

WIGAN WORKS



SIR HOWARD BACKS INVEST IN WIGAN



WIGAN IS A HOME FOR ENTREPRENEURS



A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY, RISE AND SHINE IN WIGAN



"I'm happy to play my part."

'What's the story morning glory?' Brian Cannon tells us.

20 Reasons why you should be investing in Wigan.

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"WIGAN HAS THE PLAN!"

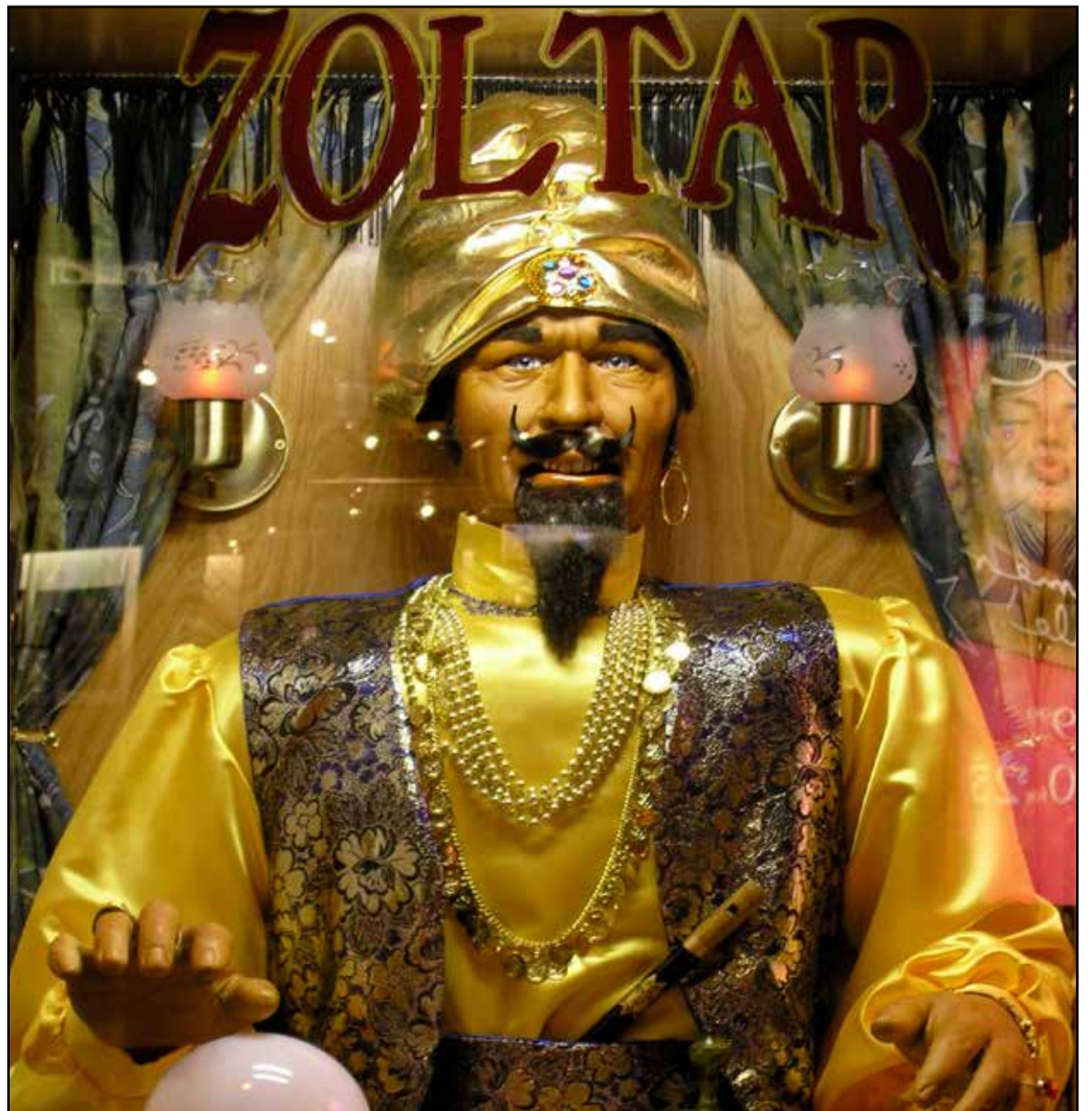
⚙️ Says respected economist and fortune teller.

A world famous fortune teller has predicted that Wigan will lead the way in defining Britain's plan following the recent EU referendum.

Known in business circles as Zoltar, the international crystal ball gazer and respected economist has finally

given his opinion on the economic climate. He says, 'Wigan will lead the way, Wigan has the plan and if Great Britain wishes to succeed, it would do well to watch and learn from this great borough.'

To find out more about Zoltar's predictions go to www.wiganworks.com



INVEST IN WIGAN
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SIR HOWARD BACKS INVEST IN WIGAN

A creative viral video made to raise Wigan Borough's profile as a destination for investment has been backed by one of the major players in the Northern Powerhouse and attracted almost 300,000 views so far.



The 'Invest in Wigan' video, created by the Wigan Works campaign to boost investment and jobs in Wigan over the coming years has received the backing of Manchester City Council chief executive Sir Howard Bernstein (pictured) – a key player in the creation of a Northern Powerhouse.

It has also been backed by bloggers and digital commentators nationally and internationally with one, Creative Review, describing it as "genius" to its 1.2 million Twitter followers. You can watch the video via:

www.wiganworks.com

Sir Howard said: "We are showcasing Greater Manchester on an international stage and all boroughs are working together in order to secure new employment and investment opportunities. "There are huge growth opportunities ahead for freight, distribution and logistics in Wigan Borough and the employment potential is enormous.

"Invest in Wigan is a powerful message and I'm happy to be able to play my part by spreading the word about all that Wigan Borough has to offer." The video features a satellite super computer which has spent two

years orbiting the earth to detect the world's next major business hotspot and delivers its final conclusion: "Invest in Wigan!"

"We also have a wide range of employment sites available now for businesses to relocate to or to help them expand."

Its conclusion on Wigan being the next big global growth hotspot is broadcast on national TV networks and greeted with delight by international stock markets as well as investors and developers who are now rushing to invest in Wigan.

Councillor David Molyneux, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "While our Hyperbrain video is funny, our team at Wigan Council are deadly serious when it comes to attracting business to Wigan Borough. "Wigan is open for business and our Wigan Works campaign shows we are very business-minded."

Councillor Molyneux said that while Hyperbrain may be fictitious, the qualities Wigan has as a place to invest are very real. He said: "Wigan is a prime location for access to the North of England for logistics and distribution



as the new Poundland and Nice-Pak development wins show."

M6EPIC110+ is set in a site area of 6.27 acres/2.54 ha. There is potential to expand the warehouse by a further 70,000 sq ft totalling 180,000 sq ft within the adjacent site area. Junction 25 of the M6 is only 2.5 miles away (5 minutes) and the M6/M62 interchange 5.5 miles (10 minutes).

Wigan Pier Quarter - Retail and leisure development, Wigan Town Centre. The first phase is a 2.5 acre brownfield site nestling between the River

Douglas and Wigan Pier and next to the Today's Community Church and Trencherfield Mill. The second phase will involve the development of the area alongside the canal including the historic buildings at the water's edge; The Orwell, the museum and the former education centre.

Wigan Council are encouraging investors to come forward, for both phases, with their development ideas regarding the heritage buildings and the land.

Three things that you didn't know about business in Wigan:

- 1 Wigan has the largest employment in the manufacturing sector in Greater Manchester outside of Manchester.
- 2 Wigan has the largest GVA in the Science & Research & Development Sector in GM outside of Manchester.
- 3 Wigan hosts the biggest business Expo in the North West.

TOP CHINA - BRITAIN ADVICE AT WIGAN BUSINESS EXPO 2016

Expert advice on how Wigan Borough businesses can access the Chinese market was available at the Wigan Business Expo this year.

With more than 130 businesses showcasing

Business Council (CBBC) helps British and Chinese businesses and organisations work together in China, the UK and third country markets around the world.

in China and is fluent in Mandarin, said: "China is actively looking for British brands, knowledge and innovation and there has never been a better time to think about extending your business overseas.

"The talk will cover some of the key points to consider such taking advantage of e-commerce platforms, protecting your Intellectual Property and overcoming cultural differences. I hope it will be very useful for all outwardly looking businesses."

The China-Britain Business Council operates alongside the British Chamber of Commerce in China to support companies of all sizes and sectors from multinationals to SMEs.

It has 60 years of experience, experts in 11 UK offices and 15 Chinese locations, and a diverse 1,000 strong membership.

Councillor David Molyneux, Wigan Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The

Chinese market is a hugely important one for our businesses and it is therefore crucial they have the knowledge and skills to be able seize the opportunities it presents.

"This talk at the Expo was a great opportunity to learn much more from an expert in this field and I hope businesses who attended benefited from it."

For more information go to www.wiganworks.com



China-Britain Business Council
英中贸易协会

their products and more than 1,000 delegates on the day the Expo was the biggest yet.

It took place on Friday 7th October at Robin Park Sports and Tennis Centre, Wigan.

The China-Britain

China business adviser Alex Farrell spoke at the Expo explaining how Wigan Borough and North West SMEs can get a foothold in this crucial market.

Alex, who spent the past 10 years living and working

"Today at the Wigan Business Expo I will be discussing the opportunities for UK SMEs in China and how exporting to one of the world's largest markets might not be as difficult as it appears."



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INVESTMENT TEAM RECOGNISED FOR 1,000 NEW JOBS SUCCESS



A team dedicated to attracting new business to Wigan Borough has been recognised for their success in bringing 1,000 new jobs

Wigan Council's Business Investment Team has been short-listed for Public Sector Team of the Year in the Insider North West Property Awards.

The team was short-listed for helping to bring two major new developments to Wigan Borough which will result in 1,000 new jobs over the coming years.

The team successfully worked with Poundland to bring its new logistics centre to the borough at South Lancs Industrial Estate which will result in 800 new jobs.

The centre will be Poundland's central distribution hub for the North West and is due to be operational later this year.

The team also worked in partnership with wet-wipe manufacturer

Nice-Pak International to develop their new factory at Westwood Park which is now completed and has become the biggest single building ever built in Wigan. This will secure 150 jobs and create at least 100 new jobs.

The Business Investment Team is dedicated solely to working with businesses from across the country and internationally to sell Wigan as a place to invest.

It handles thousands of enquiries a year and is committed to guiding new businesses of all sizes through the process of setting up in the borough.

This can include help with finding the right property and location, to assistance with funding and recruitment.

Councillor David Molyneux, Wigan Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This

is a fantastic achievement by our Inward Investment Team to have been short-listed for these awards.

"By securing the Poundland deal and helping Nice-Pak expand in the borough the team have played a crucial role in boosting the local economy and delivering high value jobs for our residents.

"This is an excellent example of why Wigan Council is business-friendly and 100 per cent committed to working with businesses to help them succeed in the borough."

As part of its Deal for the Future the council aims to create 10,000 new jobs, 12,000 new apprentices and build 10,000 new homes in the next decade.

Councillor Molyneux said Wigan Borough was ideally placed to attract new businesses.



"I cannot think of a better location for business in the North West than Wigan Borough.

"We are ideally located between Liverpool and Manchester and have a huge range of motorway networks on our doorstep as well as the west coast mainline.

"We also offer a high value low cost alternative to the major cities of Liverpool and Manchester and we have land available for development."

The awards, hosted by Insider Media, took place at Manchester Central last May.

For more information on doing business, including details of new development sites, in Wigan Borough visit: www.wiganworks.com

JOIN THE TOUR OF WIGAN BOROUGH'S MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SITES

Businesses and developers with an interest in the major developments happening in Wigan Borough are invited on free tours.

Wigan Borough has ambitious plans to increase the number of homes, employers and residents in the coming years.

The council has set out its vision to create 10,000 new jobs, 12,000 apprenticeships and enable 10,000 new homes to be built over the next decade.

This means there are now many exciting and significant development opportunities in the borough.

To showcase the wide range of opportunities available tours of development sites are organised by Wigan Council for interested parties.

Tours take place throughout the year starting from 7.30am to 1pm latest.

Tours of Wigan have been extremely successful since they were launched in 2015. The compare is Wigan Council's Business Investment Team manager Steve Burns.

If you would like to attend a tour please get in touch by calling 01942 489190 or drop us an email business@wigan.gov.uk



WIGAN HAS THE LARGEST LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT



IN GM FOR MANUFACTURING, SCIENCE AND R+D*

*EXCLUDING MANCHESTER

INVEST IN WIGAN
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WHY WIGAN IS BECOMING A HOME FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Wigan is home to many small and medium-sized enterprises which constitute a large proportion of the 12,000 businesses based there.

While manufacturing is still a pillar of the local economy with the food and drink sectors being particularly strong, digital and creative, health, environment and professional services are all increasing in importance.

The largest private sector companies in the area are Heinz, Waterfields, AB World Foods, Hitchens/Bakkavor and Arrow XL. Wigan also has a large number of public sector employers, the most notable being Wigan Council, NHS and Wigan & Leigh College.

The borough is fast becoming known as a place for entrepreneurs and new industries to flourish. The Old Courts Creative Arts and Enterprise Hub being a particularly strong example of this. Based centrally in the town and a stone's throw from All Saints Parish church, the creative industries based in the building complement and support one another to achieve shared community goals and maximise arts exposure in the wider context of Wigan Borough and beyond. The converted historical building is home to an interesting selection of businesses, one of which is Microdot.

Owner Brian Cannon is a British graphic designer, art director, band manager and music video director. He is best known for his work in the 1990s, which created the album cover for Oasis' record breaking debut album, Definitely Maybe, in 1994. Other recognisable pieces include the Urban Hymns artwork for The Verve and two further Oasis albums; What's The Story Morning



Glory? and Be Here Now. **Cannon was given The Lifetime Achievement Award by the global Annual Design Awards in November 2011.**

Real ale in the area continues to thrive, this has resulted in a steady increase in the number of local microbreweries. All Gates and Prospect have both recently won awards at the SIBA North-West Beer Competition held at Bolton Beer Festival last year.

Wigan Council presents itself as 'Open for Business'. This commitment to support firms in the borough forms part of 'The Deal,' the successful initiative that was launched last year, as an innovative approach to achieving savings through driving efficiency. **The Business Engagement Team is a key lever in delivering on the 'Open for Business' promise, as it provides free and independent access to a full range of support services.** A dedicated officer is assigned as a single point of contact providing long-term support and continuity, particularly important in terms of relocation though also proving to be useful to employers

already established in the borough.

