Wigan Council



Progress with Unity: A New Era for Wigan Borough

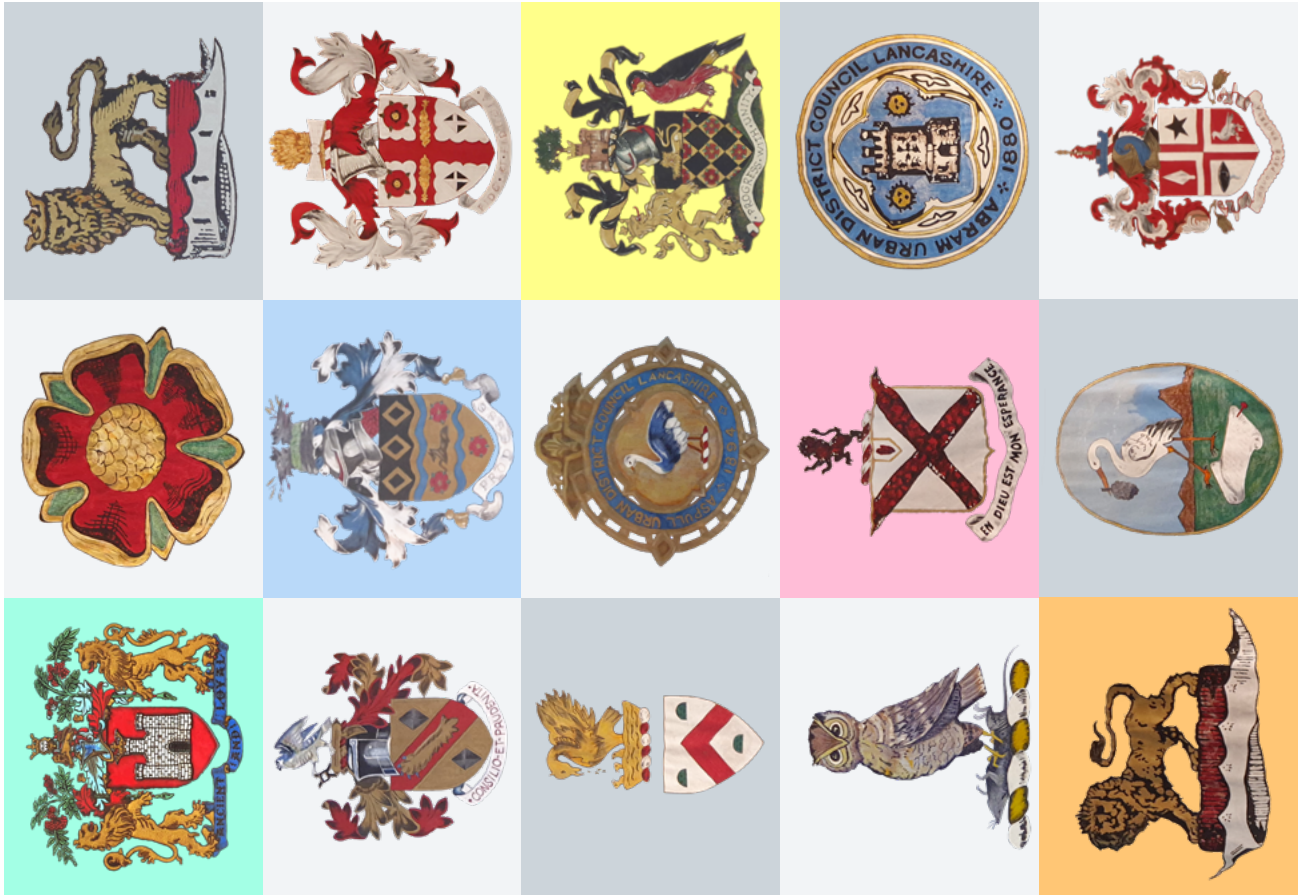
2024 marked 50 years since our borough was formed when 14 proud towns came together.

We know that the world around us has changed significantly and the challenges and opportunities that our communities are living through requires a bold response.

What is clear is our borough motto ‘Progress with Unity’ has never been more significant.



