

Bolton's Local Plan

Local Development Scheme

April 2019

The Local Plan

Bolton's Local Plan currently consists of the following four development plan documents

- Bolton's Core Strategy
- Bolton's Allocations Plan
- Greater Manchester Waste Plan
- Greater Manchester Minerals Plan

Local Development Scheme (LDS)

This is a programme document for the review of Bolton's Development Plan Documents and sets out the documents the council needs to prepare over the next three years with timescales and milestones for their preparation. The first Local Development Scheme was published in March 2005 and covered the period to March 2008. It has been revised several times since it was first produced, most recently in April 2016. This Local Development Scheme covers the period up to September 2022. A summary timetable and programme chart are contained in appendices 2 and 3 respectively.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)

The council is required to prepare an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR should contain information on the progress of the Local Plan as set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which policies set out in the Local Development Documents, including saved policies, are being achieved. The latest AMR was published in January 2019.

The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out how the council will engage the community in the preparation of Local Development Documents and the council's decisions. It is also subject to public consultation. The first SCI was adopted in February 2007. The council subsequently revised it and the current SCI came into force in January 2011.

Development Plan Documents (DPD) set out the council's policies for the borough's development and use of land and form the primary criteria in determining planning applications. All DPDs must conform to the provisions of the council's SCI and will be subject to examination by the Planning Inspectorate before adoption.

Core Strategy : sets out the council's vision and spatial strategy for future development to 2026 and includes Development Management policies, a Key Diagram and allocations for major development. The council adopted the Core Strategy in March 2011.

Allocations Plan : sets out land allocations for a range of relevant uses including housing, employment, mixed use, retail development and community facilities. It also identifies areas of protection from adverse development such as Green Belt and Conservation Areas. The council adopted the Allocations Plan in December 2014

Greater Manchester Waste Plan

The council adopted the Greater Manchester Waste Plan in April 2012, and is now part of the Development Plan for Bolton.

Greater Manchester Minerals Plan

The council adopted the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan in April 2013 and is now part of the Development Plan for Bolton.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

In February 2015, the council resolved to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester, as a joint development plan document with the other nine districts in Greater Manchester. In November 2014 the first devolution agreement provided for an elected Greater Manchester Mayor with responsibility to produce a Spatial Strategy. The first Mayor was elected in May 2017. It is intended that this will be the first Spatial Development Strategy prepared outside London. At the moment the regulations are not fully in place to allow for the preparation of the type of Spatial Development Strategy required, so the GMSF has been prepared as a Development Plan Document with a view to moving to a Spatial Development Strategy at future stages if regulations enable that.

The GMSF will provide an important strategic framework towards the successful planning of the sub-region and the districts within it. It will provide the basis for an informed and integrated approach to spatial planning across Greater Manchester, through a clear understanding of the role of our places and the relationships and connections between them. The GMSF is one of a suite of documents through which the GM Combined Authority is progressing its growth and reform ambitions;

GMSF conformity

The GM Spatial Framework must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. It must comply with the council's Statement of Community Involvement in its consultation procedures.

Bolton's Local Plan

Bolton's new Local Plan will replace those elements of the Core Strategy and Allocations Plan that are not addressed in the GM Spatial Framework. It will provide the overall spatial vision and framework for the future sustainable development of the borough. It will address needs and opportunities in relation to housing, the economy, community facilities and infrastructure as well as providing a basis for safeguarding the environment, adapting to climate change and securing good design. The Bolton Local Plan will set out broad locations and specific allocations of land for different purposes; through designations showing areas where particular opportunities or considerations apply and through criteria-based policies to be taken into account in decisions on planning applications.

Local Plan conformity

Bolton's Local Plan must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework and with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, once that is adopted. It must comply with the council's Statement of Community Involvement in its consultation procedures.

Neighbourhood Plans

The 2011 Localism Act allows local communities to prepare neighbourhood plans. Neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted development plan. They are also subject to an independent examination and need to be approved by a majority vote in a local referendum. Once approved they are part of the development plan.

The council has designated three neighbourhood areas, at Blackrod, Horwich and Over Hulton. The timetable for neighbourhood plans is mainly outside the direct control of the council and does not need to be included in the Local Development Scheme.

Sustainability Appraisal

The GMSF and Local Plan are both being subject to sustainability appraisal throughout the process including the production of an appraisal report. Neighbourhood plans may not need sustainability appraisal, depending on the nature of their content. Sustainability appraisal incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment required by legislation to ensure plans reflect sustainable development principles.

