

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Draft Green Spaces Strategy**

### **1. What is the purpose of the council's draft Green Spaces Strategy?**

Bolton's Vision 2030 is for an active, connected and prosperous borough. A key outcome of the Vision 2030 is for a Clean and Green Bolton that ensures our environment is protected and improved, so that more people enjoy it, care for it and are active in it.

The Green Spaces Strategy supports this outcome by outlining Bolton's ambition that our green spaces (and blue spaces) should be managed as a multifunctional resource, capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

### **2. How will the strategy be used to inform management of the borough's green spaces, which leads to improvement in their quality?**

The strategy provides a framework to support the delivery of protected, better quality and accessible green and blue spaces. This is captured in the three strategic priorities outlined in the strategy; Safe Open Spaces; Protected for All and Equal Access to Space.

The strategy includes seven cross cutting themes, with specific aims and objectives designed to support delivery of the strategic priorities. These seven themes are:

- Communities
- Biodiversity & Offsetting
- Local Nature Recovery
- Landscape, Culture & the Visitor Economy
- Ecosystem Services
- Health and Wellbeing
- Climate & Sustainability

### **3. What types of green and blue spaces are covered in the strategy?**

The strategy relates to all green spaces across the Borough, including parks, nature reserves, playing fields, woodlands, cemeteries, allotments & roadside greenspace. More broadly, the strategy covers all aspects of green infrastructure across the borough.

Green Infrastructure describes the network of multi-functional green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits.

Importantly, this strategy also covers so called blue infrastructure. This covers all the rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, canals and other waterways and waterbodies within Bolton.

### **4. Which open spaces does the Green Spaces Strategy relate to?**

The Green Spaces Strategy covers the whole of the Borough and aims to ensure Bolton's residents have access to safe, accessible and protected greenspaces.

The Strategy will inform how decisions are made and implemented on green spaces which are under the control of Bolton Council and are open to the general public for the purpose of recreation. This includes parks, play areas, playing fields, public gardens, nature reserves and sites of special scientific interest (SSSI).

Whilst there are many green spaces across the borough that are not owned or managed by the council, The Green Spaces Strategy, in conjunction with other council strategies, will inform our priorities and objectives when working with stakeholders across Bolton. For instance, the Green Spaces Strategy complements the Council's Local Plan by recognising that there is a significant need for new housing across the borough, whilst aiming to ensure that overall, we end up with better quality green spaces across the borough for the benefit of residents, the environment and nature.

### **5. Who is the Green Spaces Strategy aimed at?**

The delivery of protected, accessible and safe green spaces will require collaboration from many stakeholders across the borough. The strategy is designed to provide a framework to guide the actions of Bolton Council, residents, visitors, businesses, third sector organisations, charities, volunteers and others.

Importantly, we recognise that many of our most important green and blue spaces cross boundaries into other local authorities and counties. To reflect this, the strategy recognises the importance of working with partners both within and outside the borough.

## **6. How has the content of the strategy been determined and how can I give my view on it?**

The draft strategy was developed by council officers within the Department of Place (Environmental Assets). This was further refined with input from departments across Bolton Council. The draft strategy has been approved for public consultation by the Executive Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Environment. This consultation allows for any interested parties to review the strategy and provide input and feedback prior to its finalisation and publication. A link to the public consultation can be found here: [https://bit.ly/Bolton\\_Consultation](https://bit.ly/Bolton_Consultation).

## **7. How will the vision of improved, protected, and accessible greenspaces, outlined in the strategy, be resourced?**

The strategy provides strategic priorities, themes and objectives to guide delivery of a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. This framework will enable current and future Council resources, as well as those of partner organisations and volunteers, to be targeted towards spaces and projects that will yield the most benefit for the residents of Bolton. These ambitious and long-term objectives will be delivered by council staff, as well as volunteer groups and key partner organisations across the borough, and by residents themselves. Funding to support these objectives will come through current and future funding streams, for instance via the council, delivery partners, grant funding and novel funding mechanisms like offsite Biodiversity Net Gain payments.

## **8. How will this strategy link in to planning decisions within the borough and the Local Plan?**

Once published, the council will have regard of the Green Spaces Strategy within its decision-making process and future documents and plans.