Wigan Council



Chief Officer for Inclusive Growth at Wigan Council

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Welcome



We're all about people here at Wigan Council, working in an asset-based way alongside our communities. Our incredible workforce, our behaviours, the permission we have to innovate and our approach to working alongside our residents and partners in our communities is at the heart of what we do at Wigan.

We've been on a journey of workforce reform for several years now to embed our principles and positive team culture. Wigan Council is an amazing place to work - full of positive, accountable, courageous, and kind people.
This is such an exciting time to join us.

Ten years on from re-imagining public service, we have taken the opportunity to reflect on our philosophy and strategic intent to ensure we support our residents and communities through the specific challenges and opportunities of this coming decade.

The outcome is a new co-produced movement for change, 'Progress with Unity', which will be delivered as a borough-wide partnership. At the heart of this are two key missions focusing on addressing inequalities and helping our towns and neighbourhoods to flourish.

The council will support these missions with a stronger appetite than ever for radical reform with a renewed commitment to neighbourhood working, deeper community engagement and co-production, investment in our workforce and digital transformation.

To ensure we have the right leadership capacity to help steer us through this exciting period and deliver on our borough's missions, we're looking for creative leaders with a can-do mindset and a real desire to improve public services for residents.
We are determined to remain at the forefront of local public service excellence, and we are determined to make sure Wigan Council continues to be an amazing place to work with the right conditions, compassion and care for our residents and communities and we are delighted that you are interested in joining us.

We look forward to meeting you.

Alison McKenzie-Folan OBE
Chief Executive

Wigan Council

Wigan Council is consistently recognised as a national leading authority thanks to its progressive and innovative leadership. The council has been named ‘Council of the Year’ three times in the past five years by the LGC, IESE and APSE.

The council was also named Finance Council Team of the Year and overall winner in the Public Finance Awards in 2024.

In an LGA Peer Review in 2024 peers found the council was: "A well-managed and well-led authority that consistently delivers high-quality services to residents while ensuring value for money."

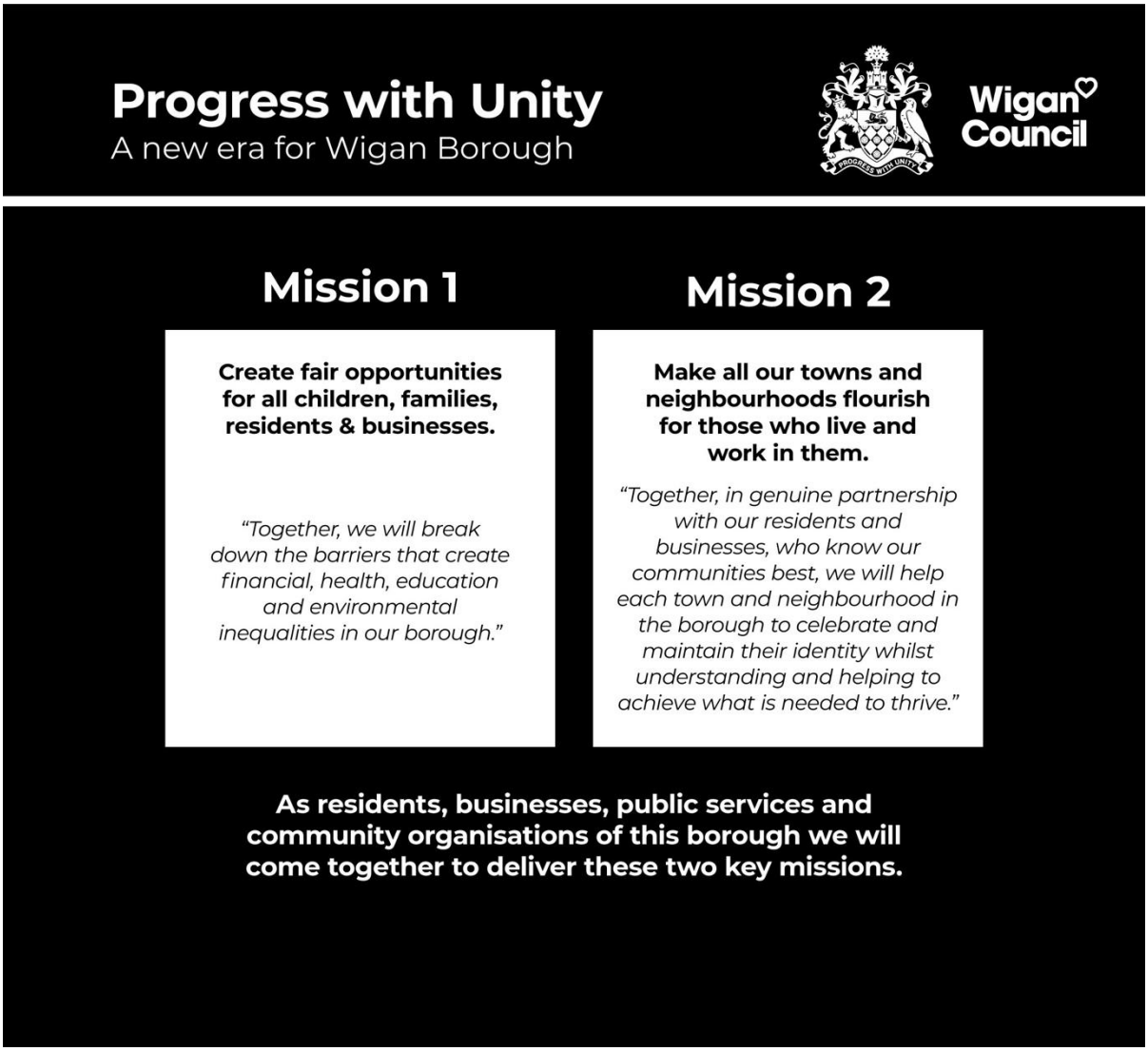
The peer team also praised the borough's partnership strategy 'Progress With Unity' as a clear and consistent narrative regarding the vision and outcomes for the borough.

