

Part 4: Ongoing engagement

January 2024 – April 2025

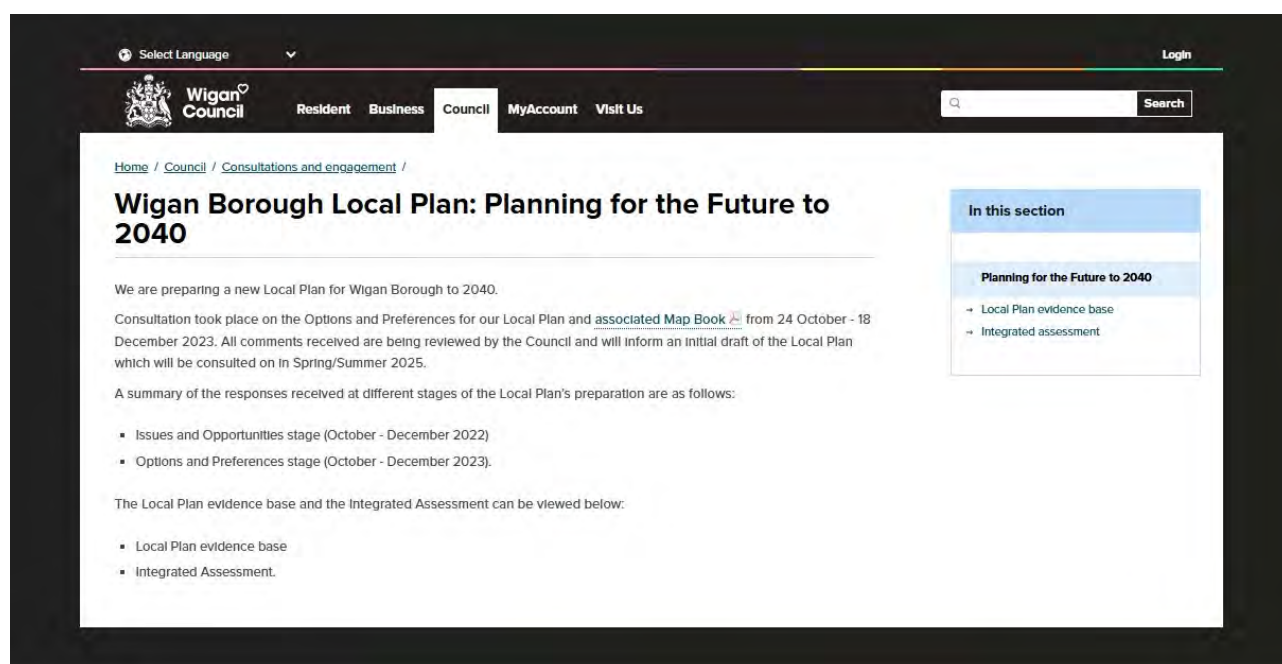
Part 4: Ongoing engagement

In line with the Statement of Community Involvement, engagement at this stage included:

- Website coverage
- Feedback on the Options and Preferences Consultation
- Engaging young people
- Targeted engagement with key stakeholders
- Targeted engagement with Duty to Cooperate bodies
- Targeted engagement with Infrastructure Delivery Plan partners

Details of these methods of engagement are set out in turn below.

Website



Wigan Borough Local Plan webpage for the period February 2024 to April 2025.

Feedback on the Options and Preferences Consultation

A summary of the responses we received was initially published on our website and subsequently replaced by a consultation report, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Docs/PDF/Council/Consultations/Future-plan/Consultation-Report.pdf>

Together with feedback received from the 10 workshops and 2 sessions with young people, 254 online responses and 55 email submissions from site promoters, local and statutory agencies, and local residents were received. Overall, nearly 1,000 individual representations were made. A summary of the main issues raised against the 7 key planning themes used in the consultation, is set out below:

Housing:

- Broad support for the delivery of a mix of housing in terms of size, type, tenure, affordability and meeting specific needs, such as housing for older people. Housebuilders highlighted that this should be based on evidence and that flexibility should be provided within the policy to reflect viability considerations, to allow for changes in circumstances and to reflect the fact that needs vary in different parts of the borough.

- Housebuilders emphasised that the Local Plan and its supporting evidence should clearly show how Wigan's housing requirement, as set out in the PfE Plan, will be met, including an appropriate buffer to provide certainty, flexibility and choice. Emphasis was also placed on ensuring that sufficient supply was identified for a 15-year period from the adoption of the Local Plan (i.e. at least 2041). Concerns were raised about the viability and deliverability of some sites in the housing supply.
- Some respondents took the view that brownfield sites should be the priority for new housing, whilst housebuilders stressed that both brownfield and greenfield sites would be needed, including sites in the Green Belt.
- A number of site suggestions for housing allocations were received, predominantly in the Green Belt, but also on some existing Safeguarded Land and sites within the urban area. The site promoters argue that they are needed to ensure that the council meets its housing requirements, including the need for affordable housing.
- Responses relating to individual allocations were quite limited, but there was support from landowners / developers for the principle of allocating sites at North Leigh Park, South Hindley, Landgate, East of Atherton and Land South of Atherton, subject to detailed policy wording. There were also some objections to these allocations.
- There was some support for a policy to limit the development of HMOs, improve their standards and reduce negative impacts on neighbours. The importance of good management of existing HMOs was also highlighted.
- There was a very limited response in terms of accommodation for travellers, but the need to provide sites and facilities was queried.

Jobs:

- The general approach on jobs was supported, including for the 4 main economic priorities.
- Some felt that enough land had not been identified, either through the Places for Everyone Plan or the existing employment areas, sufficient to meet demand, nor are they deliverable or in the right places. A number of site suggestions for employment were received, predominantly in the Green Belt.
- Some felt the Local Plan needed to be more aspirational, attracting more higher skilled, higher paid jobs which could slow down the level of out-commuting and attract and retain more graduates. Some suggested that there was too much land-hungry logistics and low-skilled delivery jobs. While others suggested that growth

expectations were too high , especially after HS2 had been abandoned in the north.

- General support for our preference to secure affordable business accommodation for start-up businesses, especially in town and local centres.
- The protection and enhancement of existing employment areas was broadly supported. However, it was recognised that their regeneration would likely be piecemeal, with very limited opportunity for accommodating new large scale employment developments within these areas.
- The move towards a greener economy and more green jobs were largely supported with some suggesting this ambition needed to be bigger and bolder, including for example solar energy and farming.
- General support for enhancements in digital infrastructure, recognising that Covid had exposed the inadequacies of digital supply but that these enhancements should have minimal impact on local environments.
- Broad support for our approach to promote the visitor economy, including the regeneration and enhancement of green spaces and built heritage.

Town and local centres:

- General support for the preferred approach to regenerating and improving the borough's town centres.
- Concerns raised about the funding and the progress with The Galleries redevelopment and how the planned uses will work together, for example housing with commercial uses.
- Concerns raised over the amount and detail of the funding for Leigh Town Centre improvements. Residents are keen to see improvements but some fear it will not be realised effectively and/or focused on inappropriate works.
- Across the town centres there is support for markets, more independent shops and a quality evening offer.
- Reducing crime and improving community safety are considered priority issues in our town centres, particularly in Wigan and Leigh.
- Local centres were valued by residents with a number supporting a restriction in the number of hot food takeaways.

Transport:

- Many Lowton and Golborne residents (and James Grundy MP) have promoted the need for an Atherleigh Way bypass, and state that the Local Plan should support / facilitate its delivery.
- It is imperative that development is in sustainable locations with good access to public transport and strong active travel links.
- Strong support for ensuring active travel as the first choice for shorter distance journeys (under 2km).
- Support for enhancement to existing rail infrastructure, particularly the proposed new rail station in Golborne and a potential new rail station in Standish.
- Acceptance that cars users will need to be accommodated, rather than prioritised.
- Issues identified with existing bus network. Improvements required, both in terms of frequency and routing to encourage modal shift.
- Local support for Metrolink in Leigh.

Places:

- Broad support from key bodies on our approach to sustainable communities, sustainable design and landscape design. Some developers and landowners support in principle, but on the basis that policy is sufficiently flexible and responsive to viability considerations and does not go beyond requirements set in national policy / legislation and/or Building Regulations.
- Support for the inclusion of a specific canal related policy and broad agreement of the preferred approach, subject to stronger reference to issues including the historic environment, active travel and ecological connectivity.
- Broad support on our preferred approach to the historic environment, with reference that this is a good opportunity to integrate some of the proposals within the Historic Environment Strategy within the Local Plan to facilitate their delivery.
- Investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is identified as important, including in constrained locations such as local green space, open countryside and the Green Belt, where it facilitates the delivery of wider sustainable development and the meeting of environmental objectives of water and sewerage undertakers.

Environment:

- General support for our renewable energy/retrofitting/carbon policies from developers, businesses, members of the public and other stakeholders.
- Key stakeholders with regards the water environment are supportive of our options and preferences and have offered evidence/policy advice for us as well as looking to be engaged further in the process as we develop our policies.
- Support for our nature and green infrastructure options and preferences from developers, businesses, members of the public and other stakeholders. There is some good feedback with ideas to assist us going forward with policy development.

People:

- The inclusion of policies on Active Design and building the active design concept into a range of policies where relevant would be welcomed.
- Our approach to planning for healthier living, including implementing this through HIAs and Planning for Health checklists is supported.
- Our proposed four step process for determining appropriate developer contributions to new health facilities are also supported, with some suggested amendments to align it more with NHS requirements.
- A needs based approach should be used to determine the delivery of sporting facilities, not a standards based approach.
- The preferred approach to securing developer contributions for open, space, sport and recreation is not based upon evidence, and it should be.

Engaging young people

In response to the age profile at the 10 community based workshops, two sessions were held at Leigh Youth Zone and Wigan Youth Zone on 7 and 8 December respectively, with contributions from around 50 young people aged 11-16 across the two evenings.

Targeted Engagement

Following the Options and Preferences consultation and in advance of next consultation stage of the Local Plan, the council has undertaken:

- Targeted engagement with key stakeholders

- Targeted engagement with Duty to Cooperate Bodies (DTC)
- Targeted engagement with key infrastructure delivery partners in the preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

Targeted engagement with key stakeholders

A draft of the policies was shared widely internally, as applicable, with colleagues, including in Development Management Planning, Regeneration, Economic Development, Transport Policy, Major Projects, Network Management, Environmental Protection, Housing Services, Housing Enabling and Development, Housing New Build, Property, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care, Education, Be Well, Digital Transformation and Culture and Events.

For the purposes of planning policy, external stakeholders are in three separate categories:

- duty to cooperate bodies (see section below) with whom we are legally required to seek to resolve strategic cross boundary matters;
- other statutory consultees that we have to consult; and,
- other stakeholders who have a clear interest in the plan's proposals.

Other stakeholders that we have shared content with include the Canal and River Trust, Sport England, proposed site owners and agents, and other key developers and businesses active in the borough such as Cityheart, Heaton Group, KraftHeinz, Parkinson Commercial and housebuilders.

Most external stakeholders have welcomed the opportunity to be able to comment on the draft policies.

We received detailed comments from site promoters for the proposed allocations at South Hindley, East of Atherton, South of Atherton, Landgate and Bridgewater West, and have been in contact with the other site promoters to ensure that feedback is provided. The comments received were broadly supportive, subject to some amendments to the detailed policy wording as applicable.

Other bodies provided useful comments, including Sport England, the Canal and River Trust and the Homes Builder Federation, and KraftHeinz stated that they were happy with the jobs policies proposed.

Targeted engagement with Duty to Cooperate Bodies

Targeted engagement has taken place with the Duty to Cooperate Bodies (DTC). A separate Statement of Compliance report has been produced setting out how we have complied with the duty.

Targeted engagement with Infrastructure Delivery Plan partners

Internal engagement

Some key infrastructure responsibilities sit, in part at least, within the council, including waste management, education, community infrastructure and transport. Internal engagement included meetings and correspondence informing the development of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

Meetings were held with Waste team, Education (school places 5 to 16), Property, the Communities team and the Transport team. Discussions centred on current national and local policy in the specific areas, forecasts of need based on information provided on the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), employment growth plans and other potential physical and social needs that the IDP and local Plan would need to cover. Information was then received from these teams and others including the Housing Delivery team, Major Projects (transport schemes) and SEND team on current and future plans for infrastructure including any needs that could arise from the Local Plan.

Additionally commissioned research and council governance reporting that has been used to support the development of the Local Plan and the IDP included: the Open Space Study and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, the Not in Education or Training Report' cabinet report and the Treasury Half Year Review cabinet report.

External engagement

External engagement included meetings and correspondence informing the development of the IDP with, amongst others, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Cadent Gas, Electricity North West and Wrightington Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals Trust.

Regional plans were also considered including Electricity North West's Network Development Report 2024 and United Utilities Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans 2023.

Part 5: Initial Draft Local Plan

30 April – 24 June 2025

Part 5: Initial Draft Local Plan

In line with the Statement of Community Involvement, engagement at this stage included:

- Website coverage
- Site notices
- Deposit of consultation documents in libraries
- Media releases
- Press adverts
- Letters to neighbours
- Social media posts
- Internal emails and bulletins
- External email notifications
- Newspaper and webpage articles
- Posters and leaflets
- Internal communications
- Community engagement events
- Response feedback

Details of these methods of engagement are set out in turn below.

Website



[Resident](#) [Business](#) [Council](#) [MyAccount](#) [Visit Us](#)

[Home](#) / [Council](#) / [Consultations and engagement](#) /

Wigan Borough Local Plan: Planning for the Future to 2040

We are currently consulting on an initial draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan until 11:59pm on Tuesday 24th June 2025.

The views of residents, businesses and other stakeholders are really important to us. You can view and comment on the initial draft plan on our [consultation portal](#).

The local plan aligns closely with [Progress with Unity](#), a new movement for change in the borough. It has been shaped by a robust evidence base, and extensive community and stakeholder consultation carried out the 'issues and opportunities' in late 2022 and 'options and preferences' stages in late 2023.

The plan includes a suite of policies based around seven key themes including homes, jobs, towns and local centres, transport, places, environment and people.

View supporting documents to the Initial Draft Local Plan:

- [Consultation report](#) – this summarises responses received at the options and preferences consultation stage and the Council's response
- [Infrastructure delivery plan draft](#)
- [Duty to cooperate – draft statement of common ground](#)
- [Interim integrated appraisal](#)
- [Flood risk evidence assessment draft](#)
- [Site selection assessment- employment](#)
- [Review of local centres in Wigan Borough report](#)
- [Local Plan evidence base.](#)

If you are not already on our consultation database and would like to be kept up-to-date with progress on the Local Plan [please provide us with your details](#).

In this section

Planning for the Future to 2040

[→ Local Plan evidence base](#)

[→ Integrated assessment](#)

Consultation Events

During the consultation period, we will be hosting drop-in consultation events at the venues below to enable residents and interested parties to discuss and learn more about the proposed content in the Local Plan with us in person:

- **Tuesday 13 May**, 2-7pm - Salvation Army, Chapel Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 8PB
- **Wednesday 14 May**, 2-7pm - Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, WN5 8JP
- **Thursday 15 May**, 2-7pm - Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1EB
- **Tuesday 20 May**, 2-7pm - Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, **Tyldesley**, M29 8HG
- **Wednesday 21 May**, 2-7pm - Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG
- **Tuesday 3 June**, 2-7pm - St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, **Hindley**, WN2 3DN
- **Wednesday 4 June**, 2-7pm - Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ

Please feel free to call by any time between 2pm and 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

[View the Council's privacy notice](#).