'The council's dedicated Business Engagement Team provides a fantastic platform for us to grow the local economy,' says Waterfield's chairman and chair of the Wigan Forward Board, Richard Waterfield.

'We can support the needs of businesses already here and help to attract other companies to move here and be part of our story. As someone who runs a business that dates back as far as 1926, I'm hugely proud of our borough but I don't want us to rest on our laurels. I'm very keen that every business gets access to the support it needs. By



boosting local businesses, we'll see growth in jobs and better prospects for everyone,' continues Waterfield.

FREE PROPERTY FINDER SERVICE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Council, in partnership with Greater Manchester Growth Company, offers a Property Finder service which is free of charge, to help business owners find premises.

The service provides a comprehensive list of commercial land and premises within the Wigan Borough, covering both council owned and privately owned land and premises.

The council can also work on a one-to-one basis offering advice on land and premises availability, potential investment opportunities, and recruitment requirements.

In terms of funding, there is support available for new businesses. This may not always be in the form of grant assistance but through start up loans for eligible clients.

Wigan Council works with partners across the borough to ensure that any new business receives one-to-one tailored support.

Another form of local business support, that has been hailed as a success regionally, is the annual Wigan business expo. Now in its seventh year, the expo has been key in allowing local, regional and national firms who have interest in the borough to network directly. The biggest expo of its kind in the region means that it has become an event of note in the business calendar, with more than 2,000 people attending at the Robin Park Arena this October.

Reach us through email business@wigan.gov.uk, call us on **01942 489190** or visit www.wiganworks.com

Open for business

THE BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT TEAM

CONTACT US TODAY

e: business@wigan.gov.uk
w: www.wiganworks.com t: 01942 489190

WIGAN BUSINESS EXPO 2016

The biggest and best yet!

One of the largest showcase events for business in the North West was hailed a major success as entrepreneurial spirit was celebrated in Wigan Borough.

The Wigan Business Expo took place on Friday 7th October and attracted well over 1,000 people from across the North West.

The Expo, now in its seventh year, is one of the biggest of its kind with more than 130 businesses exhibiting.

Reaction from delegates was hugely positive with many saying the event was the best yet.

Key note speakers included Sir Howard Bernstein, chief executive of Manchester City Council, inspirational local businesswoman Melanie Bryan OBE, social media expert Jo Booth and Apprentice of the Year Jade Aspinall.

Sir Howard, one of the main figures behind the regeneration of Manchester and of the Greater Manchester devolution agreement, spoke to highlight the

opportunity for growth the area now had.

Sir Howard said it was crucial for businesses and government to work together to make sure local residents benefit from forthcoming economic growth.

He said: "I don't think the platform for growth that exists today in Greater Manchester has existed before in the past 20 years.

"But it is not just about the growing economy. It is about how people who live here are able to share the benefits of success.

"We must make sure everyone who lives in Greater Manchester who wants to take part in the economic growth has the opportunity to do so."

Councillor David Molyneux, Wigan Council's deputy leader, praised the small to medium sized businesses who are the lifeblood of the Wigan Borough economy and the entrepreneurs who were taking advantage of opportunities in the new economy.

He said: "The Wigan Business Expo is a fantastic celebration of the

entrepreneurial spirit in Wigan.

"Wigan has so much to offer and today's event perfectly illustrates that.

"If you are from a business thinking about investing then this is a place to do it."

Exhibitors at Robin Park Sports and Tennis Centre, Wigan also praised Wigan as a great place for business with huge potential.

Sunil Ahuja is from Office Bay, a business creating high quality new office space in the borough with their first office at Unity House in Wigan due to open soon.

"There are so many good businesses in Wigan. Wigan has long term growth potential and we hope to be a part of that."

Sunil also praised Wigan Council as a business-friendly council. Sponsors of the Expo this year included main sponsors Fleet Dynamic along with Recognition Express, Nice-Pak, CRE8, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, Training Consortium and VW Corkills.



SIR HOWARD BERNSTEIN HIGHLIGHTS WIGAN'S ROLE IN THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE

Sir Howard Bernstein, the chief executive of Manchester City Council, has met with Wigan business leaders to discuss the role the town should play in creating jobs as part of the government's Northern Powerhouse vision.

Sir Howard spoke at the Wigan Forward Board public-private partnership to discuss plans for growing Greater Manchester's economy in the years to come.

The Northern Powerhouse, he said, referred to a strategy rather than a place, a plan to enhance transport and productivity and get more people working.

Drawing attention to Wigan's role in the plan, he said the borough's strength lay in its status as a manufacturing base, with freight, logistics and distribution businesses there all being central to delivering employment opportunities.

Speaking at the Leigh Sports Village event, Sir Howard (pictured) said: "We have got to have those investment opportunities and then we have to work together to take full advantage of international investment."

He added that the borough's employment potential is "enormous".

The chairman of the Wigan Forward Board, Richard Waterfield, said: "From listening to Sir Howard there is a recognition within business and the local authority that Wigan is an example of what Greater Manchester is trying to achieve. Wigan is a powerhouse in its own right."

Mr Waterfield went on to praise praised Wigan Council's Deal for the Future strategy, but added that a major challenge would be to raise the aspirations of those who are out of work.

Wigan Council leader Lord Peter Smith commented: "We have excellent businesses in the borough and it is only through working together with our businesses that we will be able to grow the borough's economy in the coming years."

"The council's Deal for the Future is a deal with business as much as it is a deal with our residents. The Deal for the Future starts with growth and jobs creation, attracting quality

employment and making sure that people can access work."

He continued: "It's our task to link the jobs that are created in the Northern Powerhouse with residents in the borough who are dependent on support or who may have never worked."



CONTACT CENTRE 33 CREATES 40 NEW JOBS IN WIGAN

A company in Wigan is set to expand to create 40 new jobs due to the high performance of its current workforce.

Contact Centre 33 launched their second base in Wigan in October 2014.

The Sheffield-based company, which provides contact centre services for a leading energy company, currently employs 22 at its Wigan site on Standishgate.

Contact Centre 33 director, Paul Fletcher,

said: "We have been very successful so far in Wigan and we are looking to expand as a result."

"This is an important milestone for the company. In Wigan there seems to be a lot of people who want to work and there is so much potential here."

"Attendance and

performance in the team is great and the quality of customer service is high so we are committed to growing the team here."

Mr Fletcher said that for every job advertised the

company is receiving on average 12 applicants - highlighting people's willingness to work in Wigan.

Wigan Council's deputy leader Councillor David Molyneux said: "It's testament to the performance of the current workforce that Contact Centre 33 wants to expand its operation in Wigan."

"I have huge faith in the quality and willingness of the Wigan workforce to work and perform well."

"I hope this example shows other companies that if they want a committed and dedicated workforce who gets results



then Wigan Borough is the place to be.

"At Wigan Council we are 100% committed to growing our economy, creating job opportunities and improving the quality of life for our residents. That's why we launched Wigan Works."

The company is currently based in the former council Gateway building and has ambitions to fill it to its capacity of 350 employees.

HYPERBRAIN SAYS, "INVEST IN WIGAN!"

Satellite super computer endorses Wigan.

A satellite super computer which has spent two years orbiting the earth to detect the world's next major business hotspot has delivered its final conclusion: "Invest in Wigan"

Hyperbrain is at the cutting edge of new technology developed to

detect potential growth spots around the world.

Its conclusion on Wigan being the next big global growth hotspot has been broadcast on national TV networks and greeted with delight by international stock markets as well as investors and developers who are now rushing to invest in Wigan.

Go to www.wiganworks.com for more information.

#wiganworks

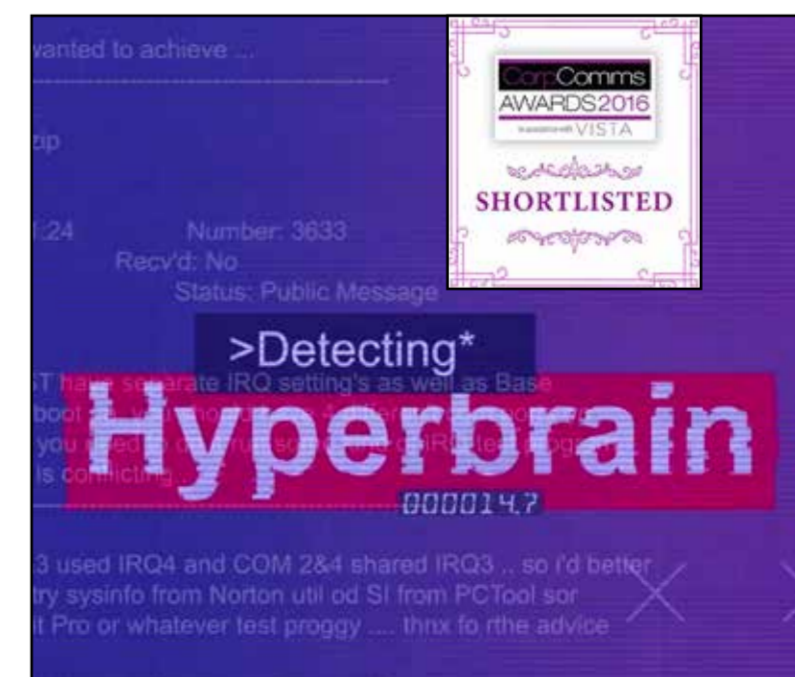
Or contact the Wigan Business Investment team directly at business@wigan.gov.uk



HYPERBRAIN VIRAL NOMINATED FOR AWARD

Wigan Council has been shortlisted in this year's CorpComms Awards for 'Best corporate publication - Borough Life' and 'Best use of video - Hyperbrain.'

The winners will be announced on 23 November at the 11th annual CorpComms Awards, which will be held in the Art Deco splendour of The Troxy, on the outskirts of the City in London. The host for the evening will be the self-styled German Ambassador of Comedy Henning Wehn.



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NEW PREMISES PAK-ING A PUNCH

The biggest building in the borough

A total of £40m has been invested in the state-of-the-art factory at Westwood Park for global wet wipe manufacturer Nice-Pak.

And as part of its expansion, the company is also set to extend and broaden its apprenticeship scheme to the new site. In Europe, Nice-Pak produces more than 650 million packs of wet wipes annually. It employs 900 people across three factories in Wigan, North Wales and Germany. Construction at Westwood Park started in June 2015. Building work is nearly complete, and already, one high-tech production line has been installed and is operational.

The new building replaces the firm's existing facility in Hindley Green, and full migration of

employees and equipment will be completed by February 2017. All 185 existing employees will be transferred to the new site. They were first to be given a tour of the site at a staff open evening held recently.

Nice-Pak has a reputation as the world's most innovative wet wipe manufacturer. Its products include baby wipes, cosmetic wipes, moist toilet tissue and household cleaning wipes and it manufactures for many of the world's biggest brands and retailers. At 400,000ft sq, the Westwood facility is the largest building in the borough of Wigan.

At the peak of the build, more than 250 workers from 76 sub-contractor firms worked on site. The site is ideally located to take advantage of the

proposed new highway from central Wigan to the M6. The development has been backed by the Regional Growth Fund and Wigan Council.

The expansion of Nice-Pak's apprenticeship programme to include the new site will see the creation of opportunities for local people to learn and qualify in skill areas ranging from engineering and distribution to product development. The apprenticeship scheme is being developed with Wigan College and anyone wanting information may get in touch via the Nice-Pak website here www.nice-pak.com or contact director Paul Symonds, who is managing the development of the new facility, said that it would bring in a new era of wet wipe manufacture and enable Nice-Pak to improve efficiency, flexibility and capacity for customers

worldwide. "Westwood Park will be one of the leading factories of its type in the world. We've commissioned state-of-the-art technology in a purpose-built facility operated by our existing

first class workforce. "This means we are going to be able to continue to advance to keep ahead of our competitors and maintain our premier position in our wet wipe market sector."



Nice-Pak International



DW SPORTS 'AGREES FITNESS FIRST DEAL'



Dave Whelan's fitness chain DW Sports is understood to have struck a deal that would lead to the break-up of Fitness First.

DW Sports, which was founded by the Wigan Athletic owner (pictured) in 2009, has



formally agreed a takeover of Fitness First's UK business, according to Sky News. The proposed deal involves a three-way carve-up of Fitness First's UK operations. Under the plan, DW

would take on the majority of the approximately 70 sites, with the Gym Group and charitable social enterprise purchasing the remainder. Fitness First is currently owned by Oaktree and Marathon Asset Management.

Whelan is paying approximately £70m for the Fitness First sites. He is believed to be looking

to combine them with his existing chain of DW health clubs.

The newly enlarged group is then expected to weigh up the possibility of a flotation on the stock market in a couple of years.

The remainder of Fitness First's operations in Asia, Australia and Germany are likely to be disposed of

separately following the completion of the UK deal. The proposed deal is not expected to be formally announced until September 2016.

DW Sports is headquartered in Wigan while Fitness First's head office is located in Poole.

POUNDLAND'S NEW £30M NATIONAL HUB BUILT IN WIGAN

A new multi-million pound distribution centre for a national retail chain will create hundreds of new jobs in Wigan Borough.

The new distribution centre for Poundland has the potential to create up to 800 jobs in the coming years – believed to be the single biggest jobs boost ever for Wigan Borough.

The site is located at South Lancs Industrial Estate in Ashton-in-Makerfield and will serve Poundland's North West network of shops.

Councillor David Molyneux, Wigan Council's cabinet member for economy, said: "This is fantastic news for Wigan Borough and shows why we are a major player in the creation of a Northern Powerhouse.

"We are very pro-business at Wigan Council and have worked closely

with the developer db symmetry and Poundland to ensure that the plans came to fruition.

"Major investments in the borough are crucial to the local economy and will enable our local residents to access good quality jobs and new opportunities."

The Poundland site covers more than 30,000 square metres on the former land of Georgia Pacific, Lockett Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield.

The development will create a wide range of skilled jobs both full-time and part-time as well as apprenticeships.

Wigan was chosen by Poundland over two other areas in the North West to secure the investment.

Cllr Molyneux added: "We beat some high quality competition to land this investment and are delighted that Poundland

have chosen Wigan.

"Wigan is ideally located for business between Manchester and Liverpool and is at the heart of the motorway network.

"Last year we launched the Wigan Works vision to create a place where people want to invest, live, work and visit.

"The fact that we have this major development happening is a perfect example of how Wigan Works.

"This will be the largest single employment creating application that we have dealt with since the authority was formed in 1974 and in my view would rank alongside Heinz coming to Wigan in the 1950s.

"Giving people in Wigan the opportunity to access good quality jobs is a top priority of the council. We will also support young people through this development to access



apprenticeships.

"The icing on the cake is that there are more positive announcements to come on the local economy."