From top left to bottom right - Wigan, Orrell, Wigan R.D.C, Atherton, Hindley, Golborne, Tyldesley, Aspull, Wigan Borough, Standish, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Abram, Ince-in-Makerfield, Billinge and Winstanley, Leigh.



As a partnership between residents, businesses, public services and community organisations we have reflected deeply on what our strengths are - but also where we have not gone far enough or had the impact we had hoped for.

'Progress with Unity' is a new movement for change for the decade ahead which is built around the successes and opportunities for our borough but also the lessons we have learned along the way.

Through conversations we have designed two key missions and are committed to delivering these as a strong partnership within our borough.

Crucially, this is not the final version of our movement. Its foundations are built on the deep engagement we have carried out, but it will change and adapt over time.

This is the start of a new era and we will work as a partnership to keep listening and learning from residents and our response will continue to evolve.



New Era Community Connection Group.


PROGRESS WITH UNITY

Progress with Unity Summit

In September we marked our new era by hosting the Progress with Unity summit, bringing together key partners and anchor institutions to discuss how we will continue working together to deliver the missions.

Progress with Unity Summit




Wigan
Council



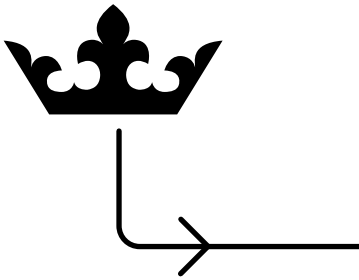






Care worker Tracey with resident Julie, Pennington Hall Park, Leigh.

We are stronger together when we...



We have a unique and genuine commitment to work together as a collective for the good of the borough.

The success we've had has come from our culture, behaviours and approach to working alongside our communities.

Through 'Progress with Unity' we will strengthen the way we work through the following six tried and tested ways of working to achieve long-lasting change.

See the person

Take a person-centred approach by putting people at the heart of every conversation, recognising their strengths and assets.



Listen deeply

Recognise that communities know best about what matters to them and design public services together.



Know this place

Focus on what helps prevent problems and connect up data and local insight to target when and where solutions are needed.



Show our love and pride

Show our love and pride for our work and borough and demonstrate this through our values and behaviours -
Be Accountable,
Be Courageous,
Be Positive, Be Kind.

Do the right thing

Set the conditions for great ideas to flourish and for everyone to 'do the right thing'.

Connect to neighbourhoods

Place important services that span all generations close to where people call home and around our schools and GPs.



Haigh Hall, Wigan.

Our missions



As residents, businesses, public services and community organisations of this borough we will come together to deliver two key missions.

Mission 1

Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

"Together, we will break down the barriers that create financial, health, education and environmental inequalities in our borough."



Hugo, Amber and Rufus at Elnup Woods, Shevington.

We know tackling long-term inequalities within our communities is everyone's business and greater equity is in the interests of us all.

This mission sees everyone in our communities, starting with our children, having the same opportunities to realise their potential and talents. We will use every lever of power we have - procurement, recruitment, land and assets - to foster an economy which works for local people.

People will be given the opportunity to live independently for longer with health and wellness at the heart of all neighbourhoods.

Community organisations will flourish across our borough so that people can live happier lives and be connected to what they enjoy doing, with the people they love, in their communities.

Mission 2

Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

"Together, in genuine partnership with our residents and businesses, who know our communities best, we will help each town and neighbourhood in the borough to celebrate and maintain their identity whilst understanding and helping to achieve what is needed to thrive."



Portrait of the High Street Heritage Action Zone community group inside Frank's Cafe. Copyright, Historic England Archive, James O. Davies

We know the world around us shapes our health and wellbeing. This mission acknowledges that but also builds on the local knowledge and pride people have in their communities.

We will ensure all residents can access good quality person-centred services close to where they live and work.

Our housing offer will reflect the needs of our population and, as a well-connected borough, we will maximise our potential with accessible public transport, active travel options and ambitious regeneration schemes. We will celebrate our natural and built heritage and protect our much-loved greenspaces.

We will build on local knowledge and pride giving residents and community groups much more involvement in shaping the future of the local places which matter to them and greater local decision-making.