Subsequent links to Initial Draft Local Plan consultation portal



Consultation on the Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

We invite you to submit your views by 23:59 on 24 June 2025.

FORMAL SUBMISSION - OPEN

ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION

PROPOSAL

More Information

Supporting Files

- [Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan - Final 300425.pdf](#)
- [Wigan Council Privacy Notice.pdf](#)

Recent Comments

Be the first to comment on this event

[GO TO EVENT](#)

Welcome to the consultation portal for the Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

Consultation on the plan is open until **23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025**. The views of residents, businesses and other stakeholders are really important to us.

You can view and make comments on the plan by clicking on the blue **'GO TO EVENT'** button above.

To make comments, please click on the 'Add comment' tags within the document and complete the online consultation form. You can make multiple comments.

If commenting for the first time you will be prompted to provide your name, address and email address before submitting your first comment.

The accompanying policies map can be viewed [here](#) and also via links within the Local Plan. The supporting evidence map [can be viewed here](#).

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing your views.

Consultation Events

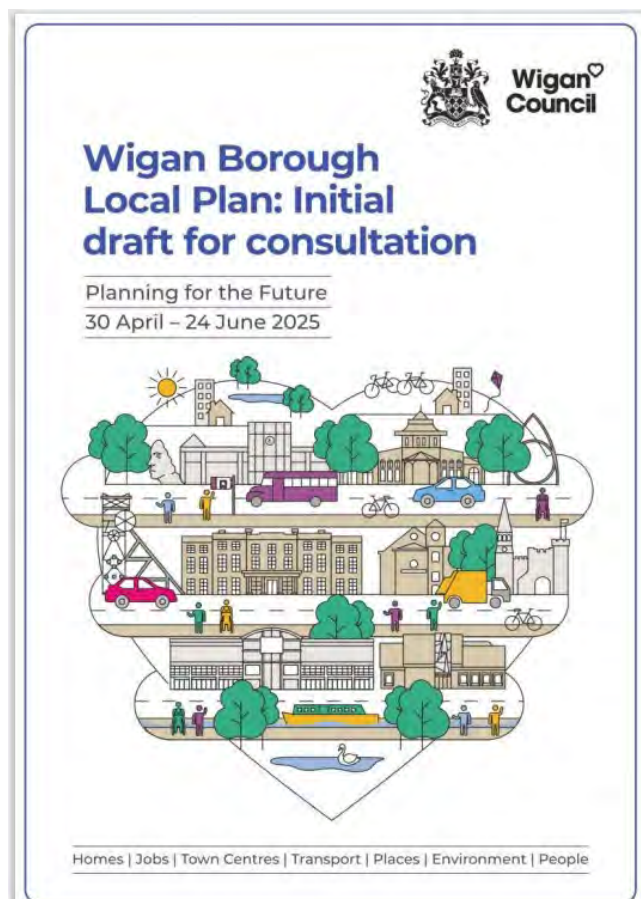
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- Thursday 15 May**, 2-7pm - Leigh Library, Civic Square, **Leigh**, WN7 1EB
- Tuesday 20 May**, 2-7pm - Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, **Tyldesley**, M29 8HG
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Please feel free to call by any time between 2pm and 7pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Initial Draft Local Plan consultation document

Front cover



Sites notices

Sites notices were posted at the following 8 site allocations

East of Atherton

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



East of Atherton, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for residential and employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan. It is proposed to be allocated for around 600 homes with a mix of types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing. Development will also be required to extend the existing industrial activity at Charters Industrial Estate northwards.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by Tuesday 24 June 2025.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Atherton Library and Tyldesley Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Wednesday 04 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

Remaining land South of Atherton

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Remaining land South of Atherton, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for residential development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan to meet identified housing needs.

It is proposed to be allocated for around 320 homes across two areas, one each side of Charters Brook, principally to the north of Lodge Lane.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by Tuesday 24 June 2025.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Atherton Library and Tyldesley Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Wednesday 04 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

Remaining land at Landgate

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Remaining land at Landgate, Ashton-in-Makerfield, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for residential development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan to meet identified housing needs.

It is proposed to be allocated for around 400 homes with an appropriate mix of house types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by Tuesday 24 June 2025.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Ashton-in-Makerfield Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Tuesday 13 May, 2-7pm – Salvation Army, Chapel Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 8PB

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

Land at Little Lane, Pemberton

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Land at Little Lane, Pemberton, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated as an extension of the existing traveller site to help meet identified needs for additional gypsy and traveller pitches in the borough.

Vehicular and pedestrian access is proposed from the existing traveller site.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by Tuesday 24 June 2025.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Lamberhead Green Library and Wigan Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Wednesday 14 May, 2-7pm – Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, WN5 8JP

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

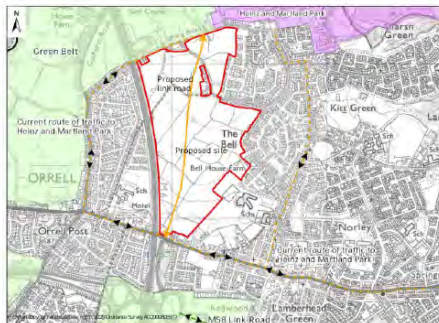
Land north of M6 Junction 26

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Land north of M6 Junction 26, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for a substantial, high quality employment development in the M6 Corridor and a link road from M6 Junction 26 to Spring Road at Kitt Green.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including manufacturing and logistics.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Lamberhead Green Library and Wigan Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- 14 May, 2-7pm: Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel St, Wigan WN5 8JP

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

Moss Industrial Estate Extension

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Moss Industrial Estate Extension, Aspull Common, Leigh, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed as an extension to the existing Moss Industrial Estate, to accommodate business uses, particularly within the manufacturing, distribution, construction and health and social care sectors.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including manufacturing, logistics, construction and health and social care.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Golborne Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm - Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG
- Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm - Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1EB

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

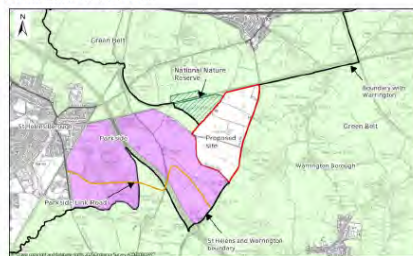
Land west of Winwick Lane

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Land west of Winwick Lane, Lotton, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for a substantial high quality employment development in the M6 Corridor as part of the proposed cross-boundary Parkside East strategic rail freight interchange and logistics site ILP North. The development will also be required to contribute substantially to the delivery of a bypass for Lane Head South.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including logistics and manufacturing.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Golborne Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm - Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

Bridgewater West

Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation: Proposed site allocation



Bridgewater West, Astley, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment-led development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for a high-quality business park-led mixed-use development targeting professional, scientific and technical, manufacturing, ICT and creative sectors. Together with homes and leisure and visitor attractions.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including professional, scientific and technical and manufacturing.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Tyldesley Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on:

- Tuesday 20 May, 2-7pm - Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, Tyldesley, M29 8HG

Please do not remove this notice until 25 June 2025.

Deposit of documents in libraries

Paper copies of the Initial Draft Local Plan and proposals maps were made available at the following local libraries:

- Ashton-in-Makerfield
- Atherton
- Golborne
- Lamberhead Green
- Leigh
- Tyldesley
- Wigan.

Media Release

30 April 2025



Wigan Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Wigan Borough, Library Road, Wigan, WN1 1YH @WiganCouncil media@wigan.gov.uk www.wigan.gov.uk

30 April 2025 Ref/11159

Take part in shaping Wigan Borough's future

Residents are being invited to take part in the latest consultation on a plan to shape the future of Wigan Borough, from homes and jobs, to town centres, environment and transport. This Plan sets out how Wigan Borough will grow in the best way for current and future residents, creating fair opportunities for all and ensuring our towns and neighbourhoods flourish. Councillor David Molyneux MBE, Leader of Wigan Council, said: "This Local Plan is about more than where homes will be built, and future employment sites, although these are of course vitally important. "It sets out our ambitions for our borough, and how we will deliver them. Attracting new industries and jobs and building on the strengths of what's already here, protecting and enhancing our incredible green spaces and ensuring more people can enjoy them, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more. "I would really encourage everyone to take a look at the Plan and share your views with us. This is the third stage of consultation, ahead of planned submission to government next year, and we want to hear from you and shape this future together." The Plan takes a 'brownfield first' approach, looking first at previously developed land to allocate sites. However, with changes to national planning policy, the Council has had to look at what can be called 'grey belt' sites, to ensure that if they are developed it is done in a responsible way, bringing benefits to the community. One such site is by Junction 26 of the M5, near Kitt Green. This has been included as a key opportunity to build on the success of Marland Park, the home of Hainc, and create substantial, high-quality employment, creating jobs for people in our borough. The Plan also sets out requirement for a much-needed link road to be built, connecting the A577, Kitt Green and Marland Park to the M5. Councillor Molyneux added: "With the sites currently allocated in this Plan, around half of our borough would still be within 'green belt'. That doesn't mean we are making these proposals lightly, and we want to hear views from everyone. "This Plan is set out in seven key themes: homes, jobs, town and local centres, transport, places, environment and people and there will be seven drop-in sessions taking place across the borough for residents to find out more and share their views with us. "I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in previous consultations and I'd urge everyone to get involved once again." The drop-ins will be:

- Tuesday 13 May, 2-7pm - Salvation Army, Chapel Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 8PE
- Wednesday 14 May, 2-7pm - Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, WN6 5JP
- Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm - Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN1 1EB
- Thursday 20 May, 2-7pm - Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, Tyldesley, M25 8HG
- Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm - Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG
- Tuesday 3 June, 2-7pm - St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley, WN2 3DN
- Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm - Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M45 6JQ

The consultation is open now and run until Tuesday 24 June. Find out more and get involved at www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan000

Hard copies of the Plan will also be available at Wigan, Leigh, Atherton, Ashton, Golborne, Lamberhead and Tyldesley libraries.

Notes to editors
This is the third consultation in this Local Plan process. The previous two rounds of consultation received more than 1,500 responses. Residents were asked to give their opinions on seven key themes for development, responses included:

Homes:

- More homes needed for first time buyers, including affordable homes and social housing.
- Better infrastructure to reduce pressure on local transport networks and access to health and schools.

Jobs:

- Focus on bringing more job opportunities into the borough, including within health and social care, green business sectors, general manufacturing, advanced manufacturing.
- Retain talent in Wigan Borough by targeting higher paid jobs.

Town centres:

- Attract more visitors to town centres by supporting local independent businesses to grow and thrive.
- Improve transport links to town centres, with more efficient and accessible options.
- Make town centres safe, inclusive and attractive to all people in.

Transport:

- A more integrated, affordable and effective public transport system needed to provide good alternatives to travelling by car.
- Safe, direct and attractive walking routes.

Places:

- Important that people feel safe and included.
- Good quality greenspace and attractive public spaces.
- Conserve historic buildings.

Environment:

- More green infrastructure
- Improve existing wildlife sites; additional planting in urban areas (including green walls, green roofs, street trees); and increasing woodland and tree cover.
- Low carbon / energy efficient measures for buildings.
- Improve public transport.

People:

- Better access to nature and the natural environment.
- Access to affordable healthy food.
- More spaces for people to meet and interact, including improved sports provision for children and young people.

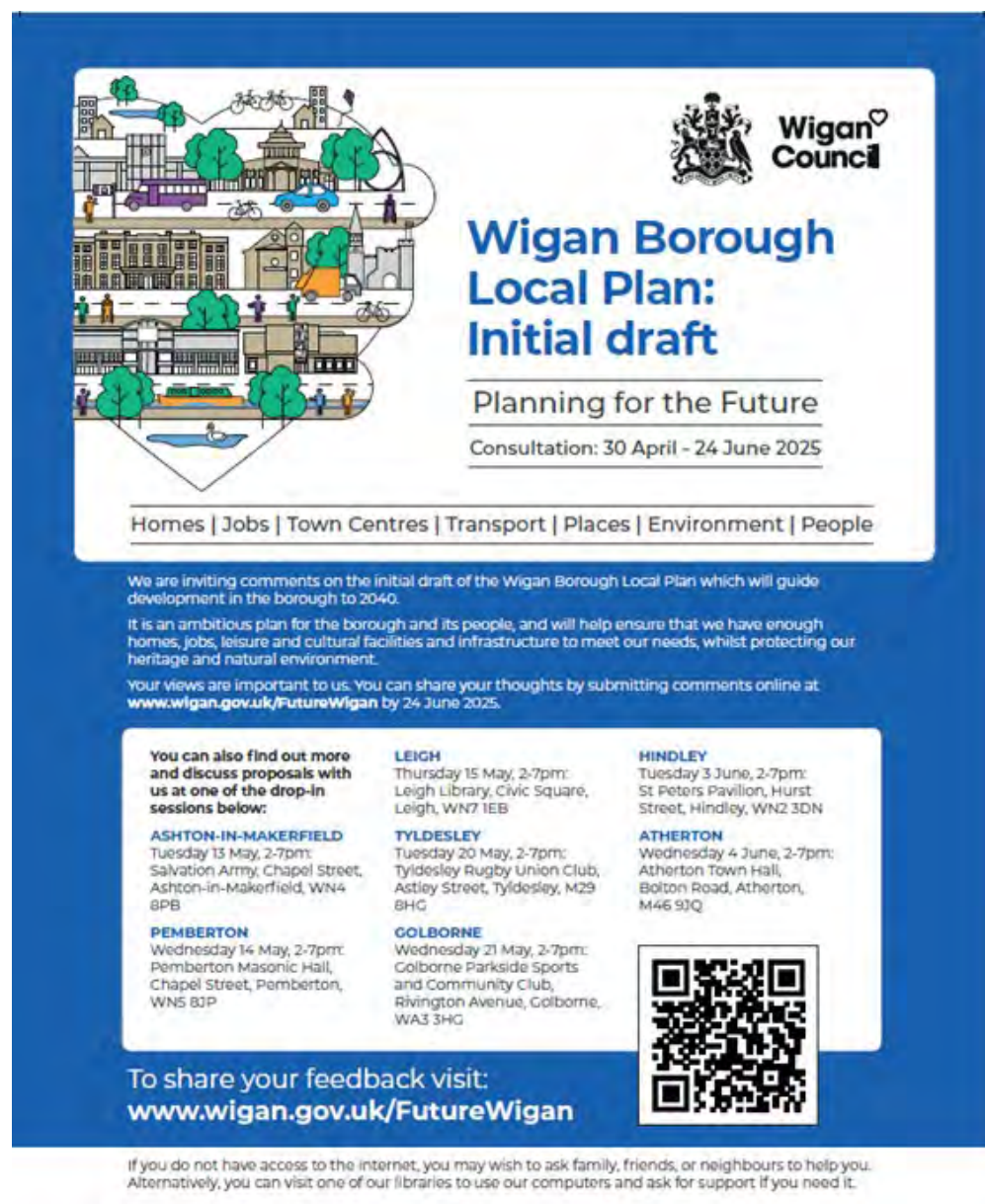
Once comments have been submitted a Publication version of the Local Plan will be drafted and a final round of consultation will take place early next year. If the publication version is approved locally, it will be submitted to the Secretary of State next spring.