Poundland is the largest single price value retailer

in the UK and turnover this year exceeded £1 billion. It opened its first store in 1990 and now has more than 580 stores in the UK each with a range of 3,000 items.

NEW HOMES IN LOWTON GIVEN THE GO AHEAD

An application for new homes in Wigan Borough has been given the green light.

Wigan Council's planning committee have approved the planning application from Bellway Homes to build 119 homes on land at Pocket Nook Lane, Lowton.

The development will be a mix of house styles and sizes, and a quarter of the homes will be for affordable housing. The new development will include a new play area and the creation of two new ponds to help with ecology on the site.

Vehicle access will be taken from Pocket Nook Lane and Crompton Way. Planning Committee members heard that the development would have minimal impact on the overall highway network. The area is earmarked for future development in the Wigan Core Strategy and the new development will help to meet housing need in the borough.

Karl Battersby, director for economy and environment, said: "One of our key priorities is to achieve development and economic growth that will lead to greater economic prosperity in the coming years.

"It is vital that we support appropriate housing development in the borough to keep up with demand for housing and help support growth in our local economy.

"Developments like this one will enable people to find the right homes to establish themselves and their family in the borough.

"Good quality new housing along with improved transport links and employment opportunities provides the right mix to keep our local economy growing."



MANCHESTER NEEDS A PROSPEROUS WIGAN

A new report published by leading thinktank IPPR North, is a researched report to understand what role small and medium sized cities play in the northern economy compared to urban centres.

It identifies the role of public policy, both local and national, in shaping the future prospects of both places. In order to do this IPPR North conducted 4 case studies on typical Small Medium Cities (SMCs), one of which was Wigan. The

report cites a number of datasets that challenge conventional wisdom about core cities and argues SMCs might have greater growth potential than their neighbours. North's small and medium cities contribute £82bn a YEAR to UK economy, IPPR North report finds – more than Wales and Northern Ireland combined and growth rates in small and medium-sized cities match those of their big city neighbours. SMCs are essential to boosting growth in the Northern Powerhouse and the

research finds that the North's smaller cities represent one third of the Northern economy and play a key role supporting the growth of their bigger neighbours. The report gives Wigan the opportunity to challenge decision makers and offer up alternative policy options. It should also be used to demonstrate the importance of Wigan's role with the wider urban economy and to influence sub-regional partners to invest in Wigan. Ed Cox, Director of

IPPR North, said: "The latest academic research is asking some big questions about the big city story and it is about time policy-makers recognised this. In the same way small and medium businesses are now seen as vital to the British economy and the success of our big companies, we need to refocus policy on the North's small and medium towns and cities, and not



just the big cities - vital as they are. The evidence shows this is not 'jam-spreading' resources thinly but economically the right thing to do: Manchester needs a prosperous Wigan to succeed, and vice-versa."

£35M HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FOR EX-BARR'S SITE

The former Barr's soft drink factory site in Wigan is set to be transformed into a £35.5m housing development.

Keepmoat has bought the land on North Road and plans to deliver 194 two-, three- and four-bedroom properties for sale. The proposed new development will also include new public open space and two children's play areas.

The North Road project represents Keepmoat's first new housing scheme in Wigan. But the developer has pledged to

continue working closely with Wigan Council to look at ways to regenerate more areas in the region.

Gareth Roberts, regional managing director for Keepmoat in the North West, said: "We very much specialise in providing homes for the first-time buyer market and so we're excited to be bringing our offer to Wigan. Our focus is

on affordable quality and more than 70 per cent of the homes we sell are to those taking that first step on the ladder.

"Unlike many of our

competitors in the region, 95 per cent of our new homes are also built on brownfield sites and so we're delighted to have established a partnership with Wigan Council that will hopefully allow us to deliver much-needed new homes in the town on surplus land.

"More importantly, this major regeneration project will create employment and training opportunities throughout the build process so we can put back into the local economy."

The new housing development has been named Cottonfields. Work is expected to start on the homes this month.



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OF THE WORLD'S TOP 25 FOOD COMPANIES HAVE BASES IN WIGAN

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20 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD INVEST IN WIGAN

1. LOCATION

Located between Manchester and Liverpool making Wigan an ideal distribution hub for the North West and beyond.

2. ROAD

Wigan has quick access to the rest of the UK via the M62 and East Lancs road in the south, the M6 and M58 in the west and the M61 in the east.

3. RAIL

Frequent, direct services on the West Coast Mainline to London and Glasgow in approx. two hours.



4. AIR

Wigan is well located to both Manchester Airport and Liverpool John Lennon Airport, linking the area to the rest of the world.



5. WATER

Quick access to the Port of Liverpool and the Manchester Ship Canal, is also a boon for businesses transporting goods around the region and beyond.

6. CONNECTED

In addition to excellent road, rail, air and water links Wigan is also working to deliver a true digital borough. 100% broadband coverage across the whole of Wigan Borough is targeted for 2017, ensuring everyone enjoys the power of digital.

7. BIGGEST BUSINESS EXPO IN NORTH WEST



One of the largest business expos in the North West returned this October. The Wigan Business Expo, which is in its seventh year, gives businesses the opportunity to network. The event attracts more than 1,000 visitors from across the UK and beyond.

The expo will showcased 150 stands in one exhibition lounge hosting an incredible range of exhibitors and inspirational key note speakers such as Sir Howard Bernstein, chief executive of Manchester City Council, local businesswoman Melanie Bryan OBE, social media expert Jo Booth and many more.

8. FUNDING

We offer a free of charge service to align initial ideas to potential funding opportunities. Having secured over £100m in external funding including GMIF, ERDF, SRB, NWCCRP and City Challenge, our team have enabled organisations to prosper and grow.



9. VALUE FOR MONEY

Council Tax in Wigan Borough is the second cheapest in Greater Manchester and the average house price is ten percent less than Manchester, 16 per cent less than the Greater Manchester average and 18 per cent less than the

North West. With a wide range of styles from Victorian and Georgian period properties; to traditional farm houses or newly developed modern builds; families, couples and individuals can all find their perfect home. A number of mills in Wigan Borough have also been converted into stylish apartments, a good example of which are those located at the iconic Trencherfield Mill, situated close to Wigan Pier.

10. WANT TO INCREASE WORKPLACE PRODUCTIVITY?

We offer free and practical advice to improve the health and well being of employees in the borough.

FREE practical advice and support on a range of health topics. FREE NHS Health Checks / Health MOT in the workplace. Mental health and well being sessions. Tips on how to increase physical activity. Healthy eating advice. Info on how to reduce or stop drinking alcohol. Support to stop smoking. Assistance in gaining the workplace well being charter accreditation.

11. A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

Years ago Wigan Borough was famous for its cotton and coal industry. Fast forward to today and Heinz, Nice-Pak, Poundland, Uncle Joes, DW Sports and Waterfields Bakery are just a few of the big names who dominate the employment



landscape, bringing thousands of jobs to the borough.

12. WIGAN COUNCIL

Wigan Council is one of the best performing councils in the country. Despite having to save £100m over the past five years and £60m over the next, the council has transformed and improved its services resulting in greater resident satisfaction and value for money.



13. SKILLED LABOUR

Excluding Manchester Wigan has the largest levels of employment in GM for manufacturing, for Science and for R+D.

Wigan has higher labour productivity rates than Manchester.

67% of the world's top 25 food companies have bases in Wigan.

In terms of absolute numbers, Wigan has the fourth highest number of people in GM with level 4+ skills at 53,800 residents.

14. WE'RE GREEN

Over two-thirds of the borough is green and there are lots of ways to enjoy it with more than 22 ancient woodlands, 16 parks and miles upon miles of trails and pathways, wetlands and flashes to explore. The borough is made up of historic towns and villages which punctuate the landscape. At the heart of the borough is an area that stretches from Leigh all the

way up to Haigh Hall and includes beautiful parks, woodlands, wetlands, canals and green spaces, providing those living in the area with a wonderful quality of life.



Known as 'Greenheart', there is plenty to enjoy, whether you want to spend a whole day exploring with the family or an hour having a leisurely stroll. The 'Flashes' are local nature reserves famed for their birdwatching and water sports.

15. ATTRACTIONS

Wigan's long history is reflected in its 216 listed buildings, of which twenty are Grade II listed. The borough is adrift with landmarks ranging from the iconic Wigan Pier, to Trencherfield Mill, Haigh Hall and the Museum of Wigan Life.



Other attractions in the borough include the stunning Pennington Flash, a host of beautiful public parks and gardens and the world famous Wigan Pier.



16. SCHOOLS

The town's primary schools are among the best in the country which is a key reason that people are choosing to live right here in the borough.

According to the latest statistics, based on Ofsted reports, 94 per cent of primary schools are ranked good or outstanding, well above the national average of 86 per cent.

This places the town 13th highest for primary school education across the country, the best in Greater Manchester and second only to Cheshire East across the North West. This puts the borough in the same realm as areas such as Westminster and Richmond-upon-Thames.

17. CULTURE

There are many venues across the borough celebrating the arts and culture including: Trencherfield Mill, The Old Courts, Museum of Wigan Life, Haigh Hall, Astley Green Colliery Museum or one of the borough's libraries.



Wigan's first ever LGBT Pride event was held on August 13th 2016. It celebrated diversity and the lives of local LGBT people in the Wigan borough.



18. SHOPPING

Wigan town centre offers a superb shopping experience with major high street stores to be found in The Grand Arcade and a unique blend of independent shops and restaurants in the numerous Victorian and Georgian arcades. Traditional indoor and outdoor markets have thrived since 1246 and are located in Wigan, Leigh and Ashton town centres. All within a five minute walk from the bus and train stations.



19. LEISURE

Activities are in abundance as a result of the beautiful local environment and include golf, fishing, sailing and rambling.

20. SPORT

Wigan has a strong sporting tradition, embedding passion and belief within the fiercely proud local population. Its world famous rugby league team Wigan Warriors battle it out with the country's best in the Super League as will newly promoted Leigh Centurions.

Wigan Athletic has a rich and proud tradition famously winning the FA Cup in 2013. Wigan athletes excel at the highest level such as Olympic runner Jenny Meadows and the amateur sports scene is vibrant with a wide range of excellent clubs.



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DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Wigan Pier Quarter

Wigan Pier Quarter is close to Wigan town centre and stands beside a key gateway into it. Given this and its historical significance and character, the Quarter is a real opportunity to provide new residential, commercial and leisure uses.

Wigan Pier Quarter is the name given today to the area around the Leeds Liverpool Canal and includes the historic buildings The Way We Were, The Orwell Public House and The Education Centre.



The Council and Canal and River Trust are currently working on a vision for the area, with the historic buildings in and around the canal being central to the master plan.

This site is seen as a catalyst development to drive forward the regeneration of the area and will attract a range of tourism, leisure and residential uses.

M6 EPIC

M6 Epic is in a premier location just 5 minutes away from J25 M6 motorway at the heart of the north west and the gateway to the key northern distribution markets.



Wigan is home to a number of major multinational occupiers including: Heinz, Sports Direct, Siemens, Bakkavor Group, AB World Foods, Norbert Dentressangle, Carlsberg and Milliken Carpets.

M6 Epic provides 28.62 acres/ 11.58 ha of industrial land within 5 minutes of J25 of the M6.



db symmetry and joint venture partner Legal and General Property have secured planning for 110,000 sq ft (10,219 sq m) on 6.27 acres / 2.54 ha.

The site allows for up to 70,000 sq ft of expansion space while the land to the East of Three Sisters Road can cater for a single unit of up to 430,000 sq ft.

- 12.5m eaves.
- 10 level access doors and 2 drive in doors.
- 50m deep yard.
- 50 kNm2 floor loading.
- The building will meet BREEAM 'very good' standards.
- The building is designed to achieve an EPC rating of A.
- 15% roof lights.
- 23 trailer spaces and 122 car park spaces.
- Fully fenced and secured site with gatehouse.
- Sprinkler tank base.

Parsonage, Leigh

The former Parsonage Colliery in Leigh is currently in the planning stages to undergo the next phase of major redevelopment - providing current and potential residents with a range of amenities, new housing and leisure in the heart of Westleigh.



The mixed scheme site offers:

Residential

A 200 new homes development will be located on the opposite side of Westleigh Brook retail park between Lostock Walk and the playing fields. The new housing scheme will be developed by Lancet Homes.

Employment

The phase one, large retail park, is already attracting several top high street names to Leigh and planning permission has been granted to open up and connect the development with the surrounding area. A business park, medical centre, food store and linear park will be developed.

Pocket Nook, Lowton

Land at Pocket Nook, north of the East Lancashire Road and west of Atherleigh Way, will be developed as a high quality, sustainable business park and housing extension to the current settlement.

The mixed scheme site offers:

Employment

Pocket Nook is a highly attractive employment site with a long frontage to the A580 East Lancashire Road, around 3 miles from its junction with the M6 motorway. 29 hectares (gross) of employment land including provision for the High Speed 2 rail line.

Residential

To the north of Carr Brook and around Carr Farm, a housing development of about 350 homes would be appropriate as a rounding off of existing residential areas, with the existing school playing fields safeguarded outside of the site.

Additional

A new road through the site, from the A579 Atherleigh Way to Enterprise Way. The provision of substantial landscaped buffers between housing and employment uses, with the employment uses designed to minimise impacts on residential amenity.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Westwood Park

A fantastic opportunity to invest in a new gateway community into Wigan, located in an extremely beautiful part of the borough.

The mixed scheme site offers:

Residential

Outline planning permission has been approved for 430 new homes, in an area of outstanding beauty at the centre of Wigan's Greenheart. This area also includes opportunity for a waterside facing development onto Wigan Flashes. A unique chance to be part of a scheme that will deliver homes that provide quick access to the town centre, motorways and is surrounded by countryside, the perfect work-life balance for a modern family.

Employment

Outline planning consent has been granted for office, industrial and

storage (B1/B2/B8) with provision for parking. A commitment has also been given to create an A49 link road, direct from this new area to J25 of M6. This lends itself to the site being an excellent location for logistics and warehousing businesses who require quick access to the national road and rail network - a true competitive advantage.

Additional

A local centre, a landmark Wigan Flashes' Visitor Centre, landscaping to compliment the wider Flashes and green space nearby. New public transport access into and out of the park, with a bus gate being provided at Westwood Lane. Upgraded facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Significant investment has already been provided to open up the site and new business premises are appearing.



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Northleigh, Leigh

North Leigh Park (NLP) extends to approximately 75 hectares (185 acres) it is bounded to the west by the A578 Leigh Road, to the north by the A577 Corner Lane/Smallbrook Lane, to the east by Westleigh Lane/Atherleigh Way and to the south by Nel Pan Lane.



