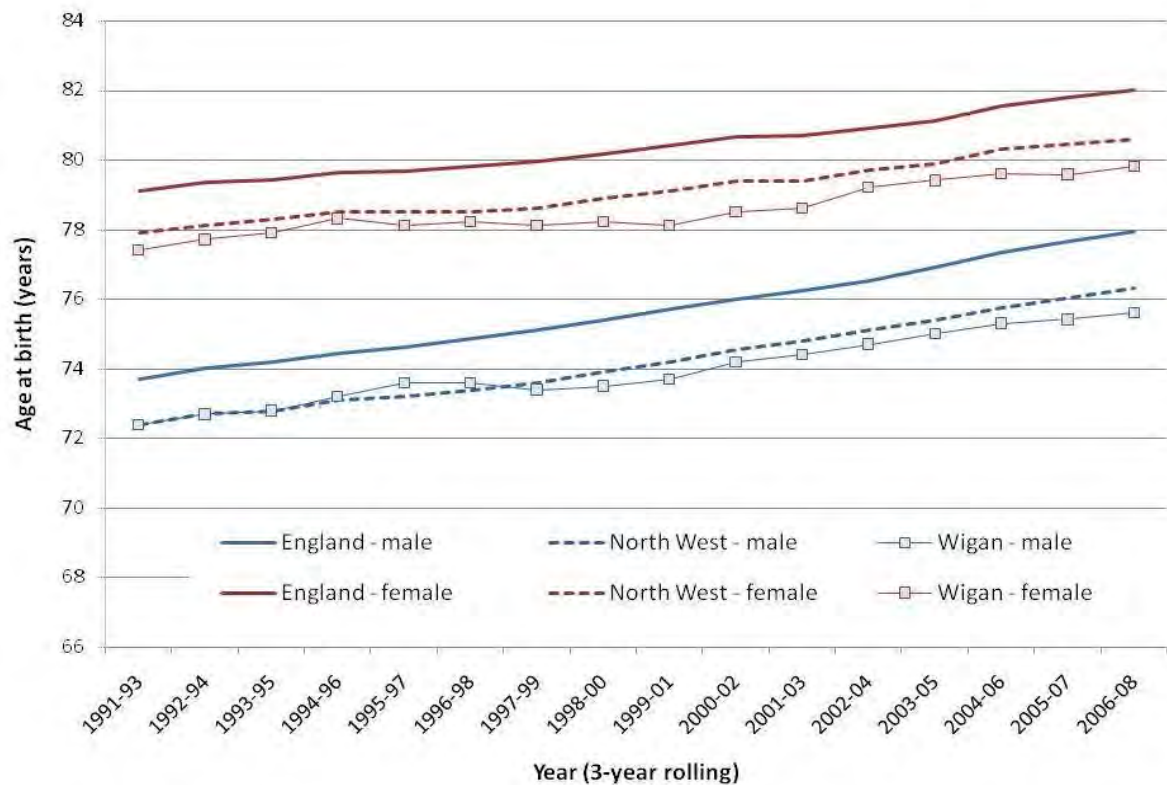
in which people are born, grow, live and work, and age. Many different factors contribute to a person's health. These are known as the social determinants of health. They are identified in the diagram below:



**Figure 3.3 Social determinants of health, Barton and Grant, 2006 (reproduced in Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, 2010)**

**3.12** Poor health and health inequalities need to be tackled by taking an integrated and holistic approach. The other topic papers and the Core Strategy as a whole cover many of the factors in the diagram above and have strong linkages to health and health improvement.

**3.13** Figure 3.4 shows average life expectancy in Wigan compared to North West and national averages. Although life expectancy has seen a gradual increase year on year, the gap between Wigan and the North West and national averages has not narrowed and remains at a similar figure.



**Figure 3.4 Average life expectancy, Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (2010)**

**3.14** Perhaps more importantly, health inequalities exist within Wigan Borough itself. Residents living in the most deprived areas such as Worsley Hall can expect to live 7-8 years less than those living in the least deprived areas such as Standish. They are also likely to suffer many more years of poor health throughout their lives.

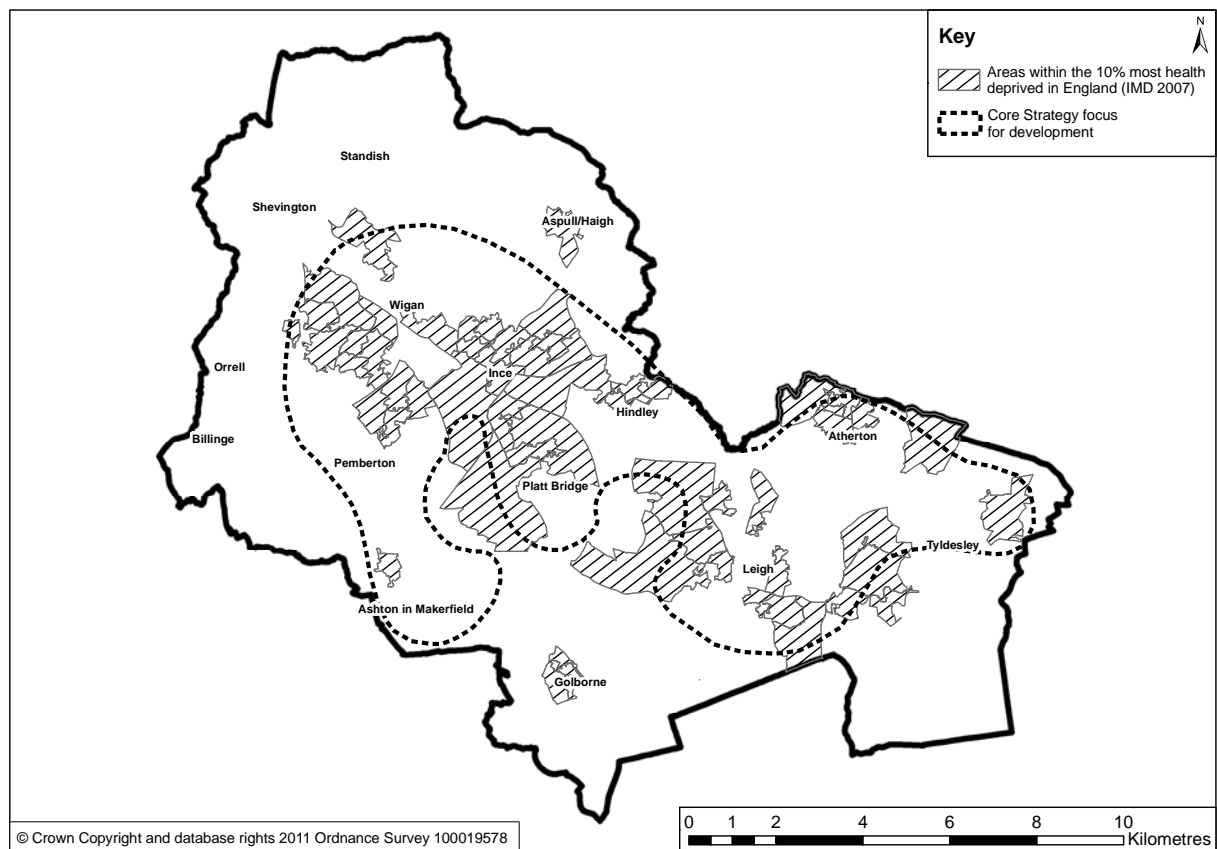
**3.15** Table 1 below gives an illustration of the different life outcomes and the inequalities that people can expect to experience when born in the least deprived and most deprived areas of the borough. This information was included in Sustainable Community Strategy 'Vision 2026' and was presented as part of the '400 babies' presentation. It looked at what was likely to happen to 400 babies born in 2007 in Wigan Borough, 200 in the least deprived areas of the borough and 200 in the most deprived areas.

Of the 400	Least deprived 200	Most deprived 200
Go home to a council house	1	145
Are part of a lone parent family	17	76
Will have at least 3 siblings	1	10
Get at least 5 GCSEs A to C	154	60
Stay on at school after 16	79	37
Claim free school meals	4	82
Become a professional or a manager	61	18
Work full time	118	62
Live on benefits	17	88
Burglary	2 per year	3 per year
Domestic violence	1 every 7 years	1 per year
Deliberate fire	1 every 3 years	3 per year
Claim incapacity benefit	10	46
Have a limiting long-term illness	25	62
Smoke	29	75
Live alone as a pensioner	51	94
Claim pension credit	26	96
Live to the age of	77 male, 83 female	70 male, 75 female

**Table 1 Illustration of different life outcomes for Wigan residents, Sustainable Community Strategy, 2007**

## Spatial strategy for Wigan Borough

**3.16** Tackling health deprivation and inequalities is one of our main priorities. Our spatial strategy focuses on the areas of the borough with the most acute levels of health deprivation. Figure 3.5 shows the most health deprived areas of the borough and our core strategy's "east-west core" focus for development.



**Figure 3.5 Areas of health deprivation in Wigan Borough, Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2007)**

**3.17** By focusing development in the east-west core we aim to achieve transformational regeneration and create attractive places for people to live and businesses to locate and thrive, where developments maximise the positive impacts on health and minimise the negative impacts. In doing so we will be tackling the social determinants which lead to poor health, looking to improve all aspects of people's lives and making a significant



contribution to improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities. Our aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents, but to improve health and wellbeing in the most deprived areas at a faster rate.

## Health Impact Assessments

**3.18** A Health Impact Assessment is the systematic prediction of the potential positive and negative health and wellbeing impacts of new policies, plans, programmes and projects (proposals), including how these impacts are distributed across a population. Research shows that proposals not directly related to health can have direct effects on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of populations, as well as indirect effects through the wider social determinants of health.

**3.19** Policy CP1 requires a health impact assessment to be submitted for all development proposals for which an Environmental Impact Assessment is required (or other proposals where the council considers that a Health Impact Assessment is needed), based upon prevailing good practice. The following are examples of factors that could be considered as part of a health impact assessment:-

- Promoting increased opportunities for recreation and leisure
- Providing opportunities for people to grow their own food
- Providing opportunities for better education and skills
- Providing opportunities for rewarding work
- Providing housing that will make good homes
- Contributing to the provision of a dynamic mix of uses in town and local centres
- Enabling easy access to a range of shops and services
- Encouraging walking and cycling as part of everyday life
- Reducing the adverse impact of traffic on quality of life, including noise, air quality and safety
- Enhancing the environment where people live or otherwise spend a lot of time, such as in our town centres
- Improving opportunities for wildlife
- Reducing the adverse impacts and adapting to the likely effects of climate change.