For more information, contact Wigan Council's media team at media@wigan.gov.uk

ends

Press Advert

28th April 2025



The poster features a colorful illustration of a town scene with houses, trees, a bus, and people. The Wigan Council logo is in the top right corner. The main title is 'Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial draft' in large blue letters. Below it, the subtitle 'Planning for the Future' is in a smaller font, followed by the consultation dates 'Consultation: 30 April - 24 June 2025'. A horizontal line separates this from a list of topics: 'Homes | Jobs | Town Centres | Transport | Places | Environment | People'. The text below explains that the plan will guide development until 2040 and invites public input. It lists six drop-in sessions with their dates, times, and locations: Ashton-in-Makerfield (13 May), Pemberton (14 May), Leigh (15 May), Tyldesley (20 May), Golborne (21 May), and Hindley (3 June). A QR code is provided for online feedback. A note at the bottom suggests asking family or friends for help if internet access is limited.

Wigan Council

Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial draft

Planning for the Future

Consultation: 30 April - 24 June 2025

Homes | Jobs | Town Centres | Transport | Places | Environment | People

We are inviting comments on the initial draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan which will guide development in the borough to 2040.

It is an ambitious plan for the borough and its people, and will help ensure that we have enough homes, jobs, leisure and cultural facilities and infrastructure to meet our needs, whilst protecting our heritage and natural environment.

Your views are important to us. You can share your thoughts by submitting comments online at www.wigan.gov.uk/FutureWigan by 24 June 2025.

You can also find out more and discuss proposals with us at one of the drop-in sessions below:

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD Tuesday 13 May, 2-7pm: Salvation Army, Chapel Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 8PB	LEIGH Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm: Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1EB	HINDLEY Tuesday 3 June, 2-7pm: St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley, WN2 3DN
PEMBERTON Wednesday 14 May, 2-7pm: Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, WNS 8JP	TYLDESLEY Tuesday 20 May, 2-7pm: Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, Tyldesley, M29 8HG	ATHERTON Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ
	GOLBORNE Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm: Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG	

To share your feedback visit:
www.wigan.gov.uk/FutureWigan

If you do not have access to the internet, you may wish to ask family, friends, or neighbours to help you. Alternatively, you can visit one of our libraries to use our computers and ask for support if you need it.

Front page banner advert for Leigh Journal, w/c 2 June and Wigan Observer, w/c 9 June



The banner has a blue background. On the left, the title 'Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial draft' is in white, with 'Planning for the Future' below it. A horizontal line separates this from the topics: 'Homes | Jobs | Town Centres | Transport | Places | Environment | People'. In the center is a colorful illustration of a town scene. On the right, white text invites people to share thoughts and submit comments online by 24 June 2025. The Wigan Council logo and a QR code are in the top right corner.

Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial draft

Planning for the Future

Homes | Jobs | Town Centres | Transport | Places | Environment | People

Share your thoughts and ideas to help shape the Local Plan for Wigan Borough. Your input is important, so let's work together to create a future we can all be proud of!

Submit your comments online at www.wigan.gov.uk/FutureWigan by 24 June 2025.

Wigan Council

Letter to neighbours

Bridgewater West letter sent to 557 neighbouring residents and businesses – 30th April 2025



RM/1



Dear

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

Sites for Jobs Growth - Bridgewater West, Astley

Our Local Plan sets out our ambitions for our borough and how we will deliver them. Attracting new industries and jobs and building on the strengths of what we already have, protecting and enhancing our green spaces and ensuring more people can enjoy them, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more.

The Plan takes a 'brownfield first' approach as far as it is possible to do so, looking first at previously developed land for development.

However, we cannot achieve the change needed using brownfield sites alone. Some greenfield and Green Belt land is needed to change the dial as far as local economic and employment prospects are concerned.

One such site is Bridgewater West, Astley and we are writing to you as you live close to this site. Further information is on the reverse of this letter.

The views of residents on this initial draft of the Local Plan are important to us. You can view the plan and make comments online at: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. A paper copy is also available in the libraries at Tyldesley and Leigh.

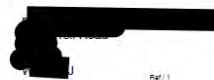
The consultation is open for 8 weeks until 23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

Thank you and kind regards

The Strategic Planning Team
Wigan Council



101010



RM/1

Dear

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

Sites for Jobs Growth - Land North of M6 Junction 26, Wigan

Our Local Plan sets out our ambitions for our borough and how we will deliver them. Attracting new industries and jobs and building on the strengths of what we already have, protecting and enhancing our green spaces and ensuring more people can enjoy them, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more.

The Plan takes a 'brownfield first' approach as far as it is possible to do so, looking first at previously developed land for development.

However, we cannot achieve the change needed using brownfield sites alone. Some greenfield and Green Belt land is needed to change the dial as far as local economic and employment prospects are concerned.

One such site is Land North of M6 Junction 26, Wigan and we are writing to you as you live close to this site. Further information is on the reverse of this letter.

The views of residents on this initial draft of the Local Plan are important to us. You can view the plan and make comments online at: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. A paper copy is also available in the libraries at Lamberhead Green and Wigan.

The consultation is open for 8 weeks until 23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

Thank you and kind regards

The Strategic Planning Team
Wigan Council



101010

Bridgewater West, Astley, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment-led development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for a high-quality business park-led mixed-use development targeting professional, scientific and technical, manufacturing, ICT and creative sectors, together with homes and leisure and visitor attractions.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including professional, scientific and technical and manufacturing.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Tyldesley Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on Tuesday 20 May at 2-7pm at Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, Tyldesley, M29 8HG

Land north of M6 Junction 26, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for a substantial, high quality employment development in the M6 Corridor and a link road from M6 Junction 26 to Spring Road at Kitt Green.



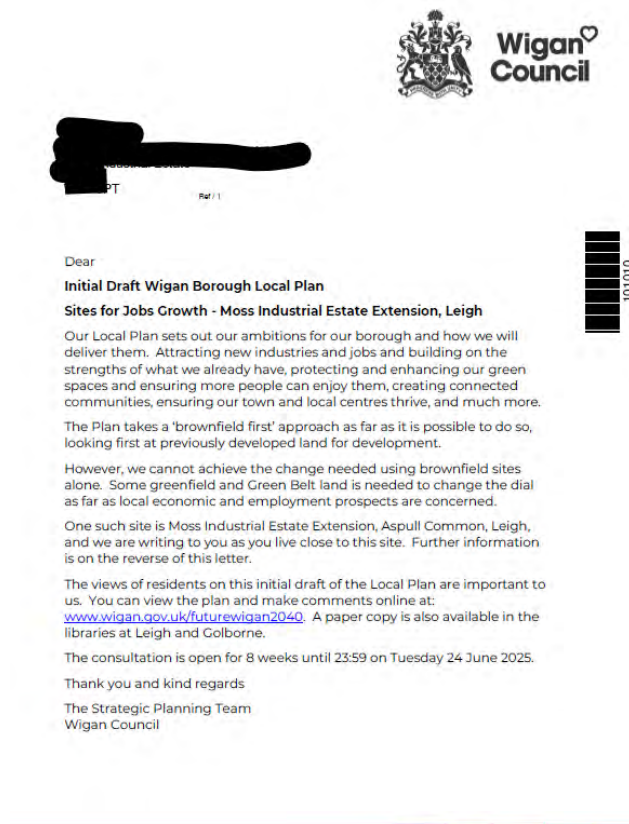
New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including manufacturing and logistics.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

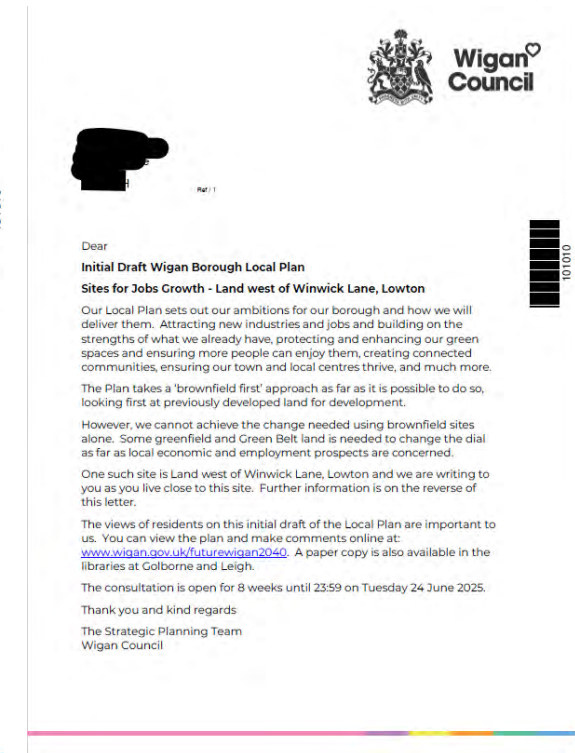
You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Lamberhead Green Library and Wigan Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on 14 May, 2-7pm at Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel St, Wigan WN5 8JP.

Moss IE Extension letter sent to 66 neighbouring businesses – 30th April 2025



Letter sent to 132 neighbouring residents and businesses – 30th April 2025



Moss Industrial Estate Extension, Aspull Common, Leigh, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed as an extension to the existing Moss Industrial Estate, to accommodate business uses, particularly within the manufacturing, distribution, construction and health and social care sectors.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including manufacturing, logistics, construction and health and social care.

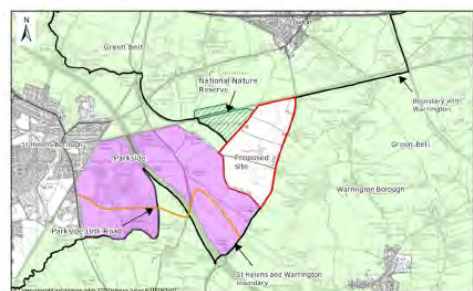
For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Leigh Library and Golborne Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm at Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1EB, or Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm at Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG.

Land west of Winwick Lane, Lowton, as shown on the map below, is one of four sites proposed to be removed from the Green Belt and allocated for employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for a substantial high quality employment development in the M6 Corridor as part of the proposed cross-boundary Parkside East strategic rail freight interchange and logistics site ILP North. The development will also be required to contribute substantially to the delivery of a bypass for Lane Head South.



New evidence supports the need for these new employment sites to meet modern business requirements, deliver local job growth and fulfil the borough's economic potential, particularly in core sectors including manufacturing and logistics.

For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Golborne Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm at Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG.

South of Atherton letter sent to 139 neighbouring businesses - 12th May 2025

Dear

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

Proposed housing allocation – Remaining land South of Atherton

We are writing to you as we are now consulting on the Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan until Tuesday 24 June 2025, and you live close to a site that is proposed to be allocated in the plan for development.

Looking forward to 2040, our Local Plan sets out our ambitions for our borough and how we will deliver them. This includes attracting new industries and jobs, meeting identified housing needs, building on the borough's existing strengths, protecting and enhancing our green spaces, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more.

The Plan takes a 'brownfield first' approach as far as it is possible to do so, looking first at previously developed land for development. However, we cannot achieve the change needed using brownfield sites alone.

As such, some greenfield sites are also needed to meet identified housing needs, including the remaining land to the South of Atherton which is close to where you live. Further information is on the reverse of this letter.

The proposed housing allocation is on land east of Millers Lane. It would effectively form an extension to the housing development to the west of Millers Lane which has planning permission and is currently under construction.

Proposed Policy H5 in the Plan sets out what the development would be required to do including delivering around 320 homes, completing the road connection from Leigh Road at Howe Bridge to Tyldesley Road at Hindsford, making provision for biodiversity, taking appropriate account of flood risk, protecting and enhancing the environs of Chanters Brook, and contributing financially towards school provision, and other social infrastructure as applicable, to meet needs generated by the development.

The views of residents on this initial draft of the Local Plan are important to us. You can view the plan and make comments online at: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. A paper copy is also available in the libraries at Tyldesley, Atherton and Leigh.

The consultation is open until **23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

Thank you and kind regards

The Strategic Planning Team
Wigan Council

South of Atherton letter sent to 237 neighbouring residents and businesses - 12th May 2025

Dear

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

Proposed housing allocation – East of Atherton

We are writing to you as we are now consulting on the Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan until Tuesday 24 June 2025, and you live close to a site that is proposed to be allocated for development in the plan.

Looking forward to 2040, our Local Plan sets out our ambitions for our borough and how we will deliver them. This includes attracting new industries and jobs, meeting identified housing needs, protecting and enhancing our green spaces, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more.

It takes a 'brownfield first' approach, however, some greenfield sites are also needed to meet identified housing needs, including land East of Atherton. Further information is on the reverse of this letter.

The principle of development on this site has already been established in the adopted Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy (2013), but it is proposed for allocation in the Initial Draft Local Plan to facilitate its effective delivery.

Proposed Policy H6 in the Plan sets out what the development would be required to do. This includes delivering around 600 homes, ensuring good quality vehicular access from A579 Bolton Road, maximising the opportunity to extend industrial activity at Chanters Industrial Estate northwards, providing a green infrastructure corridor between employment and residential development, providing for biodiversity; and contributing financially towards off-site additional school provision to meet needs generated by the development.

The views of residents on this initial draft of the Local Plan are important to us. You can view the plan and make comments online at: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. A paper copy is also available in the libraries at Atherton and Tyldesley.

The consultation is open until **23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

Thank you and kind regards

The Strategic Planning Team
Wigan Council

Remaining land South of Atherton, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for residential development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan to meet identified housing needs.

It is proposed to be allocated for around 320 homes across two areas, one each side of Chanters Brook, principally to the north of Lodge Lane.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Atherton Library, Tyldesley Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on **Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ**.

East of Atherton, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for residential and employment development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for around 600 homes with a mix of types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing. Development will also be required to extend the existing industrial activity at Chanters Industrial Estate northwards.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Atherton Library and Tyldesley Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on **Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ**.

North Leigh letter sent to 868 neighbouring residents and businesses - 12th May 2025

Dear

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

Proposed housing allocation – North Leigh Park

We are writing to you as we are now consulting on the Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan until Tuesday 24 June 2025, and you live close to a site that is proposed to be allocated for development in the plan.

Looking forward to 2040, our Local Plan sets out our ambitions for our borough and how we will deliver them. This includes attracting new industries and jobs, meeting identified housing needs, protecting and enhancing our green spaces, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more.

It takes a 'brownfield first' approach, however, some greenfield sites are also needed to meet identified housing needs, including land East of Atherton. Further information is on the reverse of this letter.

The principle of development on this site has already been established in the adopted Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy (2013), but it is proposed for allocation in the Initial Draft Local Plan to facilitate its effective delivery.

Proposed Policy H3 in the Plan sets out what the development would be required to do. This includes:

- Delivering up to 1,400 homes, a new Local Centre, and a link road from the A578 Leigh Road to the A579 Atherleigh Way.
- Making contributions towards off-site primary and/or secondary school provision to address needs generated by the development.
- Providing good accessibility for buses, walking, wheeling and cycling within the site, with surrounding communities and Leigh town centre.
- Providing a strategic green infrastructure network within the site, including provision for biodiversity, open space, woodland, flood mitigation and wildlife habitat.
- Ensuring the remediation and/or mitigation of landfill, landfill gas, colliery spoil, mine shafts, coal seams and the geological fault within the site.

The views of residents on this initial draft of the Local Plan are important to us. You can view the plan and make comments online at: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. A paper copy is also available in the libraries at Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley.