We know all these factors are key building blocks that have a generational and positive impact on people's health. Through this people will have improved connections to each other and access to the activities that make them happy and healthy.



The Face of Wigan, The Wiend, Wigan.

Wigan Council plan



As a council, we have developed a plan setting out how we will deliver against the borough missions.

To deliver on these priority areas we will have enabling and transformation programmes.

These will strengthen our Team Wigan culture and behaviours as well as invest in our workforce, deliver a greater commitment to neighbourhood working and person-centred services alongside deeper community engagement and co-production.

We will also realise the many opportunities of data, digital and AI.

Wigan Pride, Wigan Town Centre, Wigan.



Wigan Council

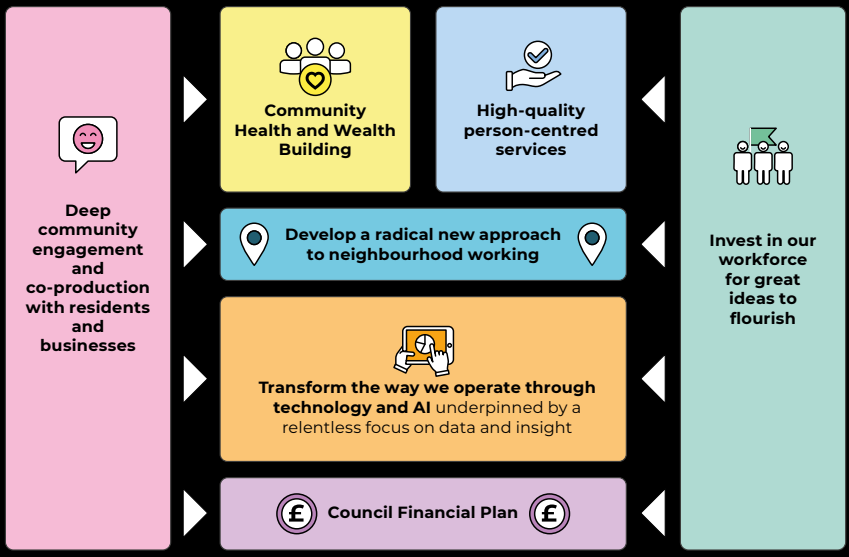
Council Plan

Mission 1

Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

Mission 2

Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.



Significant aspects of the delivery of the place missions will be achieved through our collaborative partnerships and strategies, including our Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Economic Strategy, Civic University Agreement and in our role as Corporate Parents.

Leigh Youth Hub, Leigh Sports Village, Leigh.



Progress with Unity

A new era for Wigan Borough

Mission 1

Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents & businesses.

"Together, we will break down the barriers that create financial, health, education and environmental inequalities in our borough."

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Civic University Agreement

Mission 2

Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

"Together, in genuine partnership with our residents and businesses, who know our communities best, we will help each town and neighbourhood in the borough to celebrate and maintain their identity whilst understanding and helping to achieve what is needed to thrive."

Economic Strategy

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Building on our sporting heritage

We have a rich sporting heritage here in Wigan Borough and in our new era our elite sporting clubs together with their community associations and the rich and varied network of grass roots community clubs, will play a significant role in helping to tackle inequalities, while celebrating our place and people.

Our clubs and their amazing volunteers, coaches and administrators, are leaders in their communities, providing opportunities and hope to children and young people of all backgrounds and abilities.

Our new era will bring together these leaders in support of our shared missions, helping us to become a more inclusive, anti-racist borough.

We will build on the legacy of the UEFA Women's Euros and Rugby League World Cup and the passion and successes of our community and elite clubs, supporting initiatives and events that nurture and grow talent in our borough and encourage an aspirational mindset.

Sweden fans in Leigh, Wigan Warriors, Leigh Leopards, Keely Hodgkinson with Jenny Meadows and Trevor Painter, Tour of Britain Women, Ella Toone













Health and wellbeing strategy

Since 2015, all health and care partners in Wigan Borough have been working together under the Healthier Wigan Partnership (HWP) to integrate services and improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

Partners have reaffirmed their commitment to working together to put integrated health and care services at the heart of the community following the launch of Progress with Unity.

