

Frequently Asked Questions:
Bolton Town Centre East Phase Two and
Topp Way / Marsden Road

1. About the proposal

1a. What is being proposed in Town Centre East and Topp Way / Marsden Road?

Bolton Council is making public realm and transport improvements across the borough, including improved footways, new pedestrian crossings, and better cycling routes, as well as additional green spaces. By enhancing walking and cycling infrastructure, the schemes aim to encourage sustainable travel, reduce congestion, and improve safety for all road users.

Proposals include:

- Improvements at busy junctions to help cyclists and pedestrians move around safely
- Tactile paving to assist visually impaired people to navigate routes and road crossings safely, through textured ground surfaces with raised patterns
- Continuous side road crossings, which involve uninterrupted footways at road crossings to prioritise pedestrian safety, reduce traffic speeds and improve physical accessibility
- Raised tables at junctions and side roads, which gives priority to, and increases safety for, pedestrians and increases visibility for vehicles
- Segregated cycle ways to separate cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles, creating safer journeys for all road users
- Kerbs dropped to street level at crossing places to improve accessibility for wheelchair and pram users
- Traffic islands that provide a safe refuge for pedestrians crossing the road
- New and improved pedestrian crossings around the junction of Topp Way, St George's Road and Marsden Road – this is a separate scheme but is being consulted on at the same time because it is in close proximity to the rest of the proposals.

1b. Is the scheme related to previous engagement you undertook in the area?

In 2020, Bolton Council consulted on wide-ranging proposals for walking and cycling improvements in Bolton Town Centre around Bradshawgate, Great Moor Street, Deansgate / Churchgate, Bromwich Street, and Dorset Street. The proposals which were taken forward to be approved for funding are known as 'Phase One'. Following that consultation, the Phase One design was developed further and is currently planned for delivery in 2026. You can read the Phase One Consultation Report on the project webpage.

2. Phase Two proposal

2a. What does Phase Two propose?

'Phase Two' of Bolton Town Centre East builds on this with most of the improvements to the north of the town centre, most notably along St Helena Road, St George's Street and Charles

Street, as well as improvements on Bridge Street and Bow Street. The aim is to extend improvements so that more local streets benefit and routes are better connected.

The Phase Two proposals are still at a draft stage. Your feedback will help shape the final design before any decisions are made.

2b. What do you mean by the term ‘public realm’?

Public realm refers to the spaces that residents can freely use in their day to day lives, including roads, footpaths, crossings, and pedestrianised areas. Proposed improvements to the public realm include using heritage-friendly paving stones and kerbs to maintain the town centre’s historic aesthetic, the introduction of greens spaces and rain gardens and the resurfacing of roads.

2c. What are the benefits of the two proposed schemes?

The schemes are designed to promote connectivity within Bolton Town Centre, improved connectivity to surrounding hubs, and enhance the general experience for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

By delivering this, Bolton Council aims to:

- Make streets safer, quieter, and more welcoming for all road users through traffic calming measures;
- Help improve people’s physical and mental health by making walking, wheeling and cycling more attractive options;
- Support local communities and businesses by creating greener, more accessible and more connected public spaces; and
- Enable more sustainable forms of travel and reduce car dependency to help meet Greater Manchester’s air pollution and decarbonisation targets.

3. Funding

3a. How are these schemes being funded?

Both schemes are being funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS), which is a government programme designed to provide long-term, consolidated funding for local transport networks in England’s largest city regions. CRSTS funding provides £5.7 billion over five years (2022-2027) to eight city regions, including Greater Manchester, and it underpins the region’s vision for the Bee Network, a London-style integrated transport system.

3b. Why can't the funding be used for more practical improvements, such as filling potholes?

The CRSTS funding is provided to city regions for reaching sustainable transport goals. This means the funding can only be used for projects that meet national objectives such as improving active travel, reducing carbon emissions, supporting public transport and enabling safer, more inclusive streets. It cannot fund general road maintenance, pothole repair, parking changes or unrelated highways improvements

4. Construction timeline and impacts

4a. When is construction likely to start on the scheme?

Subject to approval of funding, Bolton Council anticipates all work to be completed by Summer 2027. Updates on when construction is anticipated to begin will be confirmed as the design is finalised, as this will impact construction approach. Feedback received during engagement will help to shape this detailed design. Works will be phased to minimise disruption where possible. Advance notice will be provided before any works begin on individual streets.

4b. How will the scheme improve the local environment?

New trees and greening will provide shade and enhance biodiversity along the proposed schemes, as well as improving air quality, which is also improved by reducing traffic congestion and emissions from idle vehicles. Safer pedestrian crossings and improved cycling routes and footways will make walking and cycling safer and easier. This makes active travel more accessible which, alongside the creation of quiet streets, reduces the noise pollution in the area.

4c. What will be the impact of construction on traffic and public access?

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

The scheme is focused on improving safety and accessibility rather than redirecting traffic. Where appropriate, assessments will be undertaken to understand potential impacts. The intention is to reduce speeds and improve conditions, not to divert traffic elsewhere.

5. Consultation

5a. How can I find out more about the proposals?

We'll be holding two in-person consultation events, where you can find out more about our proposals, talk to members of our team, ask questions and provide your feedback.

Location	Time	Date
Market Place shopping centre, Knowsley Street, Bolton, BL1 2AL	12:30pm - 4:30pm	Wednesday 11 March
Market Place shopping centre, Knowsley Street, Bolton, BL1 2AL	12:30pm - 4:30pm	Tuesday 17 March

If you are unable to make our events, further information on the Town Centre East Phase Two and Topp Way / Marsden Road proposals will be made available on our consultation pages: <https://boltontowncentrefasetwoeastscheme.commonplace.is/>

If you have any further questions about our proposals, you can get in touch with the project team by emailing us at towncentreconsultation@aecom.com.

5b. How can I provide feedback on the proposals?

- We will be conducting a public consultation from Monday 02 March to Friday 27 March 2026.
- You can provide your comments and feedback to the consultation:
- Online: by completing and submitting a feedback form on the Bolton Council website - <https://boltontowncentrefasetwoeastscheme.commonplace.is/>
- By email: emailing your feedback to towncentreconsultation@aecom.com
- In-person: by completing a hard-copy feedback form at one of our consultation events
- All feedback must be provided before the consultation period closes on 27 March 2026.

5c. Why are two schemes being consulted on together?

We are also consulting on proposed new and improved pedestrian crossings around the junction of Topp Way, St George's Road and Marsden Road. This is a separate scheme but is being consulted on at the same time as 'Bolton Town Centre East Phase Two' because it is in close proximity to the rest of the proposals.

5d. Can I provide feedback on the schemes separately?

Yes – on our feedback form, we have provided separate sections on each element of our proposals.

5e. Why are you consulting on proposals in the Bolton Town Centre separately to other walking and cycling proposals in the Doffcocker area?

This is a separate scheme to proposed works in the town centre area. Although we are consulting on these schemes at the same time, feedback on the schemes will be considered separately. This will allow us to develop each scheme with feedback from local stakeholders specific to the proposals in question. You can find out more about the Doffcocker to Town Centre Phase 2 proposals here: <https://towntodoffcocker.commonplace.is/>.

5f. What happens after consultation?

Once the consultation has closed on 27 March 2026, all feedback provided will be collated and analysed. We will carefully consider all the community feedback we've received, as well as input from elected members, and other interest groups, and take this on board where feasible to help shape our plans.

Once the consultation period has concluded, we will prepare a Consultation Report. This will provide a summary of the feedback received during the consultation and will show how it has been considered. This report will be shared on our website.