The consultation is open until **23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

Thank you and kind regards

The Strategic Planning Team

Wigan Council

North Leigh Park, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for residential development in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for around 1,400 homes with a mix of types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing, a new Local Centre and a link road from the A578 Leigh Road to the A579 Atherleigh Way.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Wigan Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on either:

Tuesday 3 June, 2-7pm: St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley, WN2 3DN

Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 3JQ

South Hindley letter sent to 625 neighbouring residents and businesses - 12th May 2025

Dear

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

Proposed housing allocation – South Hindley

We are writing to you as we are now consulting on the Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan until Tuesday 24 June 2025, and you live close to a site that is proposed to be allocated for development in the plan.

Looking forward to 2040, our Local Plan sets out our ambitions for our borough and how we will deliver them. This includes attracting new industries and jobs, meeting identified housing needs, protecting and enhancing our green spaces, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more.

It takes a 'brownfield first' approach, however, some greenfield sites are also needed to meet identified housing needs, including land East of Atherton. Further information is on the reverse of this letter.

The principle of development on this site has already been established in the adopted Wigan Local Plan Core Strategy (2013), but it is proposed for allocation in the Initial Draft Local Plan to facilitate its effective delivery.

Proposed Policy H4 in the Plan sets out what the development would be required to do. This includes:

- Delivering up to 2,000 homes, a new Local Centre, and a link road from the A58 Liverpool Road to A578 Leigh Road.
- A new primary school on-site and/or financial contributions towards off-site provision to address needs generated by the development.
- Ensuring good walking, wheeling and cycling connections across the site and to local amenities and the surrounding countryside.
- Providing a strategic green infrastructure network within the site, including the enhancement of Leyland Park.
- Making provision for biodiversity and taking appropriate account of ecological sites, watercourses and wildlife corridors.
- The effective site-wide remediation of the colliery spoil, mine shafts and coal seams.

The views of residents on this initial draft of the Local Plan are important to us. You can view the plan and make comments online at: www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. A paper copy is also available at Wigan Library and Leigh Library.

The consultation is open until **23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

Thank you and kind regards

The Strategic Planning Team

Wigan Council

South Hindley, as shown on the map below, is proposed to be allocated for a residential-led development and supporting infrastructure and facilities in the Wigan Borough Local Plan.

It is proposed to be allocated for around 2,000 homes with a mix of types, sizes and tenures, including affordable housing, a new Local Centre and a link road from the A58 Liverpool Road to the A578 Leigh Road.



For further information and to submit comments, please visit www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040. Comments must be received by **Tuesday 24 June 2025**.

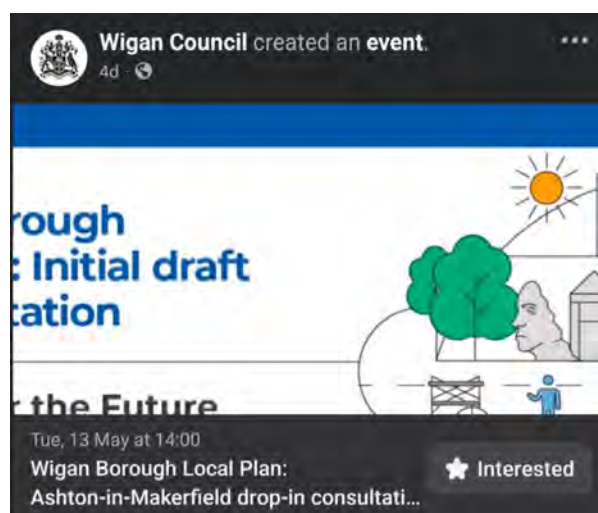
You can also view a paper copy of the consultation document 'Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan' at Wigan Library and Leigh Library.

If you would like to discuss the proposal with planners, you are invited to attend a drop-in session on **Tuesday 3 June, 2-7pm: St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley, WN2 3DN**

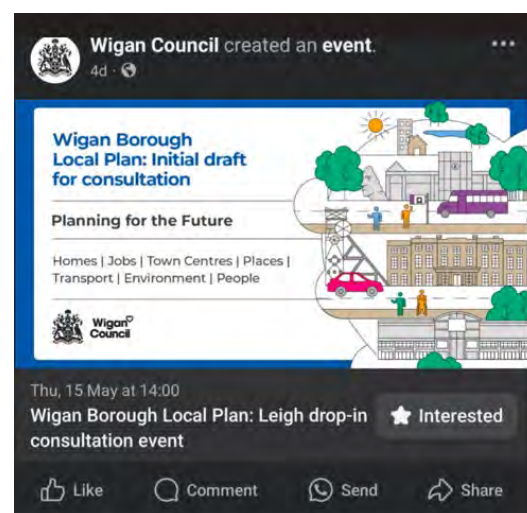
Social media posts

Facebook

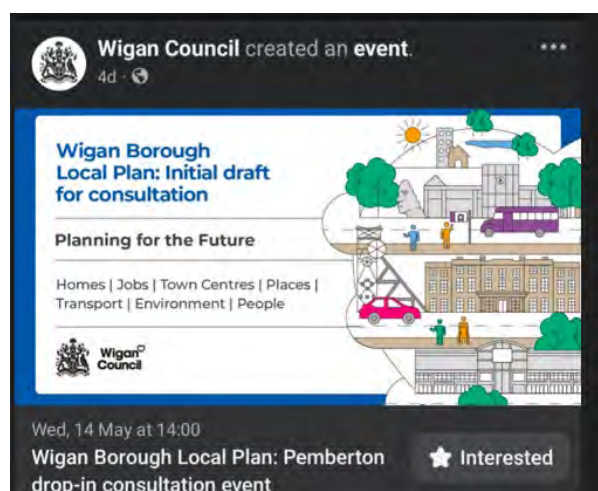
Ashton drop-in Session - 2 May 2025



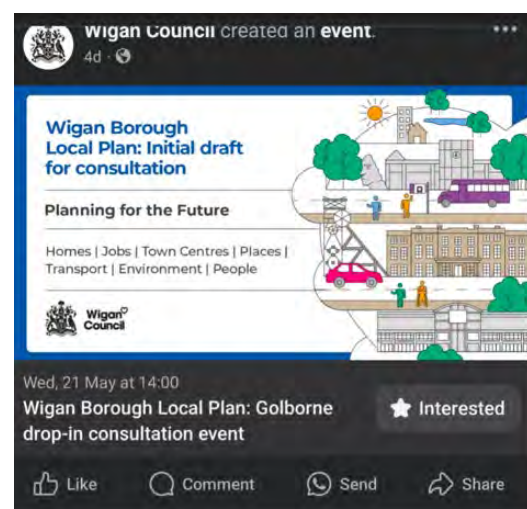
Leigh drop-in Session - posted 2 May 2025



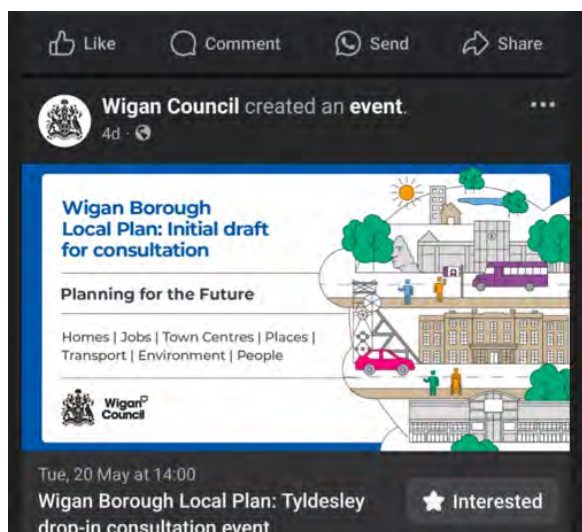
Pemberton drop-in Session - posted 2 May 2025



Golborne drop-in Session - posted 2 May 2025



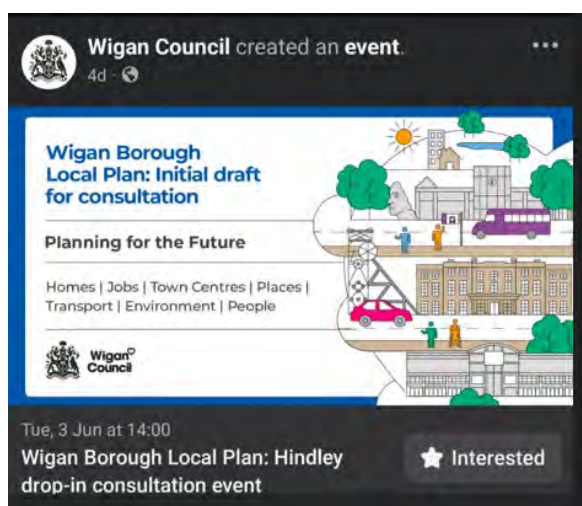
Tyldesley drop-in Session - posted 2 May 2025



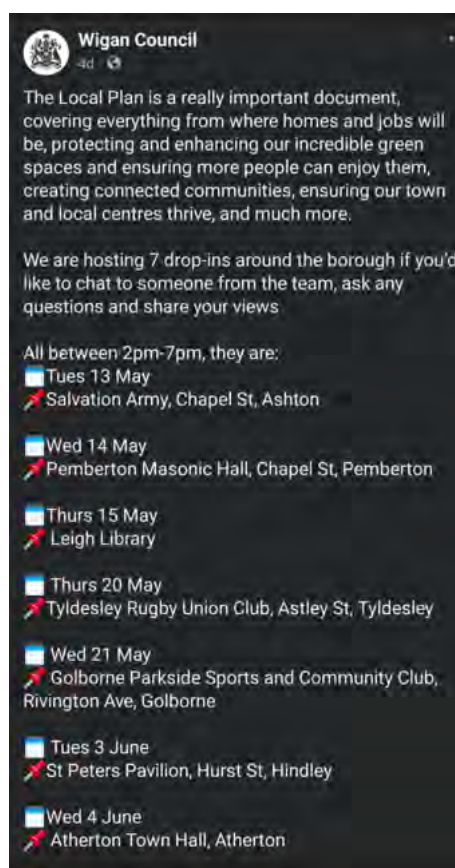
Atherton drop-in Session - posted 2 May 2025



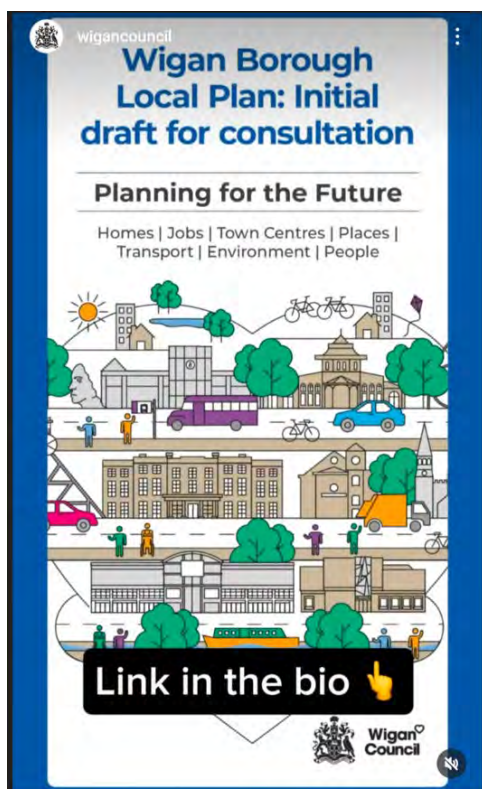
Hindley drop-in Session - posted 2 May 2025



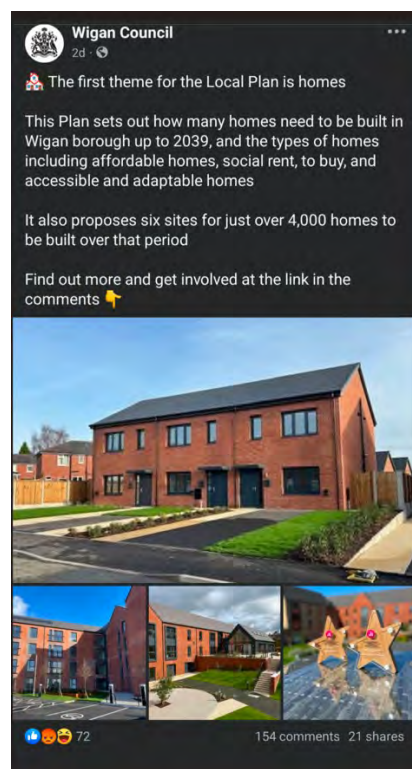
All drop-in Sessions - posted 2 May 2025



Consultation Launch video (still) - posted 2 May 2025



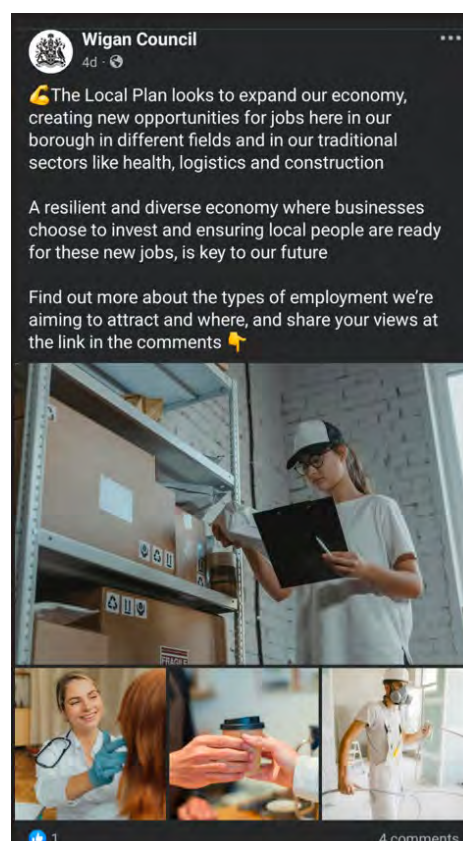
First theme – Homes - posted 6 May 2025



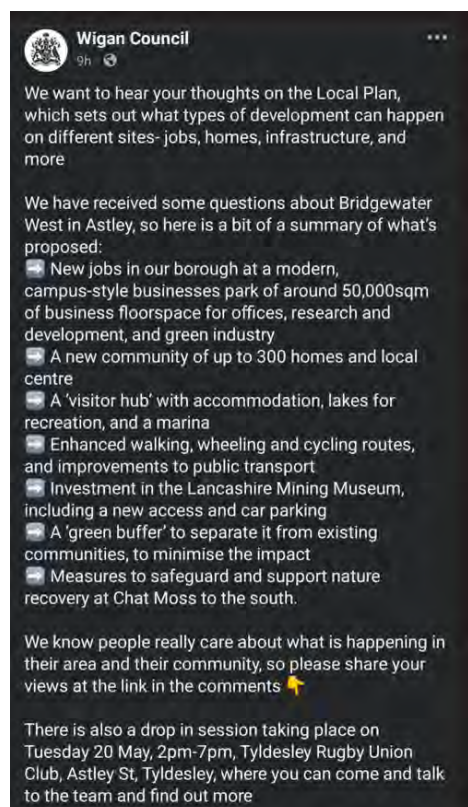
Drop-in session reminder - posted 9 May 2025