**3.20** Further guidance on health impact assessments and Policy CP1 in general will be provided in the form of a supplementary planning document which is scheduled to be published by 2015.

## Recreation

**3.21** The main messages emerging from evidence at a national level, including in 'Health, place and nature: how outdoor environments can influence health and well-being' are that we need, through planning, to create and protect environments that promote physical activity, healthy eating and local food production, and contribute positively to mental health and wellbeing. This includes providing space to play and access to formal and informal greenspace, and providing allotments and sport and recreation facilities generally. It is therefore vital that communities have access to a range of leisure opportunities including indoor and outdoor sports facilities, parks and open spaces in their local area and this has determined our approach in policy CP2.

**3.22** Cultural services such as libraries, arts, music and other entertainment also provide sources of enjoyment for many people. Planning has a positive role to play in creating and protecting premises and locations for these recreational facilities to contribute towards maintaining and improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

### A lack of physical activity

**3.23** A Health and Lifestyle Survey of Wigan Borough was undertaken in 2005/06 to update and assess progress of an earlier survey conducted in 2001. It showed that:

- Less than one-third of adults are active enough for it to benefit their health.
- Nearly two-thirds of the population report low levels of physical activity.
- One-in-six 18–34 year olds undertake no physical activity.
- Residents think that leisure facilities are amongst the hardest services to access. This is complemented by the 'Perceptions of Crime Survey' that shows that only two-fifths of people in deprived areas are very or fairly satisfied with the level of recreation and leisure services available.
- A lack of activities and facilities for young people has also been identified generally across the borough, and this may contribute to the problem of 'teenagers hanging around the streets', which is a common concern.

**3.24** These low participation rates in any form of physical activity have had a direct influence on the formulation of policy CP2, which seeks to maximise opportunities for people to undertake a wide range of sport and recreation activities to benefit their overall health and wellbeing.

**3.25** As noted in section 2, the main corporate document produced to address these issues is Taking SHAPE for the future: 2006-2012, produced by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust. This seeks to

- enhance the take-up of sporting opportunities by 5–16 year-olds.
- halt the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11.
- increase the take-up of cultural and sporting opportunities by adults and young people aged 16+ from priority groups.
- lead the delivery of cleaner, safer and greener public spaces and increase bicycle use and participation in physical activity and sport.

**3.26** Policy CP2 seeks to protect and enhance our valuable open spaces, sporting and recreational facilities in order that these objectives may be met.

**3.27** Encouragingly, the Health and Lifestyle Survey also identified that the proportion of Year 9 students taking part in extra-curricular sport has increased significantly since 2001, particularly by boys.

### **Greenheart Regional Park**

**3.28** Around 70% of the borough is countryside, open land or other open space forming an extensive network of wetlands, grasslands, nationally important and sensitive habitats, parks and recreational facilities, canals and former railway lines. Much of this area was despoiled by mining and industrial activity, but since the 1970's work has been ongoing to reclaim and rejuvenate it. However, this has largely been done on a piecemeal basis with one-off projects. The area has now been identified as a countryside park of sub-regional/regional importance. It is also part of Greater Manchester's green infrastructure resource, as acknowledged in 'Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester' (2008).

**3.29** The Greenheart Vision sets out the concept for the countryside park: "to regenerate approximately 57 square kilometres at the heart of Wigan's former coalfield area into a linked up network of open space, sport and recreation facilities, which encourage residents to make better use of the countryside on their doorstep. The project aims to regenerate the economy, boost the borough's image and encourage healthier lifestyles, and is guided by the Greenheart Action Plan document which is also discussed briefly in section 2. It therefore has a direct bearing on this topic paper and forms a key component of the Core Strategy, acknowledged directly in spatial policy SP5 'Greenheart'.

**3.30** The Greenheart area is bordered by Wigan, Ince, Aspull, Hindley, Leigh, Lowton, Golborne and Ashton-in-Makerfield with the communities of Platt Bridge, Bickershaw and Abram within. It is therefore well placed to serve most of the settlements that make up the east-west core of the borough and is also well related to our most deprived neighbourhoods that would most benefit from increased physical activity to help reduce physical and mental health and wellbeing issues. Promotion of access to the countryside and the benefits it offers for health and well-being and education is also achieved under the Greenheart branding. It has its own dedicated web site at [www.visitgreenheart.com](http://www.visitgreenheart.com).

**3.31** Greenheart therefore provides a key element in delivering the health and recreation objective of the Core Strategy. Greenheart designation is intended to complement the other types of open space designation throughout the borough included in policy CP2 and the Greenheart policy, SP5 is covered in topic paper 9, Built environment and landscapes.

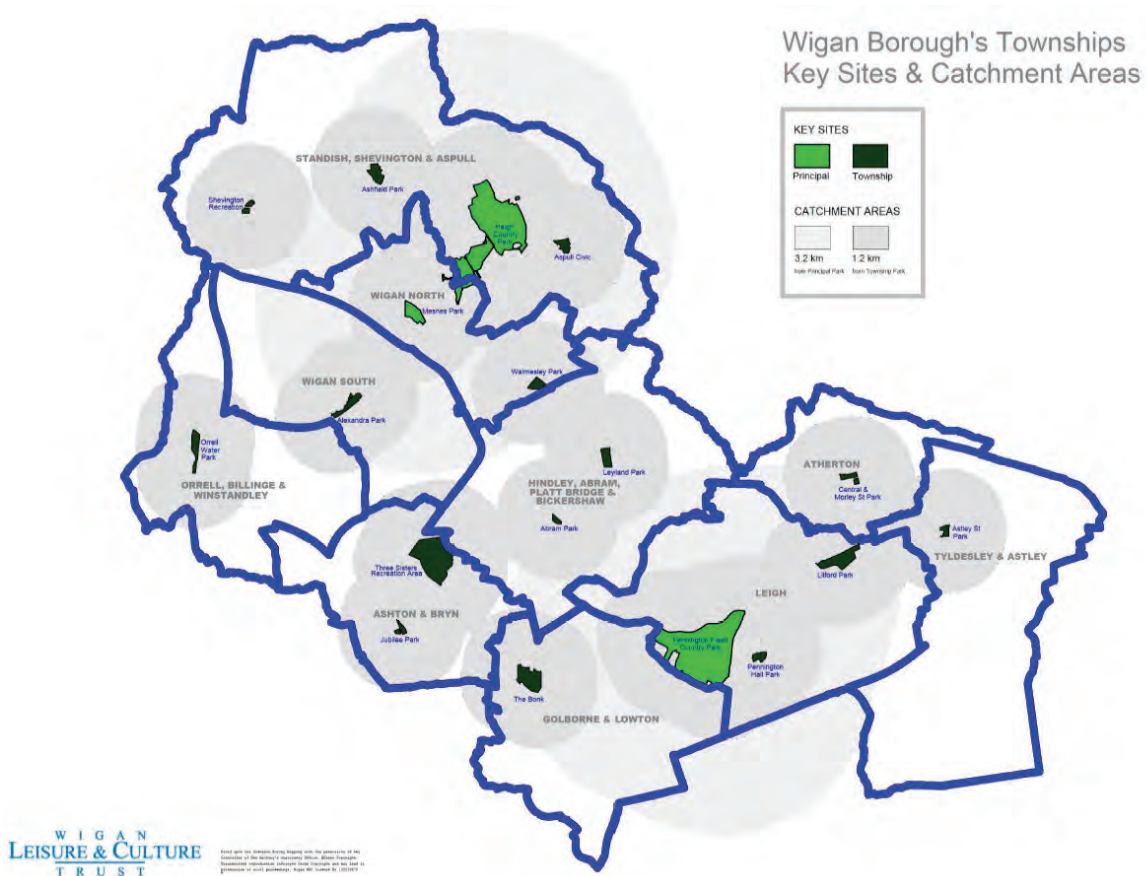
### **Planning for open space, sport and recreation**

**3.32** As detailed in section 2, the key driver for recreation provision is Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and the requirement to produce an open space, sport and recreation needs assessment. This crucial piece of local evidence was completed by consultants in 2007, as also detailed in section 2. It is supported at the regional level by Sport England North West's Plan for Sport and Physical Activity, which illustrates how non-sporting agencies can support sport and physical activity directly by investing in sporting infrastructure, and indirectly by influencing people's attitudes to sport and a more active lifestyle.

**3.33** The strategic aims of the open space, sport and recreation needs assessment include increasing the health of Wigan's residents, raising aspirations, provision of clean and green neighbourhoods and the creation of a network of open spaces, sports and recreational facilities. It is important that these facilities are easily accessible in order for them to provide sufficient opportunities for participation in community and cultural activities. It seeks to protect existing facilities which are of high quality and value and see no net loss of open space. Again, these requirements are brought forward in policy CP2. The need to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities is a more complex task. It is intended that such standards will be brought forward as part of a future development plan document.

### **Parks, open space and playing fields**

**3.34** Over four-fifths of the population make use of the borough's parks and open spaces. Nearly three-quarters of park users were satisfied with the borough's parks and open spaces (Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, 2007).



**Figure 3.6 The borough's 3 principal parks and 15 township parks (Wigan Parks and Greenspaces Strategy, 2008)**

**3.35** The Parks Regeneration and Greenspace Strategy (2008), as noted in section 2, sets out the aspirations of the Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust in managing the borough's parks. It was developed with local communities at the township level and sets a out a strategy to develop existing appropriate facilities in line with available resources against a national quality standard and agreed local standard.

**3.36** The strategy proposes the improvement of the borough's three principal parks (with a 3.2 km catchment) at Haigh Hall Country Park, Pennington Flash Country Park and Mesnes Park, Wigan. It also identifies fifteen township parks (with catchments of 1.2km): Abram Park, Leyland Park (Hindley), Alexandra Park (Newtown), Lilford Park (Leigh), Ashfield Park (Standish), Orrell Water Park, Aspull Civic Park, Pennington Hall

Park, Astley Street Park (Tyldesley), Shevington Park, Central Park (Atherton), Three Sisters Recreation Area (Bryn), 'The Bonk' (Golborne), Walmesley Park (Lower Ince) and Jubilee Park (Ashton). These are shown in Figure 3.6.

