AGENDA FOR

CABINET

Contact: Chloe Ashworth
Direct Line: 0161 253 5132
E-mail: c.ashworth@bury.gov.uk
Web Site: www.bury.gov.uk

To: All Members of Cabinet

Councillors : E O'Brien (Leader and Cabinet Member, Strategic Growth) (Chair), C Cummins (Cabinet Member, Housing Services), C Morris (Cabinet Member, Culture, Economy & Skills), A Quinn (Cabinet Member, Environment, Climate Change and Operations), T Rafiq (Cabinet Member, Corporate Affairs and HR), L Smith (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member, Children and Young People), T Tariq (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member, Health and Wellbeing), S Thorpe (Cabinet Member, Finance and Transformation) and S Walmsley (Cabinet Member, Communities and Inclusion)

Dear Member/Colleague

Cabinet

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Cabinet which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Wednesday, 16 April 2025
Place:	Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall
Time:	6.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Cabinet are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters of the Agenda and, if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME *(Pages 5 - 6)*

Questions are invited from members of the public about the work of the Cabinet.

Notice of any question must be given to Democratic Services by midday on Monday, 14th April. Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time, if required.

4 MEMBER QUESTION TIME *(Pages 7 - 8)*

Questions are invited from Elected Members about items on the Cabinet agenda. 15 minutes will be set aside for Member Question Time, if required.

Notice of any Member question must be given to the Monitoring Officer by midday Friday 11th April.

5 MINUTES *(Pages 9 - 22)*

Minutes from the meeting held on 05th March 2025 are attached.

6 ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT 18 – DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS FOR STRATEGIC SITE ALLOCATIONS AT ELTON RESERVOIR AND WALSHAW *(Pages 23 - 262)*

Report of Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth attached.

7 WHITEFIELD PLAN *(Pages 263 - 390)*

Report of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth to follow.

8 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUPPORT COMMISSIONING – SAFE ACCOMMODATION AND INDEPENDENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISOR (IDVA) PROVISION *(Pages 391 - 424)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion attached.

9 Q3 ADULT SOCIAL CARE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS *(Pages 425 - 448)*

Report from Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing attached.

10 TOPPING MILL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEME *(Pages 449 - 476)*

Report of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing attached.

11 RETENDER OF SUBSTANCE USE SERVICE CONTRACT *(Pages 477 - 482)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing attached.

12 TENDER OF CARER SERVICES *(Pages 483 - 502)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing attached.

13 SENSORY IMPAIRMENT STRATEGY *(Pages 503 - 552)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing attached.

14 ALL- AGE WORK AND SKILLS STRATEGY *(Pages 553 - 590)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills attached.

15 PROPOSED ITB4 (INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK 4) PROGRAMME OF ROAD SAFETY WORKS 2025/26. *(Pages 591 - 606)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations attached.

16 HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE *(Pages 607 - 614)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations attached.

17 MILLWOOD PRIMARY SPECIAL SCHOOL-REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROCEED TO THE PCSA STAGE WITH A CONTRACTOR. *(Pages 615 - 620)*

Report of Cabinet Member for Children and Young People attached.

18 MINUTES OF ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES / GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY *(Pages 621 - 630)*

To consider the minutes of meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 07th February 2025.

19 URGENT BUSINESS

Any other business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.

20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing the appropriate resolution under Section 100 (A)(4), Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the press and public be excluded from

the meeting for the reason that the following business involves the disclosure of exempt information as detailed against the item.

21 **TOPPING MILL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEME** *(Pages 631 - 636)*

Report of Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing attached.

Name	Question	Response
Margaret Walker	There is a large amount of funds proposed for the financial year to improve road safety, reduce road danger for ALL road user especially the cyclops junction in Spring Lane Radcliffe. This money would be better used improving the current state of the roads. The council have just released details of resurfacing of Derbyshire/Holland Streets, side streets !! When will they do Water Street / Spring Lane properly?	Almost 10,000 people have been killed or suffered life-changing injuries on Greater Manchester's roads in the last 10 years. Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has now endorsed a draft Vison Zero Strategy for the city-region. It aims to eliminate road death and life-changing injury by 2040, with a target to achieve a 50 per cent reduction by 2030. The intention is to increase safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Our ITB Programme of works targets known accident hotspots on our road network, which is essential if we are to realise the GM Vision Zero Strategy. Water Street is included in the current Highway Resurfacing Programme which was approved at Cabinet on the 15th March 2023 and is programmed to be completed during August this year. The works extend from Ainsworth Road to Pilkington Way and include the Spring Lane approach to Water Street. This resurfacing work is funded from our ongoing Highway Investment Strategy, which is investing an additional £30m into our roads over 9years.
Judith Sheppard	As you are aware, the issues at Pioneer Mills in Radcliffe gained significant attention in the national media at the end of March. The coverage in the Daily Mail suggests that Bury Council has taken credit for addressing the rubbish problems at this site. However, these issues have persisted for several years and have been reported multiple times to the council by Radcliffe First Councillors, Little Britain Anglers, residents and various community groups since at least 2018. Therefore my question is in two	Pioneer Mill consists of several separate individual businesses operating within a single site boundary. The Council does not have regulatory responsibility for the site. The site operates under an environmental permit issued by the Environment Agency. The council works with a range of enforcement authorities including Fire, health and Safety and the Environment agency, as investigatory work is ongoing by partner agencies I can not comment further on the details of recent press reports. The council responds to all regulatory complaints and offers the public a variety of methods to report complaints. This includes our website, online reporting, telephone contact centre and email reporting mechanisms. The Council will continue to respond to all complaints from the public and, where necessary, support and assist member of the public to redirect complaints if they fall outside of the Councils regulatory control such for example a business operating under a permit issue by the Environment Agency. The Council has and continues to commit resources to responding to all reports of fly tipping but is not able to deal with

	parts, (1) What measures is Bury Council implementing to improve communication and responsiveness to the concerns of residents and (2) how will they ensure that the voices of residents and elected Radcliffe Councillors are valued and considered in decision making processes?	waste on the river bank – such waste is reported to the Environment Agency for investigation. The Council is committed to working with Members and is holding dedicated briefing sessions regarding Pioneer Mill aligned with the ongoing multiagency operational working group. A member briefing has been scheduled for the 30 April. The Council will ensure appropriate departmental representatives attend member engagement meetings to update and engage with members regarding all aspects of undertakings including regulation and strategic planning which will include considerations for any potential future development options for the site.

Name	Question	Response
Cllr Birchmore	There have been several consultations carried out by the Council recently. When I have asked for numbers of attendees at a consultation, number of residents providing verbal feedback, number of residents completing online feedback etc, the council has not always been able to provide me with full details. Also, when I have asked for aims, objectives and analysis of the outcomes of these consultations, they have sometimes not been supplied or are not clearly defined. Does the Council have a clear policy with regards to structuring and performing consultations and if so, is this made available to employees, consultants engaged to carry out surveys and residents?	The Council follows Government guidance and legal principles when conducting all consultations. The approach to the consultation will vary depending on the nature of the consultation. We ensure that all consultations are carried out at the appropriate time are clear concise and have a purpose; Dependent on the subject matter we ensure the length of the consultation is for a proportionate time. Consultations are tailored dependent on the needs and preferences of different groups. All responses are fully considered at the end of the consultation period. In addition the Leader committed to establishing a meeting between Councillors and the Communications team regarding consultations carried out by the Council.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 5

Minutes of: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting: 5 March 2025

Present: Councillor E O'Brien (in the Chair)
Councillors C Cummins, C Morris, A Quinn, T Rafiq, L Smith, T Tariq, S Thorpe and S Walmsley

Also in attendance: Councillors R Bernstein and M Smith.
Lynne Ridsdale, Jacqui Dennis, Julie Gallagher, Chloe Ashworth, Cris Logue, Chris Woodhouse, Simon Peet and Will Blandamer.

Public Attendance: 2 members of the public was present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: None.

CA.321 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

CA.322 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CA.323 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

CA.324 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

CA.325 MINUTES

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February be approved as a correct record.

CA.326 Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented the report which outlined an update on the progress for the third quarter of the financial year (October to December 2024) against the Corporate Plan priorities and objectives.

Councillor Bernstein raised a query in relation to staff turnover, members were informed by Councillor Thorpe, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation that the staff turnover is 12 ½ % and this is expected in a large organisation. The Leader added that the areas for turnover are equally important and this detail could be considered outside the Cabinet meeting. Members held discussions regarding the 4% vacancy factor which is within our budgetary savings for this year 2025/26 and it is reflective of the current market. In addition Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive assured members that modelling has taken place to determine the vacancy factor and it will be monitored to review at Executive Team Level before they go out to advert.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the update on progress against the Corporate Plan 2024/25.

Reason for the decision:

To enable transparency and robust monitoring of performance and delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Other options considered and rejected:

Not applicable.

CA.327 Q3 FINANCE POSITION

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented the report which outlined an update on the forecast revenue outturn position, forecast savings position, forecast capital outturn position, forecast collection fund position and forecast for the housing revenue account as at 31st December for the third quarter of the financial year (October to December 2024).

Councillor Bernstein sought assurance the regarding the underspend and the external audit fees. In response Councillor Thorpe, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation advised that areas that are more unpredictable such as children's and adult's social care services are currently managed but things can change. In relation to Audit fees, Cllr Thorpe did advise that he will seek a response.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

- Note the 2024/25 forecast revenue outturn position as at 31 December 2024 of a £2.660m overspend (1.19%) against a net budget of £224.480m.
- Note the 2024/25 forecast savings position as at 31 December 2024 of a forecast underachievement of £77k (-1.21%) against an agreed target of £6.345m.
- Approve the in-year updates and re-phasing of the capital programme, revising the capital delivery programme for 2024/25 to £79.174m which will form the basis for future in-year monitoring and reporting of performance.
- Note the 2024/25 forecast Collection Fund Position as at 31 December 2024 of a surplus of £0.986m of which £0.786m relates to Bury's share.
- Approve the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget of a £6.239m surplus before appropriations following the work undertaken to integrate the Six Town Housing budgets and management structure into the HRA.

Reason for the decision:

- To update members on the Council's budgetary position and actions taken or being taken to ensure budgetary targets are achieved.

- This report is in accordance with the Council's financial procedure regulations.

Other options considered and rejected:

Not applicable.

CA.328 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION PROVISION FOR BURY'S VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR FROM APRIL 2025

Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion presented the report which outlined that the specification for the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) local infrastructure provision has been updated and tailored to reflect the latest regional and local context and priorities. This provision is to support the Bury deliver vital community capacity, inspiration and opportunity for greater participation, to improve outcomes for local people, tackle inequality and raise life chances, whilst ensuring effective use of ever scare resource.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Agreed the revised delivery framework with Bury Voluntary and Community Faith Alliance for local infrastructure organisation provision and is funded for 2025/26, with intent signalled on continuation for the following years subject to confirmation of funding availability across the Council and public sector partners.

Reason for the decision:

2. The funding of infrastructure provision in the Borough provides a clear commitment to the importance of the voluntary and community sector.

3. By refreshing the Service Level Agreement the report seeks to strengthen the recognition of the sector as key partner in improving outcomes for local people and the role infrastructure support plays in ensuring this is robust, recognised and representative.

4. The agreement allows for a clear focus of activity to develop Bury's VCFSE ecosystem in a tailored manner to best meet local needs, in turn delivering on LET'S Do It! and GM VCFSE Accord commitments.

Other options considered and rejected:

To not fund, or make a reduction in funding would significantly risk the loss of infrastructure support in the Borough, destabilising the wider VCFSE sector and jeopardise the positive progress made in recent years. Whilst recognising the financial pressures that the Council itself is under, investment in the infrastructure support to the VCFSE sector supports steps to increase the resilience of the sector itself, including supporting groups to attract inward investment into the Borough and diversity income generation streams. 4

To not update the specification would fail to capitalise on progress made in recent years but more importantly miss the opportunity to further tailor and target the focus of infrastructure support provision to be an enabler and facilitator of a sector contributing in a pivotal way to realising the Borough's LETS vision. As such to not update the specification would have risked there not been the appropriate local focus on ensuring a sustainable VCFSE ecosystem, best positioned and supported to enhance and enable local outcomes at place.

CA.329 BURY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2025-2028

Councillor Walmsley, Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion presented the report which outlined that the Bury Community Safety Partnership Strategy details the delivery in Bury of national safety missions, alongside local delivery of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan, tailoring and targeting resources to address specific local priorities derived from partnership data and insight from local people.

Councillor Bernstein sought assurances regarding how the plan will consider concerns from the Jewish community. In response Councillor Walmsley advised that the Community Safety Partnership is acutely aware of sentiments within local communities, particular in the Borough's Jewish communities given the challenging international landscape and following the 7th October 2023 attack. The report to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny in November recognised some of the activity which has, and continues to take place, particularly across the Tri-Borough footprint of Bury, Salford and Manchester, and in conjunction with partners such as the Community Security Trust and Shomrim. The Strategy directly acknowledges the largest Jewish communities that form an integral part of the Borough and are a consideration throughout the priorities of the strategy. There have been a number of projects funded through Standing Together monies which are specifically focusing on support either directly to Jewish communities or working across communities to increase awareness, understanding and respect. Councillor Walmsley, Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion requested if any member has any community intelligence or issues to raise them directly.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Approved the Bury Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2025-2028
2. Will receive regular updates on the delivery of the Strategy through input into Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for the decision:

Bury Council is a statutory member of Community Safety Partnership, including Executive leadership being co-chair of the Partnership. This endorsement demonstrates the commitment of the Council to delivering against local community safety priorities and through updates to Scrutiny ensures the strategy remains live during its life course.

Other options considered and rejected:

There is a statutory requirement for each Community Safety Partnership to produce a strategy outlining how the local authority in each locality will work in partnership to identify and address local safety priorities; this report and strategy is fulfilling that requirement

CA.330 DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (CONSULTATION DRAFT PLAN)

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report which outlined the part two Local Plan. Members were informed that Places for Everyone (PfE) is a part one plan that covers nine of the ten Greater Manchester districts. Places for Everyone was adopted in March 2024 and provides the strategic framework within which the participating districts need to develop their own part two Local Plans. The part two Local Plan provides a more detailed set of locally specific planning policies to complement the strategic policies within Places for Everyone. Once adopted, Bury's Local Plan policies will replace the saved policies in the Unitary Development Plan and will sit alongside Places for Everyone and the joint Greater Manchester Minerals and Waste Plans in forming Bury's wider development plan.

Councillor Smith sought clarity regarding 'house in multiple occupation' properties and what considered to be an unacceptable concentration of these properties. In response the Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth advised this guidance will allow for more informed decisions and understandings regarding an unacceptable level of concentration. In addition Cris Logue Assistant Director of Strategy, Planning & Development confirmed that each area in the consultation will include a topic paper.

The Leader wished to place on record a thanks to Cris Logue, Dave Marno and their teams for preparing the documents which demonstrate a large piece of work that has been undertaken.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Approved the draft Bury Local Plan, draft Policies Map and supporting background documents for an eight-week public consultation commencing no earlier than 17 March 2025;
2. Delegated approval to the Executive Director of Place to make minor non-material editorial amendments to the draft Local Plan before consultation commences.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that stakeholders have an opportunity to have their say on the draft Bury Local Plan.

Other options considered and rejected:

To not approve the Local Plan for consultation - This would prevent stakeholders commenting on the draft Local Plan and would result in the future adoption of the document being contrary to planning regulations.

CA.331 ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – HOLCROFT MOSS PLANNING OBLIGATIONS

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report which outlined the Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document which applies across the whole Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document area and has, therefore, been prepared jointly by the nine Places for Everyone Plan authorities.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Agreed to adopt the Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Joint Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), attached at Appendix 1, and the Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth in consultation with the Executive Director (Place) be given delegated authority to agree the date on which the SPD takes effect.
2. Agreed to provide Warrington Metropolitan Borough Council (as the responsible authority for implementing a mitigation strategy for Holcroft Moss) as necessary and through an appropriate mechanism, with S106 funds collected in accordance with the Holcroft Moss SPD.

3. Delegated approval to the Executive Director (Place) to make minor, non-material modifications to the Holcroft Moss Joint Supplementary Planning Document before final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other Places for Everyone authorities.

Reason for the decision:

To ensure that the Holcroft Moss Supplementary Planning Document can become a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and that developer contributions required to mitigate adverse impact(s) on the protected habitats and species of Holcroft Moss can be collected and appropriately handled.

Other options considered and rejected:

To not approve the SPD for adoption. This would prevent the SPD from becoming a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and hinder the collection of developer contributions required to mitigate adverse impact(s) on the protected habitats and species of Holcroft Moss.

CA.332 NORTHERN GATEWAY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report which set out the results of the consultation on the draft Northern Gateway Development Framework (NGDF) Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and sought approval for the final NGDF to be adopted.

Been positively received by the joint venture and really engaged and see as positive example and working well together

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the responses to the public consultation and proposed post consultation revisions set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report;
2. Approved the revised NGDF as the final version to be adopted and published.
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place), to make any minor non-material editorial amendments to the NGDF ahead of its final publication.

Reason for the decision:

The adoption of the document will establish a framework against which future planning applications on the Northern Gateway site will be considered, sets out high level design principles and an approach to the delivery and phasing of infrastructure on and off site.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered/were applicable.

CA.333 NORTHERN GATEWAY MDC

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report which proposed that a Mayoral Development Corporation is created to reflect the importance of the site

regionally and nationally. It is also an appropriate time to create more formal procedures for working with Rochdale Council in bringing the sites forward, until such time as the Mayoral Development Corporation is in place. As such, it is proposed that a Memorandum of Understanding is entered into between the two districts.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Endorsed the principles of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which has been developed to formalise the joint working arrangements with Rochdale Council to progress work on Atom Valley and Northern Gateway.
2. Delegated authority to the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and the Council Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth to develop the detail of the joint district MoU and formalise the agreement, or any subsequent agreement which is deemed necessary.
3. Noted the recommendations contained within Northern Gateway Delivery Vehicle Options Paper (Deloitte) and endorses the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) as the preferred delivery vehicle for Northern Gateway.
4. Approved the boundary (Appendix A) and name of the Northern Gateway MDC, in addition to endorsement of the proposed consultees
5. Authorised the approval to consult on an MDC as the preferred delivery vehicle for Northern Gateway to facilitate the establishment of an MDC, subject to the outcome of the consultation.
6. Noted that a further report will be brought back to Cabinet before an MDC will be formally implemented, with more details on its Governance structure and operations.
7. Noted Rochdale Borough Council's intention to take a similar report to their respective Executive in respect all items detailed above.
8. That, subject to the decisions of this Council and Rochdale Council, a report will be presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority requesting that it endorse the proposal to consult on the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation as the preferred delivery vehicle for Northern Gateway.
9. That a further report will be presented to Cabinet following the outcome of the consultation before any recommendation is made to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to request the Secretary of State to formally establish an MDC for the Northern Gateway site.

Reason for the decision:

.

Further to Cabinet approval in September 2024 to endorse the development of joint working arrangements with Rochdale Council, approval of the principles of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rochdale Council and delegation to develop and formalise the MoU will further cement alignment of our shared commitment to work together with our partners to deliver Northern Gateway.

Following Cabinet endorsement in September 2024 to allow officers to explore potential delivery options for Northern Gateway, joint advice was commissioned between the Councils

and Greater Manchester Combined Authority which concludes that a Mayoral Development Corporation is the most appropriate delivery vehicle to achieve our shared ambitions for the Northern Gateway. Approval to consult on the implementation of an MDC as the preferred delivery vehicle for Northern Gateway will allow the statutory process for implementation to progress for an MDC to be established, there is a statutory requirement for a consultation to take place.

Approval of the proposed name and boundary of the Northern Gateway MDC will provide the material required to commence the statutory consultation process

Other options considered and rejected:

That the principles of the Memorandum of Understanding are not approved, undermining the relationship that has been built up with Rochdale Council and increasing risk to the delivery of Northern Gateway.

That the MDC is not endorsed as the preferred delivery vehicle for Northern Gateway. Prior to identifying an MDC as the recommended delivery vehicle for Northern Gateway, the Northern Gateway Delivery Vehicle Options Paper (Deloitte) undertook an analysis of a range of alternative vehicles. These alternative vehicles were discounted for a range of reasons, including intensive time and resources required to set up, level of risk share with the private sector, insufficient powers, difficulties in creating cross-boundary governance and reliance on pending legislation creating threats to delivery timelines based on an untested model with no best practise basis.

That the proposed MDC boundary and name are not approved, which would result in the consultation not being able to take place.

That the approval to consult on the Northern Gateway MDC is not given, meaning further work could not progress on its implementation and increasing risk to the cohesive delivery of Northern Gateway.

CA.334 CARE AT HOME TENDER APPROVAL

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing presented the report which outlined that the current Care at Home service was commissioned in October 2021 for a period of three years and extended for a further 12-months until October 2025. Therefore, it is now necessary to seek permission to start the process which will ultimately result in the procurement of a new Care at Home contract in Bury starting in October 2025.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Approval to commence the re-tender (open tender process) for a new Care at Home service to start in October 2025 for a period of 3 years with the option to extend for one year plus one year, at a cost of approximately £10m a year.
2. Delegate the authority to approve the service specification to the Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning.
3. Return to Cabinet in September 2025 to request approval to contract awards.

Reason for the decision:

The Council has a legal duty to follow Procurement Law and fair purchasing processes.

Other options considered and rejected:

Alternative options are not applicable due to Procurement Law and the requirement to complete a re-tender exercise.

CA.335 SALE OF NEW SUMMERSEAT HOUSE, RAMSBOTTOM.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report which recommended that New Summerseat House in Ramsbottom is disposed of via auction. The site is part of the Asset Transformation Programme (formerly the Accelerated Land and Property Disposal programme) and has been vacant for many years. The disposal of this site will bring forward the restoration of this listed building, end problems caused to local residents by the empty building attracting anti-social behaviour and remove ongoing liabilities to the Council for security and maintenance.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the intention to dispose of New Summerseat House via auction subject to the auction reaching the reserve price.
2. Delegated the agreement of the reserve price to the Director of Law and Democratic Services and the Executive Director (Place).
3. Delegated the final signing of all contracts required to complete the transaction to the Director of Law and Democratic services. It should be noted that when the gavel falls a binding legal agreement is formed with an obligation to complete usually within 20 working days.

Reason for the decision:

To bring forward the sale of New Summerseat house in a timely manner thereby reducing ongoing liabilities to the Council and to bring the site forward for redevelopment.

Other options considered and rejected:

Option 1 – Do nothing

In this scenario the property would be left vacant, its condition would further deteriorate, and the property would continue to attract anti-social behaviour. The Council would be responsible for ongoing security and maintenance costs. This option would not ensure the renovation of the listed building and possible redevelopment of the site. As such, this option has been discounted.

Option 2 – Dispose at auction

This option would see the property asset disposed of in a timely manner with a capital receipt received in the summer of 2025. The disposal will remove the ongoing liabilities to the Council for security and maintenance and bring the site and listed building forward for redevelopment.

CA.336 EXTENSION OF BURY SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing presented the report which requested the extension of Bury Council's current substance misuse contract with Greater Manchester Mental Health for a final twelve months, from 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Extend Bury Council's current substance misuse contract with GMMH for a final twelve months, from 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026 and not proceed with a direct award to the current provider for a longer term.
2. Agree for Public Health colleagues to explore competitive retender opportunities from 01st April 26, including partnering with other Local Authorities whose substance misuse contracts with GMMH also expire on 31st March 2026.

Reason for the decision:

Tender for new provider(s)

Pros:

- Allows direct comparison to other providers.
- Reduced management fee rates to enabling more investment in workforce and staffing
- Ensures the Council is achieving best value for money and maintains service quality for our residents.
- Supports cluster commissioning with other GM Local Authorities, ensuring a consistent service offer, whilst reducing commissioning, legal and procurement capacity demands across all four LA's.
- Enables better value for the same cost, whether through price reductions, improved service quality or added value over a long term contract.
- Would align with current / planned projects and external funding streams, such as OHID grants.
- Maintains the partnership between partnership authorities (Bolton, Salford and Trafford) who will also be ending their contract with GMMH. This currently allows for economies of scale of work, shared back-office functions and a peer support approach across all organisations involved.
- Cluster commissioning model is successfully used for Bury's Sexual Health contract, where Bury, Oldham and Rochdale Councils collaborate.
- The retender process will consider the various elements of the substance misuse service which includes adults, young people, and assertive outreach. This may mean we consider tendering for more than one provider to cover all service needs effectively.

Cons:

- Disruption to current service users and staff. Anecdotal reports from the last tender in 2018 demonstrated that implementation of a new provider can cause disruption to service users and lead to low staff morale.
- Potential disruption to performance.
- Loss of Addictions services at GMMH, with all four LA areas ending their contract with the trust as of 31/3/26.
- The council will need to procure services under the new procurement Act (2023) under the Provider Selection Regime (PSR) which will change process to procure health services and adhere to new processes and legislation.

Other options considered and rejected:

Extending the current contract for a further 12 months will ensure continuity for ongoing projects and funding streams while future options are considered.

Public Health acknowledges that a 12-month extension will provide an opportunity to explore all options for future service provision, including potential procurement alongside other GM LA's. While the service configuration and provider may change, this review will ensure that future provision delivers the highest quality and best value for money for residents.

Public Health is committed to working closely with GMMH during the 12- month extension period on develop a sustainable service that meets the needs of Bury residents and retains the local bury workforce within a future long term contract with the successful provider(s).

CA.337 UNIT 4 SYSTEM UPGRADE & TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIC PARTNER CONTRACT AWARD

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented the report which was a follow on from the Unit 4 Contract Award Report approved by Cabinet on 25 September 2025 and Unit 4 System Upgrade & Transformation Report approved by Cabinet on 12 February 2025.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Approve the award of the Strategic Partner to the successful supplier.
2. Approve the one-off capital investment cost to be incepted into the capital programme, to be funded from a combination of earmarked reserves and/or capital receipts

Reason for the decision:

The current Financial Management System is nearing the end of its lifecycle, which limits efforts to modernise. Challenges include fragmented financial processes, reliance on manual tasks, and a lack of self-service options for staff and suppliers. There are also number of inherent risks and compliance concerns regarding the existing system alongside high reliance on manually based financial transaction activities which is affecting the efficiency of the finance service and the wider organisation.

As stated in the September Cabinet report, Unit 4 have informed clients that the current on-premises version of Unit 4, which the council operates will be unsupported after 2026 and therefore this creates a burning platform to change and modernise the Financial Management System, but also an opportunity to drive through financial transformation programme throughout the Council.

Other options considered and rejected:

None.

CA.338 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR

Decision:

That Council be recommended to appoint Councillor Tahir Rafiq as Deputy Mayor for the Civic year 2025/26.

CA.339 MINUTES OF ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES / GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority meeting held on 31st January 2025 be noted.

CA.340 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

CA.341 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Decision:
That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100 (A)(4), Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, for the reason that the following business involves the disclosure of exempt information as detailed against the item.

CA.342 UNIT 4 SYSTEM UPGRADE & TRANSFORMATION STRATEGIC PARTNER CONTRACT AWARD - PART B

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented the Part B report which set out the full financial details which was a follow on from the Unit 4 Contract Award Report approved by Cabinet on 25 September 2025 and Unit 4 System Upgrade & Transformation Report approved by Cabinet on 12 February 2025.

Decision:

The Cabinet:

1. Approve the award of the Strategic Partner to the successful supplier.
2. Approve the one-off capital investment cost to be incepted into the capital programme, to be funded from a combination of earmarked reserves and/or capital receipts

Reason for the decision:

As set out for Part A.

Other options considered and rejected:

As set out for Part A.

COUNCILLOR E O'BRIEN
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.30 pm)

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date: 16 April 2025**
Subject:	Adoption of Supplementary Planning Document 18 – Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw	
Report of	Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth	

Summary

1. This report sets out the results of the consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document 18 – Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw and seeks approval for the final SPD to be formally adopted.

Recommendation(s)

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:

3. Note the responses to the public consultation and the proposed post-consultation revisions as set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

4. Approve the revised SPD as the final version to be adopted and published.

i. Delegate authority to the Executive Director (Place), to make any minor non-material editorial amendments to the SPD ahead of its final publication.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

5. The adoption of the document will ensure that consistent guidance is in place to inform the scope and content of the comprehensive masterplans and phasing strategies that are required to be prepared for the strategic housing sites at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw that are allocated in the adopted Places for Everyone Joint Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected

6. To not adopt the SPD. This would prevent the use of consistent guidance to inform the scope and content of the comprehensive masterplans and phasing strategies for each site.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: David Wiggins

Position: Service Manager: Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

Department: Business, Growth and Infrastructure

E-mail: d.i.wiggins@bury.gov.uk

Background

7. Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) are non-statutory documents prepared in consultation with the local community. They build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted development plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues.

8. As they do not form part of the development plan, SPDs cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. However, they are a material consideration in decision-making.

9. Following its adoption on 21 March 2024, the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE) became a key part of Bury's statutory development plan. PfE is a long-term plan of nine Greater Manchester districts (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth.

10. One of the key purposes of PfE is to identify the amount of new development needed across the 9 districts and strategic site allocations that would help to meet these needs. This includes strategic site allocations for housing in Bury at Elton Reservoir (PfE Policy JPA7) and Walshaw (PfE Policy JPA9). There are also cross-boundary allocations at the Northern Gateway where the Council are working jointly with Rochdale Council on these sites.

11. A key requirement of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites is that any proposals for these allocations must be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan that has been approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and that it shall include a clear phasing strategy as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of infrastructure to support the scale of the whole development in line with PfE Policy JP-D1 'Infrastructure

Implementation'. This requirement is a critical stage in providing a 'bridge' between the sites' allocation in PfE and subsequent planning consent.

12. SPD18 sets out more detailed guidance on what the Council will expect in terms of this specific requirement of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw strategic site allocations. In particular, SPD18 requires the masterplans and phasing strategies are supported by detailed evidence to justify the approach and that this is presented collectively as a Development Framework for each site. It is intended that these Development Frameworks be approved as SPDs in their own right so that they will be a material consideration in the decision-making process for subsequent planning applications.

Summary of consultation and responses

13. On 25 September 2024, Cabinet members approved a draft of SPD18 for consultation purposes. In accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, consultation was subsequently undertaken over a six-week period running from 18 October to 29 November 2024 to establish stakeholder views on its content.

14. Consultation undertaken in relation to the draft SPD18 is set out in the Consultation Statement which is appended to this report (Appendix 2). Consultation involved making relevant material available for inspection on the Council's web site; in the reception area of the Town Hall; and at local libraries and the Tottington Centre. Letters/emails were also sent to all contacts on the Strategic Planning consultation database and consultation was also advertised via social media platforms.

15. The consultation generated a total of 166 comments covering a wide range of issues. The issues raised and the Council's response to these are set out in the Consultation Analysis appended to this report (Appendix 3).

16. The consideration of these comments has led to the conclusion that SPD18 would benefit from a number of changes prior to it being formally adopted and these are also set out in the Consultation Analysis. The updated version of SPD18 is attached at Appendix 1.

Conclusion

17. Members are requested to approve the proposed changes to SPD18 before agreeing to adopt it as fully up-to-date guidance

---

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

18. Places for Everyone forms part of Bury's statutory development plan. It sets out statutory policies and strategic site allocations that will guide future growth and development in the Borough. A key part of the Plan is to rebalance the Greater Manchester economy by significantly boosting the economic output from the north through the delivery of new housing and employment that will benefit both Bury and its residents. The 'Let's Do It' strategy specifically refers to Places for Everyone as having a key role to play in the delivery of its objectives and priorities.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

19. The appended EIA was fully completed in September 2024 with positive and neutral impacts identified only. The activity is not expected to have any adverse equalities impacts

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

20. The development of the PfE strategic housing allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw will need to be in accordance with relevant PfE policies, including Policies JP-S2 (Carbon and Energy) and JP-G8 (A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity). The draft SPD highlights that these policies are relevant to the development of these sites and will need to be considered through the preparation of the respective Development Frameworks.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Potential Judicial Review of the SPD following adoption.	The SPD has been prepared in accordance with all statutory requirements and is considered to be sound, justified and in accordance with the development plan.

Legal Implications:

21. The statutory requirements for the preparation of SPDs are set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the report set out how these requirements have been followed. Before adoption of the SPD, Cabinet must consider the issues raised during the consultation and how those issues have been addressed. If adopted, the SPD will be a material consideration to which regard may be had in determining planning applications.

22. If the SPD is adopted, the Council must publish an "Adoption Statement" specifying the date of adoption, any modifications made and the time limits for anyone aggrieved by the decision to apply for permission for judicial review of the decision.

Financial Implications:

23. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Revised Supplementary Planning Document 18 - Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw

Appendix 2 – SPD18 Consultation Statement

Appendix 3 – SPD18 Consultation Analysis

Background papers:

Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (adopted March 2024).

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
PfE	Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan

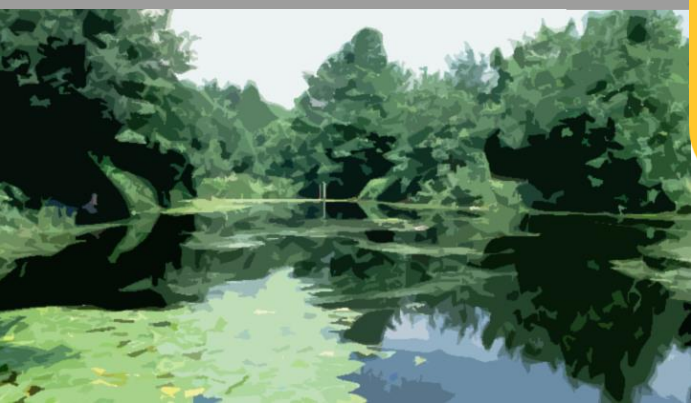
This page is intentionally left blank

Bury Council

Supplementary Planning Document 18

Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw

April 2025



Contents

1. Introduction 4
2. Policy context 6
National policy and guidance 6
Bury's Development Plan 7
3. General advice 9
The purpose of the Development Framework 9
Status and approval mechanisms 11
Collaborative working 12
Planning Performance Agreements (PPA) 12
Equalisation agreements 13
Infrastructure funding 14
Community and stakeholder engagement 14
Environmental Impact Assessment 15
The scope and content of the Development Framework 16
4. Site-specific advice: Elton Reservoir 21
Relevant Development Plan Policies 21
Places for Everyone 21
Bury Unitary Development Plan 25
Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan 26
Key requirements for the Elton Reservoir site 26
Strategic highways 27
Sustainable transport and highways infrastructure 28
Affordable housing provision 30
Education provision 30
Local centre 31
Health provision 31
Ecology 32
Biodiversity net gain 33
Heritage 34
Country Park 34
Recreation provision 35

Flood risk....36
Green Belt compensation....37
Design....37
5. Site-specific advice: Walshaw....39
Relevant Development Plan Policies....39
Places for Everyone....39
Bury Unitary Development Plan....42
Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan....43
Key requirements for the Walshaw site....44
Strategic through road....44
Sustainable transport and highways infrastructure....45
Affordable housing provision....46
Education provision....47
Local centre....47
Health provision....47
Ecology....48
Biodiversity net gain....50
Heritage....50
Recreation provision....51
Flood risk....52
Green Belt compensation....53
Design....53

1. Introduction

1.1. Supplementary planning documents (SPDs) build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted development plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design.

1.2. As they do not form part of the development plan, SPDs cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. However, they are a material consideration in decision-making.

1.3. Following its adoption on 21 March 2024, the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE) became a key part of Bury's statutory development plan alongside the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Plans. The Council is currently progressing a new Local Plan which, once adopted, will replace the saved policies of the Bury UDP.

1.4. PfE is a long-term plan of nine Greater Manchester districts (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for jobs, new homes, and sustainable growth. One of the key purposes of PfE is to identify the amount of new development needed across the 9 districts and strategic site allocations that would help to meet these needs. This includes strategic site allocations for housing in Bury at Elton Reservoir (PfE Policy JPA7) and Walshaw (PfE Policy JPA9). There are also cross-boundary allocations at the Northern Gateway where the Council is working jointly with Rochdale Council on these sites.

1.5. Increasingly, existing services and infrastructure cannot accommodate additional development in an area. As a result, in order to secure sustainable growth, planned new development at a strategic scale, such as Bury's PfE strategic site allocations, bring significant benefits, not least in terms of securing infrastructure alongside growth and as an effective source of development delivery over time. This role in ensuring that development and infrastructure come forward in a planned and comprehensive manner is important to local stakeholders and formed a critical part of the justification for the removal of the Elton and Walshaw sites from the Green Belt and their allocation for the proposed development. This SPD will help to ensure that this vision is fulfilled throughout the lifetime of the development process.

1.6. However, securing approvals for such sites and ensuring their effective implementation, is a time and resource-intensive process which requires commitments from all parties and a clear vision for the site.

1.7. Local planning authorities are increasingly involved in directing, shaping and delivering this growth. This frequently includes working alongside the private sector from the time at which a site is originally identified and through the processes of allocation and consent to the point at which development is on the ground. The aim is to ensure that the original objectives materialise to deliver the high-quality places and appropriate type of development which meets the needs of the local area.

1.8. A key requirement of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites (policies JPA7 and JPA9) is that any proposals for these allocations must be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan that has been approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and that it shall include a clear phasing strategy as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of infrastructure to support the scale of the whole development in line with PfE Policy JP-D1 'Infrastructure Implementation'.

1.9. This requirement is a critical stage in providing a ‘bridge’ between the sites’ allocation in PfE and subsequent planning consent.

1.10. This Supplementary Planning Document 18 (SPD18) sets out more detailed guidance on what the Council will expect to see within future masterplans and phasing strategies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites, highlighting the relevant development plan policies and key requirements for each site in terms of the specific requirements of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw strategic site allocations. The Council’s strong preference is that these further Development Frameworks will be adopted as SPDs. In accordance with Policies JPA7 and JPA9 of PfE future planning applications within the sites must accord with the contents of both this SPD and future Development Framework SPDs. .

2. Policy context

National policy and guidance

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[1] sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally prepared plans can provide for sufficient housing and other development in a sustainable manner.

2.2 Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF must be considered in preparing the development plan and is a material consideration in planning decisions.

2.3 Paragraph 129 of the NPPF states that:

'Area-based character assessments, design guides and codes and masterplans can be used to help ensure that land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places…'

2.4 The NPPF is supported by Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)[2] which states that:

'Masterplans set the vision and implementation strategy for a development. They are distinct from local design guides by focusing on site specific proposals such as the scale and layout of development, mix of uses, transport and green infrastructure. Depending on the level of detail, the masterplan may indicate the intended arrangement of buildings, streets and the public realm…' and that 'A range of other plans and technical reports may be needed alongside a masterplan, to provide supporting evidence and set out related proposals, such as a local character study, landscape assessment, transport assessment and proposals for securing biodiversity net gain. An implementation strategy could also be included, especially where development is expected to be brought forward in a number of phases'. (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 26-006-20191001).

[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance

2.5 In describing how masterplans can be used most effectively, PPG states that:

'Masterplans are most likely to be produced by local authorities or developers. For local authorities, they can help to clarify design expectations early in the planning process, set a clear vision for the site, inform infrastructure and viability assessments and identify requirements for developer contributions or other investment. Developers may produce a masterplan to help evolve their own vision for a site, assess options, engage the local planning authority and community in pre-application discussions and support an outline planning application.

Whoever prepares them, masterplans can benefit from a collaborative approach between the local planning authority, site promoters and local communities so that aspirations and constraints are understood early on. Masterplans produced by local planning authorities may be adopted as supplementary planning documents to give them weight in decisions on applications. Masterplans often apply to schemes that are developed over a long time period and so may need to be subject to regular review and be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances.

Care should be taken to ensure that masterplans are viable and well understood by all involved and that graphic representations of what the development will look like do not mislead the public by showing inaccurate details or significant elements not yet decided upon'. (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 26-007-20191001).

Bury's Development Plan

2.6 Bury's statutory development plan currently comprises:

- The saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan[3] (adopted August 1997);
- The Places for Everyone Joint Plan[4] (adopted March 2024);
- The Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan[5] (adopted April 2013); and
- The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan[6] (adopted April 2012)

[3] https://www.bury.gov.uk/planning-building-control/policy-and-projects/planning-policy/adopted-bury-unitary-development-plan
[4] https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/9578/places-for-everyone-joint-development-plan-document.pdf
[5] https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1995/the_minerals_plan_april_2013_final.pdf
[6] https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1994/greater_manchester_waste_plan_opt.pdf

2.7 The relevant development plan policies that are applicable to both the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites are set out in Chapters 4 and 5 respectively.

2.8 It should be noted that the intention is for the saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan to be replaced by a new Local Plan and, depending on the timescales for bringing forward the Development Frameworks and planning applications for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites, policies within the Local Plan may be applicable.

3. General advice

3.1 The general advice within this section applies to both site allocations made under PfE Policies JPA7 (Elton Reservoir) and JPA9 (Walshaw). Chapters 4 and 5 set out the advice that is specific to the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites respectively.

3.2 As recognised in Planning Practice Guidance, a range of other plans and technical reports may be needed alongside a masterplan and, in accordance with this, the Council requires the masterplan and infrastructure phasing strategy to be accompanied by detailed supporting evidence and for this to be collectively presented as a Development Framework for the site.

3.3 In particular, the general advice sets out:

- The purpose of the Development Framework;
- The proposed status of and approval mechanisms for the Development Framework;
- The benefits of collaborative working between the Council and site promoters/developers/landowners, including Planning Performance Agreement and equalisation agreements;
- Potential methods of infrastructure funding;
- The benefits of effective community and stakeholder engagement;
- The need for an Environmental Impact Assessment for the whole of each site; and
- The expected scope and content of the Development Framework.

3.4 The advice in this SPD draws on guidance set out in the toolkit prepared by the Local Government Association and Planning Advisory Service - 'The Effective Delivery of Strategic Sites' (September 2021)[7].

The purpose of the Development Framework

3.5 The allocation of the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites through Places for Everyone establishes the principle of residential and associated development on both sites and the purpose of the Development Framework is to effectively bridge the gap between this allocation and the subsequent

[7] https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/effective-delivery-strategic-sites-accessible-version#introduction

detail of the development that will emerge through planning applications on the sites.

3.6 Development Frameworks for the sites will ensure that development fulfils the vision and objectives that justified their removal from the Green Belt and complies with the provisions of the development plan. This will include comprehensive masterplans showing how the whole sites and their infrastructure will be delivered including phasing strategies to show how phases of the development and the infrastructure needed to support them will be co-ordinated both in relation to each site and across the two sites. By adopting this approach, the Development Frameworks will ensure that piecemeal development of part of either site, which does not accord with and help deliver the comprehensive development of the site, is avoided.

3.7 The preparation of the Development Framework and its supporting evidence will ensure that key issues for the sites are identified and addressed to the satisfaction of all parties at an early stage in the planning process.

3.8 The Framework will establish the parameters against which future planning applications will be considered and because key issues have been factored in at an early stage, this should enable any applications to be progressed in a timelier manner.

3.9 On both sites, the homes that are delivered must be supported by adequate physical and social infrastructure to meet the needs of the people that will live in them and to mitigate against potential impacts arising from the development. However, the delivery of strategic sites can often be complicated by land ownerships within the site, with each owner potentially having differing views and aspirations on a variety of issues, including phasing, design, timeframes for delivery and contributions towards infrastructure.

3.10 As required by PfE policies for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) and Walshaw (JPA9), **the Development Framework will need to include a clear and coordinated infrastructure phasing strategy that sets out how, when and where this will be delivered and funded and phased to avoid disconnects between phases and construction of key services and connections.**

3.11 Fundamentally, the purpose of the Development Framework is to ensure that key issues for the site are identified at an early stage in the planning process and addressed in ways that are consistent with relevant planning policies. By planning strategically across the site as a whole, the Development Framework will ensure that there will be a comprehensive and coordinated

approach to the development of the whole site, including the delivery and location of supporting infrastructure and any necessary mitigation measures, design and placemaking principles.

3.12 The Framework will establish the parameters against which future planning applications will be considered and will ensure that, in the event of a planning application being submitted on part of the site, the Council is able to consider this within the context of the whole site and with an understanding of how, when and where the infrastructure required to support the development as a whole will be delivered, including new strategic highways, off-site highway interventions, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel routes, education provision, green infrastructure etc. **In the absence of an approved Development Framework, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to support piecemeal planning applications on the sites and applications which fail to deliver or contribute towards the wider strategic infrastructure will be resisted**.

Status and approval mechanisms

3.13 To give the Development Frameworks for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw material weight in the decision-making process, it is the Council's strong preference for them to be approved and adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) in their own right.

3.14 SPDs for strategic sites are generally a useful tool to move from fixing the principle of development in the development plan to fixing key spatial development aspects.

3.15 In terms of approval mechanisms, in broad terms this will involve:

- Approval of the draft Development Frameworks by the Council's Cabinet for consultation;
- Consultation on the draft Development Frameworks for a minimum period of 6 weeks;
- Where necessary, making amendments to the Development Frameworks taking account of any representations made in response to consultation; and
- Approval to adopt the final versions of the Development Frameworks by the Council's Cabinet.

3.16 Preparation, consultation and subsequent adoption of the Development Frameworks will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Part

5 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

3.17 Given the scale of the sites at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw, circumstances may arise that require the Development Frameworks to be updated over time.

Collaborative working

3.18 The Development Frameworks should ideally be co-produced, with the site promoter(s)/developer(s)/landowner(s) working in partnership with the Council and other relevant bodies. A collaborative approach towards the production of the Development Frameworks will ensure that it ultimately represents a position that all parties are satisfied with. This includes collaboration between the site promoters of both sites around issues that are common to both sites e.g. highways infrastructure.

3.19 Once at draft stage, the Council would effectively take 'ownership' of the Development Frameworks and take them through the necessary processes up to the final adoption of the Supplementary Planning Documents (see paragraph 3.14 above).

Planning Performance Agreements (PPA)

3.20 Ensuring that the right resources and skills are available at the right stage of the process is an important, and often challenging, aspect of both delivering and supporting the delivery of strategic scale development.

3.21 To ensure that the Council can allocate appropriate resources to progress the proposals for the sites in a timely manner, it is strongly advised that the developer(s)/site promoter(s)/landowner(s) enter into a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA).

3.22 The PPA will be a useful tool for focussing discussions on the issues that will need to be addressed throughout the course of preparing the Development Framework and the subsequent preparation and determination of planning applications. It will help in ensuring that the Council is engaged at the earliest stage to advise on the scope of evidence required to support the Development Frameworks and the wider preparation process. It will also help to establish the timescales and resources that are likely to be required from all parties and allows for consistency in the approach and funding for both sites.

3.23 Where possible, it will be important to maintain continuity of Council staff dealing with each site from the outset. This is particularly important in strategic sites, where issues are often complex, can take a long time to reach a solution and can re-occur throughout the process.

3.24 Consistency of resource and skills are not only important within planning teams dealing with strategic sites, but also within wider disciplines which have key inputs to planning decision making, such as specialists in areas such as highways, flood risk, ecology, heritage, regeneration and housing. The PPA will also help to maintain resources as consistently as possible within these wider disciplines which will be important for project continuity and to enable issues that arise to be dealt with consistently.

3.25 Developers/site promoters/landowners that choose to prepare a Development Framework without involvement from the Council and its partners will run the risk that the submitted Framework would not align with the Council's aspirations for the site and that, consequently, the Framework is not approved. This could potentially lead to delays in progressing towards the submission of policy-compliant planning applications for the site and the subsequent delivery of development.

3.26 If a Development Framework has not been prepared in partnership with the Council, a PPA will be requested. In the absence of a PPA there is a risk that the Council may be unable to properly resource the review of the Framework and its supporting evidence leading to potential delays in securing approval of the Framework – a process that would not be required if the Council was able to review material on an on-going basis throughout the Framework's preparation stage.

Equalisation agreements

3.27 It is vital that the masterplan that will sit within the wider Development Framework is prepared on an 'ownership-blind' basis i.e. that location of the infrastructure that is necessary to support the development as a whole (e.g. schools, highways, open space, sustainable urban drainage systems, ecological mitigation and local centres) takes no account of land ownership. The way in which this is calculated can be very complex but unless this is agreed up front, it can delay the delivery of development.

3.28 Similarly, where highways and services cross the site to serve the whole development, agreements need to be in place to secure the timing of this infrastructure to avoid disadvantaging one party or delaying the delivery of one part of the site because of an inability to connect to key infrastructure

and/or utilities. Indeed, it may be the case that some elements of the required infrastructure, such as strategic highways or off-site highways interventions, need to be fully delivered in advance of any housing coming forward. Again, failure to have agreements in place as to how this is to be delivered will be likely to impact on the timely delivery of housing development.

3.29 Significant complications can arise around this issue unless there is an agreement in place to 'equalise' the land and delivery costs between all parties. The Development Frameworks should set out the appropriate outcomes in terms of co-ordination of infrastructure with phases of development and establishing a mechanism for fair and proportionate contributions towards shared and strategic infrastructure requirements.

3.30 The absence of an equalisation agreement would cause difficulties in coming to an agreed position on the Development Framework for the whole site as there is likely to be considerable debate and differing views between developers, site promoters and landowners as to what land uses and infrastructure are to be located on what part of the site, or whether certain uses straddle two land ownerships.

Infrastructure funding

3.31 Collaboration between site promoter(s)/developer(s)/landowner(s) and the Local Planning Authority should also include exploring different options for funding the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

3.32 This may, for example, explore the potential for adopting a 'per dwelling' tariff-type or framework s106 agreement where each landowner makes contributions to infrastructure costs, apportioned taking into account the mix of in kind and financial contributions to be made on each landholding.

3.33 Where appropriate, the Local Planning Authority may take a more proactive role as infrastructure provider on site, using preferential borrowing to build common infrastructure itself before being 'reimbursed' by the receipts from 'per dwelling' developer contributions. The Council will also explore other public finance opportunities.

Community and stakeholder engagement

3.34 Community and stakeholder engagement and consultation is an essential part in delivering strategic scale sites. Consideration must be given to both wider community engagement and direct political engagement with elected members.

3.35 Whilst clearly not all elements of the process will be able to be publicly available (commercial viability considerations or s106 negotiations for example), effective early community and stakeholder engagement will be critical in shaping the outcomes of the masterplan and infrastructure delivery strategy and to make it explicit that the central role the Local Planning Authority has in balancing competing interests.

3.36 Whilst there are statutory instruments which will require consultation and engagement, the Council would expect the preparation of Development Frameworks for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw to go above and beyond these statutory processes in order to generate positive outcomes and greater trust in the process.

3.37 As such, early and effective engagement and understanding of what stakeholders and the public really want or expect from the delivery of the site during the preparation of the Development Framework can go a long way to ensuring a smoother process to the delivery and formation of a new community.

Environmental Impact Assessment

3.38 The process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in the context of town and country planning in England is governed by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the '2017 Regulations').

3.39 The aim of EIA is to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely significant effects, and takes this into account in the decision-making process for the development as a whole. The regulations set out a procedure for identifying those projects which should be subject to an EIA and for assessing, consulting and coming to a decision on those projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects. The aim of Environmental Impact Assessment is also to ensure that the public are given early and effective opportunities to participate in the decision-making procedures.

3.40 The need for an EIA has been considered within the context of the sites as a whole, rather than considered within the context of individual planning applications and the physical scale of the developments at both the Elton Reservoir and the Walshaw sites would be above the thresholds of 150 dwellings and 5 hectares. Both developments will also involve the delivery of

other infrastructure including a strategic highways and transport infrastructure, education provision, new local centres and off-site highways works and this will need to be considered comprehensively as whole projects for the purposes of the EIA Regulations.

3.41 Consequently, the development of the sites at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw are likely to have significant environmental effects and, as such, an EIA will be required for each site and undertaken on the basis of the whole site.

3.42 The EIA should be presented in an Environmental Statement, the scope of which should be agreed with the Local Planning Authority in advance.

3.43 The Environmental Statement must include at least the information reasonably required to assess the likely significant environmental effects of the development listed in regulation 18(3) and comply with regulation 18(4).

3.44 To ensure the completeness and quality of the Environmental Statement, it should be prepared by competent experts and include a statement outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.

The scope and content of the Development Framework

3.45 As required under the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites, the Development Frameworks should comprise a comprehensive masterplan and a clear infrastructure phasing strategy and both of these elements should be supported by a wide ranging and comprehensive evidence base to justify the approach taken.

3.46 The Development Framework should reflect a balance between fixing key elements of the development and the ability for the document to have a degree of longevity as a guide for future development by building in flexibility to allow for changing circumstances.

3.47 Consequently, the Development Framework should include fixed elements, such as the extent of built development and areas to be left open; the breakdown of land uses; and key transport routes, including strategic highways, public transport infrastructure and active travel routes. Conversely, the Development Framework does not need to be overly prescriptive on matters such as housing mix and tenure which may need to be adjusted over time within a set of guiding parameters.

3.48 In terms of its specific content, the Development Frameworks for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw and their supporting evidence should, as a minimum, cover the areas set out in Table 1.

Table 1 – Scope and content of the Development Framework

Chapter	Overview of Content
1. Introduction	▪ Introduction to the site, including identification of site boundary and proposals for the site. ▪ Purpose of the document.
	▪
2. Strategic Context	▪ Setting out the visions for the sites which led to their allocation and the key strategic messages relevant to the site (including those from national, sub-regional and local planning policy, Bury 2030 Lets Do It Strategy and other relevant plans and strategies).
3. Understanding of the Site	▪ Site description (including site size, surrounding land uses, location from a local and sub-regional perspective, transport links, proximity to social and green infrastructure and services etc.) ▪ Relevant planning history. ▪ Site ownership(s). ▪ Site conditions/constraints (key existing features and constraints, including Public Rights of Way, natural habitats and wildlife or similar, green/blue infrastructure, flood risk, drainage topography, built heritage, archaeology, geotechnical, utilities, coal mining entries/shallow coal workings etc.). ▪ Analysis of existing infrastructure and identification of capacity constraints. ▪ Site opportunities.
4. Engagement	▪ Overview of the engagement undertaken during the preparation of the Development

	Framework and how the masterplan has responded to this.
5. Vision and Objectives	▪ Vision – high level statement of aspirations for the site. ▪ Strategic objectives for the site.
6. Masterplan Framework	Concept-wide masterplan and presentation of key strategic principles that fully respond to the strategic context, vision and objectives for the site including: ▪ Response to surrounding context and character. ▪ Land uses and location of key services. ▪ Character areas. ▪ Legibility. ▪ Quality. ▪ Built form: uses, density, scale and frontages. ▪ Street hierarchy/movement - key transport routes, active travel corridors and connectivity. ▪ Parking and servicing. ▪ Affordable housing. ▪ Green Belt compensation. ▪ Green corridors/Green/Blue Infrastructure connections. ▪ Open space and recreation provision. ▪ Trees and woodland. ▪ Landscape. ▪ Biodiversity (including net gain). ▪ Flood Risk/Drainage (including SuDS). ▪ Climate change, carbon, heat and energy. ▪ Health and wellbeing. ▪ Heritage.

	▪ Minerals. This section will present a high-level framework to which future planning applications for individual phases must accord with/precursor to detailed design codes.
7. Infrastructure delivery strategy	▪ Full details of on-site and off-site infrastructure improvements required to support the development, such as highways, utilities, education, green, social, digital, drainage etc. ▪ Timescales for implementation of on-site and off-site infrastructure to be aligned with the phasing of development of the allocation. ▪ Evidence of collaboration and early engagement to consider alignment of infrastructure provision with other infrastructure provider's programmes. ▪ Likely funding mechanisms. ▪ Developer contributions. ▪ Viability assessment. ▪ Roles and responsibilities.
8. Scheme Benefits	Infographics relating to potential scheme benefits.
9. Main Partners	Overview of the main delivery partners and their respective roles and inputs into the Development Framework – e.g. Landowners, Bury Council, GMCA, TfGM, Highways England etc.

4. Site-specific advice: Elton Reservoir

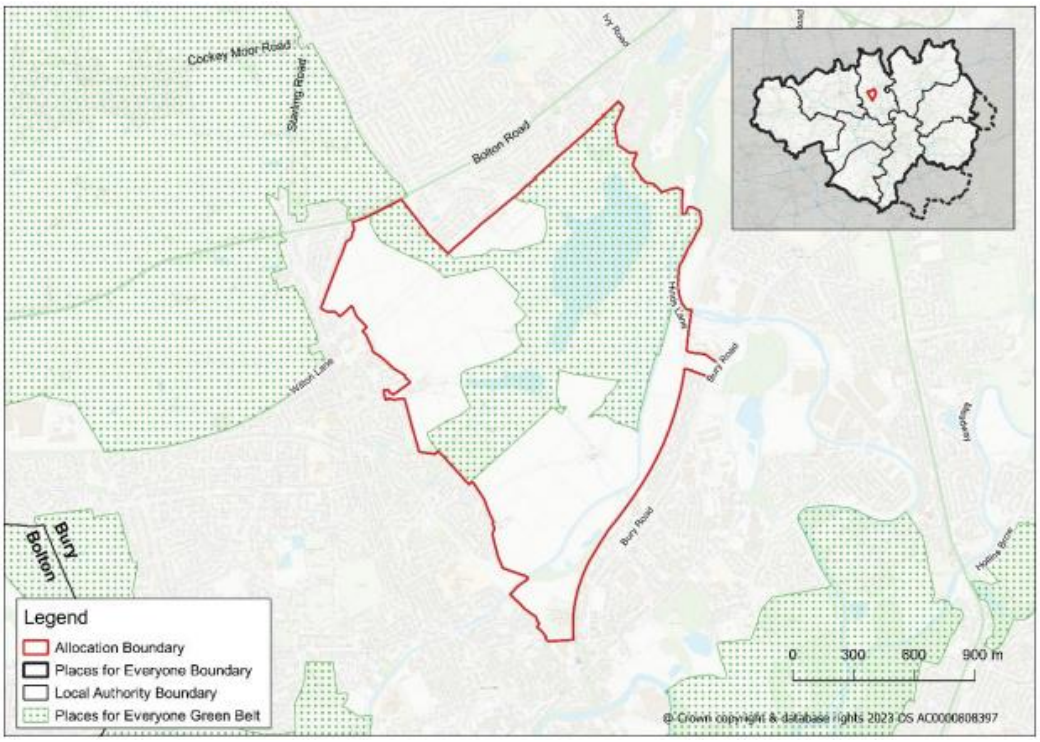
4.1 This chapter sets out the relevant development plan policies and the key requirements for the development of the strategic housing allocation at Elton Reservoir.

Relevant Development Plan Policies

Places for Everyone

4.2 The Elton Reservoir site (see Plan 1) is allocated for housing under PfE Policy JPA7 and this sets out the site-specific requirements for the site.

Plan 1 – Boundary of strategic housing allocation at Elton Reservoir as identified under PfE Policy JPA7.



4.3 The policy accompanying the Elton Reservoir allocation (Policy JPA7) states that:

> Any proposals for this allocation must be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan that has been approved by the LPA. It shall include a clear phasing strategy as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of infrastructure to support the scale of the whole development in line with Policy JP-D1 'Infrastructure Implementation'. Development within this allocation will be required to:
>
> 1 Deliver a broad mix of around 3,500 homes to diversify the type of accommodation in the Bury and Radcliffe areas. This includes an appropriate mix of house types and sizes, accommodation for older people, plots for custom and self-build (subject to local demand as set out in the Council's self build register) and higher densities of development in areas with good accessibility and with potential for improved public transport connectivity, particularly in the southern areas of the allocation. It is expected that around 2,100 of these homes will be delivered during the plan period;
>
> 2 Make provision for key enabling infrastructure including:
>
> i. A north-south strategic spine road connecting Bury and Bolton Road (A58) to Bury Road, Radcliffe that is designed to be suitable for buses, would not adversely impact on the operation of Metrolink services, incorporates provision for active travel and is in line with local design standards;
>
> ii. A strategic connection from the spine road to Spring Lane, Radcliffe via the former Coney Green High School site that is designed to be suitable for buses, incorporates provision for active travel and is in line with local design standards;
>
> iii. Other new and improved sustainable transport and highways infrastructure having regard to the indicative transport interventions set out in Appendix D in accordance with Policy JP-C8; and
>
> iv. Appropriate structural upgrades to Elton Reservoir, where required. Residential development within the allocation will be controlled to ensure that the rate of housing delivery is coordinated with the implementation of the above infrastructure (or key elements of it);
>
> 3 Make provision for affordable housing in accordance with local planning policy requirements, equivalent to at least 25% of the dwellings on the site and across a range of housing types and sizes

(with an affordable housing tenure split of 60% social or affordable rented and 40% affordable home ownership);

4 Make provision for two new two-form entry primary schools to meet needs generated by the development, in accordance with policy JP-P5;

5 Make provision for a new secondary school or, in the event that secondary school provision is delivered in an alternative way, make a financial contribution towards secondary school provision to meet needs generated by the development, in accordance with policy JP-P5;

6 Make provision for two new local centres in accessible locations which include a range of appropriate retail, health and community facilities required to serve purely local needs and ensure they are integrated with existing communities;

7 Ensure the design and layout allows for effective integration with surrounding communities, including active travel links and connections to Inner Radcliffe, Radcliffe town centre, Radcliffe Metrolink station, local schools and Bury town centre;

8 Make provision for the replacement of existing recreation space at Warth Fold that is equivalent or better in terms of quantity and quality and in a suitable location;

9 Provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset;

10 Make provision for compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt within the site in accordance with Policy JP-G2;

11 Define and/or strengthen the boundaries of the retained area of Green Belt within the site such that it will comprise physical features that are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent;

12 Make provision for biodiversity, including taking appropriate account of SBIs at Elton Reservoir; Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal (East); Elton Goit; Withins Reservoir; Black Lane Marl Pits; and Radcliffe Wetlands in accordance with Policy JP-G8;

13 Ensure the allocation is safe from and mitigates for potential flood risk from all sources including the River Irwell, Elton and Withins Reservoir and surface water and does not increase the flood risk

elsewhere. The delivery of the allocation should be guided by an appropriate flood risk and drainage strategy which ensures co-ordination between phases of development;

14 Take appropriate account of relevant heritage assets, and their setting, including the Old Hall Farmhouse Grade II Listed Building in accordance with Policy JP-P2; and

15 Consider the extraction of any viable mineral resources within Mineral Safeguarding Areas, in accordance with Policy 8 of the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan (or any relevant policies in subsequent minerals plans).

4.4 Whilst PfE Policy JPA7 sets out the site-specific requirements for the Elton Reservoir site, there are a range of other policies in PfE that are relevant to the development of this site and these are set out in Table 2:

Table 2: Other relevant PfE policies

PfE Policy
JP-S1 – Sustainable Development
JP-S2: Carbon and Energy
JP-S3: Heat and Energy Networks
JP-S5: Flood Risk and the Water Environment
JP-S6: Clean Air
JP-S7: Resource Efficiency
JP-H1: Scale, Distribution and Phasing of New Housing Development
JP-H2: Affordability of New Housing
JP-H3: Type, Size and Design of New Housing
JP-H4: Density of New Housing
JP-G1: Landscape Character
JP-G2: Green Infrastructure Network
JP-G6: Urban Green Space
JP-G7: Trees and Woodland

JP-G8: A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity
JP-P1: Sustainable Places
JP-P2: Heritage
JP-P5: Education, Skills and Knowledge
JP-P6: Health
JP-P7: Sport and Recreation
JP-C1: An Integrated Network
JP-C2: Digital Connectivity
JP-C3: Public Transport
JP-C5: Streets for All
JP-C6: Walking and Cycling
JP-C8: Transport Requirements of New Development
JP-D1: Infrastructure Implementation
JP-D2: Developer Contributions

Bury Unitary Development Plan

4.5 The saved policies of the Bury UDP currently represent part of Bury's statutory development and will be applicable to any development on the site. Table 3 sets out the relevant UDP policies that should be taken into account in developing proposals for the Elton Reservoir site.

Table 3 – Relevant UDP policies

UDP Policy
H4/1 – Affordable Housing
EN6/1 - Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and Grade A Sites of Biological Importance)
EN6/2 - Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (Local Nature Reserves and Grade B and C Sites of Biological Importance)

EN6/4 – Wildlife Links and Corridors (supported by SPG2)
RT1/1 – Protection of Recreation Provision in the Urban Area
RT2/2 – Recreation Provision in New Housing Development (supported by SPD1)
MW1/1 – Area of Search (Sand and Gravel)

Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan

4.6 The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan sets out policies to guide future minerals development and identifies Areas of Search and Mineral Safeguarding Areas in order to meet aggregate requirements and to protect minerals resources across Greater Manchester.

4.7 The allocation is identified as containing Mineral Safeguarding Areas for sandstone (15.5% of the site); sand and gravel (40.2%); surface coal (96.2%); and brickclay (96.2%) as defined in the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan. The need for extraction prior to development commencing will be assessed against policies of that minerals plan (or any subsequent minerals plan) to ensure that specific mineral resources of local or national importance are not unnecessarily sterilised.

Table 4 – Relevant Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan policy

GM Joint Minerals Plan Policy
Policy 8 – Prior Extraction of Mineral Resources within Mineral Safeguarding Areas

4.8 Whilst the above PfE, UDP and Joint Minerals Plan policies are considered be comprehensive, the Council reserves the right to introduce additional policy requirements for the site where necessary to address changes in circumstances and maintain conformity with any future changes of national or local planning policy. If such changes necessitate updates to the Development Framework for the site, these would be supported by proportionate evidence and prepared and consulted on in the normal way prior to their adoption.

Key requirements for the Elton Reservoir site

4.9 Any development of the site must comply with the relevant policies set out above and it is vital that the approach taken in seeking to satisfy the

requirements of these policies through the development of the Elton Reservoir site is supported by proportionate but robust evidence.

4.10 However, there are several fundamental requirements that will need to be incorporated into the Development Framework and any subsequent planning application(s) for the Elton Reservoir site and these are set out below.

4.11 As specified previously, there will need to be an equalisation agreement in place between the various landowners so that all landowners/developers contribute towards the delivery of the infrastructure required to support the development as a whole so that all landowners'/developers' phases of the development contribute fairly and proportionately towards the delivery of the infrastructure. The equalisation agreement will ensure that the landowner(s)/developers that control the land where such infrastructure is to be delivered are adequately compensated either financially or 'in kind' by the transfer of land from the other landowners/developers who rely upon this infrastructure for their development. It will also ensure that the cost of delivering the infrastructure is proportionately split across the development as a whole, whether that be through physical construction or through developer contributions.

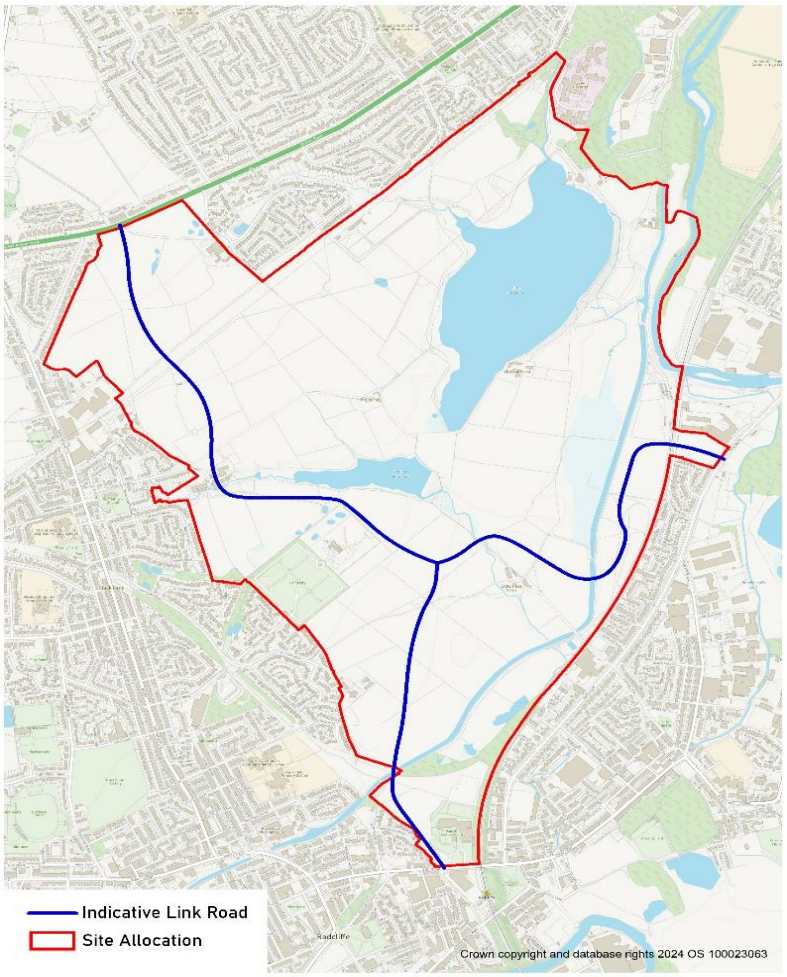
Strategic highways

4.12 Criterion 2 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for key enabling infrastructure including a north-south strategic spine road connecting Bury and Bolton Road (A58) to Bury Road, Radcliffe and a strategic connection from the spine road to Spring Lane, Radcliffe via the former Coney Green High School site. The indicative route of the strategic highways through the Elton Reservoir site are shown on Plan 2.

4.13 The provision of these new highways should be designed to be suitable for buses, to not adversely impact on the operation of Metrolink services, and to incorporate provision for active travel, to be in line with local design standards and to have appropriate access junctions.

4.14 The precise nature and specification of the new highways, junction arrangement and the specific route of these roads should be informed by vision-led planning approach to the required detailed transport modelling and design work and should take appropriate account of ecological and other interests/constraints within and adjacent to the site. This will need to be balanced with the benefits of the development to achieve a sustainable outcome.

Plan 2 – Indicative route of strategic highways through the Elton Reservoir site



Sustainable transport and highways infrastructure

4.15 Criterion 2iii of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for other new and improved sustainable transport and highways infrastructure having regard to the indicative transport interventions set out in Appendix D in accordance with Policy JP-C8.

4.16 In addition to the strategic highways linking the site to Bolton Road, Bury Road and Spring Lane, the other transport interventions identified in Appendix D of Places for Everyone for the Elton Reservoir site are as follows:

Necessary:

- Elton Metrolink Stop and Park & Ride facility.
- Radcliffe Town Centre highways improvements.

- New bus services and associated stops to/through/within the allocation.
- Active travel improvements including delivery of missing section of the Bolton-Bury Cycleway.

Supporting:

- A56 / Radcliffe Road – junction improvements.
- A58 / Ainsworth Road/ Starling Road – junction improvements.

4.17 These transport interventions for the Elton Reservoir site are considered in more detail in the wider Transport Locality Assessment for Bury[8] that was prepared to support Places for Everyone.

4.18 Again, the precise nature and specification of these interventions should be informed by a vision-led planning approach to the required detailed transport modelling and design work.

Metrolink stop and Travel Hub/Park and Ride facilities

4.19 As part of the Elton Reservoir proposals a new Metrolink Stop and Travel Hub/Park and Ride facilities will be required. The Metrolink stop is intended to encourage a large proportion of trips generated by the site to be made by sustainable modes and will support Bury in contributing to the region's Right Mix target for half of all journeys to be made by sustainable modes by 2040.

4.20 To achieve maximum accessibility of the stop, a Travel Hub and Park and Ride will be required. This will ensure that those who can access the development by active modes have safe and attractive opportunities to do so. The Park and Ride will widen the catchment area for those living further away and make it easier for people to switch longer car journeys, such as journeys to Manchester city centre, to more sustainable modes.

4.21 Key elements of the Travel Hub will include secure cycle parking, drop-off pick-up and taxi bays, shared mobility spaces, EV charging points and potentially parcel lockers. The new stop will contribute to the place making of the new development, providing a vibrant and integrated space with local facilities in line with the Travel Hub principles. The Elton Reservoir stop will also increase the attractiveness of the reservoir as a leisure destination and provide better access to greenspace in the south of Bury.

4.22 There is funding in the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement to start to develop the proposed new stop and Travel Hub/Park and Ride. The

[8] https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/previous-stages/places-for-everyone-2021-regulation-19/supporting-documents-2021/?folder=\09%20Connected%20Places#fList

Council will work with TfGM and the developer to determine an appropriate funding and delivery strategy for the new stop.

Affordable housing provision

4.23 Criterion 3 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for affordable housing in accordance with local planning policy requirements, equivalent to at least 25% of the dwellings proposed on the site and across a range of housing types and sizes (with an affordable housing tenure split of 60% social or affordable rented and 40% affordable home ownership).

4.24 The Development Framework for Elton Reservoir should demonstrate a commitment to the provision of affordable housing in line with the requirements of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7).

Education provision

4.25 Criterion 4 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for two new two-form entry primary schools to meet needs generated by the development, in accordance with policy JP-P5.

4.26 In addition, criterion 5 requires provision for a new secondary school or, in the event that secondary school provision is delivered in an alternative way, make a financial contribution towards secondary school provision to meet needs generated by the development, in accordance with policy JP-P5. Plans to develop a new 5-form entry Radcliffe Star Academy secondary school have progressed independently of the Elton Reservoir allocation with occupation of the school anticipated to be in Autumn 2025. Consequently, there will be a need for a developer contribution towards secondary school provision.

4.27 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Education services to determine the expected level of pupil yield from the development and the specific nature of primary and secondary school provision and whether such provision should be made on-site or through an off-site contribution.

4.28 Should it be concluded that on-site primary school provision is needed, the specific location of such provision and the scale and nature of ancillary facilities (e.g. playing fields) will be determined by the Council taking account of factors such as accessibility and location in relation to key infrastructure and the number of pupils the education provision would serve.

4.29 Financial contributions towards school provision will need to be made in accordance with Supplementary Planning Document 17: Developer

Contributions for Education. The level of financial contribution will be calculated on the basis of the number, type and size of dwellings, the pupil yield from the development and the cost per pupil place.

Local centre

4.30 Criterion 6 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) specifies that the development should include provision for two new local centres in accessible locations which include a range of appropriate retail, health and community facilities required to serve purely local needs and ensure they are integrated with existing communities.

4.31 Any retail development within the local centres should be of a scale that serves the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods to avoid it generating vehicular-based visits from the wider area.

Health provision

4.32 PfE Policy JP-P6 relates to how new developments should contribute to improved health outcomes and requires the provision of new or improved health facilities proportionate to the additional demand generated by the development. The level of housing growth planned at Elton Reservoir will require the provision of new primary care facilities to cope with the needs generated by the development site, in accordance with policy JP-P6.

4.33 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board's (ICB) Primary Care and Estates teams for the Bury Locality to determine the specific nature of health provision required. In doing so, consideration will be given to alignment with the ICB's Infrastructure Strategy, investment plans, and specific priorities for the Bury Locality to ensure that healthcare services for new communities are available and delivered in a way that promotes NHS objectives related to the delivery of population-based healthcare.

4.34 When assessing the additional primary care floorspace requirement from new housing, the ICB uses a standard requirement of 150sqm gross internal area (GIA) per 1,750 patients. This has been derived from Health Building Note 11:01: Facilities for Primary and Community Care (HBN 11-01)[9] to identify the scale of additional infrastructure required to provide primary care services to a modern standard of care for residents of new housing in efficient, flexible, and user-friendly environments. This floorspace standard is kept under review by the ICB to ensure it reflects the most up-to-date best practice guidance and may be revised accordingly.

[9] https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HBN_11-01_Final.pdf

4.35 The cost of additional primary care provision will be determined in accordance with ICB build cost benchmarks for primary care facilities. The capital costs of additional health provision, whether for upgrades to existing facilities or construction of new facilities, are based on providing spaces that specified to be ready for occupation, as opposed to shell and core condition. This reflects the full costs of delivering health infrastructure projects. Where facilities are delivered on-site, measures to ensure that they are fit for purpose and affordable will be applied including consideration of input from the District Valuer.

4.36 Early and on-going engagement with the ICB and other relevant health stakeholders is particularly important during the preparation of the Development Framework. Should it be concluded that on-site health provision is needed, this will need to take the form of either in-kind provision by the developer in the form of a turnkey facility transferred to the NHS at no cost, or the provision of a serviced plot of land at no cost with a financial contribution to equivalent to the full capital cost of a new build facility of the required size.

4.37 The specific location of such provision will be determined by the Council in consultation with the ICB, taking account of factors such as accessibility and location in relation to key infrastructure. This could be required within either local centre and will not be influenced by land ownership. On-site health provision should be within a single building with a planned mix of compatible uses in proximity. Provision split across multiple sites would not accord with the ICB strategy of development of integrated hubs. The design of any on-site health facility will need to meet the most up to date model of health care provision standards and be sized to incorporate the building as well as operational requirements related to parking, servicing and access for emergency vehicles.

4.38 As part of the master planning process, opportunities to consolidate existing health provision within the area should be explored. Colocation of front-line staff from primary, community, social and VCSE sector providers all caring for the same local people around a defined neighbourhood geography is embedded within ICB priorities to support an increase in delivering more care closer to home and a reduction in inequalities. Where there is potential for co-location of the primary care services required by the development with other complementary services, this will need to ensure that the specific clinical design requirements of primary care can be satisfied.

Ecology

4.39 In accordance with criterion 12 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7), the development of this allocation should make provision for biodiversity, including taking appropriate account of SBIs at Elton Reservoir; Manchester,

Bolton and Bury Canal (East); Elton Goit; Withins Reservoir; Black Lane Marl Pits; and Radcliffe Wetlands in accordance with Policy JP-G8.

4.40 In addition, although unlikely to be directly affected by the development, measures should also be taken to ensure that the Daisyfield SBI is not indirectly affected.

4.41 The development should also take account of protected and priority species such as great crested newts, otters, badgers, waxcaps and birds. In particular, the Development Framework should include a strategy for the:

- Conservation of breeding and wintering birds, including new habitat creation and habitat enhancement;
- Conservation of bats, including new habitat creation and habitat enhancement;
- Avoidance, mitigation and /or compensation for any harm caused to SBIs, including indirect harm (e.g. increased recreational pressure);
- Site-wide conservation strategy for great crested newts;
- Protection of Badgers;
- Conservation of Otters in the River Irwell, Canal and Goit which may form the core of a territory;
- Conservation of waxcap fungi communities;
- Conservation of Brown Hare;
- Co-ordinated invasive species management.

4.42 The Development Framework should take account of the emerging Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which identifies opportunities for nature recovery to strengthen wildlife links and corridors across the region.

Biodiversity net gain

4.43 The development will be required to achieve at least a 10% Net Gain in Biodiversity as measured using a Statutory Metric, in accord with the terms of the Environment Act 2021 and Places for Everyone Policy JP-G8 and the approach should follow the Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy.

4.44 The Development Framework should establish the detailed principles of how the required Net Gain is to be achieved. Details of how these principles will be delivered will be set out for each phase of development and determined at planning application stage. If this will require off-site habitat creation and enhancement, details of off-site provision should be supplied.

4.45 Off-site habitat creation and enhancement, and significant on-site gains, will need to be secured for at least thirty years.

Heritage

4.46 Criterion 14 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that development at this allocation should take appropriate account of relevant heritage assets, and their setting, including the Old Hall Farmhouse Grade II Listed Building in accordance with Policy JP-P2; and

4.47 PfE Policy JP-P2 states that we will proactively manage and work with partners to positively conserve, sustain and enhance our historic environment and heritage assets and their settings. This includes:

- Setting out a clear vision that recognises and embeds the role of heritage in place-making;
- ensuring that the heritage significance of a site or area is considered in accordance with national planning policy in the planning and design process and opportunities for interpretation and local engagement are optimised; and
- Integrating the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, with creative contextual architectural responses that contribute to their significance and sense of place.

4.48 The Policy states that particular consideration will be given to ensure that the significance of key elements of the historic environment which contribute to Greater Manchester's distinctive identity and sense of place are protected, including places of worship.

4.49 The Development Framework and the integral masterplan will need to take account of heritage assets and their settings within and around the Elton Reservoir site, including the Old Hall Farmhouse Grade II Listed Building and other heritage assets contained on the Historic Environment Record and the Bury's draft Local List.

Green Infrastructure/Country Park

4.50 Criterion 9 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that the development of this allocation should provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.

4.51 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Operations team to determine the specific requirements and facilities that should be incorporated into the Country Park. However, it should be an asset of Borough-wide significance as well as for the prospective residents of the housing within the Elton Reservoir site. As required by PfE Policy JPA7, the Country Park will need to include the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.

4.52 The park itself will be accessible for all, including for walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding and involve upgraded surfaces to existing footpaths and bridleways connecting adjoining residential developments to the wider open countryside.

4.53 The minimum requirements for the Country Park will be set out within the Development Framework.

Recreation provision

4.54 The National Planning Policy Framework states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

4.55 This is reflected in criterion 8 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) which states that the development of this allocation should make provision for the replacement of existing recreation space at Warth Fold that is equivalent or better in terms of quantity and quality and in a suitable location. Replacement provision could potentially be incorporated into the provision of the Country Park referred to above.

4.56 In addition, saved Policy RT2/2 of the adopted Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP) relates to recreation provision in new housing development and states that developers of new housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings will be expected to provide for the recreational needs of the prospective

residents. This Policy is supported by supplementary guidance (SPD1)[10] which provides more detailed advice on the implementation of the Policy.

4.57 UDP Policy RT2/2 is supported by criterion 3 of Places for Everyone Policy JP-P7 (Sport and Recreation) which states that a network of high quality and accessible sports and recreation facilities will be protected and enhanced, supporting greater levels of activity for all ages, including by requiring new development to provide new and/or improved existing facilities commensurate with the demand they would generate.

4.58 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Operations department to determine the specific nature of recreation provision and, in particular, the types of recreation required and the extent to which this should be provided within the site or through off-site contributions. In doing so, priority will be given to those typologies where there is an identified deficiency in the area based on the standards set out in the Bury Greenspace Audit and Strategy[11] (or subsequent update to it) and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

4.59 Should it be concluded that on-site recreation provision is required, the specific location of such provision will be determined by the Council taking account of factors such as accessibility, natural surveillance (in the case of provision for children's play), ecological and landscape sensitivity and residential amenity. Consideration will also be given as to whether informal open spaces can also provide dual use for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

4.60 Financial contributions towards off-site recreation provision will need to be made in accordance with Supplementary Planning Document 1: Open space, sport and recreation provision in new housing development.

Flood risk

4.61 PfE Policy JP-S4 relates to flood risk and the water environment and states that flood risk will be managed through a variety of methods including:

- Working with natural processes and adopting a natural flood management approach to slow the speed of water drainage;
- Locating and designing development so as to minimise the impacts of current and future flood risk; and

[10] https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/supplementary-planning-document-open-space-sport-recreation.pdf
[11] Bury Greenspace Audit and Strategy

- Expecting developments to manage surface water runoff through sustainable drainage systems and as close to source as possible. Development should achieve greenfield run-off rates.

4.62 Delivery of the allocation should be guided by an appropriate flood risk and drainage strategy in accordance with PfE Policy JP-S4 (and the recommendations for the site identified in the PfE Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) which ensures coordination between phases of development. Measures such as rainwater recycling, rain gardens, swales, SUDS enabled trees, green roofs, water butts and permeable driveway surfaces should be considered to mitigate the impact of potential flood risk both within and beyond the site boundaries. As a green and blue infrastructure network will provide more sustainable options discharge surface water, only foul flows should connect with the public sewer.

4.63 In addition, structural upgrades may be required to Elton Reservoir to reflect any changes to the categorisation of the reservoir as a result of new residential development being located downstream.

Green Belt compensation

4.64 PfE Policy JP-G2 states that development which involves the removal of land from the Green Belt (including allocations proposed in the plan) will be required to offset the impact of removing land from the Green Belt through identifying and delivering compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt in the vicinity of the site. Details of specific sites and projects will be established in discussion with the Local Planning Authority.

4.65 Criterion 10 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that development within this allocation will need to make provision for compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt within the site in accordance with Policy JP-G2.

4.66 A significant corridor of land through the Elton Reservoir site is retained as Green Belt and this should be the focus of compensatory improvements.

Design

4.67 The National Planning Policy Framework states that the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.

4.68 It goes on to state that development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design.

4.69 Places for Everyone Policy JP-P1 relates to the creation of sustainable places and includes a range of criteria that will need to be fully considered in the design of new development, including the preparation of the Development Framework for the Elton Reservoir site.