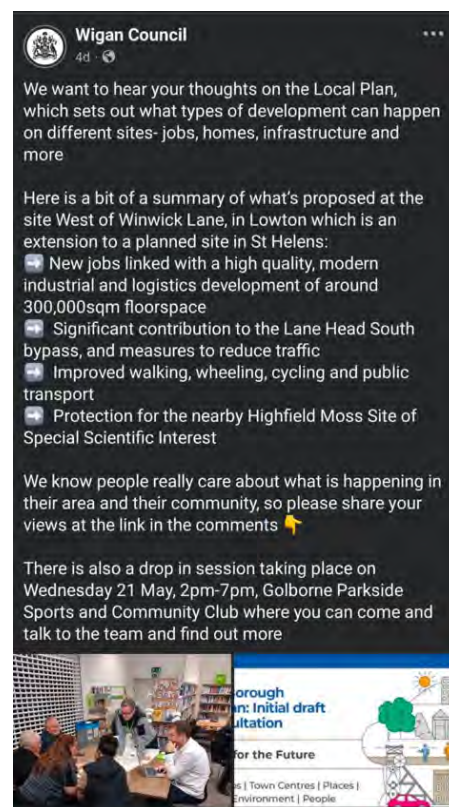
Jobs theme – posted 13 May 2025



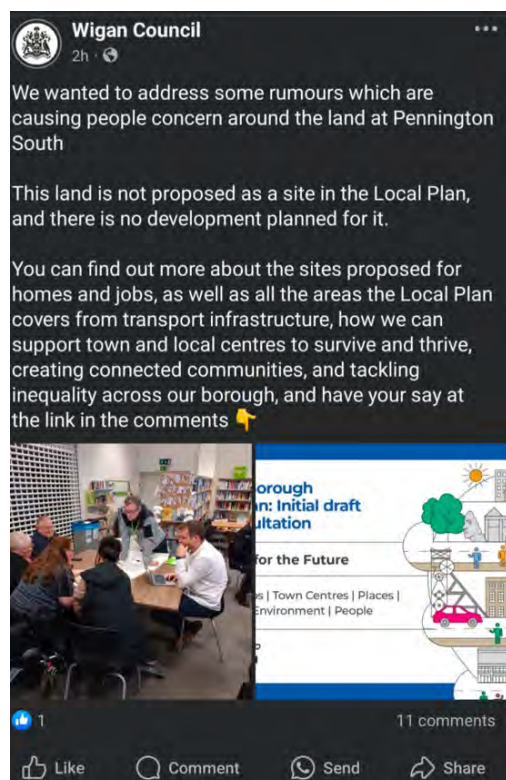
Bridgewater West & drop-in session - posted 16 May 2025



Winwick Lane & drop-in session - posted 21 May 2025



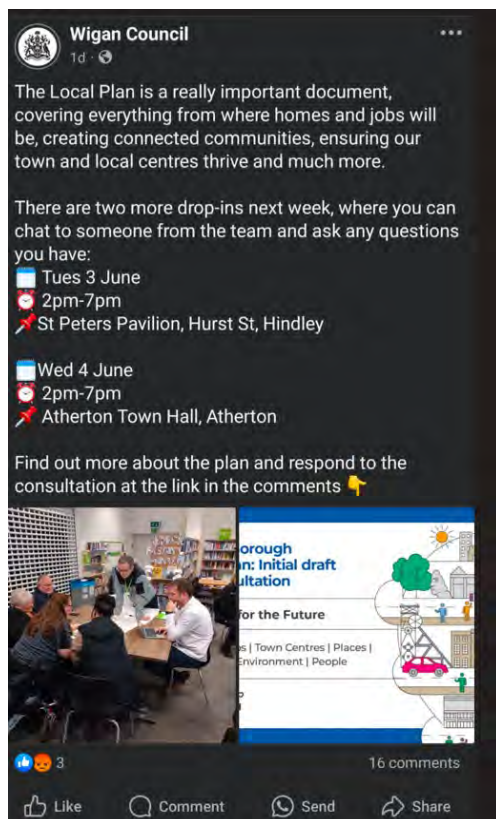
Land at South Pennington – posted 25 May 2025



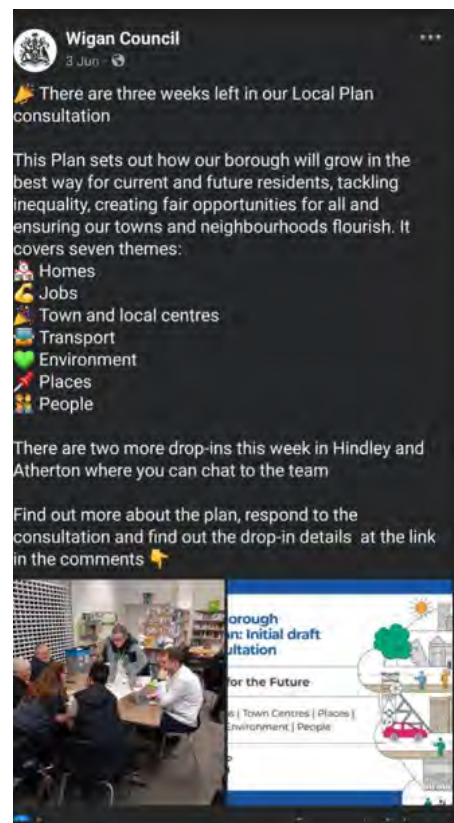
Town Centres theme – posted 29 May 2025



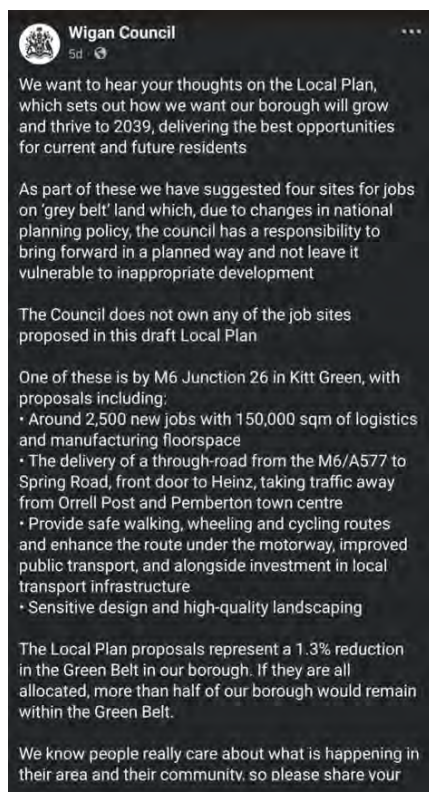
Hindley and Atherton drop-in session reminders – posted 1 June 2025



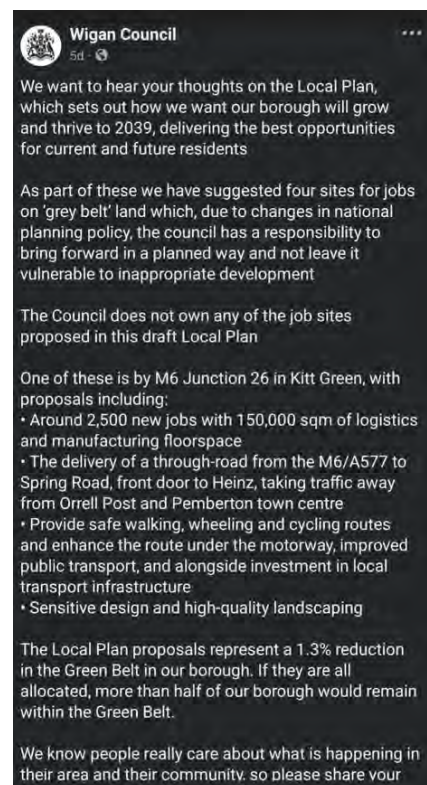
3 week countdown – posted 3 June 2025



M6 Junction 26 – posted 5 June 2025



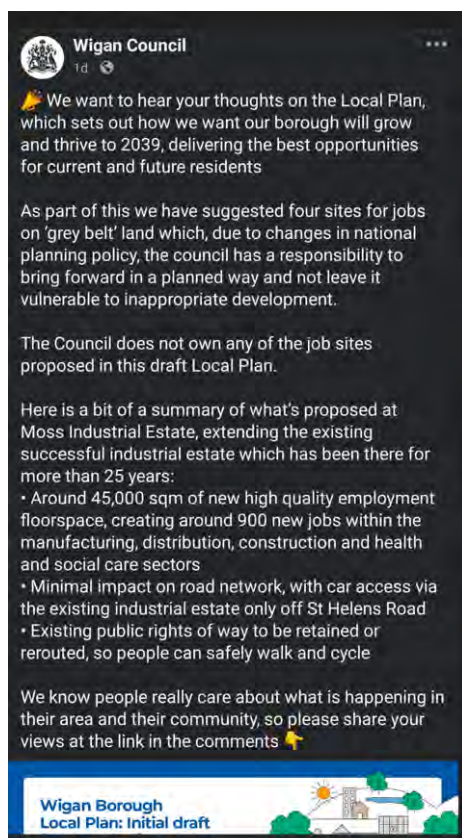
Places theme – posted 6 June 2025



People theme – post 7 June 2025



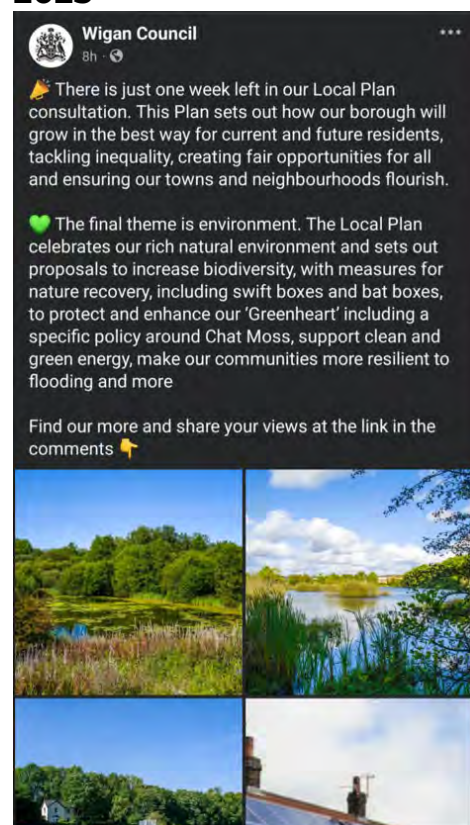
Moss Industrial Estate Extension – posted 12 June 2025



Transport theme – posted 9 June 2025

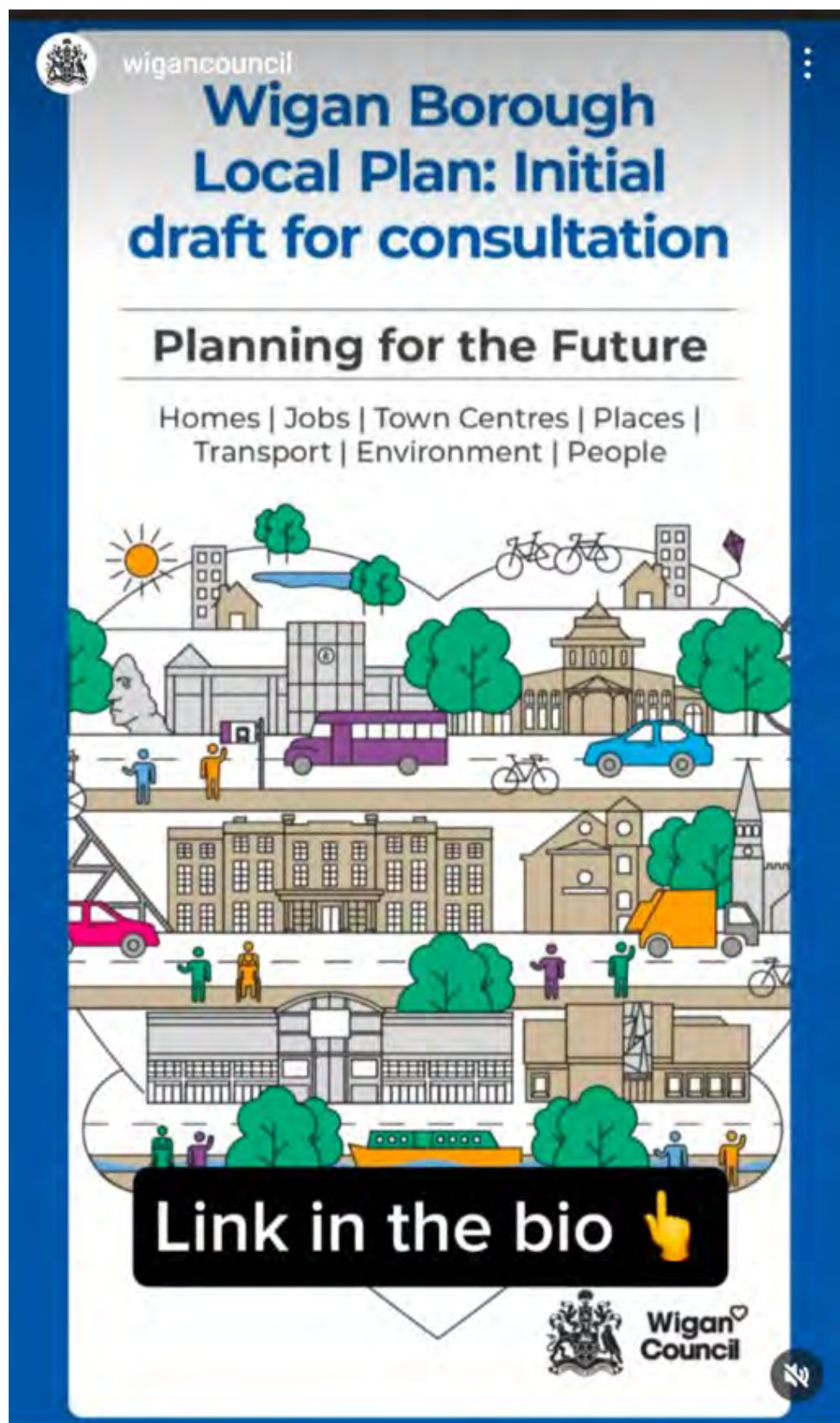


1 week to go & Environment theme – posted 17 June 2025



Instagram

Consultation video launch (still) – posted 2 May 2025



Emails and bulletins

Council weekly emails sent to residents:

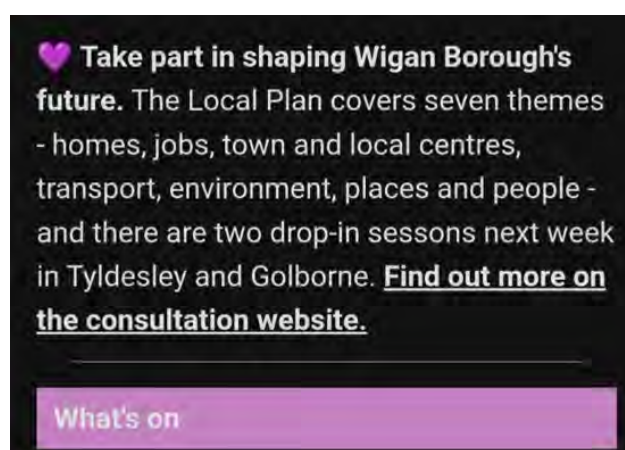
Council weekly email sent to residents on 2 May 2025



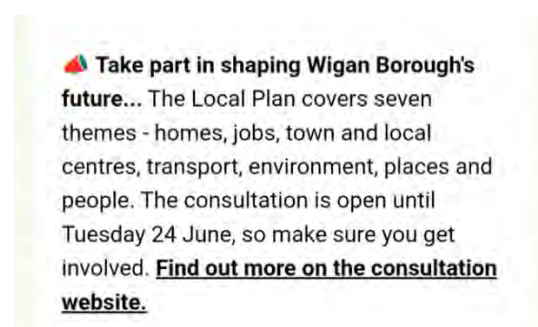
Council weekly email sent to residents on 9 May 2025



Council weekly email sent to residents on 16 May 2025



Council weekly email sent to residents on 23 May 2025



Council weekly email sent to residents on 30 May 2025

More news...