The mixed scheme site offers:

Residential

On 28 February 2013, NLPGL was granted outline planning permission for the comprehensive mixed-use development of NLP to comprise 1,800 housing units.

Employment

On 28 February 2013, NLPGL was granted outline planning permission for the comprehensive mixed-use development of NLP to comprise circa 51,000 sq.m. of employment space and a local centre with retail and community uses.

Additional

Circa 19 hectares (47 acres) of green infrastructure. A new link road from Leigh Road (A578) to Atherleigh Way (A579) and associated development including junction and highway works.



Westleigh Waterfront

The site is located to the west of Leigh town centre and occupies an attractive location next to the canal and Pennington Flash Country Park.



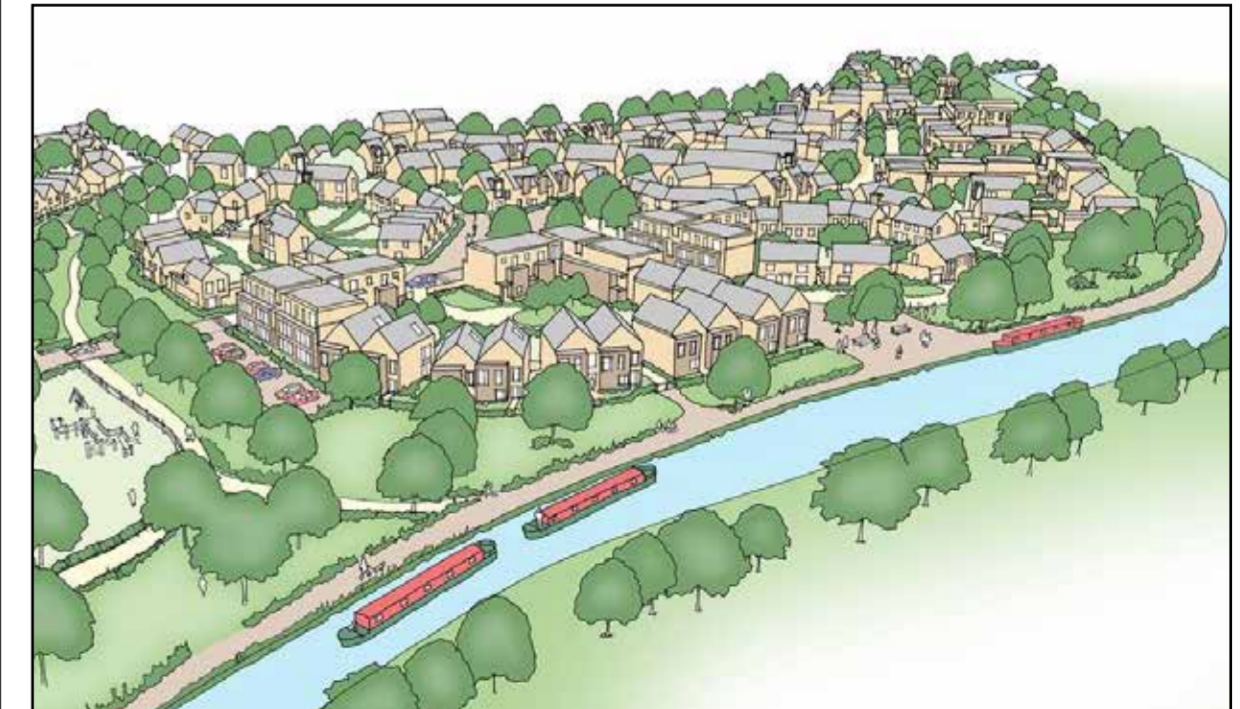
This as an important opportunity to provide:

- A range of housing types and tenure to cater for existing and new residents and help meet local housing requirements.
- A new waterside path between Pennington Wharf and Leigh.
- Improved pedestrian and cycling routes and a new canal bridge.
- A good quality canal side environment.

The masterplan shows around 470 high quality homes of varying types together with open space, new play facilities, enhanced woodland and canal side walks.

Key elements

- Connecting to a new roundabout, recently constructed at the Sportsman's junction, removing a need to use existing adjacent residential streets.
- Improved connections to the canal.
- Create a canal side linear park providing landscaped open spaces.
- Create a pedestrian / cycle friendly environment.
- Orientation of homes to maximise natural surveillance of the canal.



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A PIVOTAL LOCATION

£300M REGENERATION SCHEME GETS GO-AHEAD

 The first phase of a £300m regeneration scheme in Wigan borough has been given the go-ahead.

Wigan Council's planning committee has given the green light for the first part of the North Leigh Park regeneration scheme.

It will deliver 162 high quality new homes off Nel Pan Lane as well as a new access point, green open spaces and wildlife corridors.

North Leigh Park is being delivered thanks to a private and public sector partnership between North Leigh Park Group Limited (NLPGL) and Wigan Council.

The long term proposals for North Leigh Park includes 1,800 quality new homes that will form part of Wigan Council's future housing supply.

It will also include 51,000 square metres of new employment space, approximately 19 acres of improved strategic green infrastructure and a local centre with community uses. Construction and permanent jobs will be created for local people.

The approval of the first detailed plans follows the granting of outline planning permission in February 2013.

North Leigh Park is the only key strategic site in the borough allocated for housing in Wigan's core strategy.

The scheme will see a major inward investment of over £300 million to the benefit of local areas of Leigh and Hindley and will act as a catalyst to further economic growth to the Wigan Borough.

Karl Battersby, Wigan Council's Director for Economy and Environment, said: "It is great news that the planning committee has given the go-ahead for the first phase of the North Leigh Park scheme."

"North Leigh Park is of strategic importance to Wigan Borough in delivering the quantity and quality of housing that our residents will desperately need in the coming years."

"The major investment into the area will significantly boost Wigan Borough's economy and deliver a huge number of jobs not only in the construction of the scheme but also in the employment sites that are part of the scheme."

Paul Jarvis, a spokesperson for North

Leigh Park Group Limited said: "We are delighted that the reserved matters application for the first phase at Northleigh and that access to serve Nel Pan Lane has been passed by the planning committee."

"This is a significant milestone in kick-starting the delivery of the wider regeneration scheme at Northleigh. The first phase will deliver 162 high quality new homes off Nel Pan Lane, 26 acres of green open spaces and wildlife corridors as well provide a significant new gateway into the development."

"North Leigh Park Group is now progressing plans for the remediation of the site to provide a safer, cleaner, more sustainable environment for wildlife and local communities for the benefit of current and future generations."

North Leigh Park Group Limited will also deliver a new sports pitch at Howe Bridge to bring improvements to local play provision and improve the existing pitches at Marsh Playing fields on Wigan Road as part of the first phase.

Wigan Council has committed to funding



the delivery of a major new east-west link road that will join the A578 Leigh Road to the A579 Atherleigh Way. The road will significantly improve traffic conditions and accessibility in the area, unlocking the site and wider regeneration corridor.

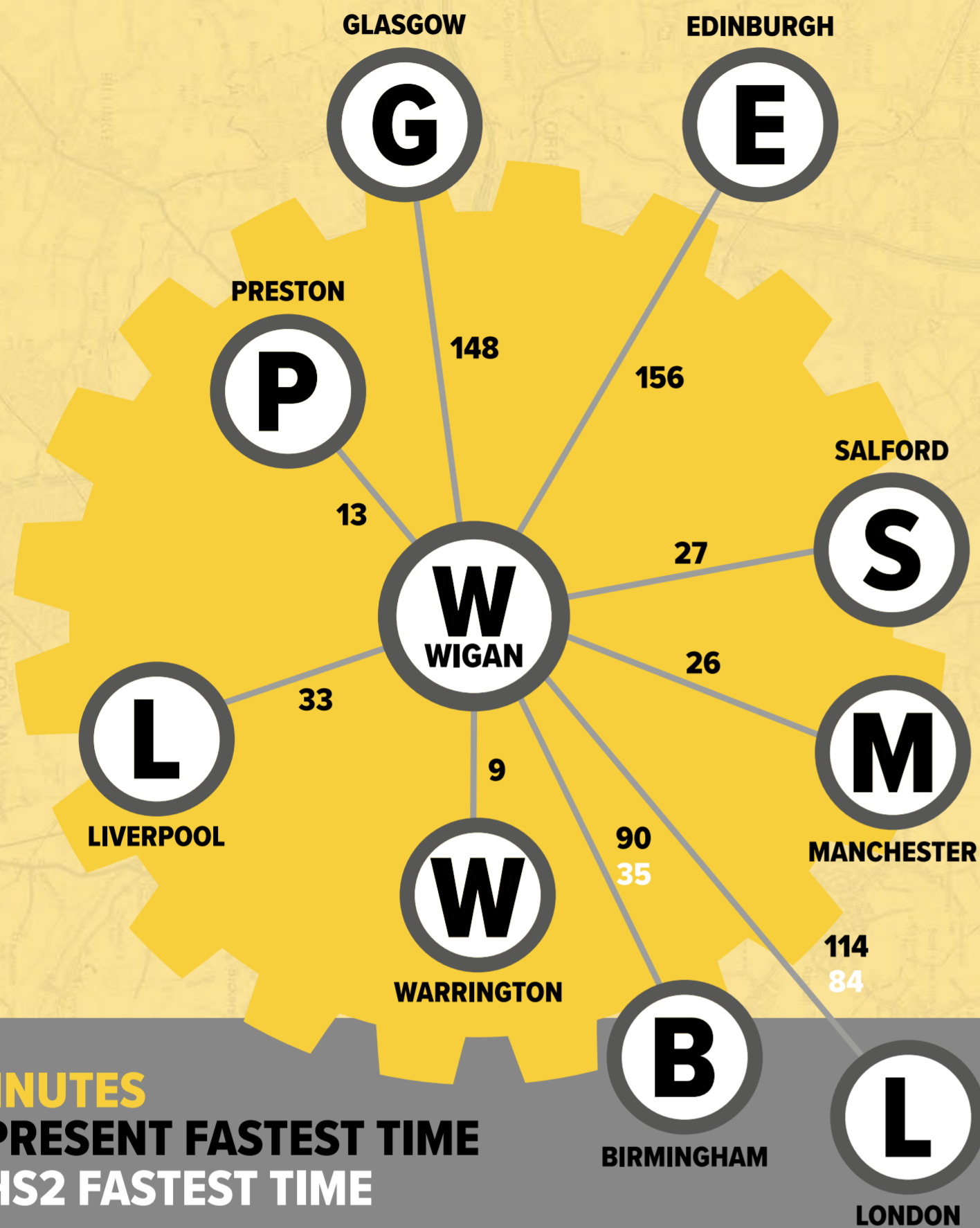
NLPGL will remediate the brownfield site to provide a safer, cleaner, more sustainable environment for wildlife and local communities to access and enjoy including safe, managed formal and informal play areas for children and families, nature, fitness and public art trails, water features,

dog walking and improved ecological habitats to encourage wildlife.

Full remediation of the site is expected to take 18 -24 months and to be completed in 2018.

To read Wigan Council's Economic Prospectus, which sets out the council's ambition to enable 10,000 homes to be built in the next 10 years and create 10,000 new jobs visit:

www.wiganworks.com



IN MINUTES
00 PRESENT FASTEST TIME
00 HS2 FASTEST TIME

WIGAN IS LOCATED AT THE HEART OF THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE

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SOMETHING IS BREWING AT HAIGH WOODLAND PARK

The Courtyard Café and Tea Room is the latest addition to open at the Kitchen Courtyard in Haigh Woodland Park.

With its mix of suppliers, producers and retailers the borough's Kitchen Courtyard is a celebration of regional food and drink and as with all the artisan tenants, the café and tea room will support local suppliers, serving traditional farmhouse food, with products and ingredients sourced from the very best the north west has to offer. Offering visitors freshly brewed coffee, tea and



soft drinks the ground floor café also sells a range of beer and wine and with an expansive dog friendly patio area, is the perfect place to relax and enjoy warmer days.

The grab-and-go menu features a number of breakfast options, hot and cold sandwiches, jacket potatoes and homemade pies, alongside sweet treats including cakes, scones and cookies.

For a more relaxed dining experience, the first floor tea room offers a more extensive menu including; traditional

afternoon tea, gourmet sandwiches and salads, a selection of hot savoury dishes including daily specials and a Sunday lunch menu.

Councillor Paul Kenny, Wigan Council's cabinet member for resources, said: "We are committed to developing the kitchen courtyard to support and celebrate local food talent and create a fantastic artisan food destination for the whole of the region." Substantially improving the courtyard was an important step in our continuing regeneration of Haigh Woodland Park and we look forward to welcoming further tenants over the coming weeks."

Featuring photographic exhibits of the Haigh Estate, the tearoom displays the work of local

resident Andrew Fagan. Taking the photographs using only his phone, what started as a distraction during an early morning jog has now landed Andrew a large and loyal following on the social media platform Instagram under the username of: @arclesscurve

Andrew said: "I've been following the developments around the park in the local media and whilst out and about jogging around the woods. My children love the new adventure playground and I think it's a pretty exciting time for the whole of Haigh Woodland Park in general. "I'm delighted my photographs were considered for the



tearoom and it's a real honour to have them displayed." During summer hours the café is open 10am – 5pm, Mon – Fri and 9am – 5pm at weekends. The tearoom opens 12noon - 5pm seven days a week and is also available for private hire.

NEW BAKERY OPENS DOORS AT HAIGH WOODLAND PARK ALL YOU KNEAD

Artisan bakery, All You Knead, is the first new tenant to open its doors in the Kitchen Courtyard at Haigh Woodland Park.

Producing a unique and traditional range of breads, pastries and confectionery - alongside gourmet sandwiches, salads and platters of cheese, meats and olives from the deli counter - the bakery, is the perfect place to grab a coffee on the go, savour lunch or enjoy afternoon tea with a glass of fizz.

Having extended their business portfolio into Wigan, husband and wife team Julie and Craig Dugan formed All You Knead in 2012 following increasing demand for real bread. The company currently produces their wide range of handmade, preservative-free, products from their artisan bakery in Chorley.

Talking about the new

venture, Julie Dugan said: "The deli and coffee shop are exciting additions to the new bakery at Haigh Woodland Park and we have brought together some of the best artisan produce that Lancashire has to offer including a great selection of cheeses to compliment our extensive bread selection. "We look forward to welcoming new customers to the courtyard and will be running tasting sessions and events over the coming months to showcase our produce, so keep an eye on the website for details."

For visitors looking to make the most of the surrounding parkland, the bakery offers bespoke picnic options including, the 'posh picnic' - with hire basket and blanket - perfect for a special occasion or weekend treat and the 'pooch picnic' - don't forget the dog!