**3.37** The aim of the Parks Strategy is to secure at least one township park in each township, supplemented in some cases by a principal park, and in all cases by a range of other provision such as playing fields (including school grounds where possible), play sites and local green spaces. This approach has been brought forward as part of policy CP2 as the focus for the wide range of informal and formal play, recreation and sports activities that take place in the borough.

**3.38** Flagship schemes at several parks are suggested as part of the action, including in Mesnes Park Wigan, Jubilee Park in Ashton and Astley Street Park in Tyldesley. Mesnes Park has benefited from a full master planning exercise as part of the £6.1 million Heritage Lottery Fund restoration scheme currently taking place (2011).

**3.39** The Parks Strategy also seeks to ensure work progresses towards parks achieving the nationally recognised Green Flag status. Alexandra Park in Newtown and Pennington Hall Park in Leigh were awarded Green Flags in 2008 with Jubilee Park in Ashton following in 2010. Enhanced maintenance regimes are in place to maintain Green Flag status. The Parks Strategy also acts as the main management framework for the principal and township parks. Partnership working with all agencies and the local community is of crucial importance in addressing the various issues that affect our parks to keep them maintained for the future.

### **Accessible natural greenspace**

**3.40** Natural England's 'Nature Nearby', as noted in section 2, describes the amount, quality and visitor services they believe everyone is entitled to, and provides advice on how this can be delivered. In the majority of cases people's contact with nature takes place in local neighbourhoods on small local sites. The document sets out why greener places are better places to live and how nature is good for our health as well as providing an 'insurance policy' against the impacts of climate change. To be considered accessible to natural greenspace, it recommends that every household should be:

- no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from a greenspace of at least 2 hectares
- within two kilometres of at least one 20 hectare site

- within five kilometres of a 100 hectare site
- within ten kilometres of a site of 500 hectares or more

**3.41** In addition, 'Nature Nearby' recommends that a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserve should be designated per thousand population. These are the standards towards which all our strategy documents, including the Core Strategy are moving, although detailed work will come forward in a later development plan document.

**3.42** A common theme in the borough's ten Township Action Plans, developed in 2006/07, is that we should encourage access to open countryside and develop the potential of parks. This means improving access to and links between local green spaces, including playing fields and other recreational facilities. Topic Papers 9: 'Built environment and landscapes' and 10: 'Wildlife habitats and species' also identify these points.

**3.43** There are five local nature reserves currently designated in the borough and more evidence is also provided in Topic Paper 10: 'Wildlife habitats and species'. At around 300 hectares we are close to meeting the national standard quantitatively but need further provision in the east of the borough to meet standards for accessibility. Similarly, details on the borough's woodlands and green corridors are also provided in Topic Paper 10. There is a large amount of off-road green corridor provision across the borough utilising former mineral railway routes and canal towpaths. This network of 'greenways' facilitates links into the countryside and is an important feature of the Greenheart countryside park.

### **Children and young people**

**3.44** National evidence identifies children's play as being essential for the development of a healthy and well-motivated future population. The 'Fair Play' (2008) and 'Design for Play' (2008) documents, as noted in section 2, give advice and guidance on various aspects of play and play spaces.

**3.45** This advice has been translated to the local level in Wigan Children's Play Strategy and Action Plan, as noted in section 2, which was produced by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust in 2007, in consultation with children and young people. It sets out the vision for the development of 'play' and acknowledges its importance and value for children and young people together with policies and actions for maximising the quality and quantity of play opportunities across the borough. It also identifies needs and priorities for the development of play provision, including:



- Upgrading play areas in the most deprived communities
- Inclusive play provision
- Provision of youth facilities across the borough
- Implementation of support systems to develop play.

**3.46** The local standards for play in Wigan include:

- Play provision within pram pushing distance
- Larger play area/park within a 4.8 km (3 mile) radius of where people live.

**3.47** Play facilities have been audited in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and are discussed in the infrastructure audit section of this topic paper. Provision to improve play space for people who live more than 500 metres from one of the principal or township parks has been included in policy CP2.

### Allotments

**3.48** A thriving allotment community can play a positive role in improving the health and quality of life of residents of the borough. Allotments provide low cost access to regular healthy outdoor exercise; a source of fresh food; a resource for education; a facility that can help build community cohesion and pride; and sites to promote sustainable living and biodiversity. Allotment gardening can contribute towards addressing social, economic and environmental aspects of personal wellbeing by providing a link with nature.

**3.49** Currently, Wigan has 4.9 allotments per thousand households. This figure is almost half of the Greater Manchester average and is the lowest in Greater Manchester.

**3.50** Wigan Allotment and Community Garden Strategy (2011), as noted in section 2, seeks to improve this situation and provide an adequate network of allotments and community gardens in accordance with statutory requirements and best practice. It provides a commitment to ensure that the people in areas suffering the worst life expectancy and health and wellbeing issues are supported in utilising green space to improve their health and wellbeing. This is brought through in policy CP2 which addresses not only the quantity, but also the quality and accessibility of allotment space in the borough.

**3.51** The key priorities for the strategy are to:

- Increase allotment provision and realise latent demand
- Target allotments and allotment engagement activity in areas of greatest health need
- Increase participation in allotment gardening through promotion and community engagement activities
- Fully involve schools and community groups
- Promote and operate allotments as a source of health improvement
- Raise external funds to achieve the aims of the allotment strategy.

**3.52** There is an opportunity for allotments to be promoted as an option for recreational space, especially within larger developments to support the borough's allotment strategy and help bring the borough in line with the rest of Greater Manchester. This can be considered as part of a subsequent development plan document.

### **Cemeteries and churchyards**

**3.53** The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment includes cemeteries and churchyards as areas of quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. Overall 37% of residents surveyed reported they had visited a churchyard or cemetery in the previous 12 months; this makes them equal to parks as the most commonly visited type of open space. The capacity for burial space is under pressure in the borough and there is likely to be a shortfall in the future. This is illustrated in the infrastructure audit section of this topic paper.

**3.54** Cemeteries and churchyards can play an important role in providing linkages between other types of open space and within the wider network of off-road networks for walking and cycling as also promoted in policy CP7 'Accessibility'.

**3.55** Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust also have responsibility for the management of 12 war memorials. Other evidence is available on their web site at [www.wlct.org](http://www.wlct.org).

### **Sport and recreation facilities**

**3.56** Wigan Council has been the main provider of sport and recreation services for over forty years. Council owned sports centres and swimming pools are located in Wigan, Leigh, Ashton, Hindley, Howe Bridge and Tyldesley. Provision includes a new pool and leisure complex at Leigh Sports Village, which opened in 2008, and similar facilities at the Wigan Life Centre in Wigan Town Centre, which are due to open in August 2011.

These have greatly improved the condition of the council's overall leisure offer. Improved school sports facilities have also been provided at the new Abraham Guest Specialist Sports and Arts College which are open for community use. Some of the other facilities have deteriorated with age and significant capital investment and greater community involvement will be required over the next five years to keep them operational.

**3.57** Secondary schools are playing an increasing role as community sports providers. Fifteen secondary schools have benefited from the installation of a new all weather pitch as a result of the Big Lottery Fund. These are open for community access. There are also opportunities to open up school sports halls and playing fields for public use.

**3.58** There is a thriving voluntary sports club infrastructure and many clubs have attracted substantial external funding from Sport England and the Football Foundation. 38 sports clubs currently receive 100% rate relief from the council in recognition of their role in developing sport within the communities they serve.

**3.59** There is also substantial private sector health and fitness provision across the borough in major private health and fitness clubs and many smaller independently owned clubs. These operate almost exclusively for their paying members with no general community access. More details can be found in the infrastructure audit section.

**3.60** The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study provides an extensive analysis of playing field provision in the borough. It identified a perceived shortfall in the area of playing field provision currently available for community use of 67.45 hectares (based on 1.21 hectares per thousand population). According to forecast population levels, this shortfall is likely to increase. The condition of some of these playing fields and a lack of changing facilities have also been identified as issues to be addressed. The shortfall however can be managed by improving the quality of pitches to allow more frequent use and a better sharing of adult and junior facilities, as set out in Sport England's bulletin 'Intensive use sports facilities revisited'.

### **Culture and lifelong learning**

**3.61** The Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust website contains information on cultural and lifelong learning opportunities as well as information on things to do and places to visit. As previously discussed, this is of relevance to support the general health and wellbeing of residents. For example, libraries provide an important service to the community.

**3.62** The library service has refurbished Ashton, Tyldesley and Golborne libraries in the past four years, and relocated Orrell Library to the site of the new Abraham Guest High School (now called Lamberhead Green Library) in 2010. Wigan Library will be moved into the Wigan Life Centre in January 2012.

**3.63** There are around 400,000 items available for loan, including books, CDs, DVDs, software, talking books and storytapes. There are over 180 public accessible People's Network computers spread across the service with games machines such as PS2, PS3 and Wii also available. Libraries also have a range of events and activities for all ages, such as under fives sessions, class visits and IT courses. All these activities contribute towards the health and wellbeing of the local residents.

**3.64** There is a service which delivers packs of books, CDs and talking books to people who are housebound. The library service also provides a library service at Hindley Prison and provide a Schools Library Service for schools throughout the borough.

**3.65** The library service is generally well thought of by borough residents and users alike. The Public Library User Survey (2008) amongst adults gave a satisfaction rating of 94% with children giving 86%. The most recent Resident's Survey gave a satisfaction rating of 65%. The service had 1.2 million visitors in 2007-08, with growth of around 2% each year.

**3.66** As of May 2011, the library service had 18 libraries spread across the borough. Details of these can be found in the infrastructure audit at the end of this section. However, due to the public sector funding position, a review of library services has been underway. A decision on the future shape of the service will be taken in mid August.