The council's political and officer leadership sets the tone for the culture of the organisation which is embodied in the Team Wigan behaviours and values.

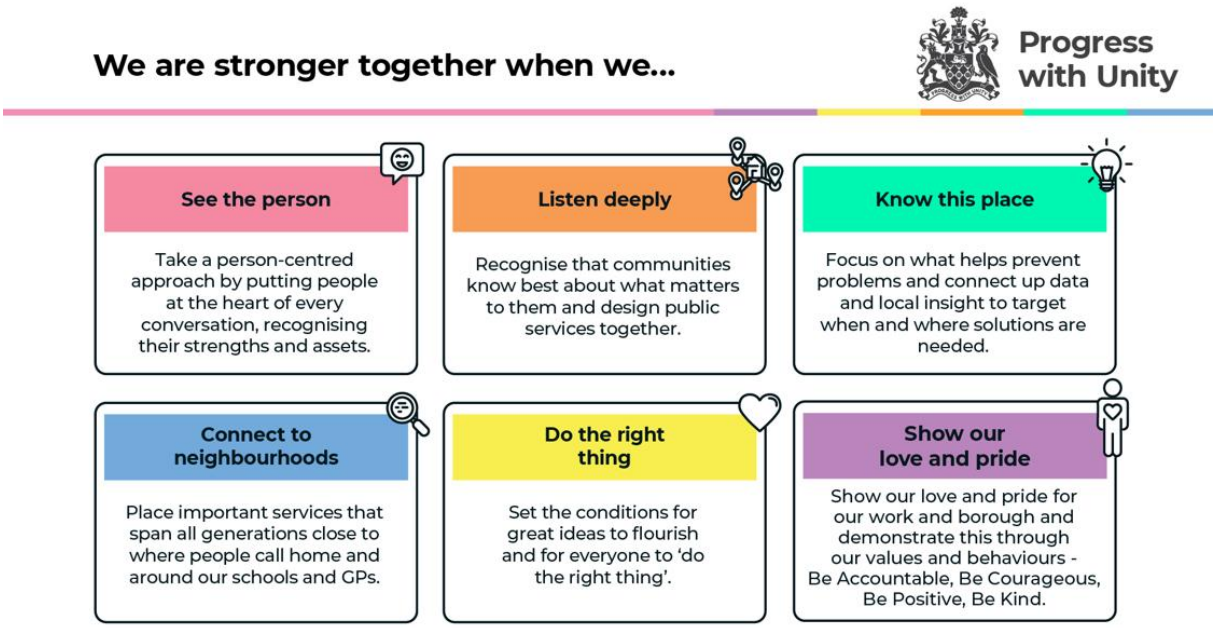
Wigan Council is a regular contributor and influence on the national stage regarding public sector reform and in sharing best practice through think tanks, conferences and hosting visits from councils nationally and internationally.