Open seven days a week from 10am - 5pm during the summer months (until Oct), further information is available on the All You Knead (external link) website or All You Knead Bakery and Deli (external link) Facebook page.

Councillor David Molyneux, deputy leader of Wigan Council, said: "I'm delighted that the planned changes for Haigh Woodland Park are beginning to take shape and bringing much needed revenue to the area. The improvements to the grounds and facilities alongside the restoration of Haigh Hall create many more opportunities to enjoy this wonderful regional tourist destination.

With significant investment Haigh Woodland Park is set to be transformed into an amazing attraction for the region.





BIG PLANS FOR ICONIC WIGAN PIER

 We want your landscape, architecture and urban design ideas.

Wigan's iconic landmark is the focus of an ambitious regeneration masterplan.

Ideas and expressions of interest are now being welcomed with a view to a comprehensive redevelopment of the canalside area at Wigan Pier over the next ten years. An exciting one-off opportunity to invest and help shape the redevelopment of this local jewel. A Wigan treasure of world wide fame.

Wigan Pier Quarter is the name given today to the area around the Leeds Liverpool Canal and includes the historic buildings The Way We Were, The Orwell Public House and The Education Centre.

The Council and Canal and River Trust are currently working on a vision for the area, with the historic buildings in and around the canal being central to the master plan.

This site is seen as a catalyst development to drive forward the regeneration of the area and will attract a range of tourism, leisure and residential uses.

A new 1,200 seater performance venue at Today's Community Church, is due for completion later this year.

Cllr David Molyneux, who is Wigan Council's portfolio holder for regeneration, says its the start of ambitious plans for the area.

He said: "The performance venue is just part of the 10 year plan to revive the Wigan Pier quarter. We're very much in the early stages of redevelopment and welcome ideas, but I think people will realise once we announce them, that it's going to be a vibrant place."

"Salford Quays is a classic example of waterside frontage, and the benefits to people who invest. The canalside in Wigan is a big part of that, we're confident it can be something we can be proud of."



RENOVATION OF HISTORIC WIGAN BUILDINGS COMPLETED



Major restoration work is complete on three historic buildings in central Wigan thanks to Heritage Lottery funding.

Three buildings in Wallgate - the former Victoria hotel, a former carpet shop at 58 Wallgate and a shop at 53 Wallgate - have now been restored thanks to the grant along with significant private sector investment.

At the Victoria hotel, which dates back to the late 19th century and is Grade II listed, £100,000 funding was granted to the Heaton Group for a major renovation project.

The prominent building, situated next to Wigan

Wallgate train station, has now been converted to high quality residential accommodation on its first and second floors with commercial space at ground floor.

The owners spent in excess of £1m to bring the prominent semi-derelict building back into use. It includes 12 modern, beautifully furnished apartments – eight of which have already been let.

The lower floor is now available for commercial use with expressions of interest already made.

John Heaton, owner of the Heaton Group based in Hindley, said: “The grant has really helped us bring this project forward.

“It has helped us to protect some of the historic and architectural features of the building, retaining the character that first attracted us into purchasing it.”

At 58 Wallgate a grant of £70,000 was used towards the scheme to renovate the former carpet shop and offices to retail and residential use.

“Without the grant we would not have been

able to bring this building back into use, and give it a future.”

And at 53 Wallgate a grant of £7,770 has funded a new shop front and upper floor windows.

Tom Garthwright, from owners Sterling Property, said: “The grant has helped us put a traditional shop front back and restored the sash windows above.

“Hopefully this will assist us in marketing this property to ensure some vitality in this prominent part of town.”

Thanks in part to the

Heritage Lottery funding a new bar and restaurant, Marty’s Diner, opened in the former Pooles Café building on Wallgate last year.

The Grade II Listed building was completely transformed into a modern up-market American-style diner and cocktail bar which is now a popular spot for people visiting Wigan.

This work forms part of a town centre masterplan to redevelop the town centre, see artist impressions.





WONDERFUL WIGAN CAPTURED IN UNIQUE MONTAGE

What makes Wigan the special place it is?

To try and answer that a creative montage encapsulating everything that is great about Wigan borough in one dazzling image has been created.

The piece of artwork has been produced by Wigan Council for their Economic Prospectus – a document which sets out how the borough’s economy is to grow in the next ten years.

The artwork and the prospectus will be used by the council to help sell Wigan nationally and internationally to investors and developers – showing off all that Wigan has to offer.

Famous faces, much-loved landmarks, cultural icons and celebrated

brands - and of course a pie – feature in the stunning picture created by Abigail Marr and Mark O’Brien.

Rugby League features heavily in the collage with Wigan Warriors legend Billy Boston and Leigh Centurions legend Jim Ledgard included along with the DW Stadium and Leigh Sports Village.

Other famous faces include George Formby, Sir Ian McKellen, Georgie Fame, athlete Jenny Meadows and Hindley-born children’s TV presenter Hacker T Dog.

Wigan’s industrial past is celebrated with Wigan miners, Trencherfield Mill, Wigan Pier and the Leeds

Liverpool Canal.

The landmarks of Haigh Hall, the Haigh windmill, Mesnes Park and Mosley Common wheel along with the flowers of Wigan In Bloom show Wigan’s natural beauty.

The future of the borough is celebrated with young female athletes of the borough and children playing football in Wigan Athletics tops and musical influences flow through the picture with Wigan Jazz Festival, the famous Wigan Casino building and Wigan Casino dancer.

A rock musician celebrates the influence of The Verve on modern music scene and designer Brian Cannon who

designed every Oasis and Verve cover in the 1990s makes a guest appearance.

The great modern day Wigan borough is honoured through the Wigan 10k, the face of Wigan, the Grand Arcade, the Life Centre, the Spirit of Wigan art installation.

That iconic brand of Wigan - Uncle Joe’s Mint Balls – has a prominent place along with major employer, and adopted Wigan brand, Heinz.

Mark, a talented artist who specialises in cardboard and created a cardboard Gandalf to present to Sir Ian McKellen earlier in the year, said: “As a lad from Golborne and

now living in Leigh it was a pleasure to put together the montage.

“The difficulty was deciding exactly who and what would be in it. It would be great to hear what other people think of it – and whether they think we’ve missed someone or something special out?”

“I also hope people can spot the pie!”

Councillor David Molyneux, Wigan Council’s cabinet member for regeneration, said: “Wigan borough is a fantastic place but it’s amazing how many people from outside its boundaries think it’s just an old pit town.



WIGAN TO MANCHESTER IN 50 MINS

Success for Leigh guided busway to city centre.



The Leader of Wigan Council has welcomed an increase in the number of buses on the hugely popular guided busway service.

Lord Peter Smith, the Leader of Wigan Council, said the addition of two extra buses a week on the Leigh Guided Busway highlighted the popularity of the service.

Already 900,000 passenger journeys have been made on the Vantage

service, which connects Leigh, Atherton, Tyldesley with Salford and central Manchester, since it was launched in April.

Bus operator First Manchester confirmed it is adding two extra buses from this week on its Vantage service to provide more seats at busy peak times.

A further five buses will be added to the route from early next year.

Lord Smith said: "This service is helping to open up new educational and employment opportunities for people in the east of the borough.

"It is one of Wigan Council's key priorities to improve connectivity in the borough and the guided busway is helping us to deliver on this."

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Leisure and Pleasure
Mental Health
Jobseekers

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 01942 489758

GREEN LIGHT GIVEN TO NEW HOMES ON FORMER RECYCLING SITE

Wigan Council's planning committee approved the application, from Gleeson Homes & Regeneration Ltd, for 51 new homes on Frog Lane, close to Wigan town centre.

The development will be a mix of house styles and sizes.

The Frog Lane site was formerly home to a household recycling centre but was closed in 2010 and has been empty since.

Councillor David Molyneux, deputy leader and cabinet member for regeneration, said: "It's great to see a vacant site being put to good use and this will help boost the local economy and improve the look of the area.

"It is vital that we support appropriate housing development in the borough to keep up with demand for housing and help support growth in our local economy. "Homes on this site will

support growth in the east-west core of the borough and allow for further regeneration in the area. It is a great location, close to the town centre and local services.

"Good quality new housing along with improved transport links and employment opportunities provides the right mix to keep our local economy growing."

TRANSFORMATION OF OLD MINERAL LINE GIVEN GO AHEAD

Wigan Council's planning committee have approved the final stages of plans to upgrade a key heritage feature and popular route in Standish.

With a history of local transportation, 'The Line' is a heritage point for Standish and a key access route into the village for walkers and cyclists.

The former railway line runs 1.45km from Brookfield Road to Standish centre.

Thanks to the £150,000 upgrade the route will be resurfaced and new lighting put in so it can be used all year round by local pupils, dog walkers, horse riders, shoppers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The route will provide an accessible way to walk, cycle or ride into Standish

centre and encourage more people to leave the car at home.

The funding for the upgrade has come from section 106 contributions from developers who build houses in the area. The council will fund the work initially as part of The Deal.

Councillor David Molyneux, deputy leader and cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is a great project and will be a fantastic addition to Standish. The objective of the improvement works is to encourage people to lead healthier, active lives and reduce the number of car journeys."

For more information please visit www.wigan.gov.uk

WIGAN ECONOMIC PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

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BY 2035...

One of the world's leading sub-regions

By 2035, Greater Manchester aims to be one of the world's leading sub-regions, driving sustainable growth across a thriving north of England.

We intend to use Wigan's unique position located between the main conurbations of Manchester and Liverpool to drive economic growth and prosperity within the

borough.

We will also ensure that all who live here are able to take maximum advantage of the employment opportunities both within the borough and the wider region and enjoy an excellent quality of life.

The borough has significant land resources, which will be deployed to ensure that we have the capacity to accommodate

significant levels of business and housing growth over the next 10 years. We are a confident, proactive and welcoming borough and will work with all to deliver this strategy.

Our vision for Wigan is a place where people want to work, invest, live and visit.



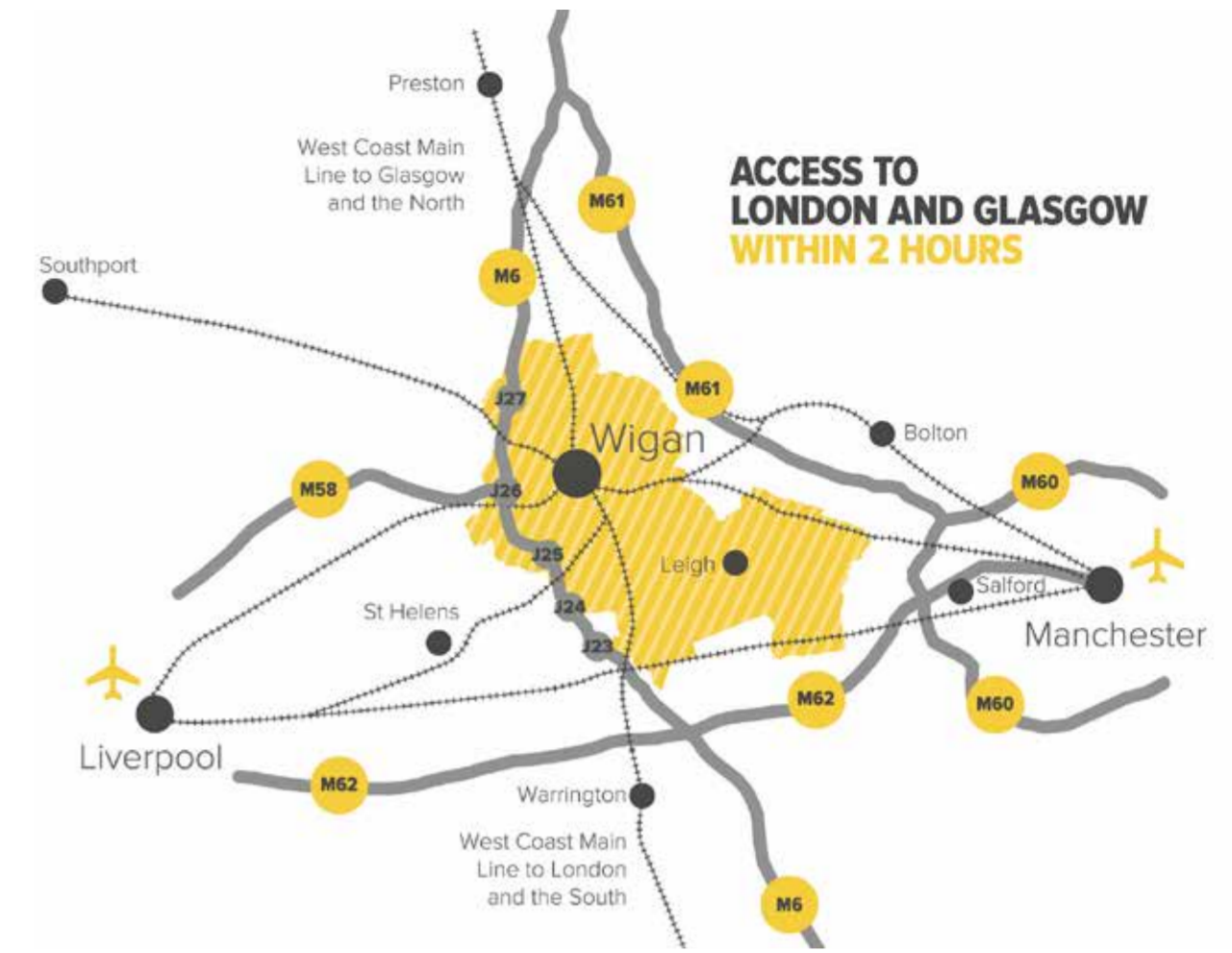
WORK, INVEST, LIVE AND VISIT.

Wigan Borough is a place where people want to work, invest, live and visit. It is a large borough with a population of 321,000 people. The population has grown by over 5% in the last 10 years and is expected to continue to grow over the next 10 years.

The borough of Wigan is centrally located between the major conurbations of Manchester and Liverpool and is ideally placed to access the UK's transport network and be the location of choice for business and residential development. The West Coast Mainline train services stop in Wigan giving rail

access to London and Glasgow within two hours. Manchester and Liverpool airports are a 35 minute drive or rail journey away. Commuting by rail and road is easy to many locations in the North West, which will be deployed to ensure that we have the capacity to accommodate significant levels of business and housing growth over the next 10 years. We are a confident, proactive and welcoming borough and will work with all to deliver this strategy.

Our vision for Wigan is a place where people want to work, invest, live and visit.