**3.67** There are numerous community centres throughout the borough and these are listed in Topic Paper 3 on community development and involvement. They host various events and activities and provide meeting space for the local communities. From April 2011 the former council owned Aspull Civic Hall, Ince Public Hall, Monaco Ballroom (Hindley), Formby Hall (Atherton) and Lowton Civic Hall were transferred to private owner operators.

**3.68** There is currently one multiplex cinema in the borough at Robin Park in Wigan with 11 screens. A 7 screen cinema complex is due to open in Leigh in late 2011. Both these are privately owned facilities. The borough lacks a multi-purpose theatre venue, although Wigan Little Theatre and Tyldesley Little Theatre provide performance space for their own amateur theatre companies.

**3.69** Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust operates a range of other cultural and leisure facilities. These include the Museum of Wigan Life (formerly The History Shop). This museum recently benefited from a £1.9 million Heritage Lottery Funded refurbishment and is the centre for family history research in the borough. Local history collections particularly relevant to Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley are housed at Leigh Library based in the Turnpike Centre. This also houses a gallery which aims to inspire and enrich people through the visual arts by presenting a diverse programme of exhibitions, learning and outreach. It provide a venue for a range of temporary exhibitions, focusing mainly on contemporary art, presenting a mix of local, regional, national and international artists, accompanied by a variety of participatory activities for the general public, schools and community groups.

**3.70** Other historical attractions include Astley Green Colliery Museum, which is a privately owned facility offering interpretation of Wigan's mining heritage and Trencherfield Mill Steam Engine. The steam engine is located in the Wigan Pier Quarter and was restored in 2004 with the help of a £0.6 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

**3.71** Other leisure and interest attractions include the Three Sisters Race Circuit, one of the most versatile race circuits in the UK and the premier outdoor go karting venue in the north west. This is located adjacent to the country park. Bingo is also a popular pastime for many people with large bingo halls located near Wigan and Leigh town centres and also at Robin Park, Wigan.

**3.72** Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust are responsible for providing a range of cultural and leisure activities in venues throughout the borough. These include regular activities held in library, museum and art gallery premises and special larger scale events. Some of these, such as the Wigan International Jazz Festival, Wigan Food and Drink Festival and Wigan One World (WOW) festival are held on an annual basis. Wigan One World

attracts up to 10,000 visitors and is held in Mesnes Park. Some of these are discussed in Topic Paper 3 'Community development and involvement' and are included within policy CP3 'Community facilities'.

---

## Climate change considerations

**3.73** How we prepare for climate change and reduce further greenhouse gas emissions is a major challenge. It requires changes to almost everything we do and must, therefore, be considered from many different perspectives. The issues that are particularly important for health and recreation are:

- Higher levels of mortality related to summer heat are expected.
- Possibility of injuries from weather-related events.
- Higher winter temperatures would be likely to lead to a reduction in winter related mortality and illnesses such as colds and flu.
- Higher incidences of food poisoning due to warmer summer temperatures.
- Hygiene impacts of water shortages.
- Health problems related to poorer air quality, particularly along major roads.
- Increased incidence of skin cancers and cataracts due to hotter summers.
- Increased incidence and geographical range of insect borne diseases.
- Financial impact of greater demand for health services.

## Key community and stakeholder involvement

**3.74** There are a number of 'key stakeholders' who have played an important role in the development of our approach to health and recreation issues. By identifying and involving these key stakeholders from an early stage, we have been able to establish a stronger evidence base and more sustainable policy options.

**3.75** The following have been identified as key stakeholders for this topic area:

- NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Public Health Directorate)
- Wrightington, Leigh and Wigan NHS Trust
- 5 Boroughs Partnership Mental Health Trust
- Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive
- Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust
- Natural England
- British Waterways
- Sport England
- Greater Manchester Ecological Unit

**3.76** These key stakeholders have been involved at all stages of the Core Strategy's preparation including issues and options, preferred options, revised proposals and draft policies and proposed submission.

**3.77** By the proposed submission stage outstanding consultation issues had been largely addressed or resolved. At the proposed submission stage, two comments were received to policy CP1. Natural England felt the link between access to the natural environment and public health benefits were still not strong enough and the NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Public Health Directorate) supported the policy. No change to policy CP1 is proposed.

**3.78** There were seven representations received to policy CP2, with Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, Sport England and Natural England in support. Some wording changes were sought by Sport England and Natural England. A member of the public wanted a township park in Lowton and another questioned the delivery of allotment provision. NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Public Health Directorate) also wanted allotment provision to be promoted more strongly. A



---

minor wording change was proposed in response to Natural England's representation to strengthen the policy. (Minor change 1.15: In clause 3 add 'the quality of' after 'enhancing' and add 'currently one hectare per 1,000 population' after 'accessibility' in paragraph 9.11.)

**3.79** Further information is available in our Consultation Reports. Changes are set out in the 'Schedule of Minor Changes to the Draft Core Strategy for Submission to the Secretary of State'.

## Infrastructure audit

### Health Infrastructure

#### Primary care

**3.80** Arrangements for primary care are being reorganised by the Government. However, throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy, NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Primary Care Trust) have been responsible for delivering health care and health improvements to the borough. It has worked in partnership with the Local Authority and has also commissioned other local National Health Service Trusts to deliver health and social care.

**3.81** The Trust has delivered community based health services, which are usually the first (and often the only) point of contact that patients make with the health service. It has been specifically responsible for the support and development of:

- Over 200 General Practitioners (including locums) working from 76 practices
- 116 dentists (including assistants) working from 37 practices
- 67 pharmacies and 42 optical establishments

**3.82** The Trust has also been responsible for a range of community health care services provided at 19 clinics and health centres.

#### General Practitioners (GPs)

**3.83** The 76 GP practices include 202 GPs (or 177.2 whole time equivalent GPs). This equates to 1,969 patients per GP, which is above the national target of 1,800:1. Table 3 shows the distribution of GPs per Township.

Township	Number of Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) GPs	Number of Patients per WTE GP	Head Count of GPs	Number of Patients per Head Count GP.
Ashton Bryn	17.2	1,662	20	1,522
Atherton	10.9	2,063	12	1,838

Township	Number of Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) GPs	Number of Patients per WTE GP	Head Count of GPs	Number of Patients per Head Count GP.
Golborne Lowton	9.0	2,702	10	2,609
Hindley Abram	22.5	2,010	23	1,984
Leigh	29.2	1,866	36	1,685
Orrell Billinge Winstanley	1.0	3,111	1	3,111
Standish Aspull Shevington	17.2	1,780	19	1,654
Tyldesley Astley	15.3	1,728	17	1,564
Wigan North	25.4	2,555	31	1,743
Wigan South	29.6	1,418	33	1,245
WIGAN BOROUGH	177.2	1,969	202	1,739

**Table 3 Distribution of GPs per Township, NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Primary Care Trust), 2010**

**3.84** Table 3 suggests that there are capacity issues particularly in the townships of Orrell-Billinge-Winstanley and Golborne-Lowton. Atherton, Hindley-Abram, Leigh and Wigan North also have GP registers above the national average.

### Dentists

**3.85** The distribution of the 37 dental practices in Wigan Borough is shown in Table 4 below.

Township	Number of dentists	Number of practices
Ashton Bryn	11	2
Atherton	7	3
Golborne Lowton	12	3
Hindley Abram	12	4
Leigh	20	6
Orrell Billinge Winstanley	5	2
Standish Aspull Shevington	6	3
Tyldesley Astley	6	2
Wigan North	24	8
Wigan South	13	4
WIGAN BOROUGH	116	37

**Table 4 Distribution of dentists per Township, NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Primary Care Trust), 2010**

**3.86** Details on the level of demand and numbers of patients on waiting lists for NHS dentists will be discussed with the Primary Care Trust and will be used in future updates of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This only covers NHS dentists and does not reflect services provided by private dental facilities which operate in the borough.

### Pharmacies

**3.87** The distribution of the 67 pharmacies in Wigan Borough is shown in Table 5 below.

Township	Number of pharmacies
Ashton Bryn	4

Township	Number of pharmacies
Atherton	4
Golborne Lowton	5
Hindley Abram	7
Leigh	10
Orrell Billinge Winstanley	4
Standish Aspull Shevington	8
Tyldesley Astley	4
Wigan North	11
Wigan South	10
WIGAN BOROUGH	67

**Table 5 Distribution of pharmacies by township, Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, 2011**

**3.88** The Information Centre for Health and Social Care, General Pharmaceutical Services in England 1999/2000 to 2008/09 found that England had 20 pharmacies per 100,000 population. NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan had 22 pharmacies per 100,000 population. This shows that there are slightly more pharmacies per head than the national average. This would suggest that current needs are being met.

### Clinics and health centres

**3.89** There are 19 health centres / clinics in the borough. These are listed in Table 6 below.

Township	Health Centre/Clinic
Ashton Bryn	Ashton Clinic
Atherton	Atherton Health Centre

Township	Health Centre/Clinic
Golborne Lowton	Golborne Clinic
	Golborne Health Centre
Hindley Abram	Hindley Health Centre
	Platt Bridge Health Centre
Leigh	Leigh Health Centre
Orrell Billinge Winstanley	Orrell Clinic
Standish Aspull Shevington	Aspull Clinic
	Shevington Clinic
	Standish Clinic (replacement under construction 2011)
Tyldesley Astley	Astley Clinic
	Tyldesley Clinic
Wigan North	Lower Ince Health Centre
	Longshoot Heath Centre
	Wigan Health Centre
Wigan South	Marsh Green Clinic
	Pemberton Health Centre
	Worsley Mesnes Health Centre

**Table 6 Distribution of health centres and clinics by township, NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan (Primary Care Trust), 2011**

**3.90** The National Health Service is currently delivering a programme of new and improved primary and community healthcare facilities across the country. As part of this a series of new 'super health centres' have been built in Wigan Borough, mainly in deprived communities where they are most needed.

**3.91** The seventh and most recent health centre to be built is Leigh Health Centre which was completed in November 2010. It is located on the Leigh Infirmary site. It replaced health centres at College Street and Grasmere Street and provides services including a walk-in centre, children's services, specialist weight management services and adult sexual health services. Chandler House in Worsley Mesnes is the largest facility in the borough to date and offers five GP practices, community health services, family planning, physiotherapy, minor surgery and an education and learning centre. Other centres have been opened in Wigan (Frog Lane), Golborne, Platt Bridge, Lower Ince and Atherton.