4.70 The National Design Guide[12],National Model Design Code[13] and Greater Manchester's Streets for All Design Guidance[14] should also be considered during the preparation of the Development Framework.

[12] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide
[13] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-model-design-code
[14] https://tfgm.com/strategy/streets-for-all

5. Site-specific advice: Walshaw

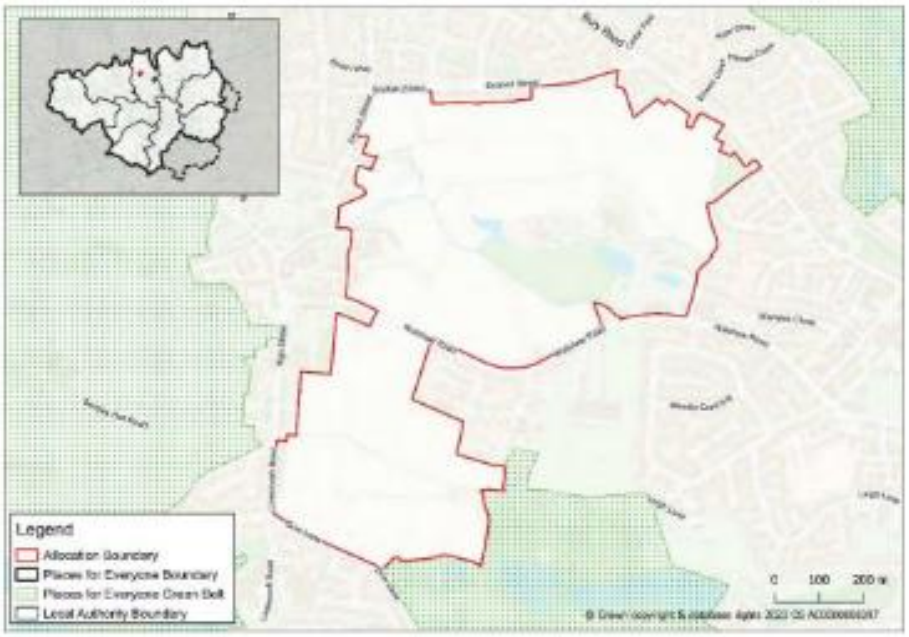
5.1 This chapter sets out the relevant development plan policies and the key requirements for the development of the strategic housing allocation at Walshaw.

Relevant Development Plan Policies

Places for Everyone

5.2 The Walshaw site (see Plan 3) is allocated for housing under PfE Policy JPA9 and this sets out the site-specific requirements for the site.

Plan 3 – Boundary of strategic housing allocation as identified under PfE Policy JPA9.



5.3 The policy accompanying the Walshaw allocation (Policy JPA9) states that:

> Any proposals for this allocation must be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan that has been approved by the LPA. It shall include a clear phasing strategy as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of infrastructure to support the scale of the whole development in line with Policy JP-D1 'Infrastructure Implementation'.
>
> Development in this allocation will be required to:
>
> 1 Deliver a broad mix of around 1,250 homes to diversify the type of accommodation in the Walshaw area. This includes an appropriate mix of house types and sizes, accommodation for older people, and provision of plots for custom and self-build housing (subject to local demand as set out in the Council's self-build register);
>
> 2 Make provision of a new strategic through road to enable an alternative to Church Street, Bank Street and High Street that is designed to be suitable for buses and incorporates active travel and is in line with local design standards;
>
> 3 Make provision for a network of safe cycling and walking routes through the allocation linking neighbourhoods with key destinations, incorporating Leigh Lane and Dow Lane;
>
> 4 Make provision for other new and improved sustainable transport and highways infrastructure having regard to the indicative transport interventions set out in Appendix D in accordance with Policy JP-C8;
>
> 5 Make provision for affordable housing in accordance with local planning policy requirements, equivalent to at least 25% of the dwellings proposed on the site and across a range of housing types and sizes (with an affordable housing tenure split of 60% social or affordable rented and 40% affordable home ownership);
>
> 6 Make provision for a new one-form entry primary school and make financial contributions for off-site additional secondary school provision to meet needs generated by the development in accordance with Policy JP-P5;
>
> 7 Make provision for a new local centre in an accessible location which includes a range of appropriate retail, health and community facilities required to serve purely local needs and ensure that it is integrated within existing communities;
>
> 8 Ensure the design and layout allows for effective integration with surrounding communities, including active travel links and connections to the recreation areas at Dow Lane, Elton Vale, Whitehead Lodges as well as Walshaw Village and Bury Town Centre;

9 Make provision for new, high quality, publicly accessible, multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the integration and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure corridors and assets at Walshaw and Elton Brooks;

10 Make provision for compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt in the vicinity of the site in accordance with Policy JP-G2;

11 Define and/or strengthen the boundaries of the Green Belt to the south-east of the site such that it will comprise physical features that are readily recognisable and likely to be permanent;

12 Take appropriate account of relevant heritage assets, and their setting, including the Christ Church Grade II* Listed Building, in accordance with Policy JP-P2; and

13 Consider the extraction of any viable mineral resources within Mineral Safeguarding Areas, in accordance with Policy 8 of the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan (or any relevant policies in subsequent minerals plans).

5.4 Whilst PfE Policy JPA9 sets out the site-specific requirements for the Walshaw site, there are a range of other policies in PfE that are relevant to the development of this site and these are set out in Table 5:

Table 5: Other relevant PfE policies

PfE Policy
JP-S1 – Sustainable Development
JP-S2: Carbon and Energy
JP-S3: Heat and Energy Networks
JP-S5: Flood Risk and the Water Environment
JP-S6: Clean Air
JP-S7: Resource Efficiency
JP-H1: Scale, Distribution and Phasing of New Housing Development
JP-H2: Affordability of New Housing
JP-H3: Type, Size and Design of New Housing
JP-H4: Density of New Housing

JP-G1: Landscape Character
JP-G2: Green Infrastructure Network
JP-G6: Urban Green Space
JP-G7: Trees and Woodland
JP-G8: A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity
JP-P1: Sustainable Places
JP-P2: Heritage
JP-P5: Education, Skills and Knowledge
JP-P6: Health
JP-P7: Sport and Recreation
JP-C1: An Integrated Network
JP-C2: Digital Connectivity
JP-C3: Public Transport
JP-C5: Streets for All
JP-C6: Walking and Cycling
JP-C8: Transport Requirements of New Development
JP-D1: Infrastructure Implementation
JP-D2: Developer Contributions

Bury Unitary Development Plan

5.5 The saved policies of the Bury UDP currently represent part of Bury's statutory development and will be applicable to any development on the site. Table 6 sets out the relevant UDP policies that should be taken into account in developing proposals for the Walshaw site.

Table 6 – Relevant UDP policies

UDP Policy
H4/1 – Affordable Housing
EN6/2 - Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (Local Nature Reserves and Grade B and C Sites of Biological Importance)
EN6/4 – Wildlife Links and Corridors (supported by SPG2)
RT2/2 – Recreation Provision in New Housing Development (supported by SPD1)
MW1/1 – Minerals Area of Search (Sand)

Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan

5.6 The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan sets out policies to guide future minerals development and identifies Areas of Search and Mineral Safeguarding Areas in order to meet aggregate requirements and to protect minerals resources across Greater Manchester.

5.7 The allocation is identified as containing Mineral Safeguarding Areas for sandstone (6.3% of the site); sand and gravel (9.8%); surface coal (94.3%); and brickclay (94.3%) as defined in the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan. The need for extraction prior to development commencing will be assessed against policies of that minerals plan (or any subsequent minerals plan) to ensure that specific mineral resources of local or national importance are not unnecessarily sterilised.

Table 7 – Relevant Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan policy

GM Joint Minerals Plan Policy
Policy 8 – Prior Extraction of Mineral Resources within Mineral Safeguarding Areas

5.8 Whilst the above PfE, UDP and Joint Minerals Plan policies are considered be comprehensive, the Council reserves the right to introduce additional policy requirements for the site where necessary to address changes in circumstances and maintain conformity with any future changes of national or local planning policy. If such changes necessitate updates to the Development Framework for the site, these would be supported by proportionate evidence and prepared and consulted on in the normal way prior to their adoption..

Key requirements for the Walshaw site

5.9 Any development of the site must comply with the relevant policies set out within Section 2 of this SPD and it is vital that the approach taken in seeking to satisfy the requirements of these policies through the development of the Walshaw site is supported by proportionate but robust evidence.

5.10 However, there are several fundamental requirements that will need to be incorporated into the Development Framework and any subsequent planning application(s) for the Walshaw site and these are set out below.

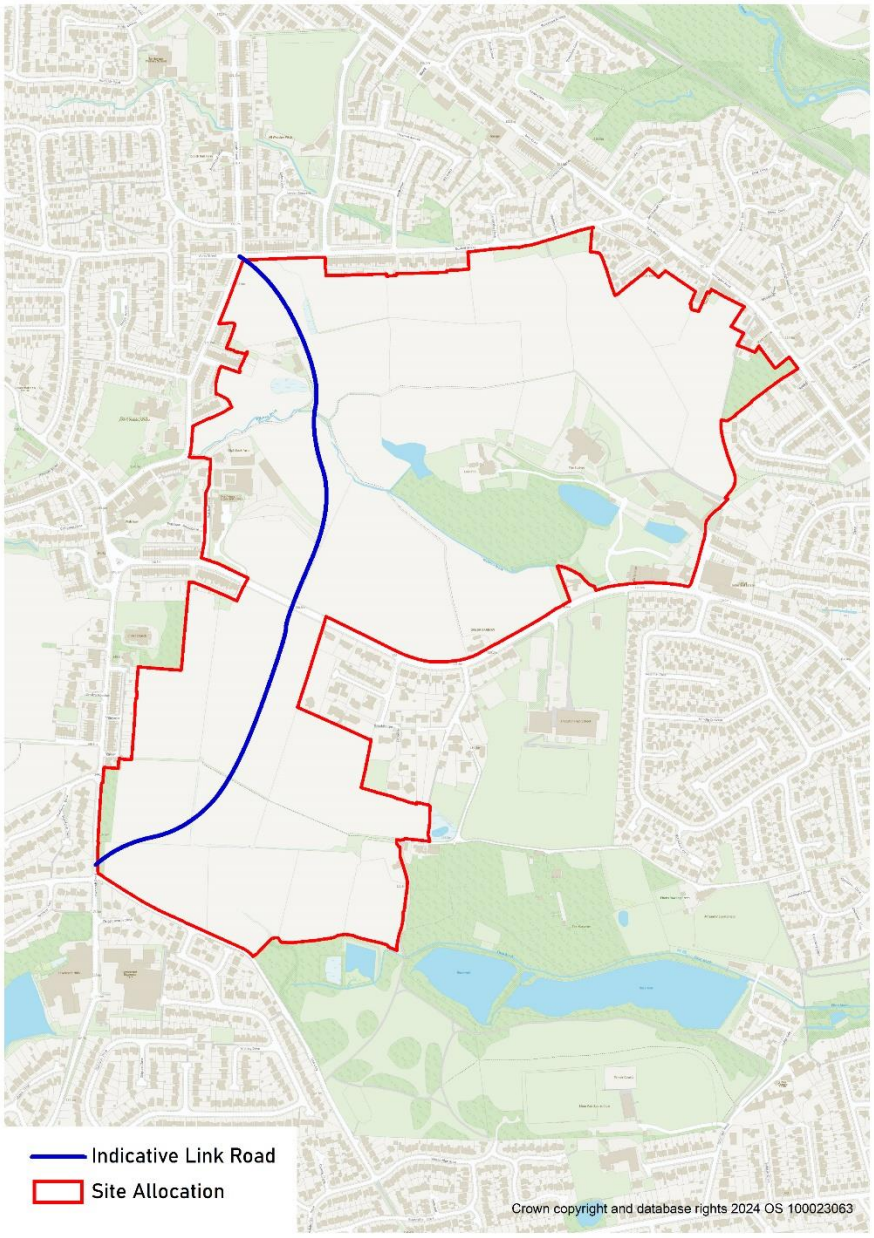
5.11 As specified earlier, there will need to be an equalisation agreement in place between the various landowners so that all landowners/developers contribute towards the delivery of the infrastructure required to support the development as a whole so that all landowners/developers phases of the development contribute fairly and proportionately towards the delivery of the infrastructure. The equalisation agreement will ensure that the landowner(s)/developers that control the land where such infrastructure is to be delivered are adequately compensated either financially or 'in kind' by the transfer of land from the other landowners/developers who rely upon this infrastructure for their development. It will also ensure that the cost of delivering the infrastructure including any contributions to the delivery of off-site infrastructure is proportionately split across the development as a whole, whether that be through physical construction or through developer contributions.

Strategic through road

5.12 Criterion 2 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision of a new strategic through road to enable an alternative to Church Street, Bank Street and High Street that is designed to be suitable for buses and incorporates active travel and is in line with local design standards.

5.13 This should involve the provision of a new strategic highway through the site with new junction arrangements at either end i.e. at Scobell Street/Church Street/Acres Street and at Walshaw Road as shown indicatively on the plan below. The precise nature and specification of the new highway, junction arrangement and the specific route of the through road should be informed by a vision-led planning approach to the required detailed transport modelling and design work.

Plan 4 – Indicative route of strategic through road for the Walshaw site



Sustainable transport and highways infrastructure

5.14 Criterion 4 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for other new and improved sustainable transport and highways infrastructure having regard to the indicative transport interventions set out in Appendix D in accordance with Policy JP-C8.

5.15 For the Walshaw site, the transport interventions identified in Appendix D of Places for Everyone are as follows:

Necessary:

- Link road providing bus penetration through the allocation between Lowercroft Road and Scobell Street, via Walshaw Road
- Crostons Road/ Tottington Road junction
- Tottington Road/Walshaw Road priority junction
- Cockey Moor Road junction
- A58 Bolton Road / Ainsworth Road junction improvement
- A58 Bolton & Bury Road/Starling Road junction improvement
- Introduction of bus services through the allocation
- Active travel improvements

Supporting:

- Appropriate linkages to Elton link road

5.16 These transport interventions for the Walshaw site are considered in more detail in the wider Transport Locality Assessment for Bury[15] that was prepared to support Places for Everyone.

5.17 Again, the precise nature and specification of these interventions should be informed by a vision-led planning approach to the required detailed transport modelling and design work.

Affordable housing provision

5.18 Criterion 5 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for affordable housing in accordance with local planning policy requirements, equivalent to at least 25% of the dwellings proposed on the site and across a range of housing types and sizes (with an affordable housing tenure split of 60% social or affordable rented and 40% affordable home ownership).

5.19 The Development Framework for Walshaw should demonstrate a commitment to the provision of affordable housing in line with the requirements of Places for Everyone Policy JPA9.

[15] https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/previous-stages/places-for-everyone-2021-regulation-19/supporting-documents-2021/?folder=\09%20Connected%20Places#fList

Education provision

5.20 Criterion 6 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) states that development in this allocation will be required to make provision for a new one-form entry primary school and make financial contributions for off-site additional secondary school provision to meet needs generated by the development in accordance with Policy JP-P5.

5.21 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Education services to determine the expected level of pupil yield from the development and the specific nature of primary school provision and whether such provision should be made on-site or through an off-site contribution. Opportunities to consolidate existing primary school provision in the area within the Walshaw site will also be explored.

5.22 Should it be concluded that on-site primary school provision is needed, the specific location of such provision and the scale and nature of ancillary facilities (e.g. playing fields) will be determined by the Council taking account of factors such as accessibility and location in relation to key infrastructure and the number of pupils that the education provision would serve. This could be required on any part of the site (north or south) and will not be influenced by land ownership.

5.23 Financial contributions towards school provision will need to be made in accordance with Supplementary Planning Document 17: Developer Contributions for Education. The level of financial contribution will be calculated on the basis of the number of dwellings, the pupil yield from the development and the cost per pupil place.

Local centre

5.24 Criterion 7 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) specifies that the development should include provision for a new local centre in an accessible location which include a range of appropriate retail, health and community facilities required to serve purely local needs and ensure they are integrated with existing communities.

5.25 Any retail development within the local centre should be of a scale that serves purely local needs to avoid it generating vehicular-based visits from the wider area.

Health provision

5.26 PfE Policy JP-P6 relates to how new developments should contribute to improved health outcomes and requires the provision of new or improved health facilities proportionate to the additional demand generated by the development. The level of housing growth planned at Walshaw will require

the improvement of off-site primary care facilities to cope with the needs generated by the development site, in accordance with policy JP-P6.

5.27 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board's (ICB) Primary Care and Estates teams for the Bury Locality to confirm that off-site provision aligns with the ICB's Infrastructure Strategy, investment plans, and specific priorities for the Bury Locality. The ICB is committed to making more efficient use of the existing estate and in supporting Primary Care Networks and their practices to use existing larger, purpose-built health facilities where possible. Financial contributions towards off-site provision of additional primary care capacity will need to be made in accordance with the below approach.

5.28 When assessing the additional primary care floorspace requirement from new housing, the ICB uses a standard requirement of 150sqm gross internal area (GIA) per 1,750 patients. This has been derived from Health Building Note 11:01: Facilities for Primary and Community Care (HBN 11-01)[16] to identify the scale of additional infrastructure required to provide primary care services to a modern standard of care for residents of new housing in efficient, flexible, and user-friendly environments. This floorspace standard is kept under review by the ICB to ensure it reflects the most up-to-date best practice guidance and may be revised accordingly.

5.29 The cost of additional primary care provision will be determined in accordance with ICB build cost benchmarks for primary care facilities. The capital costs of additional health provision, whether for upgrades to existing facilities or construction of new facilities, are based on providing spaces that specified to be ready for occupation, as opposed to shell and core condition. This reflects the full costs of delivering health infrastructure projects. Because the existing primary care estate is well-located in relation to the Walshaw site, it anticipated that that financial contributions will be based delivering the required additional capacity via refurbishment, reconfiguration and/or extension of existing facilities.

Ecology

5.30 The Development Framework should incorporate a strategy that reflects the ecological priorities for the Walshaw site i.e:

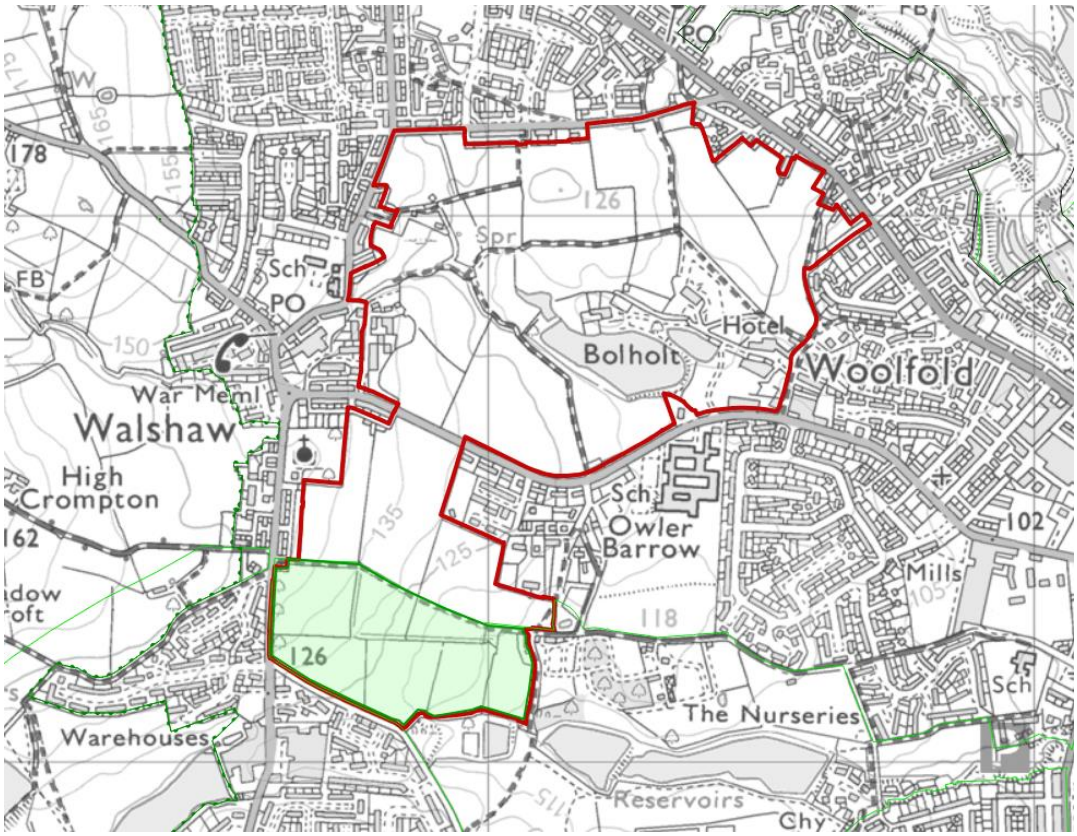
- Conservation of breeding birds including new habitat creation and habitat enhancement;
- Conservation of bats, including new habitat creation and habitat enhancement;

[16] https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/HBN_11-01_Final.pdf

- Avoidance, mitigation and /or compensation for any harm caused to SBIs, including indirect harm (e.g. increased recreational pressure);
- Site-wide conservation strategy for amphibians;
- Protection of Badgers;
- Co-ordinated management of invasive species.

5.31 A designated wildlife corridor runs across the southern part of the allocation, as shown on the following plan, linking with adjoining corridors:

Plan 6 – Wildlife corridor at Walshaw



5.32 Saved Policy EN6/4 of the adopted Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP) relates to wildlife links and corridors and states that the Council will seek to consolidate and, where appropriate, strengthen wildlife links and corridors, and will not permit development which would adversely affect identified areas. In particular, the Council will seek to ensure that new development within or adjacent to identified links or corridors contributes to their effectiveness through the design, landscaping and siting of development proposals and mitigation works, where appropriate. This Policy is supported by supplementary guidance (SPG2)[17] which provides more detailed advice

[17] https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/supplementary-planning-document-wildlife-corridors.pdf

on the measures that can be taken as part of new development to avoid adverse impacts on wildlife links and corridors.

5.33 In addition, UDP Policy EN6/4 is supported by criterion 2 of Places for Everyone Policy JP-G8 (A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity) which states that, through local planning and associated activities, a net enhancement of biodiversity resources will be sought, including, where relevant, by improving connections between habitats, to protect and enhance the provision of corridors, ecological networks (including Nature Recovery Networks) and steppingstones that enable the movement of species, especially as the climate changes. Criterion b of Policy JP-G8 also states that development will be expected to avoid fragmenting or severing connectivity between habitats.

5.34 Consequently, in line with UDP Policy EN6/4 (and its supplementary guidance) and Places for Everyone Policy JP-G8, development will be expected to avoid fragmenting or severing this corridor and will need to contribute to its effectiveness through the design, landscaping and siting of development proposals and mitigation works.

5.35 The Development Framework should take account of the emerging Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) which identifies opportunities for nature recovery to strengthen wildlife links and corridors across the region.

Biodiversity net gain

5.36 The development will be required to achieve at least a 10% Net Gain in Biodiversity as measured using a Statutory Metric, in accord with the terms of the Environment Act 2021 and Places for Everyone Policy JP-G8 and the approach should follow the Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy.

5.37 The Development Framework should set out details of how the required Net Gain is to be achieved. If this will require off-site habitat creation and enhancement, details of off-site provision should be supplied.

5.38 Off-site habitat creation and enhancement, and significant on-site gains, will need to be secured for at least thirty years.

Heritage

5.39 Criterion 12 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) states that development at this allocation will be required to take appropriate account of relevant heritage assets, and their setting, including the Christ Church Grade II* Listed Building, in accordance with Policy JP-P2.

5.40 Places for Everyone Policy JP-P2 states that we will proactively manage and work with partners to positively conserve, sustain and enhance our historic environment and heritage assets and their settings. This includes:

- Setting out a clear vision that recognises and embeds the role of heritage in place-making;
- ensuring that the heritage significance of a site or area is considered in accordance with national planning policy in the planning and design process and opportunities for interpretation and local engagement are optimised; and
- Integrating the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings, with creative contextual architectural responses that contribute to their significance and sense of place.

5.41 The Policy states that particular consideration will be given to ensure that the significance of key elements of the historic environment which contribute to Greater Manchester's distinctive identity and sense of place are protected, including places of worship.

5.42 The Development Framework and the integral masterplan will need to take account of heritage assets and their settings within and around the Walshaw site, including the Grade II Listed Christ Church and other heritage assets contained on the Historic Environment Record and the Bury's draft Local List.

Recreation provision

5.43 Saved Policy RT2/2 of the adopted Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP) relates to recreation provision in new housing development and states that developers of new housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings will be expected to provide for the recreational needs of the prospective residents. This Policy is supported by supplementary guidance (SPD1)[18] which provides more detailed advice on the implementation of the Policy.

5.44 In addition, UDP Policy RT2/2 is supported by criterion 3 of Places for Everyone Policy JP-P7 (Sport and Recreation) which states that a network of high quality and accessible sports and recreation facilities will be protected and enhanced, supporting greater levels of activity for all ages, including by requiring new development to provide new and/or improved existing facilities commensurate with the demand they would generate.

[18] https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/supplementary-planning-document-open-space-sport-recreation.pdf

5.45 The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Operations department to determine the specific nature of recreation provision and, in particular, the types of recreation required and the extent to which this should be provided within the site or through off-site contributions. In doing so, priority will be given to those typologies where there is an identified deficiency in the area based on the standards set out in the Bury Greenspace Audit and Strategy[19] (or subsequent update to it) and the Playing Pitch Strategy.

5.46 Should it be concluded that on-site recreation provision is required, the specific location of such provision will be determined by the Council taking account of factors such as accessibility, natural surveillance (in the case of provision for children's play) and residential amenity. Consideration will also be given as to whether informal open spaces can also provide dual use for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS).

5.47 Financial contributions towards off-site recreation provision will need to be made in accordance with Supplementary Planning Document 1: Open space, sport and recreation provision in new housing development.

Flood risk

5.48 PfE Policy JP-S4 relates to flood risk and the water environment and states that flood risk will be managed through a variety of methods including:

- Working with natural processes and adopting a natural flood management approach to slow the speed of water drainage;
- Locating and designing development so as to minimise the impacts of current and future flood risk; and
- Expecting developments to manage surface water runoff through sustainable drainage systems and as close to source as possible. Development should achieve greenfield run-off rates.

5.49 There have been several incidents of surface water flooding around the site, particularly on Scobell Street, which occurs when intense rainfall overwhelms existing drainage systems. Hydraulic modelling should be undertaken to support the Development Framework and to inform the design and layout of the development, including methods of surface water management.

5.50 To reduce the risk of flooding, the development should minimise the risk associated with inadequate sewer capacity and minimise and control the rate of surface water run-off through an appropriate drainage strategy in

[19] Bury Greenspace Audit and Strategy

accordance with PfE Policy JP-S4 and, where possible, safeguard land within the allocation for flood storage. Measures such as rainwater recycling, rain gardens, swales, SUDS enabled trees green roofs, water butts and permeable driveway surfaces should be considered to mitigate the impact of potential flood risk both within and beyond the site boundaries. As a green and blue infrastructure network will provide more sustainable options discharge surface water, only foul flows should connect with the public sewer.

Green Belt compensation

5.51 PfE Policy JP-G2 states that development which involves the removal of land from the Green Belt (including allocations proposed in the plan) will be required to offset the impact of removing land from the Green Belt through identifying and delivering compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt in the vicinity of the site. Details of specific sites and projects will be established in discussion with the Local Planning Authority.

5.52 Criterion 10 of the PfE policy for Walshaw (JPA9) states that development within this allocation will need to make provision for compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt ~~within~~ in the vicinity of the site in accordance with Policy JP-G2.

5.53 The Development Framework should set out how it is intended to comply with the requirements for Green Belt compensation.

Design

5.54 The National Planning Policy Framework states that the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities.

5.55 It goes on to state that development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design.

5.56 Places for Everyone Policy JP-P1 relates to the creation of sustainable places and includes a range of criteria that will need to be fully considered in the design of new development, including the preparation of the Development Framework for the Walshaw site.

5.57 The National Design Guide[20], National Model Design Code[21] and Greater Manchester's Streets for ALL Design Guidance [22]should also be considered during the preparation of the Development Framework.

[20] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-design-guide
[21] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-model-design-code
[22] https://tfgm.com/strategy/streets-for-all

Bury
Council

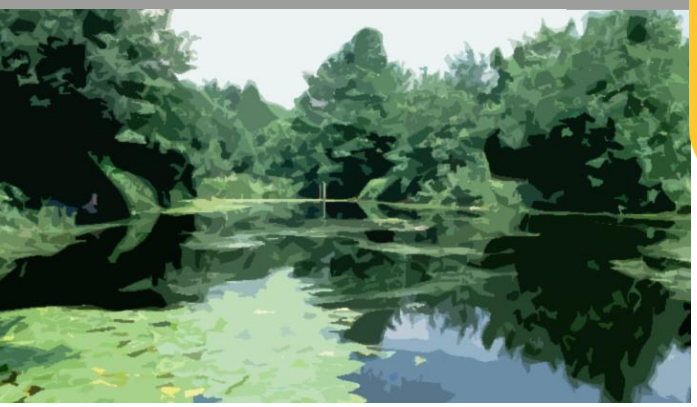
This page is intentionally left blank

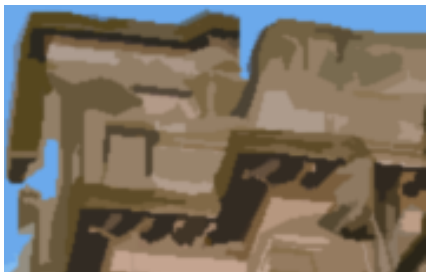
Bury Council

Draft Supplementary Planning Document 18

Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw – Consultation Statement

April 2025





1. Introduction

1.1. Draft SPD18: Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw has been prepared is produced in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

1.2. Regulation 12(a) requires the Council to produce a consultation statement before adoption of the SPD. This statement must set out who was consulted, a summary of the issues raised, and how these issues were incorporated into the SPD.

1.3. Regulation 12(b) requires the Council to publish the documents (including a 'consultation statement') for a minimum 4-week consultation, specify the date when responses should be received, and identify the address to which responses should be sent.

1.4. Regulation 13 stipulates that any person may make representations about the SPD and that the representations must be made by the end of the consultation date referred to in Regulation 12.

1.5. Regulation 12 states that when seeking representations on an SPD, documents must be made available in accordance with Regulation 35. This requires the Council to make documents available by taking the following steps:

- Make the document available at the principal office and other places within the area that the Council considers appropriate; and
- Publish the document on the Council's website.

1.6. This Consultation Statement sets out the extent of consultation and engagement undertaken on draft SPD18, highlights the issues raised and how the document was amended to reflect the issues raised.

2. Engagement during the preparation of the draft SPD

2.1 Draft SPD18 sets out more detailed guidance on what the Council will expect to see within future masterplans and phasing strategies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites, highlighting the relevant development plan policies and key requirements for each site.

2.2 As such, the draft SPD was largely developed within the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure team but with specialist input from the Council's Development Management, Education and Operations teams, the NHS and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit.

2.3 The following table sets out the key issues raised during the internal engagement and how these have been addressed in the draft SPD.

Issue	How was this incorporated into the draft SPD
The need for an Environmental Impact Assessment	Specific section on EIA incorporated into the draft SPD.
The need for on-going engagement with Education Services to determine the specific requirements for education provision.	Reflected in draft SPD.
The need for on-going engagement with the Council's Operations department to determine the specific requirements for open space and recreation provision.	Reflected in draft SPD.
More detail on the requirements for healthcare provision should be included within the draft SPD.	Detail on health provision developed in collaboration with NHS and included within the draft SPD.
More detail needed on ecological considerations.	Detail on ecological considerations developed in collaboration with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit and included within the draft SPD.

3. Screening Assessments

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

3.1 A Screening Statement has been prepared to determine whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) would be required for the draft SPD18. The Council consulted Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency over a four-week period (14 August to 18 September 2024) in order to seek their views on the conclusions of the SEA Screening Assessment.

3.2 Responses were received from all three bodies, all of whom agreed with the Council that the above assessments would not be required to accompany the SPD.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

3.3 The Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) were consulted on 14 August 2024. GMEU agreed with the Council's conclusion that the SPD would not require a full HRA and, in responding to their consultation on the SEA screening, Natural England also agreed that the proposed SPD would not require a full HRA.

4. Consultation

4.1 Draft SPD18 was approved for consultation by the Council's Cabinet on 25 September June 2024. A six-week period of consultation subsequently commenced on **Friday 18 October**, running to **Friday 29 November 2024**.

4.2 During this consultation, all relevant documentation could be found on the Council's web site copies of the documents were available for inspection electronically at Bury Town Hall between the hours of 8.45am and 5.00pm (Monday-Friday) and at local libraries and the Tottington Centre during their normal opening hours (see www.bury.gov.uk/libraries and www.tottingtoncentre.co.uk for details).

4.3 Around 2,500 contacts on the Council's development plans consultation database were also notified directly of the consultation.

4.4 The Council also hosted a Microsoft Teams-based webinar on Thursday 7 November 2024 which involved a short presentation on the draft SPD and where Planning Officers were available to answer questions.

4.5 The consultation was also promoted on several occasions via social media (see example below).

4.6 In total, consultation on the draft SPD generated 166 responses. The issues raised and the Council's response to these are set out in a separate Consultation Analysis document.

Bury
Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Bury Council

Consultation Analysis

Draft Supplementary Planning Document 18: Development Frameworks for Strategic Site Allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw

April 2025

Consultation Analysis

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
1	N/A	Objects to the Places for Everyone plan, the allocations and the principle of development on green belt, countryside and wildlife	Places for Everyone was adopted by Bury Council with effect from 21st March 2024 which means that the plan is now part of Bury's statutory development plan. The allocated sites are therefore no longer designated as Green Belt and the principle of development has been established.	No change
2	N/A	Should utilise empty properties instead	The need for the Elton and Walshaw sites was considered in detail during the examination of the Places for Everyone Joint Plan. Both sites are now adopted site allocations.	No change
3	N/A	Should develop brownfield first	National planning policy does not support an explicit 'brownfield first' approach, as Local Authorities are required to be able to provide a 5 year supply of housing sites which are available and deliverable. Places for Everyone does, however, include a 'brownfield preference' approach.	No change
4	N/A	Concerns regarding infrastructure, congestion and parking	Places for Everyone includes policies that set out the infrastructure requirements	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			necessary to support the developments of both sites site and this is reflected in the draft SPD. In addition, the site promoters will be required to undertake detailed Transport Assessments to demonstrate that the developments would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on congestion.	
5	N/A	Not enough GPs, dentists, primary schools	Places for Everyone includes policies that set out the infrastructure requirements necessary to support the developments of both sites site and this is reflected in the draft SPD.	No change
6	N/A	Bury is no longer clean and tidy	Comment does not relate to SPD18.	No change
7	N/A	Houses will not be affordable	The PfE policies for both sites state that development will be required to make provision for affordable housing in accordance with local planning policy requirements, equivalent to at least 25% of the dwellings proposed on the site and across a range of housing types and sizes.	No change
8	N/A	More housing will exacerbate regular flooding	PfE Policy JP-S4 relates to flood risk and the water environment and states that flood risk will be managed through a	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			variety of methods and the draft SPD sets out in more details what will need to be considered from a flood risk perspective for the Elton and Walshaw sites.	
9	N/A	Concern that modal shift to cycling will not take place in winter months and for long journeys	Comment not directly related to the SPD but one of the key aims of the Bury Transport Strategy is for all our residents, or anyone who visits or works in the Borough, to have a real choice of how they travel. The Strategy aims to provide for a much better public transport system that's safe, affordable and reliable and to make it possible for people to make some of their short local journeys by walking or cycling if they can.	No change
10	N/A	Green spaces should be prioritised	The policies for both sites include a requirement for the developments to incorporate multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within the sites.	No change
11	N/A	Concerns that the requirements for planned infrastructure are too vague. An additional health centre would be required yet we were informed it may just be an extension, the same with schools.	As specified in the SPD, the Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board's (ICB) Primary Care and Estates teams for the Bury Locality to determine the specific nature of health provision required. Similarly, the	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Education services to determine the expected level of pupil yield from the development and the specific nature of primary and secondary school provision and whether such provision should be made on-site or through an off-site contribution.	
12	N/A	Compensatory measures do not compensate anything.	The policies for both sites require the developments to make provision for compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt within the site in accordance with PfE Policy JP-G2.	No change
13	N/A	Relief road will not resolve the problems we already face.	The Development Frameworks and subsequent planning applications on both sites will need to be accompanied by detailed transport modelling and design work to ensure that any transport interventions minimise impacts.	No change
14	N/A	Concerns that plans will lead to more air pollution and worsen climate change	The developments will need to accord with a range of PfE policies designed to ensure that the potential impact on air quality and climate change can be fully assessed and to only permit development where impacts	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			are acceptable and/or where suitable mitigation measures can be provided.	
15	N/A	Concerns regarding the impacts of construction noise	This would be a matter that would be considered at the application stage.	No change
16	N/A	There should be a clause that gardens, local perimeters, paint and gutters should be maintained to remain in a good condition	These are not matters that can be controlled through the planning process.	No change
17	N/A	The area will lose the small town character and appeal.	The principle of residential development on these sites has now been established following the adoption of Places for Everyone.	No change
18	N/A	No concerns	Support noted	No change
19	Paragraph 7.8	Numerous Rights of Way affected by the proposals. Guidance should be taken from ROW Circular (1/09) especially Paragraph 7.8 which states that, "any alternative alignment should avoid the use of estate roads for the purpose wherever possible and preference should be given to the use of made up estate paths through landscaped or open space areas away from vehicular traffic". Should a temporary or	Existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) and the provision of new PROWs will be considered at the masterplanning stage for both sites. The need to consider PROWs is set out in Table 1(4) which lists PROWs and one of the site conditions/constraints.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		permanent obstruction be unavoidable, then no development should take place until a Diversion Order has been confirmed, and the diversion route, with a satisfactory surface and adequate width and marking, is available for public use. Use of the PROWs, and the safety of users must not be affected by the development, nor during the work taking place except by way of the above procedures.		
20	N/A	Support the intention that the Development Frameworks for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents	Support noted	No change
21	N/A	Agree the Development Frameworks should comprise a comprehensive masterplan, supported by a wide ranging and comprehensive evidence base including that for the historic environment.	Support noted	No change
22	N/A	Pleased to see that the historic environment will form part of the masterplan framework scope	Support noted	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
23	N/A	Agree that the Development Framework and the integral masterplan will need to take account of heritage assets and their settings within and around the Elton Reservoir site, including the Old Hall Farmhouse Grade II Listed Building and other heritage assets contained on the Historic Environment Record and the Bury's draft Local List.	Support noted	No change
24	N/A	The SPD for Walshaw and Elton sites should include a requirement for 1 new primary school building, one new medical centre, 1 new secondary school campus building linked to one of the existing secondary schools in the borough and sufficient new flood drainage systems to compensate for the loss of the flood plain.	As specified in the SPD, the Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board's (ICB) Primary Care and Estates teams for the Bury Locality to determine the specific nature of health provision required. Similarly, the Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Education services to determine the expected level of pupil yield from the development and the specific nature of primary and secondary school provision and whether such provision should be made on-site or through an off-site contribution.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			In addition, PfE Policy JP-S4 relates to flood risk and the water environment and states that flood risk will be managed through a variety of methods. Issues around flood risk will be considered at both the masterplanning and planning application stages.	
25	N/A	Local youth groups who cannot afford to travel are concerned that they will no longer be able to hike and photograph the local nature and cannot afford to travel.	Places for Everyone was adopted by Bury Council with effect from 21st March 2024 which means that the plan is now part of Bury's statutory development plan. The allocated sites are therefore no longer designated as Green Belt and the principle of development has been established. Notwithstanding, the Policy for Elton Reservoir requires the development to provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset. Similarly, the policy accompanying the Walshaw allocation requires the development to make provision for new, high quality, publicly accessible, multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the integration and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure corridors and assets at Walshaw and Elton Brooks.	
26	N/A	There are rare local finds in the area that have not been considered when the council chose the site.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
27	N/A	The high school will have no scope to grow with the population due to the site being made smaller with the road.	Criterion 5 of the PfE Policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) requires provision for a new secondary school or, in the event that secondary school provision is delivered in an alternative way, make a financial contribution towards secondary school provision to meet needs generated by the development, in accordance with policy	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			JP-P5. Plans to develop a new 5-form entry Radcliffe Star Academy secondary school have progressed independently of the Elton Reservoir allocation with occupation of the school anticipated to be in Autumn 2025. Consequently, there will be a need for a developer contribution towards secondary school provision.	
28	N/A	Housing market has stalled and the plans are not what the area needs	Places for Everyone was adopted by Bury Council with effect from 21st March 2024 which means that the plan is now part of Bury's statutory development plan. The allocated sites are therefore no longer designated as Green Belt and the principle of development has been established. However, at this stage, there are no details of the types and tenure of housing that will be developed.	No change
	N/A	This won't benefit the local people. We will lose our green space and they will mitigate it elsewhere and we won't have the houses we need or the facilities we need.	the Policy for Elton Reservoir requires the development to provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset. Similarly, the policy accompanying the Walshaw allocation requires the development to make provision for new, high quality, publicly accessible, multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the integration and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure corridors and assets at Walshaw and Elton Brooks. At this stage, there are no details of the types and tenure of housing that will be developed but the policies that accompany both the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw allocations require the delivery of a range of infrastructure to support the wider developments.	

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
29	Section 4.3	Welcome the statement in Section 4.3 that any development in the Elton area will need to “provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset”	Support noted.	No change.
30	Section 4.3	Ask that the MBB canal is also recognised as a significant heritage asset in its own right.	Paragraph 4.3 sets out the specific wording of PfE policy JPA7. This has now been adopted so there is no scope to amend this. Notwithstanding, the reference to Old Hall Farmhouse in criterion 14 is not exhaustive and taking appropriate account of heritage assets could include the MBB Canal.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
31	Section 4.3 (12)	Welcome the statement that any development in the Elton area will "need to make provision for biodiversity, including taking appropriate account of SBIs at Elton Reservoir and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal."	Support noted.	No change.
32	N/A	Ask that the raising of the level of the Water Street Bridge, so as to allow navigation along the canal, be added to the list of key enabling infrastructure required to be provided by the developer. Consideration should be given to how a Bury Terminus for the canal could be provided.	The raising of the Water Street Bridge or the provision of a Bury terminus is not considered necessary to support the development of the Elton Reservoir site.	No change
33	N/A	Request that towpath/footpaths be provided on both sides of the canal to improve access for people with a disability. This would in turn attract more visitors to the canal and towpath.	Paragraphs 4.50-4.52 of the draft SPD describe the requirements for the provision of a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset. This includes the need for the park to be accessible to all, including for walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding and involve upgraded surfaces to existing footpaths and bridleways connecting adjoining residential developments to the wider open countryside. Details of footpaths/towpaths will be provided in the Elton Development Framework.	

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
34	N/A	The canal is an internationally significant heritage asset in its own right and was the prime route for delivering coal, cotton and other materials & goods to and from the mills and industries of Salford, Bury and Radcliffe and beyond at the start of the industrial revolution. That in itself will attract visitors to a navigable canal, will prompt guided walks to be provided along an accessible towpath, stimulate boat trips, provide volunteer opportunities, learning materials, interpretative resources and public events. It could also facilitate further opportunities to provide music and cultural events.	Comments noted	No change
35	N/A	Recognises the importance of a vision led approach to ensure that the right sustainable measures for travel are considered ahead of the need for large-scale highway improvements.	Comments noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
36	N/A	Supportive of the need to explore mass transit options for the area, with the requirement for the delivery of an Elton Metrolink stop and Park & Ride facility which will assist in reducing the need for residents and visitors to rely on private vehicles for trips that can be made more sustainably.	Support noted	No change
37	N/A	Park & Ride facility will be a vehicular attractor in its own right and the impact to the surrounding highway network should be considered at the earliest opportunity.	The precise nature and specification of the Park and Ride facility at the Elton Reservoir site will be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work. The impact on the surrounding highway network will be considered as part of this detailed work.	No change required.
38	N/A	The phasing of the required infrastructure should be considered at the earliest point so that this becomes the first choice for residents.	The policies accompanying each site (JPA7 and JPA9) both specify that any proposals for this allocation must be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan that has been approved by the LPA. It shall include a clear phasing strategy as part of an integrated approach to the delivery of infrastructure to support the scale of the whole development. This will be required as a key part of the	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			Development Framework and in advance of any planning applications.	
39	N/A	Need to ensure that the necessary funding (contributions or equalisation agreements) are available ahead of later applications to ensure that mitigations are delivered from the outset, rather than retrospectively.	The expectations in terms of equalisation agreements and the intended approach towards infrastructure funding are set out in Section 3 of the SPD.	No change
40	N/A	Refers to Paragraph 33 of National Highways' Planning for the Future. Advises that the 'vision strategy' for a site should feed into any Travel Plans, be specific to the site, and include wherever possible clarity on the funding and deliverability of proposed measures. For example, National Highways would be more supportive of applications and Travel Plans that contained fully costed and approved transport measures, than one which simply highlighted a future need without clarity of funding. This should include an element of monitoring the site to ensure that the proposed measures had the desired effect of reducing single occupancy vehicle	Comment noted.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		travel, and that impacts to the SRN had been minimised.		
41	N/A	Development at Spen Moor has not dealt with the public concerns or conditions to preserve the protected wildlife or prevent flooding and traffic issues so have concerns that development of Elton will be the same and developers will not adhere to requirements	PfE is now adopted and forms part of Bury's statutory development plan. The law requires that planning decisions must be taken in line with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Policy JPA7 sets out the requirements for the development of the allocation at Elton Reservoir and any development will need to be in line with this Policy.	No change
42	N/A	New development must first have the entire necessary infrastructure in place to sustain the development. It would not be acceptable to build large estates and then only think about the impact on the roadways, transport, health and school needs afterwards	The SPD sets out the infrastructure requirements for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites.	No change
43	N/A	Should improve the existing roads first	Comment does not relate to SPD18.	No change
44	N/A	Should get landlords to bring empty properties back into use or sell.	Comment does not relate to SPD18.	No change
45	N/A	Complaints about Atom Valley.	Comment does not relate to SPD18.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
46	Paragraph 5.3, 5.39 to 5.42	The location and functionality of the church building could play an important part in the development of a new community here in Walshaw and pleased that this is recognised in the draft SPD.	Support noted.	No change
47	N/A	The interface between 'old' and 'new' is critical to the success or otherwise of a thriving new community.	Criterion 8 of the Policy for Walshaw (JPA9) specifies that development in this allocation will be required to ensure the design and layout allows for effective integration with surrounding communities.	No change
48	N/A	The burial grounds also include several war graves. The integrity of the grounds needs to be maintained out of respect for the deceased and their families, and because there are stories contained there relating to the history of Walshaw.	There are no proposals to affect the burial grounds associated with Christ Church and criterion 12 of Policy JPA9 (Walshaw) states that development is required to take appropriate account of relevant heritage assets, and their setting, including the Christ Church Grade II* Listed Building.	No change
49	N/A	The design for the interface at the bottom end of the church yard needs careful planning. If the gardens of new houses back onto the yard railings, how will responsibility be allocated to maintain the railings? If there is to be a walkway between the railings and houses, how will this be maintained	These are detailed matters that would be considered at the planning application stage.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		and illuminated? Will there be any landscaping between the walkway and the church yard railings?		
50	N/A	Would like consideration to be given for access to the church grounds to be designed into the scheme so that people from several hundred houses can easily attend events in the church building. With regard to the proposed road connecting the top of Scobell Street with Dow Lane, could a side road be included in the plan so that a well-lit turning circle would allow people attending events in church to be dropped off and collected in a convenient way?	This is a detailed matter that would be considered at the planning application stage. Nevertheless, Places for Everyone Policy JP-P2 states that we will proactively manage and work with partners to positively conserve, sustain and enhance our historic environment and heritage assets and their settings, including ensuring that the heritage significance of a site or area is considered in the planning and design process and opportunities for interpretation and local engagement are optimised.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
51	Boundary map at 4.2 & 5.2	Any sites (identified from the site allocation boundary map at 4.2 (Elton Reservoir) that include Elton Sailing Club; Warth Fold; and football fields to the northeast of the site; and 5.2 (Walshaw) that includes Stables Country Club) should be consistent with Sport England Playing Fields Policy and any present, past or future contribution of the site for sport to be considered in any site assessment.	The Council will have regard to Sport England's Playing Fields policy when considering the masterplanning of both sites and any subsequent planning applications.	No change
52	N/A	Where greater housing need is demonstrated, Bury may also wish to commission evidence in a Built Facilities Strategy alongside its Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy, to ensure that decisions about planning for meeting the current and future outdoor playing pitch and indoor sports facility needs of the community through the Local Plan, are also based on up-to-date evidence.	The Council is developing its evidence base of open space, sport and recreational matters to support the emerging Local Plan.	No change
53	N/A	Paragraphs 4.53-4.59 and 5.43-5.47 related specifically to the provision of	The Council will have regard to Sport England's Playing Fields policy when	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		recreation spaces which include playing fields and includes reference to the NPPF paragraph 103 wording. Sport England would encourage inclusion of reference also to our Playing Fields Policy.	considering the masterplanning of both sites and any subsequent planning applications. Specific topic-based policy references are not made as it is not considered appropriate to include that level of detail in the document.	
54	Paragraph 4.57 and 5.45	Welcome further discussion in relation to any proposed detailed proposal which either impacted existing sporting provision or has the potential to provide new facilities. With particular regard to paragraph 4.57 and 5.45, advised that they do not support a 'standards based' approach to sporting provision and that this must be based on a needs assessment i.e. PPS/PPOSS and Built Facilities Strategy.	SPD18 is intended to provide advice on what matters should be considered in developing the masterplans for each site. There will be further consultation on the masterplans as and when these come forward and at that stage the potential impact on existing and/or the provision of new open space, sport and recreational facilities will be clearer.	No change
55	N/A	Support inclusion of the SPD's aim to seek to support proposals for new and improved sport and recreation facilities and this should set out a positive approach to the provision and enhancement of sports facilities that are fit for purpose and in suitable locations, addressing needs identified	Support noted	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		through a robust and up-to-date assessment.		
56	N/A	The Masterplan needs to clearly state that sports facilities (built as well as pitches, open space and recreational land) will be protected from loss except where it is demonstrated that a site can meet the requirements of Sport England's Playing Field Policy and NPPF 103.	SPD18 is intended to provide advice on what matters should be considered in developing the masterplans for each site. There will be further consultation on the masterplans as and when these come forward and at that stage the potential impact on existing and/or the provision of new open space, sport and recreational facilities will be clearer. Notwithstanding, SPD18 does set out the position in terms of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
57	N/A	Supports the SPD's aim to seek developer contributions required to provide infrastructure, facilities and services as a result of new development through section 106 contributions and/or planning obligations. Reference to the Councils own evidence base in the form of the up to date Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and potentially a Built Facilities Strategy would be relevant here. Sport England can assist in using our Playing Pitch and Built Facility Calculators to establish the scope of sports facilities that an area will require alongside what contributions would be needed, using last quarter costings.	Support noted. SPD18 specifies that the provision of infrastructure could be required on-site or trough off-site developer contributions. The scale and nature of the necessary infrastructure will be developed through the subsequent masterplanning and planning application process.	No change
58	N/A	SPD should make clear that off-site contributions should not be considered as mitigation for any loss of playing field, which must meet the tests of our Playing Field Policy and 103 of the NPPF.	SPD18 sets out the position with regard to any potential impacts on existing open space, sport and recreation provision.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
59	Paragraphs 4.58 and 5.46	Does not support use of sporting areas for use as SuDS as it will constrain the use of these facilities and hinder their contribution to the provision of sporting opportunities and promotion of healthy lifestyles. This is also similar for any proposals for biodiversity net gain or landscaping schemes, which should not impact playing field or other sporting provision.	It is accepted that paragraphs 4.58 and 5.46 could be clarified to make clear that consideration will also be given as to whether informal open spaces can also provide dual use for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). This should not apply to formal sports or children's play areas.	Amend the last sentences of paras 4.59 (formally 4.58) and 5.46 to read: 'Consideration will also be given as to whether informal open spaces can also provide dual use for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)'
60	N/A	The document includes the intention for the provision of new primary schools. Sport England would expect such proposals to include an appropriate level of playing field provision commensurate with the numbers of pupils they would serve and be of a minimum sufficient size to include natural turf playing field for; football (U10's FA standards); athletics; rounders; and non turf playing field for netball and basketball. As part of such proposals, Sport England would expect schools to provide for community use.	Whilst the detail of education provision would be considered at the planning application stage, it is accepted that the SPD should include references to ancillary facilities, such as playing fields.	Amend the first sentences of paras 4.28 and 5.22 to read: 'Should it be concluded that on-site primary school provision is needed, the specific location of such provision and the scale and nature of ancillary facilities (e.g. playing fields) will be determined by the Council taking account of factors such as accessibility and location in relation to key infrastructure and the number of pupils that the education provision would serve'.

61	Key requirements	Would welcome inclusion of policies on active design and building active design concept into a range of policies where relevant. This relates to all types of development to ensure that people can live, work and play and that those locations are linked sustainably to facilitate active travel enabling people to be active in their everyday lives. It would be helpful if not only through built development, but also enabling the creation of hubs and opportunities for active travel so that policies to enhance cycling and walking routes are included with site-based policies. We ask that you consider if this can be included in SPD wording where relevant, potentially within the 'Design' and 'Sustainable transport and highways infrastructure' sections of each Key Requirements section, although we would welcome a separate reference to Active Design within the document.	As set out in the SPD, the developments at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw will need to comply with a wide range of development plan policies, including those within the recently adopted Places for Everyone Joint Plan (PfE). PfE includes a number of policies connected to active design and active travel.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
62		Green space is vital for recreation, health and wellbeing and access to nature	Places for Everyone was adopted by Bury Council with effect from 21st March 2024 which means that the plan is now part of Bury's statutory development plan. The allocated sites are therefore no longer designated as Green Belt and the principle of development has been established. Notwithstanding, the Policy for Elton Reservoir requires the development to provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset. Similarly, the policy accompanying the Walshaw allocation requires the development to make provision for new, high quality, publicly accessible, multifunctional green and blue	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			infrastructure within the allocation including the integration and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure corridors and assets at Walshaw and Elton Brooks.	
63		The construction risks disrupting local natural springs, which are critical for maintaining the area's water table. Disturbing these springs could lead to flooding in surrounding areas, exacerbating drainage issues, and posing serious risks to properties in the vicinity, including our cattery.	Any potential risks arising from construction would be considered at the planning application stage.	No change
64		Cattery, located nearby, would be negatively impacted by increased noise and human activity associated with the proposed development. The stress of additional disturbances could jeopardize the well-being of the animals in our care, as well as impact our business operations. Our business' unique selling point is that it's located within the tranquil countryside and the proposed development would threaten this.	Any potential impacts from noise arising from the development would be considered at the planning application stage.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
65		This green space supports various wildlife species, including birds and other fauna. Development would disrupt their natural habitats, leading to a loss of biodiversity that is crucial for ecological balance in the locality.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	No change
66		Concerned that the development is splitting itself into smaller sections and splicing the impacts and are not being considering entirely.	The requirement for any development on the site to be in accordance with a masterplan and phasing strategy is to ensure that the sites are planned comprehensively.	No change
67		The site needs working farms, and conservation grazing to continue as an ecologically valuable site. Abandonment to rough grass, conversion to amenity grassland and conversion to tree planting will destroy or diminish any areas of interest for grassland fungi that are not lost to building.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	
68		The UK Government has supported a pledge which was initiated by the Chilean Government to formally include fungi as a distinct and important component of global biodiversity. At the recent UN Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP 16) in Cali, Colombia this pledge also received the support of the EU. Therefore, instead of referring to 'biodiversity' as 'animals and plants' (with fungi subsumed as a minor, often neglected, component of 'plant' biodiversity), this pledge supports the idea that fungi should be treated separately (the three F's; FFF=fauna, flora funga). In due course, it is expected that this pledge will be formally incorporated into legislation.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	No change
69		Believe the grassland warrants the highest designation of local wildlife site the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit can designate, is keen to see the process of further evaluation for SSSI designation be carried out.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	
70		The site requires the urgent attention as a matter of Bury Council's Biodiversity Duty to ensure Elton Reservoir is not lost and retains appropriate habitat management moving forward.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	No change
71	N/A	To ensure the delivery of necessary health infrastructure, it is essential that new development makes a proportionate contribution to funding the health infrastructure needs arising from new homes. Given health infrastructure's strategic importance to supporting housing growth and sustainable development, it should be considered at the forefront of priorities for infrastructure delivery. The ability	Noted. The SPD sets out what the Development Frameworks for each site will need to consider in terms of the delivery of health infrastructure.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		to continually review the healthcare estate, optimise land use, and deliver health services from modern facilities is crucial. The health estate must be supported to develop, modernise, or be protected in line with integrated NHS strategies.		
72	N/A	Fully supportive of the use of an SPD to provide further details of what the Council expects to see within future masterplans for the strategic site allocations at Elton Reservoir and Walshaw, including detail on infrastructure requirements to support the scale of the whole development.	Support noted	No change
73	N/A	Pleased to see standalone sections on health provision within the site-specific advice for both sites. The inclusion of specific detail on the requirement for new/additional primary care provision linked to each site sets a clear expectation that development proposals will need to make provision for essential health infrastructure.	Support noted	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
74	N/A	Identifying both the requirement for on-going engagement with the GM ICB's Primary Care, Locality and Estates Teams as well as the process that will be followed in determining the required level of additional primary care provision will support the effective implementation of Places for Everyone Policy JP-P6 Health in relation to both sites.	The SPD specifies that the Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board's (ICB) Primary Care and Estates teams for the Bury Locality.	No change
75	N/A	Consider that the draft SPD also incorporates the right level of flexibility to allow healthcare providers to determine the most appropriate means of meeting the primary healthcare needs arising from new development, in alignment with NHS requirements.	Support noted	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
76	N/A	Both the Elton reservoir and Walshaw sites have mine entries and shallow coal workings recorded to be present within them. Where mine entries and their zones of influence are present these may impact on the quantum of development that can be accommodated on site. The Coal Authority is of the opinion that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible. It is recommended that these features, the risks they pose, and their potential impacts to site development, are acknowledged in the document in order to ensure that full consideration is given to the risks these features pose. As mine entries have potential to impact on development layout highlighting their presence at an early stage would ensure that any future proposal is informed by them. Drawing attention within the document to relevant land stability policies would also be appreciated to provide the framework within which any proposals will be formally considered.	The Council will have regard to mine entries and shallow coal workings when considering the masterplanning of both sites and any subsequent planning applications. Specific topic-based policy references/site constraints are not made as it is not considered appropriate to include that level of detail in the document. However, Table 1 – Scope and Content of the Development Frameworks – Chapter 4 Understanding the Site will now include reference to coal mining entries and shallow coal workings.	Coal mining entries/shallow coal workings to be identified as examples of site conditions/constraints which should be identified in Chapter 4 – Understanding the Site.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
77	N/A	Any planning application which comes forward for development within the defined Development High Risk Area, such as these two sites, will need to be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment. Where mine entries are present we would expect this to be informed by site investigations to locate these features, where necessary, and establish the remedial works necessary to ensure their stability. The layout of development should then be informed by these findings.	This is an issue that would be considered in detail at the planning application stage.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
78	N/A	Questions the merit of the Councils preference for the development framework to be approved and adopted as a standalone SPD and whether it is necessary. The current draft SPD18 provides detailed guidance and advice on the masterplan that is required by PfE JPA9. It is considered that SPD18, alongside the masterplan (as required by JPA9), is wholly sufficient to inform the delivery of a comprehensive and sustainable development at JPA9. An additional standalone SPD for JPA9 would result in the unnecessary duplication of work. PfE Policy JPA9 requires proposals for the allocation to be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan that has been approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The endorsed masterplan will thereafter be used by the LPA as a material consideration for the determining of future planning applications. By definition, a comprehensive masterplan will set the parameters which will guide future development, based on opportunities and constraints at the Site.	To give the Development Framework for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw material weight in the decision-making process, it is the Council's strong preference for them to be approved and adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) in their own right. SPDs for strategic sites are generally a useful tool to move from fixing the principle of development in the development plan and fixing key spatial development aspects. Even if the Development Frameworks were not taken forward as SPDs, the significance of these Frameworks would require public consultation. Such consultation and subsequent Cabinet approval would also be necessary for the Frameworks to have material weight in decision-making. As such, the preparation of the Development Frameworks as SPDs is not considered to be an unnecessary duplication of work and will not increase timescales by any significant degree. Whilst the PfE Inspectors recommended that any reference to SPDs be removed	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		Accordingly, it is not necessary for the approved comprehensive masterplan to be an SPD. This position is made clear by the Inspectors at Paragraph 215 of the Report on the Examination of Places for Everyone Development Plan Document. Specifically, this confirms that 'Several allocations also refer to the potential production of supplementary planning documents. However, there is no definitive commitment or timetable by any of the Councils to produce such documents and so any reference to them is not justified or effective and are removed'.	from those allocation policies that did include them, this was not on the basis that they did not consider it suitable for them to be prepared as SPDs but, rather, on the basis that there was no definitive commitment or timetable by any of the Councils to produce such documents.	

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
79	N/A	Comments related to delivery of housing development and 5-year supply. there is a very real risk that if Bury Council pursues a standalone SPD for the Walshaw strategic site that it will exacerbate an already critical under delivery of housing in the borough. There is also no guarantee that the Council's cabinet will approve the SPD document. In light of the Council's ongoing challenges with housing delivery, extensive work into an SPD document that may not get approved should be avoided.	Even if the Development Frameworks were not taken forward as SPDs, the significance of these Frameworks would require public consultation. Such consultation and subsequent Cabinet approval would also be necessary for the Frameworks to have material weight in decision-making.	No change
80	N/A	Objects to a standalone SPD for the Walshaw strategic site and instead requests the draft SPD18 document be used as a material consideration alongside an approved comprehensive masterplan as required by PfE Policy JPA9.	Even if the Development Frameworks were not taken forward as SPDs, the significance of these Frameworks would require public consultation. Such consultation and subsequent Cabinet approval would also be necessary for the Frameworks to have material weight in decision-making.	No change
81	Paragraph 3.18	The Consortium do not agree that the Council should take ownership of the Development Framework. As a jointly produced document (from inception to adoption), which is funded by the	The Council will need to take ownership of the Development Framework in order to take it through the necessary processes to achieving Council approval and adoption.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		Consortium, it would be inappropriate for the masterplan to be controlled by the Council. The requirement of PfE JPA9 is that a comprehensive masterplan be approved by the LPA and as such taking ownership, whilst perhaps a question of semantics, would be an overreach and should be amended in SPD18 accordingly.		
82	Paragraph 3.25	The Government is clear at NPPG 'Before submitting an application', that 'a planning performance agreement is agreed voluntarily between the applicant and the local planning authority prior to the application being submitted' (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 20-016-20150326). There is therefore no requirement for developers or landowners to enter a Planning Performance Agreement (PPA). At paragraph 3.25, the Council describe how a PPA will still be required even if a Development Framework has not been prepared in partnership with the Council. There is no policy requirement for a PPA within JPA9 and therefore the Consortium object to paragraph 3.25 and request	Noted.	Amend paragraph 3.26 (formally 3.25) to read: "If a Development Framework has not been prepared in partnership with the Council, a PPA will be requested. In the absence of a PPA there is a risk that the Council may be unable to properly resource the review of the Framework and its supporting evidence leading to potential delays in securing approval of the Framework – a process that would not be required if the Council was able to review material on an on-going basis throughout the Framework's preparation stage".

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		that it is amended or removed to reflect this position. If the Consortium pursue a PPA, it should be because they have decided to, and the progression / adoption of the masterplan should not be tied to this.		
83	N/A	Notwithstanding the infrastructure requirements, it is not possible due to the differing landownership arrangements for a true equalisation agreement to be achieved. It is, therefore, recommended that an approach to developer contributions be defined through the masterplan to ensure that all development in the JPA9 allocation contributes to the infrastructure that is necessary to ensure that it is both deliverable and sustainable. A collaborative approach is currently being progressed by/between the Consortium members. The purpose of this agreement is to devise a method through which extents of infrastructure funding can be agreed. Trigger points for these contributions will be informed by the forthcoming masterplan and delivery/phasing strategy. Such	Noted.	Paragraph 3.29 (formally 3.28) has been amended to read: "Significant complications can arise around this issue unless there is an agreement in place to 'equalise' the land and delivery costs between all parties. The Development Frameworks should set out the appropriate outcomes in terms of co-ordination of infrastructure with phases of development and establishing a mechanism for fair and proportionate contributions towards shared and strategic infrastructure requirements".

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		contributions can then be secured through Section 106 agreements. It is only possible for developer(s) to provide infrastructure up to their respective boundaries, and so the phasing strategy and Section 106 agreement should reflect this as to avoid delays to the delivery of any individual land parcel.		
84	N/A	Eager to explore the available and optional solutions for funding the necessary delivery of supporting infrastructure (required by JPA9), including via a potential 'roof tax' tariff.	Noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
85	Paragraphs 3.37 to 3.43	The draft SPD18 describes how EIA will be required on the basis of the Walshaw site as a whole, as opposed to within the context of individual planning applications. It is not clear how this would work in practice, and the Council should have regard to the case law which highlights that developments can be considered as a separate project from a wider allocation for the purposes of EIA Regulations e.g. Wingfield. R v Canterbury City Council [2019]. The impacts of the wider allocation can be considered through this approach. Accordingly, the Consortium considers that the Council should look again at paragraphs 3.37 to 3.43 and devise an arrangement that could work in reality based on the multiple landownership context. (see para 3.3.13-3.3.15 for more)	Noted. For EIA purposes, a planning application should not be considered in isolation if, in reality, it is an integral part of a more substantial development. Case law is clear that in such cases, the need for an EIA must be considered in the context of the whole development. In other words, a single project cannot be “salami-sliced” into a series of smaller projects. What constitutes the “project” for the EIA Regs is a matter of planning judgment for the local planning authority. As Policies JPA7 and JPA9 require any proposals for the Walshaw and Elton allocations to include an integrated approach to the delivery of infrastructure to support the scale of the whole development, it is unlikely that any proposals could proceed independently as a stand-alone project due to the need for an integrated approach to the delivery of a range of infrastructure.	No change.

86	Paragraphs 3.44 to 3.47 and accompanying Table 1	Agree that the comprehensive Masterplan as required by JPA9 should comprise a high-level framework that guides development, incorporating a degree of flexibility to account for changing circumstances. However, the comprehensive Masterplan document should not be overly prescriptive beyond what is required through PfE Policy JPA9 so do not agree that an overview of the collaboration arrangements should be outlined within the comprehensive Masterplan, as set out at Chapter 2 of Table 1. There is no policy or legislative requirement for this information to be put into the public domain and, from the developers' perspective, commercially sensitive information may be compromised in doing this. Prescribing detailed requirements beyond what is stipulated within PfE policy is not necessary.	Noted.	Requirement for collaboration arrangements to be included in the Development Frameworks has been removed.

