

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

What is the Farnworth Streets for All scheme?

Bolton Council is making public realm and transport improvements along Market Street, including improved footways, new pedestrian crossings, and better cycling routes, as well as more trees and green space. These improvements have been split into two phases, both aiming to create more welcoming and greener streets in Farnworth.

Construction of the first phase has now completed, and construction of the second phase (except for the junction between Market Street and King Street) began last month.

We are now engaging with local stakeholders in Farnworth on proposed changes to the layout of the Market Street and King Street junction.

We anticipate all works to be complete by April 2026.

What is Streets for All?

Streets for All is a Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) strategy that aims to transform how streets across Greater Manchester are designed, managed and used. It's a core part of delivering the Bee Network, which aims to create a fully integrated, accessible and sustainable transport system.

By delivering Streets for All schemes across Greater Manchester, TfGM aims to:

- Make streets safer and more welcoming for everyone – whether walking, wheeling, using public transport, cycling or driving;
- Reduce traffic and road danger, while improving air quality and public health;
- Support local communities and businesses by creating vibrant, green, and accessible public spaces; and
- Enable more active travel and reduce car dependency to help meet Greater Manchester's decarbonisation targets.

Why is there a Streets for All scheme in Farnworth?

The scheme aims to make Farnworth town centre safer and more appealing for pedestrians and people who use bicycles.

To achieve this, we will deliver wider and resurfaced footways, eight new or improved pedestrian crossings, more trees and plants, new benches and seating, segregated cycle lanes, reduced highway widths and 20mph speed limits for cars, plus cycle stands and litter bins.

When are you planning to construct the scheme?

Construction of the first phase of the scheme began in June 2024 and completed in May 2025.

Construction work on the second phase (except for the junction between Market Street and King Street) began last month. In order to minimise disruption, the work will be carried out in sections. This will mean the road and pavement will be available for use for as long as possible. Construction on each section will happen in isolation – which means that no two sections will be under construction at the same time.

Subject to the outcome of our engagement with you, we aim to begin construction on the junction in September.

We anticipate all works to be complete by April 2026.

How can you begin construction on the second phase before you know how the junction will look?

Construction has begun on the next phase of improvements, except for at the new junction. We are able to begin construction because the improvements away from the junction are not impacted by the junction design. By starting on these now, we can minimise overall disruption. It also means that the road and pavement will be available for use for as long as possible.

Construction of the changes to the junction between Market Street and King Street will start once we have finalised our design.

How is the scheme being funded?

The first phase of the Streets for All scheme in Farnworth town centre was funded by the Future High Streets Fund.

The second phase of the Streets for All scheme in Farnworth town centre is being funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS).

Why has the design of the junction changed?

The change to the design of the junction has been driven by additional modelling we have done since the last consultation in 2023.

We worked with Transport for Greater Manchester in order to understand how the proposed changes (as proposed in 2023) would impact buses and cars. This modelling forecast that our original proposals would negatively impact journey times across the network, particularly for buses.

The junction between Market Street and King Street was found to partly contribute towards this as pedestrians and those cycling couldn't cross the junction at the same time, meaning two phases of green lights for pedestrians and those cycling would be needed, decreasing 'green time' for motorists. In order to help traffic flow better, while making sure pedestrians and those cycling can cross safely, we have modified the junction layout.



How will the junction layout affect me?

The new layout completely separates pedestrians and those cycling from general traffic at the junction, improving safety by reducing the possibility of collisions or conflict. This ensures pedestrians and those cycling can cross safely whilst still improving traffic flow for both buses and cars.

Pedestrians and those cycling are also able to get where they want to be more quickly, with more space to wait than in the previous junction design. The updated design also allows for more efficient 'signal staging' and increases overall green time for vehicles, helping to reduce the impact identified in the modelling.

Engagement

How can I give my feedback, and how will I know that it's been taken on board?

You can share your feedback with us by completing an online form, or by completing a hard copy form at our in-person engagement event, which will take place at the junction of Market Street and King Street between 2pm and 6pm on Tuesday 8 July.

We will analyse all feedback received on the updated junction layout, and will share this in a report on Bolton Council's website later this summer.

What if I can't make it to your in-person engagement event?

Information on our proposals for the new Market Street and King Street junction layout is also available on our website.

Why are you engaging on this element of the scheme?

Since we consulted with you on changes to pedestrian, cycle and car access through Farnworth town centre in 2023, we've updated our design for the junction of Market Street and King Street, allowing for improved safety and easier use by all users of the junction.

Our updated design now includes crossings on all arms of the junction, in accordance with the latest design standards for junctions in Greater Manchester. As this is a change to what we proposed when we last consulted in 2023, we're also asking for your feedback on our changes to the junction design.



Environment

How will you manage the environmental impact of the scheme?

New trees and greening will improve air quality, provide shade and enhance biodiversity along Market Street. Safer crossings and continuous footways along Market Street will make walking and cycling safer for all – while reducing the speed limit along the road to 20mph will reduce noise pollution and improve safety for all users of the road.

Construction

How long will construction take on the scheme?

We anticipate construction for the second phase of the scheme to complete in April 2026, having begun last month.

What will be the impact of construction on local communities?

In order to minimise disruption, the work will be carried out in sections. This will mean the road and pavement will be available for use for as long as possible. Construction on each section will happen in isolation – which means that no two sections will be under construction at the same time.

We will continue to work with businesses and residents in the area to make sure that accesses are maintained throughout the works. Our contractor will also liaise with any affected properties ahead of construction taking place.