**3.92** Another recent development has been the SHINE sexual health clinic which opened in July 2010 and is located in The Galleries in Wigan town centre. This clinic also houses the Brook Centre which was previously located in the Coops Building. These new and improved sexual health services offer patients free confidential advice, testing and treatment.

**3.93** A new health centre is also currently under construction in Standish town centre on the site of the existing Standish Clinic. The new health centre will provide much needed new premises for the Standish GP Practice but will also include the services currently provided from Standish Clinic.

**3.94** The Primary Care Trust have been looking at other sites for primary and community healthcare facilities, including possible further development at the Leigh Infirmary site. Other priority locations for healthcare facilities include Scholes, Ashton and at Northleigh Park / south of Hindley as part of the substantial new community proposed, if required.

### **Acute Care**

**3.95** The Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust is commissioned by the Primary Care Trust to deliver emergency and acute work, such as secondary care or hospital-based services. The Acute Trust operates across three hospital sites at Wigan, Leigh, and Wrightington just outside the borough in West Lancashire, and an outpatient centre in Wigan town centre - The Thomas Linacre Centre.

**3.96** Following a review of their service, the Trust made the decision in May 2011 to retain all three of their main hospital sites – Royal Albert Edward Infirmary (RAEI) in Wigan, Leigh Infirmary and Wrightington Hospital. This was to ensure continued viability of the Trust and to continue to provide patients with local access to our services. The decision represents a major ten-year investment across the Trust that intends to deliver:

- Phase Five at Wigan with a dedicated elective surgery facility, more single room accommodation, replacement of Victorian building stock, more car parking, replacement pathology laboratory and second MRI scanner.
- New outpatients and diagnostic facilities at Leigh to enable it to offer increased availability and improved local access for patients.
- The beginning of a phased programme at Wrightington to increase capacity and improve current facilities.
- The Thomas Linacre Outpatients Centre will also be retained.

### **Accessibility**

**3.97** In general we have good accessibility to health facilities in the borough, however for accident and emergency facilities there is a gap in provision in Leigh and the south of the borough. Within this area, only one-fifth of residents consider themselves well-placed for access to an accident and emergency department, having to travel to Wigan or Bolton to access such a facility. (Wigan Borough Health and Lifestyle Survey, NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust, 2006)

### **Ambulance service**

**3.98** Ambulance services are operated regionally. There are 4 ambulance stations at Wigan, Hindley, Atherton and Billinge. A number of vehicles from stations in neighbouring boroughs contribute to the Wigan Groups performance, as do Wigan's vehicles to theirs. This distribution of ambulance stations allows an even geographical spread across the borough for responding to the national eight-minute response time target. The North West Ambulance Service considers that there is a sufficient level of resource for the borough and that any increase in demand for services is likely to have an impact for the workforce and ambulance fleet rather than on land requirements.



## Recreation infrastructure

### Parks and Local Nature Reserves

**3.99** Table 7 shows the distribution of our principal and township parks and local nature reserves. More details on the indicative timescale for improvement and funds required for each park can be found in the Parks and Greenspaces Strategy.

Township	Park name	Area (Ha)	Park Type
Ashton Bryn	Jubilee Park, Ashton (GF)	3.45	Township Park
	Three Sisters, Ashton	44.1	Township Park
	Three Sisters, Ashton	31	Local Nature Reserve
Atherton	Central Park, Atherton	3.57	Township Park
Golborne Lowton	Pennington Flash Country Park, Leigh	445	Principal Park **
	The Bonk, Golborne (o)	20.8	Township Park
Hindley Abram	Abram Park	2.25	Township Park
	Borsdane Wood, Hindley	27.5	Local Nature Reserve
	Leyland Park, Hindley	7.61	Township Park
	Low Hall Park, Platt Bridge	17.1	Local Nature Reserve
Leigh	Lilford Park, Leigh	20.49	Township Park
	Pennington Hall Park (GF)	4.80	Township Park
Orrell Billinge Winstanley	Greenslate Water Meadows, Orrell*	2	Local Nature Reserve
	Orrell Water Park	9.65	Township Park

Township	Park name	Area (Ha)	Park Type
Standish	Ashfield Park, Standish	9.06	Township Park
Aspull Shevington	Aspull Civic Park	7.02	Township Park
	Haigh Country Park	121	Principal Park **
	Shevington Park (PC)	2	Township Park
Tyldesley Astley	Astley Street Park, Tyldesley	3.50	Township Park
Wigan North	Mesnes Park, Wigan (M)	11.23	Principal Park
	Walmesley Park, Ince	6.72	Township Park
Wigan South	Alexandra Park, Newtown (GF)	5.5	Township Park
	Wigan Flashes (LWT)	100.6	Local Nature Reserve

**Table 7 Distribution of parks and local nature reserves by township**

Key:	
GF	Green Flag Award Parks. Enhanced maintenance in place until 2020
LWT	Managed by Lancashire Wildlife Trust
*	Part of Orrell Water Park
M	Major works in progress (2009-2012) followed by enhanced maintenance until 2020
o	Options for future to be explored
PC	Parish Council site
**	Identified as destination park of sub-regional importance

**3.100** Generally the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study found the provision of parks across the borough to be satisfactory. It concluded that investment should be used to improve the quality of existing parks rather than increase the number of designated parks as other types of open space, such as amenity greenspace, can fulfil the same function. It is therefore important that amenity greenspace is not lost or additional space is provided where additional needs are identified.

### **Semi-natural greenspace**

**3.101** Local Nature Reserves are included in this category. There are five designated reserves in the borough as shown above. More details can be found in Topic Paper 10 covering wildlife habitats and species. There is a shortfall of around 5 - 10 hectares quantitatively and a shortfall in accessibility terms in the east of the borough against the Natural England recommendation of one hectare per 1,000 population.

### **Amenity greenspace**

**3.102** The Open Space Sport and Recreation Study identified some 1,890 amenity greenspace sites across the borough totalling more than 376 hectares. Catchment mapping suggests the majority of the borough has sufficient amenity greenspace, with only minor catchment gaps identified particularly in the north of Hindley which is served by provision in Westhoughton. The facilities in some of the space identified however are in need of improvement, including the provision of benches and footpaths.

### **Children and young people**

**3.103** The Open Space Sport and Recreation Study found a total 11.41 hectares of sites providing for casual play, youth provision, local areas for play with and without equipment, neighbourhood equipped areas of play and unclassified sites on 132 sites throughout the borough. These are managed by, or on behalf of, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, co-ordinated by the Play Strategy.

**3.104** There is an aim to have a Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play of at least 0.1 hectares with play equipment catering for a variety of ages; one casual play site such as a multi-use games area, basketball area, kick-about area, youth shelter or games wall;

and one site with youth provision such as a BMX track or skate park in each township. The main shortfalls have been identified in the areas listed below. Along with these areas, there are local catchment gaps in the other townships.

- Neighbourhood Equipped Areas of Play in Golborne-Lowton, Hindley-Abram, Orrell-Billinge-Winstanley and Wigan South.
- Casual Play Areas in Standish-Aspull-Shevington and Ashton-Bryn.
- Youth Facilities in Ashton-Bryn, Golborne-Lowton and Tyldesley-Astley.

### Allotments

**3.105** There are 48 sites classified as allotments in the borough, covering just over 34 hectares. Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust currently manage 12 statutory sites with 376 plots. A further 36 non statutory sites with 238 plots are managed by the council. As noted previously in this section, Wigan has 4.9 allotments per thousand households. This figure is the lowest ratio per 1,000 households across greater Manchester and is almost 50% less than the Greater Manchester average. There is therefore a need to increase provision, particularly where significant gaps have been identified in Standish-Aspull-Shevington, Wigan North, Ashton-Bryn, and Hindley-Abram. In September 2008, there was a waiting list of 728 people (Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust).

### Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds

**3.106** The Open Space Needs Assessment counted 40 sites covering 89 hectares under this category, with only a small number of catchment gaps identified. Table 8 illustrates the anticipated remaining capacity of cemeteries for new graves. Cemeteries are managed by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust.

Cemetery location	Approximate year of full capacity
Ince in Makerfield	Full
Atherton	Full
Wigan Cemetery, Lower Ince	Full
Gidlow, Standish	2025

Cemetery location	Approximate year of full capacity
Leigh	2025
Hindley	2011
Howe Bridge	2025
Westwood, Lower Ince	2012
Tyldesley	2012

**Table 8 Estimated remaining capacity of cemeteries, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (2007)**

### Outdoor Sports Provision

**3.107** The Open Space Sport and Recreation Study identifies provision for the following sports in the borough. These facilities have not been updated to include provision at the new Abraham Guest Specialist Sports and Arts College.

Sport	Senior	Junior	Mini
Football	108	6	16
Cricket	14		
Rugby league	39	6	4
Rugby union	12		
Hockey	5		
Bowls	53		
Tennis	66		
Athletics	2		
Golf	8		

Sport	Senior	Junior	Mini
Netball	42		

**Table 9 Number of available pitches/courts/greens boroughwide, Open Space Sport and Recreation Study (2007)**

**Notes:**

1 cricket pitch is provided by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, the rest are privately owned. There are 19 rugby league clubs across borough.

Rugby union is administered by the Lancashire County Rugby Football Union. All pitches are privately owned.

Hockey pitches are at school sites

There are 25 private bowling greens. The rest are on Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust managed sites, mainly in parks.

There are 2 municipal golf courses.

There are all weather athletics tracks at Robin Park and Leigh Sports Village.

Netball courts are mainly playground markings at schools

**3.108** The Open Space Sport and Recreation Study also identified surpluses and deficiencies of sports pitches in the borough by 2017. This focused on football and rugby league as the main sports for which local authority provision of pitches is important. As the notes to the table indicate, other pitch sports rely on privately owned facilities. In many cases there is a surplus of senior pitches but a deficit in junior provision. As a result, this is indicative of junior teams playing on senior pitches. This occurs in Ashton-Bryn, Atherton, Orrell-Billinge-Winstanley, Wigan North and Wigan South.