87	Table 1 Chapter 7	Consider it unnecessary to include this level of detail within a masterplan (such as bullet points relating to the inclusion of parking and servicing.), especially where the adopted Bury Unitary Development Plan and Parking Standards SPD already provide specific standards and guidance for this. Similarly, standards for biodiversity net gain, carbon, heat and energy, quality, and affordable housing are already set within local and national planning policy. It is therefore unnecessary to repeat these policy requirements within the development framework.	The purpose of the SPD is to ensure that the policy requirements for each site are consolidated and set out clearly and comprehensively.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
88	Chapter 9 of Table 1	Consider Chapter 9 of Table 1 (infographic relating to the potential scheme benefits) to be an unnecessary addition to a forthcoming Masterplan. While the benefits of the scheme will undoubtably be outlined through the planning application submission(s), there is no requirement or need for this level of information to be provided at the masterplan stage, especially where principle of residential development within the Walshaw Site has already been established and accepted through its allocation in Places for Everyone.	It is considered important that the benefits of the scheme are clearly presented as part of the Development Frameworks in order for local communities and other stakeholders to fully and clearly understand what is being proposed.	No change
89	Plan 4	Do not consider the inclusion of Plan 4 to be necessary (given progress with the draft masterplan and associated technical highways inputs) but is content with the indicative location of the route identified on Plan 4. (more at 3.4.2-3.4.4)	The delivery of a strategic through road is considered critical to the delivery of the wider Walshaw site and the inclusion of the plan is intended to provide an indication of where that road should be routed.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
90	Paragraph 5.21	Agree with SPD18 Paragraph 5.21 that the need for a new one-form entry primary school within the allocation should continue to be assessed with input from the Council's Education services. However, in order for the masterplan to move forward, this information is required. The Consortium therefore requests the Council progresses this data gathering exercise in the immediate term and shares the results at the earliest opportunity.	The exploration of options for the delivery of primary education provision in conjunction with the wider development are on-going. The findings of this work will be relayed to the Consortium at the earliest opportunity.	No change
91	Paragraph 5.24 and 5.25	Paragraph 5.24 and 5.25 of the draft SPD18 is in conflict with this provision of JPA9 twofold. First, the wording of 'new local centres' seems to suggest the provision of more than one centre. It also states that said centre should be of a 'scale that serves the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods'. SPD18 should not be overly restrictive or prescriptive beyond what is specified within strategic policy JPA9. For consistency with PfE wording, the Consortium request that Paragraph 5.24 is amended from 'centres' to 'centre', and Paragraph 5.25 is	It is accepted that Policy JPA9 only requires the provision of one new local centre. The inclusion of 'new local centres' in para. 5.24 is a typographical error. Whilst it is considered that serving the needs of surrounding neighbourhoods represents the same as serving purely local needs, the terminology will be amended to ensure full consistency with Policy JPA9.	Delete the 's' from the end of 'centres' in para. 5.24. Replace 'the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods' with 'purely local needs' in para. 5.25.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		amended to state ‘local needs’ rather than ‘the needs of the surrounding neighbourhoods’.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
92	Paragraph 5.34	Plan 6 of the SPD18 denotes a wildlife corridor at the south of the JPA9 allocation. This wildlife corridor is 'saved' under Policy EN6/4 of the adopted Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP). However, the wildlife corridor saved by Policy EN6/4 is in conflict with PfE. the Site's allocation for mixed-use development in PfE takes precedence over the wildlife corridor designation in the UDP. While the Walshaw Site is now allocated for residential-led mixed use development through PfE JPA9, the Consortium acknowledges the historic green corridor designation and proposes to utilise landscaping solutions to achieve an overall betterment across the Site incorporating drainage solutions, biodiversity net gain, enhanced tree planting etc where possible. To recognise JPA9 in the context of Section 38(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, paragraph 5.34 of the draft SPD18 requires amending. The Consortium suggest the following 'development will be expected to avoid fragmenting	Policy EN6/4 is retained within the allocation and it is proposed to carry forward the existing Wildlife Links and Corridors designation into a new Strategic Green Infrastructure designation in the emerging Local Plan. Paragraph 5.34 reflects the wording of adopted PfE policy JP-G8.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		or severing this corridor where possible'.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
93	N/A	The Consortium acknowledges that the delivery of the Walshaw allocation will create an increased demand for sports and recreation provision. However, JPA9 does not require sports provision to be provided on site. Accordingly, clarity is required with respect to the Council's vision for the Site in relation to sports provision. On site sports provision will materially impact the Masterplan and as such the Consortium requests that this information is communicated to developer(s) and landowner(s) at an early stage to ensure this is accounted for within the design (if required) and to avoid abortive work.	The Places for Everyone Joint Plan should be read as a whole and there are other policies beyond JPA9 that are applicable to the Walshaw site, as set out in paras. 5.2 – 5.8 of the draft SPD. This includes PfE Policy JP-P7 (Sport and Recreation) and saved UDP Policy RT2/2 which include requirements for the provision of sport and recreation. In particular, criterion 3 of PfE Policy JP-P& requires new development to provide new and/or improved existing facilities commensurate with the demand they would generate. The provision of sports facilities will be determined by individual local authorities through an evidence-based approach. Similarly, saved UDP Policy RT2/2 requires developers of new housing to make provision for the recreational needs of the prospective residents. The LPA will work with colleagues to determine the specific requirements for the provision of open space, sport and recreation and will relay these to the Consortium at the earliest opportunity.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
94	Paragraph 5.46	Furthermore, paragraph 5.46 of the draft SPD18 suggests that a dual use of open spaces for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). This is not something the Consortium supports or considers practical from a health and safety perspective.	Amendments have been made to para. 5.46 to remove reference to play and sports areas and to state that consideration will also be given as to whether informal open spaces can also provide dual use for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems.	Amend para. 5.46 to remove reference to play and sports areas and to state that consideration will also be given as to whether informal open spaces can also provide dual use for Sustainable urban Drainage Systems.
95	Paragraph 5.49	Paragraph 5.49 seems to suggest that forthcoming development at JPA9 should look to alleviate surface water flooding that is occurring within the vicinity of the Site, including on Scobell Street. Developers cannot be expected to alleviate problems outside of their land interests. Therefore, request that paragraph 5.49 is amended so as to avoid reference to mitigating existing drainage issues on land outside of the allocation area.	The NPPF requires development to ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere and applications which could affect drainage on or around the site should incorporate SUDS to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff. Paragraph 5.49 identifies existing flood risk/drainage issues in the vicinity of the site and which would need to be considered to meet the requirements of the NPPF.	No change.
96		Sections 12 & 10, Page 22: Questions the reality of the commitments in the policy for biodiversity and compensatory improvements as they have submitted priority habitats to call for sites.	On its adoption in March 2024, Places for Everyone is now part of Bury's statutory development plan and Policy JPA7 (including criteria 10 and 12) sets out the requirements that the development at Elton Reservoir will need to make provision for.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.	
97		Due to the nature of the flora and fauna found at the priority habitat sites it would be impossible to recreate such unique and environmentally important sites at other locations within Bury MBC. So far the Council has failed to offer sufficient support the biodiversity of the sites	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
98		Doubts remain as to whether the permanent Star Academy Radcliffe school will be completed in time for the September 2026 intake. The first intake in September 2024 was oversubscribed even before the new houses.	Criterion 5 of Policy JPA7 requires provision for a new secondary school or, in the event that secondary school provision is delivered in an alternative way, make a financial contribution towards secondary school provision to meet needs generated by the development, in accordance with policy JP-P5. Plans to develop a new 5-form entry Radcliffe Star Academy secondary school have progressed independently of the Elton Reservoir allocation and, as such, there will be a need for a developer contribution towards secondary school provision.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
99		New spine road will not alleviate problems and will add to traffic	The inclusion of a new spine road through the Elton Reservoir site is to provide an alternative route to Bury and Bolton Road and Bury Bridge. The precise nature and specification of the new highways, junction arrangement and the specific route of these roads should be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work	No change
100		Document does not make clear where replacement facilities for Warth Fold will be. Questions where a suitable replacement would be, given that green belt is to be developed.	Criterion 8 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that the development of this allocation should make provision for the replacement of existing recreation space at Warth Fold that is equivalent or better in terms of quantity and quality and in a suitable location. Potential replacement provision will be considered through the subsequent masterplanning of the site but the SPD acknowledges that replacement provision could potentially be incorporated into the provision of the Country Park.	No change
101		Questions provision of a significant green corridor (item 9, Page 22) as The existing site offers significantly more access to open space than will	The Elton Reservoir site is now an adopted site allocation within PfE meaning that the principle of residential development on the site is established.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		be available if the proposed plan goes ahead.	Criterion 9 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that the development of this allocation should provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.	
102		In reference to Policy JP-P6, It should be noted that some of the existing housing close to the proposed site is in areas of index of multiple deprivation of one. Some of the poor health outcomes in the area are related to failure to address residents physical and mental wellbeing. Many residents do not have access to their own personal green space and therefore rely on access to the proposed development site under	The Elton Reservoir site is now an adopted site allocation within PfE meaning that the principle of residential development on the site is established. Criterion 9 of the PfE policy for Elton Reservoir (JPA7) states that the development of this allocation should provide a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		discussion for space to aid health improvement.	multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.	
103		Life expectancy in the central Radcliffe area LSOA is the lowest for both males and females in the whole of Bury MBC and there is already a very high demand on health and support services. Although additional health facilities are proposed it would need to be clear that this provision should be supplied before any housing is built on the site otherwise the already strained health provision would collapse, leaving a failing service supporting some of the most vulnerable within the borough.	The nature and timing of the delivery of healthcare provision as part of the Elton Reservoir development will be considered as part of the infrastructure phasing strategy that will be a key part of the subsequent Development Framework for the Elton Reservoir site.	No change
104		Questioned the use of section 106 money. Bury MBC does not have a good record on the control and spending of section 106 monies. In the past the Council has failed to	The processes for requiring and spending developer contributions through S106 and the projects that have been delivered through these monies is set out in the	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		prove the use of the money for effective mitigation and with such a large site being discussed that must be a serious concern to anybody looking at this plan.	Council's annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.	
105		Although section 4.68 on page 36 states that it recognises the following clause in the National Planning Policy Framework: "that development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design." To follow these recommendations, the Council would need to have an approved local plan, something Bury MBC has failed to have since 1997. Such a local plan should be drawn up in consultation with residents, considering issues and concerns raised by local democratically elected politicians and local residents. As stated above, there has been little demonstration that feedback and evidence presented in previous submissions made to various	Strategic-level design will be considered through the masterplanning process and more detailed design matters will be considered at the planning application stage. Places for Everyone includes policies relating to the design of new development. This plan was subject to extensive public consultation throughout its preparation. In addition, the Council is currently developing a new Local Plan for Bury and this will also include design-related policies.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		consultations have been listened to or acted upon.		
106	N/A	Complaints regarding lack of acknowledgement (other than automated) of call for sites or previous engagement with Local Plan process in 2024.	This comment is unrelated to the SPD. The Local Plan Call for Sites was not a consultation. It is a process to gather evidence about potential sites for development or sites which stakeholders feel should be protected from development.	No change
107	N/A	Defamatory comments in relation to GMEU. Claims that Councillors have made decision to adopt PFE based on a lack of detailed, inaccurate and misleading information on the site in question.	Comments do not relate to the SPD and defamatory comments are inappropriate.	No change
108	N/A	Elton Reservoir should be classified as an SSSI site.	Comments do not relate to the SPD.	No change
109	N/A	Biodiversity Gain will also fail to protect the area and moving habitats of site is not acceptable.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
110	N/A	Defamatory Comments in relation to GMEU	Comments do not relate to the SPD and defamatory comments are inappropriate.	No change
111	N/A	The proposed plans would have a detrimental impact both nationally and internationally on protected bird species.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
112	N/A	There are priority habitats on the Elton allocation	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
113	N/A	43 scarce species and Nationally Rare Fly (Green Long-legged Fly Dolichopus lineatocornis) the site qualifies as one of Buglife's Important Invertebrate Areas.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
114	N/A	Biodiversity Net Gain is an additional requirement from government and the law stresses that it is an additional requirement on top of the raft of national legislation and policy and local policy. To move straight to compensation and BNG is illegal and unlawful and those who promote it are promoting disinformation and criminality.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
115	N/A	UU have confirmed that there is insufficient hydraulic capacity in the sewer system, with a 'weak point' of a T-junction in the sewer system on Scobell Street. From the outline planning documents, they are concerned that is the intention for the development at Walshaw to connect the foul water discharge from the development to the public sewer system at the exact point that is the 'weak point' in the sewer system on Scobell Street. This is the exact point at which the sewer system currently lacks hydraulic capacity and is overwhelmed frequently during heavy rainfall, backing up and flooding the road, our land and on one devastating	The Council will take full account of existing flooding issues/sewer capacity in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. The NPPF requires development to ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere and applications which could affect drainage on or around the site should incorporate SUDS to control flow rates and reduce volumes of runoff. Paragraph 5.49 identifies existing flood risk/drainage issues in the vicinity of the Walshaw site and which would need to be considered through the masterplan	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		occasion our home (as outlined above). Connecting to the sewer at this point, unless there is a significant plan such as the installation of large storm storage tanks or the upsizing of the sewer system will be catastrophic and it cannot be allowed to go ahead.	process to meet the requirements of the NPPF.	
116	N/A	The stream flooded as it all ways does and large area of the fields were flooded. The corner of church st was flooded as normal and in passable as normal, and water was flowing into the fields making the flooding worse.	It is acknowledged that there have been several incidents of surface water flooding around the Walshaw site, particularly on Scobell Street, which occurs when intense rainfall overwhelms existing drainage systems. Hydraulic modelling will need to be undertaken to support the Development Framework and to inform the design and layout of the development, including methods of surface water management.	No change
117	N/A	Pollution levels are high in the area, because of the high traffic levels. Fine pollution particles of concern, particulates matter or PM2.5 have been linked to cancer, heart disease, asthma.	PfE Policy JP-S5 relates to clean air and it sets out a comprehensive range of measures that will be taken to support improvements in air quality, focusing particularly on locations where people live, where children learn and play, where there are impacts on the green	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			infrastructure network and where air quality targets are not being met.	
118	N/A	Wholly supportive of development coming forward in accordance with the allocation in Places for Everyone	Support noted	No change
	N/A	Landowners within the Elton Reservoir allocation have been disappointed that there has been very limited engagement or collaboration since the largest promoter first engaged. As such, we would welcome such engagement, which may beneficially be facilitated by the Council who will play a critical role in bringing all stakeholders together. We welcome the opportunity to work with all relevant parties for positive discussions to facilitate development coming forward. As at 3.7 of the Framework Document we are equally keen for such engagement to take place at an earlier stage, to enable progress in a timely manner. It is imperative that the stakeholders are engaged early, and the Council have a critical role to play in bringing this together.	The Elton Reservoir Development Framework will establish parameters for the entire PfE allocation and therefore all landowners and stakeholders will be encouraged to engage in the preparation of the masterplan.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
119	N/A	Welcome the concept of an 'ownership-blind' basis to support the development as a whole, and we welcome the commitment to equalisation, "agreed up front" which ought to enable the most efficient delivery of future development. As referenced at 3.27 of the document we would be happy to cooperate in respect of services, infrastructure, drainage, green spaces etc. which we acknowledge are as fundamental and integral to the development as housing and other 'ground up' built uses.	Support noted.	No change
120	N/A	Support the country park / parkland concept and green infrastructure improvements to be delivered as part of the proposals, together ensuring delivery of an appropriate quality scheme, whilst protecting the integrity of the area and allowing continued enjoyment for local / future residents.	Support noted.	No change
121	N/A	Are in agreement around the complications that can arise around land assembly cited at 3.28 of the document and we are happy to	Support noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		engage throughout to facilitate the common goal of the most timely delivery of development.		
122	N/A	Supportive of the Council leading the process when negotiations begin to ensure the fairest outcomes for all landowners without favour to those promoting.	Support noted.	No change
123	N/A	If current primary schools were expanded at Christ Church Walshaw and Tottington South, both the volume of extra traffic and parking situation would be untenable.	The Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Education services to determine the expected level of pupil yield from the development and the specific nature of primary school provision and whether such provision should be made on-site or through an off-site contribution.	No change
124	N/A	Provision should be determined before building proceeds to ensure adequate primary places to avoid the situation in Radcliffe with the high school still in temporary classrooms with building delayed. Developers cannot be allowed to make promises to build or contribute costs of building a primary school only later to claim	The nature and timing of the delivery of education provision to support the wider development of the sites will be considered as part of the infrastructure phasing strategy that will be a key part of the subsequent Development Frameworks for each site.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		this is not affordable. Proper written agreements must be given.		
125	N/A	Native hedgerows must be protected for the large numbers of breeding birds in the area and not bulldozed or replaced by fencing. There should be safeguards established for boundaries of properties that preserve these hedges. The wildlife corridor should not be restricted to this area and corridors inserted throughout the development to protect bats and other wildlife.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
126	N/A	Emphasis should be on significant on-site gains, preservation of trees and hedgerows to mitigate against flood risk and the significant surface water run off with streams throughout the area. Additional planting of native trees should be undertaken to enhance the area which will lose its rural character through such large scale building which again may offset the flood risk. There should be no time limit of 30 years, flood risk will not diminish.	PfE Policy JP-S4 relates to flood risk and the water environment and states that flood risk will be managed through a variety of methods. Issues around flood risk will be considered at both the masterplanning and planning application stages.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
127	Paragraph 5.43	Care should be taken to ensure any spaces are not easily subject to vandalism.	The detailed design of any recreation provision will be considered at the planning application stage.	No change
128	Paragraph 5.44	Consideration of unintended traffic congestion should be looked at in creating or enhancing existing sports facilities.	Transport modelling will be undertaken in conjunction with the preparation of the Development Frameworks for the sites.	No change
129	Paragraph 5.45	The area is currently used by many people for walking, public footpaths should be maintained in accordance with their character alongside hedgerows and green spaces throughout the development.	Existing Public Rights of Way (PROW) and the provision of new PROWs will be considered at the masterplanning stage for both sites. The need to consider PROWs is set out in Table 1(4) which lists PROWs and one of the site conditions/constraints.	No change.
130	Paragraph 5.46	Open spaces are crucial with the dual necessity for drainage.	Comment noted.	No change
131	Paragraph 5.51 -5.54	Emphasis should be on enhancing the natural beauty of the area of the development in consultation with residents and conservation experts.	PfE Policy JP-G2 states that development which involves the removal of land from the Green Belt (including allocations proposed in the plan) will be required to offset the impact of removing land from the Green Belt through identifying and delivering compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			of remaining Green Belt in the vicinity of the site.	
132	Paragraph 5.55-5.58	The boundaries of properties should be natural in character with the area. Building materials should also be chosen to be in character with current properties. Heights of buildings and boundaries should not block light for current properties nor overlook or impinge on privacy. Additional planting of trees should compensate for green views lost and protect privacy, enhancing the area. Local residents should be consulted throughout on decisions which will affect views from their properties.	These are detailed matters that would be considered at the planning application stage.	No change
133	Paragraph 5.57	Noise levels and construction traffic must be carefully regulated so as not to adversely affect residents. Working hours must also be regulated and limited so as not to adversely affect sleep patterns of residents and prohibited or strictly limited at weekends.	These are detailed matters that would be considered at the planning application stage.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
134	N/A	In principle, the SPD is considered to be a positive approach to help shape the future development of plans for the site and the content of the document appears to be generally well considered.	Comments noted.	No change
135	N/A	Keen to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to Canal and Rivers Trust assets including the reservoir, part of the Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal, and a wide variety of associated infrastructure including feeders, weirs, storm sluices, bridges and culverts.	Criterion 9 of the policy for the Elton Reservoir allocation requires the development of the site to make provision for a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.	No change
136	N/A	Part 3: The early identification of key issues through a development framework is an appropriate approach to delivery of strategic sites.	Comments noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
137	N/A	Note the Council's preference for development frameworks to be approved and adopted as SPDs and consider such an approach to be appropriate. Also suggest where significant future changes or updates are proposed, these follow the same process.	Comments noted.	No change
138	N/A	Welcome collaborative working	Comments noted.	No change
139	N/A	Would not expect to be liable for any costs associated with the provision of infrastructure however does anticipate improvements to assets to manage the increase in usage of the recreation routes and the canals integration with the country park	Criterion 9 of the policy for the Elton Reservoir allocation requires the development of the site to make provision for a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
140	N/A	The scope and proposed content of the development framework appears reasonable.	Comment noted	No change
141	N/A	Suggest that details of new highways junctions and transport modelling should also take account of the impacts of the character and users of the canal. (Reference to ecological interests could be widened to 'other interests')	It is accepted that it would be beneficial for the SPD to refer to other potential interests when referring to highways design work.	Amend para 4.14 to read: 'The precise nature and specification of the new highways, junction arrangement and the specific route of these roads should be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work and should take appropriate account of ecological and other interests within the site'.
142	N/A	Ways to improve access to towpath and walking and cycling links should be considered	Criterion 9 of the policy for the Elton Reservoir allocation requires the development of the site to make provision for a significant green corridor which remains within the Green Belt and provides a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible open space/parkland coupled with a network of multi-functional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset.	
143	N/A	Enhanced water safety measures along with improvements to canal infrastructure will be required.	This is a detailed matter that would be considered at the planning application stage.	No change
144	N/A	Whilst the reference to structural upgrades to Elton reservoir is noted, it is considered that wider reference to NPPF 'agent of change' principles (see PPG on Flood Risk) whereby those introducing a change in the use of land are required to manage the impact of that change (flood risk) rather than existing uses.	Criterion 13 of the PfE policy for the Elton Reservoir allocation (JPA7) states that development within this allocation will be required to ensure the allocation is safe from and mitigates for potential flood risk from all sources including the River Irwell, Elton and Withins Reservoir and surface water and does not increase the flood risk elsewhere. The delivery of the allocation should be guided by an appropriate flood risk and drainage strategy which ensures co-ordination between phases of development. The onus is therefore on the developer to ensure that the allocation is safe from flood risk.	No change
145	N/A	Welcomes that many of the key issues, such as positive climate resilience action, brownfield first policy, enhancement of biodiversity, and improvement of environmental	Support noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		health to address health inequalities and deprivation are referenced.		
146	Paragraph 3.3.	Support the general advice regarding the Council's expectations with respect to the benefits of effective community and stakeholder engagement set out in paragraph 3.3. support the requirement set out in Table 1 for the frameworks to contain an Engagement Section giving an overview of the engagement undertaken during the preparation of the Development Framework and how the masterplan has responded to this and the requirements set out in the Community and Stakeholder Section paragraphs 3.33-3.36.	Support noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
147	N/A	Support the requirement for the Frameworks to include a section on Affordable Housing and to require the provision of affordable housing. However raise concerns with respect to the idea that not all information will be public available including viability assessments. Developers occasionally argue that affordable housing requirements cannot be met due to viability reasons. In such circumstances it would be in the public interest for such viability calculations to be made public so that decision making is transparent in the same way as other parts of the planning process.	Support for the provision of affordable housing noted. Viability will be considered in detail at the planning application stage but the assessments often contain commercially sensitive information.	No change
148	N/A	A more objective sustainable assessment approach with community engagement is recommended to enable ambitions of the public and private sector to be realised in tandem and not at the expense of social and environmental goals. While there are requirements in the SPD for the Frameworks to incorporate or include active travel	It is intended that a detailed Transport Strategy Document will be prepared to support the Development Frameworks for each of the allocations. The Transport Strategy will set out out the transport ambitions that the developments are seeking to achieve and identify the multimodal transport infrastructure needed to achieve that vision including active travel infrastructure.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		routes and public transport this does not go anywhere near far enough. To eliminate car dependency and reduce car usage development proposals need to be designed to do more than just include or incorporate active travel routes. A clear strategy for reducing car use and eliminating car dependency needs to be incorporated into the design of the development and this needs to be a key requirement of the Frameworks.		
149	N/A	Site specific requirements for example for a Metrolink Stop and travel hubs are welcome.	Support noted	No change
150	N/A	Active travel can be encouraged in many ways that have been long established in urban design practice including land use patterns, mixing of uses within buildings, density, improvements to security, lighting, overlooking, way finding, tight radii on corners, build outs for crossing streets and so on and these should all be explored. (LTN 1/20, Manual for Streets, Urban Design Compendium to name just some and the	It is intended that a Transport Strategy Document will be prepared to support the Development Frameworks for each of the allocations. This document will set out in detail how the developments intend to create and deliver a comprehensive network of active travel routes and will refer to examples of good practice for both active travel and public transport.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		Frameworks should be required to reference these as appropriate) The SPD might benefit from signposting to exemplars with respect to promotion of active travel and public transport in UK or abroad.		
151	N/A	To ensure for carbon zero development, CPRE encourages sustainable design principles, and requirement of solar PV on residential and commercial roof space to maximise building energy efficiency. It can help us respond to the climate emergency and cost of living crisis.	Sustainable design and energy principles and renewable energy provision will be set out within the Development Framework documents for both allocations as set out within Table 1 of the SPD.	No change
152	N/A	Concerned there is no reference to solar power or photo voltaics in the document. This would appear to be an important opportunity for ensuring a more sustainable energy future being missed and should be rectified by an amended SPD having clear requirements for all housing and commercial buildings to have solar panels on roofs. This would put the SPD in accordance with paragraphs 4.67 and 5.55.	Sustainable design and energy principles including renewable energy provision will be set out within the Development Framework documents for both allocations as set out within Table 1 of the SPD.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
153	N/A	Agree with the requirements for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and various requirements set out in the sections on Flood Risk.	Support noted	No change
154	N/A	CPRE support the sections on requirements regarding Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain. CPRE believe that all new development and infrastructure should support the aims of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and we are supportive of the requirements set out in the SPD in this regard.	Support noted	No change
155	N/A	Support the sections setting out requirements with respect to heritage for both Frameworks	Support noted.	No change
156	N/A	Pleased to see that, in addition to the requirements with regard to health facilities, there is a requirement set out in Table 1 for the Development Framework to include a Masterplan Framework that responds to an objective on Health and Wellbeing. However, more could be said about the physical and mental health and wellbeing benefits of access to green	Health and Wellbeing will be covered within the future Development Framework documents and will provide details on the benefits to physical and mental health through access to green space, active travel and improved air quality.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		space and active travel such as greater exercise and improved air quality. There should be specific requirements to ensure such benefits in both developments.		
157	N/A	The site is especially rich in wetland and open habitat invertebrates. The site's extensive area as one of the largest wetland sites in Greater Manchester adds greater wildlife conservation value through increased capacity to withstand stochastic negative impacts. The site requires appropriate, sympathetic conservation management practices promoting wetland and open mosaic habitat diversity in order for it to retain it's significance as regionally important site for invertebrate life.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
158	N/A	As Places for Everyone is currently subject to Judicial Review proceedings, we dispute that any plans using PfE as a basis should be consulted upon until those proceedings have been determined.	Places for Everyone was adopted in March 2024 and is now part of Bury's statutory development plan. This situation would only change if a legal challenge were successful and a judge ordered the plan to be quashed.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
159	Paragraph 1.5	Once again, a circular argument is being used to justify the development of the strategic sites. If the sites were not being built on there would be no need for additional infrastructure. The existing infrastructure would not need improvement if it was not about to be overloaded with additional housing in two areas which are in relatively close proximity to each other. No benefits, let alone significant ones, have been created in relation to the development of the strategic sites and there are no guarantees that the additional infrastructure will be forthcoming.	Following the adoption of Places for Everyone in March 2024, the site allocations within it have now established the principle of development. It is important that this development is supported by the necessary infrastructure.	No change
160	Paragraph 2.5, 3.33-3.36	Comments made by the public in previous consultations have been ignored as the Council has ploughed on with the developer-led PfE. Very little notice has been taken by the Council of the genuine concerns raised by affected communities who will have to live with the impact of the development of the sites. It is highly unlikely that comments made by communities in this Consultation will be taken notice of.	Comments made in response to consultation on the SPD have been given detailed consideration and the document has been amended in response to comments that raise matters that would need to be considered through the masterplanning process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
161	Paragraph 3.30	Bury Council's record with regard to accountability for monies received and spent under S106 agreements is notoriously bad. It is therefore a real and serious concern that planned infrastructure will not be forthcoming.	The processes for requiring and spending developer contributions through S106 and the projects that have been delivered through these monies is set out in the Council's annual Infrastructure Funding Statement.	No change
162	Paragraph 5.12-13	The provision of a new road will not alleviate traffic problems generated by the planned development.	The inclusion of a new strategic through road is considered critical to the delivery of the wider Walshaw site. The precise nature and specification of the new highway, junction arrangements and the specific route of these roads will be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work. In addition, the site promoters will be required to undertake a detailed Transport Assessment to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on congestion.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
163	N/A	The existence of another busy junction to cross where the planned new route crosses Walshaw Road will deter those students who walk or cycle to and from school from doing so. An increase in traffic utilising Walshaw Road can only serve to make the road even more dangerous	The site promoters will be required to undertake a detailed Transport Assessment. The Transport Assessment will be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work. The impact on the surrounding highway network will be considered as part of this detailed work.	No change
164	N/A	Questioned whether Church Street is sound enough and has the capacity to cope with additional traffic.	The site promoters will be required to undertake a detailed Transport Assessment. The Transport Assessment will be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work. The impact on the surrounding highway network will be considered as part of this detailed work.	No change
165	N/A	The existing junction at Walshaw Cross is already dangerous with poor visibility. There is no guarantee that traffic generated by the new development will utilise the planned new road. Any increase in traffic at the Walshaw Cross junction will cause further problems.	The site promoters will be required to undertake a detailed Transport Assessment. The Transport Assessment will be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work. The impact on the surrounding highway network will be considered as part of this detailed work.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
166	Paragraph 5.20-5.21	Draft SPD 18 appears to already be reneging on Criterion 6 of the PfE policy for Walshaw which states that "the development in this allocation will be required to make provision for a new one-form entry primary school." A non-specific commitment by the LPA to look at primary school provision is not the same as providing a new school. Certainly, alarm bells rang loudly when the Council put land set aside for the new primary school into the accelerated disposal scheme and the wording of draft SPD 18 seems to confirm that the Council does not intend to meet the requirement for school provision in PfE.	As set out in the SPD (para 4.27), the Local Planning Authority will continue to work closely with the Council's Education services to determine the expected level of pupil yield from the development and the specific nature of primary and secondary school provision and whether such provision should be made on-site or through an off-site contribution.	No change
167	Paragraph 5.29	There is no explanation provided as to how the decision has been reached to simply "improve" existing health facilities in the locality, rather than provide new health facilities. Whilst a calculation has been used regarding the additional floorspace provision required, no evidence has been provided about how many more	The term 'improve existing health facilities' refers to whether or not the new demand for GP provision generated by the whole development would be large enough to require a new practice provision (potential on-site new build), or could be accommodated by the off-site expansion of existing practice(s) that would enable additional staffing and appointments to meet the needs generated by the new	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		patients will be generated by a development of 1,250 homes. It is currently difficult enough to obtain a doctor's appointment, and it is hard to see how thousands more patients in the area could be accommodated without a new health centre being provided. SPD 18 also states at 5.29 that "existing primary care estate is well-located in relation to the Walshaw site" This is simply untrue. Currently, local health facilities that serve the area necessitate a car journey to reach them. Any additional health facilities should be in place before any of the proposed development takes place to avoid additional overload on a service already at capacity.	housing. These initial planning assessments are based on ICB standard requirements with regard to the primary care floorspace requirement per number of patients from new housing, as derived from national guidance relating to provision of facilities for primary care. In both cases this approach would ensure the required additional provision of primary healthcare infrastructure for future residents of the new housing proposed is provided in alignment with NHS requirements. With regard to the location of existing primary care estate in the Walshaw area, the next stage review of health provision would also need to include a full traffic impact assessment that would take full account of available transport links and distances for patients to travel	
168	N/A	The planned wildlife corridors for Walshaw within the Draft SPD 18 are fragmented and insufficient, especially to the North of the allocation.	Criterion 9 of the policy for the Walshaw allocation (JPA8) requires the development of the site to make provision for new, high quality, publicly accessible, multifunctional green and blue infrastructure within the allocation including the integration and enhancement of the existing green infrastructure	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			corridors and assets at Walshaw and Elton Brooks. This criterion will need to be considered as part of the development of the masterplan and any subsequent planning applications.	
169	Paragraph 5.43	5.43: Here, there is a commitment to provide recreation areas for "prospective residents" of new housing sites. This conflicts with 5.45. Paragraph 5.45 is only a vague commitment to look at recreation provision, and actually states that provision could be made in other areas instead. This clearly conflicts with the requirement in the UDP to provide recreation areas for residents of new developments.	UDP Policy RT2/2 requires developers of new housing on sites of 10 or more dwellings to provide for the recreational needs of the prospective residents. Such provision can be made either within the site or off-site where this would still cater for the needs of the prospective residents.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
170	N/A	The removal of the Walshaw Allocation from the greenbelt will adversely affect existing local residents as there is no alternative site proposed locally to compensate residents for their loss of amenity. The next most local greenbelt site at Elton is also part of the allocations within PfE, thus removing the vast majority of accessible greenbelt in the locality. The fundamental purpose of the greenbelt is to put a stop to urban sprawl. The removal of the Walshaw site from the greenbelt disregards the actual purpose of this greenbelt site.	The removal of the Green Belt designation at Walshaw and Elton was considered in detail by Independent Planning Inspectors as part of the examination of the Places for Everyone Joint Plan and it was concluded that there were exceptional circumstances to justify the removal of the Green Belt in both cases.	No change
171	N/A	Urge you to consider excluding completely the area which has Priority Habitat status, Lowland Meadow and Flood Plain Grazing Marsh, from the housing allocation.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
172	N/A	It is not sufficient to conserve such areas as fragments of amenity grassland, amongst housing. The impact of dog excrement alone changes the nutrient status of the soil, it is compacted by use and it is impossible to maintain the management which these very special habitats require.	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change
173	N/A	It would save you money and increase your green credentials to simply exclude the important area from the proposals and avoid the need for an EIA here. I recommend you involve Natural England in the discussions about how best to conserve these important habitats	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
174	Paragraph 2.4 and 3.2	It is fundamental that any masterplan(s) and infrastructure strategy for both allocations are informed by site wide flood risk and ecological assessments to ensure the design principles and phasing assumptions are deliverable, as well as capturing the associated costs for required infrastructure. Therefore, we support the position within paragraph 3.2 that it is an expectation of the Council that this is brought forward.	Support noted.	No change

175	Paragraph 3.5	Given the position that the development framework is to bridge this gap, it is unclear on the relationship between the framework and development of the masterplan(s) which are required to be approved under Places for Everyone (PfE) Development Plan Document Policies JPA 7 (Elton) and JPA 9 which also require clear phasing strategies. (3.9-3.10-3.44) there appears to be no specific details on these matters within the development frameworks supplementary planning document other than prescriptive thematic issues for consideration (Table 1). Therefore, we are unable to comment on any details in relation to phasing and infrastructure needs that are associated with the delivery of the allocations or provide feedback on matters within the Environment Agency's remit in relation to relevant associated baseline assessments. Without a fully comprehensive site-specific baseline assessment of environmental matters, it will not be possible to hold sufficient confidence on the appropriateness of the proposed placemaking intentions and therefore, the overall suitability of the masterplan as this is prepared. This is	A Development Framework is effectively a collective term used for the masterplan and infrastructure phasing strategies that are required by the PfE policies for both sites. Further consultation will be undertaken on the Development Frameworks as and when these are prepared.	No change

		supported by the PPG principles that are highlighted above. We would recommend that the development frameworks are updated with these specific details or the associated masterplan(s) infrastructure phasing strategies produced for further review and consultation to ensure there is confidence on the deliverability of what is being proposed.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
176	Table 1	To support the strategic priority for green infrastructure (and related PfE Policy JP-G2 Green Infrastructure Network) the emerging development framework will need to have regard to nature recovery priorities as contained with the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy We would welcome wider reference to flood risk in section 7 beyond the consideration of drainage matters to ensure both fluvial and surface water matters are captured.	Noted.	Reference to flood risk has been added into Table 1, section 7.
177	Table 1:	'Policy JP-D1: Infrastructure Implementation' within PfE provides guidance to consider the alignment of infrastructure provision in consideration of alignment with other infrastructure providers programmes with associated collaboration and early engagement. This could be further reflected in section 8 of the table.	Agreed that this is an important consideration for the Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.	Include a new bullet point within section 8 of Table 1 to read: 'Evidence of collaboration and early engagement to consider alignment of infrastructure provision with other infrastructure provider's programmes'.
178	Paragraph 4.42	We welcome the reference to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Support noted.	No change

179	Paragraphs 4.43 – 4.45 & Paragraphs 5.36 – 5.38	Whilst we welcome the support to consider ecological matters, this section could be further strengthened to reference wider priorities for the water environment. There are significant Irwell tributaries that dissect and flow through the proposed allocation area and we would support that these key green infrastructure assets are positively integrated, and where feasible enhanced as part of new development proposals to improve ecological networks linking to existing green infrastructure assets local wildlife as advocated in PfE policies JP-G2 (Green infrastructure) and JP-G3 (River Valleys and waterways). Any new large-scale regeneration of existing largely greenspace areas within the mid Irwell catchment area will need to be sustainably designed to protect and preferably enhance the existing water environment. For example, by combining regeneration of area with an enhanced blue-green infrastructure that provides	Noted.	Inset additional text at paragraph 4.43 and 5.36: "The Development Framework should also seek the positive integration and where feasible enhancement of the existing water environment to improve ecological networks. For example, by combining regeneration of area with an enhanced blue-green infrastructure that provides opportunities of overflow reduction and improved water quality in Irwell, but designed in a way that will also support an increase in flood resilience and looks to improve the ecological quality and connectivity of habitats in the locality".

		opportunities of overflow reduction and improved water quality in Irwell, but designed in a way that will also support an increase in flood resilience and looks to improve the ecological quality and connectivity of habitats in the locality.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
180	N/A	We support the specific reference to the biodiversity net gain (BNG) statutory requirement and the need to deliver the required minimum 10% net gain. This will need to be considered across all three environmental elements of the biodiversity metric assessment (The Biodiversity Metric Supporting Documents - JP039), and preferentially ensure this is delivered on-site in compliance with the mitigation hierarchy.	Support noted.	No change
181	Paragraphs 4.60 – 4.62	We welcome reference to the need to undertake a site wide flood risk and drainage strategy. The consideration of water management across the allocation as a whole will ensure that the future masterplan is considered in conjunction with the need to make space for water which is the preferred approach and best practice design as opposed to a plot by plot assessment.	Support noted.	No change
182	N/A	In support of PfE, a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken which also provided high level analysis of the Elton Allocation within the Appendix B of the	Noted.	The first sentence of paragraph 4.62 has been amended to read: “Delivery of the allocation should be guided by an appropriate flood risk and drainage strategy in accordance

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		associated report with accompanying recommendations for taking this forward. Further reference/consideration of this should be made within the development framework.		with PfE Policy JP-S4 (and the recommendations for the site identified in the PfE Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) which ensures coordination between phases of development".
183	Paragraph 5.35	We welcome the reference to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	Support noted.	No change
184	N/A	Supportive of the preparation of a Development Framework for the two strategic sites	Support noted	No change
185	N/A	Supportive of the adoption of the Development Framework as a supplementary planning document which will be given weight in the determination of planning applications at the site.	Support noted	No change
186	N/A	Would welcome clarity on whether the Development Framework is additional to the preparation of a masterplan. Our interpretation is that the Development Framework will provide the basis for preparing a masterplan.	A Development Framework is effectively a collective term used for the masterplan and infrastructure phasing strategies that are required by the PfE policies for both sites. Further consultation will be undertaken on the Development Frameworks as and when these are prepared.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
187	N/A	Request that the Development Framework, any subsequent masterplans and planning applications are underpinned by the need to respond to the climate emergency. At the current time, the Development Framework makes limited reference to the need to respond to the climate emergency in the design of the site.	Climate change and sustainable design principles will be set out within the Development Framework documents for both allocations as set out within Table 1 of the SPD.	A criterion on climate change has been added to Table 1 of the SPD.
188	N/A	Supportive of Paragraphs 3.26 to 3.39 which identify the need for a land value equalisation agreement to secure the delivery of development at the site	Support noted	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
189	N/A	Without a land value equalisation agreement, we would be very concerned that the delivery of infrastructure on such sites can be fragmented and led by land ownership boundaries as opposed to a logical site-wide infrastructure strategy. This leads to sub-optimal approaches to the delivery of new infrastructure, e.g., foul and surface water management, as well as sub optimal approaches to design quality and place making. The delivery of any masterplan and the opportunity to create sustainable development will be fundamentally determined by whether there is a mechanism to coordinate delivery of land in fragmented ownership. We are wholly supportive of an equalisation mechanism which ensures a more coordinated and holistic approach to the delivery of development that works alongside the requirements of the Development Framework and wider planning policy.	As set out in the SPD, it is vital that the masterplan that will sit within the wider Development Framework is prepared on an 'ownership-blind' basis i.e. that location of the infrastructure that is necessary to support the development as a whole (e.g. schools, highways, open space, sustainable urban drainage systems, ecological mitigation and local centres) takes no account of land ownership. The Council will request an equalisation agreement which subsequently informs the Development Framework in terms of the infrastructure phasing strategy.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
190	N/A	It is critical that you engage with UUW so that our assets are fully considered in the detail of your design and the proposed construction works. Have appended guidance document which they ask is considered at the masterplanning stage. Within the Development Framework , we request that our assets are clearly referenced as a major constraint that must be fully understood as soon as possible and prior to progressing the detail of any design and / or the acquisition of any land. The detail of any design and the approach to construction will need to be agreed with UUW. This must include agreement of any changes in levels. You should not assume that changes in levels will be acceptable. Changes in levels on top of our assets can affect the structural integrity of our infrastructure and the hydraulic performance of our assets. Changes in manhole cover levels on our sewers can result in the increase or displacement of flood risk from the public sewer, which would not be acceptable. The details of any access or roads (temporary or permanent)	Noted. The Council will take full account of existing flooding issues/sewer assets/capacity in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	Drainage has been identified as an example of site conditions/constraints which should be identified in Chapter 4 – Understanding the Site.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		that are proposed on top of our assets and any services that are located within the easement / offset area for our assets must also be agreed in writing.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
191	N/A	Note the importance of any approach to planting trees and landscaping giving due consideration to the impact on utility services noting the implications that can arise as a result of planting too close to our assets. This can result in root ingress, which in turn increases the risk of drainage system failure and increases flood risk.	Noted.	No change.
192	N/A	Biodiversity proposals on top of our assets will not normally be acceptable as we will need to maintain access for maintenance, repair and replacement.	Noted.	No change.
193	N/A	Wish to emphasise the need for an allocation wide infrastructure strategy (foul and surface water management and clean water supply) in accordance with adopted policy.	Noted. Table 1 – Scope and Content of the Development Framework identifies the requirement for an Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.	No change.
194	N/A	Sustainable management of surface water is a critical element of addressing the impact of climate change. In accordance with national planning policy, we recommend that the surface water hierarchy for the	Noted. The Council will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process to	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		management of surface water is followed.	ensure the surface water hierarchy for the management of surface water is followed.	
195	N/A	Request that all land ownerships confirm their approach to surface water management as part of the preparation of the Development Framework. We expect to receive only foul flows to the public sewer. In this context, all land parcels will need to either infiltrate or discharge to a watercourse. In order to discharge to a watercourse, a development parcel will require a right to discharge, which can be a critical determinant of the approach to surface water management and the deliverability of a holistic and integrated approach to drainage. If a landowner is unable to demonstrate that they have an option for the management of surface water, we would wish to discuss with the council further and prior to finalisation of the development framework. The approach to drainage will need to be considered alongside the equalisation mechanism.	Noted. The Council will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process to ensure the approach to surface water management is acceptable and based on robust evidence.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
196	N/A	Request that the emerging Development Framework outlines clear expectations for new development to fully embrace sustainable surface water management, noting that at the current time there is little detail on the nature of SuDS which are expected to be delivered at the site in the draft Supplementary Planning Document. Such an approach has added benefits associated with the quality of the public realm, the enhancement of biodiversity and urban cooling. The Development Framework should clearly outline that any landscaping and public realm design is intrinsically linked to surface water management opportunities. The evaluation of surface water and flood risk management opportunities should be undertaken at the outset of the design process.	Noted. The Council will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process to ensure the approach and use of SUDS is acceptable and based on robust evidence.	No change.
197	N/A	Request that the approach to sustainable drainage reflects the ‘four pillars’ of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), i.e., water quantity,	Noted. The Council will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		water quality, amenity, and biodiversity.	throughout the masterplanning process to ensure the approach and use of SUDS is acceptable and based on robust evidence.	
198	N/A	The Development Framework should clearly outline the need for sustainable drainage systems to be incorporated throughout the development rather than a reliance on end of pipe solutions. You should outline this expectation in the development framework and identify a range of SuDS features.	Noted. The Council will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process to ensure the approach and use of SUDS is acceptable and based on robust evidence.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
199	N/A	Any approach to foul water management should also be part of a holistic and coordinated strategy which should avoid the proliferation of a large number of pumping stations. The laying of drainage for foul and surface water infrastructure in one phase should have full regard to any interconnecting phases for the entire site. We request that the Development Framework clearly outlines the need for an allocation-wide strategy for foul water management is prepared to inform future masterplans, and the approach to co-ordinating the delivery of each phase with necessary water and wastewater infrastructure on both sites. This holistic and coordinated approach should ensure that a proliferation of pumping stations is minimised wherever possible.	Noted. Table 1 – Scope and Content of the Development Framework identifies the requirement for an Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
200	N/A	Request that the Development Framework identifies a need to assess and respond to the existing hydrological characteristics of the sites to ensure a flood resilient design is achieved and water / flooding is not deflected or constricted. As noted above, we have highlighted that there is a range of water supply and wastewater network assets that pass through and close to the sites. They include sewers which carry both foul and surface water. Our assets will need careful assessment and consideration in the detailed design of any proposals. There are existing public sewers that pass near to the sites which modelling data and flooding incident data identifies as being at risk of sewer flooding. There are existing hydraulic flooding incidents from the public sewer in the wider vicinity of the sites. We request that the Development Framework refers to the need for applicants to engage with UUW to consider the detailed design of the site and drainage details. The risk of	Noted. Table 1 (Understanding of the Site) requires the Development Frameworks to identify the site conditions/constraints, this includes flood and drainage constraints.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		sewer flooding will need careful consideration in the detailed design, masterplanning and drainage details for the site.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
201	N/A	An understanding of any potential overland flows from on site and from adjacent parcels is critical especially given the change in levels on the site. Such steeply sloping sites can also suffer from subsoil drainage issues. These steeply inclined sites can have existing ground water problems due to underground springs. The Development Framework should identify the need to carefully consider such matters when designing a proposed development and the associated drainage system. There is a risk that groundwater / overland flow could overload the drainage system that is designed due to illegal connections being made as an afterthought by individual residents if their plots are not drained effectively.	Noted. Table 1 (Understanding of the Site) requires the Development Frameworks to identify the site conditions/constraints, this includes flood and drainage constraints.	No change.
202	N/A	Request early engagement with UUW prior to any masterplanning or detailed design to ensure that the implications on our assets of any change in levels, or proposed diversion, are fully understood.	Noted.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
203	N/A	Request that the Development Framework identifies a need to be underpinned by an allocation-wide approach to the delivery of a clean water supply for the site including details on the likely points of connection to our network. Once we have this information, we will be able to assess the impact on our assets and identify any investment response we may need to make due to development occurring.	Noted. Table 1 – Scope and Content of the Development Framework identifies the requirement for an Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
204	N/A	Within the boundary or adjacent to the boundaries of each allocation, there wastewater pumping stations that operate 24-hours a day and can result in odour, noise and vibration. In accordance with good practice, we request that the Development Framework refers to the need to retain an offset distance from these assets in the detailed design of any proposals. Subject to the site-specific circumstances, any detailed proposals may need to be informed by appropriate impact assessments reflecting the 'agent of change' principle at paragraph 193 of the National Planning Policy Framework. It will also be important to consider visual amenity when preparing proposals near to our pumping stations. Appropriate screening may be necessary and this should be reflected in the detailed design of any proposals.	Noted. The Council will continue to engage closely with colleagues at United Utilities and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
205	N/A	Request that the Development Framework clearly outlines the opportunity presented by any spine road/s that run through the sites. We request that the Development Framework states that the spine roads are a potential conduit for the laying of new services and should be designed alongside a strategy for site-wide infrastructure. The spine roads could be an important component of ensuring a coordinated approach to the delivery of new water and wastewater infrastructure.	Noted.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
206	Part 2: Policy Context	In order to set the transport policy context and GM wide vision for transport, it would be helpful if this section made reference to the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan – GM Transport Strategy 2040, and the Right Mix vision. The GM Transport Strategy 2040 describes the vision and ambitions for transport in Greater Manchester. The ambition is to improve the transport system so that - by 2040 - 50% of all journeys in Greater Manchester are made by public transport or active travel, supporting a reduction in car use to no more than 50% of daily trips. This will mean one million more sustainable journeys every day in Greater Manchester by 2040, enabling us to deliver a healthier, greener and more productive city-region. Achieving this Right Mix vision is expected to lead to zero net growth in motor vehicle traffic in Greater Manchester between 2017 and 2040. Setting this out within the Policy Context section of the SPD should help to clarify that vision-led transport strategies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw allocations	The policy context chapter is intended to support the concept of masterplanning rather than the broad range of issues relevant to each site. The transport policy context for each site will be set out within the Development Framework Documents and the Transport Strategy document for each allocation.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		are expected to be aligned with GM transport ambitions and support the GM wide Right Mix vision at site level.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
207	Paragraph 3.2	Paragraph 3.2 makes reference to a range of other plans and technical reports that may be needed alongside a masterplan. In order to identify the scale of transport infrastructure needed in support of a masterplan and any off-site mitigation, a vision-led Transport Assessment should be undertaken. This will form part of the accompanying detailed supporting evidence that makes up the Development Framework. In order to provide greater clarity on what is expected, this section of the SPD could list out the range of other plans and technical reports (including a Vision-led Transport Assessment) that the Council would expect to form the supporting evidence.	The range of other plans and technical reports that the Council would expect from the supporting evidence will be set out in detail within the Development Framework Documents.	No change.
208	Paragraph 3.11	Paragraph 3.11 This section provides a list of the type of infrastructure that may be required to support the development as a whole including “new strategic highways, off-site highway interventions, active travel routes, education provision, green infrastructure etc.” It is understood that this is not intended for this to be	Agreed.	Include reference to public transport infrastructure and services within para 3.12.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		an all-inclusive list, however the lack of any reference to public transport infrastructure and services may be misinterpreted to mean that they are not required. It may be helpful to include public transport infrastructure and services in this list in order to clarify that they will be needed to support the development of both allocations.		
209	Paragraph 3.11	Paragraph 3.11 also concludes that "In the absence of an approved Development Framework, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to support separate planning applications on parts of the sites." It may be helpful to include a clear statement that piecemeal applications which fail to deliver or contribute towards the wider strategic infrastructure will be resisted.	Agreed.	Amend the last sentence of para 3.12 to read: '…In the absence of an approved Development Framework, it is unlikely that the Council would be able to support piecemeal planning applications on the sites and applications which fail to deliver or contribute towards the wider strategic infrastructure will be resisted'.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
210	Paragraph 3.17	Paragraph 3.17 states “The Development Frameworks should ideally be co-produced, with the site promoter(s)/developer(s)/landowner(s) working in partnership with the Council. A collaborative approach towards the production of the Development Frameworks will ensure that it ultimately represents a position that all parties are satisfied with.” As stated above, TfGM as a key stakeholder (involved in the delivery of sustainable transport and active travel infrastructure) would welcome the opportunity to also be involved in the co-production of the Development Frameworks particularly the Infrastructure Delivery and Phasing Strategies, and scoping and development of the associated Transport Assessments.	It is accepted that during the preparation and review of the Development Frameworks, the Council will draw on expert advice from other relevant bodies and reference to this should be included within para 3.17.	Amend the first sentence of para 3.18 to read: ‘The Development Frameworks should ideally be co-produced, with the site promoter(s)/developer(s)/landowner(s) working in partnership with the Council and other relevant bodies’.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
211	Paragraph 3.31	Paragraph 3.31 refers to the potential for adopting a “per dwelling” tariff-type S106 agreement. A Framework S106 agreement approach towards contributions from development within a defined area (the allocation) benefitting from certain specified, strategic, infrastructure (identified through the Infrastructure Delivery and Phasing Strategy (or a separate Infrastructure Delivery Plan)); may be an alternative approach. A Framework S106 Agreement approach can provide developers/landowners and Bury Council with some certainty around the contributions required whilst allowing for greater flexibility (over time as the allocation is developed) than a “per dwelling” tariff-type S106 Agreement.	Noted.	Paragraph 3.32 (formally 3.31 has been revised to read: “This may, for example, explore the potential for adopting a ‘per dwelling’ tariff-type or framework s106 agreement where each landowner makes contributions to infrastructure costs, apportioned taking into account the mix of in kind and financial contributions to be made on each landholding”.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
212	Paragraph 3.32	A Framework S106 agreement approach can also ensure that, where applicable S106 contributions can collected on a retrospective basis. Where strategic infrastructure has been forward-funded and delivered, developers can still be required to make S106 retrospective contributions. This would ensure that all the relevant developers/landowners of development benefitting from the strategic infrastructure, contribute towards that infrastructure on a fair, consistent and proportionate basis.	Noted.	Paragraph 3.32 (formally 3.31 has been revised to read: "This may, for example, explore the potential for adopting a 'per dwelling' tariff-type or framework s106 agreement where each landowner makes contributions to infrastructure costs, apportioned taking into account the mix of in kind and financial contributions to be made on each landholding".
213	Paragraph 3.33 – 3.36	Welcome the inclusion of this section on community and stakeholder engagement particularly with reference to comments above regarding TfGM's role as a key stakeholder involved in the delivery of sustainable transport and active travel infrastructure to support the allocations. Whilst reference is made to the statutory instruments which will require consultation and engagement, it may be helpful if the SPD made a clear statement that Bury Council	It is agreed that this paragraph could make a clear statement on what the Council will expect from the consultation and engagement on the Development Frameworks for both sites.	Amend para 3.36 to read: 'Whilst there are statutory instruments which will require consultation and engagement, the Council would expect the preparation of Development Frameworks for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw to go above and beyond these statutory processes in order to generate positive outcomes and greater trust in the process'.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		would expect the preparation of Development Frameworks for Elton Reservoir and Walshaw to go above and beyond these statutory processes and would not adopt Development Frameworks that failed to demonstrate effective early community and stakeholder engagement.		
214	Paragraph 3.46	As well as the strategic highways and active travel routes, the fixed elements in the Development Framework could also include public transport infrastructure (such as the Metrolink stop at Elton Reservoir or the location of bus stops and walking routes to them within the Masterplan for both allocations).	Agreed.	Amend the first sentence of para 3.47 to read: 'Consequently, the Development Framework should include fixed elements, such as the extent of built development and areas to be left open; the breakdown of land uses; and key transport routes, including strategic highways, public transport infrastructure and active travel routes.'

215		Table 1 – Scope and content of the Development Framework Chapter 2. Collaboration arrangements – could this include collaboration with key stakeholders such as TfGM Chapter 3. Strategic Context – could this include reference to the GM Local Transport Plan – GM Transport Strategy 2040. Chapter 7. Masterplan Framework The “Land uses” bullet point could refer to the location of any key service provision required within the allocations such as education, health care, retail, employment and leisure provision all of which, if well located, can help to reduce the need to travel by car? The “Streets/movement” bullet point could refer to a street hierarchy and to the GM Streets for All Strategy and the GM Streets for All Design Guide. The masterplan should show indicative sections for different street types. The “Drainage” bullet point could include a reference to Sustainable Urban Drainage. Should this list also include a bullet point reference to density of residential development aligned to	Noted. **Chapter 3**- includes reference to sub-regional planning policy and other relevant plans and strategies which includes the GM 2040 Transport Strategy. **Chapter 7**- ‘Land uses’- the location of key services and Streets Hierarchy have been included within table1. ‘Drainage’- reference to Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) has been included within Table 1. **Chapter 8**- reference to be made to phasing of development.	Table 1 Chapter 6 amended to include reference to the location of key services and street hierarchy, Sustainable Urban Drainage and density. Table 1 Chapter 7 amended to make reference to phasing of development.

		PfE policy H4? Should this list also include a bullet point reference to public spaces or community spaces such as communal gardens or small parks?– some definition of what is meant by public spaces in a residential context (as opposed to a town centre) may help with clarification. Chapter 8. Infrastructure delivery strategy Should the “Timescales for implementation of on-site and off-site infrastructure” state that this needs to be aligned with the phasing of development of the allocation, possibly by identifying trigger points?		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
216	Paragraphs 4.13 and 5.12	Paragraphs 4.13 and 5.12 make reference to local design standards and could include reference to Greater Manchester's Streets for All Design Guidance.	Reference to Greater Manchester's Streets for All Design Guidance is now included in paragraph's 4.70 and 5.58.	No change.
217	Paragraphs 4.14, 4.18. 5.13 and 5.17	Welcome the wording in paragraphs 4.14, 4.18, 5.13 and 5.17 that states that "the precise nature and specification of (transport) interventions should be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work".	Support noted.	No change
218	Paragraph 4.14	Would recommend reference to a vision-led planning approach is incorporated into the wording around the transport modelling and design work referenced in these paragraphs. It would be helpful if paragraph 4.14 was amended to state "The precise nature and specification of the new highways, junction arrangement and the specific route of these roads should be informed by a vision-led planning approach to the required detailed transport modelling and design work and should take appropriate account of ecological	Noted.	Paragraphs 4.14, 4.18, 5.13 and 5.17 have been amended to reference a 'vision-led' approach.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		interests within the site." Subsequent paragraphs 4.18, 5.13 and 5.17 could also be amended in a similar manner.		
219	Paragraphs 4.70 and 5.58	Paragraphs 4.70 and 5.58 could also include a reference to Greater Manchester's Streets for All Design Guidance.	Noted.	Paragraph's 4.70 and 5.57 have been amended to include reference to the Streets for All Design Guidance.
220	Paragraphs 4.57 and 5.46	Paragraphs 4.57 and 5.46 could reference providing inclusive recreation and sports facilities for girls and young people (to avoid delivering MUGA's only teenage boys use) – see Homes England Inclusive spaces and places for girls and young people An introduction for Local Government 2023	Noted. It is not appropriate to provide this level of detail in SPD18 however it will be important to identify the types of recreation which will be provided in the development frameworks for each of the allocations.	No change.
221	Paragraphs 4.61 & 5.50	Paragraphs 4.61 and 5.50 could also include reference to rain gardens, swales, SuDS-enabled trees, detention basins in the list of measures, these can be integrated into the streetscape and green/open spaces. Also, green SuDS are preferred over grey SuDS.	Noted.	Additional examples added into paragraphs 4.62 and 5.50.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
222	Paragraphs 4.69 & 5.57	Paragraphs 4.69 and 5.57 could place greater emphasis on the requirement for the Development Frameworks to ensure a high quality, people-centred approach to design that avoids creating car dependent lifestyles for future residents. For clarification it may be helpful to set out certain design elements or criteria that would not be acceptable to Bury Council.	Noted. It is not appropriate to provide this level of detail in SPD18. Design will be an important consideration in determining the acceptability of the development framework and Table 1 requires the development frameworks to consider the site's: ▪ Response to surrounding context and character. ▪ Land uses and location of key services. ▪ Character areas. ▪ Legibility. ▪ Quality. ▪ Built form: uses, scale and frontages.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
223	N/A	Whilst it is understood that the Development Frameworks need to remain flexible and therefore do not need to be overly prescriptive on matters such as housing mix and tenure, there is a policy requirement for both allocations to deliver a range and appropriate mix of housing types. Different housing typologies will ensure appropriate residential densities, contribute to creation of different character areas across the site, and provide a range of housing options that suits different needs – young professionals, small/large families, older people etc. Not only does this create liveable, inter-generational communities, but it helps to promote the use of the sustainable transport network by ensuring a range of users throughout different times of the day, thereby helping to support and grow the Bee Network. It would be helpful for the Development Frameworks to make it clear that this required range of different housing typologies will need to be considered at the planning application stage.	Noted. This will be set out within the Development Frameworks.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
224	N/A	Welcomes the Council's decision to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which relates to both the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw allocations within PfE. The proximity of the sites and 2 links between them in terms of infrastructure requirements mean that is important to establish key principles at this stage. Peel welcomes that the draft SPD sets out principles and guidance for the formulation and agreement of Development Frameworks for each site including an up-to-date masterplans, phasing strategies, and coordinated approach to the design and delivery of key infrastructure. Peel confirms its willingness to work collaboratively with the Council and others to ensure timely delivery of the proposed development at Elton Reservoir.	Support noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
225	N/A	Considers that the SPD, and subsequent Development Frameworks for the sites, are critical planning tools which will help to ensure sustainable place-making; co-ordinate new development with the infrastructure needed to support it; establish a clear, fair and proportionate approach to funding of that infrastructure; and avoid a piecemeal approach to development that might frustrate or dilute these objectives.	Comments noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
226	N/A	Peel welcomes the proposal within the draft SPD to equalise the costs of such infrastructure to ensure that all key areas of new development, including on sites outside the Elton allocation, contribute fairly and proportionately. Some of the infrastructure proposed within the Elton site and adjacent to it (e.g. off-site enhancements to the local highway network) will be of strategic benefit, and is therefore a 'shared' requirement needed by all proposed development within the western part of Bury given the constraints within the area. It is important that the SPD establishes a framework for fair and proportionate contributions to such infrastructure by all developments that would rely upon it or benefit from its provision including the Walshaw site.	Support noted.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
227	N/A	Peel welcomes the requirement for an Infrastructure Development Strategy (IDS) for the site. However, the scope and content of an IDS could helpfully be expanded upon at this stage (with further detail beyond what is referenced in Table 1 of the draft SPD). It is suggested that an additional section is included within chapter 3 of the draft SPD to set out that the IDS should identify at an early stage the on- and off-site infrastructure needed to support the development and indicative phasing of its delivery. This should be accompanied by a cost assessment of key works (with any confidential or commercially sensitive information omitted as necessary) and a proposed approach to contributions (whether in kind or through financial contribution) that identifies how the contribution of a phase of development would be assessed. Where possible this should outline how any financial contributions will be collected and how any drawdown to deliver identified works will be managed.	The delivery of supporting infrastructure is critical to the development of both sites and it is considered that this should be appropriately included as a key part of the development framework. It is considered that the scope of the Infrastructure Strategy is adequately covered in Table 1.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
228	N/A	The IDS would form part of the evidence base of the Development Framework SPD but would not formally comprise part of it. This would allow more frequent update and evolution as the development proceeds, and enable it to reflect changes and fluctuations in requirements and associated costs over a prolonged delivery period without the need to revise the SPD itself.	The delivery of supporting infrastructure is critical to the development of both sites and it is considered that this should be appropriately included as a key part of the development framework.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
229	Paragraph 1.5	Para 1.5 The rationale for and purpose of the SPD could be more clearly articulated in this section. (See also comments on Section 3). In particular, it is considered that the text could set out the critical role that the SPD will play in ensuring that the development fulfils the vision for the site which comprised the exceptional circumstances that justified its allocation. We request that text along the following lines is added perhaps to the end of paragraph 1.5: “This role in ensuring that development and infrastructure come forward in a planned and comprehensive manner is important to local stakeholders and formed a critical part of the justification for the removal of the Elton and Walshaw sites from the Green Belt and their allocation for the proposed development. This SPD will help to ensure that this vision is fulfilled throughout the lifetime of the development process.”	Noted	Suggested wording added to paragraph 1.5.

230	Paragraph 1.10	Para 1.10 The relationship of this SPD to the future Development Framework SPDs for each site could helpfully be expanded to ensure clarity for all stakeholders. Our understanding is that the intention of this draft SPD is to provide guidance on the contents of more detailed future Development Frameworks (DFs), and that those DFs will include or be accompanied by more detailed spatial masterplans and phasing and infrastructure strategies (as referred to at paragraph 3.2) and be adopted by the Council (para 3.12). Clarity of this in the introduction would be helpful. Paragraph 1.10 could helpfully be amended as follows: "This draft Supplementary Planning Document 18 (SPD18) sets out more detailed guidance on what the Council will expect to be addressed in subsequent and more detailed Development Frameworks for each site in terms of the specific requirements of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw strategic site allocations. The Council's intention is that these further Development Frameworks will be adopted as SPDs. In accordance with Policies JPA7 and JPA9 of PfE	Accepted that this could be made clear at the outset and paragraph 1.10 to be amended accordingly. This SPD is primarily aimed at those responsible for preparing development frameworks and it is therefore not considered necessary to include a glossary of terms.	Add the following to the end of para 1.10: '…in terms of the specific requirements of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw strategic site allocations. The Council's strong preference is that these further Development Frameworks will be adopted as SPDs. In accordance with Policies JPA7 and JPA9 of PfE future planning applications within the sites must accord with the contents of both this SPD and future Development Frameworks'.

		future planning applications within the sites must accord with the contents of both this SPD and future Development Framework SPDs." It is suggested that addition of a short glossary including explanations of terms used throughout the draft SPD may also assist lay readers. This could include for example the meanings and purpose of terms including masterplan, Development Framework, IDS and phasing strategy.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
231	Paragraph 3.1	Para 3.1 It is suggested that rather than describing advice in Section 3 as "generic" it is made clear that the contents of the section apply to both allocations.	Accepted that para 3.1 could be clarified and should be changed.	Amend paragraph 3.1 to read as follows: 'The general advice within this section applies to both site allocations made under PfE Policies JPA7 (Elton Reservoir) and JPA9 (Walshaw). Chapters 4 and 5 set out the advice that is specific to the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw sites respectively'.
232	Paragraph 3.3	Para 3.3 It is suggested that engagement with local communities is important and should be referenced in the context of the collaborative approach referred to in paragraph 3.3	The 5th bullet point under para 3.3 refers to the benefits of effective community and stakeholder engagement and this is further expanded on in paras 3.33 to 3.36.	No change
233	Paragraph 3.5	Para 3.5 The allocation for Elton Reservoir includes provision for a range of developments alongside the proposed housing – it is considered that reference in line 2 of paragraph 3.5 could be amended to: "….the principle of residential and associated development on both sites…".	Accepted that both sites will require the development of supporting infrastructure alongside the residential.	Amend para 3.5 to include reference to associated development.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
234	Paragraph 3.5	Para 3.5 cont'd Building on the comments above in relation to paragraphs 1.5 and 1.10, it is considered that important aspects of the purpose of the SPDs should be included. It is requested that the following is added to paragraph 3.5: "Development Frameworks for the sites will ensure that development fulfils the vision and objectives that justified their removal from the Green Belt and complies with the provisions of the development plan. This will include comprehensive masterplans showing how the whole sites and their infrastructure will be delivered. This will include phasing strategies which show how phases of the development and the infrastructure needed to support them will be co-ordinated both in relation to each site and across the two sites. It makes clear that piecemeal development of part of either site, which does not accord with and help deliver the comprehensive development of the site, will not comply with the SPD.	Agreed that there needs to be greater clarity on the purpose of the Development Frameworks.	Include additional paragraph after para 3.5 to read: 'Development Frameworks for the sites will ensure that development fulfils the vision and objectives that justified their removal from the Green Belt and complies with the provisions of the development plan. This will include comprehensive masterplans showing how the whole sites and their infrastructure will be delivered including phasing strategies to show how phases of the development and the infrastructure needed to support them will be co-ordinated both in relation to each site and across the two sites. By adopting this approach, the Development Frameworks will ensure that piecemeal development of part of either site, which does not accord with and help deliver the comprehensive development of the site, is avoided'.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
235	Paragraph 3.10	Para 3.10 While the aspiration of ensuring that key issues are "addressed to the satisfaction of all parties" is supported, the SPD and subsequent planning applications may need to balance competing or conflicting issues and resolve matters to which not all parties agree. It is considered that reference should be made to "addressing key issues in ways which ensure that the vision and objectives that justified the allocation of the site are fulfilled".	Accepted that this paragraph would benefit from change.	Amend first sentence of paragraph to read: 'Fundamentally, the purpose of the Development Framework is to ensure that key issues for the site are identified at an early stage in the planning process and addressed in ways that are consistent with relevant planning policies'.
236	Paragraph 3.13	Para 3.13 In support of the increased clarity of the purpose of the Development Frameworks it is considered that the first sentence of paragraph 3.13 should be strengthened to help deter piecemeal development. It is suggested it be amended as follows: "SPDs for strategic sites are generally a useful an essential tool to move from fixing the principle….".	It is considered that the SPD includes sufficient references to deterring piecemeal development without amending this paragraph.	No change
237	Paragraph 3.14	Para 3.14 The final bullet point should make clear the Council's intention that	As stated elsewhere in the document, it is the Council's strong preference for the	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		the Development Frameworks be adopted as SPDs.	Development Frameworks to be adopted as SPDs.	
238	Paragraph 3.16	Para 3.16 Peel welcomes the confirmation that the Development Frameworks may need to be updated as the developments proceed. It would be helpful for paragraph 3.26 to confirm that updates would follow the same collaborative engagement and approval process as the original Development Framework SPDs and that supporting documents such as the IDS would be capable of more frequent update as they sit outside the SPD process	It is not considered necessary to amend as suggested.	No change
239	Paragraph 3.17	Para 3.17 It is considered that reference to appropriate engagement and consultation with local communities and stakeholders should be added to paragraph 3.17. Work undertaken on the sites to date, in particular transport modelling, has shown that some of the strategic infrastructure to be delivered within and adjacent to the Elton site is also required to enable other	It is accepted there may be a need for collaboration between the site promoters of both sites on certain matters.	Add sentence to the end of the first paragraph on collaborative working to read: 'This includes collaboration between the site promoters of both sites around issues that are common to both sites e.g. highways infrastructure.'

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		developments, specifically the Walshaw site. As such, the SPD must make clear that collaborative working includes sharing relevant evidence and contributing the necessary strategic infrastructure modelling across the two allocations.		
240	Paragraph 3.18	Para 3.18 Peel welcomes the Council's commitment to 'ownership' of the Development Frameworks from draft stage. It is requested that if material changes to the Development Frameworks are proposed following draft stage that landowners/delivery partners would be consulted and have opportunity to comment on proposed changes, such that the adopted Framework remains a shared output that reflects close collaboration between the parties.	Landowners/delivery partners would be consulted on any changes made to the Development Frameworks post draft stage.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
241	Paragraph 3.26	Para 3.26 The Council's aspiration for masterplans to be prepared 'blind' to ownerships is acknowledged, but this is unachievable in practice. Some components of the masterplans will necessarily reflect land ownerships. This is necessary to ensure that willing landowners bring forward their land in a timely way to optimise delivery as part of a coordinated whole. Within this context it is recognised that the delivery of infrastructure should be on an "ownership blind" basis. It is requested that the first sentence of paragraph 3.26 is amended to read: "It is vital that proposed delivery of necessary infrastructure that will sit within the wider Development Frameworks is prepared on an "ownership blind" basis" i.e. that location of the infrastructure that is necessary to support the developments as a whole (eg. schools, highways, open space, sustainable urban drainage systems, ecological mitigation and local centres) takes no account are in	It is considered that this paragraph is sufficiently clear in that it is referring to supporting infrastructure being developed in the most appropriate location, irrespective of land ownership.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		appropriate locations irrespective of land ownership.”		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
242	Paragraph 3.28	Para 3.28 The SPD must also recognise that the means to achieve equalisation is a matter for landowners which may be commercially sensitive. Rather than seeking to prescribe the means by which equalisation is achieved, the SPD should focus on ensuring the appropriate outcomes in terms of co-ordination of infrastructure with phases of development and establishing a mechanism for fair and proportionate contributions towards shared and strategic infrastructure requirements. It is requested that paragraph 3.28 be amended accordingly.	It is accepted that the means for achieving equalisation is a matter for landowners and that such agreements may contain commercially sensitive information. Paragraph should be amended accordingly.	Amend paragraph to read: Significant complications can arise around this issue unless there is an agreement in place to 'equalise' the land and delivery costs between all parties. The Development Frameworks should set out the appropriate outcomes in terms of co-ordination of infrastructure with phases of development and establishing a mechanism for fair and proportionate contributions towards shared and strategic infrastructure requirements'.
243	Paragraph 3.32	Welcomes the Council's commitment to proactively explore ways to enable the delivery of infrastructure.	Support noted.	No change
244	Paragraph 3.38	Para 3.38 It is considered that EIA must apply to the development as a whole i.e. to the full proposals of the Development Frameworks. It is suggested that "for the project as a	Agreed that the EIA should cover the development as a whole and paragraph should be amended accordingly.	Add 'for the development as a whole' to the end of the first sentence of the paragraph.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		whole" is added to the end of the first sentence of paragraph 3.38.		
245	Paragraph 3.40	Para 3.40 It is not considered necessary for EIA to apply jointly to both sites. To avoid any potential misunderstanding it is suggested that "an EIA will be required for both sites" should be amended to: "an EIA will be required for each site". The other site will be considered cumulatively as part of the EIA.	Accepted that this would benefit from clarification as suggested.	Amend to replace 'both sites' with 'each site'.
246	Table 1	Table 1 – Scope and content of the Development Frameworks 3. Strategic Context Reflecting the comments above it is requested that the bullet point is amended to read: "Setting out the visions for the sites which led to their allocation and key strategic messages….".	Accepted	Amend the overview of content for the Strategic Context chapter as follows: 'Setting out the visions for the sites which led to their allocation and the key strategic messages…'
247	Table 1	4. Understanding of the site In the second bullet it is suggested "relevant planning history" replaces "site history". The fourth bullet could helpfully refer to minerals policy designations.	Accepted. Amend as suggested.	Replace 'Site history' with 'Relevant planning history'.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
248	Table 1	7. Masterplan framework It is suggested that blue infrastructure be referenced in the eleventh bullet and that minerals be referenced in the list.	Accepted. Amend as suggested.	Include reference to blue infrastructure and minerals within the overview of the content for the Masterplan Framework.
249	Table 1	8. Infrastructure delivery strategy See the overarching comment above regarding the importance of the IDS and its coverage within this SPD. It is suggested education provision and green/blue infrastructure are referenced. It is considered that viability should also be referenced to ensure that Development Frameworks are supported by evidence of viability.	Accepted. Amend as suggested.	Include reference to education, green infrastructure and viability assessment and minerals within the overview of the content for the Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.
250	Table 1	10. Main partners Landowners should be included in this list.	Accepted. Amend as suggested.	Include reference to landowners within the overview of content for the Main Partners chapter.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
251	Paragraph 4.8	Para 4.8 This statement is very general and risks presenting a level of uncertainty as to future requirements on the site. It is requested that clarity as to the circumstances where additional policy requirements might be introduced and the mechanism for this. The following text is suggested: "Whilst the above PfE, UDP and Joint Minerals Plan policies are considered to be comprehensive the Council reserves the right to introduce additional policy requirements for the site where necessary to address changes in circumstances and maintain conformity with any future changes of national policy or the Bury development plan. If such changes necessitate updates to the Development Framework of the site these would be supported by proportionate evidence and prepared and consulted on in the normal way prior to their adoption."	Accepted that paragraph 4.8 would benefit from an amendment to improve clarity.	Add the following to the end of para 4.8: '…to address changes in circumstances and maintain conformity with any future changes of national or local planning policy. If such changes necessitate updates to the Development Framework for the site, these would be supported by proportionate evidence and prepared and consulted on in the normal way prior to their adoption.' The same change also required to para 5.8 in relation to the Walshaw site.
252	Paragraph 4.10	Para 4.10 For consistency with comments made above in relation to Sections 1 and 3 of the draft SPD,	Accepted. Amend as suggested.	Amend para 4.10 to replace 'masterplan' with 'Development Framework.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		"masterplan" should be replaced with "Development Framework".		Same change required to para 5.10 in relation to the Walshaw site.
253	Paragraph 4.11	Para 4.11 Peel welcomes the requirement for equalisation of costs and values across the site. It is essential that this achieves fair and proportionate sharing of responsibility for delivery of infrastructure and returns from delivery of the development. It is the phases of the development that will need to contribute fairly and proportionately to overall infrastructure. With this in mind it is requested that the first sentence of paragraph 4.11 is amended to read: "….so that all landowners/developers phases of the development contribute fairly and proportionately towards the delivery of the infrastructure….".	Accepted. Amend as suggested.	Add the following to the end of the first sentence of para 4.11: '…so that all landowners/developers phases of the development contribute fairly and proportionately towards the delivery of the infrastructure…'

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
254	Paragraph 4.14	Para 4.14 : It is known from the modelling work already undertaken to date that the spine road provision through the Elton site has an important strategic function for existing traffic and other development traffic, whilst also serving as a development access road. Its introduction will create alternative routes for some trips that will result in trip reassignments and transfers which will relieve congestion at some of the busiest locations and junctions within Bury and will help to reduce impacts, thereby not only assisting the delivery of Elton but also Walshaw (JPA9). These effects are unsurprising given the relatively close proximity of the two allocations. Given the strategic benefits which the spine road and other off-site highway improvements associated with the Elton site are capable of providing, the SPD must make clear that contributions to the funding of this new strategic infrastructure could come from a number of sources, including the development of	In line with the NPPF's approach to achieving sustainable development it is accepted that there is a need to pursue an integrated approach towards achieving economic, social and environmental objectives. This will require a balanced approach.	Paragraph 4.14 has been amended as follows: "….and other interests/constraints within and adjacent to the site. This will need to be balanced with the benefits of the development to achieve a sustainable outcome".

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		Walshaw and, potentially, via public finance and grants.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
255	Paragraph 4.14	Para 4.14 The detailed design of the transport infrastructure within the site will need to take account of a range of factors. Ecological interests are recognised to be important in this context but will need to be balanced with other physical and technical constraints to arrive at the optimal outcome. To reflect this it is requested that the final part of paragraph 4.14 is amended as follows: "….and should take appropriate account of ecological interest and other constraints within and adjacent to the site. These will need to be balanced with the benefits of the development to achieve a sustainable overall outcome."	In line with the NPPF's approach to achieving sustainable development it is accepted that there is a need to pursue an integrated approach towards achieving economic, social and environmental objectives. This will require a balanced approach.	Paragraph 4.14 has been amended as follows: "….and other interests/constraints within and adjacent to the site. This will need to be balanced with the benefits of the development to achieve a sustainable outcome".
256	Plan 2 & Paragraph 4.12	Plan 2 – indicative route of strategic highways through the Elton Reservoir site. Plan 2 does not appear to be referenced in the SPD text. It is considered reference could helpfully be added to paragraph 4.12. This should make clear that the routes are	Accepted. Include reference to Plan 2 in para 4.12.	Add the following to the end of para 4.12: 'The indicative route of the strategic highways through the Elton Reservoir site are shown on Plan 2.'

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		indicative at this stage and may be subject to change.		
257	Paragraph 4.15	Para 4.15 References to “Appendix D” at paragraph 4.15 and elsewhere could helpfully make clear that this is Appendix D to the adopted PfE.	Para 4.15 is quoting from criterion 2iii of PfE Policy JPA7. Paragraph 4.16 does clarify that it is Appendix D of PfE. This is similarly the case for references within the Walshaw chapter of the SPD.	No change

258	Paragraph 4.19	Para 4.19: Whilst it is noted that the precise nature and specification of the additional transport interventions should be informed by detailed transport modelling and design work, there is no reference to how they could be funded. As with the spine road through the Elton site, the Metrolink Stop and Park & Ride facility will provide strategic benefits for other journeys not related to Elton. In this regard, there is reference (in paragraph 4.22) to City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement being used to start to develop the proposed new stop and Travel Hub/Park and Ride and that the Council will work with TfGM and the developer to determine an appropriate funding and delivery strategy for the new stop. The SPD needs to make clear that contributions to the funding of these new strategic facilities route could come from various sources, including other development sites and public finance/grants. Paragraph 4.19 states that the Metrolink stop is intended to encourage a large proportion of trips generated by the site to be made by sustainable modes and will support Bury in contributing to the region's Right Mix target for half of	Noted.	Paragraph 3.33 has been amended and reference to other public finance opportunities has been included.

		all journeys to be made by sustainable modes by 2040. The SPD should include reference to the transport modelling therefore needing to reflect the aspiration of this key transport investment.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
259	Paragraph 4.28	Para 4.28 It is considered that the location of any primary school(s) on site should be determined as part of the Development Framework process. This would ensure that the deliverability of any proposals is considered in the context of the whole development and would provide early certainty for landowners and development partners.	It is intended that the location of primary school provision should be identified through the Development Framework process.	No change
260	Paragraph 4.29	Para 4.29 In calculating education contributions the size and type of homes is relevant to the likely pupil yield. For example, retirement accommodation is not likely to generate school age children and larger homes are likely to generate more need than smaller ones. The final sentence of paragraph 4.29 should be amended to read: “The level of financial contribution will be calculated on the basis of the number, type and size of dwellings….”.	Noted.	Paragraph 4.29 has been amended to include type and size of dwelling.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
261		Local centres It is considered that the location of the local centres on site should be determined as part of the Development Framework process. This would ensure that the deliverability of any proposals is considered in the context of the whole development and would provide early certainty for landowners and development partners. The precise scale and mix of uses will be determined planning application stage to ensure that what is delivered responds to needs and requirements at the time. It is requested that the SPD is amended to reflect this approach.	It is intended that the location of local centres should be identified through the Development Framework process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
262	Paragraph 4.44	Para 4.44 Given the scale of proposed development and expected longevity of the delivery programme, it is considered unrealistic that the Development Framework contains details of how BNG will be achieved. Whilst the Development Framework would be able to establish a strategy for the site, details of works for individual phases of development would need to be established at planning application stage. It is requested that paragraph 4.44 be amended a follows: “The Development Framework should establish the details principles of how the required Net Gain is to be achieved. Details of how these principles will be delivered will be set out for each phase of development and determined at planning application stage. If this will require….”.	Noted.	Paragraph 4.44 has been updated with suggested text.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
263	Paragraph 4.51	Country Park Paragraph 4.51 implies a somewhat open-ended process of liaison with the Council's Operations department regarding facilities within the Country Park. This would not provide the certainty and clarity needed to progress the development. It must also be recognised that the desire to "create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset" will need to be balanced with other objectives for the site – for example nature conservation interest. The approach to this will need to be established through the Development Framework process. To provide the required certainty for all parties and ensure that the Country Park is deliverable the minimum facilities required in the Country Park and any other parameters for its design and delivery should be established through the Development Framework. To reflect this it is requested that the following is added	Noted.	A new paragraph 4.53 has been included to refer to the minimum requirements will being set out within the Development Framework.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		after the first sentence of paragraph 4.51: “The minimum requirements will be set out within the Development Framework”.		

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
264	Paragraph 4.57	4.57 A flexible approach to the determination of specific recreation needs, as referenced in paragraph 4.57, is welcomed. Peel acknowledges the wide variety of needs that a community of the size proposed is likely to need and the importance of provision that is informed by relevant standards but also tailored to local needs at the time.	Noted.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
265	Paragraph 4.58	4.58 It is important to acknowledge that different types of provision may be deliverable on different parts of the site. For example, informal facilities such as running/walking trails or woodland play may be more compatible with ecological and landscape interests on parts of the site than more formal and managed facilities. They could deliver equivalent health and wellbeing benefits and it is important that the Development Framework for Elton addresses this. It is requested that the first sentence of paragraph 4.58 be amended to read: "….such provision will be determined by the Council taking account of factors such as accessibility, natural surveillance, (in the case of children's play), ecological and landscape sensitivity, and residential amenity."	Noted.	Paragraph 4.58 amended to reflect suggested wording.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
266	Paragraph 4.60	4.60 Given recent inconsistencies in the approach to sequential testing in relation to surface water flooding, the SPD should make reference to the flood risk assessments undertaken as part of the PfE process and confirm that in light of these there will be no requirement for a sequential test at the Development Framework or planning application stage.	Noted. Reference to the PfE Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been added to paragraph 4.61. The NPPF sets out when sequential tests are required.	No change.
267	Paragraph 4.69	Para 4.69 The relationship of the Elton DF to the DF for the Walshaw allocation is unclear. There is no certainty as to the timing of any DF for Walshaw being in the public domain. If it is intended that the Elton DF and Walshaw DF should be co-ordinated the means for achieving this should be made clear.	It is considered that the Elton and Walshaw development frameworks are capable of being produced independently.	No change.
268	Section 5	5 Site-specific advice: Walshaw Peel is concerned that as drafted the SPD overlooks the findings of transport modelling commissioned to support PfE which shows that the Walshaw site would rely on/benefit from strategic infrastructure which is	Noted. Appendix D of PfE identifies the link road connecting Bury & Bolton Road (A58) to Bury Road, Radcliffe and a strategic connection from the link road to Spring Lane, Radcliffe as being necessary to support the development of the Elton	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		to be delivered within and adjacent to the Elton allocation.	Reservoir site. However the link road is not identified as a necessary intervention for the Walshaw site.	
269	Paragraph 5.11	5.11 It is requested that the final sentence of paragraph 5.11 of the SPD is amended as follows: "It will also ensure that the cost of delivering the infrastructure, including any contributions to the delivery of off-site infrastructure, is proportionately split across the development……"	Noted.	Paragraph 5.11 has been amended to include delivery of off-site infrastructure.
270	Paragraph 5.15	5.15 Part 4 of Policy JPA-9 of Places for Everyone requires that the Walshaw development will be required to make provision for new and improved sustainable transport and highways infrastructure having regard to the indicative transport interventions set out in Appendix D in accordance with Policy JP-C8. For the Walshaw site, this includes: • "Appropriate linkages to Elton Link Road"	Noted. 'Appropriate linkages to Elton Link Road' is included in Paragraph 5.15 under 'supporting' infrastructure.	No change.

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
271	Paragraph 5.17	5.17 Reference is made to the requirement for detailed transport modelling and design work. Given that modelling already undertaken shows that infrastructure within and adjacent to the Elton site will benefit the delivery of the Walshaw site, it is requested that the following is added to paragraph 5.17: “and the Walshaw development will be required to make a fair and proportionate contribution towards the funding of Elton Link Road and/or the proposed new Metrolink stop and travel hub/park and ride facilities”.	Appendix D of PfE identifies the link road connecting Bury & Bolton Road (A58) to Bury Road, Radcliffe and a strategic connection from the link road to Spring Lane, Radcliffe and the Elton Metrolink Stop and Park and Ride Facility as being necessary to support the development of the Elton Reservoir site. However, the link road and the Metrolink Stop and Park and Ride Facility are not identified as a necessary intervention for the Walshaw site.	No change.
272	N/A	The job of examining land for biodiversity in making plans is the job of the local authority and it is patently clearly it has not been done and thus the allocation is unlawful and reports submitted during planning process are not sufficient	Criterion 12 of the policy accompanying the Elton Reservoir allocation states that the development is required to make provision for biodiversity, including taking appropriate account of SBIs at Elton Reservoir; Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal (East); Elton Goit; Withins Reservoir; Black Lane Marl Pits; and Radcliffe Wetlands in accordance with Policy JP-G8. The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
			allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the Elton Reservoir site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	
273	N/A	Accuse GMEU of hiding Waxcap species	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process. This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the Elton Reservoir site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	No change
274	N/A	Elton Reservoir allocation is a site of County and National importance for grassland fungi, and an additional Waxcap species will take it to the Internationally Important site threshold. It warrants a Grade A Site of Biological Importance Designation	The Council will take full account of ecological interest in moving the allocations forward and will continue to engage closely with our colleagues at the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) and take account of their expert advice throughout the masterplanning process.	No change

Ref No.	SPD reference	Comment	Response	Change required
		and is on the list for SSSI consideration.	This includes their recent recommendation to extend one of the Grade A SBIs on the Elton Reservoir site to reflect the presence of Waxcap fungi on part of the site.	
275	N/A	Complaints regarding GMSF consultation	Comment does not relate to SPD18.	No change
276	N/A	Biodiversity Net Gain is an additional requirement from the government and the law stresses that it is an additional requirement on top of the raft of national legislation and policy and local policy. To move straight to compensation and BNG is illegal and unlawful and those who promote it are promoting disinformation and criminality. Local Authorities' Biodiversity Duty has been massively increased due to the threats our natural environment is facing, not least from this disinformation from local government officials.	The development of both sites will be required to achieve at least a 10% Net Gain in Biodiversity as measured using a Statutory Metric, in accord with the terms of the Environment Act 2021 and Places for Everyone Policy JP-G8 and the approach should follow the Biodiversity Net Gain Hierarchy.	No change

Bury
Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

Name of Policy/Project/Decision	Adoption of Supplementary Planning Document 18 – Development Frameworks for Places for Everyone Strategic Site Allocations
Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)	Cris Logue
Department/Team	Business, Growth and Infrastructure
Proposed Implementation Date	5 March 2025
Author of the EqIA	David Wiggins
Date of the EqIA	15 January 2025

1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 18 supports policies relating to Bury's strategic site allocations at Elton Reservoir (Policy JPA7) and Walshaw (Policy JPA9) of the Places for Every Joint Plan (PfE) which was adopted in March 2024.

SPD18 sets out more detailed guidance on what the Council will expect in terms of this specific requirement of the PfE policies for the Elton Reservoir and Walshaw strategic site allocations. In particular, SPD18 requires the masterplans and phasing strategies are supported by detailed evidence to justify the approach and that this is presented collectively as a Development Framework for each site. It is intended that these Development Frameworks be approved as SPDs in their own right so that they will be a material consideration in the decision-making process for subsequent planning applications.

The draft SPD has been subject to a six-week period of consultation in order to establish stakeholder views on its content.

Section 2 – Impact Assessment (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?
Employees: **No** Community/Residents: **Yes** Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: **Yes** – site developers If the answer to all three questions is 'no' there is no need to continue with this analysis.

2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation
Documentary Evidence: Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and supporting evidence
Data: Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and supporting evidence

Stakeholder information/consultation:

Places for Everyone has been subject to consultation at various stages and has been subject to an examination by Government-appointed Inspectors.

2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups?
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic?
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic?
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal?
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation?
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)?
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council?

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
Age	Positive	PfE has been subject to an Integrated Appraisal and part of this has involved and Equality Impact Assessment which has considered in its scope, the likely effects on discriminatory practices; the potential to alter the opportunities of certain groups of people; and/or effect on relationships between different groups of people. The		

		Integrated Appraisal is available at https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/pfe-adoption/		
Disability	Positive	See above		
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	See above		
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral	See above		
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	See above		
Race	Neutral	See above		
Religion and Belief	Neutral	See above		
Sex	Neutral	See above		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	See above		
Carers	Neutral	See above		
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Neutral	See above		
Socio-economically vulnerable	Positive	See above		
Veterans	Neutral	See above		

Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date

Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score			Likelihood			
			1	2	3	4
			Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely
Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

Risk Level	No Risk = 0	Low Risk = 1 - 4	Medium Risk = 5 – 7	High Risk = 8 - 16

3.2 Level of risk identified	0

3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation	The impacts considered under section 2.4 show that the activity will have either positive or neutral impacts on the various groups identified.

Section 4 - Analysis Decision (Page 11 of the guidance document)

4.1 Analysis Decision	X	Reasons for This Decision
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed	X	
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed		
There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions (Page 11 of the guidance document)

5.1 Sign Off	Name	Date	Comments
Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager	David Wiggins	15/01/25	
Responsible Asst. Director/Director	Cris Logue	15/01/25	
EDI			

EqIA Revision Log

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Whitefield Town Centre Plan – Proposed Adoption	
Report of	Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth	

Summary

1. This report outlines the feedback received during consultation on the draft Whitefield Town Centre Plan and seeks approval for adoption of the Whitefield Town Centre Plan to guide future investment and development within Whitefield town centre.
2. The Whitefield Town Centre Plan's proposals are high-level and aim to improve the town centre area for communities, businesses, and the environment. Prior to implementation, all proposals will require further work to agree details and will be subject to further engagement with relevant stakeholders. Funding will also be required for implementation.

Recommendation(s)

3. Note the key themes outlined in response to consultation on the draft document
4. Accept the post consultation amendments to the document
5. Approve the revised Whitefield Town Centre Plan as the final version and adoption as the Council's policy document for the future development of the town.
6. To agree to the principle of utilising a minimum of 10% of the gross capital receipt received for small-scale capital investments to support the Whitefield Town Plan and support community initiatives.
7. To agree the use of the Whitefield Town Centre Plan as a material consideration for the determination of planning applications

Reasons for recommendation(s)

8. The Whitefield Town Centre Plan provides a vision to guide the future investment in the town centre.

Alternative options considered and rejected

9. No other options were considered

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Jack Livingstone
Position: Project Officer
Department: Business Growth and Infrastructure
E-mail: j.livingstone@bury.gov.uk

Background

10. The Whitefield Town Centre Plan (hereafter referred to as the Plan) is a place making plan for Whitefield town centre, which will also include broader elements of improvement to the town across the themes of communities, businesses, and the environment.
11. The Plan will guide investment in Whitefield town centre and help the town transition into being a thriving 21st Century High Street.
12. Work on the plan commenced after Whitefield was selected to receive High Street Task Force support at Cabinet in March 2022. In March 2023, further Cabinet approval was sought to appoint consultants, Planit, and to further develop the findings of the High Street Task Force and progress with a consultation process to create a vision for investment into Whitefield town centre.
13. This report outlines the steps taken in the Plan's development and considers potential next steps.

Early Consultation and the High Street Task Force

14. The High Street Task Force is an initiative to help support the revitalisation and transformation of town centres and high streets. It provides advice, training, and data analysis to Local Authorities.
15. Early-stage consultation with residents and stakeholders took place in March 2023, and then from May to June 2023. This comprised face to face meetings and an online questionnaire.
16. Over 250 participants fed back; key findings included:
    - Whitefield lacks a centre, there is a lack of variety of things to do, and the area is dominated by traffic.
    - The main reason for 36% of responders for visiting Whitefield was related to shopping
    - 51% of people wanted to see more food and beverage markets/ events, and
    - 64% wanted changes relating to parks and green spaces.
17. The Task Force produced three reports relating to Whitefield, which recommended a series of potential interventions which could be undertaken by the Council or other stakeholders. The data from the above sessions and questionnaires fed into the draft Plan, which was then subject to further consultation.

Consultation on the draft Plan

18. Consultation on the draft Plan ran from 22nd January 2024 to 25th March 2024, with a final session in October 2024.
19. Efforts were made to maximise engagement with local stakeholders, including:
    a. Dedicated Whitefield Town Centre Plan pages being created on the Council's websites, which contained the full draft Plan, the executive

summary, an abridged “about” page, which concisely outlined the information from the plan, and a link to a survey hosted on MS forms;
b. Pop-up consultation sessions hosted on Friday 2nd February and on Saturday 3rd February in the foyer of Morrisons, Whitefield;
c. Meeting with Bury Blind Society members on Wednesday 7th February;
d. Meeting with members of Philips High School’s pupil leadership team on Tuesday 12th March;
e. Leafleting of local businesses with flyers containing QR codes;
f. Press releases;
g. Social media;
h. Distribution of weblinks to community and business contacts/ stakeholders;
i. Community Hub updates via the weekly Whitefield newsletter; and
j. Meeting with the Whitefield Business Group

Consultation responses

20. Over 251 stakeholders provided feedback on the proposals, comments were invited too.
21. The draft Plan’s proposals were grouped into sixteen questions. The items which received most support were:
    a. Improve crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists on Bury New Road and on Higher Lane;
    b. Plant new trees, create wildflower areas, and install box planters in Whitefield town centre; and
    c. The proposals for “Whitefield Common”, which included moving the existing medical centre to the former library, leaving the Uplands site open for sensitive residential development
22. Key areas of concern or ambivalence which came up in the detailed feedback included:
    a. Concern around parking availability, particularly near to Slattery;
    b. Fears that improving active travel infrastructure would be inappropriate, due to road width, lack of demand, and the potential of additional congestion being created;
    c. Ambivalence over potential changes to Bury New Road – around 2/3 of responders wanted the road to be kept as it is (often expressing fears that changes to the road would produce more congestion). Around 1/3 wanted footpath space to be increased for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists, or bus lanes;
    d. Fear that partial or time restricted street closures would cause congestion and restrict the ability of emergency services to respond;
    e. Concerns over current condition of highways and footways;
    f. Increased costs relating to maintenance;
    g. Frustration at a lack of community space to meet;
    h. The draft Plan was too lengthy and often hard to understand; and
    i. The early stage proposal for the Town of Hearts” place branding received a lukewarm reception.

Post Consultation Amendments to the draft Plan

23. Following a detailed analysis and full consideration of all consultation responses, several changes are proposed. Some key changes are noted below:
    a. Clearer language and layout – the Plan's word count has been significantly reduced and the language made easier to understand. The proposals have been set out in a concise action plan table;
    b. Further detail added to the Uplands proposals and a slight change to proposals relating to public open space;
    c. Removal of the "town of hearts" concept, due to implementation difficulties regarding the "little cultural quarter" and "little maker's quarter" and a lukewarm response to the "town of hearts place branding";
    d. Amendments to transportation related proposals – a commitment to carry out various audits of Whitefield's roads relating to suitability for improved active travel infrastructure, car parking demand, and vehicle count data;
    e. More explicit regard for heritage – particularly relating to the Uplands proposals, street furniture improvements, and investment in public realm (particularly in or near to the Conservation Area);
    f. The proposals could include the installation of local planters (subject to agreements that identified local businesses would maintain them), improved signage and way-pointing, small public realm improvements and potentially shop-front improvements (subject to co-investment);
    g. Proposals to increase support for events in Whitefield; and
    h. Clarification on green space proposals – with a trial extension of community management of some green space in Whitefield
    i. The Creation of a Whitefield Community Renewal Plan, which will analyse and tackle issues relating to entrenched and geographically focussed deprivation. This Plan would recommend the safeguarding key areas of Council owned land for the future development of social infrastructure.
    j. A commitment to phase 2 of the Whitefield Town Centre Plan, which will provide more in-depth information on the potentially transformative elements of the Plan.

Funding, delivery, and next steps

24. The Plan will guide the development of Whitefield, with proposals being brought forward as funding is secured. Each proposal will be subject to further consultation with relevant stakeholders.
25. Options to retain a percentage of receipts made from sales of land and property in and around the town centre are being explored. This funding could be used to help fund the proposals in the Plan.
26. A bid for Flexible Local Authority Grant (formally UKSPF) has been submitted to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. If approved, this scheme will support the delivery of Economic Developments projects within the Whitefield Town Plan, including enhancement to public realm and parks and establishing a Business Network & Events Fund.

Conclusion

27. The recommendations contained at the beginning of this report will enable the Council to work towards more detailed design and implementation of the key proposals of the plan, in the short, medium and long term.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Please summarise how this links to the Let's Do It Strategy.

28. Elements of the Plan touch on all elements of the Let's Strategy
29. The Plan is particularly focused on Let's Enterprise element - under section Investing in all our town centres the Council notes that it will "continue to support the vitality of [Whitefield] town centre where opportunities arise"

Equality Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is here.*

29. A full EQIA has been completed with all impacts mitigated to neutral or positive impacts

---

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both **Carbon emissions** (contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and **Biodiversity** (contact c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk for advice)*

30. The Plan would likely be neutral in terms of carbon emissions. One of the Plan's objectives is to make it easier to walk, wheel, and cycle around Whitefield and to support this, various transport related improvements such as enhancement to junctions for these users or the proposed development of a car club could help to reduce emissions. The embodied emissions, however, in e.g., reconstructing junctions in the town centre, possibly altering Bury New Road (subject to the results of audits), the development of the garages at Victoria Lane, and the development around the Uplands need to be considered.
31. The Plan would likely improve biodiversity. Proposed development at, for example, the garages at Victoria Lane, and the development around the Uplands would be subject to biodiversity net gain.
32. The Plan's proposals are still high-level and, therefore, the above is estimated. Further research into their impact on carbon emissions and biodiversity should be undertaken as projects develop.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Bid to Flexible Local Authority Grant could be rejected	The Council will continue to explore opportunities to secure funding from other sources
Even should the bid to Flexible Local Authority Grant be approved, there would not be sufficient funding to cover all of the proposals	Find funding

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

33. The proposed Whitefield Town Centre Plan is a non-statutory, informal document. There are therefore no statutory requirements for consultation or adoption of the document. If approved by Cabinet, it will not form part of the statutory development plan but it will be a material consideration to which regard may be had in consideration of planning applications.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

34. The proposal is to use 10% of receipts generated from local land and property sales through the Accelerated Land Disposal programme. This would have a marginal impact on the level of capital receipts obtained through land sales by the Council.
35. Any proposals brought forward as a result of this Town Centre Plan for Whitefield would need to be fully costed and would be subject to financial viability appraisals at the time based on the available sources of funding including that mentioned above.
36. A bid for Flexible Local Authority Grant (formally UKSPF) has been submitted to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. If approved, this scheme will support the delivery of Economic Developments projects within the Whitefield Town Plan, including enhancement to public realm and parks and establishing a Business Network & Events Fund.

Appendices:

Please list any appended documents.