Our journey

A decade ago, we responded to austerity by re-imagining our approach to public service delivery and our relationship with residents, communities and partners. Ten years on, new challenges have emerged. To meet these challenges, we undertook a journey of honest reflection with our residents, partners and communities, with the aim of recommitting to what has been effective, while also refreshing our strategic purpose and ways of working. Our new movement 'Progress with Unity' builds on all of our existing strengths, while bringing together the council and local partners to commit to two shared, borough-wide missions:



We also listened carefully to what people told us were important when staff were working with residents or in partnership. We know we are stronger together when we work in this way:



We care for our staff

We are all proud of our long-standing commitment to supporting our teams to stay happy and healthy at work; a commitment that is set out in Progress with Unity. The inclusion of Be Kind in our staff behaviours has never been more important, and we know our managers continue to lead with care and compassion.

Our people are what make Wigan a special place to work and creating a place where we are happy and healthy is at the heart of everything we do. Progress with Unity sets out how we work together to create an environment where we can all be our best self.

We want #TeamWigan to be a place where we all feel like we belong. A place where we feel safe to be ourselves; where our differences are appreciated, and our strengths are valued. We are always happy to listen to what more we can do to ensure we all feel part of the team.

Our rewards and benefits

We are passionate about celebrating the contribution of our employees and inspiring them to thrive. It's really important to us that they feel valued and rewarded for the work that they do. As an employer, we want to thank employees for all their hard work and commitment by giving them the opportunity to access a range of exclusive rewards and benefits. From a generous pension scheme and a range of wellbeing support to an employee benefits platform – what we offer at Wigan is much more than just a payslip. Here are some of the fantastic benefits available for our employees making sure their wellbeing, money, career and work-life balance is cared for.



About Wigan as a place

Wigan is an exciting and vibrant borough, encompassing Wigan and Leigh towns, serving approximately 330,000 residents. Geographically it lies between the major cities of Manchester and Liverpool and affords great transport links, making Wigan an ideal destination to live, work and visit.

Complemented by many outdoor spaces to enjoy, the Wigan borough has plenty of great places to visit. Our residents enjoy living close to beautiful countryside, as 70% of Wigan's 77 square miles is green open space. This 'Greenheart' includes stunning flashes, woodlands, wetlands, canals, and green space. It is a great place for outdoor activities for all the family to explore.

Wigan is also home to many high quality and beautifully maintained parks such as Mesnes Park and Lilford Park. For the more adventurous, Haigh Woodland Park has a high ropes course, mini golf, train rides and nature walks as well as the chance to see the grand Haigh Hall, dating back to the early 19th century and owned by Lord Crawford.

You can find out more about what Wigan has to offer on our website.

Sporting success

Wigan and Leigh have a strong sporting tradition, embedding passion and belief within the community. The amateur sports scene is well established across the borough; with a wide range of sports clubs ensuring people can enjoy regular physical activity.

We are Wigan

In Wigan we aspire to see the potential, the possibilities, the promise of a diverse and resilient economy and we know that partnership is key to achieving that success. Our economic vision for the borough is ambitious, with regeneration plans designed to attract investment which supports inclusive economic growth and our education and skills agenda. We're also committed to reducing our carbon footprint, by exploring more ways to build a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable borough for the future.

We have several exciting projects underway in partnership with key developers and investors, including our flagship £135m redevelopment of Wigan Galleries Shopping Centre with development partners, Cityheart.

Invest in Wigan

Wigan Borough has a strong industrial heritage and contributes to the prosperity of the Greater Manchester region with over 8,000 companies as part of our active business base. We are proud to be the home of recognised businesses such as Kraft-Heinz, AB World Foods, Bunzl, Milliken, Poundland, Arrow XL, Wincanton and Snuggledown but also our many SMEs that form the backbone of our local economy.

We are shaping a thriving, inclusive economy to actively connect and attract businesses and people, encourage entrepreneurship, and generate sustainable employment opportunities.

We support our local businesses, entrepreneurs and those looking to invest in the borough. We have a joint commitment between the council and our local businesses to work collectively to create sustainable growth and retain the inclusive economic and social benefits within the community. Over 350 businesses have signed up to date and the number is growing. This collaboration led to the creation of the Believe in Business Festival which brings together businesses and entrepreneurs from across the borough to share their stories, experiences, and good practice.




