



Abram Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the Abram Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 30 January 2025.

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

“Do you want Wigan Council to use the Abram Neighbourhood Plan to help it decide planning applications in the Abram Neighbourhood Area?”

The Referendum area is identified on the map in Appendix A. The Referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Abram Neighbourhood area.

Who is entitled to vote?

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on Thursday 30 January 2025:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area (is registered to vote and is 18 years of age or over on Thursday 30 January 2025); and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

You have to be registered to vote by Tuesday 14 January 2025 in order to vote in the referendum.

You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01942 827168.

If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and complete an online application form.

Remember..... If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote.

How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person:

- Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy, and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.

- You will receive a poll card telling you where your polling station is.
- If voting in person, you must bring photographic identification in order to be able to vote; **the accepted forms of photographic identification are listed on the poll card.**
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 30 January 2025.
- **If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact the Elections Office on 01942 827168 to find out where your polling station is.**

By post:

- To vote by post, you need to fill in an application form and send it to Elections Office, Wigan Council, Library Street, Wigan, WN1 1YN. This must be received by the Elections Office no later than 5pm on Wednesday 15 January 2025.
- Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by 10pm on Thursday 30 January 2025.
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to 5pm on 30 January 2025.

By proxy:

- If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf. Proxy vote application forms are available from the Elections Office on 01942 827168 and must be received by the Elections Office by 5pm on Wednesday 22 January 2025.

Referendum expenses

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £3,018.91. The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 11,134.

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Specified documents

The specified documents are:

- The Abram Neighbourhood Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

A copy of the specified documents, that is those documents listed above, may be inspected at:

www.wigan.gov.uk/abramplan

Paper copies are available to view at the following locations during opening hours:

- Platt Bridge Library, Platt Bridge Community First, Rivington Avenue, Platt Bridge, Wigan WN2 5NG
- Wigan Library, Wigan Life Centre, The Wiend, Wigan WN1 1NH

Appendix A: The Referendum Area (Abram Neighbourhood Area)

1:28,500