Appendix A – Whitefield Town Centre Plan

Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

This page is intentionally left blank

Funded by UK Government

11/04/25

Whitefield Town Centre Plan

GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Bury Council

PLANIT

Contents

Contributors

This document has been prepared on behalf of Bury Council by Planit.

PLANIT

1 Introduction

1.1 The Whitefield Town Centre Plan 5
1.2 Purpose and Scope 6
1.3 The Challenge and Opportunity 8
1.4 Our Approach
The Head and Heart of Whitefield 9
1.5 Strategic Backdrop 10
1.6 Strategic Context 12

2 The Analytical Head: Physical and Economic Context

2.1 The Urban Morphology of Whitefield 16
2.2 A bustling linear town Learning from the past 20
2.3 Local Context
Uses and Destinations 22
2.4 Local Context
Movement and Connectivity (Roads) 24
2.5 Local Context
Walking and Cycling 28
2.6 Local Context
Public Open Space 30
2.7 Local Context
Socio-Economic / Demographics 32

3 Exploring the Town Centre 34

3.1 Key Destinations 36
3.2 Understanding Bury New Road
Public Realm, Pavements, Parking 38
3.3 Understanding Bury New Road
Junctions 40
3.4 Understanding Bury New Road
Buildings and Character 42
3.5 Understanding Bury New Road
Frontages 44
3.6 Understanding Bury New Road
Uses and Destinations 46

Funded by UK Government GREATER MANCHESTER DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY Bury Council

4 The Community Heart: Voices and Values 48

4.1 Exploring the heart of Whitefield 49
4.2 Approach to Engagement 50
4.3 Where is the centre of Whitefield? 51
4.4 Community Engagement Summary - 2023 52
4.5 Summary: Consultation on Draft Plan 54

5 So What's Important? 56

5.1 Whitefield's strengths and assets 58
5.2 Whitefield's Challenges 60
5.3 Emerging Opportunities 62

6 A Vision for Whitefield

6.1 Vision Statement 66
6.2 Big Ideas for Whitefield - The Vision Objectives 67
6.3 Spatial Framework 68
6.4 Focus Area 70

7 Project Proposals 74

7.1 Make it easier to walk, wheel, cycle and use public transport in Whitefield. 76
7.2 Celebrate Whitefield's history. 86
7.3 Create new town centre 'hearts'. 94
7.4 Create more things to do in Whitefield. 102
7.5 Create a greener Whitefield. 108

8 Summary and Next Steps 116

This document is copyright protected and may not be reproduced in whole or part without written authority from the owner.

© 2023 Planit I.E.

1 Introduction

1.1 The Whitefield Town Centre Plan

The Whitefield Town Centre Plan outlines how Bury Council and the local community want to improve Whitefield over the next 10 years. It includes short, medium, and long-term goals.

Some projects will be led by Bury Council, while others will be run by community groups and local businesses.

The people of Whitefield will be key to making this plan work. Their input and knowledge are vital for its success. Shaped together with residents and community groups, the plan takes into account their deep understanding of Whitefield.

The plan covers the area from Besses o' th' Barn Church in the south to Elms Square in the north, and from Phillips High School in the west to Whitefield and Victoria Park in the east.

N Whitefield Town Centre Study Area

1.2 Purpose and Scope

This document is a place making plan for Whitefield Town Centre which includes broader elements of improvement of the town for communities and businesses. It will also help solidify the town's transition into being a successful 21st century high street.

The plan begins to consider the long-term opportunities and actions required to create important change in Whitefield Town Centre but some of these actions require careful consideration.

For example, Bury New Road is an important route in Transport for Greater Manchester's plans to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling for shorter journeys, instead of travel by car.

Any changes to this road must be studied wisely. We need to understand how these changes might affect traffic flow along this road and on other roads in the area.

This means we can't make quick decisions about Bury New Road without looking at the bigger picture of traffic in the region.

Slattery independent bakery and patisserie

The Whitefield Town Centre Plan provides:

- A complete vision for the future of the town centre to facilitate regeneration, and ensure future investment in the town is considered;
- A detailed overview and summary of existing strategies and policy;
- A baseline analysis of the town centre's current conditions, challenges, context and opportunities;
- A breakdown of short, medium and long-term opportunities to improve the town, including a list of potential projects and how these may be delivered;
- A framework for arranging the town centre to make it better and work well for everyone;
- A breakdown of opportunities for community ownership and leadership; and
- Ideas to strengthen existing partnerships between Bury Council and the community

A Plan for People

Meeting the needs of Whitefield residents

Improving quality of life

Allowing residents, businesses, and charities to participate.

A Plan for Place

Based on understanding Whitefield's strengths and weaknesses

Creating a town centre that showcases Whitefield's history and identity.

A Plan for Nature

Valuing and improving natural systems in the town centre.

Using nearby green spaces and bringing greenery into the town.

Supporting the Bury borough to be carbon neutral by 2038. Bury Council's become carbon neutral by 2038, we must value and improve natural systems in the town centre.

A Plan for Circular Economy

We want to create a local economy that:

- Benefits local people
- Grows based on reusing and recycling resources.

1.3 The Challenge and Opportunity

Why change now?

As in other towns and cities across the UK, the economy of Whitefield Town Centre has suffered because of large scale shifts in the retail economy, triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the cost of living crisis and a wider shift towards online retail. Because of these factors, many towns are looking to find a new way forward.

What does the town centre of tomorrow look like, and how do we make that happen?

The traditional high street of the 20th century, underpinned by retail, is increasingly disappearing due to the growth of online retailing.

What will replace the high street of the 20th century will be different in every location, but a diverse range of goods, services, and events will be highly important to every town. This diversity, strengthened by joint working with the Whitefield community is what this plan seeks to provide.

Hamiton's Bar and Restaurant - Bury New Road

1.4 Our Approach
The Head and Heart of Whitefield

We have undertaken extensive engagement with the local community to understand Whitefield better, focusing on both its physical aspects (the head) and the experiences and needs of its people (the heart).

The **Head**

The **Heart**

Spatial Analysis

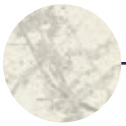
Looking at the challenges and opportunities for Whitefield Town Centre

Statistics and Data

Including socio-economic and traffic count data

Historical Analysis

Reviewing how Whitefield has evolved and how this history could inform the future



Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Session 1

The first session took place on 16th March 2023 – over 20 people attended and provided valuable early feedback

Session 2

An all-day event on Saturday 20th May 2023, presenting a summary of the baseline analysis to date, including key challenges and potential opportunities. The event had a fantastic turn out with a broad range of local people contributing their views and opinions on the day. A consultation questionnaire was open online from 20th May until 16th June.

Final public consultation period

Held across January and March 2024, over 250 people gave their feedback via paper and online questionnaires, which has informed the final version of the plan.

Future Project Identification

A series of potential projects have been outlined, aimed at achieving the long-term vision set out in the document. Projects have been prioritised in response to the feedback gathered through the public engagement and consultation process.

1.5 Strategic Backdrop

The Whitefield Town Centre Plan exists within a broader strategic context, which emphasises investment.

Greater Manchester Strategy 2021 – 2031

Sets out a route over the next decade to make Greater Manchester greener, fairer, and more prosperous. The strategy sets out a commitment to drive investment into growth locations and create opportunities in adjacent town and local centres.

Greater Manchester Culture Strategy

Provides a cultural vision for the region and promotes regeneration projects which are connected to culture

Greater Manchester Transportation Strategy 2040

Outlines how TfGM and the Bee Network will deliver the long-term goal of 50% of travel within Greater Manchester to be made by walking, cycling and public transport. It is intended that the Whitefield Town Centre Plan feeds into the GMCA's vision zero strategy for eliminating ll deaths and life-changing injuries on the region's roads by 2040.

5 Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester 2019 – 2024

Sets out Greater Manchester's vision to be a clean, carbon neutral, climate resilient city region with a thriving natural environment and circular, zero-waste economy where:

- Infrastructure will be smart and fit for the future;
- There will be an integrated, clean and affordable public transport system, resource efficient buildings, greater local community renewable energy, cleaner air, water and green space for all;
- Access to green space in every community, more trees including in urban areas, active travel networks, environmental education and healthy and locally-produced food; and
- Citizens and businesses will adopt sustainable living and businesses practices, focusing on local solutions to deliver a prosperous economy.

Places for Everyone (PfE)

PfE is a strategic plan that covers nine of the ten Greater Manchester districts and was adopted in March 2024. It now forms a key part of the development plans of each of the nine districts. PfE sets out the overall spatial strategy for the nine districts, including identifying the appropriate scale and distribution of housing and employment development. It also contains a series of strategic policies and allocations aimed at delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for the nine districts. These policies will be used when determining planning applications.

Bury Local Plan

The Council are currently at an early stage in the production of a new Local Plan for Bury. The Local Plan will include a more detailed set of locally specific planning policies to complement those in PfE. Once adopted, these Local Plan policies will replace the saved policies of the UDP.

Bury Unitary Development Plan

The saved policies of the Bury UDP also form a key part of the current development plan and these policies are used alongside strategic PfE policies in the determination of planning applications.

Let's Do It - Bury 2030

Provides overarching strategic direction to the Council, and outlines how Bury can achieve faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation. The strategy sets out to deliver an economic recovery strategy including regeneration plans, and broader investment within in the borough's towns, including Whitefield.

The strategy is underpinned by the guiding principles of:

- Local Neighbourhoods - empowered residents, families and local communities within our townships at the heart of decision making to make a difference to people's lives.
- An Enterprising Spirit - raising aspirations, removing barriers, and maximising opportunities to grow and develop our people and businesses.
- Delivering Together - the creation of a new relationship between public services, communities and businesses which is based on co-design, accountability and shared decision making.
- A Strength's-based Approach - a borough in which people are helped to make the best of themselves, by recognising and building on our strengths.

Bury Physical Activity Strategy

Outlines the Council's aspirations to increase the rates of physical activity through the Borough, working collaboratively with community and neighbourhood groups

Bury Transport Strategy

Sets out the vision that by 2040, Bury will be an attractive, well-connected and innovative Borough where people aspire to live, work and visit. The Borough's townships will be connected by a modern and efficient transport network, providing attractive, sustainable transport links both within and beyond the Borough.

Regarding Whitefield, the strategy proposes:

- The introduction of better crossing facilities for the A56;
- Improve access to Whitefield and Besses tram stops;
- Improve wayfinding in the town centre;
- Install a cycle hub at the Metrolink stop to support users travelling by bike;
- Increase high frequency bus routes, including on the 135; and
- Implementation of School Streets.

Bury Council Economic Strategy

Mitigates local impacts relating to Covid-19, risks associated with EU exit, and inflation, whilst setting out a clear framework for inclusive growth, community wealth building, and greening the economy.

Bury Council Culture Strategy 2022-2027

Sets out a strategic vision based on Stories, Skills, Strength, Space and Support to the development of Bury's culture.

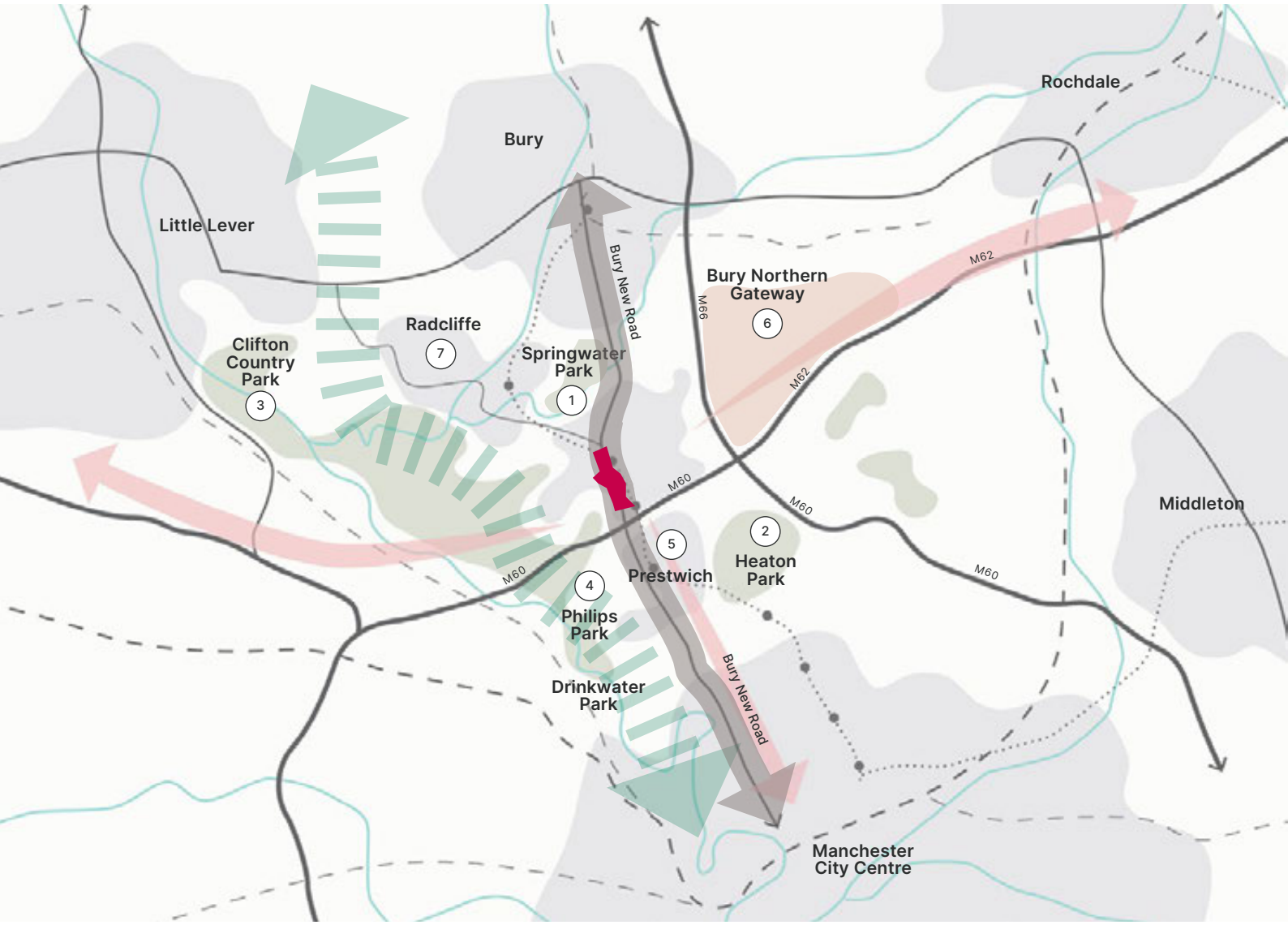
1.6 Strategic Context

Whitefield is one of a series of towns located along the Bury New Road Corridor, linking Manchester City Centre to the south with Bury Town Centre to the north.

The town centre is surrounded by several strategic green spaces, many associated with the River Irwell corridor, creating active linkages between Whitefield and Manchester City Centre.

This strategic relationship and proximity to the City Centre is major asset for Whitefield, with a central tram stop serving the town centre and a 15-minute commute to Victoria Train Station.

Access to the wider strategic green network is another key asset, despite the active travel network breaking down in residential neighbourhoods surrounding the town centre.



Strategic Context Plan

1. **Springwater Park** is the nearest strategic green space to the town centre, and provides access to the paths along the River Irwell corridor.
2. **Heaton Park** is Manchester's largest park, and sits in close proximity to the town centre study area to the south-east.
3. **Clifton Country Park** hugs the River Irwell, and is connected to Whitefield and Radcliffe via a network of long distance walking routes and trails.
4. **Philips Park** sits in close proximity to Whitefield, and is accessible via a bridge across the motorway.
5. Whitefield's relationship with **Prestwich** is of interest, with Prestwich having been subject to recent regeneration and road improvement schemes, as well as live regeneration proposals.
6. **The Northern Gateway** is Bury Council's largest allocation within the Places for Everyone regional development plan, and would support up to 2750 new homes and 20,000 future jobs. Strategic transport proposals will impact Whitefield as the scheme progresses, with major road and bus route proposals potentially easing congestion along the A56.
7. **Radcliffe** has also been subject to significant regeneration focus - with a strategic regeneration framework adopted in 2020 outlining the long-term vision for the town.

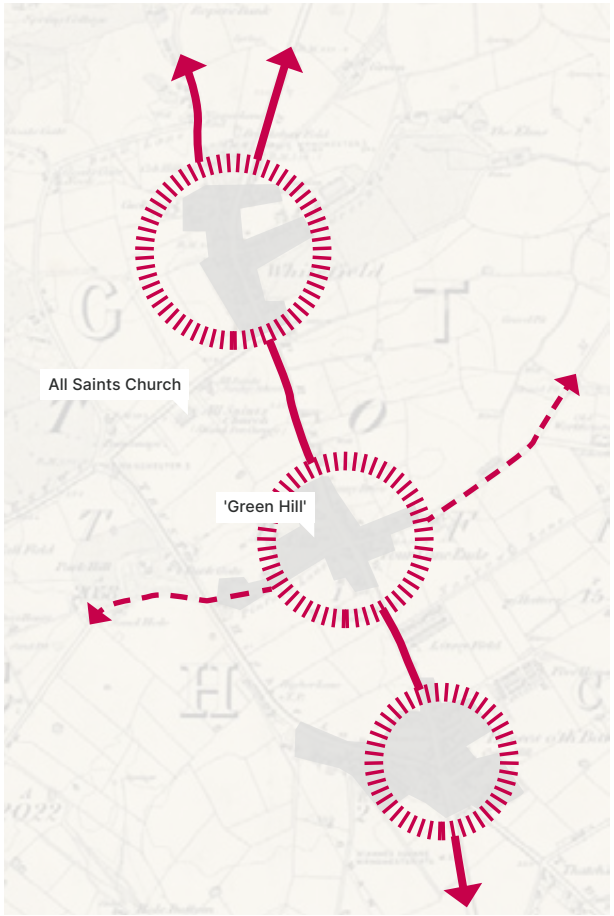
2 The Analytical Head: Physical and Economic Context

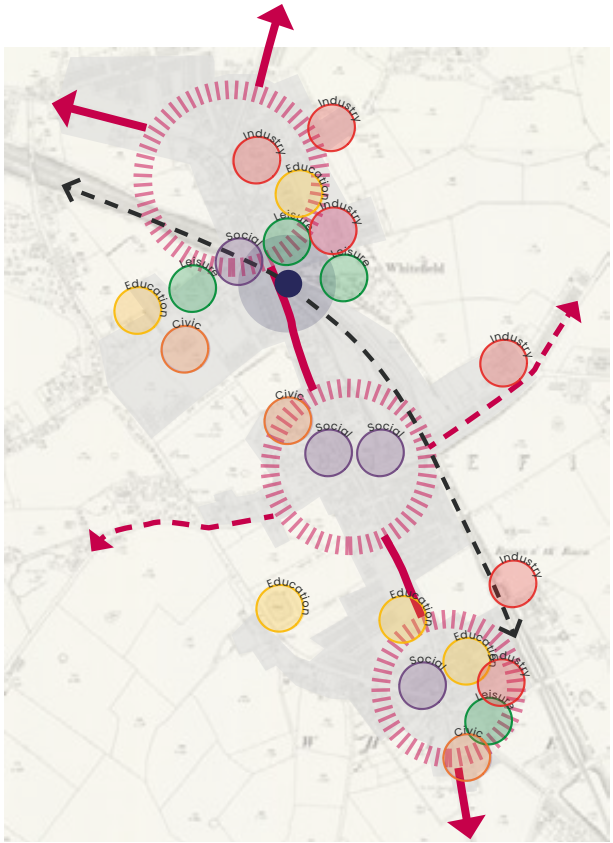
Local Scale

This section details the findings of a thorough spatial analysis of Whitefield and its surrounding context. The section flows through several scales of analysis, considering the wider strategic picture before drilling down into the study area boundary itself.

2.1 The Urban Morphology of Whitefield

Whitefield's urban morphology provides great insight into the place we experience today. It shares clues as to why the town centre faces its challenges; provides a story behind its historic assets, and indicates a sense of where the 'heart' (or 'hearts') of Whitefield was previously located.





1848

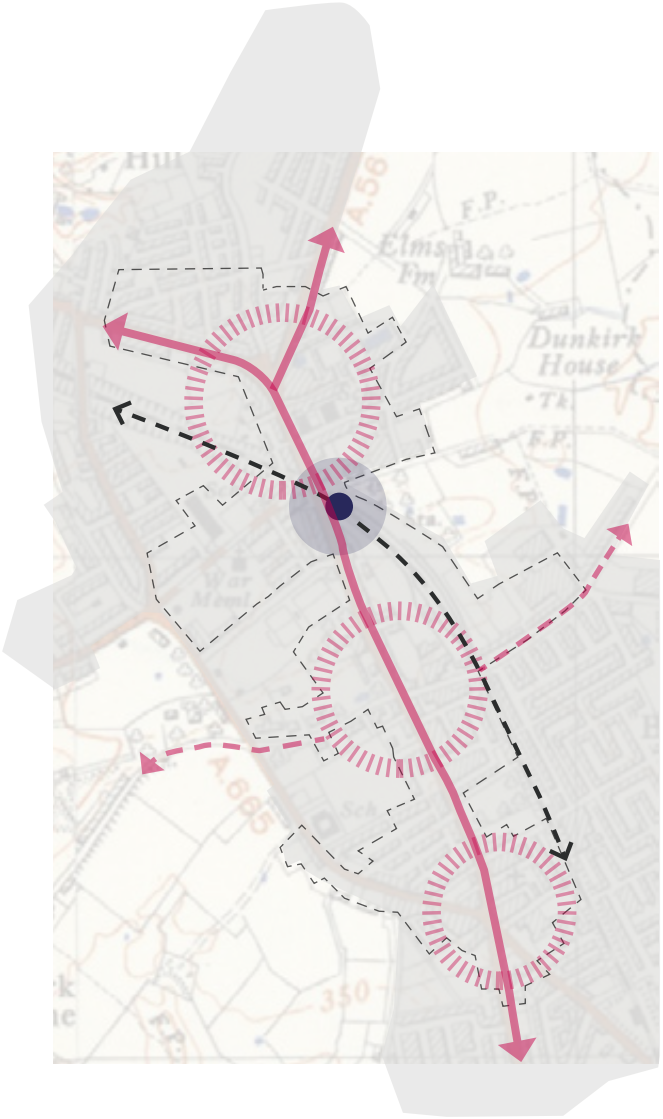
Whitefield sits within a rural context, with three hamlets formed at the intersection of long distance rural lanes - at Whitefield to the north, Four Lane Ends at the centre, and Besses to the south.

There are alternative narratives behind the naming of Whitefield, one of which suggests the name originates from the bleaching process of settled Flemish weavers as they bleached their fabric in the sun.

1910

Whitefield rapidly evolved as the area industrialised, catalysed by the development of the railway and a new station. Large mills and warehouses were developed, with rows of workers houses, schools and other amenities clustered nearby and fronting Bury New Road.

Clusters of uses and activity have formed around the historic hamlets and new station - suggesting a place with 'multiple hearts'.



1947

Whitefield's next stage of evolution from the rural clusters of the 19th-century aligns closely with many towns of its type across the UK, large-scale, post-war housing estates built away from the primary routes and facilities.

This represents the start of the process of urban sprawl, as **Whitefield begins to lose its compact urban form - previously structured along Bury New Road and clustered around the historic hearts.**

1965

The town continues to grow as more overspill estates were created to accommodate families moved out of inner Manchester as slum clearance programmes were undertaken.

By this point in history, the use of the private car as a primary means of transport would be becoming widespread. Old arterial high streets across Manchester and the UK were beginning to transform into urban highways, focused on getting cars from A to B quicker. The car and urban sprawl created the Bury New Road we see today.

The Whitefield Timeline

Whitefield has been many different places to many different communities through its evolution.

This timeline captures this process of transition.

Whitefield hamlet - 1848

pre 1066

A stop on the Roman road?

Scraps of evidence suggest that a Roman road from Manchester to Ribchester in the north once ran across part of the land on which the modern Whitefield is located.

Whitefield weavers cottages - date unknown

15-17th century

Rural

A small but thriving community of weavers and farmers had developed along rural lanes. The name Whitefield is thought to have originated from Flemish weavers and their fabric dying process. Stand Grammar School, a chapel and other landmarks begin to emerge.

Whitefield Mill

18th century

Industrialising

The first step towards modern Whitefield was made when Bury Old Road was constructed in 1755. By 1792 the population of Whitefield was 2,780. Industry started at Stand Lane where the first cotton mill was built on Peel Street (Radcliffe) in 1780.

19th century

A compact industrial suburb

By 1850, there were several cotton mills and a coal mine, which led to the construction of workers' housing and amenities around places of work. The construction of Bury New Road in 1827 and a train line from Bury to Manchester in 1879 catalysed this transition.

A mix of uses growing around the mills

20th century

Suburbanising

The commercialisation of the train line and development of the road network resulted in the suburbanisation of Whitefield. Several housing estates were built during this period (e.g. Hillock Estate) as part of urban sprawl. The population grew rapidly from 14,370 in 1961 to 21,830 by 1971.

Low-density post-war housing infill dominates Whitefield's edges

Now

Divided

Today, Whitefield is largely divided by the busy Bury New Road, which contributes to many of its current issues - poor walkability, a feeling of social and physical disconnect, a low-quality public realm.

Bury New Road divides the town centre

2.2 A bustling linear town
Learning from the past

As Whitefield grew from a series of hamlets to a linear industrial suburb during the late-19th and early-20th centuries, there was a point in time where the town appeared to be a compact and bustling urban neighbourhood - where work, home, and social facilities sat within a short walk of one another.

The 1910 plan of Whitefield highlights this diversity of activity. The development of the railway and modernisation of Bury New Road made the area more accessible, and a more logical location for industry.

A broad mix of uses and facilities such as pubs, schools, parks, shops, and other amenities all sat within a short walk from homes built around the mills. Bury New Road host many of these uses as the social spine of the town.

The prevalence of a range of shops, pubs and other facilities on Bury New Road suggests a bustling high street; a **place for social and economic exchange,** not just fast moving traffic.

This history provides great cues for how we may address the future. The dramatic increase of vehicular traffic moving along and to Bury New Road has eroded the social spine and heart of Whitefield over time, compromising the historic structure of the town.

This can only be resolved by; creating a sense of place again along the road, reinstating the high street as a place for people.

Map of Whitefield 1910 -
a bustling arterial Town 1910

2.3 Local Context
Uses and Destinations

Bury New Road acts as Whitefield's 'high street', serving surrounding residential suburbs with a broad range of services and amenities. Smaller local centres can also be found at Sunny Bank and off Moss Lane, to the east.

Supermarkets, health, sport and education facilities are all located in or directly adjacent to the study area boundary - within a short walk of both Besses and Whitefield tram stations.

The area benefits from several primary schools, with six primary schools located within fifteen minutes walk of the study area boundary. Philips High School, located within five minutes walk from the town centre, is a major asset.

Key

- School
- Healthcare
- Supermarket / Groceries
- Community Hub
- Playing Fields / Sports
- Playground
- Allotment
- Library
- Art Centre
- Institution
- Church
- Mosque
- Synagogue
- Metrolink Station

Land Use

- Predominantly Residential
- Industrial
- Retail
- Education
- Healthcare
- Green Space

Land Uses and Destinations Plan

What you've said...

"The town is small enough to navigate without a car"

Whitefield Resident

Who does Bury New Road serve?

The services and amenities located on Bury New Road are incredibly accessible on foot or bike - with the residential neighbourhoods of Stand and Unsworth located within a 10-minute cycle.

Despite this, the town centre contains a significant amount of car parking, which are not always used to their capacity; these are dispersed across the Town Centre in an unplanned manner. This suggests that short shopping trips and others short journeys are undertaken using the car.

This requires further testing and analysis, with limited data available under the scope of this study.

1

Victoria Square Shopping retail Centre

2

Industrial estate next to Whitefield Tram Station

Key Findings and Messages

- Whitefield is well provided by local amenities such as schools, healthcare, and groceries;
- There are many facilities catering for the needs of the community, but largely located within places of worship;
- Walkability and cycling accessibility are key, which would enable people to make short trips - such as school run, groceries, playground dates - without a car within the neighbourhood; and
- There is opportunity to create a highly walkable / accessible, compact and vibrant town centre in Whitefield - where active travel, crossings and associated facilities.

2.4 Local Context
Movement and Connectivity (Roads)

Bury New Road runs through the of Whitefield Town Centre, carrying high volumes of vehicular traffic, with Department of Transport statistics highlighting 30,000 vehicle trips a day, within particular locations in 2016.

- Bury New Road severs Whitefield Town Centre from north to south. The route connects Whitefield with Bury to the North, Radcliffe to the Northwest, and Manchester City Centre to the south.
- The A56 suffers large volumes of vehicular traffic, with strategic routes linking into the town centre at its northern and southern gateways. The constant presence of traffic negatively impacts sense of place, resulting in wide road carriageways and large junctions.
- A lack of pedestrian crossings across Bury New Road and Higher Lane prevents permeability from east to west through the town centre.
- Whitefield Metrolink station is located at the heart of the town centre, with Besses O' th' Barn station within a 15-minute walk.
- There are several bus stops serving the area; however residents consider that the connectivity is poor and bus services deficient.

What you've said...

"Main roads are too busy with cars driving very fast - feels unsafe."

Whitefield Resident

What you've said...

"Not enough parking in the right areas."

Whitefield Resident

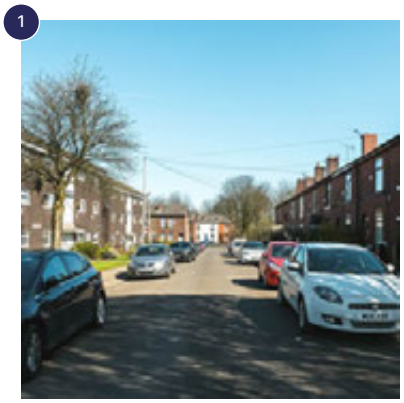
Car Parking Facilities Plan

Car Parking

There are several larger car parking areas around the town centre, which provide a significant number of spaces. Unfortunately, it is not considered by businesses and shoppers to be in the right places and people do not feel encouraged or safe enough to walk from it to their destination. Existing facilities include:

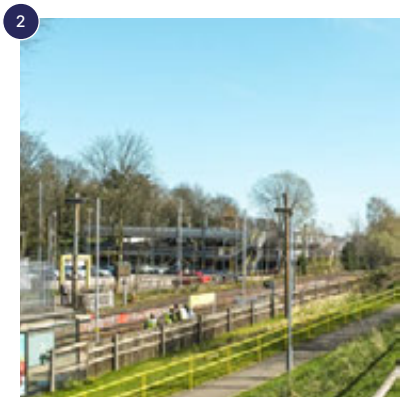
- Two large multi-storey car park facilities are located close to the Metrolink station, including a three-storey park and ride facility at the metrolink station and at Morrisons.
- Parking courts at Victoria Square local centre and at the southern gateway detract from the quality of the streetscene.
- Cars park in undefined spaces across the town centre, in side alleys, residential streets, to the rear of businesses, and along the edges of footways.

1



Residential streets are inundated with cars parked along kerbs

2

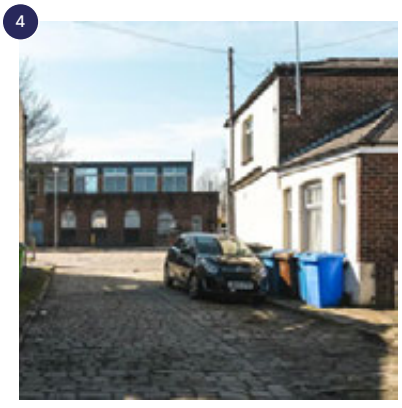


The tram station park and ride provides a large capacity facility

3

Large hardstanding parking area at Victoria Square local centre

4



Cars are parked along the kerbs of minor streets and alleys

5

Short-stay parking along the A56 is poorly integrated

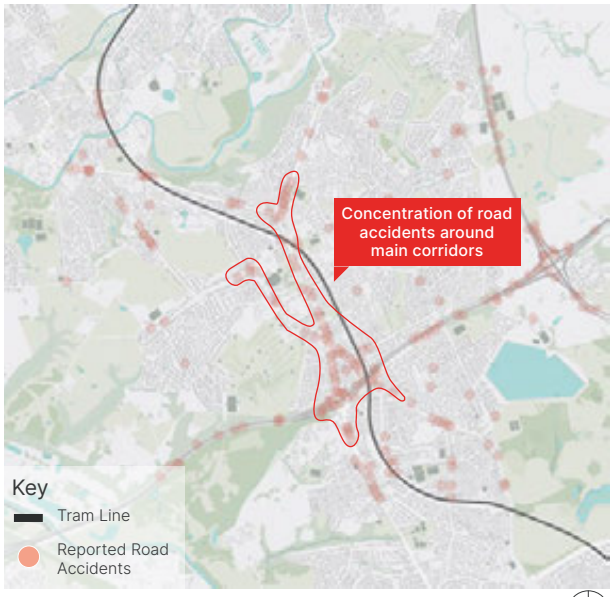
6

Hardstanding parking courts dominate the front of shops along the A56

What you've said...

"More safe crossing points are needed along the busy roads."

Whitefield Resident



Road Accidents Plan

Road Accidents

- High traffic counts and accidents are predominately located along Bury New Road and Higher Lane, with junctions acting as accident hot spots.
- Bury New Road acts as a major barrier to pedestrian movement, with crossings concentrated around large road junctions.
- The area around Bury New Road/ Higher Lane/ Bury Old Road junction is highlighted in the emerging Bury Transport Strategy as having major issues with safety and design.

The junction of Bury New Road is highlighted as being prone to road accidents, and presents a convoluted crossing environment for pedestrians

The junction at Bury New Road and Pinfold Lane / Moss Lane is also highlighted as an issue, with no signalised crossing, narrow footways and wide road carriageway.

Air Quality Plan

Air Quality

- Air Quality Management Area's cover significant sections of the Bury New Road corridor through the town centre, where the local air quality is unlikely to meet the Government's national air quality objectives.
- Poor air quality areas in Whitefield are concentrated in the Bury New Road corridor and the motorways M60 and M66.
- Reflects the poor environment and heavy car traffic in the motorway and main corridor.

5548 high-polluting vans, LGVs and HGVs passed along Bury New Road through the town centre in a single day in 2016 - reducing air quality and negatively impacting sense of place along the high street (Department for Transport, 2016)

What you've said...

"Bury New Road feels polluted from all the fast and heavy traffic passing through."

Whitefield Resident

Key Findings and Messages

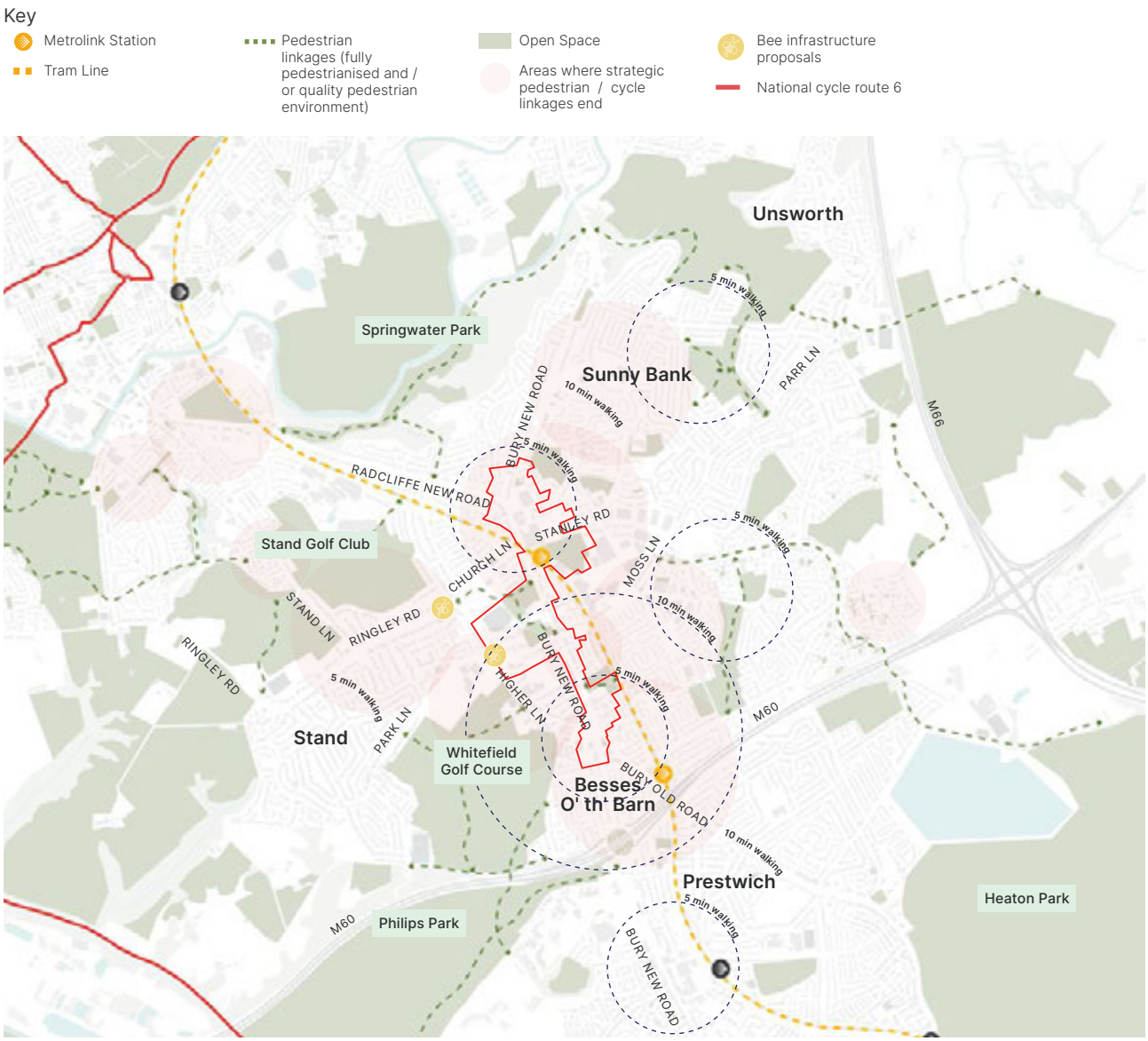
- The volume of vehicular traffic along Bury New Road has a major impact on of place, permeability, and safety across the corridor;
- Parked cars dominate the street scene and secondary spaces across the study area, further detracting from sense of place;
- There are opportunities in large sites at the periphery of the town centre that could be used to consolidate parking in the long term, creating more space for people and nature along the corridor;
- There is a major opportunity to repair the severance caused by Bury New Road as part of a place and people focused approach to street design;
- Pedestrian experience must be considered going forward; and
- There is potential tie into TfGM strategies to improve public transport services serving the centre as part of long-term future plans.

2.5 Local Context
Walking and Cycling

Whitefield is surrounded by parks, open spaces and major strategic green and blue corridors. Despite this, the network of active-travel linkages breaks down as routes meet residential areas surrounding the town centre - where cars dominate the street environment.

The pedestrian environment along the main corridor is low-quality, - and comprises with convoluted crossings isolated to major junctions. Bury New Road acts as a barrier to east-west movement between residential neighbourhoods; this affects wider permeability.

Both tram stations offer cycle parking, and improved junctions for cyclists are proposed at Higher Lane at the junction with Pinfold Lane, as well as Church Lane. The National Cycle Route runs through Philips Park and the Irwell corridor, presenting a major opportunity regarding wider active travel connectivity.



What you've said...

"The town is not bike-friendly at all."

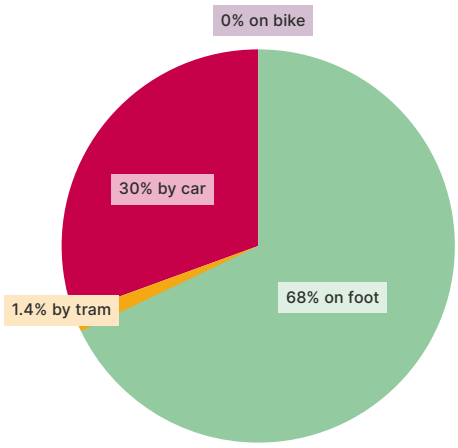
Whitefield Resident

There is limited cycle parking provision at the tram station - and existing facilities are poorly overlooked

Bury New Road acts as a major barrier to east-west pedestrian movement, with pedestrian crossing facilities isolated to major junctions

There are little-to-no cycle lanes along streets around the town centre - and lanes along the corridor are narrow and unsegregated

How do people reach the town centre?



The survey responses reveal that a large majority travel to the Town Centre on foot - suggesting they live in close proximity. Over a quarter of journeys are made by car.

Key Findings and Messages

- The active travel network breaks down as strategic linkages meet residential neighbourhoods leading into the town;
- Missing or insufficient cycle infrastructure across the area deters people from using bikes to get around, creating more short journeys via car;
- Disruptions in pedestrian movement and overall low-quality of public realm have a detrimental effect on the pedestrian experience;
- There is an opportunity to repair and enhance the pedestrian permeability of the town centre, especially crossing Bury New Road; and
- Over half of respondents said that they walk to Whitefield town Centre which demonstrates the importance of creating safe and pleasant pedestrian linkages, crossings and public realm.

What you've said...

"Feels like we're not taking advantage of the existing parks."

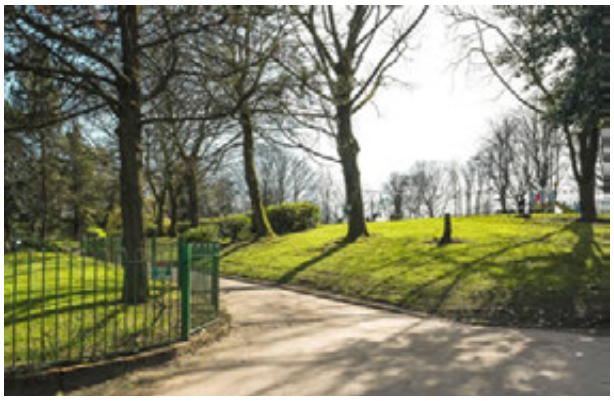
Whitefield Resident

2.6 Local Context
Public Open Space

Whitefield has several parks and green open spaces, creating rich and green areas off the A56.

Existing parks within and abutting the study area are varied in their quality. Whitefield Park, which has been a key feature and focal point to the town since the late 19th century, is a major asset, presenting a mature and varied character. Parks elsewhere across the town centre are with a limited range of facilities. Springwater Park and Hamilton Road Park are holders of Green Flag for well-managed green outdoor spaces.

Hamilton Road Park - photo source: David Dixon



1. Whitefield Park

- Small urban local community park established in 1890.
- Size: 2.01 hectares
- Edges: Metrolink Station, Park and Ride, industrial estate, and residential development.

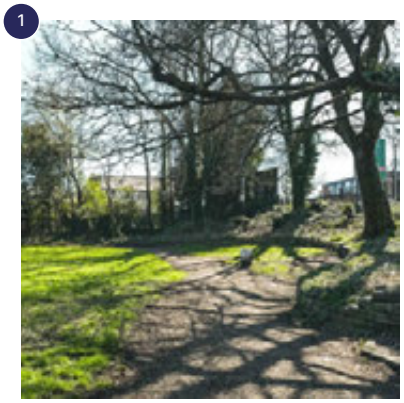
2. Victoria / Besses Park

- Small local park established in 1990 catering for sports and outdoor exercise.
- Size: 1.1 hectares
- Edges: predominantly residential with retail near the high street.

3. Hamilton Road Park

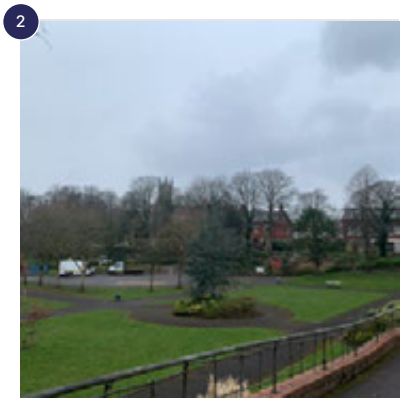
- Small park with tennis court and toddler's area.
- Size: 0.98 hectares
- Edges: Residential, healthcare facility, sports facility, and religious grounds.

1



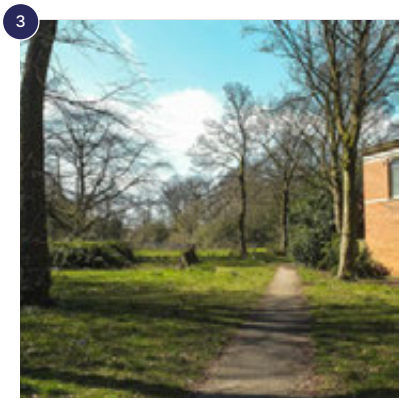
Victoria Park - poor overlooking from the street and impermeable edges

2



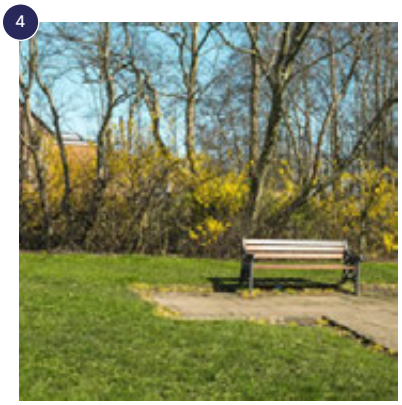
Hamilton Road Park - there is an opportunity to diversify activity and planting

3



Green space adjacent to Slattery is currently poorly overlooked

4



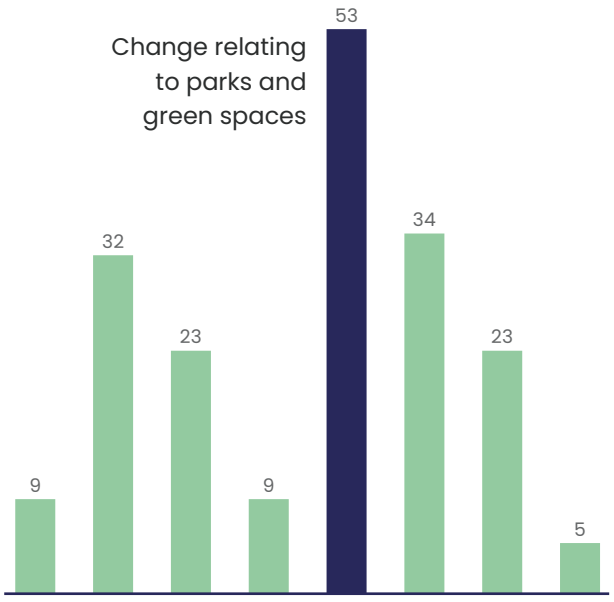
Poorly defined amenity green spaces are scattered across the town centre

5

Pockets of amenity green space with limited function at Victoria Square

6

Whitefield Park - a verdant oasis at the heart of the town



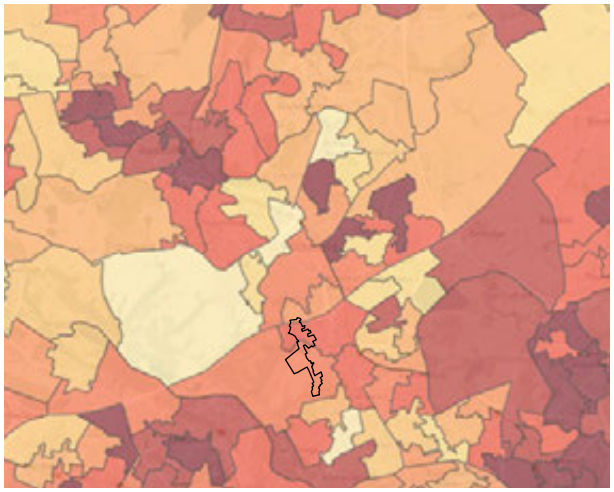
Respondents of surveys received to date highlight changes and improvements to park as a major area of focus

Key Findings and Messages

- Existing parks vary in quality, and there is potential to further activate and diversify; these spaces as part of the plan, as well as creating more access points to better integrate spaces into the wider neighbourhood;
- There is an opportunity to draw the green character of the parks and surrounding green residential streets onto the A56 corridor; and
- Opportunity to improve cycle infrastructure and pedestrian environment to encourage the use of active travel for short trips within the neighbourhood, including bike parking around shops and other amenities.

2.7 Local Context
Socio-Economic / Demographics

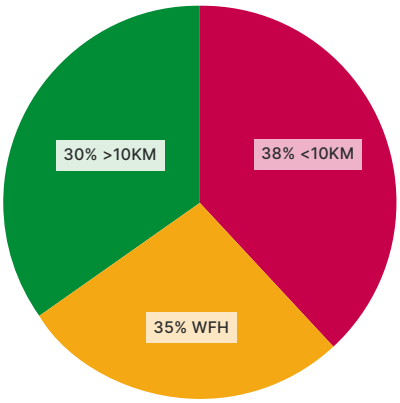
Whitefield's population is diverse in terms of age, culture and habits. This reflects in the need to create an inclusive environment that tends to all of the population, creating a vibrant town for all.



Indices of multiple deprivation (Census, 2019)

Deprivation

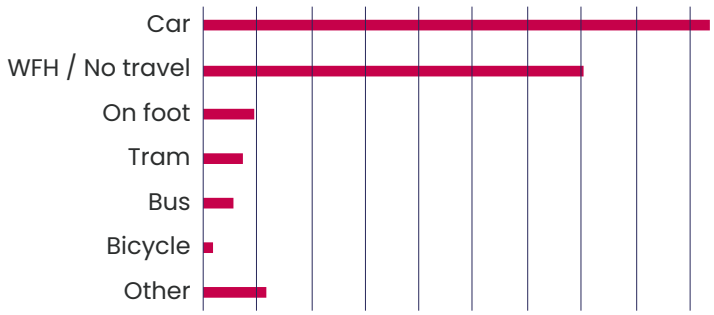
Communities to the east of Whitefield Town Centre are amongst the most deprived in the UK, whilst areas to the south and southwest in the Besses and Pilkington Park Wards also show high rates of deprivation.



Commuting habits (Census, 2021)

Work

Over a third of those employed in Whitefield work from home, suggesting there is a large number of people at home and in the area throughout the week. Of those who do travel, many prefer car as their preferred commuting method.

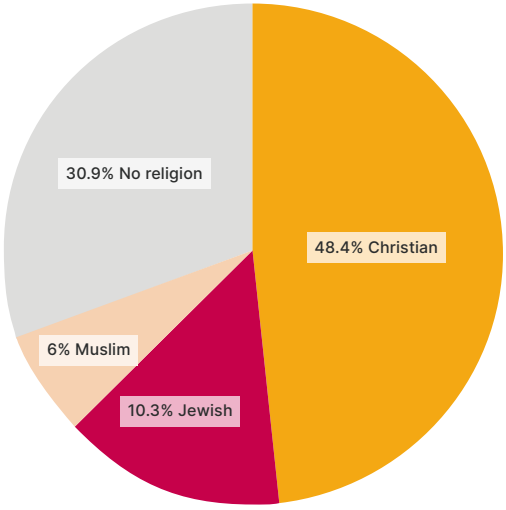


Modes of travel to workplace

What you've said...

"Neighbourhood is disconnected by major roads which also mark socio-economic barriers."

Whitefield Resident



Identity*

The wider Whitefield area is truly multi-cultural and multi-faith, as captured in the adjacent graph

*Median % figure for each of the predominant religious groups using 2021 census data for Whitefield East, Whitefield West and Park Lane, Besses and Unsworth.

Population

42.5
Median Age in Whitefield

20.2%
of population is 65 years old and over

19.4%
School children or full-time students

Key Findings and Messages

- There is a rich cultural mix within Whitefield; this should be supported by local facilities to enable cooperation;
- A third of Whitefield's population works from home; this means that they could form an opportunity to increase local trips to the Town Centre, enhancing the local economy;
- Children of school age and students make up 1/5 of Whitefield's population and the local area has to support their needs;
- East of Bury New Road is significantly more deprived than the west - need for reconciliation and support the growth.

3 Exploring the Town Centre

Study Area

Here we zoom into the town centre, looking at more specific and detailed considerations affecting Whitefield.
This section presents analysis of the Bury New Road corridor, outlining the key challenges and constraints faced along the high street.

3.1 Key Destinations

There are several key destinations located within the town centre, acting as pull factors for Whitefield. These destinations are considered important to the town centre, and will be central to emerging plans for improvements.

Slattery

A popular and long running family-run business, a patisserie and chocolatier shop and bakery. It is located north from the junction of Bury New Road and Pinfold Lane, close to the entrance to the wooded area of Green Hill. Slattery is a major draw to Whitefield, attracting visitors from far and wide.

Garrick Theatre

A purpose-built theatre located close to the Whitefield tram station. The theatre produces five plays each year, seats 87 people and includes foyer and bar facilities. The Whitefield Garrick Society was founded in 1943 and has its roots in the Whitefield Home Guard. The theatre is a very well-known and used facility among local residents.

Hamilton Road Park

A park located within All Saints Conservation Area. It is accessed via ramp from Bury New Road, and contains children's playground and a hard-paved events space.

Whitefield Park

First opened in 1890, it is a small, local urban local community park, adjacent to Whitefield tram stop. The entrance to the park is flat, then rises towards the middle and slopes away to the rear. Facilities include children's play area, multi-play ball zone and a youth shelter.

All Saints Church

A Grade I listed building built between 1821-1826, it is an Anglican parish church located on Church Lane acting as a community centre.

Former Library

The former Library and Adult Learning Centre on Pinfold Lane also served as a community meeting spot. It has been closed down due to lack of funding.

What you've said...

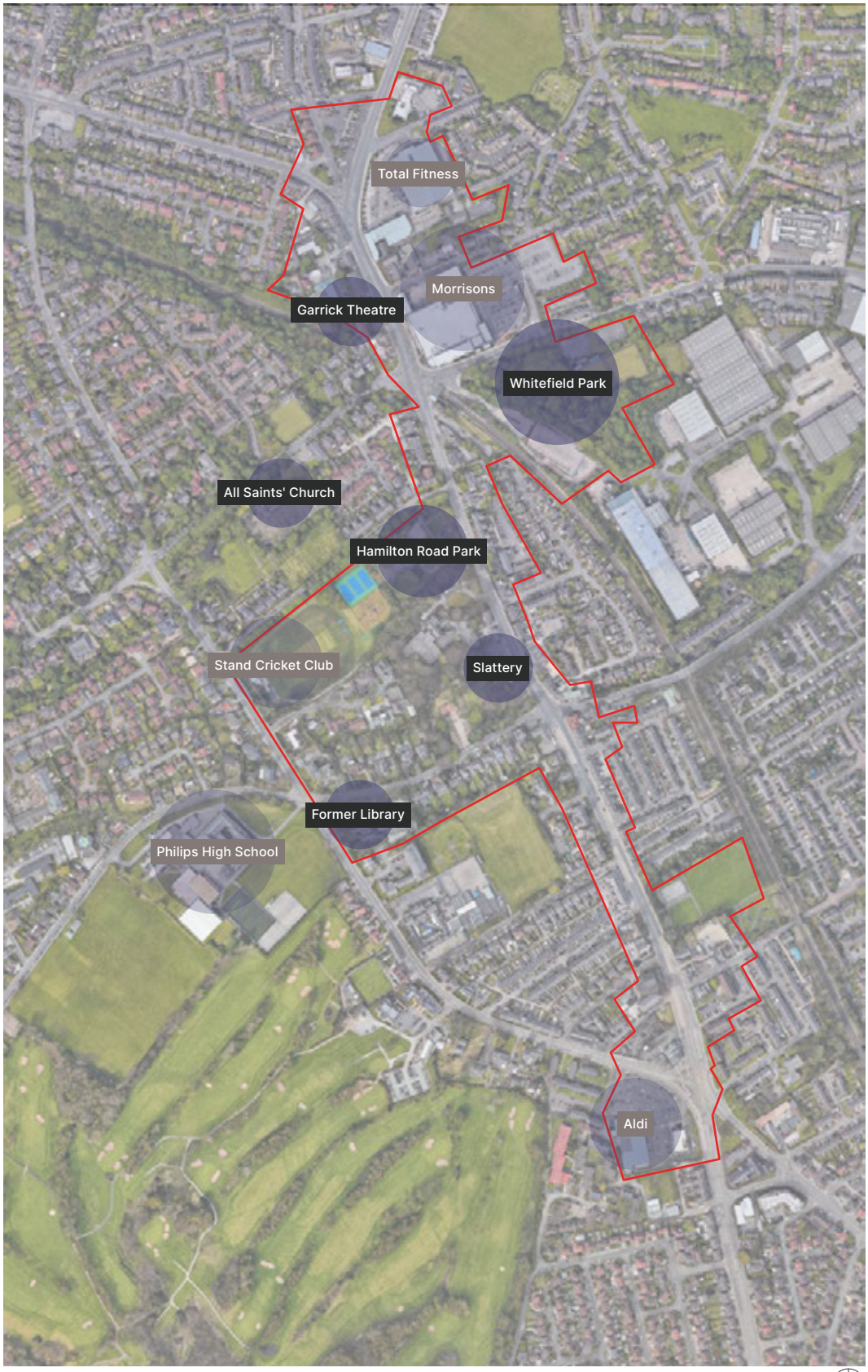
"Whitefield is an 'in-and-out' town rather than a destination."

Whitefield Resident

What you've said...

"There are not many places to meet - I have to leave Whitefield to do that."

Whitefield Resident



Key destinations

3.2 Understanding Bury New Road
Public Realm, Pavements, Parking

Bury New Road presents a hostile and unpleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists - with wide road carriageways dominating the streetscene.

The environment at the Stanley Road junction presents an example where the corridor is at its widest, with heavy traffic prevalent and noise / air pollution a major issue.

Clutter dominates the pavements, there are inactive frontages next to Morrisons, and there is little outdoor space for businesses to spill out into the street. Green infrastructure is limited, and cycle lanes are narrow.

The section below captures many of the overarching issues faced by Whitefield Town Centre - as Bury New Road functions as an urban highway, not a high street.

What you've said...

"It's not nice to walk along the main roads."

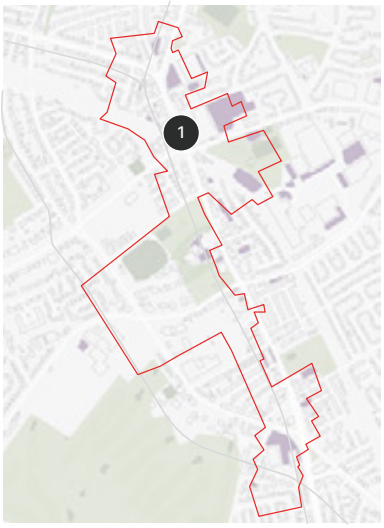
Whitefield Resident

1

What you've said...

"We want narrower road and wider pavements that are safe for everyone."

Whitefield Resident



Limited space for spillout from Porada restaurant

Poor cycling infrastructure

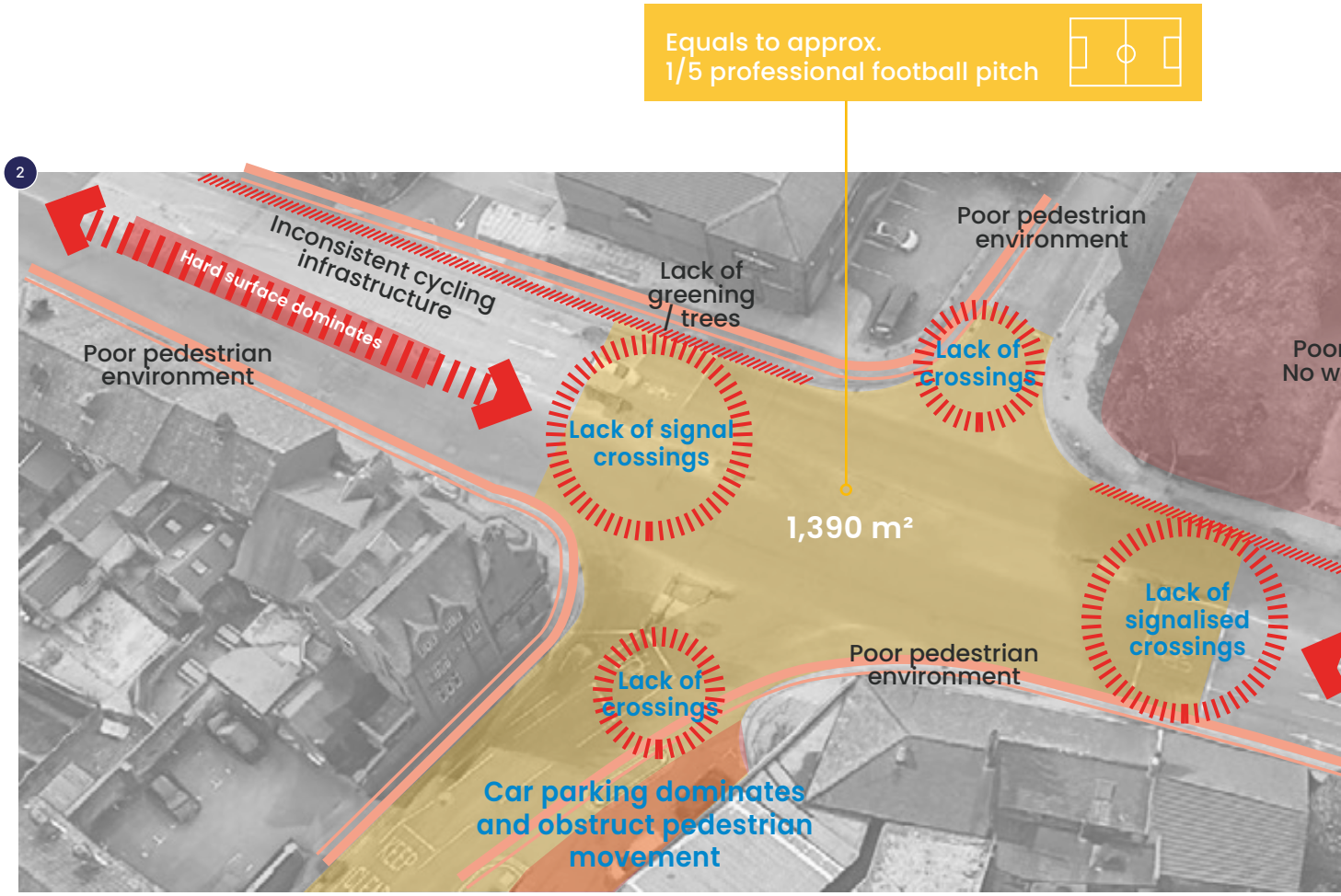
Bury New Road street analysis

Width of carriageway creates unpleasant pedestrian environment

3.3 Understanding Bury New Road **Junctions**

During the consultation sessions, residents had mixed feelings about the A56. They recognised it as an important road for vehicles but felt that the heavy traffic made the town feel busy and overwhelming.

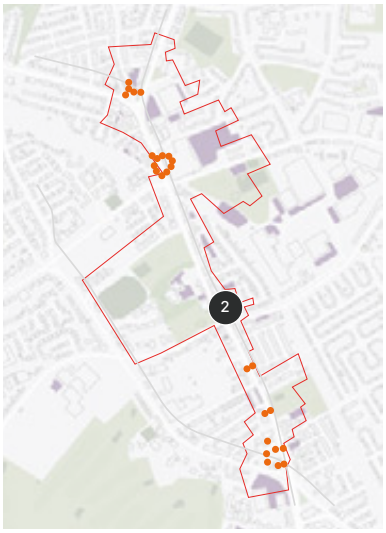
The junction at Pinfold Lane/ Moss Lane captures the key issues faced at Whitefield's junctions – with narrow footpaths and a lack of signalised crossings.



What you've said...

"The town is segregated due to the road and lack of public spaces"

Whitefield Resident



Carriageway dominates the environment

Low-quality public realm

Junction of Bury New Road and Pinfold Lane / Moss Lane

Lack of signal used pedestrian crossings

3.4 Understanding Bury New Road **Buildings and Character**

Buildings in the study area present a range of architectural qualities, which changes the character of Bury New Road as you move through the town centre.

The majority of the many buildings in the area were built during the 19th and 20th century, with rows of red brick terraces, many now converted into retail units lining Bury New Road.

Larger Victorian semi-detached and detached homes address the street around the conservation area, set back from the street. Deep front gardens enhance the character of Bury New Road; and elevated buildings providing a strong sense of street enclosure.

There are several modern additions to the area, mainly in form of large-footprint retail and office buildings to the north and south. These buildings are surrounded by swathes of surface car parking, and fail to define the high street. This detracts from the sense of enclosure experienced elsewhere along Bury New Road - especially around the northern and southern gateway areas.

Key Findings

- Red brick, Victorian properties are characteristic of the area, and contribute positively to the character of Bury New Road around the conservation area;
- Other historic terraced buildings have been degraded over time, with the addition of low-quality render and fascia;
- Landmark buildings are scattered across the area, however ground floor frontages often fail to activate the street. Landmarks are poorly integrated and act as islands - a result of surrounding road infrastructure and boundary treatments; and
- The setting of landmark buildings are often poor, failing to celebrate the assets.

1

Landmark historic building with prominent facade features and strong vertical elements

2

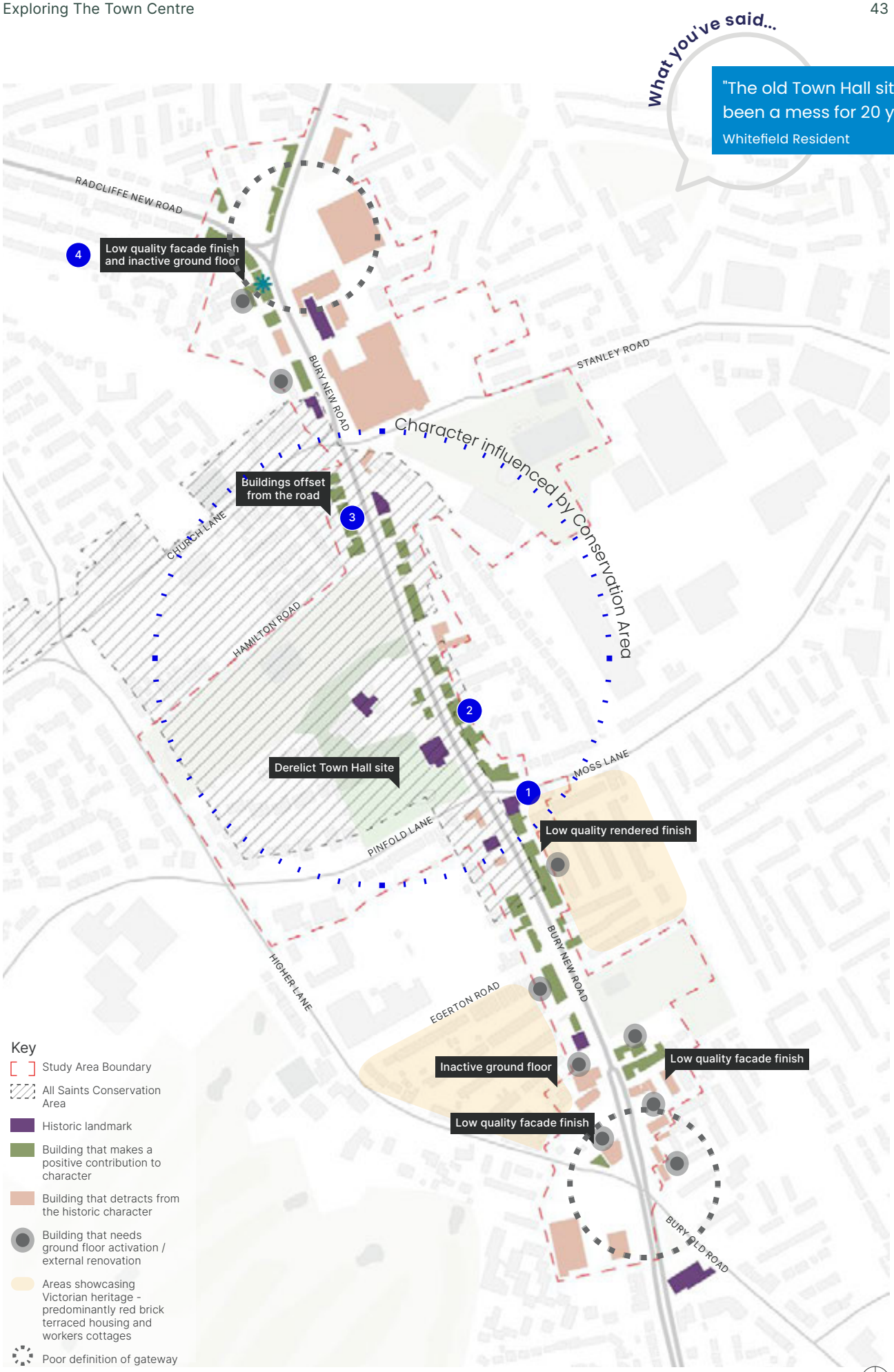
Victorian terraced buildings, more recently converted into commercial properties, are characteristic of Whitefield

3

Victorian houses with large, green thresholds define Bury New Road around the conservation area

4

Rows of terraced buildings where the historic character has been eroded by low-quality fascias and render



Bury Council GREATER MANCHESTER DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY Funded by UK Government

3.5 Understanding Bury New Road **Frontages**

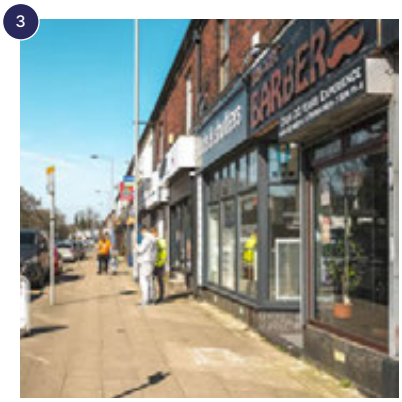
There are several types of building frontage treatment within the study area:

- Active frontages that interact with the street - with predominantly transparent ground-floor frontages;
- Active frontages that don't interact with the street. This type of frontage is predominantly detached and semi-detached villas offset from the road by a front garden;
- Residential frontages where the entrance is either directly onto the street, or via a small front garden;
- Inactive frontages - including blank walls, garage entrances, opaque shop fronts where branding or signage has been installed in a glass window;
- Areas addressing the corridor where no building frontage is present. This is particularly prevalent in gateway spaces way spaces to the north and south.

Key Findings and Messages

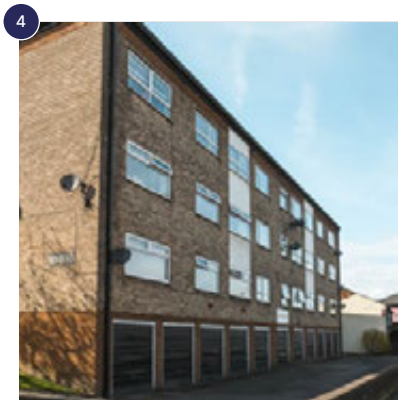
- There is limited to no spill out space along Bury New Road, preventing businesses from activating threshold and pavement spaces;
- The ground-floor frontages of many of the existing buildings along Bury New Road are opaque, failing to activate the street;
- Varying opening times of businesses result in long rows of closed shutters both through the day and in the evening;
- The location of large surface parking areas addressing Bury New Road creates fails to define the corridor, especially at key gateways to the north and south;
- The largest cluster of active frontages is located at the centre of the corridor; yet the street environment around them is poor. This is a major opportunity.

3



Ground floor frontage activated by shops and services

4

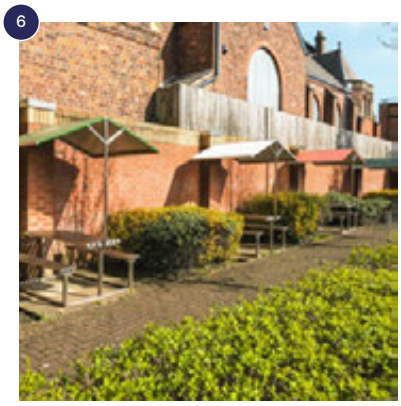


Inactive ground-floor frontage fails to activate the street

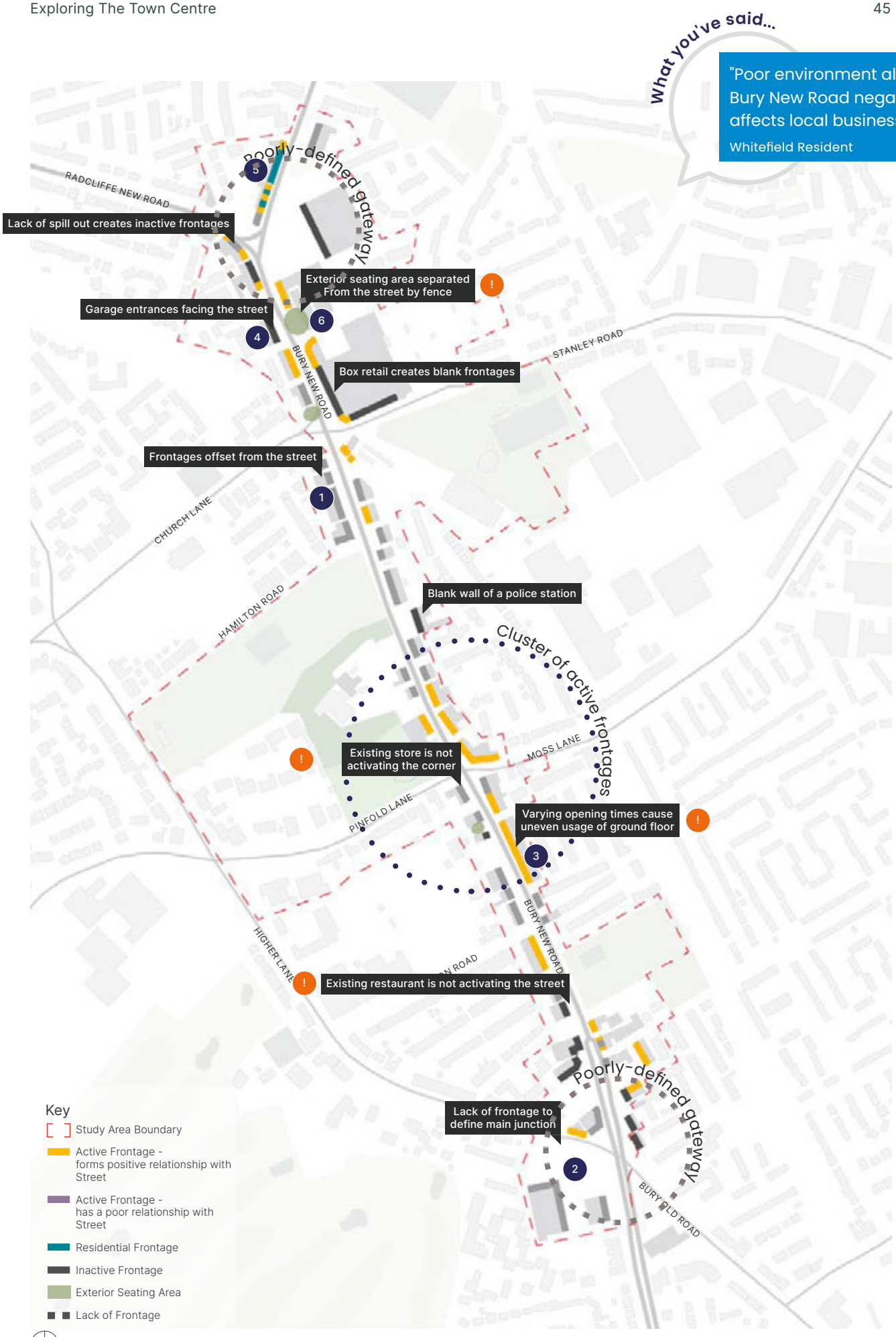
5

Ground floor frontage activated by residential entrances

6



Exterior spill out / seating areas partially activating the street



Building Frontages Plan

3.6 Understanding Bury New Road
Uses and Destinations

Whitefield is a predominantly residential neighbourhood, with the greatest mix of uses concentrated along Bury New Road, creating a central axis.

Dominant uses in the study area are retail and local services (e.g. clothes shops, health and beauty, convenience, hardware, legal services etc.). There are some restaurants, coffee places and a range of takeaways in the area.

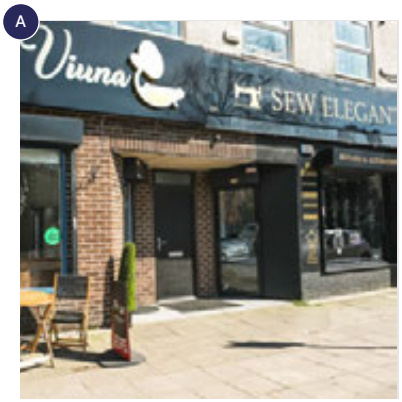
The majority of shops and services along the high street are small local and family businesses, but there is also presence of national retailers such as Morrisons, Subway, Aldi and McDonald's that include large areas of surface car parking. These are located in the northern and southern gateway areas of the town centre.

There is a large light-industrial / office park called Park 17 - of approx. 9 ha, to the east off Moss Lane in close proximity to the Metrolink Tram Stop and park and ride.

Key Findings

- There is a wide range of uses along the high street, but a lack of pavement space for restaurant and café spillout. The dominance of road traffic and inactive ground floor frontages cause the town to be less vibrant than it could be;
- The opening hours of shops along Bury New Road results in long rows of closed shutters throughout the day and evening; and
- Residents were concerned about a lack of variety in cafes / pubs / bars and too few independent retailers. They also stated that car parking can have negative impact on the street scene, as it lowers the quality of public areas.

A

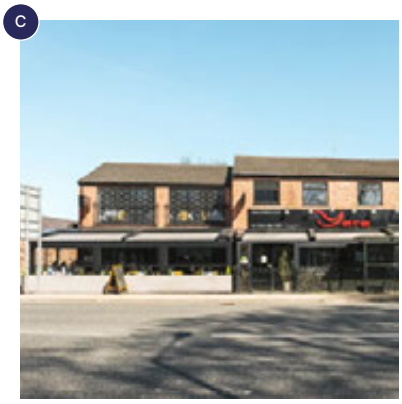


Shops and services along Bury New road are mostly small businesses.

B

Big retailer shops with large parking areas.

C



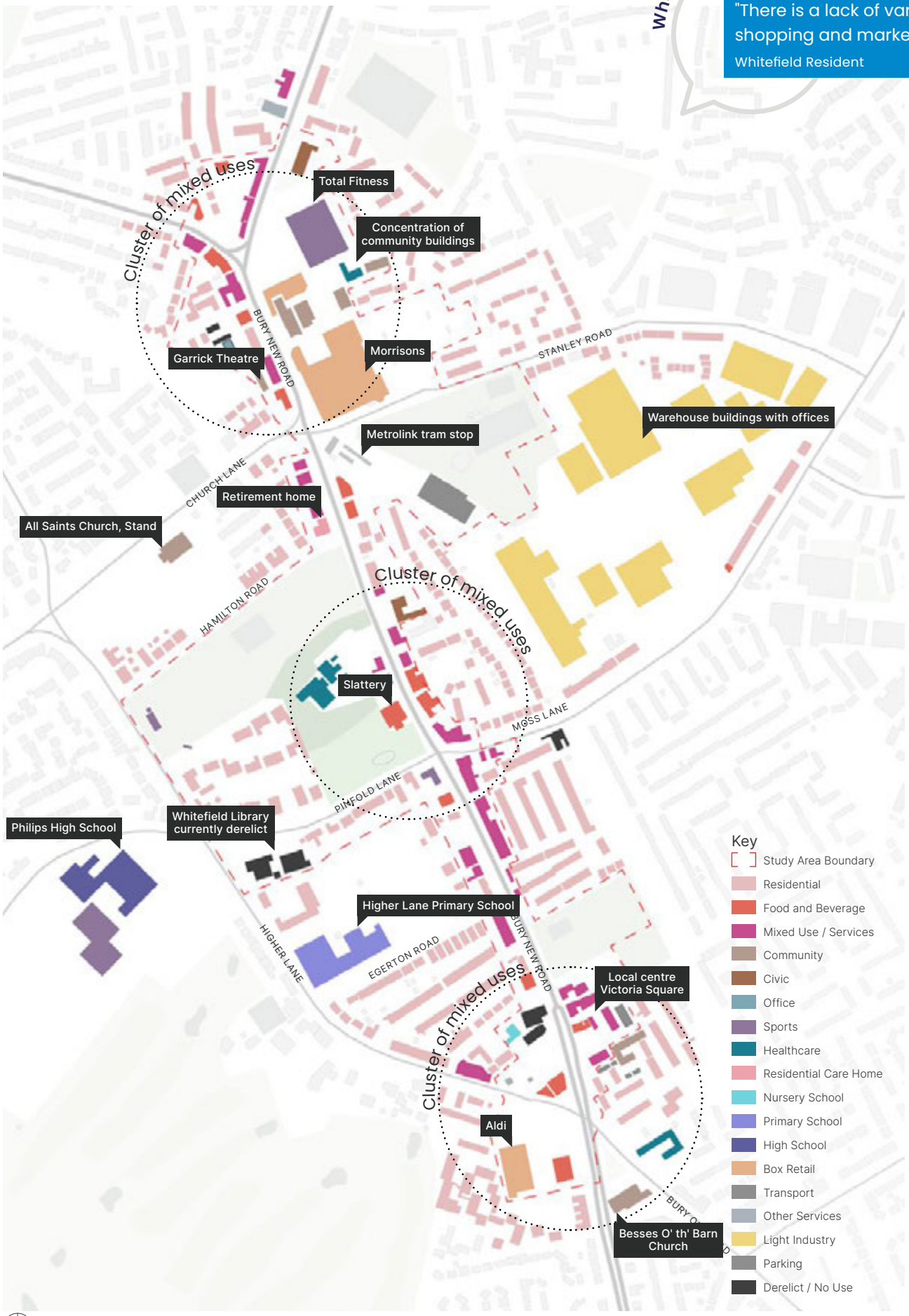
Various restaurants along Bury New Road.

D

Park 17 - large footprint buildings set within green space and surface car parking to the east of study area.

What you've said...

"There is a lack of varied shopping and markets."
Whitefield Resident



Land Use Plan

4 The Community Heart: Voices and Values

Engagement

4.1 Exploring the heart of Whitefield

We have sought to understand how local people feel about Whitefield (the heart) to supplement our analysis of the physical elements of the place (the head).

Only through understanding how people feel about Whitefield as a place can we deliver policies and projects which will help to improve the town as well as people's lives

4.2 Approach to Engagement

The adjacent timeline details the community engagement events and online consultation undertaken through the plan-making process.

The findings have been collated and summarised to inform the vision, objectives, and proposed interventions presented in the latter half of the plan.

March 2023

A consultation event with community stakeholders was held on 16th March.

Feedback was collated and grouped into themes, to help identify the local community's main priorities.

May - June 2023

A wider public consultation event was held on 20th May, and online public consultation ran until 16th June 2023.

Feedback was again collated and grouped into themes and cross-referenced with the feedback we received from the first engagement event.

2024

A formal consultation was held which included an online questionnaire, a session with students at Philips High School, and sessions at Morrisons Whitefield for the general public and a targeted session with the Bury Blind Society.

Following this, a last phase of consultation with Whitefield businesses and internal Council stakeholders took place in Autumn 2024 to finalise the Plan.

What you've said...

"There isn't a centre. It's just a road."

Whitefield Resident

4.3 Where is the centre of Whitefield?

Having asked the Whitefield community to locate the centre of the town, two key areas stood out:

1. Whitefield Tram Stop

The area around the Metrolink tram stop, Morrisons supermarket and Porada restaurant - mainly because of the location of the tram stop as a gateway and transport node. Also the historical analysis and comments from the residents suggest that the original centre of Whitefield was located within this area.