WIGAN'S FOUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

- 1 Enable Growth:** Growing the economy, businesses and creating jobs
- 2 Skills for Success:** Equipping local people to take advantage of work opportunities in and around the borough and create better lives for themselves and their families through employment.
- 3 Connected Infrastructure:** Ensuring the right connections are in place to support Wigan's ambitions for economic growth
- 4 Great Places & Communities:** Building pride and belief

ROAD, RAIL TO WIGAN

Wigan plays an important role in the region in terms of a location for living and employment.

Our travel to work statistics show that approximately 60,000 people commute to work locations in Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire, utilising the good rail and road linkages. The number of

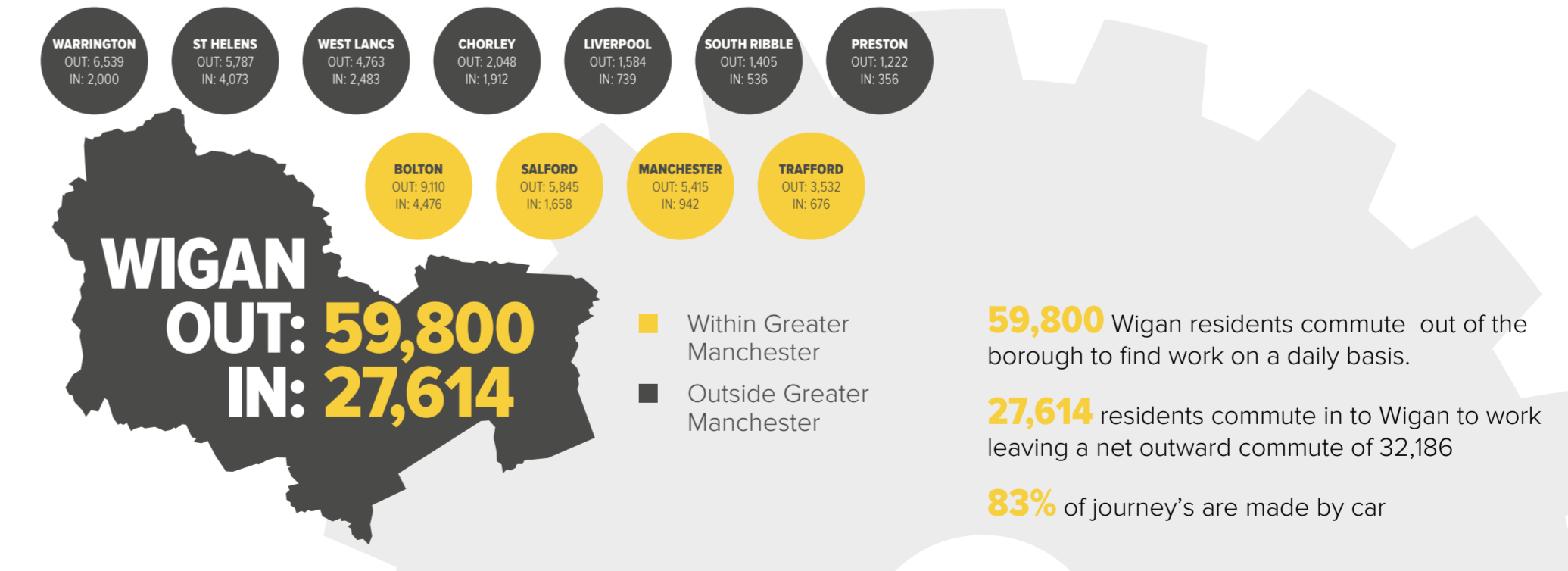
people commuting into the borough is half those who commute out and approximately 65% of them are from outside of Greater Manchester. Enhanced connectivity is key to supporting growth in the borough.

The re-regulation of bus services is a big opportunity to enhance the relationship between workers and employment locations.



KEY 10 YEAR OUTCOMES

- CREATE 10,000 NEW JOBS**
- 12,000 APPRENTICESHIPS**
- £5,255m LOCAL ECONOMY GROWTH**
- QUALITY EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL ABLE TO WORK**
- BUILD 10,000 NEW HOMES**



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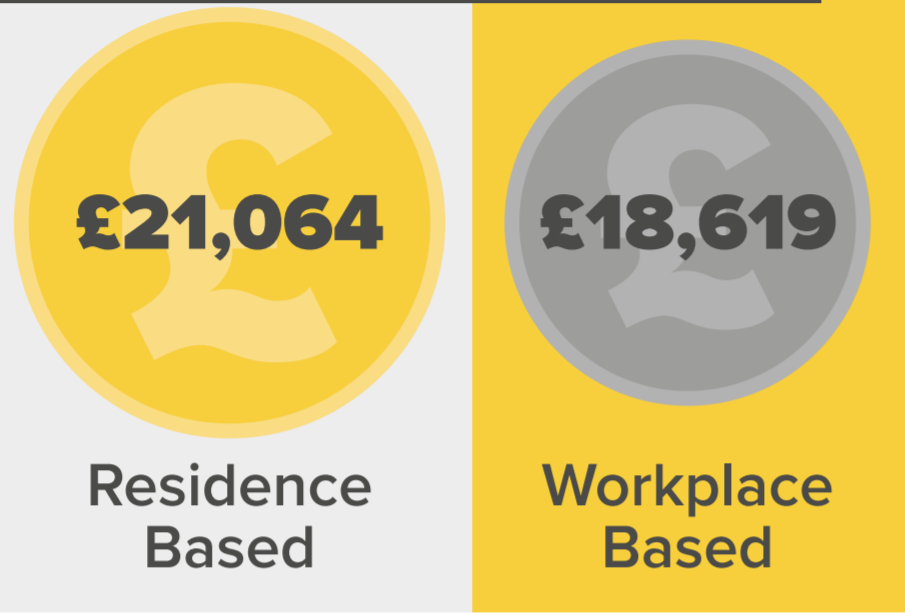
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DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL POPULATION:
321,000

Population increase: **5.2%** (2001-2014)
Working Age Population: **202,800**
Economically Active: **80.3%**
Residents in Employment: **75.2%**
- Employees: **66.4%**
- Self Employed: **8.6%**
Aim to grow population by **20,000+** over next 10 years.

AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS



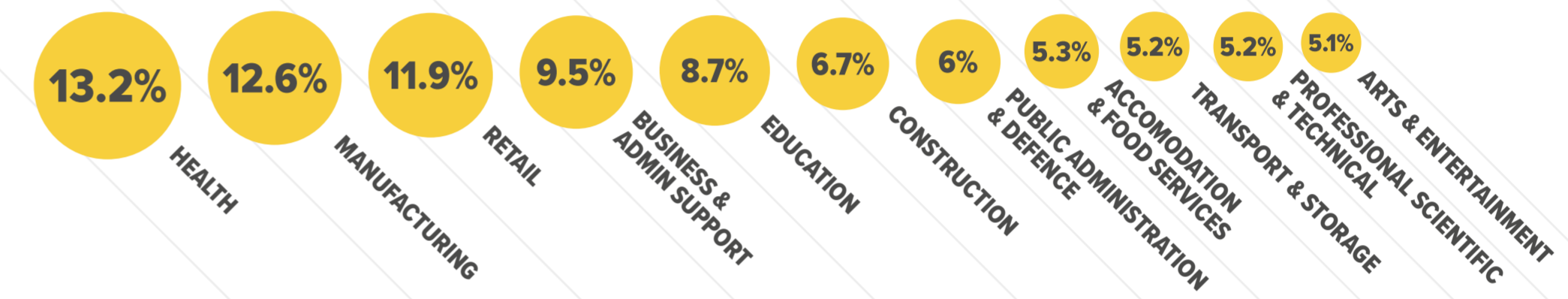
On average local residents commuting outside the borough to work earn **£2,445** more than those who stay in the borough.

BUSINESS SIZE

87% of all businesses in Wigan are micro enterprises.



EMPLOYMENT COMPOSITION BY SECTOR



The borough's strong manufacturing base will continue to drive economic growth together with the diversification of the economy with technology and digital growth. Wigan Borough also has some of the best energy efficient business parks which provide a robust base for further logistics and distribution growth around our motorways.

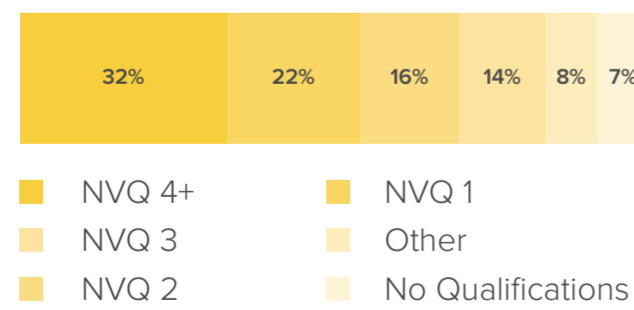
91% of our schools are rated good or outstanding, providing an excellent launch pad for our students to be successful in their chosen careers. The borough's Primary Ofsted Figure (% of good/outstanding schools) is 93%; this places Wigan 3rd best in the north west and 14th in the whole country.

SCHOOLS

91% of establishments rated as either 'Good' / 'Outstanding' in 2015
84% of pupils achieved a L4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths in 2015
61% of children achieve 5+ GCSE's A* -C in 2014

SKILLS

In terms of absolute numbers, Wigan has the fourth highest number of people in GM with level 4+ skills at **53,800** residents. However, as a proportion of total working age population fewer residents hold an NVQ level 4+ population than the GM average.



	WIGAN		NORTH WEST	
	2013	2023	2013	2023
NQF 4+	42.5	52.8	1305.3	1600.3
NQF 3	30.7	27.4	802.2	718.1
NQF 2	10	7.3	271.5	204.9
NQF 1	10.8	12.4	282.1	325.8
OTHER	9.9	11.2	254.5	288.4
NO QUALS	10.5	7.1	264.7	184.9
TOTAL	114.5	118.3	3180.4	3322.3

Higher skills set (NQF 4+, university degree) is expected to increase by 24.3% over 10 years, higher than the NW percentage change of 22%

With further population growth forecasts, the borough needs adults of working age to be healthy, financially secure and engaged in work or training. We want to attract more people to live in the borough with good quality skills, taking advantage of our location in the centre of the north west. We also want to support our population to age well and to ensure that we have a good range of affordable housing.

The borough has a housing stock of 142,000 homes covering a good range of property types and locations. Our house prices are below the Greater Manchester average, making living in Wigan a more affordable proposition.

HOUSING

Average rent price: **£481/month** compared to GM average price of £556/month.



HOUSING COMPOSITION	18%	46%	27%	9%
AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE	£212K	£124K	£80K	£78K

The main towns of Wigan, Leigh and Ashton offer attractive modern retail, leisure and employment opportunities which are growth drivers for the local economy.

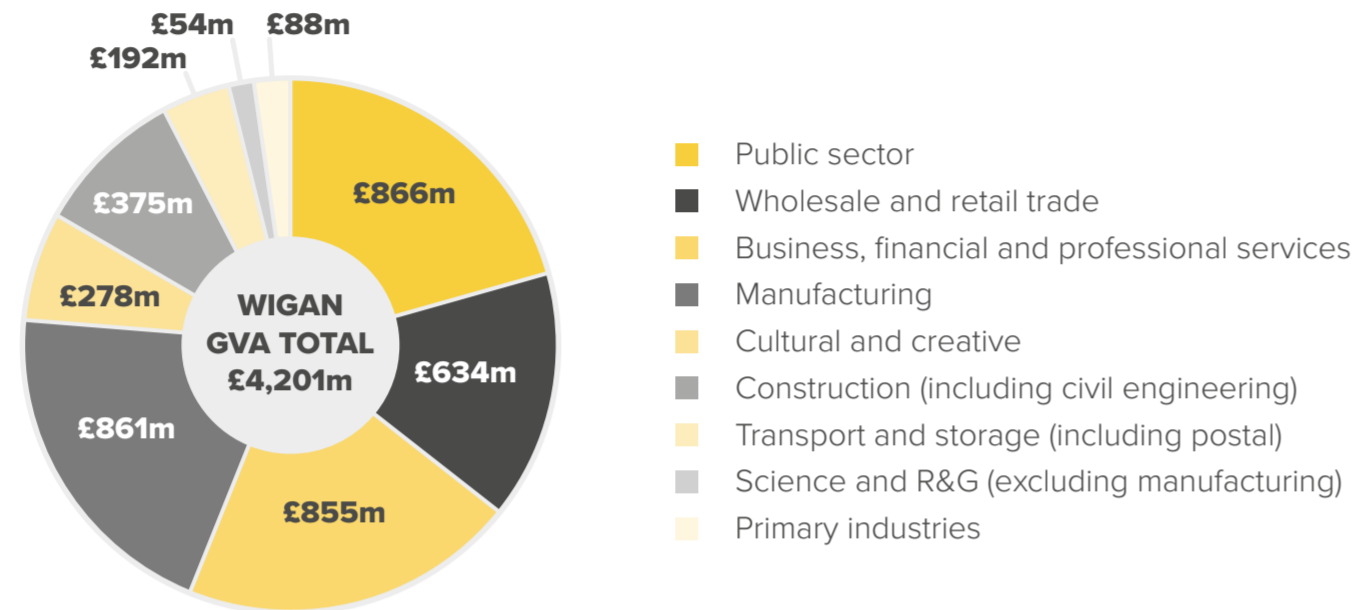
Wigan's economy is currently worth £4,201 million. This is currently projected to grow by 2.3% to £5,255m by 2024 but we believe this could be more by adopting the proactive approach to growth and economic development set out in this prospectus.

Wigan borough scores highly in terms of 'livability', with high quality housing to buy or rent, vibrant market towns and friendly communities, good schools and colleges, lots of green space and canal-side walks to enjoy and easy connections to the rest of the northwest for work, leisure and shopping.

VALUE OF WIGAN'S ECONOMY

Wigan's economy is expected to grow 2.3% p.a. to £5,255m by 2024.

This forecasted growth is driven by significant growth in the business, financial and professional service sector, accounting for 36% of total growth.