**3.109** There is an overall surplus of pitches in Hindley-Abram and Tyldesley-Astley. Some sites in Tyldesley-Astley are found to be surplus to requirements and other uses could be explored for these, such as casual play. There is a significant surplus in Standish-Aspull-Shevington for all sports with the exception of junior rugby league. The shortfall in rugby league pitches could be accommodated by improving the quality and therefore the capacity of existing facilities.

**3.110** There are shortfalls of pitch provision in Golborne and Leigh. In Golborne this could be met through additional provision at private sports clubs. In Leigh it could be met through improvements to local authority sites, such as improvements to pitch quality and provision of changing accommodation.

### Indoor sports

**3.111** Table 10 below provides details of the sports facilities run by Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust on behalf of Wigan Council.

Venue/Location	Indoor sports facility		
	Swimming pool	Gym and fitness suite	Multi-purpose sports hall
Wigan Life Centre *	Yes	Yes	No
Leigh Sports Village	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robin Park, Wigan**	No	Yes	Yes
Ashton	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hindley	Yes	Yes	Yes
Howe Bridge	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tyldesley	Yes	No	No

**Table 10 Public indoor sports facilities, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (2011)**

\* Due to open September 2011

\*\* Robin Park Arena, sports and tennis centre (separate indoor facilities for tennis, athletics, gymnastics and cricket)

**3.112** There is also community sports provision at a number of schools and colleges and new sports facilities have been provided at the new Abraham Guest Specialist Sports and Arts College. Community involvement is currently being sought for Hindley and Tyldesley swimming pools.

**3.113** The borough has a number of private gyms with pools, including three run by large national operators: DW Sports Fitness at Stadium Way in Wigan, Parsonage Park in Leigh and Total Fitness at Goose Green, Wigan. There are also health and fitness suites with pools at national hotel chains at Kilhey Court, Standish, Britannia Brook Hotel, Standish and Greyhound Hotel, Leigh.

### Libraries and lifelong learning

**3.114** As of May 2011, the library service had 18 libraries spread across the borough and two mobile libraries which serve areas which are geographically remote and residents who are unable to access static libraries because of mobility problems and register to use the service. The 18 libraries are listed in Table 10 below. The library portfolio includes large town libraries in Leigh and Wigan, area libraries in the communities of Hindley, Tyldesley, Ashton and Atherton and smaller community libraries in areas such as Golborne, Standish and Beech Hill. There are also two outreach libraries in Hope and Abram run by members of the community. The spread of libraries is such that every resident in Wigan lives within two miles of a fixed service point.

**3.115** It should be noted that Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust are currently undertaking a major review of library services. A decision on the future shape of the service will be taken in mid August.

Township	Library location	Library type
Ashton Bryn	Ashton	Area
Atherton	Atherton	Area
Golborne Lowton	Golborne	Community
Hindley Abram	Abram*	Outreach
	Hindley	Area
	Platt Bridge	Community
Leigh	Leigh	Town



Township	Library location	Library type
Orrell Billinge Winstanley	Hope*	Outreach
Standish Aspull Shevington	Aspull	Community
	Shevington	Community
	Standish	Community
Tyldesley Astley	Tyldesley	Area
Wigan North	Beech Hill	Community
	Ince	Community
	Wigan***	Town
	Wigan Children's***	Town
Wigan South	Lamberhead Green**	Community
	Marsh Green	Community

**Table 11 Library provision in Wigan Borough, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust (2011)**

\* Outreach libraries run by the local community

\*\* Located within Abraham Guest Specialist Sports and Arts College

\*\*\* Wigan Library and the children's library will be relocated to the Wigan Life Centre in January 2012

**3.116** The majority of library buildings are Disability Discrimination Act compliant, though level access to Tyldesley Library can only be provided via the rear of the building and Hindley can only be accessed via steps to front or rear.

### Culture and other leisure facilities

**3.117** Table 12 provides a list of other cultural and leisure facilities available in the borough.

Township	Facility	Ownership
Ashton Bryn	Three Sisters Race Circuit	Private/Public
Atherton	Formby Hall	Private
Golborne Lowton	Lowton Civic Hall	Private
Hindley Abram	Monaco Ballroom	Private
Leigh (for east of the borough facilities)	Leigh Sports Village Stadium (11,000 seats)	Private/Public
	Cinema* (7 screens)	Private
	Turnpike Gallery	Public
	National bingo hall	Private
Orrell Billinge Winstanley		
Standish Aspull Shevington	Aspull Civic Hall	Private
Tyldesley Astley	Astley Green Colliery Museum	Private
	Tyldesley Little Theatre	Private
Wigan North	Ince Public Hall	Private
Wigan South (for west of the borough and boroughwide facilities)	DW Stadium, Robin Park (24,800 seats)	Private
	Cinema (11 screens)	Private
	Museum of Wigan Life	Public
	Drumcroon Art Gallery	Public
	Trencherfield Mill Steam Engine	Public
	Wigan Little Theatre	Private
	Norley Hall adventure playground	Public

---

Township	Facility	Ownership
	Two national bingo halls	Private

**Table 12 Other cultural and leisure facilities in Wigan borough, Various websites (2011)**

\* Leigh cinema opening late 2011

## FOUR

### Key messages

**4.1** A number of key messages have been drawn from the evidence identified in sections 2 and 3. The table below illustrates these and identifies the most relevant source documents. These key messages have all been addressed in the Core Strategy, particularly by policies CP1, CP2 and SP5 and the health and recreation elements of policies SP1, SP3 and SP4.

#### Health

Key message	Source document
The provision of new and improved accommodation for community based healthcare is required to ensure good access is achieved locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review (2010)</li> <li>Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Public Health White Paper (2010)</li> <li>North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021 (2008)</li> <li>Vision 2026 - Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)</li> <li>Living Well in Wigan Borough - Joint Public Health Strategy (2007)</li> <li>Township Action Plans (2006)</li> </ul>
Low life-expectancy and multiple health problems (including mental health) affect the quality of life, particularly in deprived areas. Healthcare provision needs to be supported to meet the range of issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review (2010)</li> <li>Projections of limiting long term illness for Greater Manchester districts (2007)</li> <li>Wigan Borough Health and Lifestyle Survey (2006)</li> <li>Wigan Borough Public Health Annual Report 2008-09 (2010)</li> <li>Vision 2026 - Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)</li> <li>Wigan Borough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2008)</li> <li>Living Well in Wigan Borough - Joint Public Health Strategy (2007)</li> <li>Wigan Borough Health and Lifestyle Survey (2006)</li> </ul>

Key message	Source document
<p>Participation in physical activity is low. More people are becoming overweight or obese because the environment acts as a barrier to activity and the built environment is not designed in a way that encourages more physical activity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTPI Good Practice Note 5: Delivering Healthy Communities (2009)</li> <li>• Physical Activity and the Environment (2008)</li> <li>• Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England (2008)</li> <li>• Tackling Obesities: The Foresight Report (2008)</li> <li>• Health, Place and Nature: How Outdoor Environments Influence Health and Well-Being (2008)</li> <li>• Active Design (2007)</li> <li>• North West Regional Intelligence Unit Health Evidence Paper (2008)</li> <li>• Wigan Borough Public Health Annual Report 2008-09 (2010)</li> <li>• Wigan Borough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2008)</li> <li>• Living Well in Wigan Borough (2007)</li> <li>• Wigan Borough Health and Lifestyle Survey (2006)</li> <li>• Taking SHAPE for the Future: 2006-2012 (2006)</li> </ul>

## Recreation

Key message	Source document
<p>The need for better quality provision of parks, open space, play space and sport and recreation provision to serve all ages and abilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Nearby (2010)</li> <li>• Fair Play (2008)</li> <li>• Green Flag Awards (2008)</li> <li>• Design for Play: A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces (2008)</li> <li>• PPG17 Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2002)</li> <li>• A Parks and Greenspaces Strategy for Wigan Borough (2008)</li> <li>• Vision 2026 - Sustainable Community Strategy (2008)</li> </ul>

Key message	Source document
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)</li> <li>• Wigan Children's Play Strategy and Action Plan (2007)</li> <li>• Township Action Plans (2006)</li> </ul>
Allotment provision in the borough is poor compared to national and regional standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigan Allotment Strategy 2011/2020 (2010)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)</li> </ul>
One more Local Nature Reserve is needed to meet national standards of accessibility, especially in the east of the borough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Nearby (2010)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)</li> </ul>
The quality of much of Wigan's natural and semi-natural green space is poor and we do not make the most of the opportunities that the countryside offers for recreation, tourism and environmental enhancement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Nearby (2010)</li> <li>• Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)</li> <li>• Greenheart Vision Document (2008)</li> <li>• Greenheart Action Plan (2008)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)</li> </ul>
The need to retain and encourage the community use of schools and clubs for sports and recreation for all ages and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Sites and Community Sports Provision (2004)</li> <li>• PPG17 Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2002)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Action Plan (2007)</li> <li>• Wigan Children's Play Strategy and Action Plan (2007)</li> <li>• Township Action Plans (2006)</li> </ul>

Key message	Source document
Green corridors and routes through parks and open space can play a key role for sports and recreation, particularly for walking and cycling, helping to promote healthy lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester (2008)</li> <li>• Greenheart Greenheart Vision Document (2008)</li> <li>• Greenheart Action Plan (2008)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)</li> </ul>
Certain areas of the borough have been identified as lacking or having poor access to certain types of open space or sports facilities to relevant standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Nearby (2010)</li> <li>• Active Design (2007)</li> <li>• PPG17 Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2002)</li> <li>• North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021 (2008)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment (2007)</li> </ul>
Maintaining, improving and protecting the quality of existing facilities for sport and recreation activities including play is a challenge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health, place and nature (2008)</li> <li>• Fair Play - A Consultation on the Play Strategy (2008)</li> <li>• Design for Play: A Guide to Creating Successful Play Spaces (2008)</li> <li>• Intensive Use Sports Facilities Revisited (2004)</li> <li>• Assessing Needs and Opportunities, Companion Guide to Planning Policy Guidance 17 (2002)</li> <li>• Wigan Children's Play Strategy and Action Plan (2008)</li> <li>• Wigan Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study: Strategy and Action Plan (2007)</li> <li>• Wigan Unitary Development Plan saved policy C1B (2006)</li> <li>• Taking SHAPE for the Future: 2006-2012 (2006)</li> </ul>

## FIVE

### Main spatial planning issues identified

**5.1** Set out below are the issues relating to health and recreation which have been identified during the preparation process. Section 5 of the Draft Core Strategy lists the headline issues for the borough.