2. The area from the former town hall to Hamilton Road Park

An area further south, centred around the site of former Town Hall (now demolished), Slattery bakery and Uplands Medical Centre. This area was chosen mostly because of the former Town Hall location, as well as the renowned Slattery bakery. Historic analysis suggests that this area around Pinfold Lane was also significant in formation of the

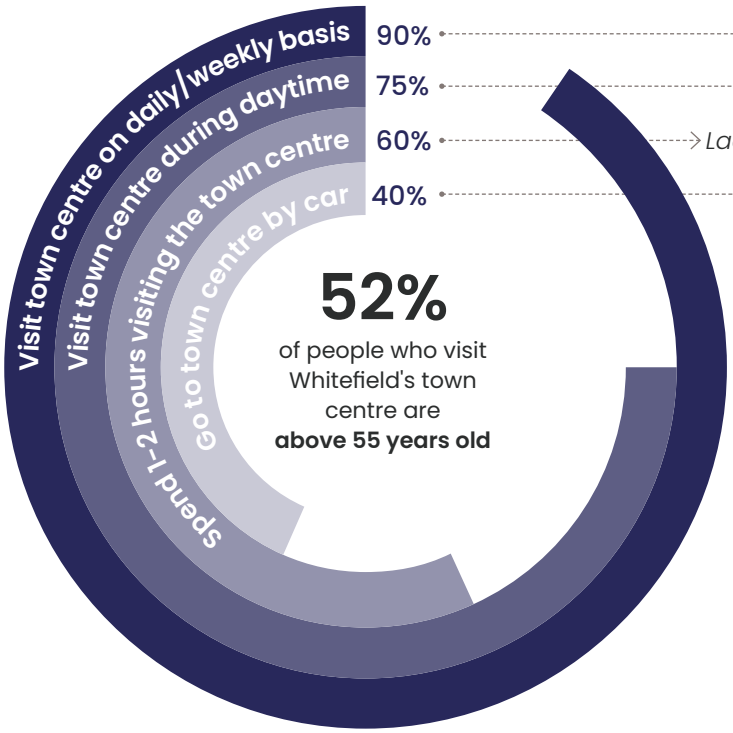
We asked members of the Whitefield community to note where they felt the 'centre' of Whitefield sits, as identified on the adjacent plan.

The size of the circle indicates that a higher number of people identified the area as the 'heart'.

Location identified as 'hearts'

4.4 Community Engagement Summary - 2023

Further public engagement was undertaken between March and June 2023, providing a wealth of information and insight into the town. A summary of the key messages and findings is presented here.



90% → *Potential to improve the experience*

75% → *Not enough evening activities*

60% → *Lack of facilities / activities that generate interest*

40% → *Possibly related to shopping focus of visits*

~250
respondents gave their feedback

72.5% of visitors to town centre are of economically active age (25-54 years old)

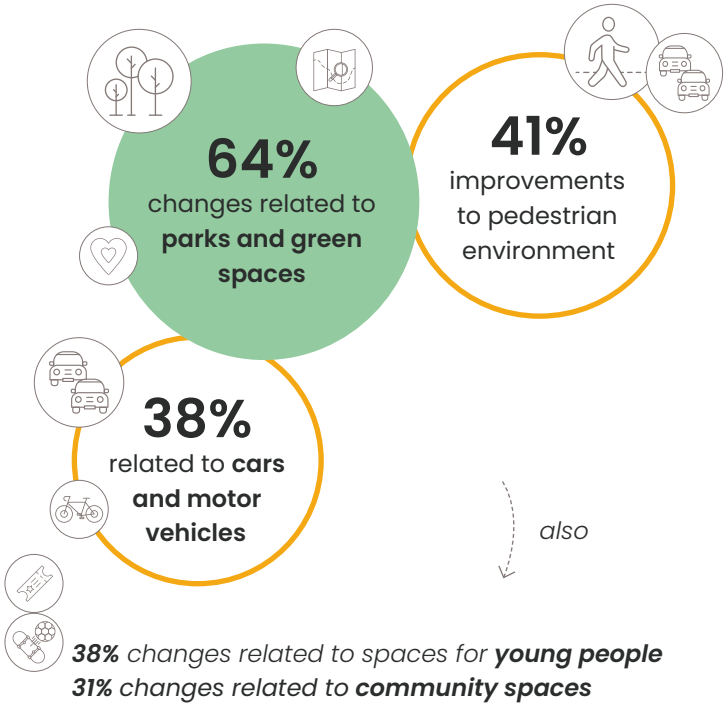
Key Findings and Messages

These are the key themes that were identified based on the feedback from consultation events:

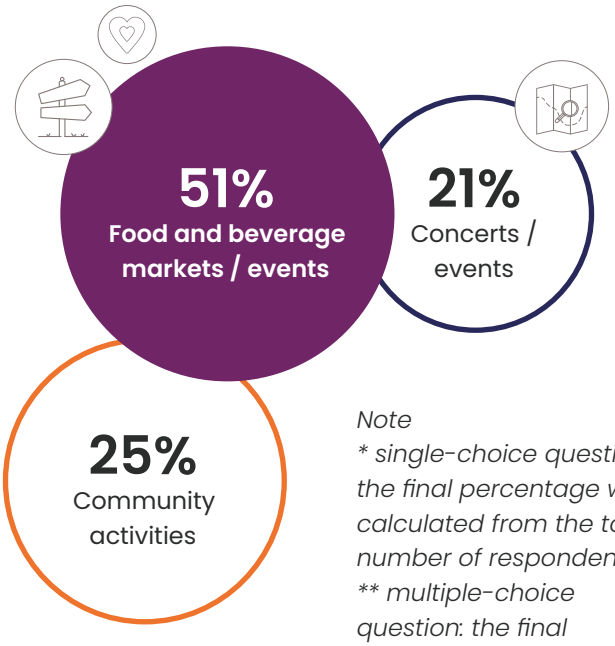
- **Lack of a central heart**
- **It's not a destination / Lack of variety**
- **Strong community spirit**
- **Lack of community resources**
- **Feels neglected which may lead to increase in antisocial behaviour**
- **Poor experience of walking and public realm**
- **Lack of cycling infrastructure**
- **Heavy traffic and wide roads**
- **Abundant parks and green spaces**
- **Need for facilities for young people**

What is the main reasons for visit?**

What changes would the community like to see?*



What would they like to see more of?**



Note
** single-choice question: the final percentage was calculated from the total number of respondents*
*** multiple-choice question: the final percentage was calculated from the total number of responses*

Burning issues

Important notes from the community:

- There is no centre / heart to the town
- The local community needs a platform and physical spaces to get together
- Children's play areas and facilities need to be renovated / improved
- Road safety / lack of safe road crossings
- The environment around the Metrolink stop needs improvement to feel safer and reduce antisocial behaviour
- Demand to reduce traffic and speeding on Bury New Road
- The bus lanes seems redundant
- Strong demand to re-open the library

Bury Council GREATER MANCHESTER DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY Funded by UK Government

4.5 Summary: Consultation on Draft Plan

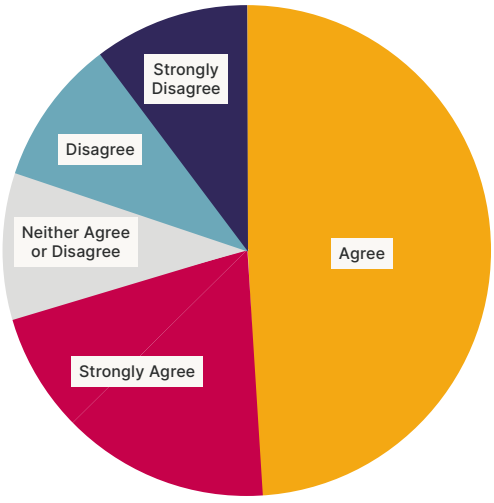
Following the production of the draft Town Centre Plan in late 2023, a consultation on the Plan's proposals was open from 22nd January – 24th March 2024.

The consultation comprised: x2 3-hour sessions in person sessions at Whitefield Morrisons' Foyer where members of the public could ask the project team about the proposals and give their feedback (with approximately 100 attendees on each day); a 3-hour session organised with Bury Blind Society at Whitefield Morrisons community room; an hour-long session at Philips High School to get feedback from the year 8 and 9 pupil leadership group; and a questionnaire hosted on the Council webpages.

A summary of the responses of the over 250 people who fed back during the consultation is provided across this two page spread. Findings of the consultation process and informed and altered the aims, objectives, and proposed initiatives to be delivered under the plan.

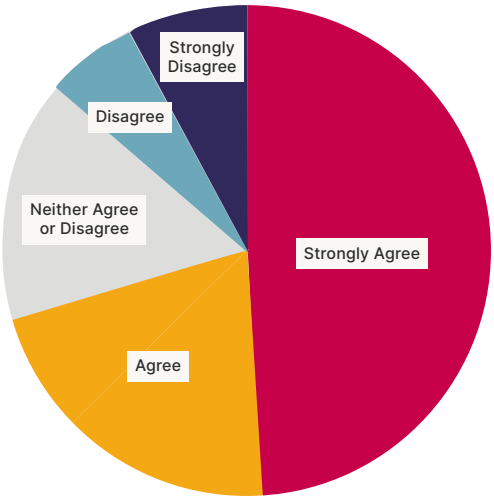
The Whitefield Common proposal

Do you agree or disagree with the Plan's proposals for the Whitefield Common (the area from Hamilton Road Park to the Former Town Hall/ behind Slattery's)?



New pedestrian routes off Bury New Road

Create a new pedestrian route parallel to the A56 (this could begin at the junction Moss Lane and Pinfold Lane, link through the Old Town Hall Site and the Uplands then go to Church Lane and finally finish near the junction between Radcliffe New Road and Bury New Road).



Improvements at the Metrolink Stops

40%
called for safety and aesthetic improvements at metrolink stations

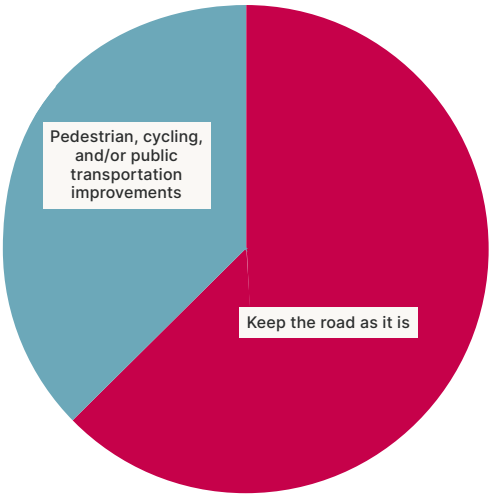
12%
improved maintenance

Pedestrian Facilities and Wayfinding

>90%
agreed with improvements to crossing points on Bury New Road

>60%
agreed with more signage around the town centre

Changes to Bury New Road



Car Parking

>60%
agreed or strongly agreed with increased capacity

5%
Parking is fine

Several commentators mentioned requirements near Slattery and Uplands

Green Spaces

>85%
agreed or strongly agreed with proposals to plant more trees and vegetation around the town centre

>60%
agreed or strongly agreed with proposals for pocket parks

5 So What's Important?

Challenges and Opportunities

The following section provides a summary of the findings of our analysis of the 'head' and 'heart' of Whitefield, outlining what we believe to be its key assets and challenges.

Informed by this, a series of opportunities for future improvement have been identified.

5.1 Whitefield's strengths and assets

Following extensive conversations with the Whitefield community and spatial analysis of the place, the following key assets have been identified as being important to Whitefield Town Centre:

These assets are the jewels in Whitefield's crown, and form the basis for future interventions across the town centre as the plan moves forward.

Access to wider green space network

Strong community spirit with active community groups

Existing heritage buildings

Place with a story

Assets Plan

Strategic accessibility - road (Bury New Road) and tram links with Manchester

Famous shops and organisations

The Conservation Area

Mature trees and green residential streets

Sport and Parks at the centre of the town

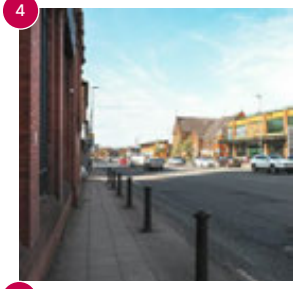
Education facilities - primary and secondary

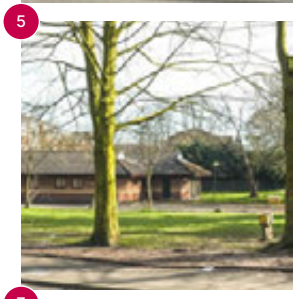
5.2 Whitefield's Challenges

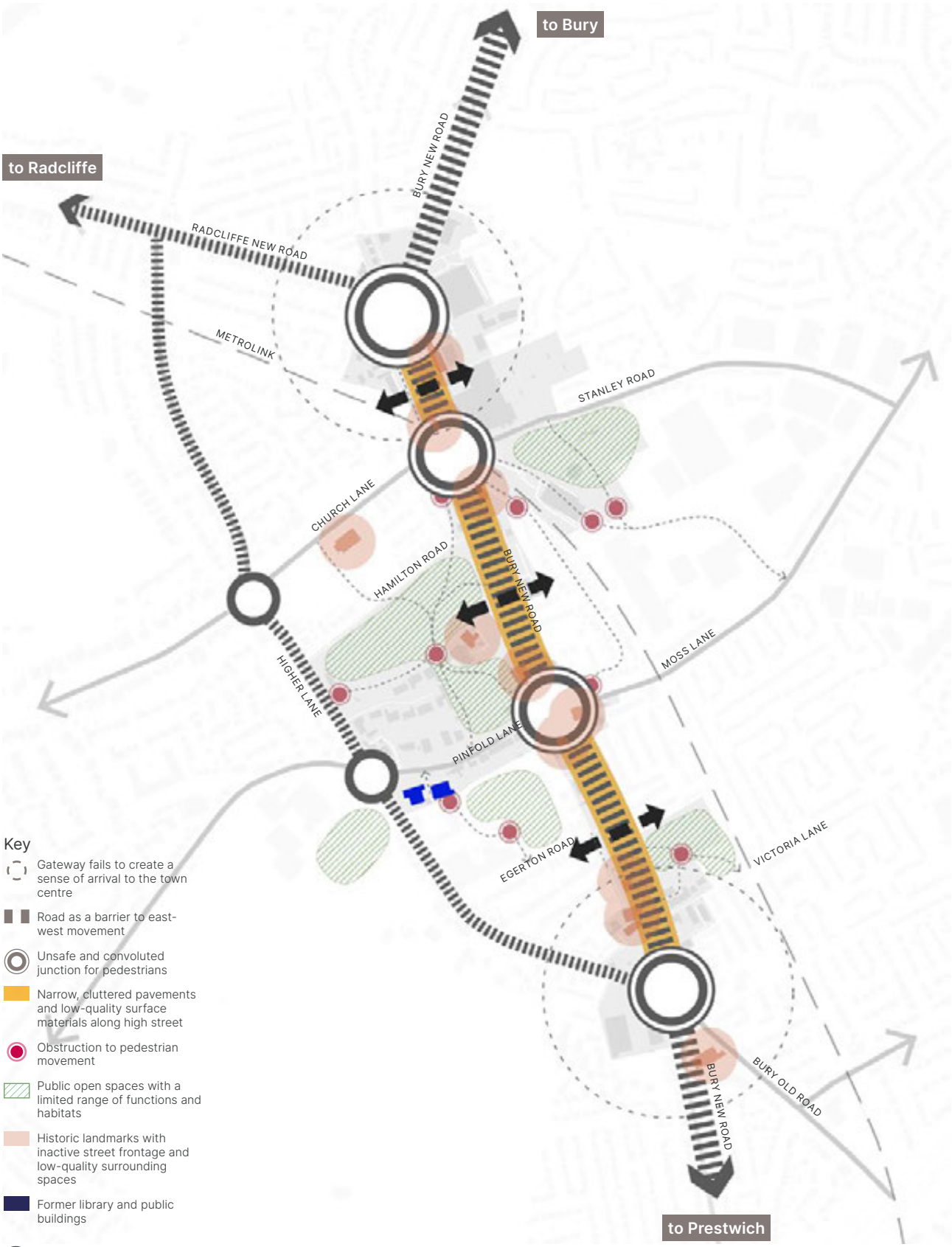
This spread summarises the key issues and challenges faced by Whitefield Town Centre, identified through the spatial analysis and feedback from the community engagement events undertaken so far.

These challenges set the basis for the emerging vision for the town centre, providing a steer on the key areas which require focus as potential interventions.

1. **The amount of vehicular traffic and wide roads**
2. **A lack of variety of things to do**
3. **Difficulties moving around on foot or bike**
4. **Narrow pavements and low-quality public spaces**
5. **Limited community facilities**
6. **Too many shutters and blank shop fronts**
7. **Parked cars detracting from the quality of public spaces**
8. **Parks could include a more diverse mix of activities**
9. **Historic buildings which have lost quality and character from modern shop fronts and building works**
10. **Whitefield lacks a heart/ centre due to its linear form**
11. **Badly connected areas off from the A56.**



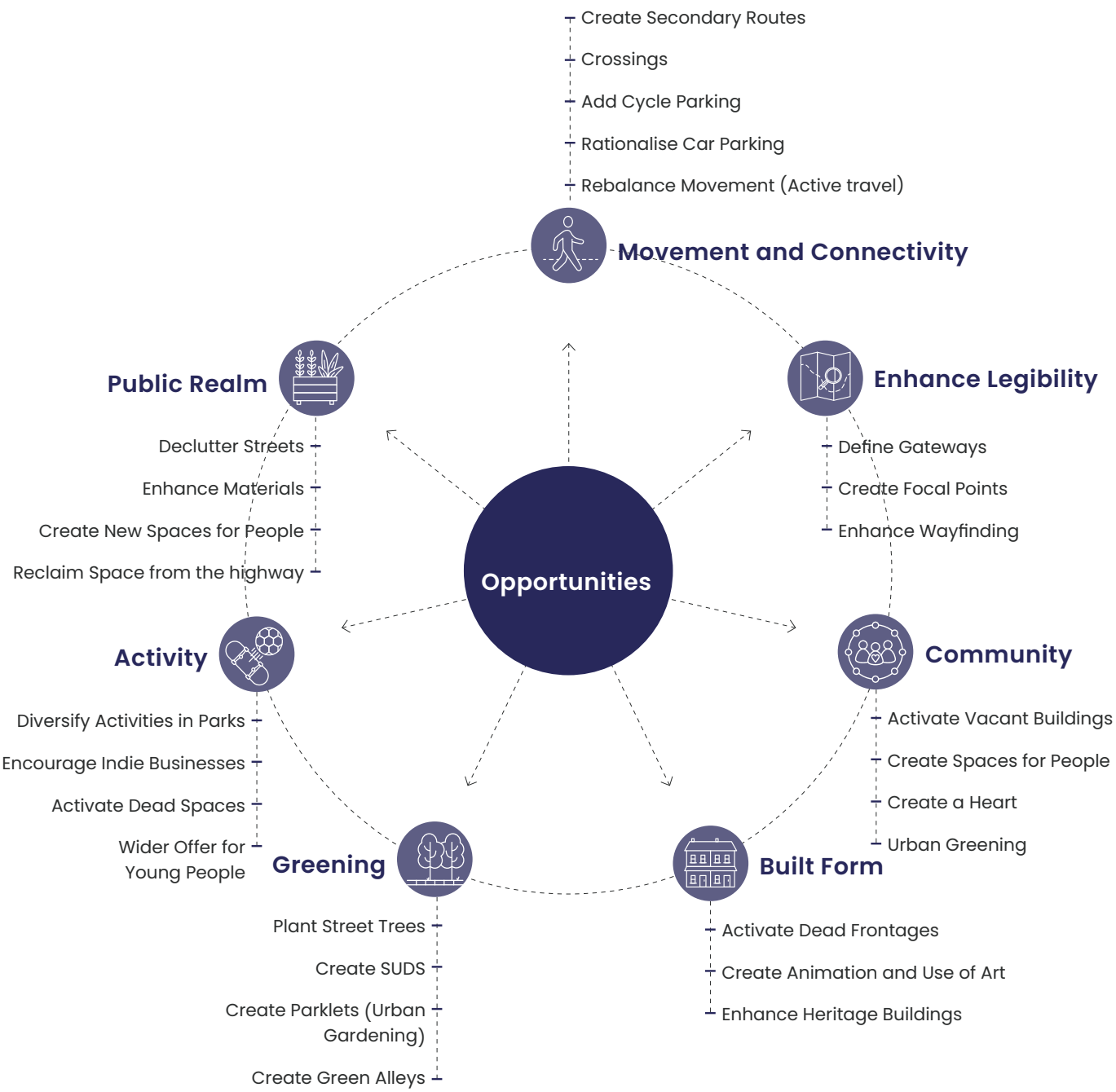




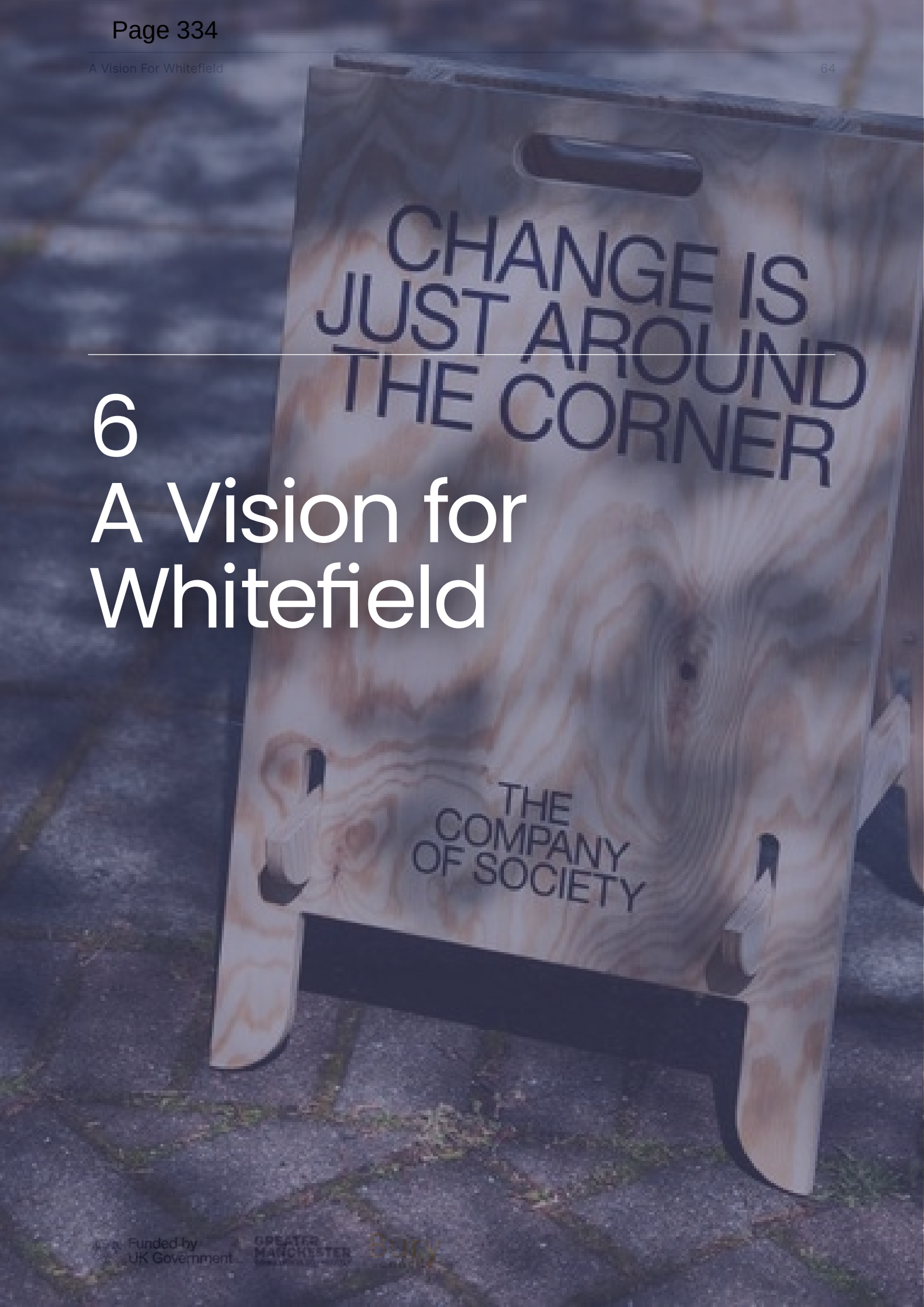
Whitefield Challenges Plan

5.3 Emerging Opportunities

We believe there to be an overarching opportunity to **enhance Whitefield Town Centre as a destination**, creating a range of activities, functions and uses to draw people to the town centre, and encourage them to stay there for longer.



Bury Council GREATER MANCHESTER DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY Funded by UK Government



6
A Vision for Whitefield

Funded by UK Government

The Plan's vision statement and objectives have been shaped by analysis of Whitefield and community feedback from engagement events.

Each objective is supported by a series of design principles, providing more detail on how the objective might be achieved through time.

6.1 Vision Statement

Whitefield will be a more prosperous and greener town with a vibrant high street, shaped by the collaborative efforts of its community, businesses, Bury Council, and other stakeholders.

The vision is informed by engagement with the community, and captures the essence of their collective input and feedback into the plan making process. As a member of the community stated during the engagement process:

"Whitefield is a town with a heart, and has a strong community spirit, we've just got nowhere to meet!"

The vision objectives highlighted in the adjacent support the vision statement, and begin to explore *how* a change might be achieved in Whitefield. They are presented to guide and steer future action and intervention across the town centre.

In the next section of the document, proposed interventions are organised around each vision objective, providing further detail on the type of intervention required to assist in achieving the vision and delivering the objectives.

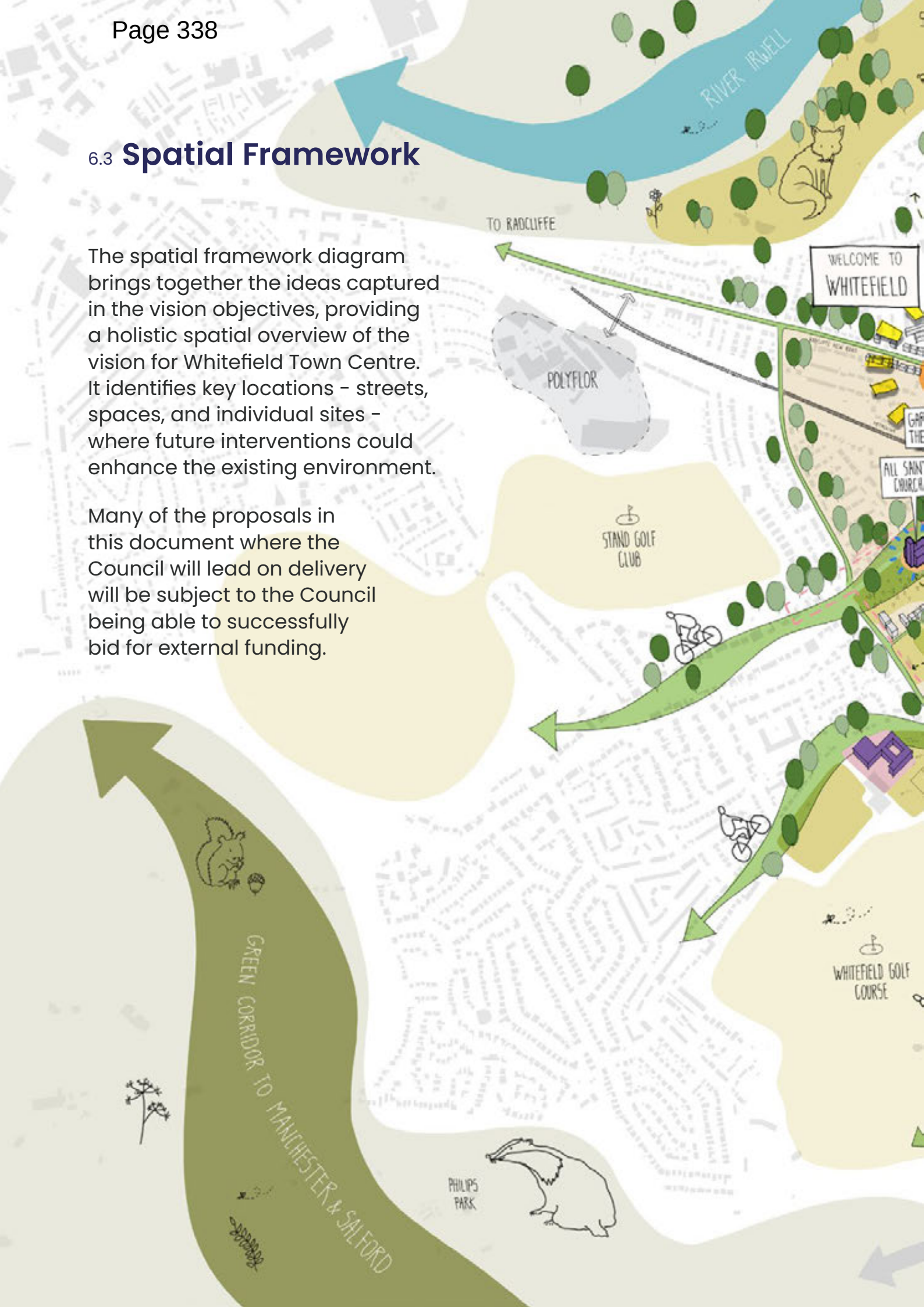
6.2 Big Ideas for Whitefield - The Vision Objectives

Bury Council GREATER MANCHESTER DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY Funded by UK Government

6.3 Spatial Framework

The spatial framework diagram brings together the ideas captured in the vision objectives, providing a holistic spatial overview of the vision for Whitefield Town Centre. It identifies key locations - streets, spaces, and individual sites - where future interventions could enhance the existing environment.

Many of the proposals in this document where the Council will lead on delivery will be subject to the Council being able to successfully bid for external funding.



SPRINGWATER PARK
WHITEFIELD PARK
METROLINK STOP
POTENTIAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
HAMILTON ROAD PARK
SLATTERY
THE UPLANDS
VICTORIA PARK
THE LIBRARY
VICTORIA SQUARE
WELCOME TO WHITEFIELD
M60
TO PRESTWICH AND MANCHESTER
Key
Gateway into town
Major junctions
Important buildings / spaces
Conservation area
School grounds
High street (Bury New Road)
Metrolink route
Pedestrian / green linkages
Priority areas
Residential area
Green space
Industrial area

6.4 Focus Area

Through analysis and consultation with the community a number of locations have been identified as having potential for future enhancement.

A number of sites have been identified as having the greatest potential to deliver long-term positive change, including the site of Uplands Medical Centre, The former Town Hall site and its surrounding historic gardens, and the site of the former library and day centre on Pinfold Lane.

Where?

The area is located to the west of Bury New Road and stretches from Hamilton Road Park to Pinfold Lane and includes the former library and Pinfold Day Centre

Focus Area - Location Plan

Site Background

The Uplands medical practice continues to deteriorate. Current proposals include the medical centre moving to the former library building on Pinfold Lane. This leaves the Uplands medical centre site available for redevelopment alongside the currently vacant Pinfold Day Centre.

Why here?

The area has been identified through site analysis and conversations with the community and stakeholders during the public / stakeholder engagement process.

The area represents a major opportunity, underpinned by the following reasons:

1. **There is a cluster of sites adjoining each other for greater impact**
2. **Consultation feedback - many residents consider this area to be the centre of Whitefield**
3. **Potential for improved green space and footpaths**
4. **The Council owns much of the land**

Potential Features

1. Current Medical Centre Site (The Uplands)

- To be redeveloped into high-quality homes, most likely apartments
- The area to be developed would be located on previously developed land
- Uplands building (heritage asset) considerations:
  - If possible: Convert existing damaged building for future use
  - Alternative: If the building cannot be retained than what replaces it must preserve or enhance the Conservation Area, when considered as a whole across the development site.

Development Guidelines

- The development must preserve or enhance Conservation Area through appropriate siting, scale, appearance, and materials
- The Council will look favourably on buildings of a comparable size and scale to others in the Conservation Area, such as the homes on Pinfold Lane

Environmental Requirements:

- The development must improve biodiversity (Biodiversity Net Gain) and ought to create an improved landscaped area between Hamilton Road and former town hall

Parking:

- The Council will work with the primary landowner (the NHS) to try to retain or re-provide some of the car parking spaces currently located at the Uplands

2. The "Forest" Area

Proposed Improvements (Subject to Council Funding):

- Vegetation Management:
  - Remove selected smaller trees. No Tree Protection Order (TPO) trees would be removed
  - Trim lower branches and foliage to increase light
  - Remove overgrown shrubs
  - Reduce intimidating atmosphere
- Community Engagement:
  - Collaborate with schools, residents, businesses, and community groups on the redesign and upkeep of the area
  - Develop mini-landscaping plan including shade-resistant planting and the restoration of the pond

3. Former Town Hall Site

Current Status:

- Privately owned
- Existing planning permission (2014) for 60-bed care home but the development is stalled
- The Council will do what it can to enable development to come forward

4. Access Improvements

Footpath Enhancements

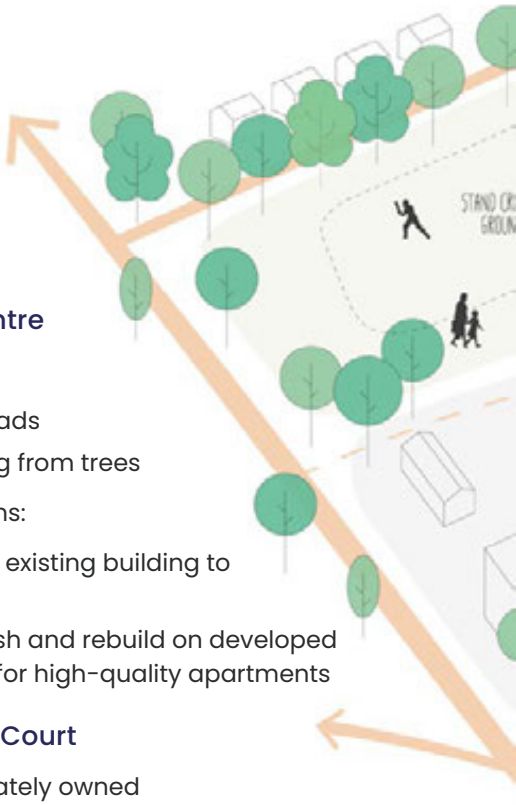
- General improvements (subject to funding):
  - Cut back overgrown areas
  - Improve safety
  - Enhanced lighting appropriate for Conservation Area

New Path Development

- Create route in front of Uplands building:
  - Avoids steep slope
  - Connects new development to Hamilton Road Park

5. Former Library

- Planned Repurpose:
  - Bring disused building a function by being the new location for Uplands Medical Practice
  - The site is more accessible to pedestrians than the existing medical centre as a steep slope does not have to be navigated by users



6. Pinfold Day Centre

Site Advantages:

- Set back from roads
- Natural screening from trees

Development Options:

- Option 1: Convert existing building to residential use
- Option 2: Demolish and rebuild on developed land, most likely for high-quality apartments

7. Disused Tennis Court

Current Status: Privately owned

Future Plans:

- Explore sports-related development opportunities

Create a series of pedestrian and cycle linkages through the site

Highlight and activate existing local assets

Create spaces where the community can come together

Create a range of events and activities for all ages

Enhance existing green spaces and introduce new projects

Focus Area Concept

7 Project Proposals

The project proposals outlined within this section of the document have been identified as being of primary importance to the Whitefield community who engaged with consultation events - both in person and online. They are the 'how' to support the 'what' outlined in the vision.

Bury Council is facing financial challenges and will need to rely on grants from the national government to fund many of the proposals in this plan. One difficulty with this is that the government usually only provides funding to create new projects, not to maintain them afterwards. So, any maintenance of improved public spaces like parks would have to come from Bury Council's already limited maintenance budgets.

As a result, Bury Council will only be able to proceed with some of the plan's projects once they can find additional ongoing funding sources.

Capital receipts may be used to help finance some of the Plan's proposals.

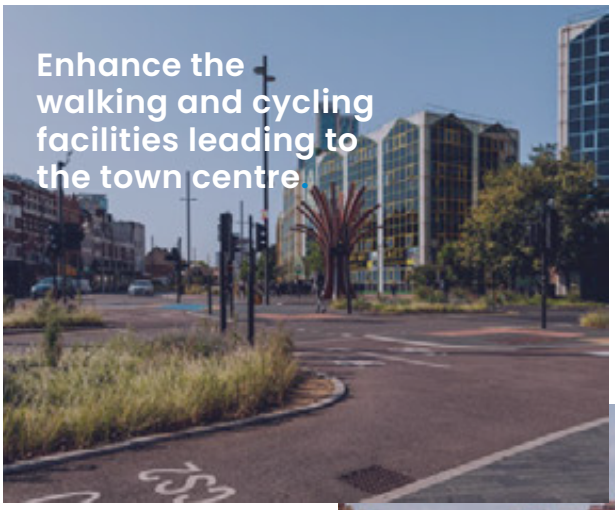
In summary, Bury Council's limited finances mean creativity is needed with funding sources and maintenance arrangements in order to deliver the full scope of this plan for Whitefield. This will require collaboration with other organisations and careful prioritisation of the different project proposals.

Priority projects are highlighted in the tables throughout the following chapter.

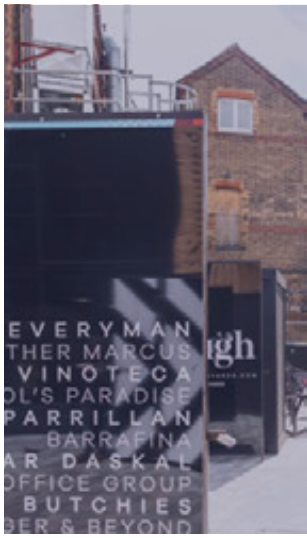
Make it easier to walk, wheel, cycle and use public transport in Whitefield.

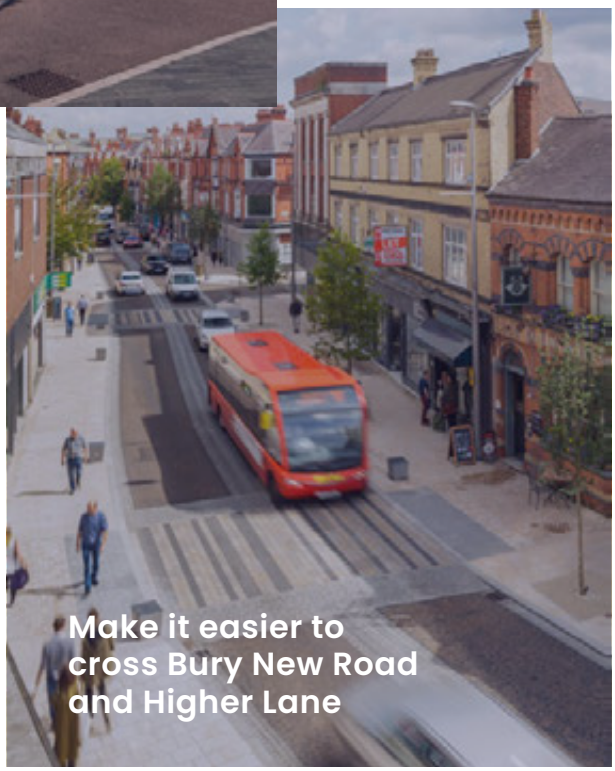
Key Design Principles

The movement strategy focuses on achieving three key goals: to improve active travel linkages leading into the town centre; create a more enjoyable and safer pedestrian experience along the high street, and rebalance movement along the A56 corridor to encourage more walking, wheeling and cycling.

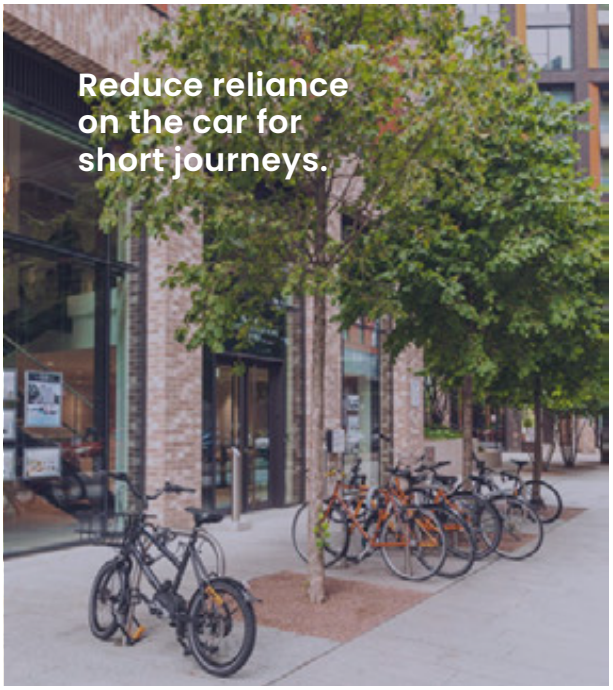


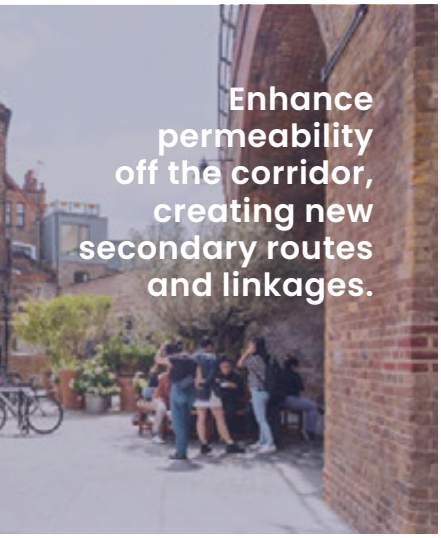
Enhance the walking and cycling facilities leading to the town centre.





Make it easier to cross Bury New Road and Higher Lane





Topics and Themes

The vision objective covers a range of urban design topics and themes, notably:

- Active Travel
- Connectivity and permeability
- Wayfinding

Spatial Strategy

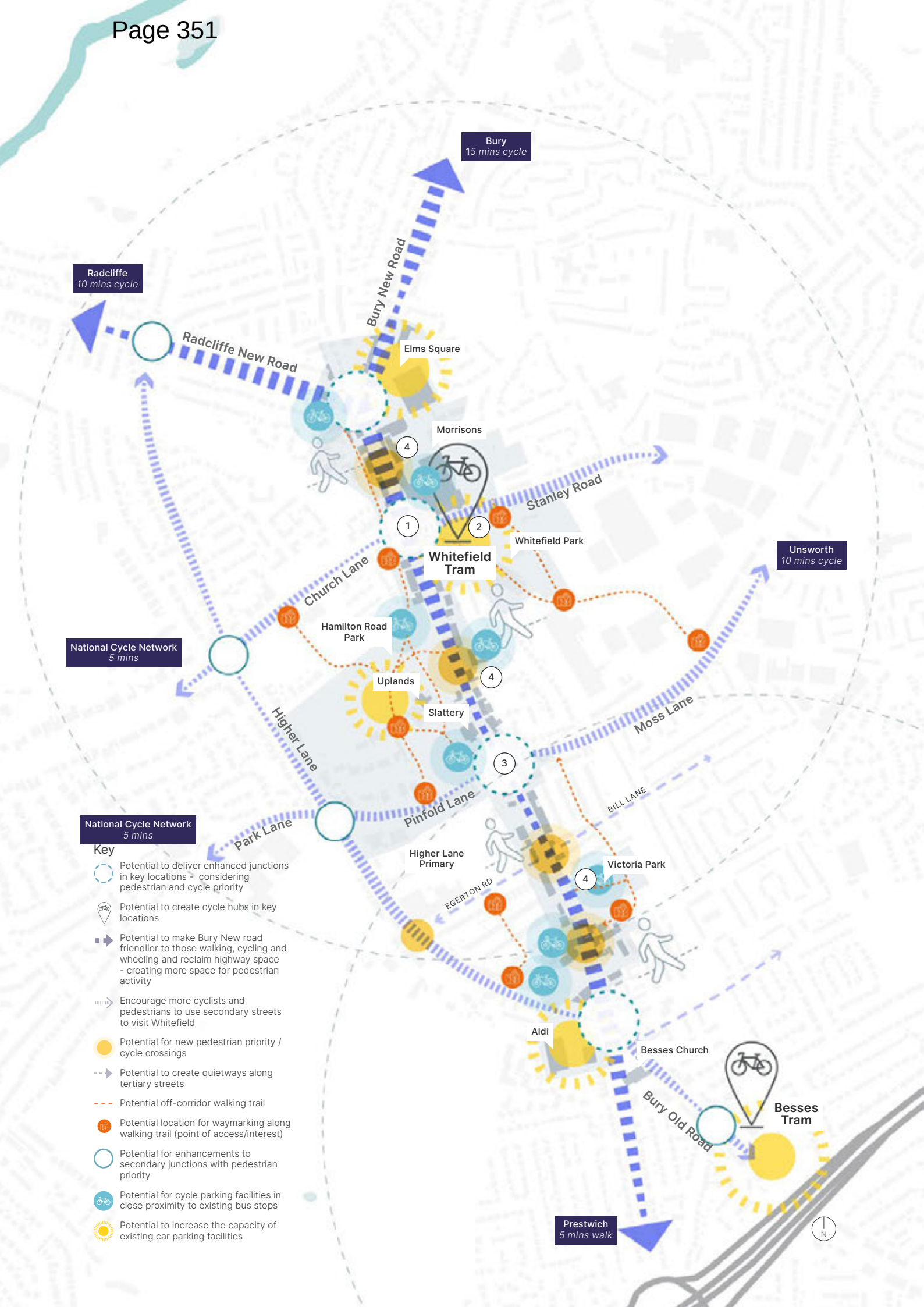
The spatial strategy is underpinned by the thorough local analysis presented on earlier pages. It shows locations where interventions and public space enhancements would have the greatest impact to improve the town centre.

UCLan, Preston

King's Crescent, London

Potential locations for Intervention

1. Enhancing the junction of Church Lane and Bury New Road to improve permeability and sense of place.
2. There is scope to increase the number and quality of cycle parking facilities at Whitefield Tram Stop.
3. Future design of junction of Pinfold Lane and Moss Lane should prioritise pedestrians and cyclists, and deliver enhanced sense (and quality) of place.
4. Pedestrian priority crossing points should be delivered in key locations, breaking down Bury New Road and enhancing permeability.


Bury
15 mins cycle
Radcliffe
10 mins cycle
Bury New Road
Radcliffe New Road
Elms Square
Morrisons
4
Stanley Road
1
2
Whitefield Park
Whitefield Tram
Unsworth
10 mins cycle
Church Lane
Hamilton Road Park
National Cycle Network
5 mins
Uplands
4
Slattery
Moss Lane
Higher Lane
3
Pinfold Lane
BILL LANE
National Cycle Network
5 mins
Park Lane
Higher Lane Primary
Victoria Park
4
EGERTON RD
Aldi
Besses Church
Bury Old Road
Besses Tram
Prestwich
5 mins walk
N
Key
Potential to deliver enhanced junctions in key locations - considering pedestrian and cycle priority
Potential to create cycle hubs in key locations
Potential to make Bury New road friendlier to those walking, cycling and wheeling and reclaim highway space - creating more space for pedestrian activity
Encourage more cyclists and pedestrians to use secondary streets to visit Whitefield
Potential for new pedestrian priority / cycle crossings
Potential to create quietways along tertiary streets
Potential off-corridor walking trail
Potential location for waymarking along walking trail (point of access/interest)
Potential for enhancements to secondary junctions with pedestrian priority
Potential for cycle parking facilities in close proximity to existing bus stops
Potential to increase the capacity of existing car parking facilities

Delivery of the Strategy

The table below summarises the projects and initiatives identified as priorities in order to fulfil the vision objectives and strategic design principles.

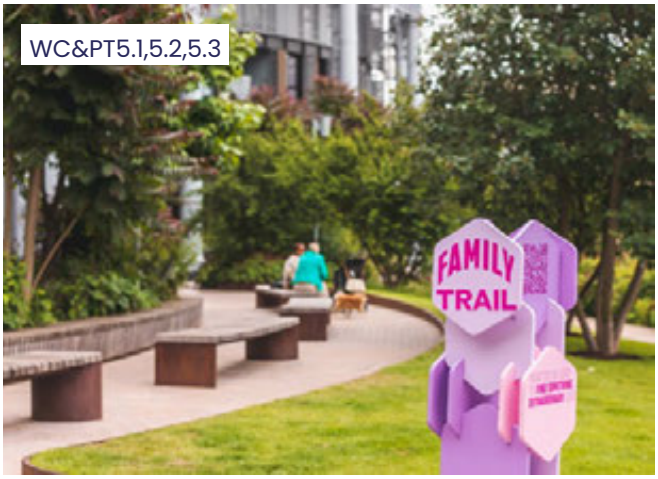
Key

High Priority Project

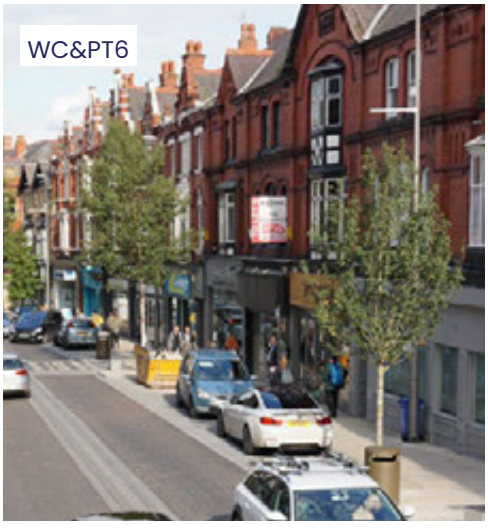
Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation
WC&PT1	Audit Whitefield's roads	Assess suitability of Whitefield's roads for improvements relating to walking wheeling and cycling and public transportation. This will include: • Vehicle count data and traffic modelling • Audit of suitability of Whitefield's roads for cycling infra-structure and/ or enhanced public transportation infra-structure (factors to include, road width, vehicle number count, review of impact on car parking) • Audit of Whitefield's roads against Transport for Greater Manchester's Streets for All guidance • Audit of car parking spaces within the town centre and within a 5-minute walk of the boundary • Audit number and use of bicycle parking spaces	Bury Council
WC&PT2.1	Improve Whitefield's junctions for those walking, wheeling, and cycling	Ensure all junctions on Bury New Road and Higher Lane within the town centre plan area have pedestrian crossings with push buttons.	Bury Council
WC&PT2.2	Improve Whitefield's junctions for those walking, wheeling, and cycling	Redesign the priority junctions for redevelopment: Higher Lane/ Pinfold Lane/ Park Lane; and Bury New Road/ Pinfold Lane/ Moss Lane. As far as possible, we will prioritise a visually pleasing design for junction upgrades, especially near conservation areas or historic buildings.	Bury Council
WC&PT2.3	Improve Whitefield's junctions for those walking, wheeling, and cycling	When the opportunities arise, redesign all junctions on Bury New Road and Higher Lane to be friendlier to those walking, wheeling, and cycling. As far as possible, we will prioritise a visually pleasing design for junction upgrades, especially near conservation areas or historic buildings.	Bury Council
WC&PT3	Make Whitefield's roads safer	Carry out traffic calming measures including installing road humps and introducing a 20-mph zone (or zones) on appropri-ate side streets.	Bury Council
WC&PT4.1	Improve Bury New Road and Higher Lane for those walking, wheeling, and cycling	Work with relevant stakeholders to locate and log obstructions (such as inappropriate drop kerbs, damaged pavers, poorly placed street furniture, and signage) along Bury New Road and Higher Lane	Bury Council
WC&PT4.2	Improve Bury New Road and Higher Lane for those walking, wheeling, and cycling	Subject to funding, act upon the recommendations from WC&PT4.1	Bury Council

Timescales	Ward (Besses, Pilkington Park, Unsworth)
Quick Win (under 12 months) - Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
Medium Term (1-5 years) – Longer Term (5+ years)	All 3 wards
Medium Term (1-5 years)	Besses, Pilkington Park
Long term (5+ years)	All 3 wards
Medium Term (1-5 years) - Long term (5+ years)	All 3 wards
Quick Win (under 12 months)	All 3 wards
Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards

Granary Square, London



Coal drops yard, London



Stamford New Road, Altrincham

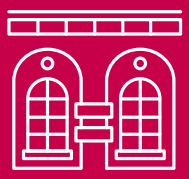
Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation
WC&PT5.1	Improve walking/cycling routes away from Bury New Road and Higher Lane	Sign a route from Hamilton Road Park to Grosvenor Road then down Church Lane and Bank Street to Radcliffe New Road. All work along Bank Street would be subject to landowner approval. Signage would be installed along the route to direct people to important local facilities such as All Saint's Church, Whitefield Bowling Club, and the Garrick Theatre.	Bury Council
WC&PT5.2	Improve walking/cycling routes away from Bury New Road and Higher Lane	Find out landowner interest for creating a pedestrian/ cycling route from Stanley Road through Whitefield Park to Moss Lane	Bury Council
WC&PT5.3	Improve walking/cycling routes away from Bury New Road and Higher Lane	Undertake the above works if there is sufficient interest	Bury Council
WC&PT6	Car parking	Seek and support opportunities and ways to appropriately increase car parking in and around the town centre. An assessment of on-street parking is due with the forthcoming Bury car parking strategy.	Bury Council
WC&PT7	Bike Library	Find a suitable location for a bike library in Whitefield A bike library lends bicycles free of charge, similar to how a traditional library lends books. Users can borrow bikes for short periods, promoting affordable and sustainable transportation options in communities.	Bury Council
WC&PT8	E-cargo bikes	Building on the success of bordering authorities, Bury Council has ambitions to roll out cargo bike usage across all neighbourhoods, including Whitefield.	Bury Council
WC&PT9	Improve Whitefield Metrolink	Support Metrolink improvements at Besses and Whitefield stops. Although Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) will lead on improvements, Bury Council will lobby for the improvements outlined by Whitefield residents in the consultation events from 2023 - 2024 such as: - measures to improve security at the Metrolink - Install steps along the desire lines of an alternative route in and out of the stop - Create an at-grade crossing over the Metrolink line - Install secure cycle parking as part of a "cycle hub"	TfGM
WC&PT10	Improve Besses Metrolink	Support Metrolink improvements at Besses and Whitefield stops. Although Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) will lead on improvements, Bury Council will lobby for the improvements outlined by Whitefield residents in the consultation events from 2023 - 2024 such as: - measures to improve security at the Metrolink - improve lighting on the route into the stop - create alternative ramped access to the platforms	Bury Council
WC&PT11	Whitefield car club	Create a car club at Lily Hill Street car park Car clubs provide socially inclusive, low emission mobility which helps to break dependency on private car ownership. They provide self-service vehicle rental by the hour, day or overnight, which are accessible through a membership scheme. All they require is a location (i.e. parking spot/street) and will be operated by a third party. Bury Council is currently looking to procure a car club supplier so any suitable locations in Whitefield could be added to this arrangement.	Bury Council

Timescales	Ward (Besses, Pilkington Park, Unsworth)
Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park
Quick Win (under 12 months)	All 3 wards
Medium Term (1-5 years) - Long term (5+ years)	All 3 wards
Ongoing	All 3 wards
Medium Term (1-5 years)	1 of the 3 wards
Quick Win (under 12 months) - Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
Quick Win (under 12 months) - Long Term (5+ years)	Besses, Pilkington Park
Quick Win (under 12 months) - Long Term (5+ years)	Besses
Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park

Well-integrated cycle parking, London

Whitefield Metrolink stop, Manchester

North New Zealand



Celebrate Whitefield's history.

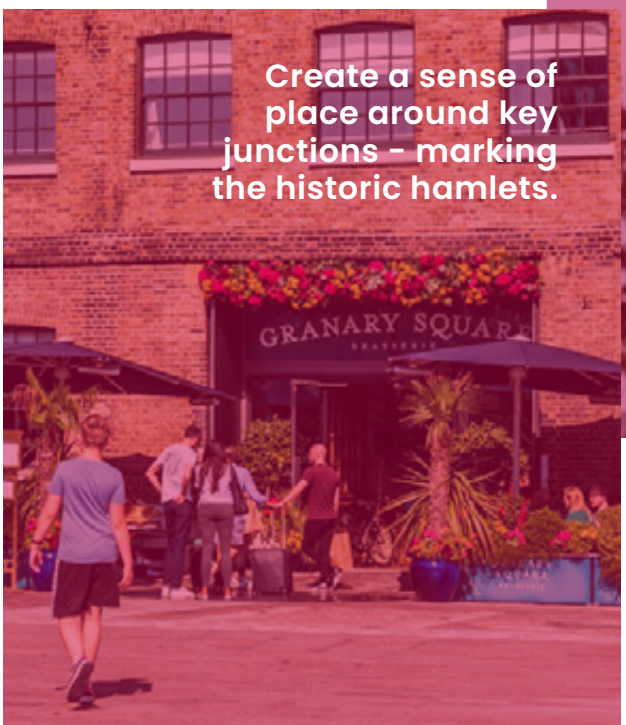
Celebrate Whitefield's history.

Key Design Principles

Whilst elements of Whitefield's history remain in the built form of today, much of this historic character has been eroded through the processes of urban infill, and the transition of Bury New Road from high street, to highway.

The historic landmarks that remain are isolated - disconnected by road infrastructure, boxed in by walls and fences, and surrounded by low-quality public realm. Furthermore, its historical focal points now function as busy road junctions, with no notable sense of place.

The Town Centre Plan aims to reverse this trend, promoting interventions that celebrate Whitefield's heritage, and tell its story - creating a new found sense of place along the high street.



Topics and Themes

The 'Celebrate Whitefield' vision objective covers a range of urban design topics and themes, notably:

- Legibility
- Heritage
- Brand and Identity

Celebrate Whitefield's history.

Spatial Strategy

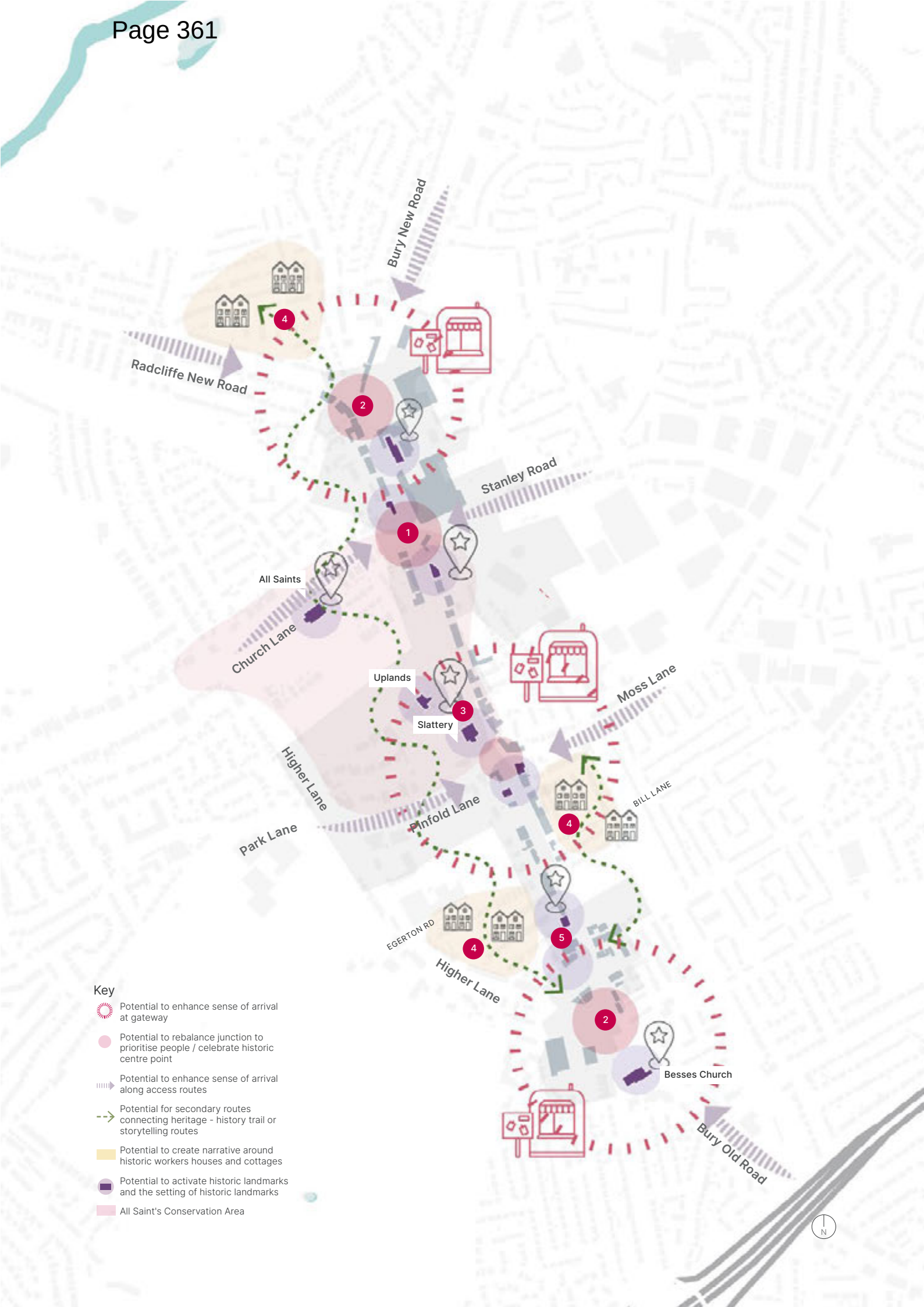
The spatial strategy is underpinned by the thorough local analysis presented on earlier pages. It shows locations where interventions and public space enhancements would have the greatest impact to improve the town centre.

Whitfield Gardens, London

Sugar House Island London

Potential Locations for Interventions

1. The junction of Church Lane and Bury New Road is a key arrival point into the town centre. The space could be transformed to become an attractive arrival space.
2. The main gateways are poorly defined and addressed by surface car parking. Installations and public realm improvements at the junctions could create an improved sense of arrival to the town.
3. The area surrounding Slattery and the Uplands Medical Centre was regularly flagged as the 'heart of Whitefield' by the community. Enhancements could be delivered to celebrate these key assets.
4. There is scope to enhance the value and setting of the currently vacant historic buildings; considering new active frontages and enhanced surroundings.


Bury New Road
Radcliffe New Road
Stanley Road
All Saints
Church Lane
Uplands
Slattery
Moss Lane
Higher Lane
Park Lane
Pinfold Lane
BILL LANE
EGERTON RD
Higher Lane
Besses Church
Bury Old Road
1
2
3
4
5
Key
Potential to enhance sense of arrival at gateway
Potential to rebalance junction to prioritise people / celebrate historic centre point
Potential to enhance sense of arrival along access routes
Potential for secondary routes connecting heritage - history trail or storytelling routes
Potential to create narrative around historic workers houses and cottages
Potential to activate historic landmarks and the setting of historic landmarks
All Saint's Conservation Area
N

Celebrate Whitefield's history.

Delivery of the Strategy

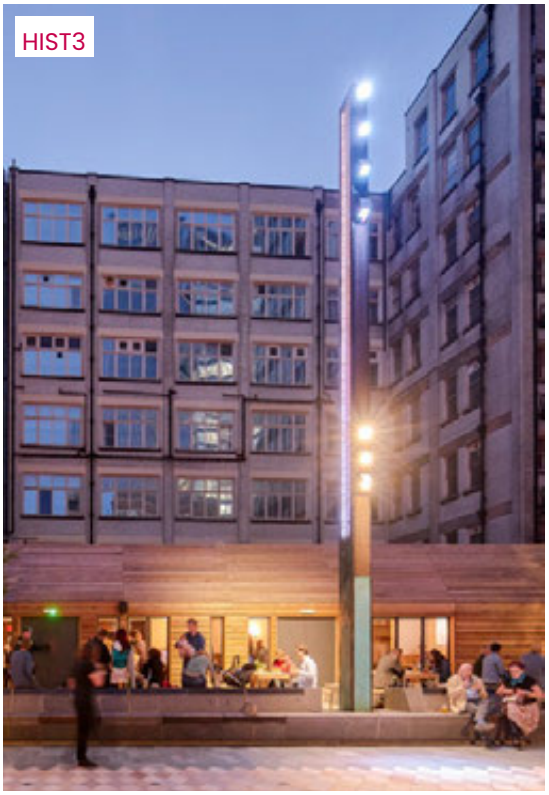
Key

High Priority Project

Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation	Timescales	Ward (Besses, Pilkington Park, Unsworth)
HIST1	All Saints Conservation Area design guide	In conjunction with the emerging Bury Local Plan, the creation of Supplementary Planning Documentation to act as a design guide for the All Saints Conservation Area, focussing on shop fronts, design principles for other planning applications, and appropriate street furniture.	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park, Besses
HIST2	Improve street furniture in the All Saints Conservation Area	Create a catalogue of interventions relating to the design guide (for example replacing street furniture or paving within the All Saints Conservation Area with more appropriate items/ materials) for use when bidding to external bodies and funds for heritage related funding such as the national Lottery Heritage Fund, funds from Historic England, and Heritage Lottery Fund.	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park, Besses
HIST3	Highlight Whitefield's historic buildings	Work with landowners to provide lighting (such as uplighters) to highlight Whitefield's historic buildings.	Local businesses & Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
HIST4	Shop front improvements	Shop front improvement grants to be made available for Whitefield businesses (eligibility to be announced at a later date).	Local businesses & Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
HIST5	Murals	Progress with mural grant fund. This would only be awarded selectively, and any murals would have to be completed in a sensitive manner taking into account to their surroundings. Opportunities would be sought on appropriate gable ends and on existing roller shutters.	Local businesses & Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
HIST6	Heritage/ Literature/ Town Centre Trail	Work with community groups and businesses to create a trail to help tie Whitefield together as a coherent place. Improved signage and new artwork to help direct people around the town would be included.	Community groups, businesses & Bury Council	Quick Win (under 12 months) – medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards

←The table summarises the projects and initiatives identified as priorities by the community. These projects will be taken forward under the plan, contributing to fulfilling the vision objectives and strategic design principles.

Rambla de Sants, Spain



Sadler's Yard, Manchester

Elephant Park, London

Olympic Park, London

Create new town centre 'hearts'.

Create new town centre 'hearts'.

Key Design Principles

Whitefield town centre doesn't currently have a clear heart - a single busy central space where the community can come together. While the area has many important facilities spread across it, there isn't one main place that acts as the natural centre of Whitefield.

Whilst presenting a clear problem, it does also present a chance for positive change. With good planning and the right improvements, we can create welcoming spaces that bring people together and give Whitefield town centre a stronger identity. The projects in this section aim to turn unused spaces into lively community hubs, make existing public spaces better, and help community facilities work together more effectively to create a more connected and vibrant town centre.

Topics and Themes

The 'Unite the Whitefield Community' vision objective covers a range of topics and themes, notably:

- Brand and Identity
- Community activation
- Community spaces and events

Create new town centre 'hearts'.

Spatial Strategy

The spatial strategy identifies locations in Whitefield with the potential for positive change, with opportunities to deliver a wider network of improved public spaces and public facilities for the community to enjoy.

North East Community Assembly, Sheffield

Potential locations for intervention

1. A cluster of sites with potential for future enhancements - including the old town hall site, the former town hall gardens, the Uplands Medical Centre site, the former Library and Pinfold Centre.
2. The space opposite from the Metrolink tram stop has potential to be utilised for community activation events.
3. A small cluster of Victorian warehouses and cottages, surrounding an old workers yard. Potential to encourage development to help create more of a town centre around Victoria Square.

PARK
Bury New Road
Radcliffe New Road
Stanley Road
Dale Lane
Church Lane
Moss Lane
Pinfold Lane
Park Lane
BILL LANE
EGERTON RD
Higher Lane
Bury Old Road
1
2
3
Key
Potential to create a new community heart in Whitefield - including a mix if uses and new public spaces
Existing community facilities and social infrastructure - potential to unite existing groups and develop Whitefields community voice around the new hearts
N

Create new town centre 'hearts'.

Delivery of the Strategy

Key
High Priority Project

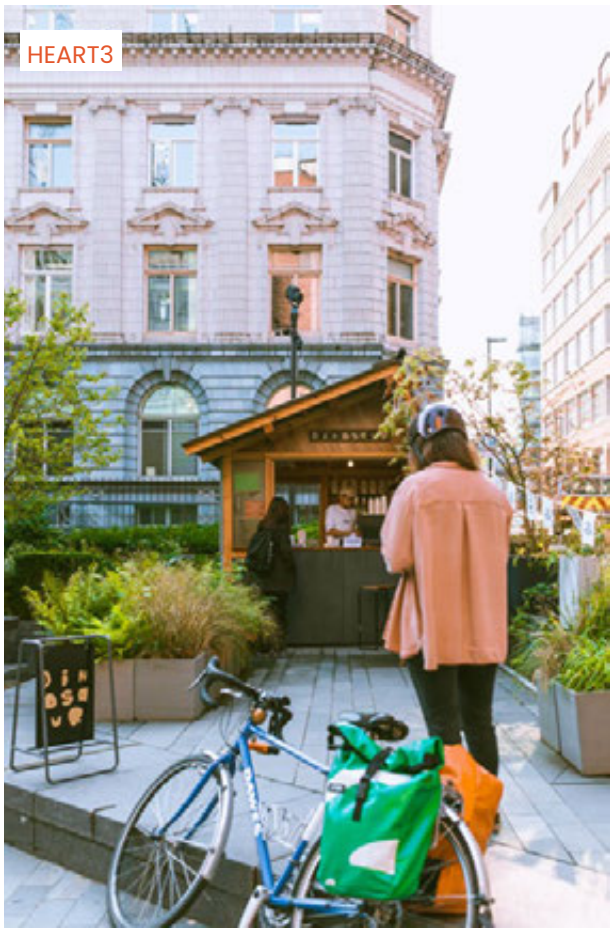
Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation	Timescales	Ward (Besses, Pilkington Park, Unsworth)
HEART1	Community space	To better co-ordinate space, produce an audit of premises which could be used by the community or to host events across Whitefield Town Centre, to better coordinate space	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park, Besses, Unsworth
HEART2	Improve partnership working	Improve partnership working with organisations and locations which have large facilities, which could be used as community space, such as the Oasis Centre at Whitefield Methodist Church. Should the funding landscape change – review deeper partnership working options	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park, Besses, Unsworth
HEART3	Improve the outdoor public space on the corner of Church Lane and Bury New Road	Obtain funding to equip the outdoor public space on the corner of Church Lane and Bury New Road for use by pop up markets and shops. Turn this area into a centre for Whitefield by rebranding this space, giving it a name and including a marketable piece of artwork.	Bury Council	Quick Win (under 12 months)	Pilkington Park
HEART4	Development at Stone Pale	Work with landowners to promote inclusive growth at this site, which could include residential, workshop, and/ or office units	Local business	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Besses
HEART5	Place branding	Develop a place brand and place marketing materials with members of Whitefield's business community; Target initial improvements relating to place branding at the gateways into Whitefield town centre (from north to south: • The junction of Radcliffe New Road and Bury New Road and • Whitefield metrolink stop • Victoria Square and the junction between Higher Lane, Bury New Road and Bury Old Road • Besses Metrolink stop	Local business	Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
HEART6	Victoria Lane garages	Develop the derelict garages on Victoria Lane into new homes	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Besses

Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation	Timescales	Ward (Besses, Pilkington Park, Unsworth)
HEART7	Improve Whitefield's gateways	Improve the signage and refurbish the shops on Victoria Square to create a better welcome to Whitefield from the south Taking advantage of a redesigned junction of Bury New Road and Radcliffe New Road, introduce signage and artwork to welcome people into Whitefield.	Bury Council Local businesses	Quick win/ Medium Term (1-5 years)	Besses

←↑The table summarises the potential projects and initiatives to be taken forward under the Whitefield Town Centre Plan.

All Saint's Park, Manchester

Old Bank Residency, NOMA, Manchester



Sadler's Yard, Manchester

Create more things to do in Whitefield.

Create more things to do in Whitefield.

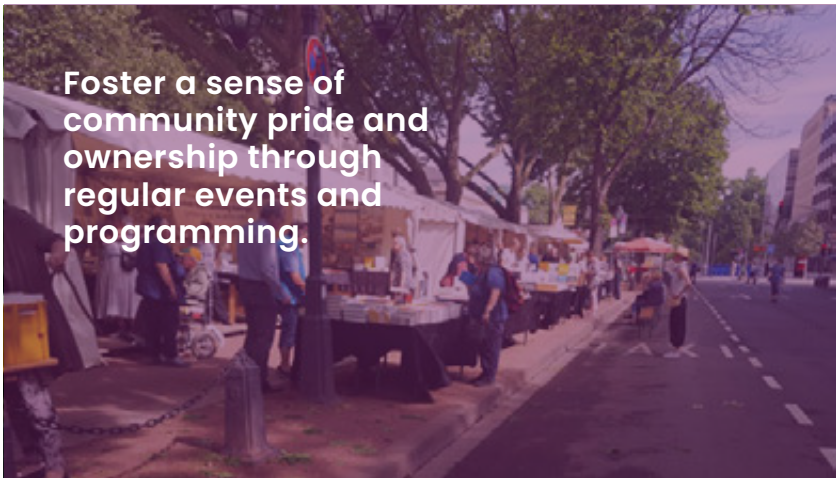
Key Design Principles

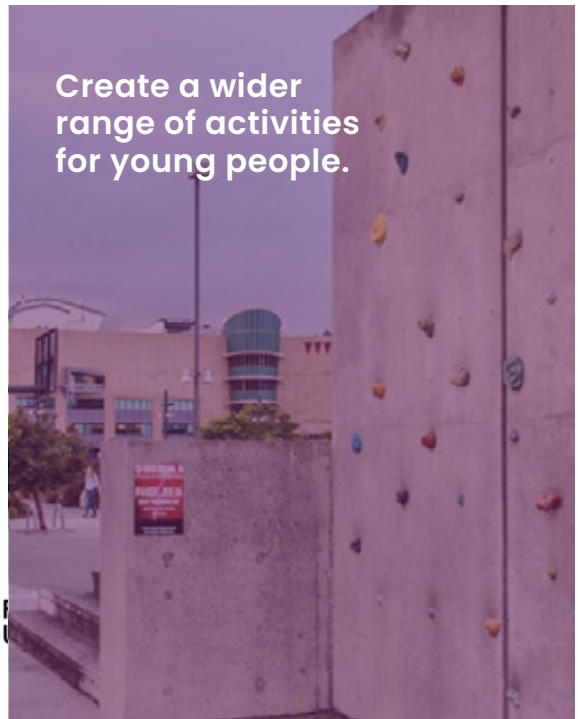
The findings of the Plan suggests that there is lack of things to do in Whitefield town centre. This includes in part land uses and extends to park areas too (considered in the create a greener Whitefield section). By introducing a dedicated events coordinator and establishing a regular calendar of community events, we can bring more life and energy to the heart of Whitefield.

Topics and Themes

The vision objective covers a range of urban design topics and themes, notably:

- Land Use
- Temporary Urbanism
- Events
- Children's Play
- Facilities for young people





Potential locations for interventions

1. Selected streets could be used for street greening and painting projects, as well as mural paintings.
2. Spaces around Victoria Lane, Victoria Park and Stone Pale could be used as temporary market and events space.
3. A range of activities could be integrated at the identified focus area and surrounding parkland to create an off-corridor hub of activity.

Spatial Strategy

↓The spatial strategy is underpinned by the thorough local analysis presented on earlier pages. It shows locations where interventions and public space enhancements could have the greatest impact to improve the town centre.

Create more things to do in Whitefield.

Delivery of the Strategy

The table below summarises the potential projects and initiatives to be taken forward under the Whitefield Town Centre Plan.

Key
High Priority Project

Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation	Timescales	Ward (Besses, Pilkington Park, Unsworth)
TODO1	Events co-ordinator	Obtain funding for a Whitefield events coordinator to help co-organise and manage town centre events.	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
TODO2	Events in Whitefield	Using support from the Whitefield events coordinator, set up a calendar of events in Whitefield	Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	All 3 wards
TODO3	Run a Teenage Market Event	Using support from the Whitefield events coordinator, run a Teenage Market at unnamed area of land opposite Morrisons.	Local schools & Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years)	Pilkington Park

Sadler's Yard, Manchester

Whitefield Company of Society Event, Whitefield (May 2023)

Coal Drops Yard, London

Mayfield, Manchester

Create a greener Whitefield.

Create a greener Whitefield.

Key Design Principles

Whitefield has an opportunity to become a greener, more sustainable community that prioritises natural spaces, biodiversity, and environmentally-friendly practices. By investing in ecological enhancements, forging partnerships, and empowering the community, Whitefield can transform itself into a greener and cleaner place.

While previous vision objectives and related interventions have outlined ideas for building social capital and community capacity in Whitefield, this section explains the role of art and nature in creating a physical environment which inspires activity and interaction with place.

Topics and Themes

The vision objective covers a range of topics and themes, notably:

- Green and blue infrastructure
- Urban greening
- Building frontages
- Art

Create a greener Whitefield.

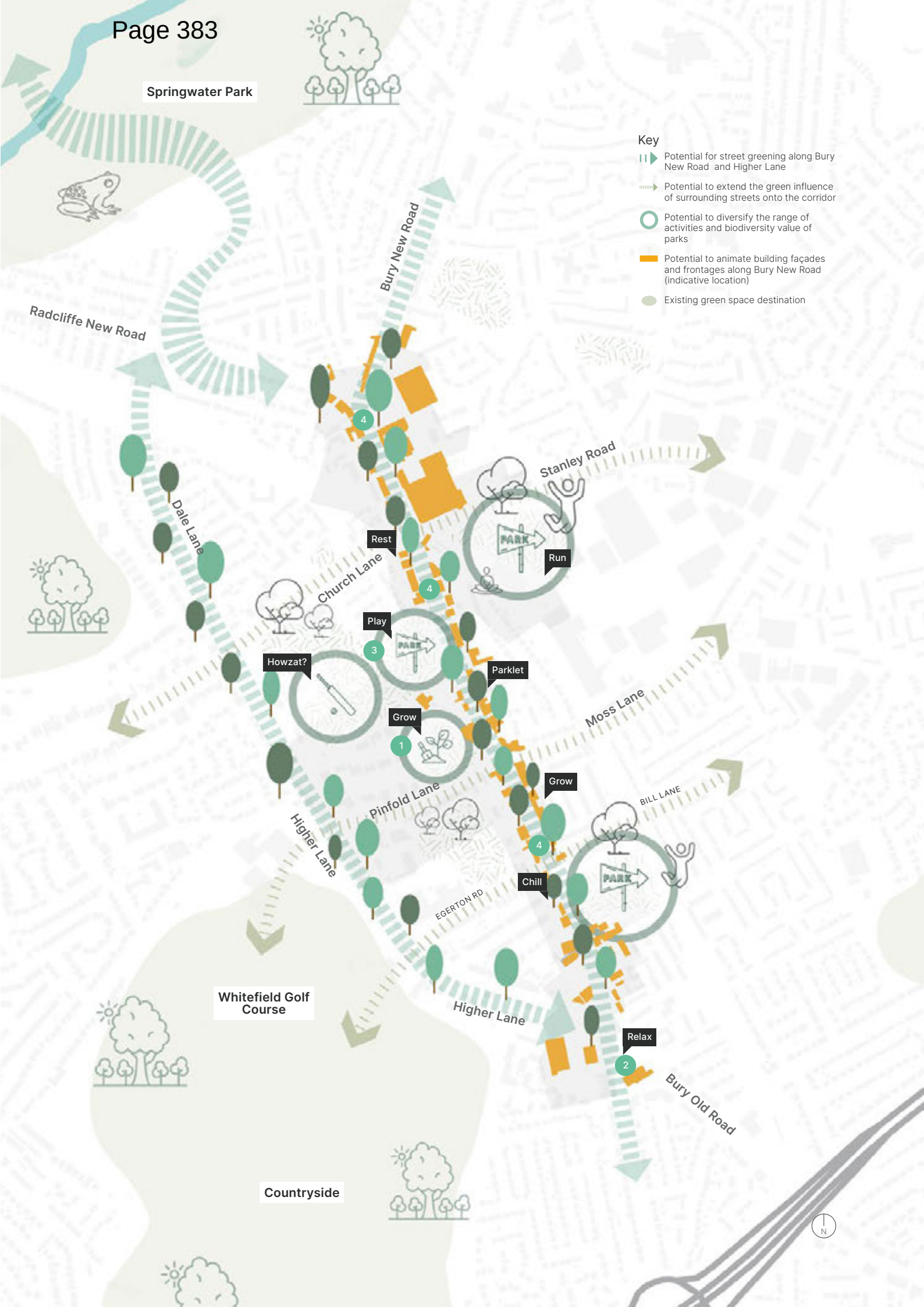
Spatial Strategy

The spatial strategy is underpinned by the thorough local analysis presented on earlier pages. It shows locations where interventions and public space enhancements would have the greatest impact to improve the town centre.

Floriade Expo, Almere, Holland

Potential locations for intervention

1. An active new community heart to Whitefield - could play host to community growing space and new pockets of biodiversity.
2. There are opportunities to enhance amenity green space adjacent to and around Besses church
3. Much of Hamilton Road Park comprises hardstanding surfaces. There is scope to soften the park and create a more varied and complex landscape framework.
4. Street trees and SuDS features have a key role to play in the long-term transformation of Bury New Road, and could be used to create a green buffer between businesses and the highway.


Springwater Park
Key
Potential for street greening along Bury New Road and Higher Lane
Potential to extend the green influence of surrounding streets onto the corridor
Potential to diversify the range of activities and biodiversity value of parks
Potential to animate building façades and frontages along Bury New Road (indicative location)
Existing green space destination
Bury New Road
Radcliffe New Road
Dale Lane
Church Lane
Stanley Road
Rest
Run
Play
Howzat?
Parklet
Grow
Moss Lane
Pinfold Lane
Higher Lane
Grow
BILL LANE
Chill
EGERTON RD
Whitefield Golf Course
Higher Lane
Relax
Bury Old Road
Countryside
PARK
4
3
1
2
N

Create a greener Whitefield.

Delivery of the Strategy

The table below summarises the potential projects and initiatives to be taken forward under the Whitefield Town Centre Plan.

Key
High Priority Project

Project ID	Project Name	Description	Lead Organisation	Timescales	Ward
GREEN1	Planting in Whitefield	Obtain funding for the planting and maintenance to ecologically enrich Whitefield's amenity green spaces and areas of park lands by adding, for example, bee friendly planting areas	Community groups & Bury Council	Medium Term (1-5 years) w	All 3 wards
GREEN2	Continue work with partnership Organisations	Such as City of Trees and Lancs. Wildlife Trust to ensure development is ecologically appropriate. Explore joint projects with such organisations.	Partnership organisations & Bury Council	Ongoing	All 3 wards
GREEN3	Community management	Trial extending community self-management of green spaces. If this proves successful, gradually roll out the trial across areas of amenity green space.	Community groups & Bury Council	Quick Win (under 12 months)	All 3 wards
GREEN4	Adopt a spot - businesses	Allow businesses to adopt areas of green space, planters, and litter bins or install new planters or litter bins. In exchange for appropriate (and permissible from a planning perspective) advertising on the space/ item	Community groups, local business, residents & Bury Council	Quick Win (under 12 months)	All 3 wards
GREEN5	Greener car parking spaces	Install planters, greenery, electric vehicle chargers, and install SuDS and permeable paving where possible and appropriate in new and existing car parking areas developed by Bury Council	Bury Council	Ongoing	All 3 wards
GREEN6	Invest in Victoria Park	Use the investment to improve the park for local sports and exercise	Bury Council	Quick win – medium term (within 12 months – 5 years)	Besses

Sadler's Yard Summer Jam taster / Occupier event
(Run by PLANT Noma)

Khore Gardens, Manchester

Urban Community Allotments, Bath

8 Summary and Next Steps

8.1 Summary

The Town Centre Plan outlines a vision for the future of Whitefield Town Centre, informed by extensive engagement with the local community, a range of council stakeholders, and detailed analysis of the town centre.

Whilst this vision provides a start in re-imagining the town centre, it is only a start. Future partnership working between Bury Council, Whitefield's businesses, Transport for Greater Manchester and the local community is key to delivering both the short and longer term projects outlined within the plan.

The Vision Objectives

The vision objectives have been created to steer future initiatives and potential development within Whitefield, providing high-level aspirations for the type of place the community want Whitefield to become.

Future Projects

The projects outlined in Section 7 have been identified as being the most important to the community in Whitefield consulted through the development of the plan. These initiatives will be taken forward, acting as a natural next step towards the delivery of the vision for the town centre.