 **Take part in shaping Wigan Borough's future...** The Local Plan covers seven themes - homes, jobs, town and local centres, transport, environment, places and people. There are two more drop-ins next week, and the consultation is open until Tuesday 24 June, so make sure you get involved. [Find out more on the consultation website.](#)

Council weekly email sent to residents on 8 June 2025

More news...

 **Take part in shaping Wigan Borough's future...** The Local Plan covers seven themes - homes, jobs, town and local centres, transport, environment, places and people. The consultation is open until Tuesday 24 June, so make sure you get involved. [Find out more on the consultation website.](#)

Council weekly email sent to residents on 13 June 2025

 **Take part in shaping Wigan Borough's future...** The Local Plan covers seven themes - homes, jobs, town and local centres, transport, environment, places and people. The consultation is open until Tuesday 24 June, so make sure you get involved. [Find out more on the consultation website.](#)

Council weekly email sent to residents on 20 June 2025

 **The Local Plan consultation ends on Tuesday 24 June.** It covers seven themes - homes, jobs, town and local centres, transport, environment, places and people. Make sure you get involved [on the consultation website.](#)

Council weekly email sent to residents on 21 November 2025

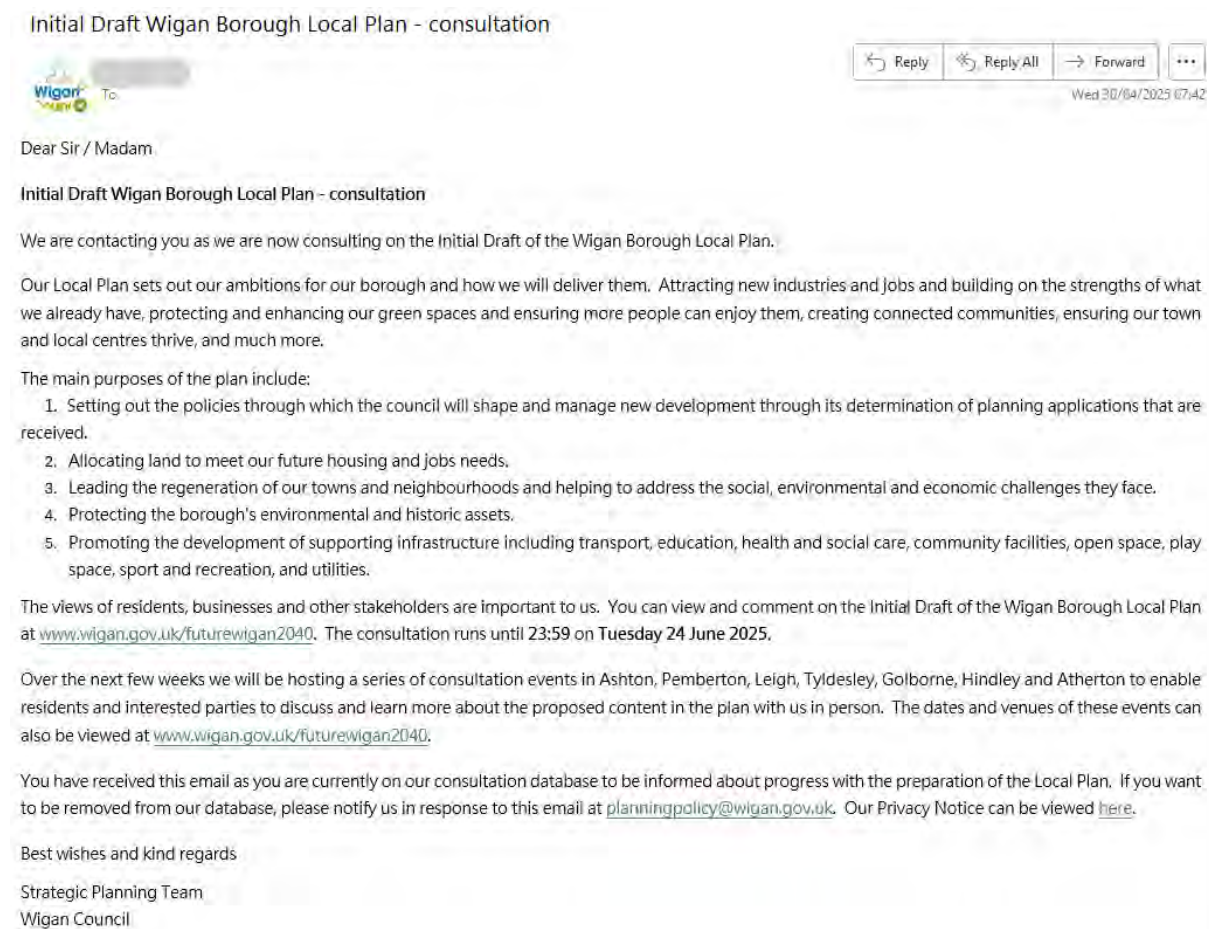
In other news...

 **Since 2023, Wigan Council has been working hard to update our Local Plan** so it reflects the needs and priorities of our communities. We've engaged with thousands of residents and gathered extensive feedback to shape a draft plan that supports growth while responding to local priorities. We are confident the draft Local Plan reflects these views and meets national requirements. Our original timetable included Council consideration in November, followed by statutory consultation in December and January, with submission planned for spring 2026. However, we have decided to pause this process to allow greater certainty on key infrastructure that underpins growth, in particular the proposed east-west link road, where we expect a further announcement from the Department for Transport in the coming weeks. This clarity is essential to ensure the Local Plan is robust and deliverable. While forthcoming planning reforms remain a factor, our priority is to make sure the plan is based on sound infrastructure commitments. We remain committed to submitting the plan by the statutory deadline of December 2026 and will continue to keep residents and stakeholders informed as the situation develops.

External email notifications

The first round of emails was sent giving notification for the Initial Draft consultation:

Emails were sent, initially to 2,161 registered individuals and stakeholders (total does not include emails that bounced back), from planningpolicy@wigan.gov.uk on 30th April 2025 to all those identified on our local plan consultation database, including to respondents to our previous local plan consultation activities.



Email sent to three unsuccessful site promoters, 30 April 2025

Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation Log: parts 1-6, August 2026

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

HP To: [redacted] Cc: [redacted]

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Wed 30/04/2025 12:52

Dear [redacted]

You will have received notification earlier today that consultation has commenced on the Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan. The consultation runs until 23:59 on Tuesday 24 June 2025.

You can view and comment on the Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan at www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040.

In response to our previous consultation at the 'Options and Preferences' stage in late 2023, you made representations on behalf of your client promoting their site at land south of Astley Point, Astley. Unfortunately, following assessment, this site has not been taken forward in the Local Plan.

Alongside the Local Plan, we have published a series of supporting documents including [Site selection assessment of sites promoted for employment uses in the Green Belt](#). This sets out the site selection process and why we have not taken your client's site forward.

Best wishes and kind regards

Email sent to all IDP and/pr DTC bodies giving notification of the Initial Draft consultation on 7 and 8 May 2025.

FW: Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan - consultation: Draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground & D...

[redacted] To: [redacted] Cc: [redacted]

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Fri 02/05/2025 12:05

 Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Wigan Borough Local Plan - Draft Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground and Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Dear Sir / Madam

Further to our email on 30th April notifying you of our consultation on our Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan, we would like to use this consultation to make progress on the Duty to Cooperate and Infrastructure Delivery Plan as far as we are able, and I am contacting you now in that regard.

Duty to Cooperate

We have prepared a [Draft Wigan Borough Duty to Cooperate Statement of Common Ground](#), which has been published alongside the Initial Draft Local Plan. It provides our summary of the position with regards to the Duty to Cooperate as at April 2025, as we understand it.

Please can you review this draft statement as far as it relates to your interests, and provide us with your position on it and the accompanying plan? We would specifically like to know whether you are in agreement or, if not, what needs to be done to secure your agreement. We would be very happy to meet if there is anything you wish to discuss.

As you are aware, the Duty to Cooperate process is ongoing, but we hope to have an agreed Statement of Common Ground by the time we publish the formal version of the Local Plan for final consultation prior to public examination, if possible.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

We have also prepared a [Draft Wigan Borough Infrastructure Delivery Plan \(IDP\)](#), which has been published alongside the Initial Draft Local Plan. It provides a summary of the position at April 2025, as we understand it.

Please can you review the draft IDP as far as it relates to your interests, and provide us with your position on it and the accompanying plan? The IDP will be continually updated during the preparation of the Local Plan, so if you have any comments or updates on planned infrastructure provision, please let us know. We would be very happy to meet if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Thank you for engaging with us on the preparation of the Wigan Borough Local Plan and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Email to the Wigan Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Forum, 8 May 2025

Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan - consultation

[redacted] To: [redacted] Cc: [redacted]

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Thu 08/05/2025 15:52

 Click here to download pictures. To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

Please see below an email from Nick Clarke regarding the draft Wigan Borough Local Plan. The plan is currently out for consultation until 24th June.

Regards

Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation Log: parts 1-6, August 2026

A reminder email was sent on 6 June 2025 to 2,247 individuals and stakeholders, including all those identified in the first-round email.

Consultation on Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan - Submit your comments by 24 June



To

Reply Reply All Forward ...

Fri 06/06/2025 07:43

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on the Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan - still time to comment!

Just a quick reminder to those who have not already submitted comments that there is just over 2 weeks left to comment on the Initial Draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan. The deadline for comments is 23:59 on **Tuesday 24 June**.

The views of residents, businesses and other stakeholders are really important to us, so we encourage you to review the plan and welcome your comments to help shape the future of our borough.

You can view and comment on the plan on our **consultation portal** at www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan2040.

Whilst comments via the consultation portal are preferable as they are directly allocated to the right part of the plan, we are also accepting comments on the plan via email, an online form or in writing following resident feedback, provided that people include their name and email address, and ideally also their home address (including postcode). Please also clearly specify the policy or site that comments relate to, in each case if there is more than one:

- **By email:** planningpolicy@wigan.gov.uk
- **Online:** [Complete our short online form](#)
- **Post:** FAO Strategic Planning, Wigan Council, Wigan Town Hall, Library Street, Wigan, WN1 1YN.

We look forward to hearing your views.

You have received this email as you are currently on our consultation database to be informed about progress with the preparation of the Local Plan. If you want to be removed from our database, please notify us in response to this email at planningpolicy@wigan.gov.uk. Our Privacy Notice can be viewed [here](#).

Best wishes and kind regards

Strategic Planning Team
Wigan Council

Council-wide staff email 15 June 2025, extracts

 Internal Communications

Retention: Exchange Retention Policy - 4 Years (4 years) Expires: Tue 2029-06-12 10:50 AM



Your Weekly Roundup

In this week's Weekly Roundup, you'll find out all about...

- Something new is coming... we're giving the Weekly Round-Up a fresh new look!
- Information about Community Connections; Our Shared Missions, our new approach to volunteering and how you can get involved.
- Carer's Week
- Men's Health Week
- Our new AI pages on the Hub
- How to navigate changing on to the new MeLearning platform
- Local Plan consultation and how you can have your say
- New Council Tax E-Billing
- Our new list of Cabinet Members.

[Head over to your Weekly Roundup](#)



In case you missed it

- **Local Plan Consultation** - Get involved and shape the future of your borough, in the latest Local Plan consultation. The Local Plan is a really important document, covering everything from where homes and jobs will be, protecting and enhancing our incredible green spaces and ensuring more people can enjoy them, creating connected communities, ensuring our town and local centres thrive, and much more. The consultation is open until **Tuesday 24 June**, [so make sure you get involved on the consultation website.](#)

Newspaper / webpage articles

Wigan Today – 16 May 2025

<https://www.wigantoday.net/news/politics/council/wigan-farm-owner-insists-she-is-not-selling-up-as-council-proposes-employment-site-on-her-land>

Wigan Observer
Wigan Post
News you can trust since 1853

History Your Wigan Latics Warriors Homes & Gardens Retro Lifestyle Sport What's On Puzzles e

BREAKING 'not dead' • Summer holiday UK airport strikes • Star's son, 13, takes own life

Council

Wigan farm owner insists she is not selling up as council proposes employment site on her land

By Nick Jackson

Published 16th May 2025, 15:45 BST

[f](#) [X](#) [e](#) [Comment](#)

Leigh Journal – 20 May 2025

<https://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/25176796.residents-protest-loss-green-belt-land-around-astley-salford/>

Public notices Newsletters Jobs Book an ad Cars Homes Local listings Local info

Leigh Journal

News Leopards Sport What's On Your Say Announcements E-edition Book an ad

Ads by Google
[Stop seeing this ad](#) [Why this ad?](#)

Residents protest loss of Green Belt land around Astley and Salford

20TH MAY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASTLEY



Manchester Evening News – 20th May 2025

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/things-round-here-already-horrendous-31677236>

Find your local gym with a pool and LES MILLS™ classes

FIND OUT MORE

 Nuffield Health

Manchester Evening News

NEWS IN YOUR AREA MAN UTD MAN CITY

BUY A PAPER FUNERAL NOTICES JOBS ADVERTISE WITH US BOOK AN AD

Join The Savvy Buyers Club Get top deals straight to your

'Things round here are already horrendous - this will make it worse'

Residents on the march to protect their Green Belt

   Comments 50

NEWS By [Nick Jackson](#) Local Democracy Reporter

06:00, 20 May 2025 | Updated 08:13, 20 May 2025



Leigh Journal – 21st May 2025

<https://www.leighjournal.co.uk/news/25181459.wigan-council-earmark-four-sites-employment-developments/>

Wigan Council earmark four sites for employment developments

21ST MAY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



Liverpool FC CEO Billy Hogan thanks club's supporters after victory parade ...

