

# Bolton's Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy



Improving our neighbourhoods  
Changing our lives

**Bolton**  
**Vision**

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# Executive Summary

## New information, new thinking

**When the Government launched The National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal in 2001, it set a target of ensuring that within 10-20 years, no-one would be disadvantaged by where they live.**

The revised Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy (NRS) for Bolton has been developed to take into account the numerous changes that have taken place over the last 4-5 years since our first NRS was launched. These changes have been not only in the Borough itself, but also in the wider range of information now available and the development of relevant, national policy.

The 2004 Indices of Deprivation introduced smaller standardised geographical areas called

‘output areas’ which will remain stable over time, thus allowing neighbourhood renewal activity to be more focused on those areas that need it most and also to be monitored on a consistent basis.

Locally, our understanding of what works is increasing as previous regeneration programmes build our knowledge of the problems of deprived areas and of potential solutions to those problems.

## A new way of working

**Bolton was selected to participate in the second round of the national programme of Local Area Agreements (LAAs).**

An LAA sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). LAAs simplify funding, help join up public services more effectively and allow greater flexibility for local solutions to local circumstances. Bolton’s LAA is set to become an action plan for the progression of Bolton’s Community Strategy, the plan agreed by all LSP partners from 2003 to 2012.

Given that the main aim of the Community Strategy is ‘regenerating our communities’, and Bolton’s Neighbourhood Renewal targets are a core part of the LAA, it was important that the new NRS be developed to support and complement the LAA.

This includes an increasing focus on improving the way core services are delivered in order to meet the needs of our communities, otherwise known as ‘mainstreaming’.

All LSP partners are signed up to the Community Strategy and the LAA, further reinforcing their pledge to work together to improve the quality of life for all people in Bolton. The day-to-day activities of the Borough’s public service providers will play a key role in regenerating our communities.

# The increased focus on neighbourhoods

**The emphasis on neighbourhoods as the main place where citizens engage with public services has now increased with the Government's plans for greater community empowerment.**

This Strategy aims to ensure that people can enjoy the same quality of life in all neighbourhoods by encouraging public services to take into account communities' differing needs.

Disadvantaged neighbourhoods still exist in Bolton, mainly around the town centre and inner suburbs. Some of these are among the most deprived 3% in England. Low incomes, high unemployment and poor health are the issues that most severely affect our deprived neighbourhoods, although they suffer from a range of additional issues such as high crime and lower than average educational attainment.

We are particularly targeting 10 identifiable neighbourhoods where the most intensive activity to reduce deprivation needs to take place: Crompton, Halliwell and Rumworth Wards; Great Lever (extended) and Farnworth Neighbourhood Management areas; Hall i' th' Wood, Hulton Lane, Johnson Fold and Washacre estates; and East Bolton.

## A two strand approach

We have developed a two strand approach to neighbourhood renewal in order to tackle deprivation in Bolton's most disadvantaged areas and, at the same time, address related issues in other parts of the Borough. The first strand aims to support Bolton's public service providers in meeting the deprivation-related targets set by central government, by helping them to develop neighbourhood renewal activity in areas of need across the Borough; these targets focus on Crime, Education, Health, Housing, Liveability and Worklessness.

The second strand focuses on local residents and other stakeholders in the neighbourhood renewal process by establishing Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs), which aim to reduce the difference between the quality of life in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the Bolton average.

By ensuring that all neighbourhood renewal activity is firmly focused on achieving neighbourhood renewal targets, the intention is to reduce the gap between deprived areas and Bolton as a whole.

## Making a difference

In achieving these targets, not only will Bolton's deprived areas improve but the Borough will continue:

'to be a great place to grow up, live, learn, work, do business and visit, so that the potential of each person, each community and the Borough as a whole can be realised'.

## Bolton Borough's Community Strategy 2003-2012

The aim of this revised NRS is to provide a framework for achieving these targets, using a strong evidence base as its foundation. The Strategy does not aim to cover all aspects of public service provision that can contribute to reducing deprivation; rather, it sets out a process which can be applied to different service areas. The detail of how the Strategy will be put into practice is being developed in a supporting Implementation Plan which will be made available in the coming months.