8.2 Next Steps

Following adoption, the project team will begin working with the relevant stakeholders to deliver immediate change in Whitefield and pursue funding opportunities to assist in the delivery of projects outlined in the town centre plan.

The "quick win" proposals will be prioritised, with stakeholders and funding sought out at the earliest opportunity. The council will also begin to scope out longer term transformational projects, including a Whitefield Town Plan Phase 2 programme, requiring more detailed plans and design proposals before they can be progressed.

The timeline summarises the next steps to be taken by the council-led project team, as we work towards delivering the long-term vision for a greener, healthier and more vibrant town centre in Whitefield.

Next Steps Timeline

The Next 12 Months

Delivering the Quick Win projects

Upon adoption of the Whitefield Town Centre Plan, the project team will work with the various stakeholders to deliver immediate change to Whitefield. The "quick win" proposals will be prioritised with the stakeholders and funding will be sought at the earliest opportunity.

Drafting of the Whitefield Community Renewal Plan

The Whitefield Community Renewal Plan will sit alongside but separate to the Whitefield Town Centre Plan, progressing initial ideas set out in the Town Centre Plan.

The plan will:

- Analyse the causes of poverty and social issues in Whitefield (Besses, Pilkington Park, and Unsworth);
- Set out proposals to tackle these issues. It would focus on areas such as Victoria estate, the Hillock estate, and the Elms, which have entrenched and geographically focussed deprivation; and
- Seek to provide a community space/ hub, in line with comparable projects across Greater Manchester.

The Next 1-5 Years

Whitefield Town Centre Plan Phase 2 - Transformative Projects

The council will begin to scope the longer-term transformative proposals outlined in the plan, as well as highlighting further areas for work in Phase 2. These are set out below.

Project 1: A community hub in Whitefield

A more detailed plan will outline what a community hub for Whitefield would deliver, where a community hub space could be located, and approximate programme for opening the space, and how the space could look.

Project Conditions

The project depends on the council's financial position improving to the point that it could invest in either a new build capital project or work more deeply with potential partners, such as the NHS and VCFSE sector.

Project 2: A detailed development brief on the development near to the Uplands

The project will develop detailed information on what the Uplands development must contain for a planning application to be approvable.

Project 3: Transformation of Whitefield Town Centre's road junctions

A more detailed plan to transform Whitefield's problem road junctions will be developed, identifying which junctions would be improved, what the new spaces would look like and project phasing (ie. when the improvements will happen).

Project Conditions

- Whitefield stakeholders are consulted on the proposed amendments; and
- Adequate funding is made available to make the changes.

Project 4: The Wider Township

Phase 1 of the Whitefield Town Plan deliberately focuses on a fairly narrow area along and around the main road. For Phase 2, we will broaden this scope to the wider township and seek to address the social needs of the communities across it.

This will include:

- Access to public services, especially Family Support and Health
- Community spaces
- VCFSE capacity

PLANIT

planit-ie.com

Manchester | Leeds | Liverpool | London | Standish

Funded by UK Government

Bury Council

LET'S do it! Shared success across Bury

Agenda Item 8

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Bury Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy and associated commissioning including accommodation based support	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion	

Summary

1.1 Tackling the causes and impacts of domestic violence is a priority of Bury Community Safety Partnership and Bury Council leads activity to drive this agenda. A core component of this relates to the provision of, and support associated with safe accommodation for those fleeing from harm, and for this to support breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

1.2 The Domestic Abuse Act of 2021 sets out the statutory requirements to assess and make arrangement for accommodation-based support for victims of such abuse. A Safe Accommodation Strategy for Bury has been produced to this effect, including a set of actions against identified themes and to inform commissioning intentions to secure future provision.

1.3 Since the introduction of the Duty provision has been stood up in the Borough and the strategy reflects on the strengths this has brought and the opportunities for further development. This is in the context of the broader work of Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, Bury Community Safety Partnership (including recently refreshed strategy) and Bury's LET's Do It! approach.

1.4 The report and associated strategy set out the further iteration of safe accommodation provision and the associated commissioning activity required to shape available and appropriate support for local people.

Recommendation(s)

2.1 Approve the Bury Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy.

2.2 Approve an open competitive procurement exercise to secure Safe Accommodation provision for the period of 1st November 2025 to 31st March 2028, with the option at the discretion of the Council to extend for a further year.

2.3 Approve an open competitive procurement exercise to secure core victim support (IDVA/ support workers) provision from 1st November 2025 to 31st March 2028, with the option at the discretion of the Council to extend for a further year.

2.4 Extend the existing Domestic Abuse safe accommodation provision and core IDVA contracts, utilising existing budgets, to cover the period November 2024 to end of October 2025 to maintain provision during approval of strategy and tender exercise set out in 2.2 and 2.3 at a value of £380k and £131K respectively.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3.1 The strategy delivers on a statutory requirement within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to develop such an approach focusing on safe accommodation and the means by which to deliver on this.

3.2 The strategy outlines a proposed evolution of the approach to safe accommodation, reflecting input from those of lived experience and system partners, informing a revised set of commissioning intentions; whilst ensuring provision maintained whilst such procurement activity takes place.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4.1 Enabling the provision of safe accommodation support is a requirement under the Duty, as is the development of a strategy to outline the approach to such accommodation. The strategy provides the means to inform the commissioning of provision that can best meet local needs and circumstances.

4.2 To not update develop such an approach would fail to capitalise on the journey made in recent years but more importantly miss the opportunity to further tailor and target the focus of such support provision.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Chris Woodhouse
Position: Strategic Partnerships Manager
Department: Corporate Core
E-mail: c.woodhouse@bury.gov.uk

Background

5.1 The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) sets out a series of statutory duties for local authorities (and partners) to seek to prevent individuals from harm, protect and support victims of domestic abuse, and work to tackle perpetrator behaviour. One such requirement is the provision of safe accommodation support for individuals experiencing and fleeing such abuse.

5.2. Domestic abuse involves any single incident or pattern of conduct where someone's behaviour towards another is abusive, and where the people involved are aged 16 or over and are, or have been, personally connected to each other (regardless of gender or sexuality).

5.3 Safe accommodation and accommodation-based support can be provided through a variety of functions and settings, including refuge, dispersed and

move-on accommodation and through sanctuary schemes. A Bury Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy has been developed through partnership engagement to outline proposed actions and commissioning intentions for the future provision of such provision and support in the Borough.

5.4 This is the evolution of such support, given the introduction of the duty in the 2021 Act, with the strategy outlining the provision which has been stood up in recent years and wider support, such as reference within the Council's housing allocation policy.

5.5 The strategy goes on to outline a series of thematic areas for future focus through the Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board with associated actions to further develop and tailor Bury's approach in keeping with the Borough's *LET's Do It!* principles.

Safe Accommodation provision in Bury

6.1 Current provision and support in the Borough is composed of several elements.

6.1.1 Bury Council's **Housing Allocations policy** sets out that victims of domestic abuse are given priority banding 1 (the highest level) for housing allocations and are considered in relation to direct lets.

6.1.2 There is **dedicated safe accommodation provision** commissioned in the Borough, which to date has predominantly being through refuge but more recently included second stage move on provision. There are currently 21 units of accommodation in the Borough specifically for victims of domestic abuse, in addition to connections through Greater Manchester activity to broader support, eg a male refuge project hosted by Trafford on behalf of the region.

6.1.3 Provision extends beyond the built fabric of such buildings through associated **accommodation-based support offering wrap-around assistance** including supporting a person to prepare to return home if safe to do so or to alternative longer term properties. This includes support with applying for housing, financial resilience support, emotional and wellbeing support, in addition to direct advice and advocacy specifically in relation to domestic abuse.

6.1.4 There are cases where provisions can be made to support individuals remain in their own home with appropriate adaptations, particularly as part of joint work on enforcement against perpetrators. **Target hardening approaches** increase the resilience and safety of a person's own home through the provision of security measures including gates, barriers and security technology.

6.2 Whilst current provision has become more embedded through the previous Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategy, the refresh of the CSP strategy and ongoing development of Bury's LETS approach provides the opportunity to refine Bury's safe accommodation approach.

6.3 The Safe Accommodation Strategy sets out areas of focus to further develop Bury's approach and strengthen support to victims of domestic abuse, informed by insight from data, research and engagement including through Bury's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board which includes a standing item on the voice of the victim-survivor.

6.4 Setting out the future direction of such accommodation-based support, the Strategy proposes partnership activity across four themes

6.4.1 **Prevention and earlier 'early intervention'** – this theme places a focus on training and awareness, specifically with housing providers and associated groups linked to housing, to support the prevention of homelessness presentation due to fleeing domestic abuse; and to formalise the previous target hardening activity into a more established sanctuary scheme to support individuals and families remaining safely in their own home.

6.4.2 **A blended accommodation model to tailor support** – this theme sets out the desired shift from a previously predominantly refuge based provision to increasingly blended and flexible approach which is better able to accommodate a greater variety of circumstances and be adaptable based on presenting need at any given time. This allows for more tailored support based on the intersectionality of a victim and their family. As such ,a core-and-cluster style approach alongside dispersed provision will be central to the procurement of future provision to support greater connectivity into Bury's broader neighbourhood approach whilst increasing the flexibility of provision in the Borough. It is proposed to conduct a open tender exercise upon approval of the Safe Accommodation Strategy, to cover the period until March 2028 to align with Bury's Community Safety Partnership Strategy, with a twelve month option to provide some additional flexibility.

6.4.3 **Integrating 'safe accommodation'** – this theme builds on the refreshed Community Safety Partnership Strategy which increasingly brings together support around domestic abuse with that of other factors individuals may be experiencing, in particular in relation to mental wellbeing and substance use. Individually any of these lived experiences can be a barrier to accessing safe accommodation whilst considering any of these factors in isolation can inadvertently restrict the awareness of broader, and potentially more appropriate forms of support, eg supported accommodation provision commissioned through the Neighbourhood Housing Model. This also aligns with the Greater Manchester Live Well model of support.

6.4.4 **Increase access through further collaboration and co-design** – this theme seeks to increasingly develop a 'by and for' approach to provision, to further tailor accommodation and victim based support. In particular this seeks to build on existing co-design networks and engagement with these to consider suitable adaptations and measures which support people to stay safe in their own home; for emergency accommodation to

meet different needs; and ensure the maximum awareness of suitable move-on provision with associated support.

6.5 The Bury Safe Accommodation Strategy sets out a series of actions against each of these themes which will be overseen by the Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB), a statutory body including colleagues from Bury Council, NHS GM Bury, Greater Manchester Police, Probation, representatives from the Bury Safeguarding Partnership ecosystem. The DAPB will in turn report into Bury's Community Safety Partnership including on metrics set out in the strategy.

6.6 Whilst the strategy runs for a three year period it will be kept under annual review to take account of the latest insight (data and lived experience) in addition to any changes (risks and opportunities) in national legislation or statutory guidance.

Wrap around support for victims of Domestic Abuse

7.1 In addition to the commissioning of future accommodation-based support, a procurement exercise is to take place to secure future provision of trauma-informed, person-centred victim support provision through Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors and associated floating support workers.

7.2 *Save Lives* outline the role of an IDVA and the power of such roles are:

- By design, the role of an IDVA stands as a direct affront to harm. Rooted in trauma-informed practice, every interaction an IDVA has with a survivor is focused on safety and trust.
- Survivors are empowered to reclaim the choice, control, and agency that has been stripped away by abuse.
- IDVAs work side by side with survivors of domestic abuse to rebuild the self-esteem that was systematically chipped away – guiding them out of isolation and empowering survivors to reclaim what has been taken from them.
- IDVAS are more than advocates—they are bridges to safety, champions of identity, and allies in the journey to healing. They work in culturally responsive ways, celebrating each survivor's unique identity while ensuring their voices are heard. Through their work, IDVAs not only identify risks and respond to needs but also restore dignity and ensure the rights of the survivor are never overlooked.

7.3 Bury's support provision includes a blend of domestic abuse officers within the Family Safeguarding model; IDVA trained practitioners within Family Help in Children's Services; Greater Manchester commissioned victim support service support through Catch 22.

7.4 In order to ensure support to high and medium risk victims of domestic abuse, especially for those where there are no children in the household, it is proposed to commission specific support provision, as highlighted in yellow in the table below. The volume of provision has been determined through engagement with the national Save Lives charity based on Bury's population, DA prevalence rate

and presentations across Bury's domestic abuse risk management meetings (eg Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences; Domestic Abuse Daily Management Planning).

<table>
<tr><th>High Risk</th><th>Medium Risk</th><th>Standard Risk</th></tr>
<tr><td>3 IDVAs
1 Support Worker</td><td>1 IDVA
1 Support Worker</td><td rowspan="3">Catch 22 (GM Commissioned Support)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Triage Worker</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Management Oversight</td></tr>
<tr><td>3 Domestic Abuse Officers *through Family Safeguarding Model)</td><td colspan="2">2 Family Help Practitioners (Children's Services)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">1 MASH Triage Domestic Abuse Practitioner (Childrens Services)</td></tr>
</table>

7.5 It is proposed the tender exercise for this provision runs concurrently with the accommodation-based support provision and covers the respective time period for alignment with the CSP Strategy. It is a separate commission, which keeps the option open for either the same provider to be appointed on both elements of provision, or different providers should there be benefits identified in the tender returns of a hybrid provision.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Please summarise how this links to the Let's Do It Strategy.

In the context of this Safe Accommodation Strategy the LETS principles will guide the approach – with a targeted focus to ensure that the services that available reflect and are informed by the needs of our local Bury community and anchored into neighbourhood support; the approach will seek to be innovative with an enterprising approach on how best to use resources to provide the best quality Domestic Abuse provision. By working together as agencies and building on lived experiences, provision can be tailored and take a strengths-based approach which builds on what already works well within the Borough, looking to apply learning to different areas of the system and supporting people to break the cycle of abuse.

The development and delivery of the DA Safe Accommodation Strategy is a component of delivering the corporate plan action of implementing the Bury Community Safety Strategy 2025-2028

Equality Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is here.*

The strategy will have positive impacts for many of the characteristics and circumstances including intersections of these characteristics. There are no anticipated negative impacts or unintended consequences. The EIA will remain live until the adoption of the strategy and individual activities within the strategy may require independent EIAs

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both ***Carbon emissions*** *(contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and* ***Biodiversity*** *(contact c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk for advice)*

No direct impact as a result of this report through commissioning of safe accommodation inclusion will be made in the specification as to any core and cluster/dispersed accommodation seeking to be considerate of energy efficiency measures and approaches in any accommodation provision.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Insufficient interest in tender exercise	Core and cluster, and dispersed approach, an increasingly established approach in broader accommodation-based support provision (eg wider supported living schemes). Market awareness event to take place during initial tender stage to actively engage potential providers.
Availability of suitable provision	Demand across priority 1 allocations are high, with a limited resource of both funding and accommodation. The blended approach set out seeks to increasingly support homelessness presentations due to DA; to improve triage of any cases across a broader pool of flexible support and associated move on.

Legal Implications:

Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 details duties on relevant local authorities to assess the need for accommodation-based support and prepare strategies to provide such support for victims. The appended strategy and recommendations evidences compliance with those duties.

The duties in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are separate to local authority housing duties under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002 and does not place a requirement on authorities to provide domestic abuse victims with accommodation.

Any safe accommodation procured in the delivery of this strategy must fit the definition of such accommodation contained within Regulation 2 of The Domestic

Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation and Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Sanctuary Schemes) (Amendment) Regulations 2021. Bed and Breakfast accommodation is not considered relevant safe accommodation.

The proposed procurements will be carried out on an open tender basis in accordance with the provisions of the Procurement Act 2023 which came into force on 24th February 2025. Existing contracts will be formally extended.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

In 2025-26, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is providing £160 million to cover the cost to local authorities in England of carrying out their statutory duties/functions relating to the provision of support within domestic abuse safe accommodation (which is contained within Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021). For Bury Council the allocation is £521,275. In addition, funding for wrap around IDVA provision includes funding contributions from Bury Community Safety Partnership and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (including as conduit from Ministry of Justice).

Appendices:

Please list any appended documents.

Appendix A: Bury Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2025-2028

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAPB	[Bury] Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

DRAFT

Bury Locality
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment & Strategy 2025-2028

Executive Summary

Keeping people safe from harm, supporting victims of crime and safeguarding Bury's communities is central to the work of Bury Council and the wider Bury Community Safety Partnership.

Domestic Abuse can affect anybody, regardless of social status, wealth, race, or gender. Indeed, we see examples of it touching all parts of society, and unfortunately, its impacts can be dire and long-standing for both individuals and wider communities. For this reason, it is imperative that as a local authority, we respond to the needs of those impacted by domestic abuse which aims to both support immediate needs and to reduce long-term harm.

A core component to this relates to the provision of, and support associated with safe accommodation for those fleeing from harm, and for this to support breaking the cycle of domestic violence. This strategy sets out the different components of what is considered self-accommodation, consideration of existing arrangements, and a set of actions to further evolve the local offer to best meet the needs and experiences of local people.

DRAFT

Context – Legislation and Statutory Guidance

This strategy sets out Bury's approach to delivering on statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act of 2021 ('the Act'), namely to

(a) assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in its area,
(b) prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support in its area, and
(c) monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy.

Domestic abuse involves any single incident or pattern of conduct where someone's behaviour towards another is abusive, and where the people involved are aged 16 or over and are, or have been, personally connected to each other (regardless of gender or sexuality).

The abuse can involve, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional
- violent
- threatening
- controlling behaviour, acts designed to make a person subordinate or dependent
- coercive behaviour, *act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.*

Personal connection' means the individuals concerned:

- are due to be, are currently, or have been, married or civil partners to each other
- are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
- are, or have been, parents (or had a parental relationship) to the same child
- are relatives (the Act gives further definitions of 'relatives')

Children are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse between two personally connected individuals who are aged 16 or over.

Part 4 of the Act defines 'accommodation' as:

a) *"accommodation-based support" means support, in relation to domestic abuse, provided to victims of domestic abuse, or their children, who reside in relevant accommodation;*
b) *"relevant accommodation" means accommodation of a description specified by the Secretary of State in regulations.*

DRAFT

Statutory Guidance published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021) gives examples of various types of safe accommodation, which includes the following:

- **Refuge -** offers single gender or single sex accommodation and domestic abuse support which is tied to that accommodation. The address will not be publicly available. Victims, including their children, will have access to a planned programme of therapeutic and practical support from staff. Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, but in both cases the service will enable peer support from other refuge residents.

- **Specialist safe accommodation** – offering single gender or single sex accommodation, alongside dedicated domestic abuse support which is tailored to also support those who share particular protected characteristic(s) and / or who share one or more vulnerabilities requiring additional support). Accommodation may be in shared or self-contained housing, and the address will not be publicly available. This includes 'By and For' services where victims are able to see themselves reflected in the staffing, management and governance structures. By and For services are designed and led by those that share the same protected characteristic(s) as the victims they aim to serve. For example, a specialist domestic abuse organisation that is led by Black and minoritised women and children, for Black and minoritised women and children

- **Dispersed -** Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse), self-contained accommodation with a similar level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces, and/or where peer support from other residents may not be appropriate, due to complex support needs, or where older teenage sons cannot be accommodated in a women only refuge, for example. Can also be self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victims who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge, but are still at risk of abuse from their perpetrator/s

- **Sanctuary Schemes**– Sanctuary Schemes properties with local authority or private registered providers of social housing installed Sanctuary Schemes which provide enhanced physical security measures to a home or the perimeter of the home. A Sanctuary Scheme is a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation. This is done by providing additional security – 'installing a sanctuary' – to the victims' property or perimeter.

- **Second Stage -** Accommodation temporarily provided to victims, including their children, who are moving on from other forms of relevant accommodation and/or who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and

settled accommodation. Where second stage accommodation is in shared housing it should be single gender or single sex. There is no expectation that every victim will require this. Many victims are ready to move straight to a settled new home from refuge.

- **Other forms**– A safe place (single gendered or single sex, secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) with domestic abuse support tied to the accommodation to enable victims to make informed decisions when leaving a perpetrator and seeking safe accommodation. For example, short term (e.g. 2-3 weeks) accommodation providing victims with the space and safety to consider and make informed decisions about the options available to them.

The Duty recognises that some support is directly provided by staff on site (e.g. within refuges), whereas other support will be provided to victims through a support worker visiting them, including in their own homes including the case of a sanctuary scheme.

Safe accommodation support can include:

- **Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation** – including capacity building, support and supervision of staff, payroll, financial and day to day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager)
- **Support with the day-to-day running of the service** – eg scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff)
- **Advocacy support** – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
- **Domestic abuse prevention advice** – support to recognise the signs of abusive relationships, to help them remain safe (including online)
- **Specialist support for victims**
    - **Designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics** (including 'by and for'), such as faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims [not limited to].
    - **Designed specifically for victims with additional and / or complex needs** such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support [not limited to], including sign posting accordingly.
- **Children's support** – including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker (for example, a young people's violence advisor, IDVA or outreach worker specialised in working with children).
- **Advice service** – including financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements; and,
- **Counselling and therapy** – (including group support) for both adults and children, including emotional support.

In addition, statutory guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021) states that:
Where a victim is homeless, the relevant housing authority must also assess what housing duties are owed to the victim and ensure those are met. Local housing authorities owe duties under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to victims of domestic abuse who are eligible and homeless. If the household is homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse, they will have priority need for accommodation secured by the local authority.

These pieces of national guidance reflect the national tackling domestic abuse plan which sets out to tackle the stubbornly high prevalence of domestic violence; the significant loss of life resulting from such violence; and the negative health, emotional, economic and social impact victims and survivors face during and following domestic abuse. Central to the principles of this strategy are the areas of national focus on

- Identifying more domestic abuse cases
- Greater collaboration and coordination between and within organisations
- Improving our knowledge about domestic abuse through better data

In 2024 this was re-emphasised nationally through the Government's Safer Street mission, including overhaul the policing response to domestic abuse and to halve the incidents of violence against women and girls within a decade

The following sections outline existing provision and arrangements in relation to the approaches set out above, and actions to develop Safe Accommodation further within Bury.

DRAFT

Local strategic context

Across the Team Bury Partnership, Bury's *LET'S Do It!* strategy and approach sets out an ambitious goal for Bury to achieve faster economic growth than the national average with lower levels of deprivation by 2030. In doing so, it looks to tackle inequalities, improve quality of life for local residents and shift the behaviours of public services working with communities.

The key principles of the *Let's Do It!* strategy are:

- **Local**: ensuring that services are place-based for example by engaging with people where and how they live.
- **Enterprising**: removing barriers that prevent people from connecting local people to opportunities through their skills, confidence, and relationships for example by opening doors at every opportunity.
- **Delivering Together:** championing a new relationship between public services, communities and businesses based on co-design and accountability, for example by empowering resident and groups to take decisions and harness resources.
- **Strengths-based**: building on strengths of our communities and taking an evidence-led understanding of risk and impact, for example by listening to understand each other and our shared potential.

In the context of this Safe Accommodation Strategy the LETS principles will guide the approach – with a targeted focus to ensure that the services that available reflect and are informed by the needs of our **local** Bury community and anchored into neighbourhood support; the approach will seek to be innovative with an **enterprising** approach on how best to use resources to provide the best quality Domestic Abuse provision. By working **together** as agencies and building on lived experiences, provision can be tailored and take a **strengths-based** approach which builds on what already works well within the Borough, looking to apply learning to different areas of the system and supporting people to break the cycle of abuse.

Bury Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Partnerships were introduced by Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to bring together local partners to work together in creating and delivering on strategies to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in their communities.

Bury Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is committed to continuing to make the Borough of Bury one of the safest places to live, work, study and visit in the region. The vision of the partnership is for strong and resilient communities, where all are able to thrive, safe from harm.

Domestic Abuse was a priority for the CSP within the 2022-2025 period and In March 2025, Bury CSP published a refreshed strategy, setting out local priorities borne out of data and community insight, alongside a cross-reference with GM Police and Crime Plan activity. One of the priorities of this refreshed plan is to embed a trauma

informed, whole system response to Domestic Violence and Abuse in the context of the trio of vulnerability (ie DA alongside substance use and mental wellbeing). More detail on the deliverables against this overarching priority can be found through the following link whilst this priority will inform the direction of this strategy in the context of aligning safe accommodation related support with broader support offers: https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s43505/DRAFT%20Bury%20CSP%20Strategy%202025-2028%20v1.00.pdf

Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Reporting to the Bury Community Safety Partnership is the Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB). This multi-agency partnership, a requirement of the Act, brings together colleagues from the local authority (adult's social care and safeguarding; public health; housing; children's Family Help and social care; education; elected councillors); health system representatives (including NHS GM Bury; primary care; Northern Care Alliance; Pennine Care Foundation Trust); Greater Manchester Police; Probation services; Victim Support services; perpetrator services and Bury's local VCFSE infrastructure organisation.

The Board meets every two months and is chaired by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Bury Council, and incorporates a survivor's story case study in each meeting, alongside a focus on four priority areas:

Priorities	Descriptor
1. Driving and prioritising prevention	Reduce the amount of domestic abuse, domestic homicide, and suicides linked to domestic abuse, by stopping people from becoming perpetrators and/or victims to begin with
2. Supporting victims	Help all victims and survivors of domestic abuse to live their life with support for their health, emotional, economic and social needs.
3. Improving processes and practice	Improve the systems and processes that underpin the response to DA across society. Specifically • More DA cases being identified and responded to appropriately • Improved collaboration and co-ordination between and within organisations • Improved data on, and knowledge of, domestic abuse
4. Pursuing Perpetrators	Reduce the amount of people who are repeat offenders and make sure that those who commit the crime feel the full force of the law.

Work is currently taking place to refresh Bury's DAPB Delivery Plan in light of the refreshed Community Safety Partnership Plan. It is recognised that domestic abuse spans across broader community safety priorities, including serious violence [the Serious Violence Duty specifies Domestic Abuse within it]; safeguarding practices and supporting cohesive communities.

There is also a need for this Safe Accommodation Strategy to integrate in the context of broader strategic planning activity, including

- **The Bury Housing Strategy** – including other accommodation and associated floating support provision, eg Review of Neighbourhood Housing Support Services- Complex Needs and Floating Support-Dispersed accom.pdf
- **The Bury Homelessness Strategy** - Domestic Abuse outreach and the safe accommodation service is an important component of the Bury Homeless Strategy. This service is an important in providing skilled prevention measures for all victims of domestic abuse, including perpetrators and supports with stopping homelessness both in a statutory and non-statutory way. Homelessness prevention is key to developing an effective response to ending homelessness.
- **Bury Health Inequalities Position Paper**, which looks at addressing the impacts of health inequalities within the Borough, including broader determinants of health such as having a safe place to live.
- **The Family Safeguarding Model** – which looks at providing families in the children's social care system with the best support they can get through a commitment to multi-agency teams to ensure that children can, if possible, remain safely with their families.

DRAFT

Reflection on current provision and arrangements in Bury

Prior to the Domestic Abuse Bill being implemented in 2021, there was no specific commissioned safe accommodation provision for victims of DA situated within the Borough of Bury. There was limited accommodation provision locally with support able to be accessed through provision outside of Bury but action was taken to commission in Borough provision.

Initially this predominantly took the form of refuge-based provision in order to ensure a rapid step up of a number of units of provision and associated support. Over the past three years additional units of provision have opened to vary the mix of provision.

The table below sets out the current status of provision across the types of safe accommodation outlined in the statutory guidance.

Nature of Safe Accommodation provision	Local provision
Refuge	First stage refuge provision 'OH' located in Bury. 7 bed units, delivered by Safenet through Council Safe Accommodation commission. Greater Manchester districts including Bury jointly fund a male-refuge offer for the region which is hosted by Trafford which Bury residents have been referred into where appropriate.
Specialist safe accommodation	No dedicated specialist accommodation in the Borough currently but routes to access through wider Calico provision
Dispersed accommodation	No dedicated DA dispersed accommodation provision in the Borough currently; four flats identified close to existing move-on provision by existing provider..
Sanctuary Schemes	There are informal arrangements where high risk cases considered at MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) can include requests from agencies for target hardening approaches and measures to reduce vulnerabilities/ increase the resilience of a person's home.
Second stage	Second stage provision through: 'BH' located in Bury. 10 bed units, delivered by Safenet through Council Safe Accommodation commission. This provides an opportunity to move on from 'OH' but can also

	be utilised as a first stage refuge dependent upon the volume and nature of presenting demand. 'SM' located in Bury. 4 unit provision of self-contained flats.

Beyond the immediate bricks-and-mortar of accommodation provision, safe accommodation support in Bury includes:

- Victim support services to work with an individual/ family who are fleeing domestic abuse including through Independent Domestic Violence Advocates; Floating Support; Family Help, Family Safeguarding colleagues (where a family is open to Child Protection Plans) and Catch 22 (Greater Manchester Victim Services). This includes core advocacy support; development of personal safety planning; advice to support assist victims recognise the signs of abusive relationships, how to help remain safe and prevent re-victimisation.
- This includes specialist IDVA provision on funded projects, eg LGBT+ IDVA role which is a Greater Manchester-wide service which Bury residents can have access to.
- As well as direct physical and emotional support, this provision also links into wider support offers, eg Achieve substance misuse services to support those who may have additional support needs surrounding drugs and alcohol; Citizens Advice in relation to financial resilience.
- Housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- Talk, Listen, Change – offer behaviour-change programmes for perpetrators, as well as family mediation
- The commissioned provider have bi-lingual support staff and can often organise staff from our other services to speak with survivors in other languages not covered by the Bury staff team (as immediate measures in addition to utilising services such as Language Line)
- Children and Young People's Support Worker supports children in services using bespoke support plans, play therapy, groups and activities, liaising with professionals, parenting support
- Domestic Abuse drop-ins at GP surgeries.
- Support from the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit for customers who have no recourse to public funds.

Key to supporting safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse is the ability to source safe, sustainable long term accommodation. As such **Bury's Housing Allocation Policy** makes specific reference to domestic abuse in relation to priority banding and the opportunity for provision through direct lets.

Specifically Bury's Housing Allocation Policy states:

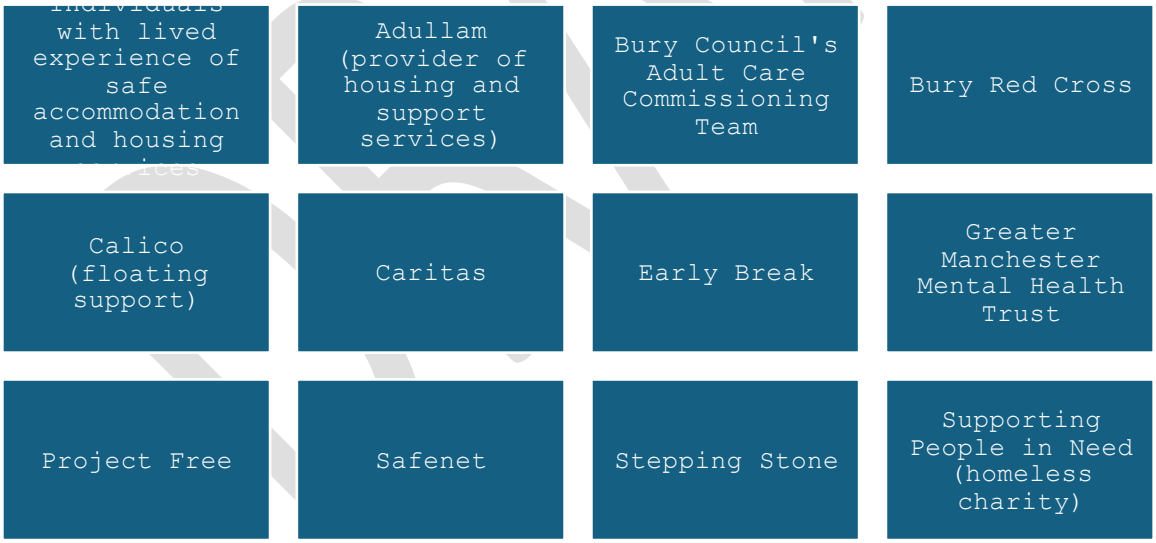
- In relation to banding: Homeless and in priority need - the Council will assess whether an applicant is homeless and in priority need under the homelessness provisions in Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996. Within Band 1 for

urgent housing need this includes life threatening circumstances are where there is serious risk of harm from remaining in the present accommodation - this **includes victims of domestic violence**

- Circumstances appropriate to direct lets: There are times when the Choice Based Letting System is unsuitable to meet the needs of certain applicants. To address this situation, the Council reserves the right of direct letting. Circumstances where direct lets could apply include: **the safeguarding or protection of applicants and existing tenants for reason of domestic violence, harassment** or hate crime or where the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) or National Witness Mobility scheme has recommended that an applicant should not bid for fear of being identified

Source: https://www.bury.gov.uk/housing/housing-services/find-a-home/housing-allocation-policy

In shaping this strategy insight has been sourced and collated from organic and structured conversations including through engagement from lived experience of victim/survivors; insight from engagement on the new CSP strategy; multi-agency workshops with Bury Homelessness Partnership; data discussions at Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership; and contract monitoring meetings with existing providers. In addition to statutory Domestic Abuse Partnership agencies this has included representatives from:



The insight gathered is summaries below:

What works well currently:

- It was acknowledged Bury had moved from a position of having no commissioned provision to a number of units having been stood up and partners welcomed the opportunity to shape future plans.
- Growing partnership-working and open communication practices among agencies. Many consistently provide ample opportunities for interactions between agencies and opportunities to meet with other services face-to-face.

It was felt that services are well-acquainted with the needs of vulnerable individuals, with strong signposting into the appropriate support.

- Particular emphasis was placed on the strong and effective collaboration between Bury Council's homelessness services and the provider of Domestic Abuse services. This partnership ensures that individuals presenting as homeless due to domestic abuse have access to a specialist at any time, ensuring they receive the necessary support promptly.
- Representatives of the homeless partnership felt that it was positive that the refuges accept some No Recourse to Public Funds referrals.
- Partners felt that it was positive that there had been an increase in variety of offers of accommodation and expressed satisfaction that a high percentage of presentations are being accommodated effectively.
- There was also positive feedback regarding ongoing dialogue with residents of safe accommodation to ensure these voices were amplified in shaping revisions to operating activity and informing future decision-making processes.

Opportunities to work better:

- Insight outlined that there is a growing complexity in many cases and therefore opportunities to be explored to further integrate broader appropriate support, particularly in the areas of drugs, offending and mental health support. It was noted that such individuals/families are not always suitable for shared supported accommodation and require more specialised support. as the customers transition through services.
- To formalise a specific sanctuary scheme in Bury, with a triage role to increase consistency and collaborate with multiple partners to create a comprehensive support package for anyone wishing to engage with the scheme, enabling more individuals to remain in their own homes.
- To explore the opportunities for emergency one-night accommodation, particularly in cases where individuals being supported into longer term provision. Suggestions were made to adopt a safe house approach, similar to the 'A Bed Every Night' (ABEN) initiative, and to explore whether a scheme could be developed for local families to act as potential 'hosts' of safe spaces (in the style of emergency foster placements).
- Opportunities for greater flexibility in approaches were sighted, to allow more a great breadth of offers, to support both tailored circumstances but also support provision for move-on, eg from refuge to dispersed accommodation, to own tenancy outside of safe accommodation provision.
- In terms of specific accommodation needs, there was a reported shortfall in provisions for older people and support those facing language barriers. This reflected a broader desire to continue to increase the flexibility of such provision and to wrap appropriate specialist provision in. This included the option to increase the availability of move-on options to facilitate smoother transitions for service users.
- In terms of lived experience, it was noted that there could be more support for victim/survivors to understand the housing process. Taking a trauma-informed approach, with consideration of victim/survivors' emotions, is key to ensuring that those who use the services feel well-supported throughout the whole process. While signposting was generally strong, some colleagues noted that

there needs to be a broader understanding of what is available and which services are most appropriate for individuals.

Wider reflections:

- Discussion took place as to opportunities to ensure place based support, in line with Bury's neighbourhood model and the emerging Greater Manchester Live Well approach. For Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation there is a need to balance access to local support and opportunities to connect into integrated place based support and community assets whilst recognising for individual cases the location of safe accommodation is determined through the relative proximity to perpetrators.
- Overall, it was acknowledged that balancing the reduction of demand with maintaining high-quality services is a complex challenge and not one unique to Bury
- It was acknowledged that there are a lot of private rented properties, but these are not always accessible to individuals fleeing domestic abuse in circumstances where financial constraints coupled with housing benefits not covering the cost of the rents resulting in a financial barrier to entry and whether there was scope for work to consider a rent bond scheme or alternative financial provision.
- Whilst there are examples of good partnership working, there is always more that can be done, eg further support from broader agencies coming into safe accommodation settings to offer group work or advice sessions.

DRAFT

Latest insight - data

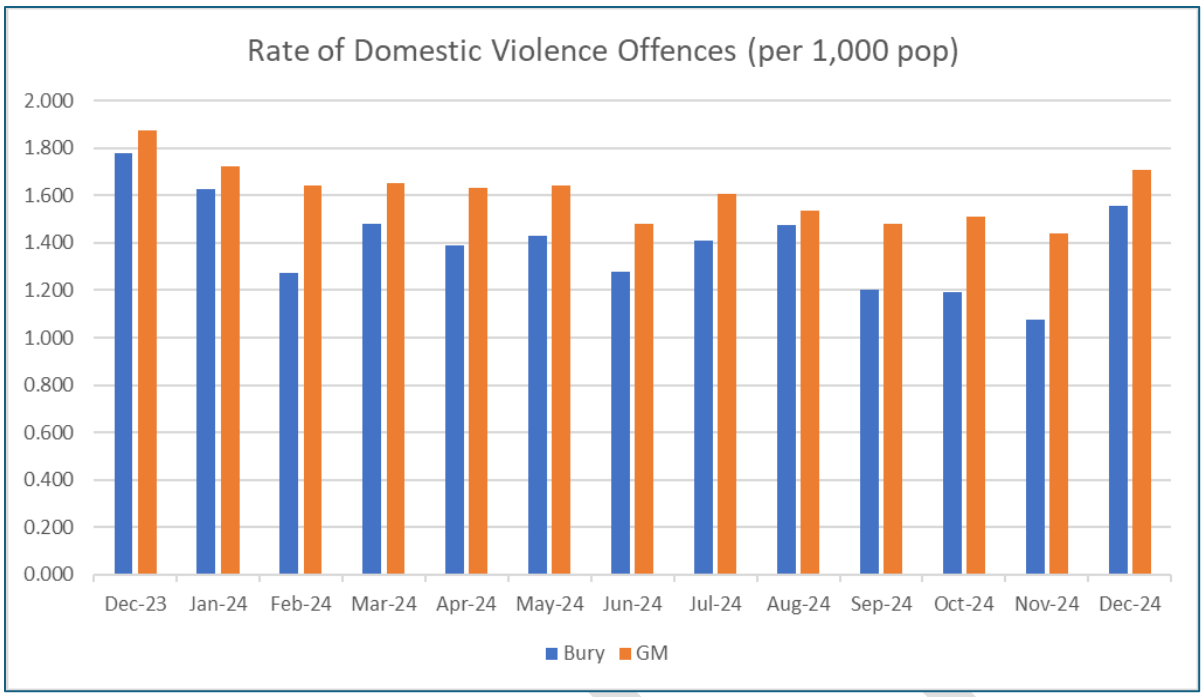
In order to inform future safe accommodation provision the collating of insight also includes a local intelligence picture of the demand for DA services within the Borough of Bury. This has been informed utilising data including that which is routinely presented to the Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board in addition to wider data sources including Bury Council's Homelessness and Housing Option Services; commissioned services; Crime Survey England & Wales (2024), ONS (2024), and Women's Aid National Audit (2024).

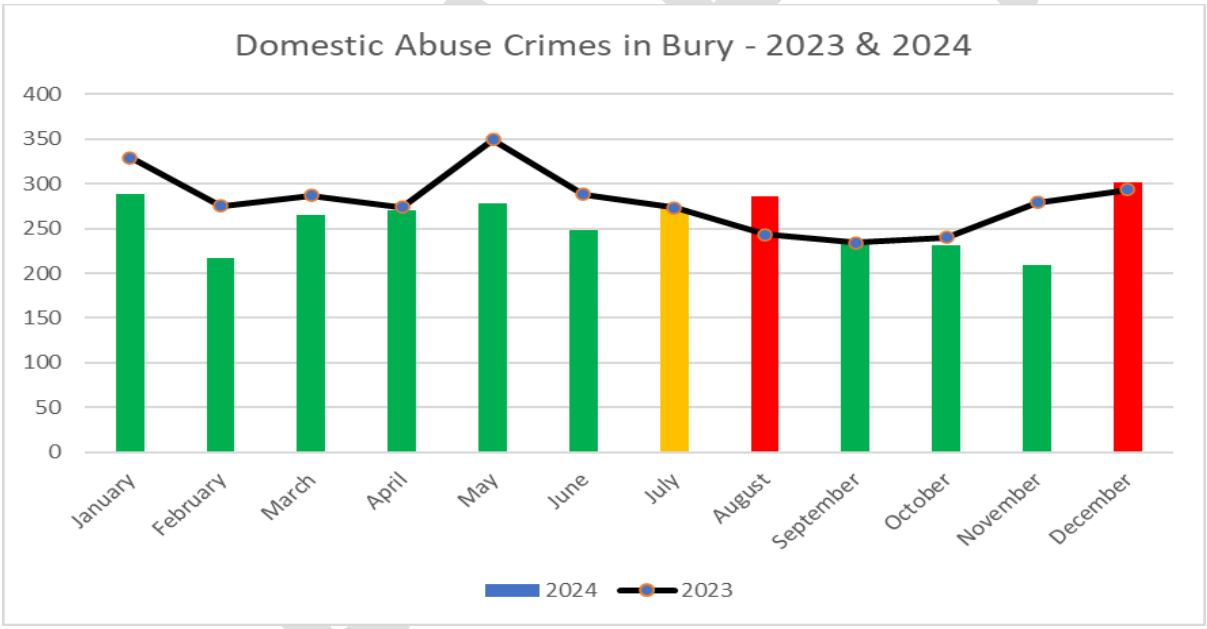
In the year ending (YE) March 2024, the prevalence of domestic abuse nationally was as follows (ONS, 2024):

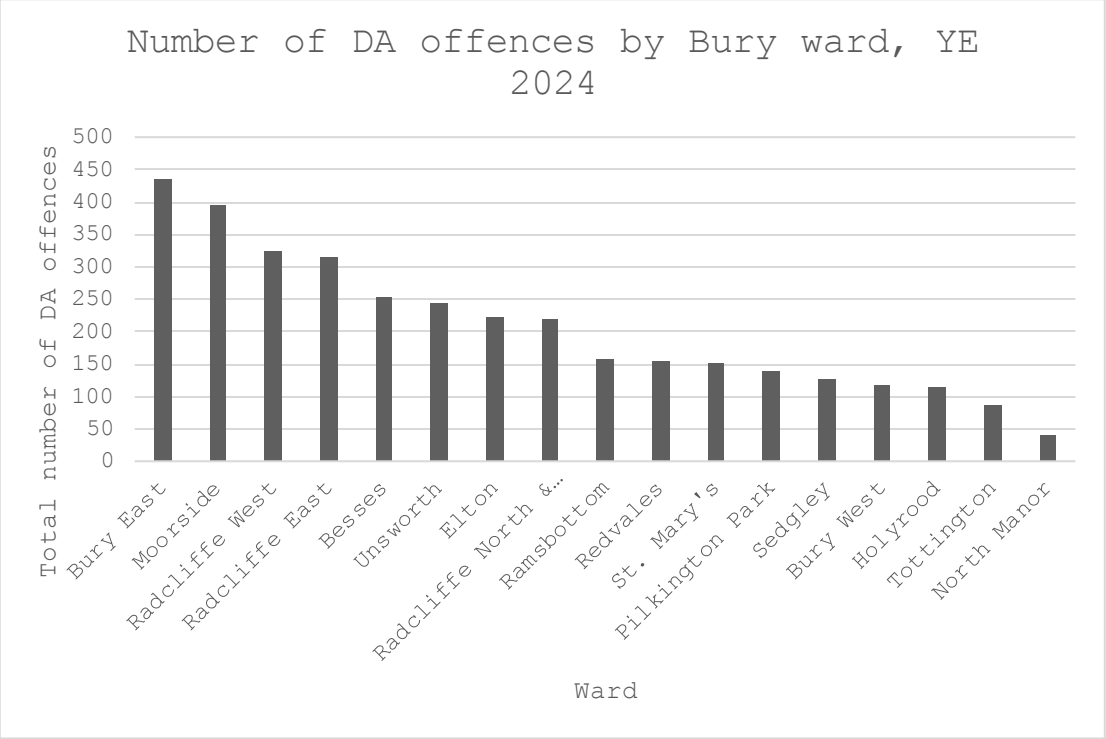
- 2.3 million people aged 16 and over experienced DA in the YE March 2024. This is about 4.8% of the population aged 16 and over. The data shows no statistically different change to the previous year, but a gradual decrease when comparing to the last 10 years.
- There are a higher number of people who experience abuse from a partner or an ex-partner compared to a family member nationally; though filial abuse has been a feature of recent local domestic homicide reviews..
- 15.8% of all offences recorded by the police were crimes relating to domestic abuse. Bury follows a very similar pattern, where around 15.6% of offences had a domestic abuse flag (note – data in Bury is from 01/09/23-31/08/24)
- 72.5% of all victims identified as women.

In the same period within Bury, we saw 3,498 reports of Domestic Abuse to the police. Bury has one of the lowest rates in the region for domestic abuse prevalence and overall in 2024 the rates were lower than that of 2023. Domestic Abuse impacts every ward in the Borough thought the distribution in not equal, with the highest number of reports from the Bury East ward in central Bury (437 reports) [noting this includes the town centre and police station where some reports will be logged to] and the lowest number of reports from the North Manor ward in Bury North (40 reports).

The data in Bury does show a slight variation in annual DA prevalence rates, with the highest peaks around November-January (see image 2). A fairly similar temporal pattern can be seen in the number of cases discussed at MARAC across the annum, though with higher peaks in August-September 2023 and January-February 2024.


Rate of Domestic Violence Offences (per 1,000 pop)
2.000
1.800
1.600
1.400
1.200
1.000
0.800
0.600
0.400
0.200
0.000
Dec-23
Jan-24
Feb-24
Mar-24
Apr-24
May-24
Jun-24
Jul-24
Aug-24
Sep-24
Oct-24
Nov-24
Dec-24
Bury
GM


Domestic Abuse Crimes in Bury - 2023 & 2024
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December
2024
2023



MARAC Cases					
Year-Month	Number of Cases Discussed	Number of Repeat Cases	Number of Children in Household	Number of Cases With Children in Household	Repeat Cases (%)
Oct-23	32	15	37	15	46.9%
Nov-23	34	12	32	15	35.3%
Dec-23	38	8	29	17	21.1%
Jan-24	76	25	64	35	32.9%
Feb-24	40	10	50	20	25.0%
Mar-24	31	15	23	15	48.4%
Apr-24	45	20	51	23	44.4%
May-24	33	10	27	13	30.3%
Jun-24	30	10	30	15	33.3%
Jul-24	66	25	55	28	37.9%
Aug-24	48	16	57	27	33.3%
Sep-24	52	17	67	34	32.7%

Targeted work through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is taking place on the highest intensity repeat cases and locations under the direction of the Detective Chief Inspector for vulnerability at GMP Bury.

In understand the high risk domestic abuse cases as discussed at MARAC, to understand the nature of domestic abuse in the Borough, and therefore potential nature of demand for safe accommodation provision, the table below takes some key characteristics as a percentage of the overall MARAC caseload:

	Oct-Dec 23	Jan-March 24	Apr-Jun 24	July-Sept 24
MARAC cases with children in the household	45	48	47	54
Victims who identify as Global Majority	14	23	16	11
Victims who identify as LGBTQI+	1	2	0	0
Male victims	5	5	6	4
Victims aged 65+	0	3	3	3

The table demonstrates the need for flexibility in accommodation provision, recognising a mix between support required for families and for individuals (ie one-bed to multiple bed provision); that the support should be flexible and tailored to support different cultural and demographic (including age) needs; and that male victim provision is to be considered.

<u>IDVA demand data</u>

Data on the nature of those being supported through Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) in the Borough has also been reviewed.

- Age: Most prominent age profile of survivors being supported is 20-39 (38%) followed by 30-39 (29%) There has been an increase in the 50-59 age bracket in early 2024 and 70+ within the last twelve months (up to almost 4%)

Admissions by age:	**Jul-Sept 23**	**Oct-Dec 23**	**Jan-March 24**	**Apr-Jun 24**	**July-Sep 24**	**Oct-Dec 24**
16-19	2.94%	8.74%	5.56%	3.77%	2..29%	1.94%
20-29	33.33%	25.20%	25%	29.25%	35.11%	37.86%
30-39	30.39%	36.22%	35.19%	33.02%	33.59%	29.13%
40-49	21.57%	17.30%	16.67%	15.09%	18.32%	20.39%
50-59	6.86%	9.45%	11.11%	11.32%	3.5%	5.83%
60-69	3.92%	3.15%	1.85%	1.89%	3.82%	0%
70+	0.98%	0.00%	3.70%	3.77%	3.82%	3.88%

- Gender: 88% of admissions to service identify as female and this has been consistent over the past twelve months.

- There has been a decrease in individuals identifying as transgender in the IDVA caseload, from nearly 4% in 2023 to no individuals in October-December 2024.
- The average percentage of survivors who identify as a member of the global majority over the past 18 months is 14%
- Just under one quarter of individuals working with an IDVA record themselves as having a disability.

There are a number of clients who access Bury's IDVA services with additional support needs. As can be noted from the below figures, the highest support need for those accessing the IDVA service is around Mental Health, which is circa 5 times higher than the next highest (Alcohol). In addition, it is important to note that around 21% of all clients have more than one support need. As such, it is important to take into account the importance of providing services which have staff equipped with knowledge to support individuals who may have overlapping or co-occurring support needs, and appropriate connectivity into integrated support.

Admissions – support needs	**Oct-Dec 23**	**Jan-March 24**	**Apr-Jun 24**	**July-Sep 24**	**Oct-Dec 24**
Alcohol	15.73%	14.29%	10.31%	11.11%	12.5%
Drug	6.74%	10.48%	8.25%	10%	9.68%
Mental Health	51.69%	52.38%	53.61%	48.89%	49.46%
Offending	5.62%	5.71%	2.06%	4.44%	4.3%
Physical Health	13.48%	9.52%	6.19%	8.89%	11.83%
Pregnant	5.62%	3.81%	7.22%	7.78%	6.45%
Clients with more than 1 support need	22.55%	22.83%	22.58%	22.64%	17.48%

As of the end of February 2025, there were 227 current applications on the housing register where there is a connection to Domestic Abuse, Whilst not all individuals above are immediately fleeing their own homes and seeking safe accommodation provision, it is important that Bury's approach to safe accommodation supports the prevention of the need to move and seek alternative accommodation; the support to keep people safe in their own homes such as through sanctuary schemes - particularly given the intense pressure across priority 1 banding for housing allocations.

Current safe accommodation provision has received 73 referrals in the 12 months between October 2023 and October 2024, and the table below details the nature of admissions into safe accommodation support over the past twelve months.

	2023/24 Q4	**2024/25 Q1**	**2024/25 Q2**	**2024/ 25 Q3**
Total referrals	17	14	14	11
Refuge	12	11	9	8
Second stage	5	3	5	3

Total admissions	15	7	11	10
Refuge	10	4	6	7
Second stage	5	3	5	3
Total move-ons	8	5	7	13
Refuge	4	5	7	8
Second stage	4	0	9	5
Average length of stay – Refuge	Data being checked	5.99 months	7.09 months	7 months
Average length of stay – Second stage	3.9 months	10.0 months	6.7 months	3.83 months
Admissions where family size of 2 or more children	3	0	2	0

Of individuals supported directly through commissioned safe accommodation provision:

- The most common age group for individuals being accommodated is 20-29 years
- 16% of residents reported having a disability
- 9% of residents reported as LGBT
- 37% included children. The most common age for children 0-5 years, there were a small percentage of families with 2 or more children present. Current provision is extremely limited in being able to accommodate families where there are 3 or more children.
- Global majority residents including representation from those who identify as Pakistani (10%) and African (8%).
- 42% of individuals in safe accommodation have some level of mental wellbeing support needs, with 8% having substance use related support needs.
- 4% of admissions have no recourse to public funds

Of those not able to be supported with direct accommodation provision following a referral, this has principally due to:

- Lack of available bedspace at the time of referral (58%)
- Specific specialist provision being required beyond domestic abuse [predominantly relating to substance use or complexity of mental health support required] therefore accommodation sought through alternative specialist routes.(47%)
- Individuals declining offered accommodation, eg refuge. (3%)
- Convictions or behaviours exhibited at safe accommodation previously (2%)

DRAFT

Next steps for Safe Accommodation in Bury

This strategy forms part of the wider work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, and wider Community Safety Partnership to tackle domestic violence and abuse – including to prevent and intervene earlier to support a reduction in prevalence of such abuse and therefore requirement for such provision; but for where it does occur to ensure inclusive, quality and appropriate safe accommodation support is available to all victims. Ultimately, our ambition is that every victim/survivor – whether a child or an adult - feels that they have access to appropriate and stable accommodation as well as timely support when they need it.

Prevention and earlier early intervention
As with the primary priority of the Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, this strategy prioritises victims/survivors being supported to identify and be supported to tackle risks of violence; with options to remain safe at home. This includes work across the community safety system to hold perpetrators to account for their behaviours (with consequential actions, eg potential removal from properties) and champion necessary behaviour change. Increasing awareness and confidence in reporting; in partnership identification of abuse and addressing root causes of violence are required as part of a multi-faceted approach, to get cases reported and appropriate support provided sooner to prevent escalation and the need for crisis intervention. Therefore support needs to be trauma-informed through local services supporting with identification of abuse, particularly through place based public services and housing providers who can play a key role in supporting victim/survivors stay safe in their own home. Navigating support and increasing awareness and understanding of options available locally has been outlined as inputs from those with lived experience to support individuals who may be having to deal with multiple pressures and access points for support. Whilst some barriers to individuals seeking and accessing support are universal, others are more prominent or specific for certain communities.
Actions: • Through Bury Community Safety Partnership and Bury Safeguarding Partnership (Learning and Development subgroup) to continue to deliver, and seek to expand, awareness raising campaigns on the signs of domestic abuse; reporting and local support. This is to be targeted to communities (of place, identity and experience) as directed through Domestic Abuse Partnership Board data • Specific training input into Bury Council Housing Services; associated Tenants & Residents Associations and Registered Provider Framework within Bury • Develop a training offer for key institutions related to private ownership such as estate agents and conveyancing solicitors • Develop a housing community of practice subgroup of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to share best practice, develop consistent approaches to, and evaluate current responses to routine enquiry; trauma informed

practice; procedures to keep people safe in their own homes; and perpetrator management approaches.

- For Bury Council Housing Services, in conjunction with registered providers, to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.
- Develop a dedicated Bury Sanctuary Scheme, strengthening and increasing consistency on previous target hardening approaches, to enable survicors presenting at housing needs assessments or under consideration at DA risk governance meetings (eg MARAC) to remain in existing accommodation safely. This is to include liaising with voluntary and community organisations on flexible support including personal safety and property protection measures.
- Explore the potential to expand on advice, information and guidance opportunities for survivors to have access to specialist debt/ financial advice to support recovery from economic abuse and impacts on housing, including the opportunities for funding of rent bonds to protect against homelessness presentation or barriers to move on.
- Review the impact of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders and associated positive requirements on accommodation requests.

A blended accommodation model to tailor support

Domestic Abuse can happen to anyone and there is not a universal experience or set of circumstances for households requiring safe accommodation support. This disparate need can be best met by an increasingly flexible approach to provision which can be tailored to circumstance. The current accommodation, which is largely refuge-based, provides strong wraparound support for those who use it, but can be limiting to those who have needs which cannot be supported through the model. Whilst refuge provision is suitable for some people such structures are less able to be flexed to provide support to different circumstances, where as a more dispersed model can be used differently for each case. For example a male victim would not be able to be supported in a six-bed refuge, yet a dispersed unit could be used by a male victim on one occasion, then a female on the next occasion and potentially a family on the next. As such a blended approach means that more provision is appropriate for a greater proportion of cases, to provide both immediate and move-on opportunities for support. Where there have been cases where referrals have not been able to be accommodated this has included there not being sufficient capacity of a flexible nature that could have flexed to support a given particular case. Emergency and temporary safe accommodation is a means to safeguard an individual/ family before either returning home or to a new home of safety and as such having opportunities to move-on are required. This can include step-down facilities from refuge with less intensive support as an intermediate level.

Core components of blended approach are to include:

Core and Cluster Accommodation:

One key element of a blended approach is that of a ‘core and cluster’ model, which has previously been trialled in various councils across the UK as a model to support various accommodation needs .The core and cluster model typically

consists of a 'cluster' of separate, self-contained residences or units that are linked to a 'core' communal area accommodating onsite support. The benefits of such an approach provide flexible, family friendly spaces that promote wellbeing with benefits including

- greater privacy, safety and independence
- opportunities for quiet rooms for cultural practice or tailored support
- dedicated spaces for children of all ages
- increased connection between internal living spaces and green spaces
- greater ability to provide flexibility for families of varying sizes

Dispersed accommodation provides another component of the desired blended approach, with a mix of sizes to cater for single individuals through to larger families. This also allows for provision across different neighbourhoods as part of a broader ecosystem of support.

Whilst dispersed and core & cluster approach provide a lot of flexibility, it is recognised that this approach is not the most suitable for everyone. Some victims will need or desire greater levels of support, and a **refuge** approach can facilitate opportunities for peer-to-peer support, which can be important for some survivors.

Emergency accommodation plays a vital role in providing immediate safety and support for victims of DA and is essential in removing the victim from a potentially dangerous situation and reduce the potential for further harm. As part of the blended offer, it is proposed that there will be a number of units available for '**safe house'** style emergency temporary provision on a one/two night basis pending securing more longer terms provision through wider safe accommodation.

The blended approach extends to increasing integration amongst support service provision – see the following priority.

Actions:

- Delivery of procurement activity to commission revised safe accommodation capacity, focusing on a core & cluster model alongside specifying dispersed accommodation as a preferred model of provision.
- Ensure commissioning for safe accommodation support includes resettlement workers to ensure longer term support
- Explore whether any feasibility to utilise housing stock differently to provide safe accommodation provisions within the Borough.
- Ensure that all DA victims are registered for, and are actively supported to secure alternative housing, as required.
- Explore whether some of the accommodation previously used as refuge spaces can be made into emergency accommodation, which would have the added benefit of having strong security measures already in place to protect the victims.
- Work collaboratively with neighbouring districts in Greater Manchester to identify opportunities for co-commissioning of specialist provision for cases where there may not be consistent demand for dedicated provision but whether opportunity to access provision from a broader pool of support, building on the GM male refuge provision.

Integrating 'safe accommodation' – DA, mental wellbeing, substance use
Bury's LET's Do It! approach and the revised Bury Community Safety Partnership's refreshed strategy focus on collaborative approaches, with co-ordinated and increasingly integrated support provision. Bury's Family Safeguarding model is an example of this where domestic abuse support (to both victims and behaviour change work with perpetrators) is part of a 'Team Around' approach embedded with support on substance use, social care and family wellbeing. Individuals who experience domestic abuse can be affected by a wide range of impacts, including effects to mental or physical health, finances, social isolation EXPAND (Women's Aid, 2024; Victim Support, 2024).. For children who experience domestic abuse, there can be serious harm in development, including the possibility of suffering from psychological and physical problems and the increased risk of engaging with drug and alcohol abuse or becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse (Bo, L., and Yating, P., 2023). For Safe Accommodation the priority is to align and increasingly integrate support provision – from teams receiving training together and key worker models across multi-disciplinary teams to utilising accommodation support in more flexible ways dependent upon the different life circumstances of individuals where domestic abuse is a part of, but not only factor of a person's life. The data from MARAC, IDVA caseloads and those experiencing safe accommodation, along the insight received from survivors and professionals points to the prevalence of substance use and mental wellbeing considerations that are major presenting factors in the life of many people seeking safe accommodation. In some cases these factors contribute to the need for such accommodation and they can be a barrier to breaking the cycle of violence. In cases they can also be a barrier to accessing existing provision, given the specialist or tailored nature of provision which is required. There are opportunities through integrating triage approaches to commissioning intentions to more collaboratively address complex need provision and co-occuring experiences. This opens up the potential availability of existing accommodation commissioned in the Bury system as part of the Neighbourhood Support Housing Services framework, increasing system capacity to support local DA victims in a different way to previously. This priority links to the blended approach priority given that disperse accommodation provides a flexible way to support multiple lived experiences, delivering independence in tenancy sustainment whilst retaining a primary focus breaking the cycle of DA.
Actions: • Explicitly reference and connect the Neighbourhood Support Housing Services Outcomes Framework into domestic abuse related safe accommodation commissioning

- Work with newly in post Director of Housing on increased connectivity with broader 'safe accommodation' provision in terms of joint commissioning opportunities
- Explore opportunities for an integrated triage function as an evolution of the Central Access Point allocations for existing Neighbourhood Support Housing offer, to broaden the scope of available accommodation options. This would also support with co-ordinating move-on management.
- Review learning opportunities from the roll out of the Bury Family Safeguarding model on practices including motivational interviewing to increase 'team around' strengths-based support.
- Explore opportunities to co-locate professionals across disciplines, eg domestic abuse support workers within housing settings; substance use workers within safe accommodation settings
- Embed Greater Manchester Live Well principles into Safe Accommodation support.
- Increase consistency and richness of data collection at housing options 'front door' including the use of mandatory fields on Locator system; to be included on DAPB and CSP dashboard. Similarly to ensuring housing provider data consistently captures domestic abuse through tenancy sustainment records.

Increase access through further collaboration and co-design

Building on a strong foundation, and in keeping with Bury's LETS approach, it is important that support to stay safe at home; access emergency accommodation if required; and return to a place of safety is open to – and informed – by all individuals and communities, regardless of background or nature of domestic abuse experienced.

This strategy notes differences in demographics across MARAC presentations; IDVA cohorts; overall population levels and safe accommodation populations.

An increased ability to flex and tailor provision though adaptable offers will mean that there is a further shift from a 'one size fits all' model. This respects local demographics and recognises the importance of intersectionality between protected characteristics through 'by and for' approach.

Whilst there is demographic data captured self-reported ethnicity, one key piece of information that is not consistently captured is the number of victims who do not speak English as their first language. Supporting Domestic Abuse victims with an interpreter (including British Sign Language) if needed is important as it can provide an opportunity for victims to provide details which may be lost if they are not confident in speaking English fluently.

Actions:

- Building on the Domestic Violence in Later Life training; liaise with Bury Older People's Network to ensure access to support, and safe accommodation provision, best meets the needs of older victim/survivors and support opportunities for local housing providers to review their approaches in light of this.
- Joint-learning sessions and access to mutual learning on housing law, immigration law, economic abuse, coercive control, multiple disadvantage, cultural awareness.
- Work with Bury Blind Society and associated communities of experience to assess, and co-design any necessary improvements, to support provision for blind; partially sighted; deaf and hard of hearing victims.
- Embed learning and opportunities for future collaboration on projects supported through Standing Together funding to increase awareness and access to domestic abuse provision across different communities, including Bury People First.
- Seek opportunities within Bury through the Homelessness Partnership co-production approach and with regional colleagues through the GMCA, GMP and NHS Greater Manchester for collaboration of 'by and for' bespoke offers, including engagement with GM Equality Panels.
- Further engage representatives of Bury Faith Forum and local faith leads on opportunities to ensure religious and cultural support provision, and awareness of such support, is increased.
- To continue to work collaboratively with regional colleagues on the Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Steering Group to explore opportunities for joint commissions of provision and prevention campaigns.

Governance

The delivery of this strategy will be overseen through the Bury Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB), which in turn reports through to the Bury Community Safety Partnership. The Community Safety Partnership reports annually to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and given domestic violence is a central part to one of the CSP's core priorities, information in relation to Safe Accommodation will be included within this.

Whilst this is a three year strategy, there will be an annual review through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to consider tweaks in line with changes in demand and any updates to national guidance.

Safe Accommodation has been embedded as a standing item on the DAPB having already been specified within the Board's Terms of Reference.

Updates will be routinely provided into the Bury Homelessness Partnership and opportunities will be explored to maximise linkage into broader accommodation

relation partnership discussions beyond domestic abuse as part of developing further integrated approaches.

In addition routine updates will be tabled at the portfolio meetings of the Cabinet Members for Communities & Inclusion, and Housing.

The following set of measures are proposed to monitor progress against the strategy.

- Percentage decrease in risk level (as per DASH) for survivors accessing support within safe accommodation
- Percentage increase of housing providers who are DAHA accredited
- Percentage increase in referrals to DA services from housing settings
- Percentage of sanctuary support as part of homelessness prevention
- Percentage increase of staff reporting increase confidence in awareness and appropriate intervention
- Per cent increase in survivors who report they were able to access the right support at the right time
- Percentage of survivors accessing provision by protected characteristic more consistently reported
- Per cent increase provision to survivors (i.e. spaces available)
- Per cent reduction in declined referrals to safe accommodation due to lack of appropriate available provision
- Per cent increase in number of survivors who retain security of tenure as a result of seeking safety
- Per cent increase in survivors successfully maintaining settled accommodation

Appendix – Glossary

ABEN – A Bed Every Night
CPS – Crown Prosecution Service
CSEW – Crime Survey for England and Wales
DA – Domestic Abuse
DAPB – Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
DV – Domestic Violence
GM – Greater Manchester
IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
MARAC – Multi-agency risk assessment conference
NRPF – No Recourse to Public Funds
VCFSE – Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise

DRAFT

Agenda Item 9

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Non-Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Adult Social Care Performance Quarter Three Report 2024/25	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	

Summary

1. This is the Adult Social Care Department Quarter 3 Report for 2024-25. The report outlines delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, preparation for the new CQC Assessment regime for local authorities and provides an illustration and report on the department's performance framework.

Recommendation(s)

2. To note the report.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. N/A.

Alternative options considered and rejected.

4. N/A.

Report Author and Contact Details:
Name: Adrian Crook
Position: Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning
Department: Health and Adult Care
E-mail: a.crook@bury.gov.uk

Background

5. This is the Adult Social Care Department Performance Report covering Quarter 3 of 2024-25.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

6. The Adult Social Care is Department is committed to delivering the Bury 'LETS' (Local, Enterprising, Together, Strengths) strategy for our citizens and our workforce.

   Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support by connecting people with universal services in their local communities.

   For those eligible to access social care services, we provide assessment and support planning and where required provide services close to home delivered by local care providers.

We aim to have effective and innovative services and are enterprising in the commissioning and delivery of care and support services.

We work together with our partners but most importantly together with our residents where our intervention emphasises building on individual's strengths and promoting independence.

We ensure that local people have choice and control over the care and support they receive, and that they are encouraged to consider creative and innovative ways to meet their needs. We also undertake our statutory duties to safeguard the most vulnerable members of our communities and minimise the risks of abuse and exploitation.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

7. In delivering their Care Act functions, local authorities should take action to achieve equity of experience and outcomes for all individuals, groups and communities in their areas; they are required to have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equalities Act 2010) in the way they do carry out their work. The Directorate intends to drive forward its approach to equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring that equality monitoring information is routinely gathered, and consider how a realistic set of S/M/L-term objectives may help to focus effort and capacity.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

8. N/A

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
N/A.	N/A.

Legal Implications:

9. This report demonstrates the Council's preparation for the new CQC inspection regime, its Care Act 2014 statutory duties and the strategic plan for Adult Social Care. This report demonstrates adherence to the law.

Financial Implications:

10. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Appendices:

Appendix - Data sources and what good looks like.

Background papers:

Adult Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning	
CQC	Care Quality Commission	

Adult Social Care Performance Report for Quarter Three, 2024/25

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1. Quarter 3 saw some great moves forward with the department's objectives in its business plan as we saw waiting lists reduced further, now down to no more than 62 people waiting with a slight increase in the number of days of the waiting. This measure will be subject to fluctuation as demand ebbs and flows.

1.2. We saw great improvement in the number of people trained in the progression model which is now converting into users of our learning disability services having new care and support plans. The progression model really concentrates on maximising the independence of our residents living with learning disabilities through very small achievable steps and personalised goals. It's great to hear and see so many more people benefiting from it.

1.3. Overall, the service remained busy over the quarter with the number of assessments and number of reviews remaining high.

1.4. The numbers of people receiving services continues to grow but at a slower rate than the number of assessments and reviews we are completing. This shows that our strength-based approach and use of intermediate care services is helping to manage demand for new services.

1.5. Quarter 3 was a little bit of a disappointing month for our intermediate care services as they struggled with the number of dependent people they were supporting and a few people requiring rehousing. This slows down the flow through the services which in turn reduces the number of people that can be supported. We expect this to return to normal in quarter 4 having now discharged the people who have been taking up this space. I am pleased to report that this did not have an impact on the hospital though as we purchased services from the independent sector to mitigate this.

1.6. I do want to draw your attention to the fantastic performance of the rapid response hospital at home service which you can see in section 4.5. The hospital at home service is now really embedding well and every single day of the week supporting between 60 and 70 people who would otherwise be in hospital.

1.7. A new chart has been added to the quality of our care services section where you can now see our position as regards the quality of our care home beds compared to all the other local authorities in England. I'm pleased to report that we're currently 12th highest for the quality of our care home beds in the whole of England

1.8. Finally, one of our obsessions that we are really concentrating on is collecting feedback from people who use our services, our care services but also our social work services. It's important we do this to understand what we can do to improve further and the numbers able to provide feedback is beginning to increase rapidly. A couple of those comments are included at the end of the report about our safeguarding team.

2.0 Delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan

2.1 Adult Social Care are committed to delivering the Bury 'LETS' (Local, Enterprising, Together, Strengths) strategy for our citizens and our workforce. Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support.

2.2 The Adult Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-26 sets out the Department's roles and responsibilities on behalf of Bury Council. It explains who we are, what we do, how we work as an equal partner in our integrated health and social care system and identifies our priorities for the next three years:

2.3 To build a health and social care system which will sustain our communities in the coming years within the funding available to us we need to look at providing support in different ways. Our journey over the next 3 years will be one of improvement and transformation, with the development of clear assurance mechanisms to enable transparency and accountability to the communities we serve. As we explore what social care delivery will look like 3 years from now, we will ensure that people who receive our support and their carers are at the heart of co-producing our social care delivery model and that their voice is central as we navigate through the financial and systemic changes we must make. The need for a new strategic priority to 'connect unpaid carers to quality support services' has been identified alongside the preparation of a new carers strategy in 2024/25 and progress will be included in future quarterly reports.

2.4 The 2023-26 Strategic Plan includes an annual delivery plan to deliver the service priorities, this is monitored on a quarterly basis. Quarter 3 highlights include:

Priority 1 – Transforming Learning Disabilities

- A forum for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Providers was held.
- A gap analysis of the Autism Act was completed to inform the development of a strategy

Priority 2 – Delivering Excellence in Social Work

- A new Principal Social Worker for Adult Social Care (Emma Massey) joined the organisation.
- An updated workforce delivery plan was prepared.

Priority 3 – Superb Intermediate Care

- Reablement capacity and demand has been reviewed leading to a business care for increased capacity.

Priority 4– Making Safeguarding Everybody's Business

- Review of multi-agency MARM protocol completed.
- Safeguarding Adults Board learning and development session on the Mental Capacity Act delivered.

Priority 5– A Local and Enterprising Care Market

- Draft Dementia Strategy prepared for IDC Board in January 2025.
- Specification for Provider Workforce Support Offer being developed alongside Persona with a view to them picking up the Workforce Support Offer via the TECKAL agreement.

Priority 6 – Connect Unpaid Carers to Quality Support Services

- Cabinet report prepared for February 2025 to approve implementation of new Carers' strategy and commissioning intentions.
- Recruitment taking place for N-Compass to mobilise the Accelerated Reform Fund project to connect carers to services who are discharged.

3.0 Update on Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assessment of Local Authorities

3.1 Since the CQC finalised its assessment guidance for local authorities in December 2023, it has now published 22 completed assessment reports (Local authority assessment reports - Care Quality Commission) as it works towards assessments of all 153 councils over two years. The CQC has indicated that the remaining local authorities will be notified of their assessment between March and September. No local authorities in Greater Manchester had been contacted at the time of writing.

3.2 Local progress in terms of CQC Assessment readiness activity includes:

- A CQC Information Return has been compiled.
- A Self-Assessment of Adult Social Care in Bury has been prepared.
- Local key contacts for the CQC for the site visit have been confirmed.
- A 'Getting the Call' plan for pre-assessment site visit planning is in place.
- Commissioning of an LGA Peer Review to take place in February 2025 and we look forward to sharing the results of this review in the Q4 report.

4.0 Highlight Report for Quarter 3, 2024/25

Adult Social Care - Quarterly Highlight Report - Quarter 3

Obsessions	Performance Measures	Frequency	Polarity	Sparkline	Lastest Data	Direction of Travel	Rank (higher is better) CIPFA (16) 22/23	Rank (higher is better) NW (24) Q2 24/25	Rank (lower is better) GM (10) Q3 24/25
Reduce the number of people waiting for a social work needs assessment	Number of people on waiting list for ASC needs assessment	Q	L		62	✓			2
	Median number of days waiting for an ASC needs assessment	Q	L		41	✗			6
Increase the number of people who have their safeguarding outcomes partially or fully met	Proportion of people that were asked about their outcomes	Q	H		89%	✓		11	
	Of those who expressed outcomes the proportion of people who have their safeguarding outcomes fully or partially met	Q	H		96%	✓		7	
Increase the number of people leaving intermediate care services independently	The proportion of people who received short-term services during the year where no further request was made for ongoing support	Q	H		85%	✗	8	8	
	The proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital	A	H		86%	✗	8		
Increase the number of people with a learning disability who are provided with the opportunity to live more independently	Number of people trained in the progression model	A	H		58	✓			
	Number of customers who have had an assessment or review using the progression model	A	H		285	✓			
Increase the number of people accessing care and support information and advice that promotes people's wellbeing and independence.	The proportion of people and carers who use services who have found it easy to find information about services and/or support	A	H		66%	✓	11		
	The proportion of people who use services, who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like	A	H		46%	✓			
Increase the number of people with lived experience who provide feedback	*Number of feedback provided*	Q	H		115	✓			
Increase the number of unpaid carers identified	Total number of new carers registered with Bury Carers' Hub	Q	H		98	✓			

Annual Measures: ASCOF 23/24
Quarterly Measures: updated Q3 24/25

The Department has adopted an outcome-based accountability framework to monitor performance and drive improvement. Several outcomes have been chosen that will change if the objectives of our strategic plan are met, we call these our obsessions. An obsession is a key part of an outcome-based accountability framework where focus on these areas have positive knock-on effects right across our areas of work

In Q3 we have sustained improvements in waiting lists and the days waiting only increased very slightly. These measures will be subject to small variations as demand ebbs and flows and is not consistent

Safeguarding outcomes continue to be strong, and further detail is available later in this report,

Quarter 3 showed a very small dip in the numbers of people leaving our short-term services independent at 86% but this continues to be above the England average of 83%

One of our priorities is transforming learning disability services by implementing the progression model throughout our services that support people with learning disabilities. A "progression model" for learning disabilities refers to a framework that focuses on maximizing independence for individuals with learning disabilities by providing tailored support to gradually develop life skills, allowing them to progress towards greater autonomy in their daily lives, often through small, achievable steps and personalized goals based on their individual strengths and needs; it emphasizes a focus on increasing independence rather than relying on long-term care services.

So far, we have trained 58 social workers and care providers in this new model and 285 of our learning disability users have benefited from this new model of care and support planning.

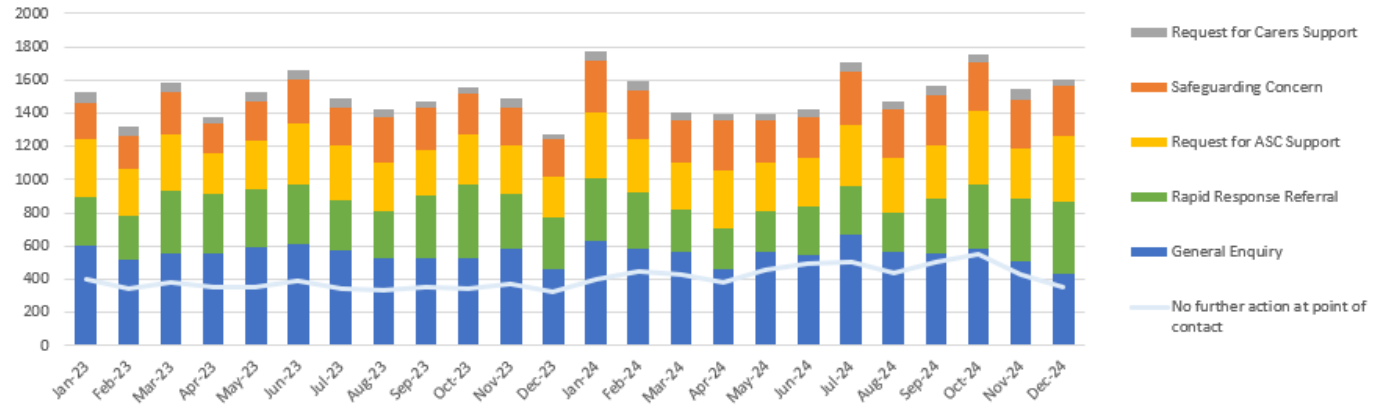
Improving the number of people accessing information is only collected annually as part of a national survey so this number will not change regularly, however to ensure we can improve this we have been developing the council intranet and internet sites which should be ready for publishing on the world wide web in Q4.

Our efforts to collect feedback from our users continues to embed and we are now collecting it regularly as part of our quality assurance processes for care services and case files audits. So far 115 people have provided feedback which will be used to inform the development of our services and service plans for 25/26. Some feedback received about our safeguarding team is found at the end of this report.

4.1 Contacts

The primary means of public contact to request support, information and advice is through our care, connect and direct office (CAD). A higher proportion of contacts resolved by CAD means that people's enquiries are being dealt with straightaway and not passed on to other teams.

Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Contact Forms recorded each month.



How does Bury Compare?

Contacts by Outcome | November 2024

	Safeguarding adults	Deprivation of liberty safeguards	Link to existing case	Progress to new case	Resolved at contact - equipment / adaptations /telecare to be provided	Resolved at contact - other	Unknown
Bolton	2.4%	6.2%	21.2%	21.3%	29.3%	19.7%	
Bury	20.8%	3.4%	6.0%	34.8%		26.9%	8.2%
Manchester	13.0%	7.2%	40.6%	14.7%	0.8%	23.7%	0.0%
Oldham	12.8%		0.6%	30.2%		56.4%	
Rochdale				28.7%	35.4%	36.0%	
Salford			69.9%			30.1%	
Stockport	14.6%	11.2%	22.6%	25.7%	5.4%	20.6%	
Tameside	29.4%		11.6%	32.0%		27.0%	
Trafford	4.1%	8.2%	41.5%	12.4%		32.4%	1.4%
Wigan	23.4%	10.7%	30.2%	18.1%	0.0%	17.6%	

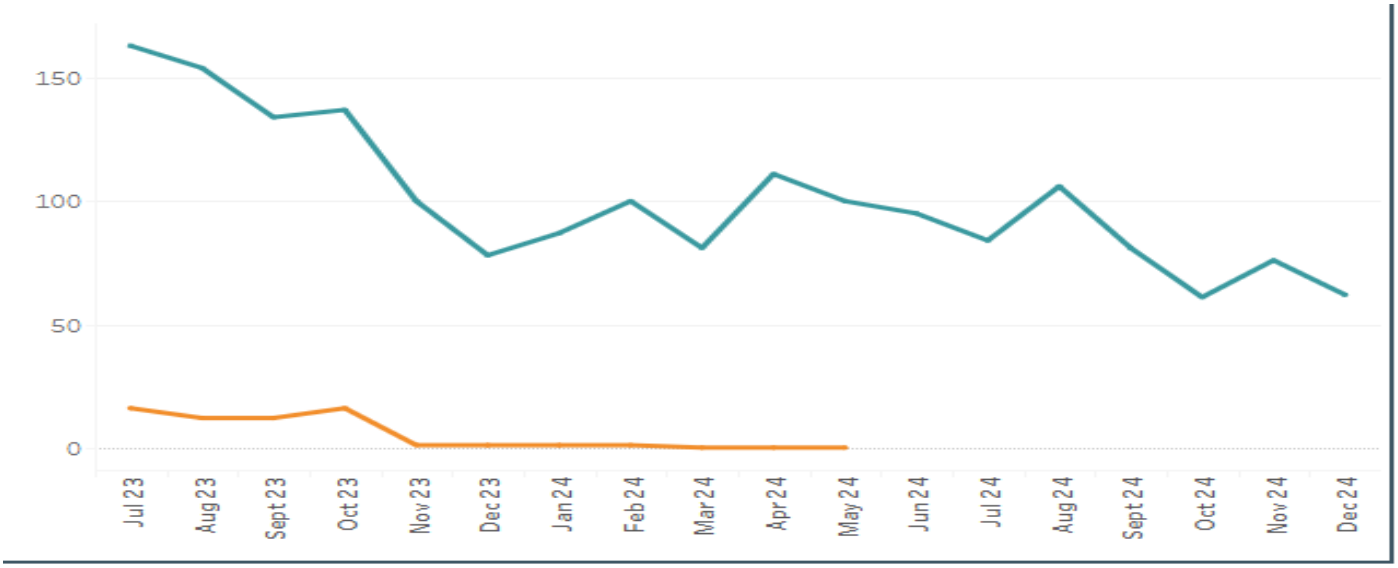
Contacts – Q3 commentary

This shows the number of contacts the department receive each month and what they were about. It also illustrates the number resolved by our contact centre.

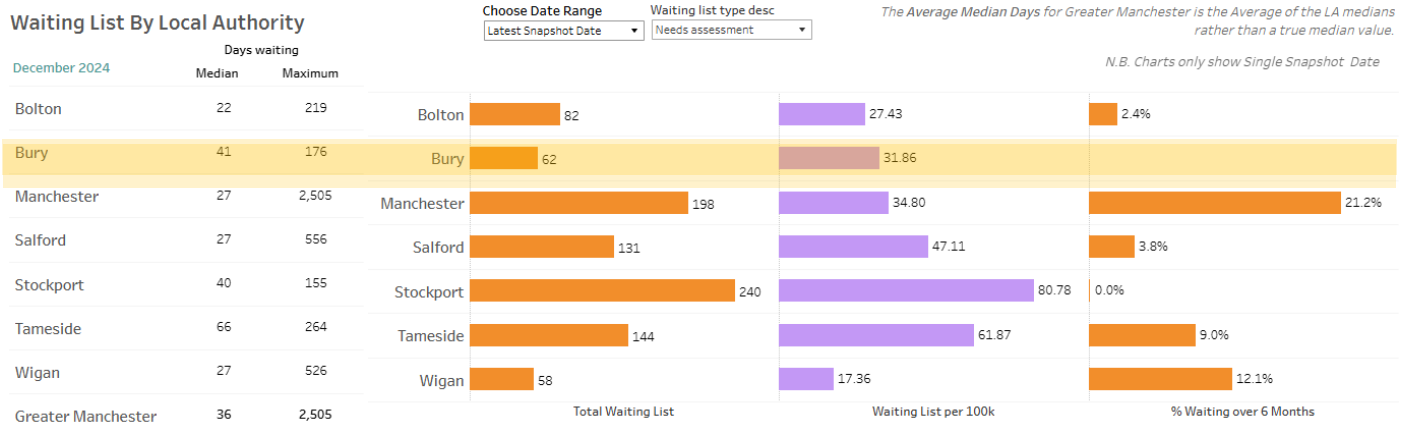
Q3 showed volumes returning to busier levels. October peaked and activity returned to average levels during November and December. It is anticipated that activity increases heading into the new year with January traditionally being the most active month for all contacts.