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT MAP

EMPLOYMENT:

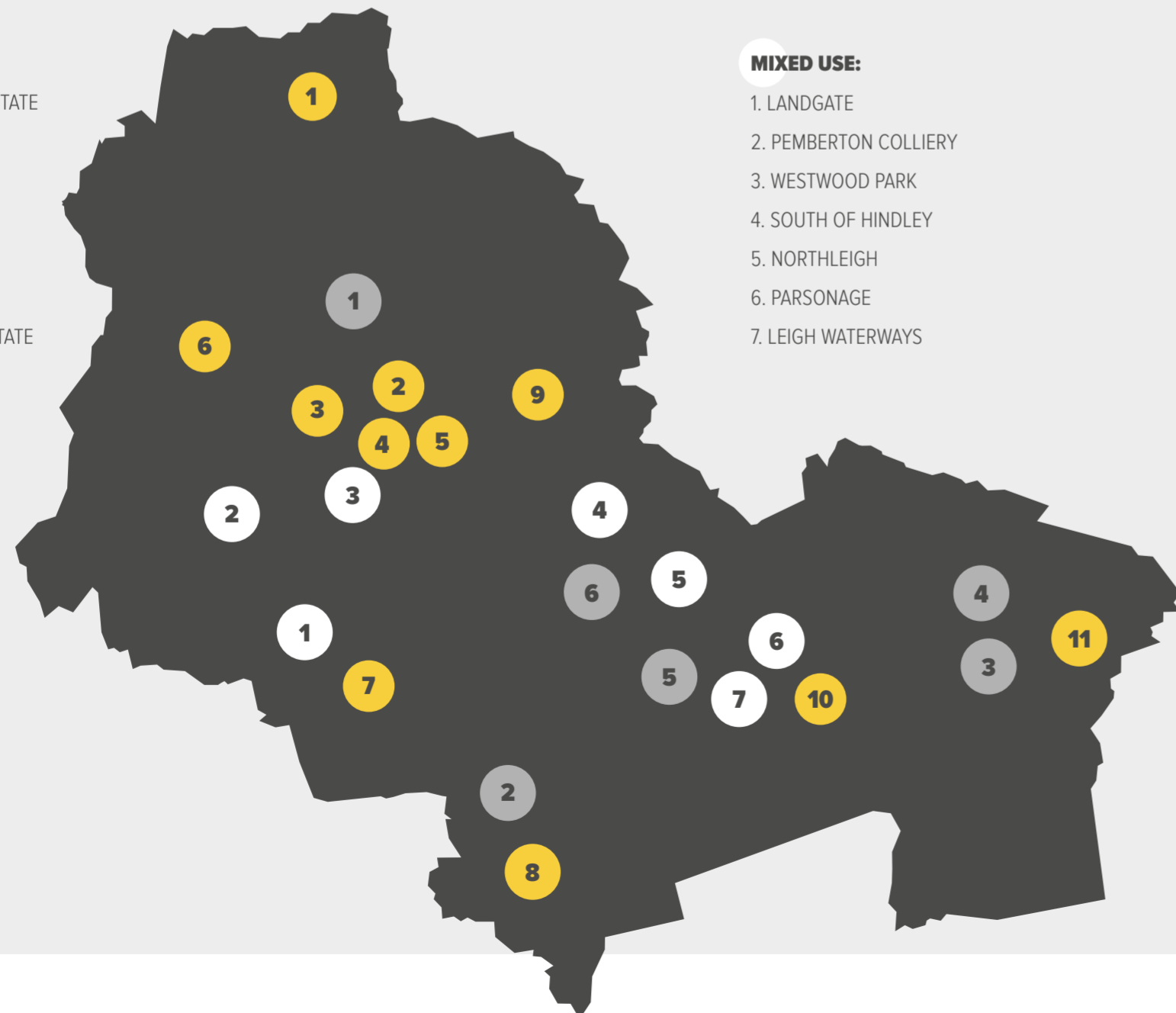
- BRADLEY LANE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
- WIGAN TOWN CENTRE
- WIGAN PIER QUARTER
- PHOENIX WAY
- WIGAN ENTERPRISE PARK
- MARTLAND PARK & HEINZ
- SOUTH LANCS INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
- STONE CROSS PARK
- POCKET NOOK
- LEIGH TOWN CENTRE
- CHADDOCK LANE

MIXED USE:

- LANDGATE
- PEMBERTON COLLIERY
- WESTWOOD PARK
- SOUTH OF HINDLEY
- NORTHLEIGH
- PARSONAGE
- LEIGH WATERWAYS

HOUSING:

- STANDISH
- GOLBORNE / LOWTON
- COLDALHURST, ASTLEY
- GARRETT HALL, TYLDESLEY
- WESTLEIGH WATERFRONT
- BICKERSHAW





THE ROYAL DEAL OF APPROVAL

The Deal has been given the royal seal of approval by Prince Harry who visited community projects across Wigan.

The first stop on the prince's tour was Cast North West – the UK's largest indoor fishery which supports disengaged young people across the borough. The project has been awarded £150,000 from Wigan Council's Community Investment Fund as part of The Deal.

The second stop was The Blair Project which uses motorsport to engage and inspire young people to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and digital industries. The project was



awarded £10,000 from the Community Investment Fund.

Prince Harry completed his tour at Wigan Youth Zone which has been given £400,000 per year and land worth £50,000 by Wigan Council to organise

out of school activities for children and young people.

The leader of the council, Lord Peter Smith, greeted Prince Harry at Three Sisters racetrack in Ashton-in-Makerfield where The Blair Project is

based.

He said: "It's wonderful to be able to show a member of the royal family all the great work that community groups are doing to support young people across in the borough."

He seemed genuinely impressed by the enthusiasm and hard work of individuals and groups and was very interested in The Deal!"



WIGAN BOROUGH'S SCHOOLS ARE TOP OF THE CLASS

Wigan Borough's primary schools are among the top three in the North West according to the latest Ofsted figures.

The figures, compiled by Wigan Council, show that 93 per cent of the borough's schools are rated good or outstanding – compared with 89 per cent last year locally - putting the borough's schools in third position across the North West and 14th nationally.

Councillor Joanne Platt, cabinet member for children and young people at Wigan Council, said: "I'm exceptionally proud of our schools, our staff and our students."

"I'm delighted Ofsted continues to recognise the improvements we are making in education and the excellent record of results we have."

"We want all children in Wigan Borough to have the best possible start in life so a lot of hard work goes into driving up standards and making sure no child is left behind. It is imperative that we continue to work with our local partners to ensure that every child is best placed to take

advantage of economic growth locally and at a Greater Manchester level."



WIGAN COUNCIL OFFICIALLY THE LEADING DIGITAL COUNCIL IN THE UK

Wigan Council has been crowned the leading council in the country for delivering services digitally and promoting the huge opportunities that digital can bring to residents and businesses.

The council scooped the title of 'Digital Council of The Year' at the national Digital Leaders 100 Awards last July, beating off tough competition from the likes of Edinburgh City Council, Birmingham City Council, Leeds City Council and six other local authorities.

The council won for its pioneering digital strategy which aims to make Wigan Borough a truly digital borough by 2020.

This strategy focuses on a wide range of areas to harness the power of digital for Wigan Borough, improve customer services for residents as well as play a significant contribution to the £60m of savings the council has to make over the next four years.

The strategy includes increasing digital connectivity to boost digital business, grow digital skills and tackle digital exclusion so that residents can have increased life opportunities.

The council's emphasis on digital has transformed the way residents access

council services with more than one in five residents, that's 55,365 residents, now using the 'MyAccount' online self-service portal to access council services such as Council Tax, benefits, housing rents, registrars, waste services and environmental reporting.

New applications such as the 'Report It' app have also enabled residents to report environmental issues quickly and easily online or through their smartphones.

This results in a reduction of costs for the council with digital channels being faster and cheaper to run than telephone-based customer services.

The council has also had a huge emphasis on partnership working with digital champions including Joining Communities, WiganSTEAM, Abram Ward Cooperative, as well as a wide range of community groups, charities and private sector organisations.

People of all ages and backgrounds have learned new digital skills through 'Get Online' training courses delivered across libraries resulting in 98 per cent of learners using their new skills. So far, 8165 residents have accessed these courses.

The council has also

been pioneering more complex areas of data sharing to ensure that services are being delivered in a joined-up way with health partners.

This has been particularly successful in working with people in the borough who have most involvement with public services. For example, a project which helps public sector partners work more effectively together by sharing digital information when dealing with troubled families and people with complex dependencies is benefiting from the approach.

An initial £500,000 has also been committed for digital projects across communities, schools and businesses.

Alison McKenzie-Folan, Wigan Council's deputy chief executive, said: "This national award is testament to the exceptional work on the digital agenda that has been achieved in Wigan."

"Along with our partners in the private and public sector and the wider community Wigan Council has recognised early on the power digital has to improve the potential and growth of the borough and transform the way we deliver public services."

"We have embedded the digital agenda in everything we do. This has not only improved customer satisfaction and self-reliance, through MyAccount, but will play a significant part in saving taxpayers money and meeting our budget targets."

"Digital plays a central role to The Deal and we will build on the great work so far on the digital strategy until we make Wigan a truly digital borough."

The Digital Leaders 100 Award was decided by an online public vote, along with expert judges' opinions.

It is the second Digital Council of the Year award the council has received this year, following their victory at the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards.



representatives from Uber, AO.com, Business Growth Hub, GM Connect and Tech North Advocates.

Councillor Terry Halliwell, cabinet member for transformation at Wigan Council said: "The event was a productive one with fantastic speakers from a variety of sectors coming together to discuss how we can use online platforms and future technology to better our lives and support economic growth".

With the aim to increase investment and growth in the borough, 'Destination Digital' helps the council,

partners and businesses shape our digital plan for the future.

Wigan Council won the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) award for Digital Council of the Year in March this year and was also named Digital Leaders' Digital Council of the Year in July.

To find out more about Destination Digital, you can visit www.wigan.gov.uk/destinationdigital or follow @digitalwigan on Twitter.

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READY, STEADY... TECH!

As part of Wigan S.T.E.A.M's February half-term activities, the S.T.E.A.M team, alongside the S.T.E.A.M Ambassadors, Wigan UTC and Ultimaker delivered a 1-day Techathon in which children, young people, and adults could come together to design a prototype app that addressed

a social issue. The techathon fostered an environment of curiosity and creativity for all the family and as well as designing, constructing and presenting their prototype app, our teams also create brands and merchandise using laser cutters, printers and other fab bits of kit!

WIGAN'S NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS!

Wigan S.T.E.A.M, will now be running regular science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics activities and projects for children, young people and their families thanks to support from The Deal for Communities Investment Fund.

Since autumn 2015, Wigan S.T.E.A.M has

been springing up in different spaces to deliver activities such as S.T.E.A.MFest – an annual family festival for all things STEM and creative, prototype app development sessions in primary schools and film festivals curated for and by young people!

They will also be developing their offer

further by programming top-notch cultural events such as live music gigs in collaboration with Get It Loud In Libraries, curating heritage exhibits and activities with local partners, and offering more digital learning initiatives such as pre-school coding clubs and Maker Days.

WIGAN IS DESTINATION DIGITAL

'Destination Digital' is aimed at professionals in the business, health and education sector and was hosted by Wigan Council on Friday 14th October.

The event gave attendees the opportunity to collaborate on ideas and to explore how we exploit the digital age.

Keynote speakers included Neil Perkin, who has worked with Warner Bros, YouTube and Google and has been named one of the most influential people in the UK digital industry for two years.

Other speakers included

representatives from Uber, AO.com, Business Growth Hub, GM Connect and Tech North Advocates.

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WIGAN S.T.E.A.M

Developing the next wave of digital, creative and cultural innovators

Wigan S.T.E.A.M is built on the 7 C's of learning developed by Guy Claxton and Bill Lucas - confidence, curiosity, collaboration, communication, creativity, commitment and craftsmanship.

The project is an intervention that will equip people with the creative resilience and digital capacities to navigate the workplaces of the future with confidence and competence, and to have the critical thinking skills to adapt, respond and innovate throughout their lives.

Lizzie Griffiths, co-founder of Wigan S.T.E.A.M is passionate about providing these types of opportunities for people in Borough and beyond:

"We wanted to increase opportunities in the Borough for people to get involved with cutting-edge activities, to network, meet, and connect with other people with similar interests, and to access high-quality, innovative cultural events and exhibits, so we decided we'd start programming our own activities as a response."

Underpinning this vision is the fact that STEM industries (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are the sectors that are growing within national and international contexts, yet access to such careers are not as open or as equal as they should be.

In order to counteract this, Wigan S.T.E.A.M bring Arts into the equation, using creative practices as a way of breaking down barriers to STEM education and support the people we work with to open doors into new opportunities.

As co-founder, Hayley Trowbridge explains: "What we're trying to do here is supporting the development of the next wave of digital, creative and cultural innovators. We're investing a lot of our attention into the STEM subjects because they are the subjects future industries will rely on, but we are using the Arts as a hook into these worlds and using creativity as a way of developing problem-solving skills and new ways of thinking."

Wigan S.T.E.A.M will offer people meaningful learning opportunities, work placements and



mentoring, as well as an annual S.T.E.A.MFest, one-off workshops and specific creative and heritage-based projects, a programme of cultural events and exhibits, and flexible learning and maker spaces for the wider community to access. The project is based largely at Trencherfield Mill, but our S.T.E.A.M Pods will be popping up in community settings across the Borough!"



INVEST IN WIGAN
www.wiganworks.com

WIGAN LEADING THE WAY WITH INCREDIBLE NORTH

The first seeds in a pioneering regional grassroots project are being planted in Wigan Borough.

The team behind food movement 'Incredible Edible' and Wigan Council are bringing the community together for the first time to look at how Incredible North can be developed.

Incredible Edible is a really simple idea based on the belief that everyone has a role to play in building a kinder, stronger community. By encouraging people to grow and cook more local food, share their knowledge of how to do

this and support local traders, over a hundred communities across the country have started to see that people power can make a real difference.

Incredible North builds on this model and it's being kick started in Wigan.

A seminar-style session in Hindley, Wigan, on Wednesday 31st August marked the

launch of Incredible Edible Wigan.

Local residents and businesses got involved and helped grow the scheme.

There are also opportunities for residents to apply for funding through The Deal, the

council's informal contract with residents to improve the borough.

Pam Warhurst, founder of Incredible Edible, is originally from Leigh and is driving Incredible North. She said: "What's happening in Wigan is amazing. Wigan is a council ready to listen to you and ready to use The Deal to invest in local food actions all over the borough. Making it easier for everyone to eat well, learn new skills and support their local economy."

"Food, what we buy and eat, is at the heart of our everyday lives. It's such a big part of what health, wealth and happiness is all about."

Councillor Chris Ready, cabinet member for communities, said: "Whoever you are and



Incredible Edible Wigan



whatever you do, whether you're a volunteer, local trader, or teacher, come along to this Incredible Edible Wigan get-

together and find out how, working together, we can make a difference."

ANDY BURNHAM GETS ON HIS BIKE FOR WIGAN WELLFEST

Leigh MP Andy Burnham got on his bike in support of Wigan Borough's Wellfest celebrations when Britain's only pop up velodrome visited his constituency this September.

Wellfest is the borough's way of encouraging everyone to try something that will help boost their health and wellbeing and StreetVelodrome brought the excitement and drama of an Olympic style track pursuit racing to Pennington Flash.

