

# **Bolton's Local Plan**

Local Development Scheme

February 2022

## **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 September 2020. This Local Development Scheme covers the period up to March 2024. A summary timetable can be found at appendix 3.

## **Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)**

The council is required to prepare an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMR should contain information on the progress of DPDs, as set out in the Local Development Scheme and the extent to which policies set out in current DPDs are being achieved. The latest AMR was published in January 2021.

**The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)** sets out how the council will engage the community in the preparation of Development Plan Documents and the council's decisions. It is also subject to public consultation. The first SCI was adopted in February 2007. The council has subsequently revised it and the current SCI came into force in August 2020.

**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.

### **Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (formerly 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.

The GMSF was to provide an important strategic framework towards the successful planning of the sub-region and the districts within it. It would 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 was one of a suite of documents through which the GM Combined Authority is progressing its growth and reform ambitions.

This plan progressed until December 2020 as a joint development plan document (DPD) of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities - Greater Manchester's Plan for Jobs, Homes & the Environment. The GMSF 2020 reached the Regulation 19 (Publication) stage but withdrawal of Stockport Council from GMSF signalled its end as a joint plan for the ten Greater Manchester districts.

The nine remaining Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) have agreed to progress a revised joint development plan called “Places for Everyone” - a joint development plan document for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth across their boroughs. This LDS reflects the milestones for continuation of that process.

### **Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document conformity**

The Places for Everyone plan 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 Place for Everyone plan. 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 Places for Everyone, 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 Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan was formally “made” in June 2021 following success at referendum and now forms part of the Development Plan for Bolton. 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 Places for Everyone plan and Local Plan are both 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 Places for Everyone is coordinated by the Greater Manchester Housing and Planning team with input from each of the nine 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 Places for Everyone 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 Places for Everyone preparation between the nine 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;
- covid 19 restrictions could mean the postponement of planned consultations; this will be addressed by considering what progress can be made within the restrictions in force at any specific time;
- 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; and
- 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. Progress on production of plans listed in the LDS is considered in Authority Monitoring Reports and the Local Development Scheme updated as necessary.

## APPENDIX 1 Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document

<b>Role and subject</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 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</li> </ul>
<b>Coverage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities - Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan</li> </ul>
<b>Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PfE has been progressed as a joint Development Plan Document of the nine districts.</li> <li>Once adopted the PfE will be part of the development plan for Bolton and the Local Plan will need to be in conformity with it.</li> <li>The PfE 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"> <li>The overarching Greater Manchester Strategy</li> <li>Transport 2040 Strategy</li> <li>A Digital Strategy</li> <li>The Local Industrial Strategy</li> <li>Housing Strategy</li> <li>The 5 Year Environment Plan</li> <li>A number of emerging strategies including clean air</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Conformity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent with national planning policy and having regard to the Greater Manchester Strategy and other GM strategies</li> </ul>

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial consultation on the objectively assessed development need</li> </ul>	November 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on vision, strategy and growth options</li> </ul>	October 2015-January 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on first Draft Plan</li> </ul>	October 2016 – January 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft Plan</li> </ul>	January 2019 – March 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of PfE Plan</li> </ul>	August – October 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission</li> </ul>	Early 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examination hearings commence*</li> </ul>	Summer 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption*</li> </ul>	2023

\* The timetable for the examination will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate, and not by the council.

## APPENDIX 2 Bolton's Local Plan

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

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on scope, vision, issues and options</li> </ul>	March 2021 – December 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on draft plan</li> </ul>	May 2022 – July 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication</li> </ul>	December 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission</li> </ul>	April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examination hearings commence*</li> </ul>	September 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption*</li> </ul>	March 2024

\* The timetable for the examination will be determined by the Planning Inspectorate, and not by the council.



### 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
Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document	NPPF and SCI	July 2015	Nov 2014 – Mar 2019	Aug – October 2021	Early 2022	TBC	Summer 2022	TBC	2023
Bolton's Local Plan	NPPF, SCI and PfE	Apr 2021	Apr 2021 – Dec 2021	Dec 2022	April 2023	Jul 2023	September 2023	February 2024	Mar 2024
Proposals Map	To be an integral part of Development Plan Documents						Update on each DPD adoption		