4.2 Waiting Times for Assessments and Reviews

People awaiting an assessment or review of their needs by social workers, occupational therapists, or deprivation of liberty safeguards assessors. Reduced waiting times lead to improved outcomes for people because they are receiving a timelier intervention.



How does Bury Compare?



Waiting list – Q3 commentary

Progress continues to be made in reducing the numbers of people awaiting allocation for Care Act assessment through our targeted initiatives under the oversight of the Performance and Improvement Board, with the number waiting to see a social worker down to 62 at the end of December.

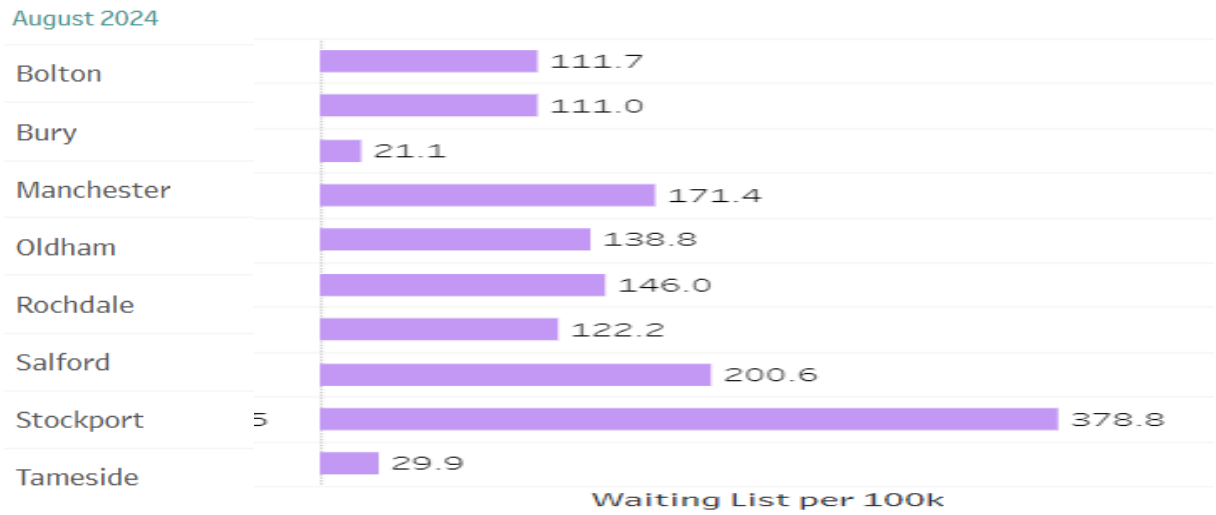
We remain in a strong position within Greater Manchester for our position on cases awaiting allocation and work continues to develop a published protocol for those awaiting allocation, this

will provide assurance that the reducing number of people awaiting assessment are 'waiting well' and any risks are mitigated.

The application of data driven strategies overseen by robust governance along with our lowest vacancy rates in social work for the past 2 years has enabled a continued and concerted effort towards further reductions in waiting times. We have continued to expand social work capacity through successful recruitment with currently our lowest vacancy rate for the last 2 years.

Efforts continue to focus on reducing the number of people waiting for Occupational Therapy assessments and we have invested in 2 additional therapists to combat these waits which is beginning to have some impact. Reaching a high of 387 people in August 2024 this extra capacity as seen the numbers waiting reduce to 267 in December

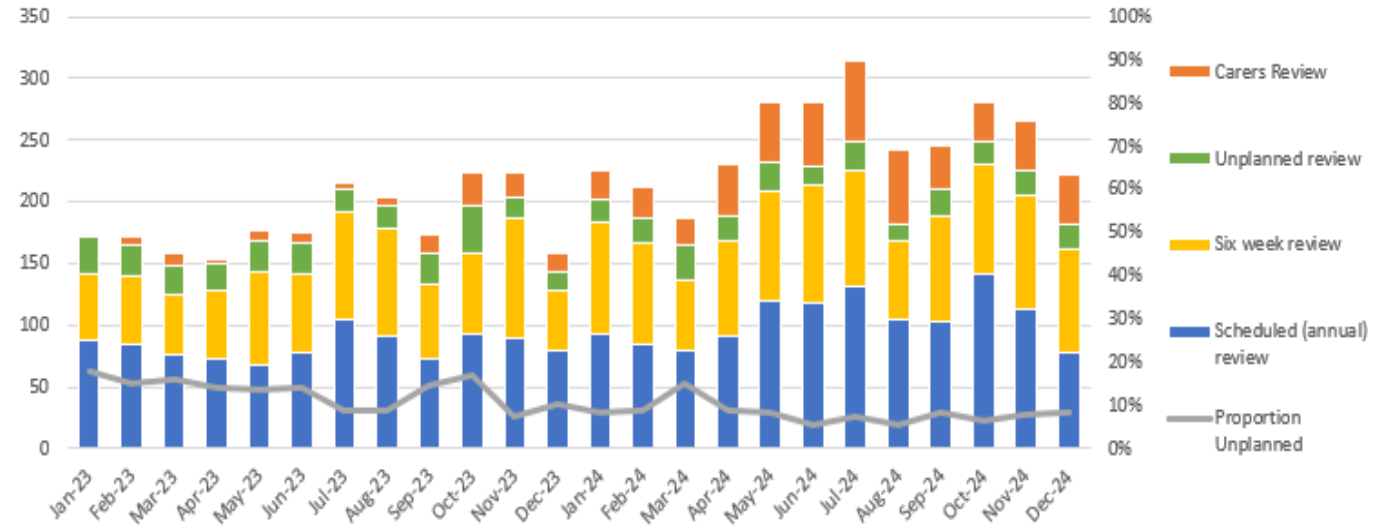
Whilst too high this use to be like other areas in Greater Manchester, it is now in the lowest 3.



4.3 Reviews

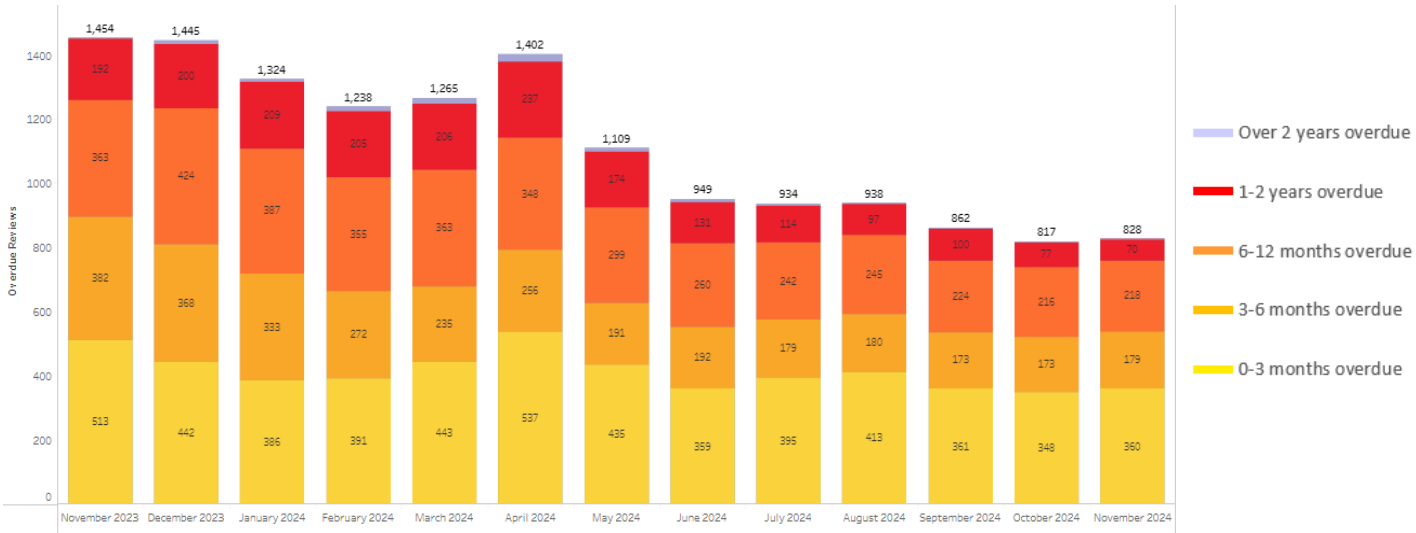
Adult Social Care reviews are a re-assessment of a person's support needs to make sure that they are getting the right support to meet their needs. Needs may change over time, and new services and technology may give someone more independence and improve their wellbeing. A lower proportion of unplanned reviews means that people are support through scheduled reviews of their support needs rather than when a significant event has occurred requiring a change in support. Support packages should be reviewed every 12 months. It is important to note that it not just the adult social care reviewing team who undertake reviews, however, most of the planned review activity is completed by this team.

Number of Adult Social Care Reviews Completed each month.



Note - the % axis references the grey line which is the proportion of unplanned reviews.

Number of Overdue Adult Social Care Reviews on the last day of each month



Reviews – Q3 commentary

This shows the number of people who have had a review of their care and support and those who are overdue an annual review. All the 3000+ people receiving long term services should receive an annual review each year and those new or in short term services should receive an initial review in the first 6 to 8 weeks of service commencing.

A review is an opportunity to ensure someone's care and support is meeting their assessed needs and their support is personalised to them. It is also an opportunity to ensure care is not resulting in dependence and provides an opportunity to reduce care to increase a person's independence. This also releases care back into the market to be used by others.

At the end of Q3 820 people are overdue a review. This is a significant reduction compared to the position 12 months ago when the average number of overdue reviews was 1450, and notable progress when compared to the average number of overdue reviews when compared to the Q2 24/25 average of 911 overdue reviews.

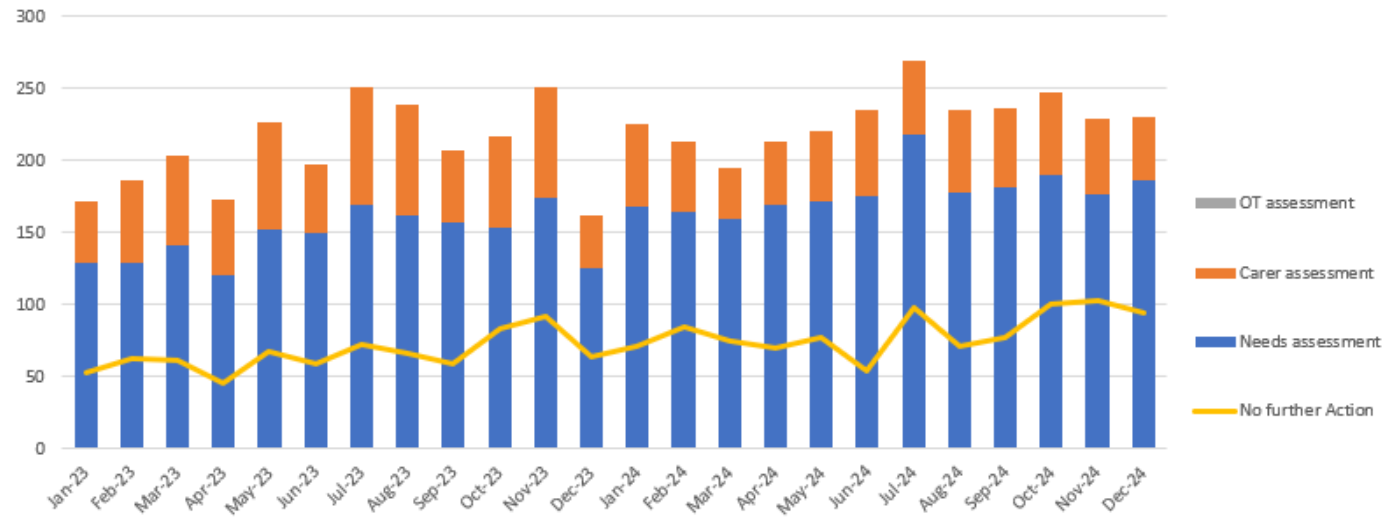
This is significant progress when compared to the position 6-12 months ago and is down to several factors, including: the expanded adult social care reviewing team continuing to be fully staffed, as well as a continued push on data quality across the system and ensuring that reviews are not incorrectly showing as overdue. The graphs also reflect the extra efforts which have been taken to target carers reviews, with the reviewing team now being in a position where all carers' reviews identified as due to become overdue in a particular month are allocated across the team at the beginning of the month, meaning that all unpaid carers are reviewed yearly. Identifying and supporting unpaid carers is a departmental target and we have achieved our target set out in Q1 of being in a position where unpaid carers are now no longer overdue their reviews. At present, the team are now maintaining this position.

This is a very positive achievement for the department and further demonstrates where adopting an obsession drives positive performance.

4.4 Assessments

Local Authorities have a duty to conduct an assessment of anyone who appears to have needs for care and support, regardless of whether those needs are likely to be eligible. The focus of the assessment is on the person's needs, how they impact on their wellbeing, and the outcomes they want to achieve. Assessments where there was no further action are where there were no eligible needs identified or a person with eligible needs declined services. A lower number means that operation teams can focus their time on those people with identified needs.

Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Assessments Completed each month.



Assessments – Q3 commentary

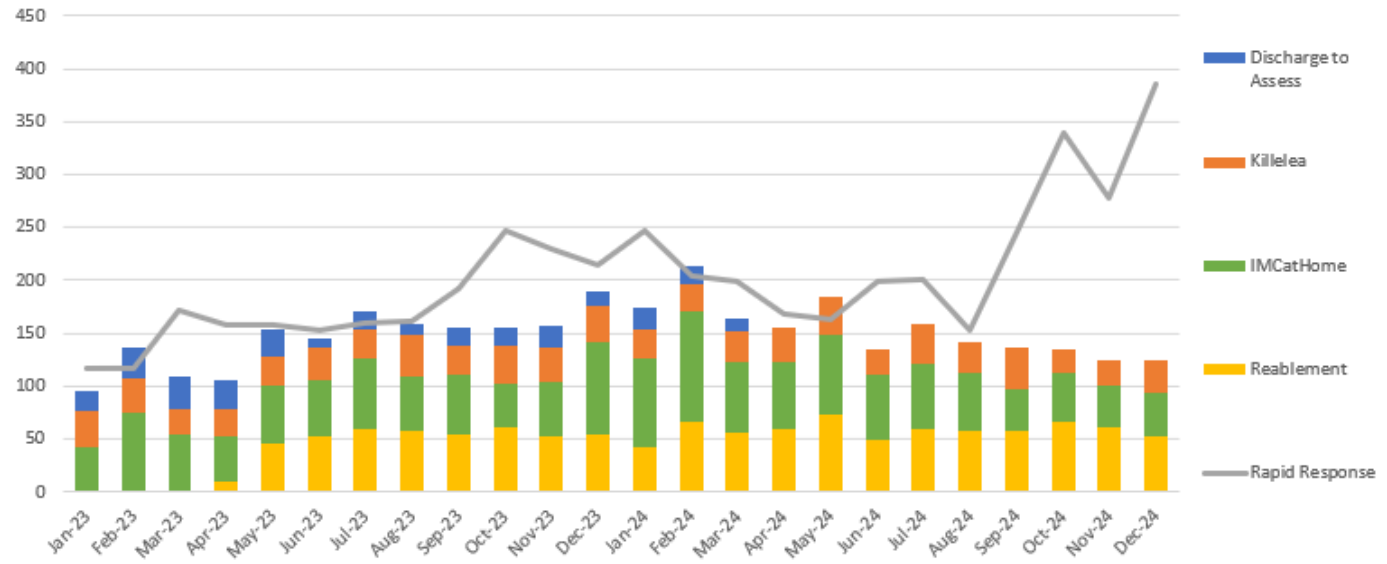
High demand for assessments continues to be a challenge with average monthly numbers being over 250 compared to just over 150 2 years ago. To address this, the department continues to focus on optimising workflows through the implementation of the short-term assessment to enable proportionate assessment in urgent cases and maintained a focus on caseload reviews to ensure workflow. additional resources strategically.

The focus on efficiency and workforce capacity has resulted in a stable assessment completion rate, with the time taken to complete assessments improving compared to the Greater Manchester (GM) average. Moving forward, the department will continue to monitor demand and make necessary adjustments to staffing and processes to ensure that the high standards of service are maintained.

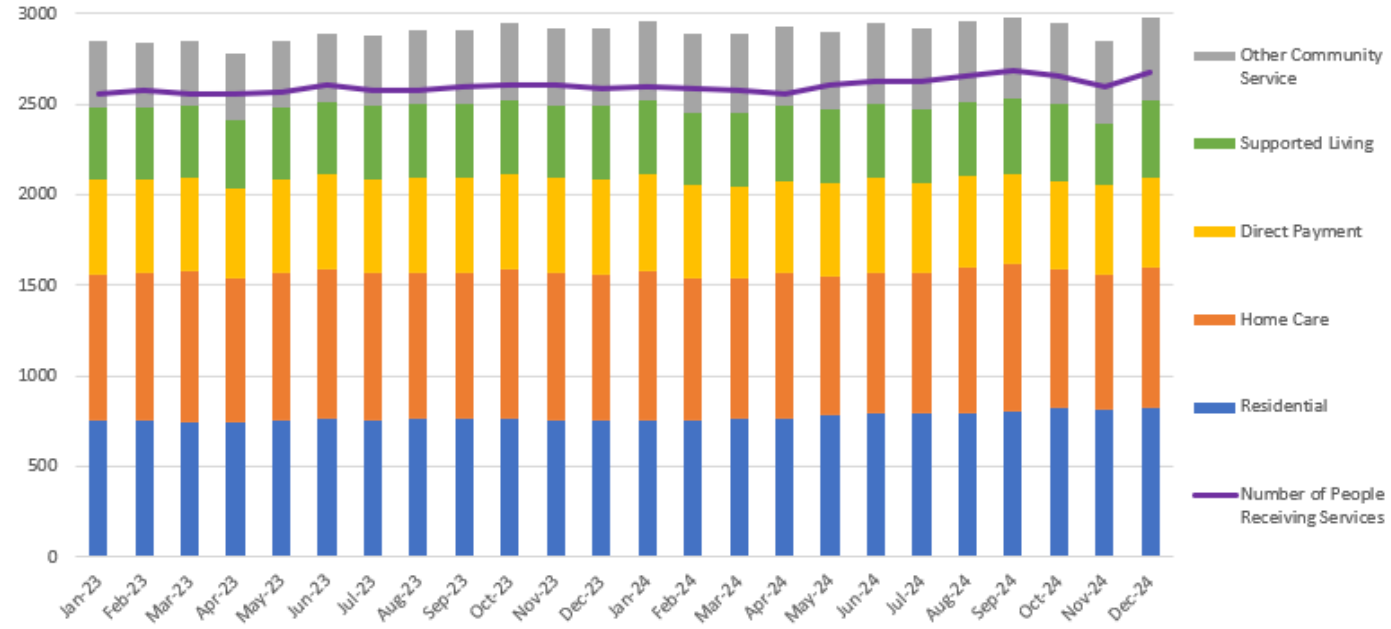
4.5 Services

Adult Social Care services may be short-term or long-term. Short-term care refers to support that is time-limited with the intention of regaining or maximising the independence of the individual so there is no need for ongoing support. Long-term care is provided for people with complex and ongoing needs either in the community or accommodation such as a nursing home. It is preferable to support people in their own homes for as long as it is safe to do so.

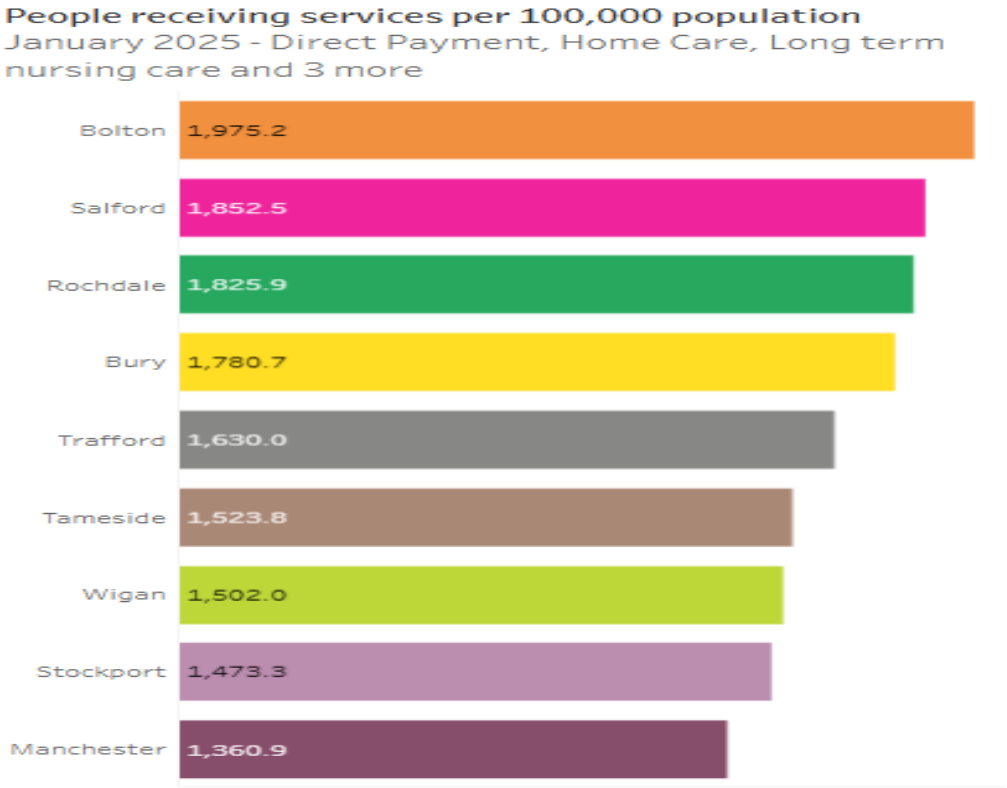
Number of Intermediate Care (short-term) services completed each month.



Number of Long-term Adult Social Care services open on the 1st of each month.



How does Bury Compare?



Services – Q3 commentary

This shows the number of people we support in our various service types.

The first chart shows the number of people supported in our intermediate care services. These services aim to prevent, reduce, and delay the need for long term care and support so the busier they are the better.

There have been a reduced number of people through Killelea due to the high acuity over the winter months (quarter 3), on top of increased homeless people and people requiring 24-hour care, this slows down the flow and reduces the number of people who can benefit. It is envisaged this number will increase in quarter 4 as significant work has taken place with the acute hospital trusts and the housing department to resolve these issues. Whilst a drop in flow through our intermediate care services is concerning it did not impact on flow out of the hospital as the department purchased alternative capacity from the independent sector to mitigate this.

Although the majority of services have remained stable you will see from the graph that Rapid Response activity has significantly increased again. This is caused by the increasing success of the hospital at home service continuing to support even more people and avoiding hospital admissions, thus maintaining people in the community ensuring they do not escalate to require ongoing Social Care services, whilst also recovering at a much quicker rate.

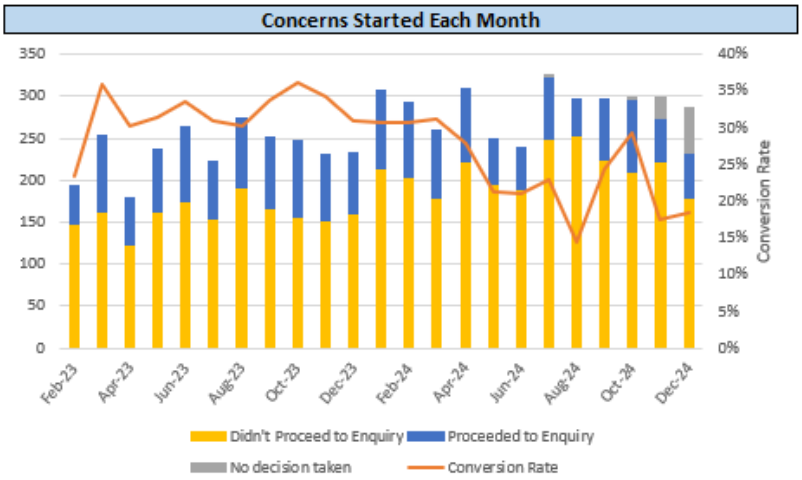
Overall service use is shown in the second and third charts which shows service use increasing but at a slow and steady rate despite the increase in assessments taking place, this demonstrates the effectiveness of our services that support people to maintain or regain their independence.

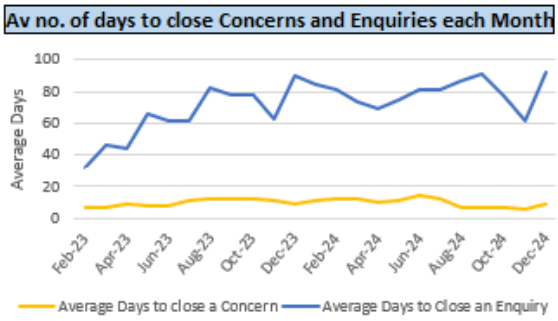
4.6 Safeguarding

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working **together** to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Open Safeguarding Enquiries

	Number	*Av. Days*	*Max Days*
ACS Safeguarding Team	115	93	539
Hospital Social Work Team	1	32	32
Learning Disability Team	13	55	124
OPMHT	2	127	165
Community Mental Health Tea			
Strategic Adults Safeguarding T			
Operation Crawton			
Total	**131**	**98**	**827**





Active DoLS Requests

	Urgent	*Standard*	*Total*
Waiting for Assessment		55	55
Processing		8	8
Total		**63**	**63**

How does Bury Compare?

Metric	Bury	Rank in Northwest (out of 22)
Conversion Rate	16%	5th
Making Safeguarding Personal – Asked	90%	6th
Making Safeguarding Personal - Outcomes	94%	10th

Last Updated: Q2 2024/25

Safeguarding – Q3 commentary

A continuing picture of good performance for Bury Adult Safeguarding. Last quarter we saw a marked increase in asking people their outcomes and either fully or partially achieving those outcomes. This has continued in practice with outcomes being asked in 89% of cases and 96% of these cases having their outcomes met or partially met. It is unlikely that we will ever meet everybody's outcomes all the time. However, we continue to be happy with this level of outcome data.

The conversion rate as stated in the chart has dropped to 16% which again shows a fall in conversions to S.42 enquiries. We reviewed this change and discovered that some changes needed to be made to the way our social workers were managing the safeguarding on duty (they were

starting the enquiry work at the screening stage). We also believe that within the service some old S.42 enquiries were closed which has skewed the data; we are following this up with our business intelligence team. Currently, our conversion rate is back up to 25% which is within what our head of adult safeguarding perceives as normal parameters. This will be shown in the Q4 data.

We have moved up in the last 12 months at a regional level in Making Safeguarding Personal. Now we are in the top 10 local authorities in the Northwest, and there is potential as new data is collected and collated that this will improve further. We are now also 6th in the region in asking people their outcomes showing that we are focusing on our obsessions.

S.42 enquiry length times have remained consistent over the last quarter and is showing a good picture. This is partially due to reviewing how allocations have been taking place and focusing the front-line staff in completion of paperwork where the risk has already been managed. We continue to undertake reflective sessions, the next booked for March which will focus on our duty system and screening safeguarding concerns to further embed the learning and need for a solid conversation rate. We also continue to promote a shared risk culture within the safeguarding service. This has potentially, and by design, allowed more positive risk management on safeguarding outcomes.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) continues to perform well with no concerns from a supervisory body perspective. We are reviewing how to implement the test for change of our internal best interest assessors in the upcoming months.

4.7 Complaints and Compliments

Complaints

Period 2024/25	Number of complaints received	Decision			20 working day timescale	
		Upheld	Partially Upheld	Not Upheld	Within	Outside
Q3	22	4	9	6	11	8

2 complaints closed / 1 complaint withdrawn

Compliments

Period 2024/25	Number of compliments received	Source		
		Person receiving or had received services	Relative of person receiving or had received services	Other (incl. various survey responses/thank you cards)
Q3	233	11	27	195

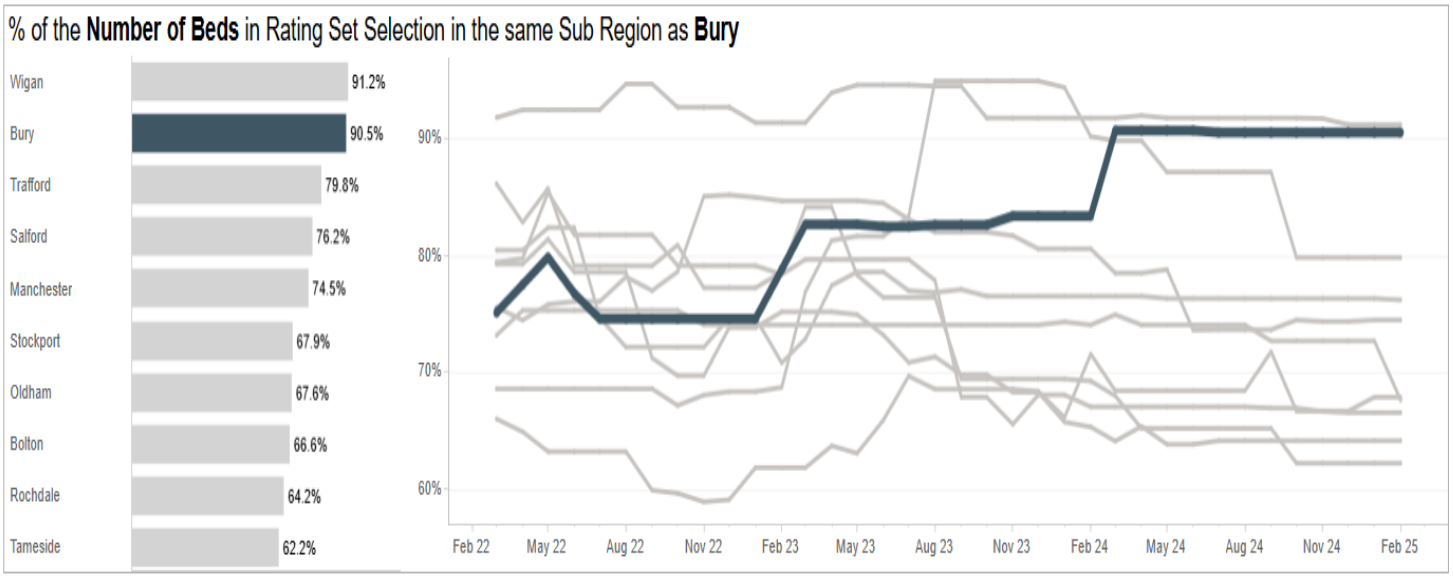
Complaints and Compliments – Q3 Commentary

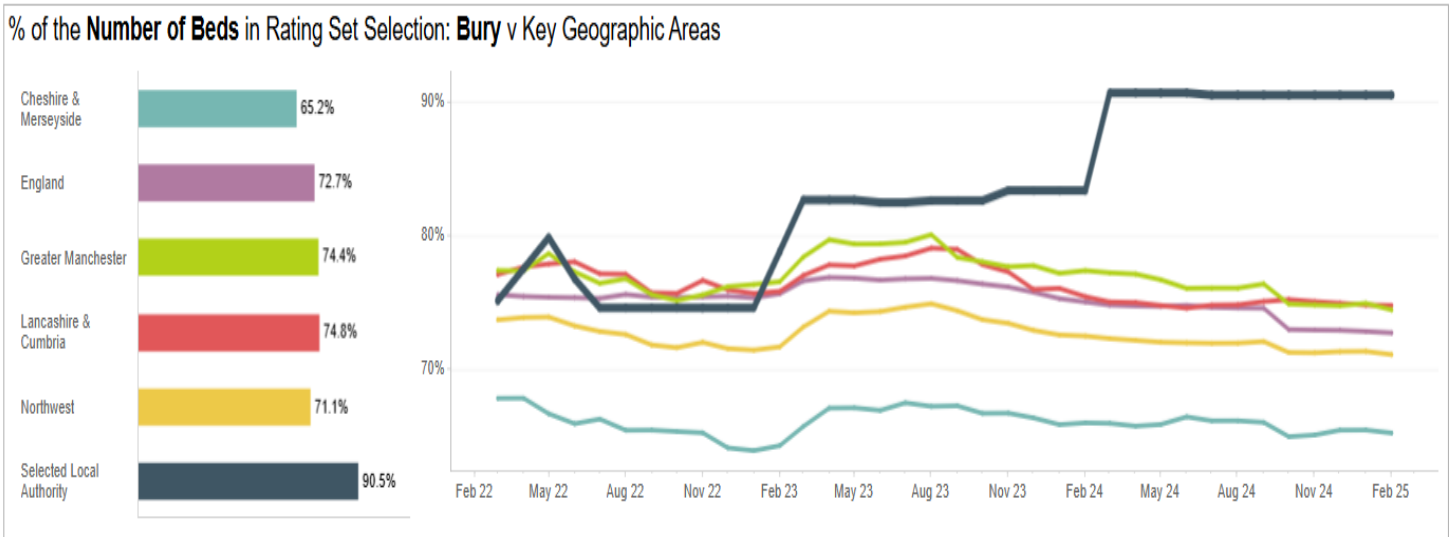
Complaints have shown a small increase from this time last year, 11 in Q3 2023/2024. Although there has been an increase it has not highlighted any areas of concern and appears to be in line with the extra assessment and review activity being undertaken by the department.

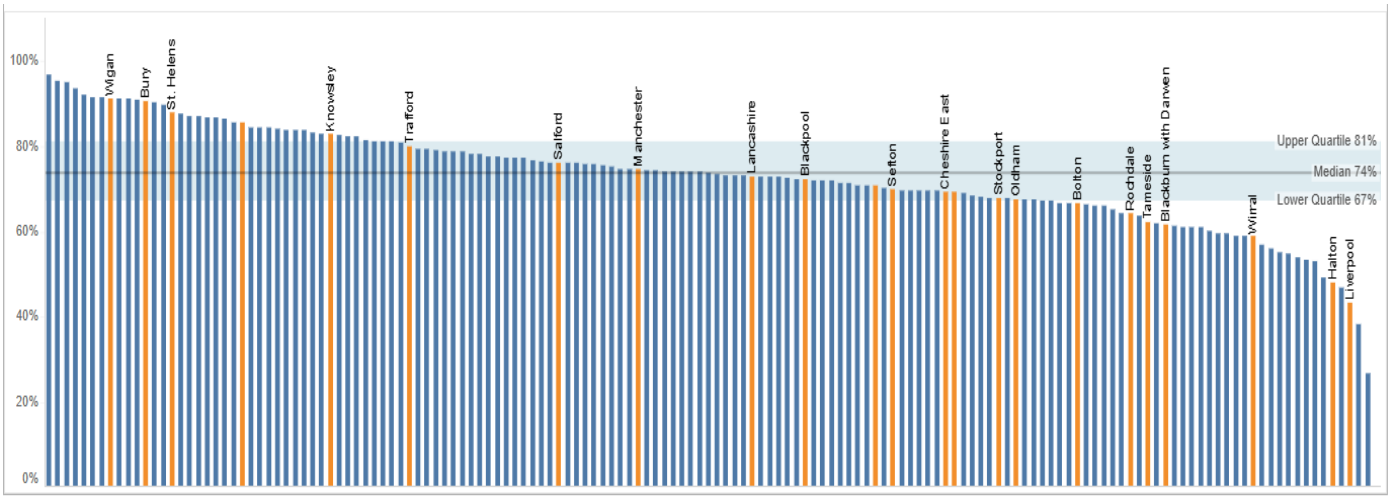
Compliments are showing an increase from this time last year, 185 in Q3 2023/2024. Managers are reminded and encouraged to record and share compliments received.

4.8 State of the Care Market

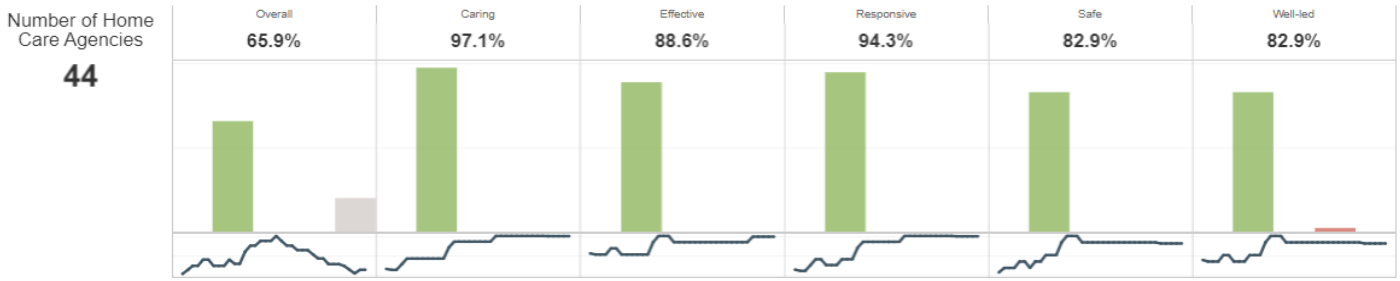
Number of care home beds rated good or outstanding.







Quality Ratings of Bury's Home Care Agencies



Last Updated: Q3 2024/25

State of the Care Market – Q3 commentary

The top charts show the quality ratings of care homes in Bury compared to the rest of Greater Manchester showing the % of beds rated good or outstanding. The second chart shows Bury, and in turn Great Manchester compared to the other regions in England and the Northwest. The third chart shows the % of care home beds rated Good or better across the whole of the country with Bury being at number 12

The final chart shows the rating of home care agencies operating in Bury. For both charts the nearer to 100% the better. The overall quality of our care homes continues to increase with Bury now joint 1st amongst its GM Neighbours and performing well above the England average and the average of all Northwest regions.

Bury is ranked 4th in GM for community providers including care at home and supported living, however, it should be noted that this takes into account all providers active in our locality. Of those providers that the Council commission

- All care at home providers rated Good or Outstanding
- Only one supported living provider rated Requires Improvement, the rest are Good or Outstanding.

4.9 Collecting Feedback

This year we have made collecting feedback on of our obsessions so that we can understand how we can make our services better for the people we serve

Here is some of that feedback collected about our safeguarding team recently.

"What you did today for us as a family shouldn't go unheralded…

Wow, what a fantastic response from your team and in particular yourself, to my hugely complex and upsetting correspondence over the phone in the past few days.

If you could pass on to your employers my direct thanks for your kindness and empathy towards my father.

In this, his time of need, I've been fighting against the tide of dementia and circumstances to get him to recognise his position and accept help.

What you did today for us as a family shouldn't go unheralded.

Thank you so much. I found everyone I spoke with to be hugely professional and both offering advice, a kind ear and impartiality .

I hope now [dad] will allow himself to accept the kindness and professional help he requires and deserves.

My faith in your services is certainly very high as a result of your actions in the past few days.

Thanks for being there for dad."

A concerned son

Much more trust, support and transparency…

A few years ago, if we sent a referral that met section 42 criteria, we were often pulled into a room taking half a day out of our job and made to sit round a desk with a load of professionals and basically had to explain ourselves like we were in court and made to feel like we've done something wrong. It could feel very intimidating for some providers.

The process now has improved significantly and in recent years there has been much more trust, support and transparency and importantly - feedback. Now the process typically involves a call or a visit from someone on the team where we have an honest and open conversation and are treated with respect. The staff are all approachable and the whole process is done in collaboration rather than feeling blamed for something.

Registered Manager, Gorsey Clough Care Home

Appendix - Data sources and what good looks like

Section	Chart	Data Source	What does good look like?
Contacts	Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Contact Forms recorded each month.	Contact Records in LiquidLogic: Contact Type Contact Outcome	Six Steps to Managing Demand in Adult Social Care: ≈ 25% of contacts go on to receive a full social care assessment.
	GM Comparison		
Waiting Lists	Waiting List Summary	Professional Involvement in LiquidLogic: Awaiting allocation work trays Brokerage Work trays Overdue Review Tasks DoLS data from the database.	Lower is better
	Needs and Carers Assessments: No of Cases Waiting for Allocation		
	GM Regional Comparison		
Assessments	Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Assessments Completed each month	Assessment forms in LiquidLogic	
	GM Regional Comparison	Av. number of days from the contact start date to the assessment end date	Lower is better
Services	Number of Intermediate Care (short-term) services completed each month	All IMC Service data from four data sources	
	Number of Long-term Adult Social Care services open on the 1st of each month.	Service data from Controcc Grouped by Service Type Count of service types, not people	
	Proportion of Home Care vs Nursing and Residential Care Services compared against 2 years ago		Lower Residential & Nursing Care is better
	Northwest Regional Comparison		
Reviews	Number of Adult Social Care Reviews Completed each month	Review forms completed in LiquidLogic	Higher number of completed reviews. Lower proportion of Unplanned reviews.
	Number of Overdue Adult Social Care Reviews on the last day of each month	Review Tasks in LiquidLogic past the due date	Lower is better
	Regional Comparison	As above	
Safeguarding	Percentage of people who have their safeguarding outcomes met	Completed safeguarding enquiries: Making Safeguarding Personal questions	Higher is better
	Outcomes were achieved		
	Open Safeguarding Enquiries	Safeguarding enquiry forms on LiquidLogic and CMHT/EIT spreadsheets	Target: Enquiries closed in 56 days or less
	Concerns Started Each Month	Contact Forms on LiquidLogic: form type safeguarding concerns	
	Average number of days to close Concerns and Enquiries each month	As above	Targets: Concerns closed in 3 days or less. Enquiries closed in 56 days or less
	Regional Comparison	As above	Higher is better

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 10

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	PART A – Contract for Mental Health Supported Living Scheme Topping Mill	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	

Summary

1. Following the Topping Mill Supported Living Cabinet report dated 7 November 2023, approval was given to the Community Commissioning Division to engage in a competitive procurement process to appoint a provider for the provision of mental health support at Topping Mill, Topping St, Bury, BL9 6DR. After review and procurement, this report requests the approval for the Division to award a contract to a care provider.

2. The mental health supported living scheme will provide high specification accommodation for 14 people (18+ years) in self-contained apartments with support 24/7 from a team of staff to support their mental health and individual goals.

Recommendation(s)

3. The recommendation is for Cabinet to:

   (a) Award **Rethink Mental Illness** a 3-year contract for the mental health supported living tender for the Topping Mill scheme.
   (b) Enter a 3-year arrangement (July 2025 to Jun 2028), with an option to extend for +1 year and +1 year, subject to performance and review.
   (c) Delegate finalisation and sealing of this contract, including any clarification, to the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director for Health and Care.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

4. The Bury Housing with Additional Needs Strategy and Market Position Statement analysed the existing provision of mental health supported accommodation services and predicted the growth needed to meet future demands. The Market Position Statement indicates that an extra 86 units of mental health supported accommodation is needed by 2025.

5. Our commissioning intentions are to increase the provision of self-contained supported accommodation and reduce the number of units offering shared supported accommodation. The proposed scheme at Topping Mill offers 'own front door' apartments.

6. The proposed model for Topping Mill will offer medium term support for up to 5 years, supporting people to develop person-centred recovery towards greater independent living. The scheme will improve wider system flow creating accommodation and support options for people who are clinically ready for discharge from hospital, the scheme will offer 24/7 supported living and will fill a deficit in local provision.

7. A competitive procurement process has been completed to identify the most suitable care provider for this new scheme.

Alternative options considered and rejected

8. The Public Procurement Contracts Regulations 2015 do not allow for light touch or direct award in this case.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Ahmed Ajmi
Position: Integrated Strategic Lead
Department: Health and Adult Social Care
E-mail: A.Ajmi@bury.gov.uk

Name: Jannine Robinson
Position: Commissioning Manager
Department: Community Commissioning
E-mail: jannine.robinson@bury.gov.uk

Background

9. Following approval of the Topping Mill Supported Living Report by Cabinet on 7 November 2023, the Community Commissioning Division has engaged in a competitive procurement process to appoint a care provider for the new mental health supported living scheme at Topping Mill.

10. Topping Mill was a former industrial mill constructed in the mid to late 1800s. The building was originally occupied by the confectioners Scott & Rosse before they vacated in the 1960s. The property has been vacant for several years. It is currently being re-developed by the St David Group, the building work commenced in 2024, with expected completion in June / July 2025. See Appendix 1 for photographs of the site.

11. The property will offer 14 self-contained apartments, 4 of which will be ground floor and fully accessible for disabled people, provide a staff space and residents communal lounge.

12. St David Group have agreed a 20-year FRI lease with a Registered Housing Provider, Inclusion Homes for the finished building. Inclusion Homes will provide the landlord and housing management function. The rent setting has

been agreed in principle by the Bury Council's Corporate Finance Department.

13. Bury Council will have 100% nomination rights in perpetuity for all 14 units. Whilst the nominations agreement is in perpetuity, it can be ended with notice as per the terms of the care provider contract.

14. Bury Council will contract the appointed care provider on a block arrangement for all 14 placements. It is anticipated the care contract will commence in July and people will start to move into the scheme in July / August 2025.

15. Part B of the report includes financial information.

Developing the Service Specification

16. A detailed service specification has been developed outlining the care provider requirements and this has been published with the tender documents.

17. The specification has been developed with mental health practitioners and people with living experience in mental health supported accommodation. Representatives from the Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) have formed a specialist supported accommodation group to advise on the property specification and the expected support needs of the cohort.

18. The principles of this service are:

- People are at the heart of the service.
- People are supported in safe quality accommodation to help them through their mental health recovery journey.
- The provider shall take a strengths-based approach, focused on enabling people to do as much as they can for themselves.
- Commissioners and the provider shall work collaboratively to secure the best outcomes for people; they should be outward looking, seek opportunities to learn from best practice and to continually improve.
- Providers will adhere to principles outlined in the Bury Housing with Additional Needs Strategy 2022-2025.

19. The service will support males and females, aged 18+, who are willing to engage in recovery, support will be provided to deliver positive outcomes:

- Improve their mental health and live happier healthier lives.
- Develop independent living skills to support the next stage of their recovery journey.
- Develop social skills and connect with others.
- Improve their physical health and wellbeing.

- Develop strategies to reduce the risk of a relapse in their mental health.
- Establish connections with the local community.
- Explore opportunities to access education, training, voluntary work or paid employment

20. The scheme will be staffed 24 hours a day, to provide the required level of support. It is anticipated that people will live in the scheme for up to a maximum of 5 years, so that people who require more sustained support for independent living, can have the best chance for future tenancy success, when they are ready to move into settled housing The care provider will support people to achieve personal move on goals to more independent living.

21. The service specification outlines a person centred, strengths-based approach and is flexible as needs change. This approach has been led by people with lived experience, to move away from rigid models with a fixed number of one-to-one support hours.

22. Bidders were invited to propose a service delivery model that underpins the principles of the service and delivers the outcomes. Rethink Mental Illness have proposed a strong recovery-focussed model that offers a breadth of support.

23. CMHT will identify people suitable for this new scheme, including people in hospital, people who need to step up from a lower level of care and people who are currently living out of borough and wish to return to Bury. Identification of people suitable for the scheme may be from other spaces too, such as the Health and Adult Care department. All allocaitions will be considered via the Living Options Group, which is facilitated by the Community Commissioning Division.

Procurement Process

24. The Invitation to Tender documents were published on The Chest on 10th February 2025 and with a deadline submission date of 12 March. Due to the high volume of clarification questions received, the submission deadline was extended until Monday 17 March. Submissions received by the deadline have been evaluated by a Panel, including commissioners and a mental health practitioner.

25. Submissions were evaluated against price and quality criteria, including service outcomes, service delivery, staffing, quality and performance and social value. The panel evaluated the bids individually and Procurement facilitated the moderating of the scores.

26. A high number of bids were received, clarification meetings were held on 25th March 2025 with the Panel.

27. Establishing a block contract for a scheme provides savings opportunities. The procurement process invited providers to submit costs for 14 units for 3 years with the option to extend for up to two periods of one year each. Spot purchasing individual care packages is notably more expensive, this approach offers savings for the Council and stability for the provider.

28. The financial information relating to this project is recorded in Part B.

Contract Monitoring

29. The Community Commissioning Division will work proactively with the appointed provider, quarterly reports will be submitted by the provider and monitoring will be ongoing to ensure high quality provision. Monitoring will also include a qualitative approach which 'tells the story' of people that have moved into the scheme and how their lives have been improved by the provision.

30. The Rethink Mental Illness is registered with the CQC and has over 25 registered services.

31. A performance framework will be developed and will focus on a range of areas, including outcomes achieved, duration of stay, modelling of staff hours, service feedback, safeguarding, leadership and complaints.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

32. The Housing for Adults with Additional Needs Strategy aligns to the Bury Let's Do It Strategy which provides the vision to enable people of all ages to live well within their neighbourhoods, supported by the integration of public services with our neighbourhood hubs. The procurement of mental health supported accommodation meets the aspirations of the Let's Strategy.

- **Local**
  - Local housing options for local people by providing accommodation for people with mental illness in Bury.
  - Developing and regenerating the unique townships where people live
  - Prevent the need for Bury residents to have to move out of the borough to have their needs met.
  - Bring Bury residents back in borough if its right for them.
  - Work with local developer's and providers who know the local area.

- **Enterprise**
  - Encouraging enterprise to drive inclusive economic growth through our business community.
  - Enterprising innovation and creative solutions to current housing issues, including a mixed housing portfolio.
  - Be bold in our housing solutions and future developments in Bury.

- **Together**
  - Working together to commission quality supported accommodation, fit for purpose homes for people with additional needs in Bury.
  - Working together with service users and their carers to shape accommodation options and positive move on.
  - Working together to ensure inclusivity throughout the housing agenda.

- **Strengths**
  - Taking a strength- based approach to recognise the assets and strengths of communities to settle people in their new homes.
  - Recognising the strengths of individuals enabling their independence, choice, and control for housing.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is here.*

An initial Equality Impact Assessment was completed in November 2023, a refreshed version is available as Appendix 2. The revised version has identified that this activity is likely to have a positive impact for several characteristics and circumstances with no negative impacts expected.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both **Carbon emissions** (contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and **Biodiversity** (contact c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk for advice)*

33. All 14 apartments will be delivered to an EPC 'B' rating, improving the overall energy efficiency of the building and future proofing the in line with the expected changes from central government around minimum EPC standards. In terms of biodiversity, bat boxes are to be installed upon completion of the build. There is no outside space for this property.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Increase in demand for mental health supported accommodation	The report considers existing provision and Housing with Additional Needs priority recommendations to ensure there is sufficient provision to meet the needs of local people.

Voids at the scheme placing financial risk on the authority	The risk is low as the demand is high in the borough for mental health accommodation. However, to mitigate the risk further, the Council has developed a Specialised Housing Allocation Policy and will monitor movement of tenants and utilisation. Also agreed to share 50% of the voids risk with the nominated care provider after 12 weeks of a void

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

The accommodation at Topping Hill forms a key part of the provision of accommodation for adults with social care needs arising from a mental health need which may be assessed as required under section 18 Care Act 2014.

In addition, the proposals support the reduction in delayed transfers of care from hospitals and the integration of health and social care services.

The procurement exercise was carried out in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as it was commenced prior to the Procurement Act 2023 coming into effect on 24th February 2025.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

34. The contract cost will be funded from the existing Adult Social Care Community Care Budget and will not require additional financial resource.

35. In addition to the Block contract provision offering better value for money than Spot placements for similar schemes it is likely that additional savings over and above the Cabinet agreed 2025/26 Health & Adult Care Directorate saving programme will be delivered by bringing 'out of borough' placements back into the borough of Bury.

36. As part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle, Finance, Commissioners and Social work teams will triangulate and track the expenditure and savings linked to the provision set out in this report ensuring that all expenditure aligns to the funding provided and savings are recorded and reported accurately.

37. Any financial risks/pressures identified will be highlighted to the Director of Adult Social Services as part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle whereby an action plan will be deployed to mitigate any financial risks/ pressures.

Appendices:

- 1. Photographs of Topping Mill in development
- 2. Equality Impact Assessment March 2025

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Bury Housing with Additional Needs Strategy

Bury Housing with Additional Needs Market Position Statement

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

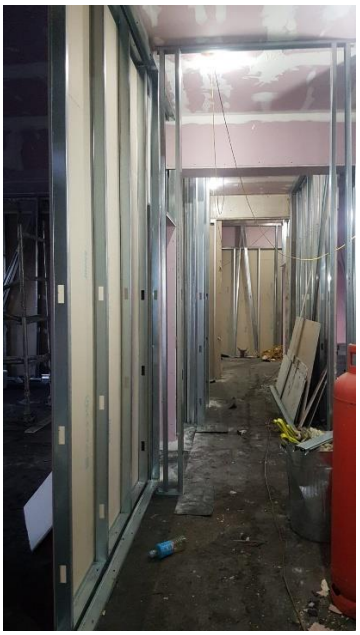
Term	Meaning
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
IHM	Intensive Housing Management
RP	Registered Housing Provider
CMHT	Community Mental Health Team

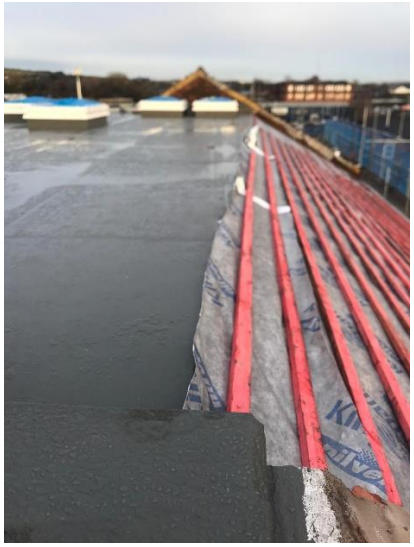
Progress- Developer Photographs for Topping Mill, Topping Street, Bury, BL9 6DR

Derelict mill

CGI of finished building

Development photographs





This page is intentionally left blank

EQUALITY ANALYSIS

This Equality Analysis considers the effect of Bury Council/ Bury NHS activity on different groups protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. This is to consider if there are any unintended consequences for some groups from key changes made by a public body and their contractor partners organisations and to consider if the activity will be fully effective for all protected groups. It involves using equality information and the results of engagement with protected groups and others, to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including any adverse impacts on those affected by the change under consideration.

SECTION 1 – RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY *Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 4*	
1.1 Name of policy/ project/ decision	Commissioning of Topping Mill- Mental Health Supported Living Scheme
1. 2 Lead for policy/ project/ decision	Adrian Crook, Director of Community Commissioning, Health & Social Care.
1.3 Committee/Board signing off policy/ project/ decision	Bury Council- Cabinet
1.4 Author of Equality Analysis	Name: Ahmed Ajmi Role: Integrated Commissioning Lead, Carers, Physical Disabilities & Prevention Contact details: A.Ajmi@bury.gov.uk
1.5 Date EA completed	17 March 2025

SECTION 2 – AIMS AND OUTCOMES OF POLICY / PROJECT *Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 5*	
2.1 Detail of policy/ decision being sought	Our Bury Plan for 2030 "Let's Do It" outlines the approach to our residents and partners, to address challenges like health inequalities and deprivation in Bury and learn from the changes and challenges arising from COVID-19 pandemic. The aim is to make sure everyone has the best possible life chances by developing: • A new relationship between public services and our residents which is based on co- design and accountability for shared decision making. We will work with you, not do to you.

	• A place-based shaping of public services that redefines local services and puts individuals, families, and communities at the heart of decision making. • An asset-based approach that recognises and builds on the strengths of individuals, families and our communities, rather than focusing on the deficits. • Behaviour change in communities that builds independence and supports residents to be in control. • A stronger prioritisation of wellbeing, prevention and early intervention. • An approach that supports the development of new investment and resourcing models, enabling collaboration with a wide range of organisations. • An evidence-led understanding of risk and impact to ensure the right intervention at the right time. The introduction of the Care Act 2014 provided an opportunity to bring together several existing laws, and introduced new duties to ensure that wellbeing, dignity and choice are at the heart of health and social care. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to promote the diversity and quality of local services, in order that there is a sufficient range of high-quality service providers to enable genuine choice for service users. The 2021 Adult Social Care White Paper *'People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform'* recognised the importance of housing in a person's health and wellbeing. Ensuring homes are suitable to meet a person's current and future needs, connecting people to a community where they choose to live, maintaining independence and providing choice of housing options whilst empowering individuals to live a fulfilling life is important. Bury Council- *Bury Adult Social Care Housing for those with Additional Needs Strategy* clearly states the needs for additional homes for people who have mental health needs. For people living with mental health conditions our ambition is to develop 6 new schemes between 2022 and 2025 delivering an additional circa 86 beds or units in Bury. This proposal for Topping Mill supported living for people with mental health needs offers an excellent opportunity to meet the target detailed in the strategy, scale up good quality homes for people and provide an environment that promotes independent living and a better quality of life.
2.2 What are the intended outcomes of this?	Topping Mill aligns to the Councils Housing for Adults with Additional Needs Strategy 2021-2025 and the vision for mental health supported accommodation to:

	• Improve outcomes for people with mental health needs. • Enable people to live independently. • Reduce the need for out of area residential placements. • Enable tenancy sustainment. • Support management of long-term health conditions. • Create employment for local people. • Create value for individuals, communities, and statutory services. • Reduce hospital admissions and / or reducing delayed transfers of care (DTOC) where people are fit for discharge but accommodation with appropriate support is the barrier.

SECTION 3 – ESTABLISHING RELEVANCE TO EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Refer to Equality Analysis guidance pages 5-8 and 11

Please outline the relevance of the activity/ policy to the Public Sector Equality Duty

General Public Sector Equality Duties	Relevance (Yes/No)	Rationale behind relevance decision
3.1 To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by Equality Act 2010	Yes	For people living with serious mental illness, housing can be a critical factor in helping people to live as independently as possible, while also accessing the support they need to live in local communities. Settled housing is known to have a positive impact on mental health. Mental ill health is frequently cited as a reason for tenancy breakdown, with housing problems frequently referenced as a reason for someone being admitted or re-admitted to inpatient care. There are significant delays in discharging patients who are medically well, with one of the key reasons being a lack of appropriate housing or accommodation post discharge. The total number of days of delays to discharge from mental health services linked to housing was 4,286 in April 2021 and has continued to increase over the year. In January 2022, the number stood at an increase of 59 per cent. **(NHS Digital, Mental Health Services Data Set**

		(MHSDS), [online], accessed 25 April 2022, https://digital.nhs.uk/dataand-information/data-collections-and-data-sets/data-sets/ mental-health-services-data-set Safe and secure housing is critical in enabling people to work and take part in community life. Many people with a mental health issue can live independently in their own home. As Bury Council, we need to provide a range of options and support to maintain this. Lack of housing can impede access to treatment, recovery and militate against social inclusion. Delayed discharge because of difficulties with housing is both common and persistent. Housing has become recognised as a central part of an effective recovery pathway, as well as a key element in preventing ill health and reducing the need for inpatient care. It provides the basis for individuals to recover, receive support and help in the least restrictive environment possible. In many cases, settled accommodation facilitates a return to work or education. A home is a critical foundation in all our lives, physically and psychologically, and is our primary location of care and support. Many people with mental health problems are also placed in residential or nursing homes where there are vacancies instead of supported housing options, which may not be available to support people with complex needs. These facilities are not generally designed to maintain independence and so people, including younger people, become de-skilled and unable to maintain levels of self-care and choice when they could remain independent for longer, with the right level of support and environment. In addition to this many care home providers are offering placements to adults with mental health problems rather than older people who may also have physical health needs which in

		some areas has resulted in too few placements for older adults who then become delayed discharges when admitted to acute or mental health inpatient services
3.2 To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.	Yes	Most accommodation for people with mental health needs is provided under section 18 of the Care Act 2014. Where a person 'ceases to be detained' under the Mental Health Act 1983, they are eligible for aftercare services, including housing. The Act and the accompanying regulations and guidance outline how housing can support a more integrated approach and set out local implementation. Of note: • A general duty to promote wellbeing makes reference to suitable accommodation. • Housing not just the 'bricks and mortar', also includes housing related support or services. • Housing must be considered as part of an assessment process that may prevent, reduce or delay an adult social care need • Information and advice should reflect housing options, as part of a universal service offer • Care and support delivered in an integrated way with cooperation with partner bodies, including housing.
3.3 To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Yes	This service will help to deliver the Bury Adult Care Housing Vision by ensuring that adults with mental health needs develop independent living skills and are able to live actively in their localities.
3.4 Please outline the considerations taken, including any mitigations, to ensure activity is not detrimental to the Human Rights of any individual affected by the decision being sought.		
The list of Human Rights has been explored and this proposal does not have a detrimental impact on any area specified.		
SECTION 4 – EQUALITIES DATA *Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 8*		

Protected characteristic	Outcome sought	Base data	Data gaps (to include in Section 8 log)
4.1 Age	Yes	• People in Bury are living longer; life expectancy for both men (79.1 years) and women (82.1 years) has been improving over time, but the rate of this increase has slowed and there is still a significant gap between the life expectancy in Bury and the England average. • There is also a social gradient to life expectancy in Bury, where men and women in the most deprived areas have a life expectancy of between 12.4 years (males) and 7.9 years (females) shorter than the least deprived areas. • It is also important to determine whether additional years of life are being spent in good health or prolonged poor health and dependency. Healthy life expectancy adds a quality-of-life dimension to life expectancy. Similar to Life Expectancy, there is inequality in healthy life expectancy between Bury and England. Male and female. There is also a social gradient to healthy life expectancy within Bury, where men and women in the most deprived areas have a life expectancy of between 14.8 years (males) and 13.4 years (females) shorter than the least deprived areas. Estimates suggest that 1 in 4 adults will experience mental health problems at any one time (25 percent). For Bury, this represents over 36,925 people aged over 18 years old.	
4.2 Disability	Yes	Data recorded by Public Health England reports the levels of depression and anxiety are higher in Bury 15.3%, when compared to the national average figure 13.7%. The 2020 household survey shows that 10% of Bury residents have a long-standing illness or health condition this equates to 19,069 people. It also suggests that 5.9% of the population have a physical or mobility impairment in Bury this is around 11,425 people. Also, around 6.5% of the population will have either a visual or hearing impairment. The predicted number of people who will have a mental health disorder (aged 18-64) in Bury by 2040. It demonstrates an increase of approximately 3.5%	

		from 2020 to 20404 across all conditions. Around 38,000 of the Bury population will have a mental health disorder (https://pansi.org.uk/ Mental health problem Bury data) Deprivation is a known risk factor that impacts on people's mental health, Public Health England data confirms Bury's score is 23.7, which is higher than the national average 21.7. The circumstances in which a disabled person who has mental health needs might require an adaptation are extremely varied. Often the adaptation will be intended to meet other difficulties that are not directly related to their mental health needs. The building specification has been designed with Community Mental Health Team (CMHT). The specification for the building will be 15 x 1 bed flats, with 1 unit for staff and 14 units for tenants. 4 units on the ground floor will be fully accessible / DDA compliant for wheelchair users. Depending on the tenant, there will be scope for minor adaptations at the scheme. Minor adaptations include items such as rails, small ramps, door intercoms or door widening. Supported living services such as Topping Mill will provide additional support and guidance to individuals with complex needs who require extra support with managing their mental health. It allows people to keep their independence and live in their own homes and have support on hand as and when needed.	
4.3 Gender	Yes	Topping Mill will provide a mixed gender for provision for people that have mental health needs.	
4.4 Pregnancy or Maternity	No – we do not believe this is currently being collated.	This service will not be for people who are pregnant or on maternity. Supported living in a mental health setting is not ideal for this group, rather alternative accommodation in the community i.e dispersed housing in the community would be best.	We do not believe this is currently being collated.
4.5 Race	Yes	Across the Northwest, the percentage of people from the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" ethnic group increased from 6.2% to 8.4%, while across England the percentage increased from 7.8% to 9.6%.	Limited information on smaller and emerging

		In 2021, 82.9% of people in Bury identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 89.2% in 2011), while 2.6% identified their ethnic group within the "Mixed or Multiple" category (compared with 1.8% the previous decade). People from BAME backgrounds have the same right as everyone else to access mental treatment and services. But research shows BAME people can face barriers to getting help, including: • not recognising they have a mental illness because mental health was stigmatised or never talked about in their community • not knowing that help is available or where to go to get it • language barriers • turning to family or friends rather than professional support, especially for people who don't trust formal healthcare services • financial barriers, such as paying for private counselling • not feeling listened to or understood by healthcare professionals • White professionals who do not understand their experiences of racism or discrimination The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") increased from 0.7% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2021. Despite higher prevalence, Black adults have the lowest mental health treatment rate of any ethnic group at 6% (compared to 13% in the White British group) Evidence suggests that people from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic communities are at higher risk of developing a mental health problem in adulthood. But they're less likely to receive support for their mental health People from Black communities are more likely than average to experience a common mental health problem in any given week. • Percentage experiencing a common mental health problem in the last week by ethnicity: • White British - 17% • White Other - 14% • Black and Black British - 23% • Asian and Asian British - 18% • Mixed & other - 20%"	communities in Bury

		Black men are more likely to experience symptoms of psychosis than other ethnic groups (3.2% compared to 0.3% of White men and 1.3% of Asian men - using combined 2007 and 2014 data.) There is no significant variation by ethnic group among women. 8% of Black or Black British adults have symptoms relating to post-traumatic stress disorder compared with 4% of their White British counterparts. People from Black and Minority Ethnic groups living in the UK are more likely to: • Be diagnosed with a psychotic disorder. However no difference was found in the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey between Asian people and their White British counterparts in terms of experiencing psychotic disorders or common mental health problems. • Seek help in a crisis situation and in A&E. • Be admitted to hospital with a mental health problem. • Experience a poor outcome from treatment. • Disengage from mainstream mental health services. https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20180328140249/http:/digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB21748	
4.6 Religion and belief	Yes	Census 2021 Bury responses: Christian (48.8%), Buddhist (0.3%) Hindu (0.5%) Sikh (0.3) Muslim (9.9%) Jewish (5.5%) %) Other (0.3%). 29.4% identified as having no religion	
4.7 Sexual Orientation	No – we don't believe this is currently being collated	Census 2021 was the first to collect information on the sexual orientation of residents aged 16 years and over in England and Wales. The census question was voluntary asked of those aged 16 years and over. • In total, 44.9 million people (92.5% of the population aged 16 years and over) answered the question. • Around 43.4 million people (89.4%) identified as straight or heterosexual. • Around 1.5 million people (3.2%) identified with an LGB+ orientation ("Gay or Lesbian", "Bisexual" or "Other sexual orientation"). • The remaining 3.6 million people (7.5%) did not answer the question.	

		This is almost certainly an underestimation of the actual national diversity of sexual orientation. Estimates provided by the LGBT Foundation and Stonewall state that between 5% and 7% of the population identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual nationally. It is acknowledged that approximately 6-10% of any given population will be LGB. Source: MYE 2015 and Stonewall Access to the service is open to all who fulfil the service criteria	
4.8 Marriage or Civil Partnership	Yes	The Census 2021 published the details on adults' legal partnership status. • The proportion of adults who have never married or been in a civil partnership has increased every decade from 26.3% in 1991 to 37.9% in 2021, whereas the proportion of adults who are married or in a civil partnership (including separated) has fallen from 58.4% in 1991 to 46.9% in 2021. • The increase in adults who have never been married or in a civil partnership (since 2011), after standardising for age, is seen across all local authorities, religious groups and ethnic groups. • Between 2011 and 2021, the number of widowed adults (3.0 million) has decreased by 6.3%, women who are widowed decreased by 8.3%, but the number of men who are widowed increased by 0.6%. • The proportion of adults who are divorced is similar in 2021 (9.1%) and 2011 (9.0%); the proportion of younger adults who are divorced has decreased, whereas the proportion of older adults has increased. • Adults in same-sex marriages and civil partnerships are more likely to be younger, have no religion, and have higher-level qualifications than adults in opposite-sex marriages.	
4.9 Gender Reassignment	Yes	The question on gender identity was new for the Census 2021. The question was voluntary and only asked of people aged 16 years and over. A total of 45.4 million (93.5%) answered "Yes", indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.	

		A total of 262,000 people (0.5%) answered "No", indicating that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth. Within this group: • 118,000 (0.24%) answered "No" but did not provide a write-in response • 48,000 (0.10%) identified as a trans man • 48,000 (0.10%) identified as a trans woman • 30,000 (0.06%) identified as non-binary • 18,000 (0.04%) wrote in a different gender identity The remaining 2.9 million (6.0%) did not answer the question on gender identity. In Bury: 94.37% of people aged 16 years and over in Bury have a gender identity the same as their sex registered at birth and is made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males. The GIRES (2009) report on Gender Variance in the UK estimated that around 20 in every 100, 000 people had sought medical care for gender variance. Using 15+ ONBS data of current list size of 163,013 (ONS 2015-16) the Gender Reassignment figure for Bury would be approximately 33 Bury Residents. Access to Topping Mill is open to all who meet the service criteria	
4.10 Carers	Yes	There are specialist services available for unpaid carers. However, services will provide condition specific information and advice. Statistics in Bury: 18,219 - Census 2021 1042 carers registered with the Bury Carers Hub (qtr4 returns 22/23)	
4.11 Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No – we do not believe this is currently being collated	The criteria will apply to anybody over 18 as long as they fulfil the rest of the service access criteria – anybody under the age of 18 will fall under the jurisdiction of Children's Directorate. However, the service will link in with Children Services with a willingness to support people who are transitioning from Children Services into Adult Services.	We do not believe this is currently being collated
4.12 Armed Forces personnel	No – we do not believe this is	On Census Day 1.85 million people in England and Wales reported that they had previously served in the	We do not believe this is

including veterans	currently being collated.	UK armed forces. This represents 3.8% (almost 1 in 25) of the total population aged 16 or over. **Bury:** The percentage of the population aged 16+ and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces 3.3%	currently being collated.
4.13 Socio-economically vulnerable	No– we do not believe this is currently being collated.	Bury has a higher-than-average proportion of claimants of Employment Support Allowance where the main condition stated was mental and behavioural disorders. • Bury is the 69 most deprived local authority in England • 10% of the local authority is within the 10% most deprived areas in the whole of England • 23% of children are living in low-income families, which is worse than average for England According to a report by Shelter, one in five of people has experienced mental health issues because of housing problems. Compared with the general population, people with mental health conditions are: one and a half times more likely to live in rented housing. twice as likely to be unhappy with their home. Research has shown that those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, are much more likely to experience mental distress. Further, Homeless Link reported in 2010 that 7 out of 10 of clients had mental health needs and a third of those lacked the support they need to address their mental health.	We do not believe this is currently being collated.

SECTION 5 – STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENT *Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 8 and 9*		
	Internal Stakeholders	External Stakeholders
5.1 Identify stakeholders	Social Care workforce INT workforce Corporate Core	Community Mental Health Team (CMHT) Fairfield Hospital – Irwell Unit Carers and family of people being supported.

		Potential future users of the service Members of the community
5.2 Engagement undertaken	Bury Council Community Commissioning Division	Community Mental Health Team St Davids Group (developer) Inclusion Housing
5.3 Outcomes of engagement	The engagement has provided significant contribution to what the building specification should look like for the benefit of the tenants with mental health needs. This is by ensuring that they are good quality homes for tenants, that they provide a space for strong interventions for independent living and improved quality of life.	The engagement has provided vital opinions from clinicians of the needs of tenants, from a person-centered perspective, good housing practice and statutory duty.
5.4 Outstanding actions following engagement (include in Section 8 log)	As the Community Commissioning Division in conjunction with CMHT identify tenants for the scheme, we will be engaging with them for their ideas what they want their flats to look like. This includes décor, furniture and other aspects which everyone deserves to make their space a home.	

SECTION 6 – CONCLUSION OF IMPACT

Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 9

Please outline whether the activity/ policy has a positive or negative effect on any groups of people with protected inclusion characteristics

Protected Characteristic	Positive/ Neutral Negative /	Impact (include reference to data/ engagement)
6.1 Age	Positive	It is expected that the provider for care at Topping Milll provides a person-centered service to all the people it supports and will

		take steps to counteract the disadvantages people with a protected characteristic face and support people to achieve their full potential, regardless of age.
6.2 Disability	Positive	The overall purpose of the service is to enable people to achieve maximum potential, to stay at home, living as independently as they can and with the best possible quality of life.
6.3 Gender	Positive	The criteria for access to the service is the same for all protected characteristics who have a mental health need. It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact relating to gender.
6.4 Pregnancy or Maternity	Neutral	This service will not be for people that have a pregnancy or maternity. However, there are other housing options in the community that will be considered for their accommodation needs.
6.5 Race	Positive	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact relating to Race. It is expected that the commissioned service will work with Bury Council and the community to consider how we can embed the need to reduce inequalities and identify barriers to accessing support.
6.6 Religion and belief	Positive	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact relating to religion and belief. It is expected that the service provides a personalised service to all the people it supports, so would take account of any support needs relating to religion or belief.
6.7 Sexual Orientation	Positive	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to sexual orientation. It is expected the commissioned service provide a service to all of the people it supports and has due regard to an individual's sexual orientation.
6.8 Marriage or Civil Partnership	Neutral	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to marriage or civil partnership. The service is for single people; however we note that there be people that are married or are in a civil partnership. This would not affect their housing need for the scheme but needs to be considered when moving on into the community.
6.9 Gender Reassignment	Positive	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact relating to gender reassignment. The service provides a personalises service to all the people it supports, so would take account of any support needs relating to gender reassignment.
6.10 Carers	Neutral	There maybe tenants that are also providing care to relatives or others in the community. This does not exclude them from the scheme.

6.11 Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Neutral	The criteria will apply to anybody over 18 as long as they fulfil the rest of the service access criteria – anybody under the age of 18 will fall under the jurisdiction of Children's Directorate. However, the service has a willingness to link with Children Services and will support young people who are transitioning from Children Services into Adult Services.
6.12 Armed Forces personnel including veterans	Positive	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to Armed Forces personnel including veterans.
6.13 Socio-economically vulnerable	Positive	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to Socio-economically vulnerable.
6.14 Overall impact - What will the likely overall effect of your activity be on equality, including consideration on intersectionality?	Positive - The overall purpose of the service provides good quality homes for people with mental health needs, promote independent living and improve the quality of life of tenants. The scheme is based in the Bury East area, which provides a good location for people who need access to their cultural needs i.e. Churches, Mosques, shopping for specific dietary requirements etc. There is a strong expectation that the commissioned provider shall develop good partnership arrangements with statutory services, the VCFA sector, along with local and national organisations. This is to promote independent living for people with mental health needs, reduce social isolation and improve their quality of life.	

SECTION 7 – ACTION LOG *Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 10*			
Action Identified	Lead	Due Date	Comments and Sign off (when complete)
8.1 Actions to address gaps identified in section 4			
None that will have an impact on this programme of work. The intended outcome for this contract is to comply with statutory legislation whilst working to increase take up and the opportunity to tap into unmet need.			Ongoing engagement to continually monitor quality and identify opportunity of areas of development for the people of Bury. Analysis on demographics of customers will be part of the contract monitoring. Data and residents who are members of the forum group will be used to identify barriers and put forward suggestions on how barriers can be overcome.

8.2 Actions to address gaps identified in section 5			
The intended outcome for this contract is to comply with statutory legislation whilst working to increase take up and the opportunity to tap into unmet need.			Ongoing engagement to continually monitor quality and identify opportunity of areas of development for the people of Bury. Analysis on demographics of customers will be part of the contract monitoring.
8.3 Mitigations to address negative impacts identified in section 6			
The Community Commissioning Division of the Council hosts the Living Options Group. It is a space for professionals to look at housing needs of people by a case-by-case perspective. This will ensure that people are not excluded from services, without understanding their individual circumstances and dynamics within the scheme.			Ongoing engagement to continually monitor quality and identify opportunity of areas of development for the people of Bury. Analysis on demographics of customers will be part of the contract monitoring.
8.4 Opportunities to further inclusion (equality, diversity and human rights) including to advance opportunities and engagements across protected characteristics			
EA to be shared with the successful provider for comment and opportunity to contribute to the analysis	Ahmed Ajmi	July 2025	

SECTION 8 - REVIEW *Refer to Equality Analysis guidance page 10*			
Review Milestone	Lead	Due Date	Comments (and sign off when complete)
Ongoing	Ahmed Ajmi		By working with the Provider, Community Commissioning Division, CMHT, Registered Housing Provider and tenants to shape service delivery. It is anticipated the council can continue to meet its obligation in relation to the Care Act 2014, along with achieving the

			outcomes for the people the service supports.
Review EIA at 12 months	Ahmed Ajmi	March 2025	Review completed
Review EIA with the appointed care provider	Ahmed Ajmi	July / August 2025	Consult appointed care provider on the EIA.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 11

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 04 April 2025
Subject:	Retender of Substance Use Service Contract	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	

Summary

1. Bury Council commissions Greater Manchester Mental Health (GMMH), an NHS provider, to deliver substance use treatment services. GMMH leads a partnership model, subcontracting Early Break for children's services, Big Life for outreach and criminal justice work, Intuitive Thinking Skills for recovery programmes, and Great Places for housing support.
2. The initial contract (Sept 2019–Aug 2022) cost £1,308,000 per annum, with two optional extensions until Aug 2024. In Nov 2023, Cabinet approved a direct award to GMMH for a new three-year contract from September 2024, totalling £4,284,000, with £1,428,000 per annum thereafter. Rising costs prompted a revision in 2024, increasing the contract by £190,000 per annum due to overheads, workforce expansion, and pay adjustments.
3. The original contract was extended for six months (September 2024–March 2025) to align with financial years. This extension, funded by grant underspend, also aimed to coordinate with other Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Salford, and Trafford) for 2025/26.
4. Revised annual contract costs for 2025/26 were set at £1,560,000, approved in November 2024. However, GMMH proposed a rise in management fees (from 8% to 14%), which Bury Council deemed unfeasible. After successful negotiations the fee was reduced to 11%, so a final 12-month extension was approved by Cabinet members in March 2025 for the period April 2025-March 2026, whilst Public Health commissioners explored current retender options and possibilities for a new support and treatment recovery service for 2026 onwards.
5. Following an exploration of various retender options and productive discussions with neighbouring Local Authorities, including Salford and Trafford Councils, plans are progressing to collaborate and form a cluster to jointly tender for future substance use treatment services under a new long-term contract lasting five years, with the option of a two-year extension. This tender aims to collaboratively commission a partnership model for delivering substance use treatment and recovery services, building on the successes of the current partnership model.
6. There are clear advantages to adopting a tri-borough approach, which have been outlined in detail within the report.

Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Agree for Bury Council to partner with fellow Local Authorities (Salford and Trafford Councils) to deliver joint tender of substance use treatment and recovery services from 1 April 2026 on a long term 5 + 2 year contract.
- Agree for Bury Council to join the open procurement with Salford and Trafford Councils and commission new substance use and recovery services with Salford Council as the lead LA.

Alternative options considered:

Considerations as to whether Bury contracts solely:

- Bury Council would hold a contract with service providers and greater control over contract terms and conditions
- Ensures clear lines of responsibility of service outcomes and reporting.
- Might attract a wider range of SME bidders who are unable to bid for a larger volume contract.

Considerations as to whether to adopt a tripartite approach:

- Missing out on opportunity to collaborate with other GM LA's who are tendering for the same service, for the same timeframe, so would benefit from the economies of scale work as previously not had the opportunity before for this service in Bury.
- Reduced substance use treatment and recovery provision in Bury from 2025/26 due to the loss of shared resources as have been commissioning the same providers as other GM Local Authorities over the past five years. This may lead to potential staff remodelling and increased overhead management fees if a single contract.
- Limited scope of competitive bids across providers due to the contract value available in Greater Manchester, as other GM areas tendering for services simultaneously may attract more providers.
- Disruption to current service users and staff arising from uncertainty regarding future providers and potential negative impacts on service performance.
- Increased administrative burden as managing an independent tendering process will require more time, effort, and resources, potentially straining internal Bury Council teams, including public health, procurement, and legal departments.
- Reduced provider interest due to the limited financial envelope available for Bury's substance use services compared to other GM areas tendering at the same time. Bury may see less engagement, as providers may prioritise larger joint contracts over smaller independent contract.

Reasons for recommendation

1. Bury Public Health team has considered how best to utilise limited resources, identifying a joint tender with neighbour LAs (Salford and Trafford Councils) as the most viable option. Given that several GM councils are in a similar position and all needing to recommission their services, this approach will ensure that future substance use services provide the best value for money and maintain high quality standards.
2. It will also optimise the substance use workforce in GM, reduce management overhead costs, and leverage economies of scale by pooling resources by commissioning as a tri-borough cluster.
3. Joint procurement offers the advantage of benefitting from previous wider market testing, which has already taken place with other GM LAs. Bury Council will also benefit from shared procurement, legal, and commissioning capacity, reducing the financial burden associated with tendering for a new service.
4. Pooling resources makes this procurement opportunity more appealing to prospective providers, as successful bidders will gain a substantial share of GM areas if successful at the tender.
5. A joint retender for the substance use contract reduces duplication and administrative overheads, enhancing financial sustainability and delivering better value for money for our residents in Bury and GM.
6. Coordinated services across the three GM LAs ensure seamless support for service users, minimising disruptions in care and eliminating a postcode lottery with disparities in service provision across GM.
7. Cluster commissioning enables the development of innovative service models and provides greater adaptability in responding to emerging substance use trends locally.
8. Would align with current / planned projects and external funding streams, such as OHID grants which we currently deliver with Salford and Trafford Council's.
9. Maintains the partnership between partnership authorities (Salford and Trafford) who will also be ending their contract with GMMH on 31/03/2026.This currently allows for economies of scale of work, shared back-office functions and a peer support approach across all organisations involved.
10. Cluster commissioning model is successfully used for Bury's Sexual Health contract, where Bury, Oldham and Rochdale Councils collaborate.
11. The retender process will consider the various elements of the substance use service which includes adults, young people, and assertive outreach. This may mean we consider tendering for more than one provider to cover all service needs effectively.
12. Collaborating with Salford and Trafford Councils allows for a pooled budget, shared expertise, and more efficient use of resources across commissioning, procurement, and legal functions. This leads to improved retendering processes and enhanced service delivery.
13. A joint approach across GM facilitates the adoption of best practices, ensuring a higher standard of care and more consistent support for people in Manchester facing substance use challenges.

14. Partnering with Salford and Trafford Councils strengthens collective bargaining power with service providers, leading to better contract terms, reduced overhead and management costs, and improve service quality.
15. Standardised KPIs and Outcomes Framework supports data reporting and improves trend identification, prevention strategies, and targeted interventions aligned with OHID national priorities.

Proposed Procurement Route

Bury, Salford, and Trafford councils plan to initiate open procurement for future substance use and recovery services. This means the upcoming contract will be publicly advertised on The Chest, allowing any eligible providers to submit competitive bids.
Salford Council's procurement team will act as the lead LA, overseeing the process in collaboration with procurement and legal leads from Bury and Trafford councils as part of a dedicated working group. This approach will ensure fairness, accountability, and optimal value for future services in Bury.

Budget Provision

Annual budget provision is available from Public Health funding (£1,560,000) available for substance use services which includes children, adults and outreach provision across Bury.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Aimee Gibson
Position: Public Health Practitioner
Department: Public Health
E-mail: a.gibson@bury.gov.uk

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The retender of the substance use treatment and recovery services will align with our Let's do it strategy and neighbourhood approach.

The procurement of the substance use service will support key ambitions of the Let's do it strategy:

- A better future for the children of the borough
- A better quality of life
- A chance to feel more part of the borough
- Increased adult skill levels and employability
- Inclusive economic growth

Equality Impact and Considerations:

Local data on inequalities related to substance use is being collected and analysed through a localised survey targeting Bury residents and professionals engaged with the current system. This survey aims to inform the specification development and improve the future service offer for local services. Survey responses will also shape the development of the Bury Substance Use Needs Assessment which is now in production.