As part of this commitment, organisations will continue to work together to deliver three key priorities in communities, focussing on:

1. Addressing health inequalities
2. Transforming local services in communities
3. Developing a sustainable workforce

The Zone, Robin Park



Wigan Life Centre





Care worker Karen



Be Well class at Pennington Flash

Economic strategy

Our economic strategy sets out our shared vision for a thriving and inclusive borough.

At its heart our Community Wealth Building ambitions and commitment to achieving net zero by 2038 is designed to create a more prosperous, fairer, and greener economy that works for everyone, helping us to create opportunities, tackle economic inequalities, and improve health outcomes.

Our new era will see us continue working alongside our communities to identify and nurture fair opportunities close to where people live, helping to shape places which flourish and enrich the lives of residents.

We will build on the strengths across our diverse ecosystem in the borough, working alongside our



Local business Harwoods Patisserie, Standish

Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE), micro businesses, SME's and larger organisations to explore the breadth of opportunities that we can unlock.

Now more than ever, we see the potential and possibilities of a diverse and resilient local economy and we know that building out from our strong partnership will be the key to success.

With partners, we have tested the vision, and the commitment remains to build on our strengths towards a thriving, inclusive economy.

We will nurture and shape our towns and villages, creating places that benefit the health and wellbeing of the community, while attracting new businesses and people into the borough.



Wigan Town Centre

Civic university agreement

The Wigan Education and Skills Partnership (WESP) was established in 2020, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed by signed by the leadership of:

- Edge Hill University
- Wigan Council
- Wigan and Leigh College
- Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The strength of this partnership was deepened in 2023 with the signing of our historic Civic University Agreement, with Edge Hill University becoming the university of Wigan Borough.

This agreement and partnership harnesses the collective power of our anchor institutions to boost education opportunities and improve economic and health prospects for Wigan borough residents.

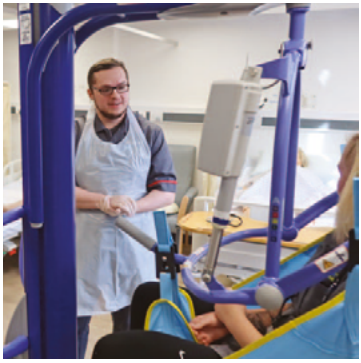
Although partnership activity is focused on creating pathways to employment in our key developmental sectors such as health and care, we believe that raising aspirations, linking joined up information advice and guidance and courses and pathways to local labour needs, and helping Wigan residents develop the skills they need, will have a direct positive impact on life outcomes.

The partnership, through the Civic University Agreement, is already creating new and innovative pathways to work for local people and is delivering the aspirations of the Greater Manchester Baccalaureate (MBaCC). Our shared commitment to Progress with Unity unlocks the powerful wider potential of the partnership.

Edge Hill, WWL Hanover Diagnostic and Treatment Centre,
Wigan and Leigh College, Wigan Education and Skills Partnership









Corporate Parenting strategy

We know that children and young people from a care background face more obstacles, which can impact their ability to lead healthy and happy lives as they move into adulthood.

As corporate parents, we recognise and prioritise the important role we play in our looked after and care leavers lives, making sure we remove obstacles and provide opportunities to create a fairer, more equitable system.

We're already taking positive strides with several initiatives designed to reduce the gap, including:

- Improved accommodation and mental health support for those living outside of Wigan Borough.
- A broader mix and improved the quality of housing options for care leavers not yet ready to move into their own tenancy.
- Strengthened joint working with Adult Social Care for those young people who may not meet the threshold for Adult Services but still need support.
- Our 'Preparing for Adulthood' Framework, to include providers of semi-independent accommodation for 16/17 year-olds.
- Developed clear pathways to mental health for care leavers.

Through Progress with Unity we will work together to strengthen our approach, recognising that as a system we are stronger and can have an even bigger impact on the lives of our looked after children and care leavers.

Wigan Council annual care leavers award ceremony











The Care Leavers Hub, images courtesy of Wigan Today

Mesnes Park, Wigan.





For more information:
www.wigan.gov.uk/ProgressWithUnity

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