Read More

By [Conal Cunningham](#)
Senior Reporter
[@conalcunninghm](#)

Share    8 Comments

EMPLOYEE

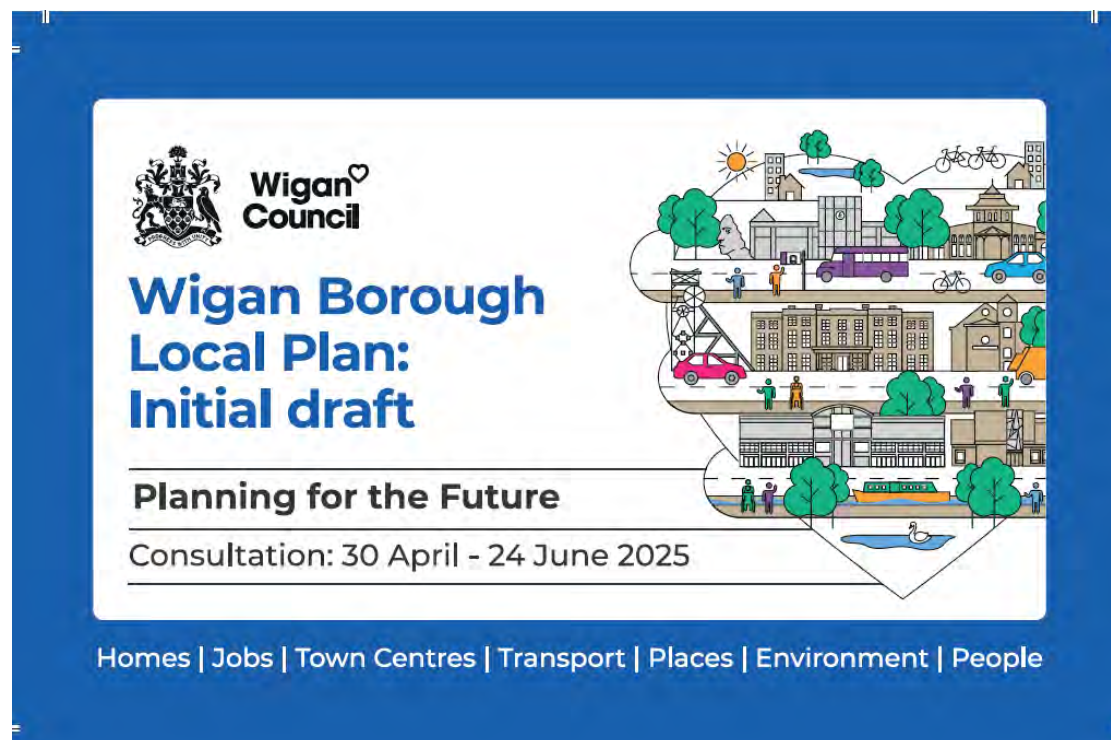
ACAS Code Help

Get qualified professional help. We have over 10 years of experience.

Posters and leaflets

This business card was used to encourage access to the Council's online consultation portal

Front of business card:



Rear of business card:



Poster shared with schools across Wigan Borough

This poster was shared with schools for display and/or inclusion within school newsletters.



The poster features a colorful illustration of a town scene with various buildings, trees, a bus, and people. To the right of the illustration is the Wigan Council logo and the title 'Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial draft'. Below the title is the subtitle 'Planning for the Future' and the consultation dates 'Consultation: 30 April - 24 June 2025'. At the bottom of the illustration area is a horizontal bar with the text 'Homes | Jobs | Town Centres | Transport | Places | Environment | People'.

Wigan Council

Wigan Borough Local Plan: Initial draft

Planning for the Future

Consultation: 30 April - 24 June 2025

Homes | Jobs | Town Centres | Transport | Places | Environment | People

We are inviting comments on the initial draft of the Wigan Borough Local Plan which will guide development in the borough to 2040.

It is an ambitious plan for the borough and its people, and will help ensure that we have enough homes, jobs, leisure and cultural facilities and infrastructure to meet our needs, whilst protecting our heritage and natural environment.

Your views are important to us. You can share your thoughts by submitting comments online at www.wigan.gov.uk/FutureWigan by 24 June 2025.

You can also find out more and discuss proposals with us at one of the drop-in sessions below:	LEIGH Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm: Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1EB	HINDLEY Tuesday 3 June, 2-7pm: St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley, WN2 3DN
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD Tuesday 13 May, 2-7pm: Salvation Army, Chapel Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 8PB	TYLDESLEY Tuesday 20 May, 2-7pm: Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, Tyldesley, M29 8HG	ATHERTON Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm: Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ
PEMBERTON Wednesday 14 May, 2-7pm: Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, WN5 8JP	GOLBORNE Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm: Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG	

To share your feedback visit:
www.wigan.gov.uk/FutureWigan



If you do not have access to the internet, you may wish to ask family, friends, or neighbours to help you. Alternatively, you can visit one of our libraries to use our computers and ask for support if you need it.

Example of message shared with parents from a Wigan School



Internal communications

Staff e-news sent via Director of Place Update on 29 April 2025 (extract)

Planning and Transportation Policy Team Updates

Consultation on the Local Plan

The Strategic Planning team has produced the first full draft of our new Local Plan for the borough.

The Local Plan is a core plan for the council and a key means of helping deliver on Progress with Unity.

They have strived to ensure that it achieves this across the 7 themes: Homes, Jobs, Town and local centres, Transport, Place, Environment and People, working with colleagues across the directorate, council and in partner organisations to do so.

There are many instances where it will help address inequalities and help make our towns and neighbourhoods flourish.

Notably it can support our ambitions in relation to:

- Job creation
- Affordable housing
- Thriving town centres
- Health
- Neighbourhood working
- Community wealth building
- Transport infrastructure and public transport

The consultation started on 30th April and runs until 24th June. Full details can be found at www.wigan.gov.uk/futurewigan

Community engagement events

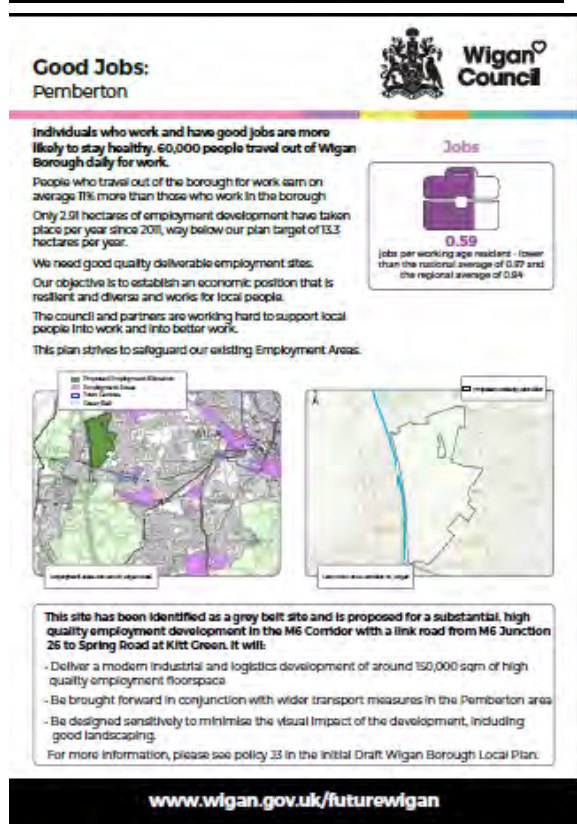
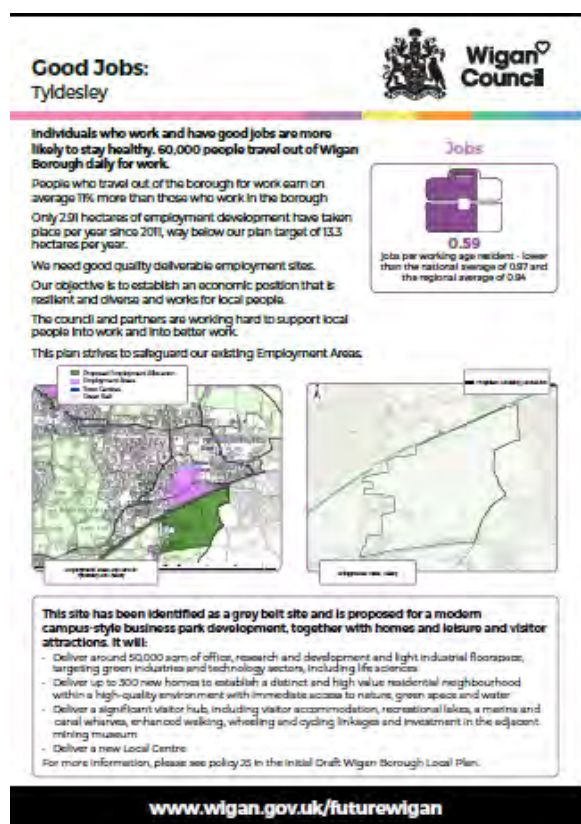
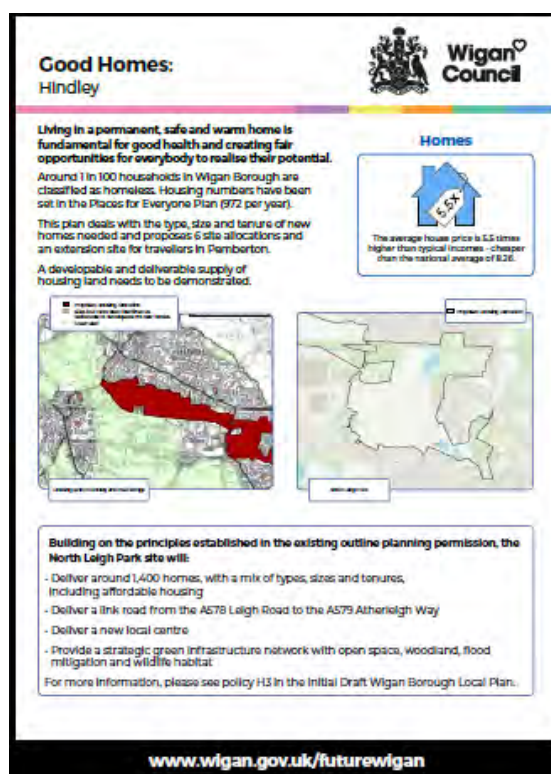
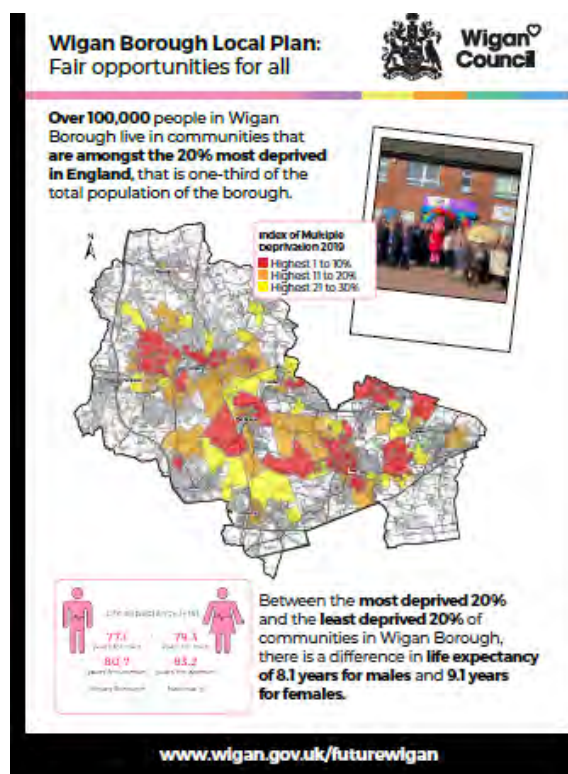
During the consultation period, a series of drop-in events were held to enable residents and interested parties to discuss and learn more about the proposed content in the Local Plan, as follows:

- Tuesday 13 May, 2-7pm - Salvation Army, Chapel Street, Ashton-in-Makerfield, WN4 8PB
- Wednesday 14 May, 2-7pm - Pemberton Masonic Hall, Chapel Street, Pemberton, WN5 8JP
- Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm - Leigh Library, Civic Square, Leigh, WN7 1EB
- Tuesday 20 May, 2-7pm - Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, Astley Street, Tyldesley, M29 8HG
- Wednesday 21 May, 2-7pm - Golborne Parkside Sports and Community Club, Rivington Avenue, Golborne, WA3 3HG
- Tuesday 3 June, 2-7pm - St Peters Pavilion, Hurst Street, Hindley, WN2 3DN
- Wednesday 4 June, 2-7pm - Atherton Town Hall, Bolton Road, Atherton, M46 9JQ.

The numbers attending were recorded as follows:

Event	No. of attendees recorded
Ashton-in-Makerfield - Tuesday 13 May	28
Pemberton - Wednesday 14 May	300 approx.
Leigh - Thursday 15 May	68
Tyldesley - Tuesday 20 May	151
Golborne - Wednesday 21 May	44
Hindley - Tuesday 3 June	32
Atherton - Wednesday 4 June	92
Total	715

Examples of engagement display boards for the community-based drop-in events



A group of people are gathered in a hall for a community event. Several individuals are looking at informational displays on stands. A large screen in the background shows a video or presentation. The room is decorated with colorful bunting and a large wooden cross. The atmosphere appears to be a formal yet welcoming community gathering.

A group of people are gathered in a large room with a wooden floor and a drop ceiling. In the foreground, a person with long brown hair is seated in a black wheelchair, facing away from the camera. They are looking at a display board that features a map of the United Kingdom. Several other people, including a man in a grey shirt and a woman in a blue jacket, are standing around the display board, looking at the information. A man in a red jacket is also visible. The room has a high ceiling with square light fixtures and a large window in the background.

Colborne



Tyldesley



Response feedback

Consultation Portal visits

Event ended	10007 visitors	37896 page views
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Consultation on the Initial Draft Wigan Borough Local Plan

[OPEN IN PORTAL](#)

Total submissions received through or added to the portal



Individual consultation points in the portal



Non-portal responses

In addition to the responses received through the portal we received emails and letters together with a significant number of standardised letters (some of which were annotated) and 3 petitions that were handed in to the Council. Details of the standardised letters and petitions are set out below:

Standardised letters received for Policy J3

3,898 responses were received in the form of 7 standard letters, including 427 of which were annotated and 4 unique letters, as set out below.

Letter Ref	Total	No. Annotated
Letter 1	263	23
Letter 2	589	160
Letter 3	31	13
Letter 4	2,827	204
Letter 5	138	11
Letter 6	26	12
Letter 7	20	0
Unique	4	4
Total	3,898	427

However, once any duplicates and those with missing details were removed, this amounted to a total number of 3,710 unique representors. Hence, across all platforms a total number of 4,076 unique representors were accepted for policy J3: Land north of M6 Junction 26, Wigan.

56 letters from school children were also received for policy H5: Remaining land South of Atherton.

Total responses received

In total, 5,847 responses were submitted to the Initial Draft Wigan Local Plan. 2,081 responses were submitted via the consultation portal, with a further 3,766 unique representations submitted in the form of standardised letters to Policy J3 and 56 separate letters for policy H5.

Petitions

Three petitions for two sites allocation policies have been received:

Policy J3 – 1 petition with 1,210 signatures

Policy J5 – 2 petitions with 3,585 signatures.

Feedback on the Wigan Borough Initial Draft Local Plan consultation

A consultation report setting out a summary of the responses we received to the Initial Draft Local Plan together with the council's response has been published on our website [here](#).

