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### **New Heritage Chief's Vision to Protect Wigan's Past for the Future**

Wigan Borough is an area steeped in history. Founded in the strong links the borough maintains with its industrial past, through its award winning visitor attraction Wigan Pier and the magnificent historical resource that is the History Shop, Wigan and Leigh are towns that takes their heritage seriously.

Now Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust, who are charged with protecting the value of the borough's past and making sure it has a place in the hearts and minds of future residents, are laying down plans for a brand new vision for Wigan Borough's Heritage Services.

Newly appointed Heritage Services Manager, Carole Tyldesley, is leading a team of professionals who are currently finalising the details of the new vision. This has involved engaging with stakeholders and enhancing key partnerships.



“The aim is to identify and explore the emerging issues around participation, engaging with young people, formal and informal lifelong learning and the relevance of family and local history within our ever-evolving community,” says Carole. “We want to make history accessible to all - by this I mean not only the artefacts within museums but opening up access to collections by innovative interpretation and travelling exhibitions within the borough.”

As well as redefining the future of Wigan's heritage services, Carole will maintain responsibility for managing Wigan Pier and will have overall control of the History Shop and Leigh Archives. Her new role also includes responsibility for the borough's pioneering heritage magazine, Past Forward.

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Carole has lived in the area all her life and is an active member of the Tourism Society and a member of Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust's Tourism Forum. She's a chartered member of the Management Institute and has a diploma and post graduate qualification in management and a great believer in the importance of heritage related tourism.

"From my work at Wigan Pier and from working with other organisations on management and development, I understand the importance of putting visitors at the heart of everything we do. This should bring a real focus on customers and improve service standards for the public across all our heritage sites and encourage wider usage and awareness of the services within our local community," says Carole.

"Its important we raise the profile of the services we currently offer and develop the user base through outreach activities and partnership working," Carole continues. "I believe that the future goals will be achieved not only by widening the visitor audience and by offering quality experiences but also by developing visionary management practices and a pioneering spirit amongst staff. Another area I want to develop is our volunteer programme, we want to recruit high calibre volunteers to support various elements of our services."

For further information about Wigan's new vision for heritage services please contact Carole Tyldesley on 01942 323666 or via [c.tyldesley@wlct.org](mailto:c.tyldesley@wlct.org).

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:** For further information on this News Release please contact Chris Dunbar, Public Relations Officer, Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust on 01942 486937 or at [c.dunbar@wlct.org](mailto:c.dunbar@wlct.org).

**Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust:** Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust is a charitable trust working on behalf of Wigan Council to manage and support Leisure and Cultural facilities, initiatives and events for 300,000 residents across the Wigan Borough.

**Getting Wigan Active:** *Getting Wigan Active* is WLCT's vision to ensure that people across the Wigan Borough have the opportunity to become more physically, mentally and creatively active. It also aims to increase community activity and to encourage good citizenship.