



COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Wigan Council

Wigan's commitment to social enterprises recognised nationally

Wigan Borough's commitment to the growth and success of social enterprises has been officially recognised. Wigan was awarded Social Enterprise Places status earlier this year thanks to the work of the borough's social entrepreneurs and community-focused businesses. The status, given to Wigan by Social Enterprise UK, acknowledges the borough's commitment to supporting and growing social enterprise activity.

Wigan is now part of a network of 32 Social Enterprise Places nationwide and is the second borough in Greater Manchester to achieve the status, following Salford. The recognition will allow social enterprises from Wigan the opportunity to share skills, experiences and network with like-minded organisations across the country. There are thought to currently be approximately 650 social enterprises in Wigan borough.

A stakeholder group including Umbrella Arts, based on Bradshawgate in Leigh, Wigan Workshop on Meyrick Street, Abram Community Cooperative as well as Wigan Council and private businesses, plan to use the status to encourage residents and commercial businesses from across the borough to buy 'social' from local social enterprises.

David Baxter, group lead and director of Wigan and Leigh Community Charity, said: "Wigan borough has always been a place where local people roll up their sleeves and solve problems they see on their doorstep. Setting up social enterprises is one way of doing this - and we're delighted to now be recognised for the incredible social enterprise activity that is happening across the borough. Hundreds of social enterprises across the borough are reinvesting and donating their profits to transform lives in Wigan."

Councillor Keith Cuncliffe, deputy leader of Wigan Council, said: "It is really exciting and an honour to see Wigan recognised as a Social Enterprise Borough. It goes to show just how many of our fantastic businesses are willing to reinvest in our communities by helping create jobs, improve lives and give back to the Borough in which they operate."



This pandemic has not been easy for local businesses but as we begin to recover, these social enterprises will only become more vital to the Borough. I am very proud to see their work recognised and I am looking forward to seeing how they will continue to change lives and contribute to the future of Wigan.”

For further information contact:

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