CIVIC



About the council

Wigan Council employs over 5000 staff, not including schools. We are the ninth largest metropolitan authority in the country and the second largest in Greater Manchester, delivering over 700 services.

The council consists of 75 Councillors. The term of office is 4 years for each member. Election is each year by thirds

Labour: 42 seats

Reform UK: 25 seats

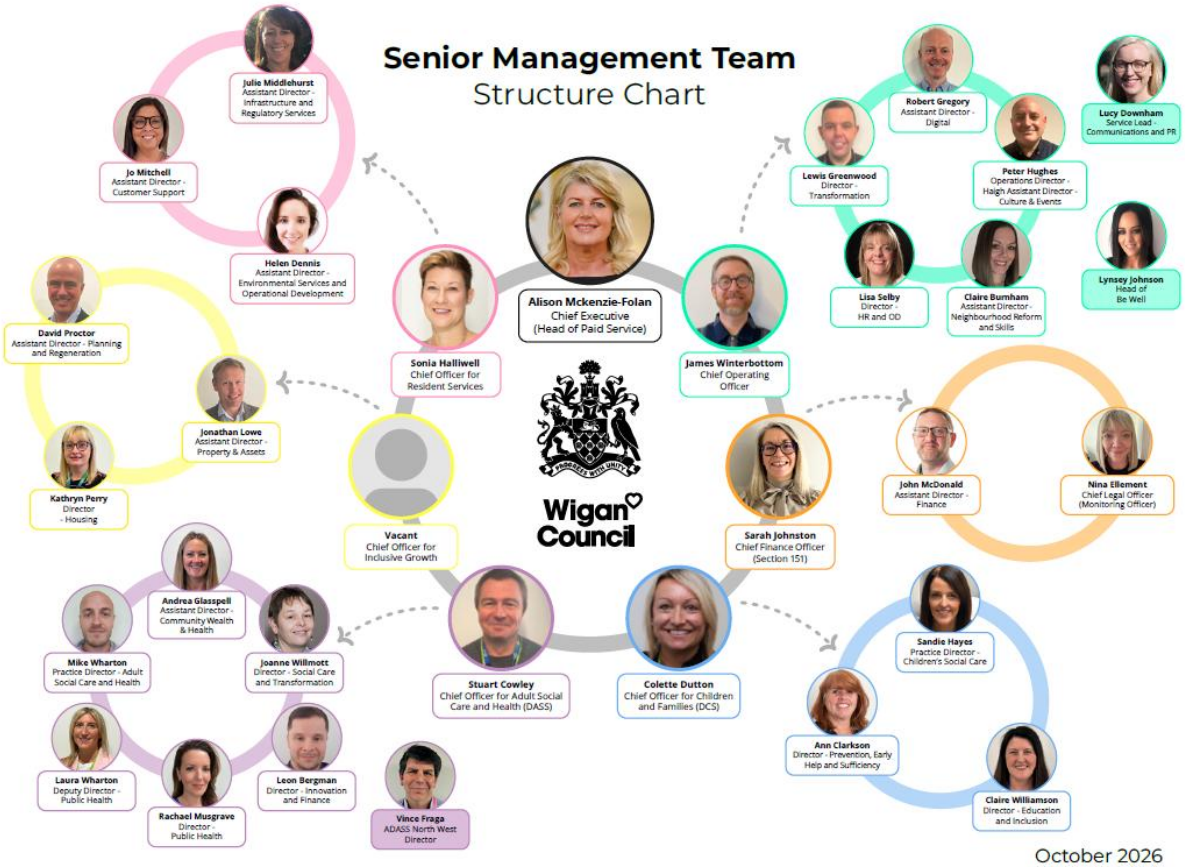
Independent Network: 3 seats

Independent: 4 seats

Vacancy: 1 seat

About the cabinet: https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Councillors-and-Committees/Cabinet/The-Cabinet.aspx

Performance and spending: https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/Performance-and-Spending/index.aspx



How to apply

To apply for our Chief Officer for Inclusive Growth vacancy, please visit the link below.

https://www.tile-hill.co.uk/job/chief-officer-for-inclusive-growth

The closing date is 9th November at midnight

Interviews will be on the 23rd November 2026