Resources

The production of the GM Spatial Framework is coordinated by the Greater Manchester Housing and Planning team with input from each of the ten districts, including Bolton, primarily from the council's Strategy Team. The Strategy Team will have overall responsibility for Bolton's contribution to the production process but will receive support from other teams in the department, and from other council departments as appropriate. The council's Strategy Team will be primarily responsible for the preparation of Bolton's Local Plan with support from other parts of the council with specialist expertise, as appropriate. The Local Development Scheme is designed to ensure that peaks in the workload on the GM Spatial Framework coincide with troughs of work on the Local Plan and vice-versa. External consultants may be engaged on specific projects where there is a lack of expertise or capacity in-house.

Risk

The Council seeks to minimise the risk of additional expense and delay. Key risks are:

- breakdown in cooperation on GMSF preparation between the ten districts of Greater Manchester; this will be addressed through regular meetings between GMCA and the districts to identify early on any sources of disagreement and act to minimise them;
- new procedural arrangements for preparing Development Plan Documents may cause delays; this will be addressed by identifying any new procedures and taking action to ensure that there is compliance with them;
- changing planning policies at a national level could necessitate changes in policy at a local level and delays; the council will address this risk by ensuring that long-life documents focus on essentials and are flexible enough to be adaptable to change and anticipating change;

- procedural complications and slippage, which the council will address by maintaining robust information and ensuring that plans are sound;
- resource issues such as staff retention, specialist advice and document and map production, which the council will address by matching resources to work priorities;
- increased financial costs caused for example by new evidence requirements or by unexpectedly large numbers of consultation responses; the council will address this through scoping and planning of the evidence base, and through frontloading consultation
- stakeholder commitment issues, which the council will address with commitment to community involvement.
- risk of non consistency of documents within the Development Plan. Careful timetabling of DPD production within the LDS should minimise the risk of subsequent documents being found to be unsound.

Monitoring and Review

Circumstances will inevitably change during the LDS period with changing priorities at national and local level. These have been addressed in the 2018 Annual Monitoring Report that was produced in January 2019, and this Local Development Scheme takes into account the AMR's findings.

APPENDIX 1 Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Role and subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GMSF will focus primarily on housing and employment land requirements for GM, the infrastructure requirements to deliver this and the environmental capacity of GM to accommodate this in the most sustainable manner
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Manchester
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Spatial Framework has been progressed as a joint Development Plan Document of the ten districts. If national regulations allow it, it is likely to be published as a Spatial Development Strategy by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Once adopted the GMSF will be part of the development plan for Bolton and the Local Plan will need to be in conformity with it. The GMSF is just one of a suite of documents through which GMCA is progressing its growth and reform ambitions namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The overarching Greater Manchester Strategy; Transport 2040 Strategy; A Digital Strategy, A number of emerging strategies including clean air, local industrial strategy, environment plan and cultural strategy
Conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent with national planning policy and having regard to the Greater Manchester Strategy and other GM strategies

Stage	Timetable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial consultation on the objectively assessed development need 	November 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on vision, strategy and growth options 	October 2015-January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on first Draft Plan 	October 2016 – January 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on 2nd Draft Plan 	January 2019 – March 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of Plan* 	September 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission* 	January 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination in public* 	April 2020 – June 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the GMSF by Mayor/GMCA* 	December 2020

** The timetable will need to be reviewed once the status of the plan has been confirmed by legislation and supporting regulations*

APPENDIX 2 Bolton's Local Plan

Role and subject	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bolton's Local Plan will focus primarily on the identification of sites and areas for development in urban locations, together with development management policies
Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Borough of Bolton
Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bolton Council will progress the Local Plan as a development plan document.• Once adopted the Local Plan will be part of the development plan for Bolton
Conformity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent with national planning policy and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Stage	Timetable
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation on scope, vision, issues and options	January 2020 – November 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation on draft plan	January 2021 – March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication	September 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submission	January 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination	April 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adoption	September 2022

APPENDIX 3 - DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Document Title	Chain of Conformity	Consulting statutory bodies	Regulation 18 consultation	Publication	Submission to Secretary of State	Pre-hearing meeting	Commencement of hearing	Receipt of Inspector's report	Adoption
Greater Manchester Spatial Framework	NPPF and SCI	July 2015	Nov 2014 – Mar 2019	Sept 2019	Jan 2020	Mar 2020	April 2020	Sep 2020	Dec 2020
Bolton's Local Plan	NPPF, SCI and GMSF	Jan 2020	Jan 2020 – Nov 2020	Sep 2021	Jan 2022	Mar 2022	April 2022	July 2022	Sep 2022
Proposals Map	To be an integral part of Development Plan Documents						Update on each DPD adoption		

