

Submission to apply for a Neighbourhood Area

The proposed Neighbourhood Area is known as Abram Ward and it lies in the centre of Wigan Borough. It shares boundaries with Ince (Ince Ward) to the north, Hindley (Hindley Ward) and Hindley Green (Hindley Green Ward) to the north-east, Leigh (Leigh West Ward) to the east, Golborne and Lowton (Golborne and Lowton West Ward) to the south, Ashton (Ashton Ward) and Bryn (Bryn Ward) to the west and Wigan (Worsley Mesnes Ward) to the north-west.

It includes all of the electoral Ward of Abram with the exception of the relatively recent Chatsworth Fold housing estate in the north of the Ward, as a large part of that estate is in Ince Ward and the Ward boundary does not relate well to features on the ground at that point.

As such the proposed Neighbourhood Area includes the settlements of Abram, Platt Bridge, Bamfurlong, Spring View (with the exception of the Chatsworth Fold estate) and Bickershaw.

The proposed Neighbourhood Area is appropriate as it is an area which the vast majority of people in our community identify with as Abram Ward with its 5 villages. Platt Bridge Children's Centre works closely with all Primary Schools in the Abram Ward Cluster and this includes schools from within these 5 villages solely. With the exception of the Chatsworth Fold estate, the Neighbourhood Area is also the same designated area as that of Abram Ward Community Cooperative, for which the Abram Ward Neighbourhood Forum is affiliated.

Abram Ward Community Cooperative is making the Neighbourhood Area application in advance of the setting up formally of a neighbourhood forum supported by the Community Cooperative, scheduled for a meeting on 5 May 2015.

The prospective Neighbourhood Forum will meet the legal requirements as it will have an elected committee and a constitution. It will have an open membership for people living or working in the proposed Neighbourhood Area.