#### Issue HR 1

There are significant differences in health and life-expectancy across the borough. Life-expectancy and levels of participation in physical activities overall are low and incidences of multiple health problems are high. This is particularly the case in central Wigan, Ince, Platt Bridge, Hag Fold in Atherton, central Leigh and Higher Folds near Leigh.

#### Issue HR 2

Accessibility to accident and emergency facilities is a problem for many in Leigh and the south of the borough and accessibility to doctor's surgeries is also a problem in some parts of the borough. A programme of providing new and additional healthcare facilities is ongoing.

#### Issue HR 3

Fewer people are walking or cycling as part of their everyday life to access work, services and facilities.



## Issue HR 4

There is a lot of open space but only a small proportion is of a high quality. There are gaps in the provision of play space for young children and play areas and facilities for older children throughout the borough, but particularly in Golborne and Lowton. The standard of most sports pitches is poor and there is a shortage of junior sports pitches and facilities, particularly in south Wigan, Leigh, Tyldesley and Astley. Across the borough there are significant variations in people's views of the quality of parks and green spaces.

## SIX

### Main infrastructure issues identified

**6.1** The infrastructure audit in Chapter 3 sets out the current position in the borough. A number of key gaps in provision are identified:

#### Health

##### Issue HR 5

Suitable locations are needed for additional primary and community healthcare facilities. Ashton and Scholes are the next priorities for strategic estate development but due to the NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan's current financial uncertainty progress on these schemes has been difficult.

##### Issue HR 6

Access to accident and emergency facilities is difficult for many residents, particularly in Leigh and the south of the borough.

#### Recreation and open space

##### Issue HR 7

There are catchment gaps for play provision throughout the borough.

##### Issue HR 8

Allotments are in short supply, with demand for plots outstripping supply by two to one.

### Issue HR 9

There is a limited range of cultural facilities in the borough such as theatres and performance venues.

## SEVEN

### Main sustainability issues identified

**7.1** We have identified key issues for the sustainability appraisal to ensure that it is appropriately focused on what is most important and relevant for Wigan Borough. These help to inform the sustainability appraisal framework and also contribute to the 'Short spatial portrait' of the borough in the Core Strategy. They are:

#### Issue HR 10

The borough has low life-expectancy and multiple health problems, particularly in deprived areas.

#### Issue HR 11

Around 60% of Wigan residents undertake low levels of physical activity.

#### Issue HR 12

In some areas there is a lack of quality open spaces and a shortfall in high-quality playing field provision.

#### Issue HR 13

Young people feel there is 'nothing for them to do' and residents perceive 'teenagers hanging around the streets' as a problem.

## EIGHT

## Our sustainability framework

### Sustainability objectives and criteria

**8.1** The following sustainability objectives, appraisal criteria and monitoring indicators have been established as part of the framework for assessing the Core Strategy. The objectives have been developed to reflect:

- Government guidance on sustainability appraisal such as 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Development Plan Documents (2005)' and recognised frameworks such as the Integrated Appraisal Toolkit (North West Regional Assembly and other agencies).
- The key sustainability issues identified in this topic paper.
- Policy context and legal requirements.
- Feedback and suggestions from consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (which contained a draft set of objectives and criteria).

**8.2** The Sustainability Appraisal is underpinned by 19 headline objectives. Objective 10 specifically relates to health and Objective 11 specifically relates to recreation.

Sustainability objective	Appraisal criteria / Sub-questions
<p><b>Objective 10.</b></p> <p>To protect and improve physical and mental health, improve access to good quality health care and encourage healthy lifestyles, particularly in the most deprived parts of the borough.</p>	Will it improve access to high-quality health facilities for all and have a neutral or positive impact on capacity.
	Will it protect and improve physical and mental health and promote wellbeing in communities, particularly those in deprived areas where inequalities exist?
	Will it help adapt to health impacts that could become more likely due to climate change (such as heat stress, food deserts and insect borne diseases)

Sustainability objective	Appraisal criteria / Sub-questions
	Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?

Sustainability objective	Appraisal criteria / Sub-questions
<b>Objective 11.</b> To provide increased opportunities for engagement in cultural, leisure and recreational activities.	Will it provide increased opportunity for engagement in indoor and / or outdoor leisure activities (particularly quality sports pitches)?
	Will it enhance access to green spaces and the countryside?
	Will it provide youths with 'something to do'?
	Will it provide opportunities for people to come into contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places?
	Will it provide opportunities for engagement in a range of cultural activities?

## Baseline position

**Indicators / Monitoring Data- Sustainability Objective 10: To protect and improve physical and mental health, improve access to good quality health care and encourage healthy lifestyles, particularly in the most deprived parts of the Borough.**

Indicator	Wigan baseline	Wigan trends	Relevant targets	Comparisons	Issues / comments
% adults aged over 18 who considered their health (mental and physical) to be poor over the last 12 months.	13% for the borough; with significant variations between wards (2006)	Undesirable increase (from 9.8%) since last survey in 2001	Not available.	Not available for 2006. 11% for England in 2001.	Slightly more people consider their health to be poor compared to the previous survey.  Source: Wigan Health and Lifestyle Survey
% residents who regularly participate in sport (at least 3 x 30	17.0% (2009-10)	14.7% in 2008-09 17.0% in 2007-08	Not available.	England - 16.4% North West - 17.0%	Wigan is just above the national average and the same as Northwest

Indicator	Wigan baseline	Wigan trends	Relevant targets	Comparisons	Issues / comments
min moderate intensity per week)		Slight increase from last survey in 2008-09 but change is not significant.			averages, and compares more favourably to Greater Manchester districts. Source: Sport England Active People Survey 2009-10
Life expectancy at birth - male & female - Wigan (in years) (3 Year rolling average)	Female - 79.8 (2008) Male - 75.6 (2008)	Increased life expectancy of 0.2 years for females and males between Dec 2007 and Dec 2008	Not available	England Female - 82.0 North West Female - 80.6 England Male - 77.9 North West Male - 76.3	Life expectancy continues to improve in Wigan but is below the regional and national averages. Source: ONS



Indicator	Wigan baseline	Wigan trends	Relevant targets	Comparisons	Issues / comments
Number of patients per GP (full time equivalent)	1969 (2010)	Not available	Maximum of 1800 patients per GP (national target)	England – 1520(2009)	Wigan doesn't meet the national target and is considerably short of the England average.
Percentage of people who have access to services by walking, cycling and public transport	Primary Schools (within 15 min): 99% Secondary Schools (within 20 min): 96% GPs (within 15 min): 99% (2009)	Not available	Primary Schools: 100% Secondary Schools: 100% GPs: 97.53% By 2010/11	Not applicable	Source: Department for Transport Core Accessibility Indicators

**Indicators / Monitoring Data - Sustainability Objective 11: To provide increased opportunities for engagement in cultural, leisure and recreational activities.**

Indicator	Wigan baseline	Wigan trends	Relevant targets	Comparisons	Issues / comments
Hectares of playing fields per 1000 population	1.21 hectares	Not available.	Council standard for provision of playing fields and sports pitches is 1.7 per 1000	Missing information.	Current shortfall of 67.45 Hectares
Percentage of residents who have visited parks and open spaces in the last 12 months	76% (November 2007)	Positive increase since last survey results of 74.7% (March 2004)	Missing information	Missing information	We experienced a positive trend between 2004-2007.
Number of urban parks and open spaces per 1000 population	2.71 hectares.	Missing information	Council standard for provision of open space is 3.2 hectares per 1000 people. (1.7 per 1000 for playing fields and sports pitches) (0.8 ha per	Missing information	Source: Open Space Needs assessment (2007)

Indicator	Wigan baseline	Wigan trends	Relevant targets	Comparisons	Issues / comments
			1000 of formal non-active open space) (0.7 ha per 1000 of children's playspace).		
Percentage of residents who feel that the provision of cultural / leisure facilities / activities benefit their lives	50% (2006)	No information.	Not available	Not available	New indicator.
Percentage of footpaths and rights of way that are easy to use by the general public.	71% (2006) 72.5% (2008)	1.5% increase since 2006	72% by 2009	England - 77.9% (2008)	Wigan's performance has improved slightly in recent years. Source: Audit Commission

Indicator	Wigan baseline	Wigan trends	Relevant targets	Comparisons	Issues / comments
Number of parks awarded Green Flag status	2 (2007-8)	First 2 awards in 2007/8	18 sites in Parks and Greenspaces Strategy to achieve this by 2020	Bolton: 2 Chorley: 1 Salford: 3 St Helens: 9 Warrington: 6 West Lancs: 2	

## NINE

### An assessment of legality and soundness

**9.1** This Topic Paper provides a summary of the evidence required for our Core Strategy and Sustainability Appraisal. The policies in the Core Strategy that this Topic Paper serves are core policies CP1 'Health and well-being' and CP2 'Open space, sport and recreation'. The purpose of this section is to show that we have produced our Core Strategy in line with legal requirements and these policies are 'sound'.

**9.2** Some of the legal requirements are procedural and concern the Core Strategy as a whole rather than individual policies; these are covered in the Self Assessment of Soundness and Legal Compliance document that accompanies the Core Strategy. The 4 legal requirements that are specific to contents of the Core Strategy are:

- Community and stakeholder involvement
- Subject to sustainability appraisal
- Conforms generally to the Regional Spatial Strategy
- Regard to the sustainable community strategy

**9.3** A further requirement is to have "regard to national policy" but this is also covered under a similar 'test of soundness'.

**9.4** To be sound the Core Strategy must be **justified, effective** and **consistent with national policy**. Compliance with these tests of soundness is assessed against the following 6 'soundness' sub-headings:

- Founded on a robust and credible evidence base
- The most appropriate strategy when considered against the reasonable alternatives
- Deliverable, including:
  - Identifying what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount, type and distribution of development proposed for the borough;
  - Ensuring that there are no regulatory or national policy barriers to delivery;
  - Ensuring that partners who are essential to delivery are signed up to it;
  - Being coherent with the core strategies prepared by our neighbouring councils.