Mr Burnham said: "We've had Walking Festivals, Jazz Festivals and International Festivals but I am delighted that this borough is the first in the northwest to pioneer a festival devoted to improving people's wellbeing to encourage them to live

healthier, happier lives.

"The pop-up StreetVelodrome epitomizes what this fantastic week has all been about - delivering events in the community that encourage people to get moving, get active and get involved no matter what their age, ability or financial situation."



Silver Surfers

Family Learning

Leisure and Pleasure

Mental Health

Jobseekers



Courses available across the borough
www.wigancommunitylearning.com
 01942 489758

GREEN FLAG SUCCESS FOR BOROUGH'S BEST PARKS

Four perfect parks in Wigan Borough have been hailed as the best in the UK.

Mesnes Park, Pennington Hall Park, Jubilee Park and Alexandra Park have once again made the list in the prestigious Green Flag Awards.

The Green Flag Awards recognise and reward the best parks and green spaces across the country.

A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities.

Cllr Kevin Anderson,

cabinet member for environment at Wigan Council, said: "Achieving Green Flag status is a reflection on all the hard work that staff, Friends groups and other local volunteers put in to making our parks wonderful places to visit.

"It's a great example of what can be done when people get involved in their local community, something we're encouraging residents to do as part of The Deal."

A flag raising ceremony is being planned for September in Alexandra Park to celebrate this latest achievement.

A record number of

parks and green spaces are flying the Green Flag this year – 1,686 across the UK. The award scheme, from Keep Britain Tidy, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The dedicated parks volunteers who help to maintain the borough's much-loved green spaces are always in need of more volunteers to help with the upkeep.

For more information about how to get involved with your local park please visit Parks or contact any of the Friends of groups.

www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Leisure/Parks/Green-Flag-parks.aspx



MESNES PARK

A jewel nestled on the edge of Wigan town centre, Mesnes Park has enjoyed a £6.1m restoration programme bringing it back to its former Victorian glory.

Generations of locals have visited the park to rub the 'lucky foot' of the Sir Francis Sharpe Powell

monument. As a result, a hole appeared in his shoe! Sir Francis's shoes are now watertight once again and have been re-bronzed.

The pavilion building now offers a modern café facility with two floors of seating run by Frederick's Ice Cream. The Dalton

steps leading up to the pavilion have been repaired and the missing urns replaced.

Music lovers can enjoy concerts in the band stand and a new power supply has brought it into the twenty first century.



PENNINGTON HALL PARK

A pretty community park with play areas, tennis courts, bowling greens and a band stand. Events take place in the park throughout the year, including a popular Last Night of the Proms event in September.

The park was presented to Leigh Corporation by local brewers Messer's George Shaw and Company Limited in 1920 at a floral opening on Saturday 28th August 1920. The hall was used as a museum and art gallery and the grounds were adapted from the gardens of the hall and the work

was carried out under an unemployment relief scheme.

The earliest records of a hall on the site are from 1200s when it was owned by the Pennington family; the last hall was demolished in 1963 when it was found to have dry rot.

The Friends meet at the café in the park and they are currently looking for volunteers to help run the café, look after the wildlife garden as well as develop a new community garden/allotment.



JUBILEE PARK

Jubilee Park actually consists of two pockets of land situated either side of Wigan Road (A49), covering 8.5 acres in total.

Originally swampy, they were known as the 'wombs' and were laid out and landscaped with the intention of them being named Victoria Park. However, when Lord Gerard officially opened the park in 1897 it coincided with Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the name was changed to Jubilee Park.

Facilities include a pavilion and toilets, tennis and basket ball courts, grass pitches play areas, woodland area and a formal flower park.

The Friends of Jubilee Park are an important partner in the future of the park. Their role is to make sure that the park provides for the needs of the local community. If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you – everyone is welcome.



ALEXANDRA PARK

The park is split in two by Victoria Street. One side of the road consists of two bowling greens and a pavilion. The bulk of the park is on the opposite side of the road and consists of a playing field including an informal sports pitches, a hard standing events area, a play area for 0-12 year olds, two tennis courts and an extreme sports facility.

Alexandra Park is well used as a local community informal recreation area for dog walking or just having a rest on one of the park

benches. The park hosts several events throughout the year.

The Friends of Alexandra Park are an important partner in the future of the park. Their role is to make sure that the park provides for the needs of the local community.

If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you – everyone is welcome. The Friends group meet on the first Wednesday of each month in the Bowling Pavilion – dates will be posted in the park noticeboards.



'TREASURE! THE EXTRAORDINARY TO THE EVERYDAY'

Exhibition now open.

A new exhibition at the Museum of Wigan Life is now showcasing a variety of hidden treasures.

From the Renaissance to the 18th century, wealthy individuals created collections of weird and wonderful objects from nature, science and art in a 'Cabinet of Curiosity'.

The Wigan Council run museum collection is itself a 'Cabinet of Curiosity' and will showcase a mix of items from gold Jacobite execution jewellery to engraved whale's teeth and a piece of flag from General Custer's last stand.

Each item has an interesting backstory and the Burma palm leaf

sacred scrolls are no exception.

Made with the Talipo Palm from the Shwebo district in South Central Burma, these sparkling scrolls were collected by Lieutenant Henry Francis Eckerlsey during the Anglo Burma Wars in the 19th century. The writing is scratched onto the leaf using a metal tool and has been treated with petroleum.

Lynda Jackson, Community History Manager at the Museum of Wigan Life said: "It's really exciting that we have these objects in the Museum of Wigan Life. The collection is sure to impress and I urge

everybody to take the time to view it.

"We love curating new exhibitions to showcase to the public and the new 'Treasures' exhibition is not one to be missed."

Other items in the



collection include a locket dating to the time of the Jacobite Rebellions in the 18th century, which is decorated with diamonds and holds a lock of hair believed to belong to the 'Old Pretender', the father of Bonny Prince Charlie.

There will also be a new selection of fine art from the museum's collection on display including work by Theodore Major.

"Treasures! The Extraordinary to the Everyday' replaces the popular Ancient Egypt Rediscovered exhibition, which was showcased on BBC 2's Immortal Egypt with Professor Joann Fletcher.

The full collection, which includes a gold coffin mask, a unique 25-26th dynasty coffin piece with rare decoration and a superb 5,000 year old stone vessel created at the very beginning of Pharaonic history, is now closed, however, a selection of the collection will be displayed permanently in the gallery.

It will then include a mummified cat on loan from Manchester Museum.

The museums exhibitions can be visited during normal opening times, which are available at Museum of Wigan Life.

WIGAN BELIEVES IN PRIDE

First Pride festival hailed a major success.

Wigan's first ever Pride festival was hailed a major success with hundreds taking part in celebrations across the town centre.

The inaugural Wigan Pride took place in August and is the first event to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community in the borough.

It was organised by BYOU (Wigan Council's LGBTQ+ voice and engagement group) and BYOU+ (a newly formed support and engagement group for 18+ in the borough) who worked hard to get support from local organisations and businesses to make the event happen.

One of those supporters is Wigan Council which sponsored the event as part of its #BelieveInOnlyHuman campaign. The campaign to bring everyone in the borough together through celebrating difference and sharing what we all have in common.

The family friendly day boasted a variety of live entertainment, music and comedy, including local talent.

The journey follows an inspirational visit from Sir Ian McKellen, an openly gay and hugely successful actor, activist and founder of LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall last summer.

Members of BYOU had the opportunity to meet Sir Ian McKellen, famous for his portrayal as Gandalf in Lord of The Rings

and Magneto in X-men. The actor, who grew up in Wigan, spoke profoundly about being proud to be from Wigan and being part of the LGBTQ+ community.

BYOU raised the

question, "why don't we have a Wigan Pride?" – a question that a lot of people have been asking for some time. Without taking "no" for an answer, the determination of the young people at BYOU inspired professionals, council and public to



get involved with Wigan Pride, which has heavily involved the community. A competition to design the emblem went out to schools and colleges in the borough with the winning

design from Rebecca Bryan, a design that drew inspiration from Wigan's history with reference to Northern Soul and Wigan Casino which is profoundly fitting to the message of Wigan Pride.

Zak Bretherton, Chair & Co-Founder of BYOU+ and key member of the Wigan Pride Committee reflected on the journey and reasoning for Wigan Pride. "Growing up, I remember watching a documentary on ITV's Tonight programme, in which a

social experiment was conducted in the town centre of Wigan. The place I'm so familiar with was on TV for the first time I had ever seen it, the experiment showed two

male actors holding hands with hidden cameras and the response from the public was disappointing and rather uncomfortable to me. Since then I've been very proactive and determined to change people's views and perception of the LGBTQ+ community and bring the Wigan community closer together. Educating others and finally being part of Wigan Pride is a real celebration of the journey and progress of the town and the amazing response and difference made from everyone involved. I'm so grateful for the opportunities that have been given to me through BYOU, Wigan Council and all the partners involved. I'm proud of Wigan and it's not the Wigan that I saw back in the documentary. That's not to say we've still got a long journey ahead of us but I truly believe in the borough of Wigan."



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SIR IAN MCKELLEN RETURNED TO WIGAN TO RECEIVE A WIGAN STAR!

The star of stage and screen saw the star go in pride of place at Believe Square in Wigan Town Centre at a civic reception.

Sir Ian was handed the accolade as a celebration of a career which has so far spanned more than 50 years.

The 75-year-old lived in Wigan from the age of three to 11 in a semi-detached house across the road from Mesnes Park. He has spoken about his love of the brass bands playing in the park on summer Sundays and scoring for the cricket team and is a place where he has returned over the years. Sir Ian has said seeing traders pedal their wares in the Market Square was one of the things that first interested in acting: that and the

Frank Fortescue Players at the Hippodrome.

He also often recalls Wigan's great sense of community, particularly through its host of communal venues including the municipal baths, cinemas and the children's library which he often attended. This passion for libraries and educating young people has also inspired many people across Wigan Borough to visit libraries and continue with their learning.

Famous for his performances in Macbeth, Othello, Richard III and King Lear, Sir Ian's first encounter with Shakespeare was a performance of Twelfth Night by amateurs at Wigan Little Theatre. But to most he will be best-known as Magneto in the X-Men films and as

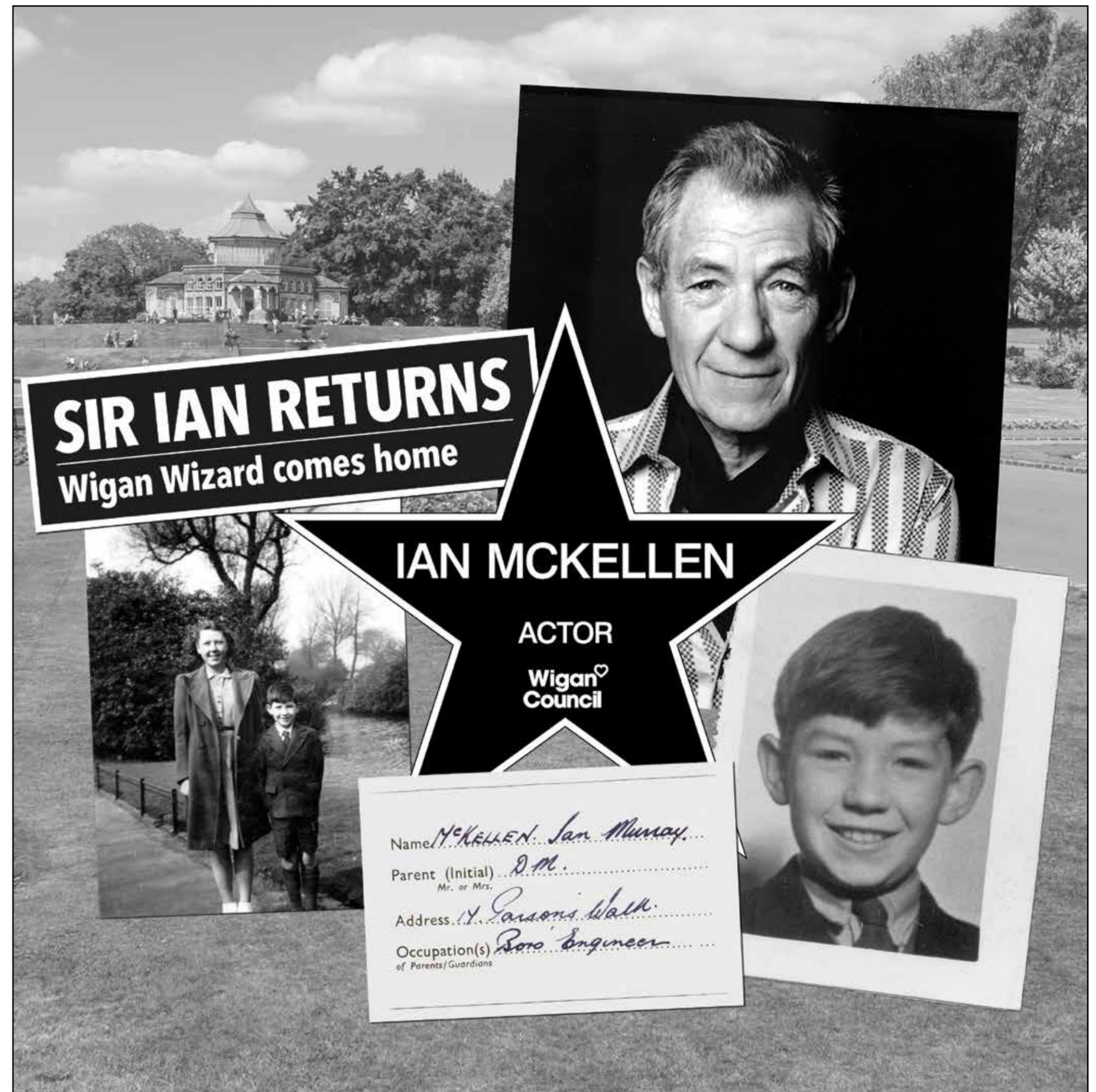


Gandalf in the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit trilogies.

Lord Peter Smith, Leader of Wigan Council, said: "It is an immense privilege for Wigan Council to bestow this honour on a great actor of film and theatre.

"Sir Ian McKellen is rightly one of this town's most loved sons who has brought the magic of stage and screen to life to so many people around the world. There are few better ambassadors for the town having inspired people across Wigan Borough in so many ways including his active work campaigning for equal rights for LGBT community and as a founder of Stonewall."

Sir Ian said: "It was an honour to return to Wigan, which holds so many special memories. It was fascinating to see how the town has developed since 1951, when our family moved to Bolton. If only the Hippodrome was still there!"



#BelieveInWigan



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