Part 6: Ongoing engagement

July 2025 – May 2026

Part 6: Ongoing engagement

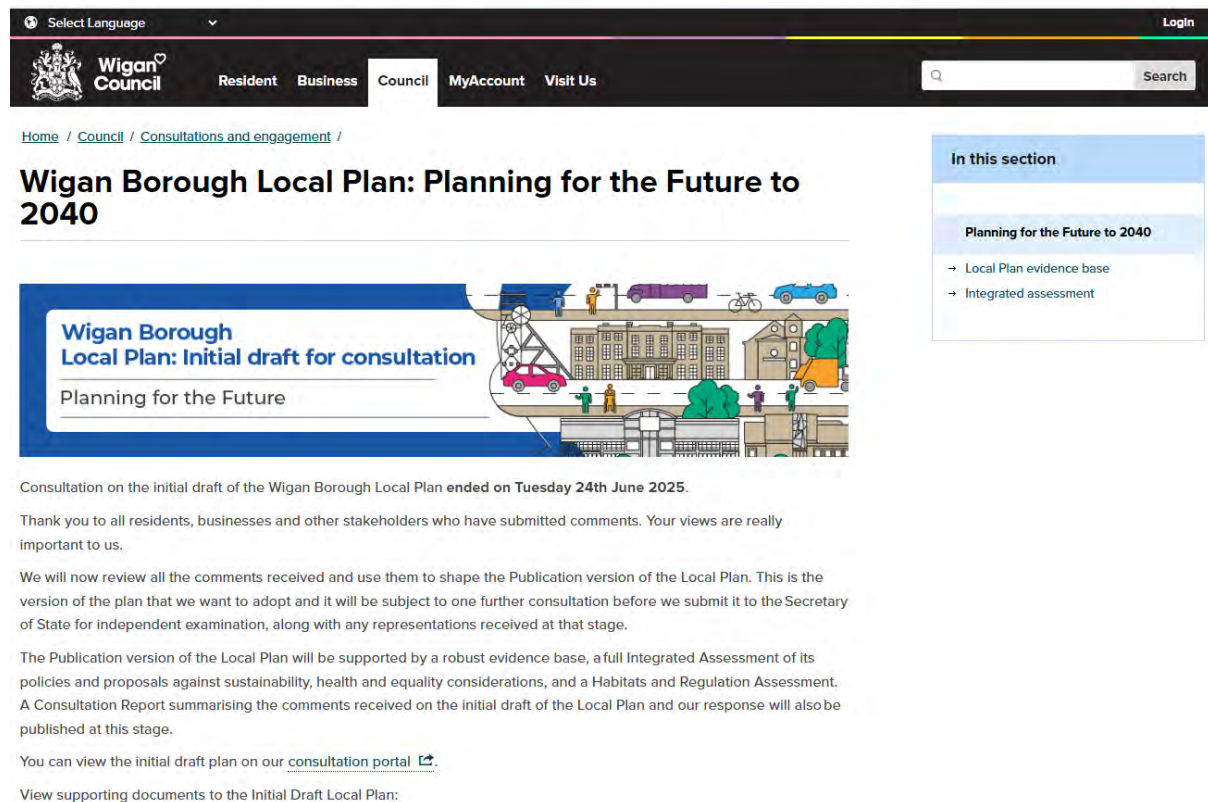
In line with the Statement of Community Involvement, engagement at this stage included:

- Website coverage
- Targeted engagement with key stakeholders
- Targeted engagement with Duty to Cooperate bodies
- Targeted engagement with Infrastructure Delivery Plan partners
- Continuing to build our evidence base

Details of these methods of engagement are set out in turn below.

Website

The local plan website was updated (image below) following the conclusion of consultation on the Wigan Borough Initial Draft Local Plan.



Wigan Borough Local Plan webpage for the period July 2025 to June 2026.

Engaging key stakeholders

Targeted Engagement

Following the Wigan Borough Initial Draft Local Plan consultation and in advance of the Publication and Submission version consultation of the Wigan Borough Local Plan, the council has undertaken:

- Targeted engagement with key stakeholders / site promoters
- Targeted engagement with Duty to Cooperate Bodies (DTC)
- Targeted engagement with key infrastructure delivery partners in the preparation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

Targeted engagement with key stakeholders / site promoters

Following consideration of the responses to the recent initial draft Local Plan consultation, a draft of the revised draft policies was worked up and any outstanding issues shared with key stakeholders. Within the council this was shared with colleagues, as applicable, including in:

- Public Health, particularly in relation to ethical advertising (policy PE1), the management of hot food takeaways (policy PE2), gambling and short term loan establishments (policy PE3).
- Adult Social Care in relation to publicly provided support services (Policy pE8).
- Children Social Care in relation to publicly provided support services (Policy pE8), housing for care leavers (policy H2) and homes for Looked After Children (policy H11).
- Education, Communities, Property and Be Well, as well as NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board, in relation to delivering infrastructure (policy PE6).
- Housing Enabling and Development in relation to housing allocations at remaining land at North Leigh Park (Policy H3), South Hindley (Policy H4) and remaining land at Landgate (Policy H7).

For the purposes of local planning policy, external stakeholders are in three separate categories:

- duty to cooperate bodies (see section below) with whom we are legally required to seek to resolve strategic cross boundary matters;
- other statutory consultees that we have to consult; and,
- other stakeholders who have a clear interest in the plan's proposals, including site promoters – landowners and developers.

Following consultation on the initial draft Local Plan, we have continued to engage with the site promoters for all the sites listed in the draft Local Plan in relation to the proposed site allocation policies and the supporting evidence base. As a result, we received detailed comments from site promoters for the proposed housing-led allocations at North Leigh Park, South Hindley, East of Atherton, South of Atherton, and Landgate. The comments received remained broadly supportive of the promoted sites, subject to some amendments to the detailed policy wording as applicable.

Targeted engagement with Duty to Cooperate Bodies (DTC)

Despite the requirement for local plan authorities to undertake DTC ending on 25 March 2026, in the middle of this ongoing engagement period, our intention is to continue with the process and reporting of our engagement activity, albeit with less of an emphasis of getting all matters in our Statement of Common Ground signed off by all relevant parties.

Targeted engagement has taken place with the DTC bodies. This included emailing them in December 2025 / January 2026 with a summary of their representations, our proposed responses, relevant strategic matters for comment and proposed revised policies of relevance. As a result of this engagement further comments were received from the Environment Agency with regards to our housing site allocations. The proposed policies

for these housing allocations were subsequently refined following these comments. Meetings have been held with these DTC bodies as appropriate. A separate Statement of Compliance report is being produced which will set out further detail on the engagement that has taken place.

Targeted engagement with Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) partners

Internal engagement

The information from internal partners is updated on a regular basis with contributions recently received from the regeneration teams on projects in Wigan, Leigh and Ashton, plus affordable housing updates from the housing team. Updates have also been received from the Major Projects Highways team, Education, Early Years, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Waste Management teams.

External engagement

External engagement has continued with SP Electricity North West and health providers, including the Wigan, Wrightington and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation and the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board. Work with the latter is helping to develop an approach to assessing health infrastructure requirements for new housing developments. Updates have also been made with reference to new plans produced by United Utilities and responses from providers following consultation on the Initial Draft Local Plan. In addition, there has been engagement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to ensure that infrastructure work and engagement undertaken at the sub-regional level has been covered sufficiently.

Continuing to build our evidence base

Key pieces of work that we have commissioned or undertaken to support and inform the development and refinement of the Wigan Borough Local Plan during this period are set out in turn below. These have either been published since the consultation on the Initial Draft Local Plan was undertaken or will be published alongside the Publication and Submission version of the Wigan Borough Local Plan when it is published for consultation.

Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Assessment and Strategy and Action Plan Reports – June and September 2025

The preparation of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) was led and driven by a wider steering group comprising council representatives (including officers from planning, greenspaces, education, public health and Be Well), Sport England, and representatives from national governing bodies including the Football Foundation on behalf of

the FA, the English Cricket Board (ECB), the Rugby Football League (RFL), the Rugby Football Union (RFU), England Athletics, Lawn Tennis Association, England Netball, British Crown Green Bowling Association, Archery GB and England Golf.

The steering group were engaged with the PPOSS throughout its preparation, including in relation to information gathering and engagement with local clubs, assessment reporting, scrutinising outputs and strategy sign off.

A total of 153 sports clubs in the borough across football, rugby league, rugby union, cricket, hockey, tennis, netball, bowls, athletics and archery were consulted as part of the study with responses received from 89 clubs (58%). Consultation sought a wide range of information from clubs including in relation to the amount and quality of provision, pitch and facility usage, participation rates and security of tenure.

Wigan Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2025 Update (December 2025)

The 2025 SHLAA Update was informed by engagement with developers and other stakeholders involved in bringing forward housing development in the borough. This included close liaison with the council's housing enabling and development team, who actively work with landowners and developers to bring forward sites for residential development, including on council owned land.

In addition, we now email housebuilders annually as a matter of course to seek up-to-date information about the development trajectory of their sites. From July - September 2025, information was requested on a range of matters including first site completions, annual build-out rates, anticipated site completion and any constraints to the development of the site. Response rates were very positive, with responses received from around 90% of housebuilders contacted. These responses helped to validate and inform the housing trajectory in the recently published SHLAA and in the Local Plan, including the five-year housing supply. An example email text is shown below:

Wigan Borough Local Plan Consultation Log: parts 1-6, August 2026

Dear xxx

I am contacting you because our records indicate that xxx are developing the site at xxx, where planning permission has been granted for xxx dwellings and conditions are being discharged.

I am seeking updated information about this site to inform the 2025 Wigan Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) and I would be very grateful if you could answer the following questions.

- 1) When do you anticipate your first housing completions on the above site?
- 2) When do you anticipate development of the above site to be completed?
- 3) Could you please complete the following table, showing estimated build-out rates?

Year	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	Beyond 2039/40
Estimated Dwelling Completions																

- 4) Are there any constraints to the development of the site, or any other information that you would like to provide?

Thanks very much for your assistance.

Kind regards

In May 2025, preparation work is taking place for the 2026 SHLAA Update, including engagement with relevant stakeholders, and requests for development trajectory information from housebuilders, as appropriate.

Facilitating the Economic Development Fund

WBLP policy J2 will require that when development results in the loss of employment land or floorspace within an Employment Area, a contribution will be sought to address the impact of this by facilitating economic development opportunity elsewhere either in the same employment area or in an appropriate alternative Employment Area.

We have worked with partners within the Council, including in Economic Development, Property and Assets; Regeneration and Development Management to understand how this policy can be delivered and to establish a process for its implementation.

Site Allocation Assessment Reports

We have worked with site promoters to develop and share the evidence base that they have produced in support of their proposed housing-led site allocations. The details for this evidence base are set out in the Site Allocation Assessment Reports which have been published alongside the relevant evidence base for each site allocation when the Publication and Submission version of the Wigan Borough Local Plan is published for consultation.

Flood Risk Evidence Assessment

Through our ongoing engagement with the Environment Agency feedback was received on content within the Flood Risk Evidence Assessment in October 2025 and January 2026. The assessment has been subsequently updated based on this feedback.

Viability Assessment, December 2025

To inform the viability assessment and to invite feedback on the viability assumptions applied, consultants Aspinall Verdi engaged with the development industry at an online stakeholder consultation workshop on 14 October 2025. This was attended by a range of housebuilders, landowners, site promoters and Registered Providers.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The HRA of the draft local plan was shared with Natural England and a meeting took place to discuss it with them and GMEU in January 2026 to discuss further. Subsequent amendments were made to the HRA to the satisfaction of Natural England.

Draft Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan, 10 Year Delivery Plan (2027 – 2037) and Local Implementation Plans, December 2025

Transport for Greater Manchester, alongside Wigan Council and the other nine GM districts have developed the GM Transport Strategy 2050, Delivery Plan (2027-37) and Local Implementations Plans that set out bold and exciting plans for future transport investment that will sustain, grow and transform the Bee Network and our wider transport network through to 2050. The consultation on the draft documents closed on Monday 9 March 2026 and feedback is now being reviewed to help shape the final version of the strategy later in 2026.

Improved infrastructure and services on the Atherton rail line (Wigan-Manchester) and improving rapid transit services in Leigh

These two schemes identified in proposed policy T1 were identified in the Draft Greater Manchester Rapid Transit Strategy published in July 2024, as part of around 16 potential routes for expansion of the network, and an initial sifting exercise prioritised the north-west of Greater Manchester (Leigh, Wigan and Bolton) for further investigation. TfGM has commissioned WSP to undertake a Strategic Assessment of transport options. In parallel, a related study is examining constraints and opportunities between Salford Crescent station and the city centre, which is critical to unlocking capacity on the heavy rail and/or Metrolink networks and relieving city-centre congestion. The Council is working with TfGM and the consultants to better understand the potential options for rapid transit development in the borough.

Bus network development

As part of franchising the bus network in Greater Manchester, TfGM has established a bus network review process. This is intended to make more direct changes to more places, more quickly. The Council has been

working closely with TfGM and continues to do so listen closely to feedback from elected members, residents and passengers about how the network is working and where it can go further. That feedback has resulted in a limited number of changes to date and further published changes later in 2026, including to cross-boundary services between Wigan and St Helens via Lowton. Further work is taking place to develop a longer-term process to ensure the pipeline is able to deliver further changes on a regular basis, including in response to new development where applicable.

Conclusion

- 2.1 This combined Consultation Log, including Parts 1-6, demonstrates that the council has taken extensive steps to involve and encourage contributions from as many residents and other stakeholders as possible during the Regulation 18 stage of this Local Plan. This has been particularly the case during the three full consultations to date on Issues and Opportunities, Options and Preference and the Initial Draft Local Plan.
- 2.2 Our approach to community and stakeholder involvement has been in line with Government legislation and advice, specifically the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.3 As part of this, we are undertaken engagement and consultation in line with our published [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (SCI), and we will do so again at the publication stage of the Draft Local Plan.
- 2.4 This consultation log demonstrates that throughout the Regulation 18 stage of this Local Plan, we have met our commitments set in our SCI by:
- Sending out email notifications for each of the full consultation stages for the Local Plan.
 - Providing full website content as applicable at each stage, including the ability to contribute to the consultation online.
 - Depositing our consultation documents in our libraries, including at the Wigan Life Centre.
 - Publishing and distributing posters and leaflets, including in libraries and leisure centres.
 - Issuing media releases at each full stage of consultation.
 - Producing newspaper and webpage adverts and articles.
 - Sending out letters to neighbours of proposed site allocations
 - Putting up site notices at proposed site allocations.
 - Using social media extensively and creatively on content in the Local Plan and the ability to comment, including placing adverts in Facebook to promote consultation activities such as before each of the community engagement and drop-in sessions
 - Sending out paper questionnaires on request.
 - Holding community engagement events of different kinds at different stages: 16 'Engagement in the Community' sessions, 10 community-based workshops and 7 drop-in sessions.

- Engaging with community groups, including through some of our community network meetings.
 - Engaging with young people, including through our Wigan Borough Youth Cabinet, Wigan Youth Zone and Leigh Youth Hub, and through our high schools and colleges.
 - Undertaking an ongoing 'Call for Sites' consultation throughout the development cycles of the Plan.
 - Continuing to build our evidence base in liaison with key stakeholders as applicable.
 - Emailing acknowledgements and providing initial feedback on the Planning for the Future consultation.
 - Feeding back on the Options and Preferences Consultation.
 - Responding to consultation feedback on the Initial Draft Local Plan.
 - Ensuring good communications internally with different departments in the council to ensure the Local Plan is joined up effectively with other council activities.
 - Targeting engagement with Duty to Cooperate bodies, Infrastructure Delivery Plan partners & key stakeholders, including site promoters.
- 2.5 Alongside this combined Consultation Log, we have also published three consultation reports, including all comments received to the Initial Draft Local Plan and our response.
- 2.6 Part 7 of the Consultation Log will be prepared to cover the Regulation 19 consultation stage for the publication version of the local plan and will be added to this Consultation Log prior to submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent public examination, to inform and support the Regulation 22 statement that will be needed at that stage.