- Flexible
- Able to be monitored
- Consistent with national policy

**9.5** The remainder of this section sets out the case for policies CP1 and CP2 against these 4 legal requirements and the tests of soundness.

## **Policy CP1 Health and well-being**

### **Community and stakeholder involvement**

**9.6** The community and key stakeholders including NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan have all been involved at each stage of the Core Strategy's preparation. Their views and comments have been considered and have helped to shape the content and direction of policy CP1 and other policies where appropriate. Policy CP1 therefore complies fully with the Statement of Community Involvement in respect of who has been involved or consulted, and how and when consultation has taken place. This involvement is set out in Section 3 of this Topic Paper and is also included in the Consultation Reports.

### **Subject to sustainability appraisal**

**9.7** Policy CP1 has been shaped by the outcomes of a robust sustainability appraisal that satisfies the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The appraisal process was founded on the collection of thorough baseline information about health and well-being and key stakeholders were involved, including NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan. The process informed the original choice of policy and subsequently tested it against sustainability principles and objectives. It was then further adapted to address sustainability issues and, as a result, is the most sustainable policy for Wigan Borough that we could reasonably include in the Core Strategy. The full details of the appraisal can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal Report (August 2011).

### **General conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy**

**9.8** Policy CP1 is in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy, specifically:

- It promotes sustainable communities in accordance with policy DP2 by improving the health of the region's population, reducing present inequalities.
- It ensures the provision of health facilities ranging from hospitals down to locally based community health facilities in accordance with Policy L1.

### **Regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy**

**9.9** Our sustainable community strategy 'Vision 2026' was produced in 2008 in line with the Core Strategy time frame. It identifies four priority areas and this policy is directly in line with one of them: 'Living healthier and longer', as well as the core question on health and well being.

### **Founded on robust and credible evidence**

**9.10** Policy CP1 is founded on robust and credible evidence as shown in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this topic paper. This is backed up further by our separate 'health and recreation evidence review' document. The key sources of evidence which support policy CP1 are the Wigan Borough Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2008) and the Marmot Review 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post-2010' (2010).

### **The most appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives**

**9.11** Throughout the preparation of the core strategy it has always been the intention of the council and its partners to provide new and improved healthcare facilities where they are needed most, as set out in policy CP1. Alternative approaches to policy CP1 would be not to improve healthcare facilities or not to target improvements to areas of greatest need. This would mean health improvement would be more challenging to secure in outdated facilities with consequent effects on life expectancy and even higher incidences of multiple health problems. A lack of focus on areas of greatest need would result in further increasing the gap in health outcomes between inner and outer areas of the borough. Therefore our approach, which focuses healthcare provision to areas of greatest need is the most appropriate strategy in the context of the evidence reviewed and consultation undertaken.

---

## Deliverable

**9.12** The key messages identified in section 4 of this document indicate what needs to be addressed in the borough with regards to health.

**9.13** To address these issues and deliver change and improvement in the borough, policy CP1 has indicated a set of key delivery items. These are set out in the table beneath the policy and include new and improved community-based health care accommodation; the enhancement of acute healthcare provision in Wigan and Leigh; undertaking health impact assessments; and producing a health and well-being supplementary planning document.

**9.14** Policy CP1 is designed to meet the following objectives, set out in Chapter 7 of the Core Strategy: HR1 - Health and recreation and CD1 - Community development and involvement.

**9.15** Alongside the council, a number of organisations including the Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust and successor bodies to the NHS Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust will play a crucial role in the delivery of this policy. The support of these organisations is demonstrated in the Consultation Reports that accompany the Core Strategy.

**9.16** Neighbouring authorities have been involved at all stages of the policy's preparation. No representations have been received relating to policy CP1 indicating that the policy is coherent with the Core Strategies of neighbouring authorities.

**9.17** There are no regulatory or national policy barriers to the delivery of the policy.

## Flexible

**9.18** Policy CP1 establishes a focus on what, where and how much new healthcare provision will take place in the borough, but as it is a Core Strategy policy, it is not specific about how this will be achieved. The strategic nature of the policy provides direction to new healthcare development whilst retaining flexibility and therefore an ability to adapt to future changes during the plan period. It is intended that clauses in the policy are there to support the plans and strategies of the healthcare sector.



## **Able to be monitored**

**9.19** The means for monitoring this policy are set out in chapter 10 of the Draft Core Strategy: Proposed Submission Version, specifically:

- level of childhood obesity
- incidences of cardiovascular disease
- life expectancy
- % of population with debilitating illnesses
- % of relevant applications accompanied by a satisfactory health impact assessment.

## **Consistent with national policy**

**9.20** Policy CP1 is consistent with national policy, with regard to the key documents reviewed:

- Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 (The Marmot Review)
- Healthy Lives, Healthy People: The Public Health White Paper

## **Policy CP2 Open space, sport and recreation**

### **Community and stakeholder involvement**

**9.21** The community and key stakeholders including Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and Sport England have all been involved at each stage of the Core Strategy's preparation. Their views and comments have been considered and have helped to shape the content and direction of policy CP2 and other policies where appropriate. Policy CP2 therefore complies fully with the Statement of Community Involvement in respect of who has been involved or consulted, and how and when consultation has taken place. Details of this involvement are set out in Section 3 of this topic paper and within our Consultation Reports.

### **Subject to sustainability appraisal**

**9.22** Policy CP2 has been shaped by the outcomes of a robust sustainability appraisal that satisfies the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The appraisal process was founded on the collection of thorough baseline information about open space, sport and recreation and key stakeholders were involved including

Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and Sport England. The process informed the original choice of policy and subsequently tested it against sustainability principles and objectives. It was then further adapted to address sustainability issues and, as a result, is the most sustainable policy for Wigan Borough that we could reasonably include in the Core Strategy. The full details of the appraisal can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal Report (August 2011).

### **General conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy**

**9.23** Policy CP2 is in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy, specifically:

- It provides a policy context for sport, recreation and cultural activities in accordance with policy L1, which requires all plans, proposals and schemes to provide such facilities for all members of the community. It does this by seeking to maintain and enhance existing provision and designating new areas to address identified gaps in provision.

### **Regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy**

**9.24** Our sustainable community strategy 'Vision 2026' was produced in 2008 in line with the Core Strategy timeframe. It identifies four priority areas and this policy is directly in line with one of them: Living healthier and longer.

### **Founded on robust and credible evidence**

**9.25** Policy CP2 is founded on robust and credible evidence as shown in sections 2, 3 and 4 of this topic paper. This is backed up further by the separate 'health and recreation evidence review' document. The key source of evidence which supports policy CP2 is the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment.

### **The most appropriate strategy when considered against the alternatives**

**9.26** Alternative approaches to policy CP2 would be not to protect and enhance valuable open spaces, sporting and recreational facilities; not focus on Township priorities or not identify gaps in provision. This would mean our open space and sports and recreation facilities would not be improved or enhanced, with consequent impacts on personal health and well-being and environmental deterioration. A lack of focus on Township priorities would result in resources being spread too thinly to have a meaningful impact. Therefore

our approach, which focuses the provision of open space, sporting and recreational facilities in areas of greatest need and where gaps in provision have been identified is the most appropriate strategy in the context of the evidence reviewed and consultation undertaken.

## **Deliverable**

**9.27** The key messages identified in section 4 of this document indicate what needs to be addressed in the borough with regards to open space, sport and recreation.

**9.28** To address these messages and deliver change and improvement in the borough, policy CP2 has indicated a set of key delivery items. These are set out in a table below the policy and include maintaining and enhancing township and principal parks; enabling better allotment provision; designating new local nature reserves; improving provision for pitch and non-pitch sports; and developing more detailed local standards.

**9.29** Policy CP2 is designed to meet the following objectives, set out in chapter 7 of the Core Strategy: HR1 - Health and recreation, CD1 - Community development and involvement, BEL1 - Built environment and landscapes and WHS1 - Wildlife habitats and species. It also has a partial role to play in meeting objectives NQ1 - Community safety and neighbourhood quality, A1 - Accessibility and CC1 - Climate change.

**9.30** Alongside the council, a number of organisations including Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust and Sport England will play a crucial role in the delivery of this policy. The support of these organisations is demonstrated in the Consultation Reports that accompany the Core Strategy.

**9.31** Neighbouring authorities have been involved at all stages of the policy's preparation. No representations have been received relating to policy CP2 indicating that the policy is coherent with the Core Strategies of neighbouring authorities.

**9.32** There are no regulatory or national policy barriers to the delivery of the policy.

## Flexible

**9.33** Policy CP2 establishes a focus on what, where and how much open space, sport and recreation provision is needed in the borough, but is not specific about how this will be achieved. The strategic nature of the policy provides direction to the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities whilst retaining flexibility and therefore an ability to adapt to future changes during the plan period.

## Able to be monitored

**9.34** The means for monitoring policy CP2 are set out in chapter 10 of the Draft Core Strategy: Proposed Submission Version, specifically:

- Enhancement of principal and township parks
- Number and availability of allotments
- Number of new local nature reserves
- Participation in sport and active recreation
- Amount of sport, recreation and informal open space lost to other uses (where non-policy compliant)
- Developing more detailed local standards.

## Consistent with national policy

**9.35** Policy CP2 is consistent with national policy, with regard to the key documents reviewed, specifically:

- Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation

## TEN

## Next steps

**10.1** This is the final version of the topic paper summarising and analysing evidence on health and recreation that we have gathered to inform our Core Strategy: Submission Version and the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal.

**10.2** Previous versions of each topic paper and the evidence reviews behind them are available from the 'Issues and Options', 'Preferred Options' and 'Draft Core Strategy - the Proposed Submission version' web-pages for the Core Strategy, on our website at [www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/ldfcorestrategy). This is to provide a record of what evidence was available at each stage of Core Strategy preparation.

**10.3** We may update this topic paper in the future to inform a future development plan document or a review of the Core Strategy.

# LDF

WIGAN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY

**Gillian Bishop**

Corporate Director - Places Directorate  
Wigan Council, PO Box 100, Wigan, WNI 3DS