Equality and Diversity will be considered during the tendering process. A Community Impact Assessment will be completed during the tendering process to ensure no disproportionate negative impact on any protected groups.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Environmental impacts and concerns will be considered as part of the tendering process and will be in-line with existing Council policies.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
A joint tender for the substance use and recovery service contract reduces duplication and administrative overheads, enhancing financial sustainability and delivering better value for money for our residents in Bury	A transparent and open procurement will take place over the summer months with key working groups set up across the tri-borough cluster so all procurement, legal and commissioning colleagues can collaborate on this work and ensure this meets individual council needs and local residents.
Simultaneous recommissioning of substance use services across multiple Local Authorities in Greater Manchester risks service disruption, continuity challenges, and negative impacts on service.	Collaborating as a tri-borough cluster for commissioning promotes stability by fostering shared resources, retaining skilled staff across the three boroughs, and minimising potential disruption to services and users. This approach also allows for coordinated planning and consistency in service delivery, ensuring that the system remains resilient during the tendering process and beyond.
High level of workforce vacancies and/or staff sickness due to uncertainty surrounding tender process and outcome of the future successful provider(s).	Early staff engagement and communication to keep informed of potential changes. Provide reassurance of TUPE. Work with provider to address staff concerns and reduce uncertainty. New contract procured will be for a minimum of five years increasing to seven years. Build a robust transition plan into the procurement process.

Potential of new service provider(s) delivering future substance use and recovery services in Greater Manchester following successful tender.	While the service configuration and provider may change next year, this review will ensure that future provision delivers the highest quality and best value for money for residents.

Legal Implications:

The proposed joint procurement must be conducted in compliance with the Procurement Act 2023. The open procurement is intended to appoint a single supplier, and the Council will enter into a contract for the substance misuse services in due course following the completion of the process.

Financial Implications:

The increased cost of this contract has been taken into account as part of the Public Health budget setting process and will be reviewed in the tendering process, with Bury Council contributions proportionate for the population size and needs of local residents.

A small fee may be required to join the cluster contract, including a management fee payable to Salford Council for leading the procurement and legal processes which is currently being discussed between Directors of Public Health in the tri-borough cluster.

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

- *Extension of Substance Misuse Service Contract – Cabinet report – March 2025*
- *Substance misuse service contract – Cabinet report – November 2024*
- *Substance Misuse service contract – Cabinet report - November 2023*

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
GMMH	Greater Manchester Mental Health
SSMTRG	Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant
HMT	HM Treasury
OHID	Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
GM	Greater Manchester
LA	Local Authorities
PSR	Provider Selection Regime

Agenda Item 12

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Tender of Adult Carer Services	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	

1. Summary

- Following the Cabinet report on 12th February 2025 approval was given to the Community Commissioning Division to engage in a tendering exercise for adult carer services.
- A carer is a person who provides unpaid support to a friend or family member who due to illness, frailty, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support.
- This is not the same as someone who provides care professionally, or through a voluntary organisation.
- The carer's service will help to deliver on the key commitments of the refreshed Adult Carers Strategy.
- After review and procurement, this report seeks approval for the Community Commission division to award the contract.
- The contract is for the period 1st June 2025 to 31st May 2029 with an extension option at the discretion of the Council for a further 12-month period, subject to performance and review.
- The contract value will be £200,000 per annum with contractual arrangements for a 4-year period. There will be an option to extend the contract for an additional 12-months subject to performance and review.

2. Recommendation(s)

The recommendations are for Cabinet to:

- Approve the award of the adult carers service contract to n-compass – towards a brighter future for the period 1st June 2025 to 31st May 2029 with an extension option of a further 12-months, subject to performance and review.
- The contract value will be £200,000 per annum with contractual arrangements for a 4-year period. There will be an option to extend the contract for an additional 12-months subject to performance and review.
- Delegate finalisation and sealing of the contract, including any clarifications, to the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director for Health and Care.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

To reflect the new commitments in the Strategy there is a need to refresh the current service specification delivered by the commissioned provider.

Current contractual arrangements end on the 31st May 2025, therefore there is a need legally to procure for a new service.

The Local Authority has a duty to provide care and support to those individuals assessed as needing this pursuant to assessments under Part 1 Care Act 2014. This includes under s 10 a duty to assess carers who may have needs for care and support and under s 20 a duty or power in general terms to provide any assessed eligible care and support needs for carers.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

Alternative options are not applicable due to Procurement rules not allowing for any further extensions to previous contractual arrangements.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Ahmed Ajmi
Position: Integrated Strategic Lead
Department: Health and Social Care
E-mail: A.Ajmi@bury.gov.uk

Name: Caroline Malvern
Position: Commissioning Manager
Department: Health and Social Care
E-mail: c.malvern@bury.gov.uk

---

5. Background

The Care Act 2014 recognises that supporting adult carers is as important as supporting the people they care for and gives adult carers the right to support from local authorities, which include:

- Information and advice
- Preventative services
- A right to request a Carers Assessment
- To meet identified carers' needs based on national eligibility criteria.

The 2021 Census data reports that there were an estimated 18,219 unpaid carers in Bury. Though this amount will fluctuate as carers move in and out of caring situations, it is expected that this number will continue to increase over time, as higher numbers of people with complex social and health care needs are expected to require support in the future and the population lives longer.

The Bury Adult Carers Strategy 2025-2029 was approved by Cabinet on 12th February 2025. The Strategy outlines the commitments Adult Social Care will deliver in response to the key insights highlighted by carers. The Carer Strategy commitments have been incorporated into the new service specification.

At the core of the new service specification is a need to work proactively to identify all unpaid carers, deliver support that improves the quality of life for carers and ensures that the commitments outlined in the Bury Adult Carers Strategy are met:

The Carer Strategy Commitments:

- **Commitment 1- To identify and support carers as soon as possible.**
- **Commitment 2- Carers can access the right support and information when they need it, in the way that works best for them.**
- **Commitment 3- We will raise the profile of carers across Bury. Carers will be encouraged to recognise their role and have their rights championed and promoted.**
- **Commitment 4- To reduce inequalities by improving identification of and support to Carers from under-represented groups.**

Following the Cabinet approval on 12th February 2025 to commence formal procurement activity, an opportunity for an Invitation to Tender was advertised utilising the Chest, the North West's Local Authority Procurement Portal. This was in accordance with procurement process and requirements.

There were twelve bids evaluated. The bids were evaluated against 30% pricing criteria and 70% quality criteria, covering service outcomes, service delivery, performance and contract monitoring and social value.

The Evalution Panel individually scored responses to the quality criteria after which, Corporate Procurement facilitated a moderation meeting to agree a single score for each of the quality questions.

Following the procurement evaluation the winning tenderer was n-compass.

N-compass have extensive experience supporting unpaid carers and have been the provider of the Bury Carers' Hub since 2020.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The work of supporting carers cannot just rely on a few committed individuals - to implement our ambitions, awareness of carers needs to be embedded in strategic level partnerships across the whole of health, social care and the community, to ensure carers are recognised, and to promote the support that might help carers to live a full life whilst caring for others.

Bury Council's Let's Do It! Strategy

- **Local**- ensuring carers can access support local to them.
- **Enterprise**- that our local partners who support unpaid carers have the skills and accessibility to deliver high quality provision.

- **Together**- putting our carers and the people they support, at the centre of decisions and seeing them as experts, working alongside professionals.
- **Strength based**- the support we provide to carers is based on what each person needs.

Adult Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-26
This plan sets out the Adult Social Care Department's roles and responsibilities on behalf of Bury Council. It explains who we are, what we do, how we work as an equal partner in our integrated health and social care system and identifies our priorities for the next 3 years which are:

Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support. For those eligible to access social care services, we provide assessment and support planning with an emphasis on building on individual's strengths and promoting independence in line with our statutory responsibilities to all people over the age of eighteen, resident in the borough.

We are proud to recognise carers as a protected characteristic in Bury which means we are committed to considering the implications of all our policies and decisions on carers and taking action to improve the experience and outcomes of carers in our borough and workforce.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

Full EIA has been completed. Initial negative impacts were identified across several characteristics and circumstances however mitigating actions will be put in place to move impacts to neutral. No significant negative impacts are expected from this activity.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

An environmental impact assessment has not been undertaken as there are no implications of this decision.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Service is not efficient in contract delivery.	KPIs will measure the effectiveness of the service and help to pinpoint any possible inefficiencies and address issues.
Unpredicted rise in the number of carers being identified/supported putting pressure on staff resources.	The service will develop a risk assessment to identify potential risks, potential impact and likelihood they will occur. An action plan would be established to examine organisation risks, determine if steps should be taken, identify tasks to mitigate any risks identified. Contract monitoring will assess number of carers being identified/ supported and to identify trends and anticipate challenges. An action plan would be deployed to help to assess risks

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

On the appearance of need, a Local Authority must assess a carer's support needs that exist now or are likely to exist in the future and assess what those needs are or are likely to be in the future (Section 10(1) Care Act 2014).

A statutory duty exists to meet a carer's needs for support which meet eligibility criteria if the adult needing care is ordinarily resident in the Council's area or has no settled residence but is present in the council's area. Meeting the carer's needs may include the provision of support to the carer or the provision of care and support to the adult needing care (section 20(1) Care Act 2014).

A power exists to provide care and support to an adult needing care to support a carer if the adult needing care consents even if the Council is not required to provide such support following assessment of the adult needing care (section 20(6) Care Act 2014).

The proposals are made in order to satisfy these statutory duties and power.

The procurement process adopted in this instance has been completed in compliance with the applicable legislation and associated guidance and a services contract will be entered into with the chosen provider.

Financial Implications:

The annual cost of the N-Compass contract is £200,000 and will be funded from the existing Adult Social Care Community Care Budget and will not require additional financial resource.

As part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle, Finance and the Adult Social Care Commissioning will track the expenditure linked to the contractual activity set out in this report ensuring that all expenditure aligns to the funding provided

Any financial risks/pressures identified will be highlighted to the Director of Adult Social Services as part of the monthly budget monitoring cycle whereby an action plan will be deployed to mitigate any financial risks/ pressures.

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
KPI	Stands for Key Performance Indicator and is a measurable target that is used to gauge an organisation's overall long-term performance.

Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

Name of Policy/Project/Decision	Tender of universal carer services for adults caring for someone 18+
Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)	Adrian Crook, Director of Community Commissioning
Department/Team	Health & Social Care, Community Commission
Proposed Implementation Date	June 2025
Author of the EqIA	Caroline Malvern
Date of the EqIA	October 2024

1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?

The Care Act 2014 says that an Unpaid Carer is 'Someone who helps another person, usually a relative or friend, in their day-to-day life'. This is not the same as someone who provides care professionally or through a voluntary organisation.'

As a society, we are increasingly dependent on the contribution of unpaid care. The care provided by unpaid carers is often not visible but is an essential part of enabling people to stay in their own homes for longer and allowing move on from hospital to community care.

The Care Act replaced most previous laws regarding carers and people being cared for including:

- A focus on promoting wellbeing.
- A duty on local councils to prevent, reduce and delay need for support, including the needs of carers.
- A right to a carer's assessment based on the appearance of need.

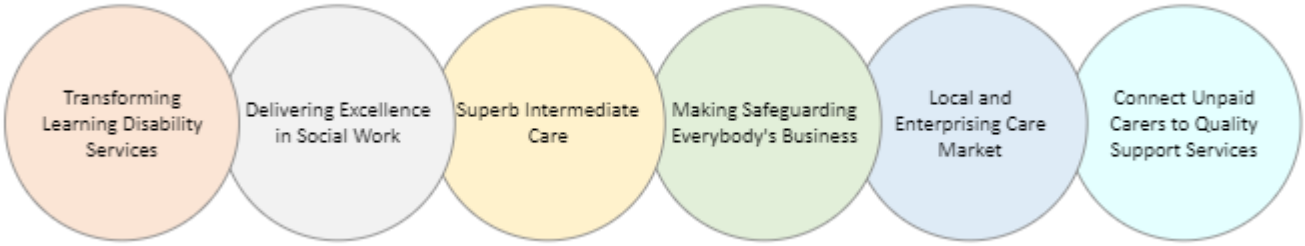
- A right for carers' eligible needs to be met.
- A duty on local councils to provide information and advice.

The Department of Health's mandate to NHS England includes ensuring that the NHS becomes dramatically better at involving carers as well as patients in care. The importance of carers is noted in the NHS Five Year Forward View, which notes that to support carers properly we need to have multi-agency and community integration.

The Adult Social Care Reform White Paper, *People at the Heart of Care*, was published in December 2021 setting out a 10-year vision for adult social care. The White Paper has carers threaded throughout, including in the aspiration, vision and strategic objectives.

The GM Carers Charter reflects the ambitions and aspirations as a collective, we want to achieve.

The Adult Social Care Strategy Plan 2023 – 26 identified priorities include supporting unpaid carers.
Identified priorities:



The service will be the primary resource for adult carers in Bury to provide information, advice and a wide range of specialist support services designed to help adult carers caring for another adult to continue in their caring role for as long as they choose and reduce the impact the caring role can have on their own health and wellbeing.

Section 2 – Impact Assessment (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?
Employees: This work will not impact on Bury Council staff with a protected characteristic(s) Community/Residents: This Strategy is for unpaid adult carers who care for someone aged 18+ living in the Borough of Bury Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: This Strategy will form future adult social care commissioning intentions for services for adult carers supporting someone 18+, which will deliver a service based on the priorities of this strategy and its aspirations

2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation
Data /Stakeholder information/consultation: Please refer to the engagement summary report 02 Summary ASC Carer Strategy Engag

2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups?
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic?
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic?
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal?
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation?
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)?
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council?

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
Age	Local data displays identification of carers aged 18 – 25 years is low. Potential impact – Unmet need of young adult carers. Potential impact- Digital divide	Demographic information of new carers registered with the current commissioned carer services and the demographic data of carers held on the Bury Adult Social Care database has identified of carers in the 18-25 years age group is low. As an ageing population, a significant number of older people either rely on the support of unpaid carers or are carers themselves.	One of the four commitments in the Bury Adult Carers Strategy 2025 – 2028 is to reduce inequalities by improving identification of and support to carers from under-represented groups. This will be reflected in the new specification for adult carers support. Due consideration will be given to the needs of young carers and those transitioning between young carers and adult carers services	Positive. To understand the current picture of local support, carers dashboards have been developed to profile the age of carers being supported by Adult Social Care and the commissioned service will provide breakdown of age groups of carers accessing support as part of the quarterly monitoring returns to ensure Bury will have consistent data collection. For the first time, improving identification and support to carers from underrepresented groups will be embedded at a strategic level.

			The service commits to increased identification of carers and opportunity to good quality support and information that is accessible and appropriate for all sectors of the community of Bury.	People will be able to access support in person, phone, text, email, and third-party referral.
Disability	It is recognised that there may be other factors affecting carers with a disability which although not a consequence of the service, may, in comparison to carers without a disability, impact on the extent to which they can access and benefit from the community support for carers. Potential impact- Digital divide	Public Health England report, 'Caring as a social determinant of Health', shows that there is evidence that carers experience worse health than non-carers. National Institute for Health & Care Excellence reports that carers are more likely to report a long term condition, disability or illness compared with non-carers. Disabled carers also face particular challenges to their health & wellbeing, that can worsen due to their caring role.	Although the activities are not being explicitly directed at disabled people, we expect Bury carers with a disability will be better supported to continue in their caring role for as long as they choose as the service commits to a programme of wrap around intervention and support with an aim to improve health & wellbeing outcomes for carers. All properties used within the neighbourhoods will undergo assessment to ensure there are no physical barriers, or unnecessary exclusions	Neutral.

			Carers will be encouraged to register as a carer with their GP. People will be able to access support in person, phone, text, email, and third-party referral	
Gender Reassignment	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact relating to gender reassignment	No evidence to suggest impact.		Neutral
Marriage and Civil Partnership	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to marriage or civil partnership.	No evidence to suggest impact		Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to pregnancy and maternity.	No evidence to suggest impact		Neutral
Race	Local data indicates disparities in carers from local ethnic minority	engagement & consultation report	One of the four commitments of the Bury Adult Carers Strategy 2025 – 2028 is to reduce inequalities by improving	Positive. To understand the current picture of local support, carers dashboards have been developed to profile carers being supported by Adult Social

	communities being identified/referred for support Carers whose first language is not English may experience barriers in communication when accessing and using services		identification of and support to carers from under-represented groups. This will be reflected in the new specification for adult carers support.	Care and the commissioned service will provide breakdown of carers accessing support as part of the quarterly monitoring returns to ensure Bury will have consistent data collection. For the first time, improving identification and support to carers from underrepresented groups will be embedded at a strategic level. Providers will need to make available information to people in different languages, using different formats
Religion and Belief	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact relating to religion and belief. It is expected that the service provides a personalised service to all the people it supports, so would take account of any support needs relating to religion or belief..	No evidence to suggest impact.		Neutral

Sex	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to Sex.	We acknowledge that women may feel more pressurised than men to undertake caring. (expectations surrounding caring). Bury Carers Hub stats 2023-24: No. of women referred-240 No. of men referred-80	This service for carers contributes towards mitigating negative impacts as more women are accessing the service, meaning more females are benefitting from the service.	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	It is unlikely there would be any disproportionate impact in relation to Sexual Orientation	No evidence to suggest impact.		Neutral
Carers	Positive	engagement & consultation report Carers are the core group the service is aiming to support.	It is the intention of Bury ASC that adult carers should be better supported on a more consistent basis so that they can continue to care, if they wish, in good health and to have a life alongside caring. The service will contribute toward this ambition by ensuring better and more consistent support for carers, based on what	Positive

			carers told us is important to them.	
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	People must be aged 18+ to access this service. Potential impact could be a gap in support for children transitioning into adult services		Due consideration will be given to the needs of young carers and those transitioning between young carers and adult carers services	Neutral
Socio-economically vulnerable	Carers are vulnerable to rising costs due to the additional costs associated with caring	The most recent data available from the Department for Work and Pensions [i] shows that just under a third of households in receipt of Carers Allowance are food insecure, compared with 10% of households as a whole. Carers UK Press Release dated October 24 report carers are worried about living costs and don't feel confident about keeping up with costs over the next 12 months. The ASCOF responses for Bury:	The service seeks to mitigate financial challenges for carers by ensuring the service is free of charge to carers. Drop-ins' will be delivered through out the borough of Bury and be within reach of local public transport networks. The service will also identify and make referrals to outside organisations to aid carers, such as local provisions who are able to give benefit advice. The information channel for carers includes a	Neutral

		8.8% of Bury's Carers report that their caring role has caused them a lot of financial difficulties. This is a decrease from 13.5% in 21/22 and is lower than the England average of 28.3%	'Money Matters' area which promotes resources such as Bury Council's "Lets Manage Tough Times', Financial Support, and national charities providing information & support to people in finance need. Along with a section for working carers. Carers will be able to access support in person, phone, text, email, and third-party referral.	
Veterans	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		Neutral

Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date
	No actions identified at this stage.		

Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score			Likelihood			
			1	2	3	4
			Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely
Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

Risk Level	No Risk = 0	Low Risk = 1 - 4	Medium Risk = 5 – 7	High Risk = 8 - 16

3.2 Level of risk identified	Low Risk
3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation	There are no perceived negative impacts. It is the intention of Bury ASC that adult carers should be better supported on a more consistent basis so that they can continue to care, if they wish, in good health and to have a life alongside caring. The service will contribute toward this ambition by ensuring better and more consistent support for carers, based on what carers told us is important to them. Feedback from carers and quarterly contract monitoring and case studies will ensure continuous service improvement.

Section 4 - Analysis Decision (Page 11 of the guidance document)

4.1 Analysis Decision	X	Reasons for This Decision
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed	x	There are no negative impacts across the protected characteristics at this stage

		Contract monitoring will identify and manage any emerging equality impacts.
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed		
There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions (Page 11 of the guidance document)

5.1 Sign Off	Name	Date	Comments
Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager	Caroline Malvern	25/10/24	
Responsible Asst. Director/Director	Adrian Crook	25 November 2024	
EDI	Lee Cawley	25/10/24	QA complete, potential negative impacts have been mitigated to neutral along with positive impacts.

EqIA Revision Log

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details

[i] Family Resources Survey - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 13

Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Adult Social Care Sensory Impairment Strategy 2025 - 2029	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	

1. Summary

- The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to note the first ever Adult Social Care Sensory Impairment Strategy for Adult 2025- 2029.
- For the purpose of the Strategy, sensory impairment includes varying degrees of hearing loss, varying degrees of sight loss and loss of both senses.
- The Strategy sets out a clear approach of the systemic work which is required to improve the wellbeing and quality of life for adults with a sensory impairment and what they can expect from the Health and Adult Care department.
- There is a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention in this Strategy by taking a strength-based approach – which means identifying an individuals' strengths and capabilities' and supports people to maximise those strengths to remain well and independent with day-to-day living.
- This Strategy has been developed by conversations and engaging with adults living with a sensory impairment, their families, carers and local partners.
- This could not have happened without working alongside two local Charities, the Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People and the Bury Hearing Hub.
- To ensure the Strategy remains relevant, regular reviews will be conducted and amendments made, if necessary, to respond to new challenges, policy changes and opportunities.
- Key to the success of the Strategy will be local partnership working between statutory and third sector agencies.

2. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to note the Adult Social Care Sensory Strategy for Adults and increase the profile of the Strategy in relevant forums.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

The Strategy signals Adult Social Care, together with our partners, intent to focus on improved outcomes and support for people in Bury with sensory impairments.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

None.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Ahmed Ajmi
Position: Integrated Strategic Lead
Department: Health and Social Care
E-mail: A.Ajmi@bury.gov.uk

Name: Caroline Malvern
Position: Commissioning Manager
Department: Health and Social Care
E-mail: c.malvern@bury.gov.uk

5. Background

Bury Adult Social Care has made great progress in developing a strength-based approach to support adults to be as independent as possible, by supporting them in ways that work for them as an individual.

This Strategy sets out the plan on how we build on this approach to support adults with a Sensory Impairment to live independently and safely within localities, whilst recognising the challenges in public funding and an ageing population.

Our vision is to support sight impaired, hearing impaired and deafblind adults to be independent and to participate fully in our community.

We will do this by identifying an individual's strengths and capabilities and to support people to maximise those strengths to remain well and independence with day-to-day living.

6. How this Strategy was developed

We wanted this Strategy to be developed by what people told us were their priorities, rather than what paid professionals might think people need.

An engagement and consultation exercise were undertaken in partnership with specialist community Charities, the Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People and the Bury Hearing Hub.

A variety of methods were used:

- Semi-structured face-to-face sessions, with an aim to maintain an open conversation.
- Online survey designed to use on computers and smart phones via a QR code.
- Enlarged paper copy of the survey, along with a pre-paid envelope was made available.
- Members of staff from Bury Blind Society provided telephone support.
- Individual comments were also received.

The findings of this work, alongside national and local policy have shaped the development of the Adult Social Care Sensory Impairment Strategy.

7. Key insights from engagement and co-production activities

Below are the key themes from the engagement and consultation activities which has been built into the new Strategy.

The key themes are:

- Community support
- The importance of family support
- Accessible information, advice and guidance
- Partnership working
- Technology, minor aids & equipment
- Emotional & peer support
- The need for increased understanding and awareness of sensory impairment

8. The Strategy Priorities

The findings of the engagement work, alongside a consideration of policy and research have established the areas of work we think are important to deliver in Bury over the next 4-years. The following are the key priorities until 2029.

- **Priority 1:** Relationships, emotional support and community connections.
- **Priority 2:** Unpaid carers.
- **Priority 3:** Accessible information, advice and guidance.
- **Priority 4:** Technology, minor aids and equipmen.t
- **Priority 5:** Awareness and understanding of sensory impairment.
- **Priority 6:** Pathways and partnerships.

9. Implementation

Within the Strategy we have outlined the outcomes Adult Social Care will deliver on in response to the challenges and themes people with a sensory impairment have highlighted to us.

It is intended that the areas for action will be driven by establishing a Sensory Impairment Partnership. The partnership's role will be to develop an implementation plan to accompany the Strategy, and work will be undertaken driven by nominated partnership leads.

There will also be opportunities for improvements within wider transformation change, such as the Integrated Ageing Well programme.

To ensure the Strategy remains relevant, regular reviews will be conducted and amendments made, if necessary, to respond to new challenges, policy changes and opportunities.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

This document aligns with other key local Strategies and plans to ensure that it is consistent with the aspirations and outcomes which makes Bury a place where all people, regardless of their needs can strive. These Strategies include:

Bury Council's Let's Do It! Strategy

The Let's Do It Bury 2030 community Strategy sets out four clear principles which will be guided by our work.

- **Local**- ensuring that all people in Bury can access Adult Social Care services, regardless of their background and need.
- **Enterprise**- that our local partners who support the sensory impairment community have the resources and accessibility to deliver high quality provision to develop independent living skills.
- **Together**- a partnership approach to improve the quality of life for residents who have sensory impairment and in a joint way improve accessibility to services and spaces that will support people to be an integral part of their community.
- **Strength based**- recognise that people that have sensory impairment play a vital part in Bury, who are proud of their identity and can contribute significantly to localities and improve the reach of statutory services.

Adult Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-26

This plan sets out the Adult Social Care Department's roles and responsibilities on behalf of Bury Council. It explains who we are, what we do, how we work as an equal partner in our integrated health and social care system and identifies our priorities for the next 3 years which are:

Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support. For those eligible to access social care services, we provide assessment and support planning with an emphasis on building on

individual's strengths and promoting independence in line with our statutory responsibilities to all people over the age of eighteen, resident in the borough.

This Strategy is a step towards a new vision for our residents with sensory impairments and is a significant move towards a renewed focus on the barriers to inclusion for people with sensory loss.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

Full EIA has been completed with only positive impacts identified with this strategy.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

An environmental impact assessment has not been undertaken for the Strategy as there are no implications or carbon impact of this decision.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Insufficient capacity to deliver against the Strategy's objectives.	It is intended that the areas for action will be driven by establishing a Sensory Impairment Partnership. The partnership's role will be to develop an implementation plan to accompany the Strategy, and work will be undertaken driven by nominated partnership leads.

Legal Implications:

Under the Care Act 2014, Section 9, the Council is subject to a statutory duty to undertake an assessment of an adult's care and support needs. An assessment that relates to a person who is deaf or blind must be completed by a person with specific training and expertise (Regulation 6, Care and Support Assessment Regulations 2014). A register must be kept by the Council of those with a sight impairment who live in the area (Care Act 2014, section 77(1)).

The Equality act 2010, section 20, provides that the Council must make reasonable adjustments to its services with the aim of ensuring that such services are accessible including to those with a sensory impairment.

The strategy sets out how these objectives will be met.

Financial Implications:

There are no additional costs directly arising out of the implementation of the Strategy.

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

Bury Council

Sensory Impairment Strategy Health and Adult Care

2025 - 2029

Contents

Contents 2
1. Foreword 3
2. Introduction 3
3. Background 5
4. How this Strategy was developed 15
5. What people told us 16
6. How we will respond 17
7. Implementation 25
8. Annex A 26
9. Annex B Year One Commitment Milestones Grid 27
The commitment milestones will be reviewed annually, updated, and revised, as necessary. 27

1. Foreword

We are delighted to introduce Bury Council's first Adult Social Care Sensory Impairment Strategy. The Strategy is for adults living in Bury living with a sensory impairment, their families and carers.

For the purposes of this Strategy, sensory impairment includes varying degrees of hearing loss, sight loss and loss of both senses.

The aim of this Strategy is to work to improve the wellbeing and quality of life for adults with a sensory impairment. It places a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention by taking a strength-based approach – which means identifying an individuals' strengths and capabilities' and to support people to maximise those strengths to promote independence and improve quality of life.

Publishing this document means that adults with a sensory impairment will have a clearer idea of what they can expect from Adult Social Care.

This Strategy has been developed by conversations and engaging with adults living with a sensory impairment, their families, carers and local partners. This could not have happened without working alongside two local charities, the Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People and the Bury Hearing Hub. Both provided their professional expertise, helping us to connect with Bury residents with a sensory impairment and provided a safe and comfortable environment to undertake face to face engagement.

We would like to thank all those who responded to the consultation and engagement exercise. The findings of this work, alongside national and local Adult Social Care policy has been crucial in shaping this Strategy.

2. Introduction

Adult Social Care aims to help people stay independent, safe and well so they can live the life they want to. This includes people who are frail, have disabilities or neurodiversity, have mental health needs, as well as supporting unpaid carers who care for them.

Bury Adult Social Care has made great progress in developing a strength-based approach to support adults to be as independent as possible, by supporting them in ways that work for them as an individual.

This Strategy sets out the plan on how we build on this approach to support adults with a sensory Impairment to live independently and safely within localities, whilst recognising the challenges in public funding and an ageing population.

We have developed one overarching Strategy based on the views shared by our residents with sensory impairments.

This document aligns with other key local Strategies and plans to ensure that it is consistent with the aspirations and outcomes which makes Bury a place where all people, regardless of their needs can strive. These Strategies include:

- Bury Council's Let's Do It! Strategy
  The Let's Do It Bury 2030 community Strategy sets out four clear principles which will be guided by our work.
  - **Local**- ensuring that all people in Bury can access adult social care services, regardless of their background and need.
  - **Enterprise**- that our local partners who support the sensory impairment community have the resources and accessibility to deliver high quality provision to develop independent living skills.
  - **Together**- a partnership approach to improve the quality of life for residents who have sensory impairment and in a joint way improve accessibility to services and spaces that will support people to be an integral part of their community.
  - **Strength based**- recognise that people that have sensory impairment play a vital part in Bury, who are proud of their identity and can contribute significantly to localities and improve the reach of statutory services.

- **Our Strategic Plan 2023-26**
  This plan sets out the Adult Social Care Department's roles and responsibilities on behalf of Bury Council. It explains who we are, what we do, how we work as an equal partner in our integrated health and social care system and identifies our priorities for the next 3 years which are:

Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support. For those eligible to access social care services, we provide assessment and support planning with an emphasis on building on individual's strengths and promoting independence in line with our statutory responsibilities to all people over the age of eighteen resident in the borough.

This Strategy is a step towards a new vision for our residents with sensory impairments and is a significant move towards a renewed focus on the barriers to inclusion for people with sensory loss.

3. Background

National and Local Policy

The Department of Health and Social Care website hosts a great deal of information, policies and initiatives which support disabled adults, including people with sensory impairments. Website: Department of Health and Social Care - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The Care Act 2014

The Care Act has elevated the importance of preventative services, and to make services more personalised. The prevention duty also recognises the clear benefits of rehabilitation support.
Section 78 of the Care Act places specific duties on Local Authorities to improve services for deafblind people.

Local Authorities must:

- make contact and keep a record of people with deafblindness in their area. ensure assessments of need for care and support are conducted by people with specific training and expertise.
- provide appropriate services for deafblind people. A person who is deafblind may not benefit from mainstream, or other services aimed at people who are either deaf or sight impaired.
- provide specially trained one-to-one support workers when necessary.
- provide information in ways that are accessible for the individual.
- ensure that a director-level member of the local authority has overall responsibility for deafblind services.

The maintenance of a Sight Register is a statutory requirement for Bury Council. Under Section 77 of the Care Act 2014, local authorities are legally required to establish and maintain a register of sight-impaired and severely sight-impaired adults who are ordinarily resident in their area.

- Maintaining a register of people who are severely sight impaired and sight impaired.
- Undertaking specialist assessment of needs and preparing a care and support plan.
- Providing access to a specialised visual rehabilitation programme.
- Providing minor aids and adaptations.
- Information and advice.

ADASS

The ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) Position Statement on Vision Rehabilitation (May 2016) sets out the requirements in the context of personalisation, which aims to ensure that severely sight impaired and sight impaired people remain independent by putting them in control of decisions that affect their lives.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework

The Public Health Outcomes Framework examines indicators that help understand trends in public health, including profiles relating to blindness or partially sighted and reporting of deafness or hearing loss. The framework can be accessed here.

Public Health Outcomes Framework | Fingertips | Department of Health and Social Care (phe.org.uk)

The Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act is significant for sensory impairment people. It requires all organisations that provide a service to the public to make reasonable adjustments to those services to ensure they are accessible to everyone.

Under section 149 of the Act, 'the Public Sector Equality Duty', those subject to the general equality duty, need to have 'due regard' in everything they do to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Take steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.'
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Accessible Information Standard

All organisations which provide NHS care or adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard. The standard aims to make sure that people who have a disability, impairment or sensory loss are provided with information that they can easily read or understand and are provided with support so they can communicate effectively with health and social care services.

The UK Vision Strategy

This set out a strategic framework for improving the UK's eye health and outcomes for people with sight impairment. The UK Vision Strategy aims to:

1. Improve the eye health of people of the UK.
2. Eliminate avoidable sight loss and deliver excellent support to those with a visual impairment.
3. Enhance the inclusion, participation, and independence of blind and partially sighted people.

What we know

People with Hearing loss

There are lots of different terms for hearing loss, including partially deaf, profoundly deaf, hearing impaired, hard of hearing and D/deaf. People will make their own choice about which term to use.

Some people describe themselves as Deaf with a capital 'D' to express their cultural pride and community identity. Deaf people tend to communicate in sign language as their first language.

- In the UK, there are 12 million adults with a hearing loss, equivalent to one in five adults.

- Locally, 37,207 adults were estimated to be living with a hearing loss in 2023. This includes 3,535 adults with severe hearing loss and 33,672 adults with some hearing loss.[1]

- Hearing loss affects communication at work and home, employment opportunities, personal relationships, enjoyment of music and social independence. It can lead to reduction in people's quality of life and is associated with mental health problems.

- People wait an average of 10-years before seeking treatment for hearing loss and when people do eventually seek help, GPs fail to refer 45% of people on.[2]

[1] POPPI & PANSI data tools – Projecting Older People Information / Projecting Adult Needs & Service Information System

[2] Action on Hearing Loss - Joining up – Long term conditions report.

- ❖ There is a gap in the data on the numbers of adults with hearing impairments in Bury who have had contact with adult social care.

The data below are Public Health profiles for Greater Manchester ICB. [3] Public Health profiles are reports that pull together existing information and data on a range of indicators for local populations.

The aim of the profiles is to help local government and health services make plans to improve health and reduce inequalities.

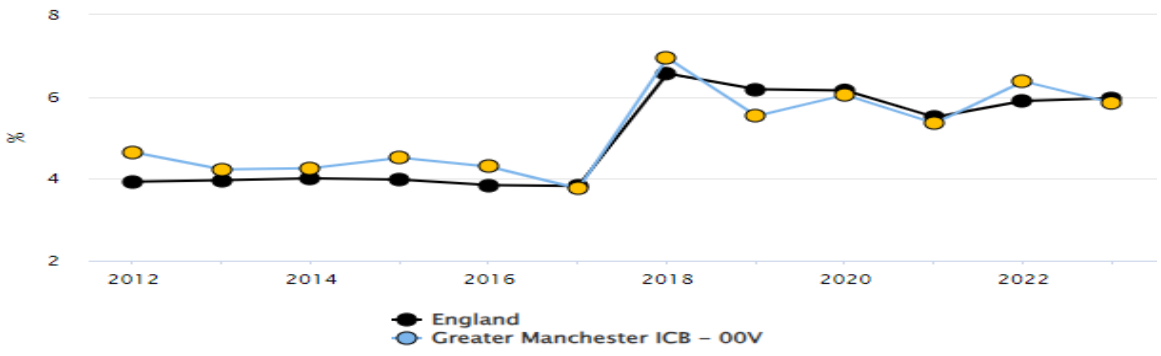
% reporting deafness or hearing loss

Lower 95% Similar Higher 95% Not applicable

Recent trend: No significant change

Period	Greater Manchester ICB - 00V					England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI	
2018		-	7.0%	6.0%	8.1%	6.6%
2019		-	5.5%	4.6%	6.6%	6.2%
2020		-	6.0%	5.1%	7.1%	6.2%
2021		-	5.4%	4.5%	6.3%	5.5%
2022		-	6.4%*	5.4%	7.5%	5.9%
2023		-	5.9%*	5.0%	6.9%	6.0%

Source: OHID, based on GP-Patient Survey data
CI = confidence intervals – a range of values that's likely to include a population valu e with a certain degree of confidence.



[3] NHS Greater Manchester is the Integrated Care Board for GM and is responsible for making decisions about health services across GM and in the ten boroughs and cities.

People with visual impairments
There are several types of visual impairments, each with its own characteristics and impact on an individual's vision.

What is the difference between visual impairment and blindness?
The term visual impairment is used for a condition in which an individual experiences a decrease in the ability to see that causes problems not fixable by usual means, such as glasses or contact lenses. It can range from mild to severe and can affect people of all ages.

Blindness is the word used to describe total, or near total sight loss due to injury, disease or genetic condition.

- The RNIB report in the UK, 2 million people are living with sight loss and every day 250 people start to lose their sight. An estimated 80% of people aged sixty-five and over are living with some degree of sight loss[4].
- Locally, seventy-four people aged 18-64 years were estimated to be living with severe visual impairment; 3,269 aged sixty-five and over were predicted to have a visual impairment, with 1,158 people aged seventy-five and over predicted to have registrable eye conditions.[5]

Rehabilitation
The term 'rehabilitation' is sometimes used to describe a particular type of service designed to help a person regain or re-learn some capabilities where these capabilities have been lost due to illness or disease. Rehabilitation services can include provisions that help people attain independence and remain or return to their home and participate in their community, for example independent living skills and mobility training for people with visual impairment.

Certificate of Vision Impaired (CVI)
An eye specialist (Ophthalmologist) determines eligibility to be certified as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.

The Ophthalmologist will complete a Certificate of Vision Impaired (CVI) and forwards a copy (with consent) of the CVI to the Council.

[4] RNIB Key Information & Statistics on sight loss in the UK
[5] POPPI & PANSI data tools

Register of people who are blind or partially sighted.
The Care Act statues that 'A local authority must establish and maintain a register of sight-impaired and severely sight-impaired adults who are ordinarily resident in its area.'

Registration to the sight register is not compulsory and will not restrict access to support, however, it can help get a range of benefits to help with costs relating to disability.

As part of the statutory returns to NHS Digital, local authorities are required to submit data collection relating to the number of people on local authority registers. This data collection is conducted every 3-years.

The Bury SSDA902 Return to NHS Digital - Registers of people who are blind or partially sighted (2022 - 23):

Table 1	Blind/severely sight impaired persons and partial sight/sight impaired persons – Numbers on the register and new registrations			
	Blind/SSI registered	New registrations of blind/SSI persons	Partial sight/SI persons registered	New registrations of partial sight/SI persons
Age 0 – 4	1	0	4	1
Age 5 – 17	26	1	28	1
Age 18 – 49	74	4	34	2
Age 50 – 64	49	4	45	3
Age 65 – 74	44	4	42	4
Age 75 and over	179	17	177	13
Total	373	30	330	24

Note: The number of adults with certificates of visual impairment on the register may be lower than the total number of certificates issued because some people choose not to register their certificate.

The following data sets are Public Health profiles for Bury. Public Health profiles are reports that pull together existing information and data on a range of indicators for local populations.

The aim of the profiles is to help local government and health services make plans to improve health and reduce inequalities.

Source: OHID, based Moorfields Eye Hospital and Office for National St atistics data
CI = confidence intervals – a range of values that's likely to include a po pulation value with a certain degree of confidence

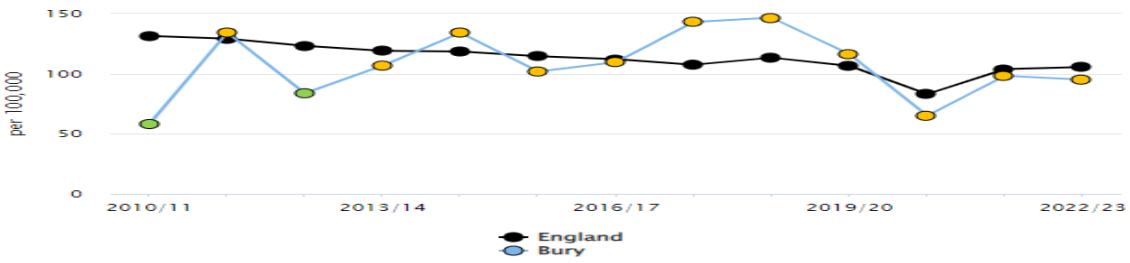
Preventable sight loss: age related macular degeneration.

Better 95% Similar Worse 95% Not applicable

Recent trends: – Could not be calculated; No significant change; Increasing & getting worse; Increasing & getting better; Decreasing & getting worse; Decreasing & getting better

Recent trend: No significant change

Period	Bury					England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI	
2017/18		49	143.0	105.8	189.1	107.5
2018/19		51	146.6	109.1	192.7	113.3
2019/20		41	116.4	83.5	157.9	106.6
2020/21		23	65.0	41.2	97.5	83.1
2021/22		35	98.2	68.4	136.6	103.8
2022/23		34	95.1	65.8	132.9	105.6



Preventable sight loss: glaucoma

Recent trend: No significant change

Period	Bury					England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI	
2017/18		17	17.5	10.2	28.1	12.6
2018/19		9	9.2	4.2	17.6	13.2
2019/20		7	7.2	2.9	14.8	12.9
2020/21		8	8.2	3.5	16.1	9.2
2021/22		9	9.2	4.2	17.4	12.6
2022/23		8	8.1	3.5	16.0	13.5

Preventable sight loss: diabetic eye disease

Recent trend: Could not be calculated.

Period	Bury					England
		Count	Value	95% Lower CI	95% Upper CI	
2017/18		-	*	-	-	2.8
2018/19		8	4.9	2.1	9.7	3.1
2019/20		-	*	-	-	2.9
2020/21		-	*	-	-	1.9
2021/22		7	4.2	1.7	8.7	2.8
2022/23		-	*	-	-	2.9

Source: OHID[6], based Moorfields Eye Hospital and Office for National Statistics data
** Value suppressed for disclosure control due to small count*
CI = confidence intervals – a range of values that's likely to include a population value with a certain degree of confidence

People with deafblindness

Deafblindness, also known as dual sensory loss or multi-sensory impairment, is a combination of both sight and hearing loss that affects your everyday life. Dual sensory loss is a completely unique condition and affects everyone in different ways. It can range from struggling to see and hear the TV to not being able to see or hear anything at all.

Being deafblind does not necessarily mean you are totally deaf and/or totally blind. Many people who are deafblind have some sight and some hearing.

In 1995, the Department of Health established a legal definition of deafblindness:

> 'A person is regarded as deafblindness if their combined sight and hearing impairment cause difficulties with communication, access to information and mobility. This includes people with a progressive sight and hearing loss.'

[6] OHID – Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

There are two main types of deafblindness:

Congenital deafblindness: means a person is born with sight and hearing impairment or it becomes apparent within the first two years of life.

Acquired deafblindness: means a person develops sight and hearing loss later in life. Anyone can become deafblind at any time through an accident, illness, or ageing.

In 2022, it is estimated that there are 450,00 deafblind people in the UK. It is thought this will increase to over 610,00 by 2035, due to our ageing population.[7]

There is a gap in the data on the numbers of people in Bury who are deafblind and have contacted adult social care.

Older people
Sight and hearing loss can affect us at any age, but age is a significant risk factor related to eye health and sight loss.

Sensory impairment is a major contributory factor in falls and subsequent admission to hospital, which is the major contributory factor to admission to a care home.

Population projections detailed in the Bury JSNA, reveal older adults in Bury are expected to see the biggest increase of 15.4% with an additional 5,617 older adults between the years of 2023 to 2032. During the same time period, England is expected to see an even greater increase of 21.4% in older adults.

Despite the predicted increase in older adults' population lower than that predicted for England, this still represents a significant shift in the demographic composition of Bury.

Unpaid carers and family
The vital role of families and carers in the support they provide to adult family members with sensory impairments is widely recognised. This vital support can range from helping with daily living tasks, getting out and about and providing emotional support.

[7] This data is based on research commissioned by Sense and delivered by the Operational Research Society in 2017.

It is important that families and carers feel supported in their caring role and have access to advice and support in their own right.

If the person being cared for has acquired their sensory impairment through old age or another condition, they may struggle to come to terms with the fact their condition limits their independence. This is likely to affect their mood, and this may put a strain on the relationship with them as the balance changes.

Caring responsibilities may arise at any time in life. Carers may have to adapt and change their daily routine for work and social life, perhaps incurring personal and financial costs. They may become isolated from other members of their family, friends, and work colleagues. In an ageing population, family members are expected to undertake complex care tasks, often at great cost to their own well-being and health[8].

4. How this Strategy was developed

We wanted this Strategy to be developed by what people told us were their priorities, rather than what paid professionals might think people need.

An engagement and consultation exercise were undertaken in partnership with specialist community charities, the Bury Society for Blind & Partially Sighted People (known locally as Bury Blind Society) and the Bury Hearing Hub.

The overall engagement ran between 19th May 2024 and 16th June 2024. Alongside this, a follow up session took place at the premises of Bury Blind Society to share initial highlights and to give opportunity for feedback.

A variety of methods were used:

- Semi-structured face-to-face sessions, with an aim to maintain an open conversation.
- Online survey designed to use on computers and smart phones via a QR code.

[8] Richard Schulz & Lynn M Martire 2004 Family Caregiving

- Enlarged paper copy of the survey, along with a pre-paid envelope was made available.
- Members of staff from Bury Blind Society provided telephone support.
- Individual comments were also received.

The online survey was available to paid professionals and other interested parties. Survey branching was used for the online survey to customise the survey and to eliminate questions not relevant to paid professionals and other interested parties and to limit organisation's own implicit biases.

All responses and feedback have been read to become familiar with the data, initial impressions were noted and related data grouped together to form themes. The themes have been reviewed to refine and adjust as needed to ensure they accurately represent the feedback.

The findings of this work, alongside national and local policy have shaped the development of the Adult Social Care Sensory Impairment Strategy.

5. What people told us

There have been a broad range of responses to the sensory impairment engagement and consultation, from individual responses to the online questionnaire to targeted engagement with adults with sensory impairments, their families, professionals and other interested people.

The key themes are:

- ❖ Community support
- ❖ The importance of family support
- ❖ Accessible information, advice, and guidance.
- ❖ Partnership working
- ❖ Technology, minor aids & equipment
- ❖ Emotional & peer support
- ❖ The need for increased understanding and awareness of sensory impairment

The identification of the themes does not suggest that other comments outside the scope of this work are any less valid. This approach

highlights the areas raised most frequently in the responses received and shows the overlap of shared experience.

6. How we will respond

Our Vision

Our vision is to support sight impaired, hearing impaired and deafblind adults to be independent and to participate fully in our community.

We will do this by identifying an individual's strengths and capabilities and to support people to maximise those strengths to promote independence and improve quality of life.

Our Principles

- Enable independence.
- Equity of access.
- To deliver improved outcomes.
- Ensure families and unpaid carers are made aware of the support available for them.
- Champion technology solutions and innovation improvements.
- Making best use of limited resources and deliver value for money.
- Increase the understanding of sensory impairment.

Our Outcomes

The findings of the engagement work, alongside a consideration of policy and research have established the areas of work we think are important to deliver in Bury over the next 4-years. The following are the key priorities until 2029.

PRIORITY 1:
Relationships, emotional support, and community connections

- Having a social life is important to people. Even those with a network of family or friends spoke about the loneliness of their experience of sensory impairment.

- It was highlighted that the emotional impact of visual impairment should not be overlooked. When given the diagnosis of sight loss, people often undergo a bereavement reaction, which can impact

their ability to make the necessary practical adjustments to their lives and can also extend to personal relationships and work life.

- Connection with people with similar experiences is valuable to people. There were many comments on the significance of peer groups and activities and how the groups can be a 'lifeline' to share experiences, coping strategies and information.

- People have told us of the importance of the location of premises and the connections with public transport to access groups and support.

"The many and varied support groups for visually impaired people at the Bury Blind Society are invaluable."

"*The help and support services to continue to be at a venue that is accessible when using public transport. Locally provided services are critical."*

"I don't know what I would do if we didn't have the centre."

"Here in Bury we are constantly told by clients that they value the local offer and support, knowing that help is literally 'just around the corner'".

"Having people who understand I need different ways of support and to know how to help people with sight and hearing problems. I get lonely and would like to get out more."

We will:

- Collaborate with partners to promote services, organisations and groups who can offer support, information and social opportunities.

- Raise awareness of the resources available from Bury VCFA to individuals who want to develop or grow a support group.

- Explore new opportunities for supporting and expanding the excellent practices Bury Blind Society have in place to address social, emotional and practical needs within wider transformation change, such as the Integrated Ageing Well programme, and how this can be replicated to meet the needs of deafblind people and d/Deaf people.

PRIORITY 2:
Unpaid Carers

- Carers are often key to understanding the persons needs and preferences. The benefits of supporting unpaid carers are well documented, however, many people do not identify as a carer, and even if people recognise they are in a caring role, they are still more likely to see their primary role in relation to that person as a family member or friend.
- Giving carers the right information, advice and support at the right time can help them continue caring, whilst managing other aspects of their own lives.
- People told us how important it is to have family back-up available to continue to live independently and to get out and about.

"At the moment I don't need any help as my daughter helps with day to day living."

"I wouldn't get out at all if it wasn't for my daughter."

"If I didn't have a husband to help me get around in the home and outside the home, go to hospital, fill in forms etc, I would be stranded."

The survey responses also reveal that there are people with sensory impairments who are also unpaid carers.

"Caring for wife with dementia."

"Aged 89 and full-time carer for wife suffering from dementia."

We will:

- Commission a service for carers that will be the gateway for carers to access information, advice, signposting and lower-level needs of support.

- Provide Carer Awareness briefings delivered by the commissioned carers services to professionals and networks.

- Promote carers rights under the Care Act 2014. This will be done through promotion campaigns with partner agencies and national calendar events, such As Carers Week and Carers Rights Day.

PRIORITY 3:
Accessible information, advice, and guidance

- One of the themes which was consistent across the broad spectrum of conditions and experiences was the significant challenges in accessing information and the obstacles to be able to contact and effective communication with adult social care. Deaf BSL users reported particularly poor experiences in accessing services.

- Also raised was that all too often, public services expect relatives or a member of staff from Bury Blind Society/the Bury Hearing Hub to provide communication support, which is not appropriate when discussing confidential matters.

- People expressed frustration at the Council's over-reliance with on-line/email. Some individuals who are blind or have low vision, cannot effectively use digital technologies.

"Navigating information is difficult. Not only knowing where to access information relating to disability but being able to read it."

"I can't use email/use online to contact the council. It drives me mad being left hanging on the phone for ages waiting to speak to someone and getting a message on loop telling me to go online. This is the same for all services. This 'online first' approach is not working for someone with sight loss."

"Being told to bring your daughter/son along to an appointment is not appropriate. I don't want to be having confidential or sensitive conversations with my family present."

"What you need to understand is there are different levels of BSL – hospitals/GPs, arrange BSL Interpreters to attend

appointments who are trainees, and this is not acceptable as trainees are not at the right level."

"We need lots of support and help with communication, signing, help with letters, post etc. Can go on."

We will:

- Continue to provide access to interpreting services for d/Deaf and deafblind people, ensuring the Interpreter meets the required level for interpreting.

- Raise awareness of the support available, so people will know where to go locally and will know about organisations which support people with their condition.

- Provide information about the Certification of Vision Impairment and registration processes and the benefits and concessions to which people are entitled to.

- Collaborate with people with sensory impairments and stakeholders to develop solutions to improve access to information, digital access and communication.

PRIORITY 4:
Technology, minor aids & Equipment

- Technology is incredibly useful for people examples provided being mobile phones and Apps, hearing and visual aids, Alexia devices, aids to navigate computers. People have expressed they would welcome opportunities to find out more about what is available, along with an option to 'try before you buy.'

- However, there are people nervous with technology or their sight or hearing had deteriorated where they can no longer use the technology they were familiar with. Therefore, there is a need to

consider its limitations for some and as technology advances, how better to support its usage when it is used.

"The gadgets from Bury Blind Society are brilliant. Things like the raised bump-ons for the microwave, cooker and washer and the water levels to make hot drinks."

"I wear hearing aids and find these to be good and have equipment to help me hear the television and doorbell which I got from the council. I also have a smoke alarm from the fire service which has a vibrating pad. Can't complain about anything I have received; I was given useful information and advice from the lady from the council when she saw me to see what help I could have."

"I have been really happy with the services I have received so far for my hearing loss from the council, even my daughter has said what a difference the equipment has made, and I no longer have to turn up my television very loud and disturb my neighbours".

We will:

- Improve provision of digital technology by feeding into the Technology Enabled Care (TEC) team to make the most of the advantages technology brings.
- Look at how existing and recent technology can be optimised.
- Support adults to access training in technology.

PRIORITY 5:
Awareness and understanding of sensory impairment.

- People told us there are many misunderstandings about visual and hearing impairments, based on lack of understanding and misconceptions.

- Services fail to recognise the diversity within sensory impairments, which is essential for understanding the unique challenges and strengths of each individual.

"Stop make assumptions!"

"I think the public are afraid of us due to their lack of knowledge and awareness."

"There is a lack of staff awareness and there needs to be better understanding, not only the council but all services."

"More information to people who don't have hearing loss on how to help and support people who do."

"For unaffected people to know and recognise the sticks we carry then perhaps they would understand our predicament."

We will:

- Develop Sensory Awareness training co-designed by residents and stakeholders for Adult Social Care staff to support front-line delivery, raise awareness and to dispel misconceptions on sensory impairments.

- Develop Practice Guidance that outlines the basic standard of knowledge and expertise social work teams need to be able to provide the required standard of service response for people with sensory impairments.

- Develop a protocol for supporting Deafblind adults.

- Link into health promotion campaigns to raise awareness of sensory impairments.

PRIORITY 6:
Pathways and Partnerships

- People with sensory loss are significant users of health care services, from secondary, primary to community care and feedback highlighted that communication seemed to be limited between health, social care, and the community and to use the resources we have in Bury.

- Feedback from people reveal there is confusion over what services are available and where to direct people and that services for sensory impaired people can be marginalised and connections with other social care services could be improved.

- Also identified was the need for the development of a strategic approach which supports a smooth transition from children services into adult social care.

"There really needs to be a better way of being supported across Adult Social Care, the Council departments, Health, and services. It is all disjointed."

"There is a lot going on in Bury that no one really knows about."

"There needs to be a strategy for transition ages. Too many people who were known to children services only come to us as adults when they are in crisis. There needs to be a holistic and consistent pass over of clients."

"Needs to be better support for people transitioning from young to adult services with sensory impairment."

"…. there needs to be a clear transition period between childhood and adulthood to ensure continuous support. Addressing this gap is crucial, as it is a missing information section that still needs to be developed."

We will

- Develop a care pathway explaining the support people can expect from professionals, along with organisations that provides support.

- Establish a Sensory Impairment Partnership that will also function as a co-production network.

7. Implementation

Within this Strategy we have outlined the outcomes Adult Social Care will deliver on in response to the challenges and themes people with a sensory impairment have highlighted to us.

It is intended that the areas for action will be driven by establishing a Sensory Impairment Partnership. The partnership's role will be to develop an implementation plan to accompany the Strategy, and work will be undertaken driven by nominated partnership leads.

There will also be opportunities for improvements within wider transformation change, such as the Integrated Ageing Well programme.

This Strategy will form future Adult Social Care commissioning intentions for services for sensory impaired adults, which will deliver a service based on the priorities of this Strategy and its aspirations.

To know whether this Strategy 'does what it says on the tin', that it delivers what local people have told us is important to them, we will ask local people to continue telling us their experiences – good or what else needs to change - and to share and celebrate good practices.

Reliable data is knowledge which is required to understand and drive forward better outcomes for people. We recognise that we need to improve on gathering relevant and timely information and that it is readily available. We will improve processes to data collection as part of ongoing governance for the delivery of the implementation plan.

8. Annex A

The Let's Do It! Strategy sets out a clear ambition and delivery plan for the next 10 years.
Let's Do It! strategy - Bury Council

The Care Act (2014) places specific duties on Local Authorities
Care Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk)

The ADASS Position Statement on Vision Rehabilitation (May 2016)
The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) is a charity representing Directors of adult Social Services in England.
ADASS

The Equality Act 2010 is an Act of Parliament.
Equality Act 2010 (legislation.gov.uk)

Accessible Information Standard sets out a specific and consistent approach to meeting the information and communication support needs of people.
NHS England » Accessible Information Standard

The UK Vision Strategy and 'Seeing it my way' outcomes seek to develop a plan for action on all issues relating to sight loss and eye health across the UK.
Layout 1 (opensight.org.uk) See it my way booklet

Action Plan on Hearing Loss (2015) this document is to promote change across the public sectors on how hearing needs can best be met.
NHS England Report Template Action Plan on Hearing Loss

RNIB the Royal National Institute of Blind People is a UK charity.
RNIB | Homepage of the Royal National Institute of Blind People

POPPI & PANSI are tools intended for use for organisations who need to be informed in the population of adults 18+
Projecting Older People Population Information System (poppi.org.uk) & Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System (pansi.org.uk)

Action on Hearing Loss (DCAL) -Joining Up report.
Joining-Up-long-term-conditions-report.pdf (rnid.org.uk)

Sense support everyone who is deafblind or has complex disabilities.
About us - Sense

Schulz & Martire 2004 - Family Caregiving, National Library of Medicine
Family Caregiving for Older Adults - PubMed (nih.gov)

9. Annex B Year One Commitment Milestones Grid

The commitment milestones will be reviewed annually, updated, and amended, as necessary.

Priority	We will	Start
Priority 1: Relationships, emotional support, and community connections	➢ Promote services and organisations who can offer support and information. ➢ Raise awareness of the resources available from Bury VCFA to individuals who want to develop or grow a support group. ➢ Explore new opportunities for supporting and expanding the excellent practices Bury Blind Society have in place to address social, emotional and practical needs within wider transformation change, such as the Integrated Ageing Well programme, and how this can be replicated to meet the needs of deafblind people and d/Deaf people	Year One Year One Year Two
Priority 2: Unpaid carers	➢ Commission a service for carers that will be the gateway for carers to access information, advice, signposting, and lower-level needs of support. ➢ Provide Carer Awareness briefings delivered by the commissioned carers services to professionals and networks. ➢ Promote carers rights under the Care Act 2014. This will be done through promotion campaigns with partner agencies and national calendar events, such As Carers Week and Carers Rights Day	Year One Year One Year One
Priority 3: Accessible information, advice & guidance	➢ Continue to provide access to interpreting services for d/Deaf and deafblind people, ensuring the Interpreter meets the required level for interpreting. ➢ Raise awareness of the support available, so people will know where to go locally and will know about organisations which support people with their condition.	Year One Year Two

	➢ Provide information about the Certification of Vision Impairment and registration processes and the benefits and concessions to which people are entitled to. ➢ Collaborate with people with sensory impairments and stakeholders to develop solutions to improve access to information, digital access, and communication.	Year One Year One
Priority 4: Technology, minor aids & equipment	➢ Improve provision of digital technology by feeding into the Technology Enabled Care (TEC) team to make the most of the advantages technology brings. ➢ Look at how existing and recent technology can be optimised. ➢ Support adults to access training in technology.	Year One Year One Year One
Priority 5: Awareness and understanding of sensory impairment	➢ Develop a protocol for supporting Deafblind adults. ➢ Link into health promotion campaigns to raise awareness of sensory impairments. ➢ Develop Sensory Awareness training co-designed by residents and stakeholders for Adult Social Care staff to support front-line delivery, raise awareness and to dispel misconceptions on sensory impairments. ➢ Develop Practice Guidance that outlines the basic standard of knowledge and expertise social work teams need to be able to provide the required standard of service response for people with sensory impairments'	Year Two Year One Year Two Year Two
Priority 6: Pathways & partnerships	➢ Develop a care pathway explaining the support people can expect from professionals, along with organisations that provides support. ➢ Establish a Sensory Impairment Partnership that will also function as a co-production network.	Year Two Year One

Bury
Council

This page is intentionally left blank

Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

Name of Policy/Project/Decision	Engagement & consultation activities to help the development of a Sensory Strategy for adults
Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)	Caroline Malvern
Department/Team	Community Commissioning
Proposed Implementation Date	Start date: April 2024
Author of the EqIA	Caroline Malvern
Date of the EqIA	March 2024

1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?

The EIA looks at the effect of undertaking engagement and consultation activities with adults living with a sensory impairment. This is to increase the understanding, experiences and views of Bury residents that need access to Adult Social Care services and additional interventions. It covers people who are aged 18+.

The outcome of these activities will be the development of Bury's first Sensory Strategy (2024- 2027). The responses will also be at the heart of future commissioned intentions to enable adult residents living with visual impairment, Deafness or Deafblindness to be independent and to live well.

The Let's Do It Strategy, sets out the commitment that the voices of the residents of Bury are at the centre of our policies and decisions which affect them. This must include also listening and acting on the views of people with sensory impairment and creating spaces where they can share their experiences in an effective manner.

To create an effective Sensory Strategy, it is essential that the department successfully engages with people with sensory impairments and develops relationships of trust. Also, it is essential we make participation accessible and inclusive by ensuring communication methods and the environmental factors allow for effective contribution from people who have sensory loss.

This EIA is a live document and will be updated to looks at the effect on people with protected characteristics of establishing Bury's first strategy for residents living with visual impairment, Deafness or Deafblindness to be independent and to live well. It will cover people who are aged 18+.

Section 2 – Impact Assessment (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?
Employees: This work will not impact on Bury Council staff with a protected characteristic(s) Community/Residents: Bury residents with a sensory impairment aged 18+ who use services./unpaid carers/family members Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: Engagement/consultation work - no If the answer to all three questions is 'no' there is no need to continue with this analysis.

2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation

Documentary Evidence:

We receive over 90% of our information through our sight and hearing senses; sensory loss can have huge personal, social and economic impact through-out a person's life. However, visual and hearing impairment typically do not enjoy a high profile within society.

Bury Adult Social Care continue to make positive strives in the development of policy and service delivery in a continuing challenging budget environment. Nevertheless, there is much progress to be made in understanding, from residents' perspectives, the challenges faced during basic daily activities, social interaction and quality of life for an individual with a visual, hearing, or dual-sensory impairment.

Let's Do It!

The Let' Do It strategy makes a pledge to tackle inequalities with a clear pledge to drive inclusion.

Care Act 2014

The Care Act has elevated the importance of preventative services, and to make services more personalised. The prevention duty also recognises the clear benefits of rehabilitation support.

Department of Health & Social Care – Deafblind people: guidance for local authorities

This guidance is issued under section 78 of the Care Act 2014 in relation to adults and section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 in relation to children. Local authorities are required to act under the guidance in exercising their functions under Part 1 of the Care Act or under regulations under that Part, which means that they must follow it, unless they can demonstrate legally sound reasons for not doing so.

ADASS

The ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) Position Statement on Vision Rehabilitation (May 2016) sets out the requirements in the context of personalisation, which aims to ensure that severely sight impaired and sight impaired people remain independent by putting them in control of decisions that affect their lives.

Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act requires all organisations that provide a service to the public to make reasonable adjustments to those services to ensure they are accessible to everyone.

Accessible Information Standard

The standard aims to make sure that people who have a disability, impairment or sensory loss are provided with information that they can easily read or understand and are provided with support so they can communicate effectively with health and social care services.

The UK Vision Strategy

This set out a strategic framework for improving the UK's eye health and outcomes for people with sight impairment.

Data:

Estimating the numbers of adults in Bury with sensory impairment is not easy because definitions which rest on a clinical diagnosis can provide underestimates and not all people who have sight and/or hearing loss will be known to / eligible for Adult Social Care support.

Older Adults (65 years and over):

Sight and hearing loss can affect us at any age, but age is a significant risk factor related to eye health and sight loss and most people experience some degree of hearing loss as they get older; about one-third of older adults have hearing loss.

Population projections detailed in the Bury JSNA, reveal older adults in Bury are expected to see the biggest increase of 15.4% with an additional 5,617 older adults between the years of 2023 to 2032. During the same time period, England is expected to see an even greater increase of 21.4% in older adults.

Despite the predicted increase in older adults' population lower than that predicted for England, this still represents a significant shift in the demographic composition of Bury.

People with visual impairments

The RNIB report in the UK, 2 million people are living with sight loss and every day 250 people start to lose their sight. An estimated 80% of people aged 65 and over are living with some degree of sight loss[1].

Locally, 74 people aged 18-64 years were estimated to be living with severe visual impairment; 3,269 aged 65 and over were predicted to have a visual impairment, with 1,158 people aged 75 over predicted to have registrable eye conditions.[2]

Certificate of Vision Impaired (CVI)

4.1 Section 77(1) of the Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to establish and maintain a register of adults who are ordinarily resident in their area who are sight-impaired or severely sight-impaired.

An eye specialist (Ophthalmologist) determines eligibility to be certified as sight impaired or severely sight impaired.

The Ophthalmologist will complete a Certificate of Vision Impaired (CVI) and forwards a copy (with consent) of the CVI to the Council.

Registration to the Sight Register is not compulsory and will not restrict access to support, however, it can help get a range of benefits to help with costs relating to disability.

The Bury SSDA902 Return to NHS Digital - Registers of people who are blind or partially sighted (2022 - 23):

Table 1	Blind/severely sight impaired persons and partial sight/sight impaired persons – Numbers on the register and new Registrations			
	Blind/severely sight impaired persons registered as at reporting period end.	New registrations of blind/severely sight impaired persons during the reporting period.	Partial sight/sight impaired persons registered as at reporting period end.	New registrations of partial sight/sight impaired persons during the reporting period.
Age 0 – 4	1	0	4	1
Age 5 – 17	26	1	28	1
Age 18 – 49	74	4	34	2

[1] RNIB Key Information & Statistics on sight loss in the UK

[2] POPPI & PANSI data tools

Age 50 – 64	49	4	45	3
Age 65 – 74	44	4	42	4
Age 75 and over	179	17	177	13
Total	373	30	330	24

Note: The number of adults with certificates of visual impairment on the register may be lower than the total number of certificates issued because some people choose not to register their certificate.

People with Hearing Impairments

In the UK, there are 12 million adults with a hearing loss, equivalent to one in five adults.

Locally, 37,207 adults were estimated to be living with a hearing loss in 2023. This includes 3,535 adults with severe hearing loss and 33,672 adults with some hearing loss.[3]

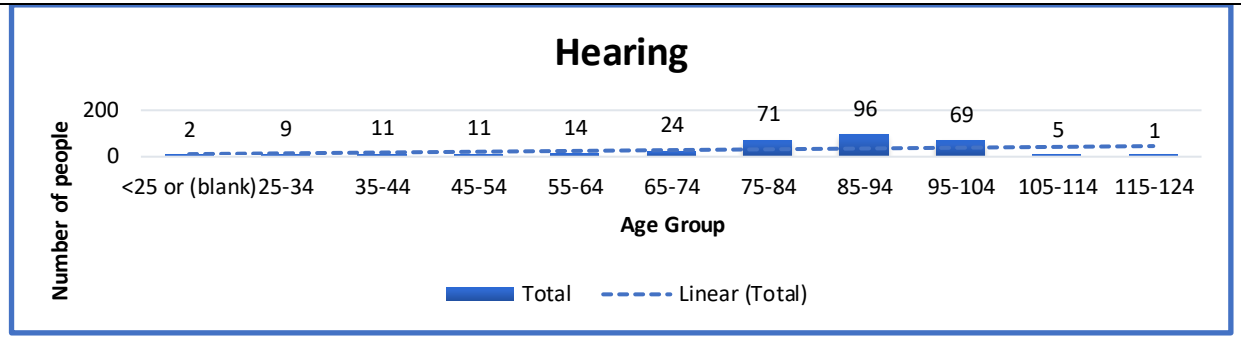
Hearing loss affects communication at work and home, employment opportunities, personal relationships, enjoyment of music and social independence. It can lead to reduction in people's quality of life.

People wait an average of 10-years before seeking treatment for hearing loss and when people do eventually seek help, GPs fail to refer 45% of people on.[4]

The 2020/21 Adult Social Care database (PROTOCOL) records for the number of adults recorded with hearing impairments:

[3] POPPI & PANSI data tools

[4] Action on Hearing Loss - Joining up – Long term conditions report

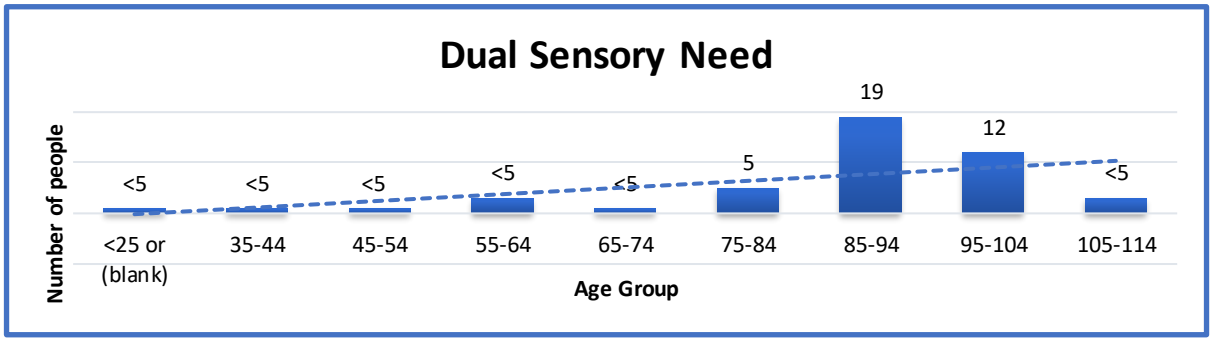


People with deafblindness

Deafblindness, also known as dual sensory loss or multi-sensory impairment, is a combination of both sight and hearing loss that affects your everyday life. Dual sensory loss is a completely unique condition and affects everyone in different ways. It can range from struggling to see and hear the TV to not being able to see or hear anything at all.

Being deafblind does not necessarily mean you are totally deaf and/or totally blind. Many people who are deafblind have some sight and some hearing.

The 2020/21 Adult Social Care database (PROTOCOL) records for the number of adults recorded with dual sensory need:



Stakeholder information/consultation:

To deliver constructive and engaging sessions it is important to ensure equal access to information to encourage communication.

Examples of accessible resources include, qualified Interpreters (such as British Sign Language Interpreters), hearing loops, providing materials relating to the workshops in advance and being able to offer materials in a format for easy read communications.

In every instance where written communication is required with a person with sensory loss, the individual should be asked to indicate the appropriate format for them, and this should be provided.

It is proposed that the engagements are face-to-face and will take place in the premises of two local charities where the environment is inclusive and where people are and use:

- **The Bury Hearing Hub** -The Bury Hearing Hub is a charitable foundation supporting people with hearing loss in Bury.
- **Bury Society for Blind and Partially Sighted People (BBS)** - BBS undertake a range of early intervention and rehabilitation services, available to any resident living in Bury with a non-corrective eye condition.

To enable as much participation as possible, the Commissioning division will work with both charities to explore how self-administered surveys can also be used as a method to engage.

BBS asked clients their opinions on how the engagement sessions should be held. Feedback from them included:

- It would be easier for people to access the sessions at BBS.
- To have at least two sessions- one during the day and another in the evening.
- To provide food for the evening session to accommodate people who may be attending after work.

Following the initial engagement with adults living with a sensory impairment, their family and carers, professionals and our local partners will also have opportunity to engage to understand local needs.

2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups?
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic?
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic?
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal?
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation?
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)?
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council?

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
Age	Positive	The working age population in Bury is expected to remain stable to 2033 with a projected to increase by 1.2% Age is a significant risk factor related to sight and hearing loss and older adults in Bury are expected to see the biggest increase of 15.4% with an additional 5,617 older adults. This work proposes to represent issues, along with aspirations of adults of all ages.	This work is to ensure the voice of people with a sensory impairment shape the first ever Sensory Strategy aimed at improving outcomes for adults of all ages. Any emerging equality impacts identified undertaking this work will be identified and managed through the lifetime of the proposed strategy.	
Disability	Positive	People with disabilities will be impacted in a positive		

		way as the work will drive the need for action and improvement. The approach to the engagement / consultation work detailed above, has been directed by two local charities, Bury Blind Society and the Bury Hearing Hub where the environment is inclusive. Individual communication needs and preferences will be sought.		
Gender Reassignment	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Race	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Religion and Belief	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Sex	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Carers	Positive	The engagement /consultation will be open to unpaid carers to ensure		

		their views are reflected. This work will also allow opportunity to promote the Bury Carers Hub – a commissioned service for unpaid carers.		
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		
Socio-economically vulnerable	Neutral	The premises hosting the face-2-face sessions are where people go and within reach of local public transport networks. Refreshments will be provided free of charge. Pre-paid envelopes will be provided for responses. Interpreters (if required) will be provided.		
Veterans	Neutral	No evidence to suggest impact.		

Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date
	No actions identified at this stage.		

Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score			Likelihood			
			1	2	3	4
			Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely
Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

Risk Level	No Risk = 0	Low Risk = 1 - 4	Medium Risk = 5 – 7	High Risk = 8 - 16

3.2 Level of risk identified	Low Risk

3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation	The reasons for the low risk level calculation for the engagement / consultation work. • Guidance has been sought from two local charities on the environment accessibility. • The charities venues will be used to undertake face-2-face sessions. – both premises are centrally located in Bury Town Centre and convenient for local transport. • The Bury Hearing Hub -The Bury Hearing Hub is a charitable foundation supporting people with hearing loss in Bury. • Bury Society for Blind and Partially Sighted People (BBS) - BBS undertake a range of early intervention and rehabilitation services, available to any resident living in Bury with a non-corrective eye condition. • Bury Blind Society has asked people their thoughts on how the engagement sessions should run. • Various forms of communication will be used - qualified Interpreters (such as British Sign Language Interpreters), hearing loops, offering materials in a format for easy read communications, use of online surveys. • A communication plan will be developed to identify partners who can help raise the profile of this work.

Section 4 - Analysis Decision (Page 11 of the guidance document)

4.1 Analysis Decision	**X**	**Reasons for This Decision**
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed		
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed	X	Not all people who have sight and/or hearing loss will be known to / eligible for Adult Social Care support. Or be connected with Bury Blind Society / the Bury Hearing Hub. A communication plan will be developed for improving comms, avoiding confusion and to identify appropriate stakeholders.
There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions (Page 11 of the guidance document)

5.1 Sign Off	Name	Date	Comments
Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager	Caroline Malvern	March 24	
Responsible Asst. Director/Director			
EDI	Lee Cawley	03/04/2024	

EqIA Revision Log

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	All-Age Work and Skills Strategy	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills	

1. Summary

1.1 Bury is at the forefront of delivering unprecedented job opportunities for our residents over the next 20 years. The borough will see new employment sites, new transport infrastructure, a brand-new secondary school, and housing development. This comes at a time when Greater Manchester has agreed to the seventh devolution deal with the government, a groundbreaking deal that will give the city region greater autonomy to realise an integrated employment and skills eco-system which has the individual and employer at its heart. Bury has been an integral partner to ongoing policy development in this area and continues to integrate our own local work, health and skills eco-system. The All-Age Work and Skills Strategy will drive forward this work across directorates.

1.2 A skilled workforce and high levels of employment are a good indicator of the health of a local economy. The overarching Let's Strategy and the Economic Strategy have a strong emphasis on supporting residents to ensure they have the skills they need to access good employment and safeguard their economic independence.

1.3 Developed jointly across Place, CYP & Corporate Core Directorates, the strategy captures priorities for delivery in educational attainment, skills for work and adult learning, ensuring all residents have the skills they need to access good employment and safeguard their economic independence.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 That Cabinet:

- Note the progress made with the All-Age Work and Skills Strategy.
- Approve the adoption of the strategy subject to any final amendments, design and formatting.
- Approve the launch of the Strategy at the Bury Means Business 'Business Networking Event' on the 18th June 2025. The Networking event will be a platform for business from Bury and beyond to showcase their products and services and make connections.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

3.1 To enable the All-Age Work and Skills Strategy to move to the final phase, sign off content and format, complete the supporting delivery action plans, produce a formatted, publishable version and prepare for launch.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

4.1 No other options were considered/were applicable.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Sarah Porru/Tracey Flynn
Position: Assistant Director Regeneration & Service Manager- Business and Investment
Department: Place Directorate (formally Business, Growth and Infrastructure)
E-mail: S.Porru@bury.gov.uk/T.Flynn@bury.gov.uk

---

5. Background

3. The Bury Economic Strategy was launched in February 2024. The All-age Work and Skills Strategy is the delivery vehicle for achieving inclusive economic growth by ensuring residents of all ages have the careers advice, skills and qualifications they need to thrive in the labour market.

The strategy articulates the belief in the economic and social benefits of lifelong learning from childhood to adulthood. This strategy will set out how we will support our residents to secure good employment, advancing their careers, increasing their earning potential, and switching careers when necessary.

4.1 The All-Age Work and Skills Strategy crosscuts and contributes to multiple workstreams including:

Public Service Reform Board and Anti-Poverty Strategy - Reducing Poverty and inequalities

Health and Wellbeing Board/Bury Health, Employment and Skills Strategy (BHEAST) - Reducing health related economic inactivity

Children's Improvement Board, Corporate Parenting Board, Youth Offending Board - Effective Transitions for Young People, Reducing NEET rates, Information, Advice and Guidance for schools and colleges, Supporting Looked After Children and Care Leavers –

Atom Valley & Northern Gateway – Supporting residents and businesses to benefit from opportunities/increase in business rates

Bury Employment, Health and Skills Task Group – reducing economic inactivity and increasing employment rates, improving health and wellbeing through good work

4. Progress to Date

5.1 The development of the Work and Skills Strategy was initially led by colleagues within the Children & Young People Directorate under the newly established Skills Forum. This inadvertently caused a disconnect with stakeholders and delivery partners within the adult work and skills arena.

5.2 Adult Learning and Skills for Work are two of the key policy areas where the Combined Authority has greater control through devolution, enabling us to shape what and how we deliver support to residents across the city region. To this end the Work and Skills Strategy has been developed across the directorate of Place (formally Business, Growth and Infrastructure), Children & Young People and Bury Adult Learning Service.

5.3 The recent Get Britain Working White Paper and the devolved DWP Economically Inactive Trailblazer funding has reinforced the necessity for Bury Council and partners to collectively integrate work, health and skills provision that is economically driven to further support business growth, higher employment levels and reduced demand of services through economic independence and resilience.

5.4 The draft strategy and delivery has been through a consultation process during January and February 2025.

5.5 The following organisations have reviewed the document:

- Team Bury
- Work and Skills Team GMCA
- Bury Health, Employment and Skills Task Group (BHEAST)
- Bury Business Leadership Group
- GM Chamber of Commerce

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

5. **Local –** a comprehensive and joined up approach to supporting residents to access skills support and create pathways to good employment.

Enterprise – Supporting and preparing Bury residents and businesses for opportunities connected to current and future growth and regeneration opportunities.

Together – Facilitating cross directorate and delivery partnerships to get results that are measurable for Bury residents (all age) and businesses.

Strengths – Building upon and celebrating what we are good at in Bury – working together and pooling resources to make a real difference.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is here.*

6. A full EIA has been completed. The strategy provides a direction which will involve individual and independent activities which will be independently equality assessed. Overall the strategy has no expected negative impacts with positive and neutral impacts identified for all characteristics impacted.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both **Carbon emissions** (contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and **Biodiversity** (contact c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk for advice)*

7. There is no tangible direct impact on the environments or carbon emissions.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Risk - Adequate Officer resources are not available to progress to the delivery of the W&SS and sufficient governance does not drive the plan forward.	The Council is committed to monitor progress against the W&SS through Team Bury and Bury Health, Employment and Skills Task Group.
Risk - Adequate resources are not available within the Place Directorate to manage the delivery of the proposals outlined in this report, alongside the remaining proposals contained within the delivery plan.	The Council will continue to be a pro-active partner with the Combined Authority to contribute to policy and design of devolved funding to create additional capacity to deliver against the W&SS and its delivery plan.
Opportunity – To continue to support GMCA Work and Skills Team and the GMCA Public Service Reform Team to devolve funding to localities.	

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

7.The Council must follow corporate parenting principles set out in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and the associated statutory guidance 'Applying Corporate

Parenting Principles to looked-after children and care leavers' (February 2018) when discharging its wider functions.

8. The Council as a public authority must promote the interests of those with a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

8. There are no immediate financial implications resulting from adoption of the strategy.

Appendices:

EIA

Background papers:

Let's Do it Strategy

Bury Economic Development Strategy

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

This page is intentionally left blank

Bury All-Age Work and Skills Strategy - Consultation

Contents Page - content page to be inserted

Foreword

Good jobs are the foundations from which we build happy and prosperous lives. We want everyone in Bury to access meaningful and worthwhile employment, building prosperity and well-being for individuals and our borough.

Bury is at the forefront of delivering unprecedented job opportunities for our residents over the next 20 years. The borough will see new employment sites, new transport infrastructure, a brand-new secondary school, and housing development. This comes at a time when Greater Manchester has agreed to the seventh devolution deal with the government, a groundbreaking deal that will give us greater autonomy over our collective decision-making in the areas that will have the greatest impact on our residents.

Providing accessible and affordable skills and training opportunities throughout people's lives, suited to the economy now and fit for the future, is the only way in which we can ensure that working age residents in Bury can pursue the jobs and careers that they want.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester and the ten leaders have secured significant control over post-16 technical education, giving us the ability to create the country's first integrated technical education city-region. We can achieve parity of esteem for our young people through both technical and academic pathways. With this level of opportunity and investment, it is imperative that we prepare our residents for the opportunities that will present themselves in the next 10 years and beyond by articulating our ambitions through an All-Age Work and Skills Strategy.

This strategy intends to influence policy and create supportive structures across our education settings through primary schools, secondary and further education that reimagines the role of education to be focused on education for work. Beyond compulsory education we will deliver a local work and skills eco-system, by focusing on the changes that we can make and influencing and lobbying for the changes we cannot.

While we cannot directly control the curriculum in our primary and secondary settings, we can play a pivotal role in supporting our teachers and leadership teams. By forging strong partnerships with businesses, we can open the world of work to our young people, inspiring them to envision their future career paths and equipping them with the skills necessary to become good employees.

In Bury, we believe in lifelong learning from childhood to adulthood. This strategy will set out how we will support our adult residents to secure good employment, advancing their careers, increasing their earning potential, and switching careers when necessary. With today's rapidly evolving workplace, career

paths no longer need to be linear. Adaptability and a willingness to learn new skills are essential mindsets for success.

Cllr. Charlotte Morris Cabinet Member, Culture, Economy and Skills

Introduction

Bury, with an economy valued at £3.2 billion and home to over 8,000 businesses, provides 68,000 jobs. However, despite this robust foundation, Bury's economic growth has been sluggish over the last 20 years. Without strategic intervention, this trend is forecasted to continue. Employment growth has been weak, marked by a shortage of local job opportunities and an increasing reliance on commuting outside of the borough to access quality employment.

For many years, the borough has suffered from an inadequate and constrained supply of employment land, in terms of both quantity and quality, which has constrained the borough's ability to retain and attract investment.

The adoption of the Places for Everyone (PfE) in February 2024 presents a once in a lifetime opportunity for Bury to realise our ambitions of enabling and supporting employment growth and unlocking significant new economic opportunity in Bury.

This is particularly significant considering the transformative designation of the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) within the Places for Everyone Plan. A significant development site within Atom Valley is Northern Gateway which has the potential to drive long-term transformative growth in Bury, a game-changer set to generate employment opportunities never seen in recent history. The ambition for Atom Valley which stretches across Oldham, Rochdale and Bury is to enable a mega-cluster of advanced manufacturing and materials, with the entire Atom Valley development expected to create 20,000 jobs, 7,000 new homes and 1.6 million square metres of employment space. Bury's Northern Gateway will be the largest site within the wider Atom Valley area and will encompass employment land and residential land. The Northern Gateway site has the potential to be transformational by boosting the competitiveness of the Northern Districts both within the Greater Manchester conurbation and wider.

Northern Gateway will be the largest and most accessible employment offer in the UK. It has the flexibility to attract and accommodate a range of employment sectors at scale including advanced manufacturing.

It is the fundamental ambition of this strategy, and its delivery plan that the opportunities arising from Northern Gateway are accessible for Bury residents. We recognise that there are disparities and inequalities across our neighbourhoods and not all residents are currently benefiting from work and learning opportunities across the borough or wider conurbation.

Access to employment opportunities is a major contributor to inclusive growth. High quality, fairly paid jobs help reduce health inequalities, improving physical and mental wellbeing and reduce pressure on local services. Conversely, worklessness or low quality, low paid work can be a major cause of health inequalities alongside poor access to housing, education and public services.

The expansion of economic opportunities will bring real benefits to our communities, but it will also need reform and change to the skills system. We need to prepare young people for careers in key growth sectors and take the opportunity of skills devolution to develop a system which is much more responsive to the business need. With new opportunities on the horizon, it is imperative that civic leadership and focus is leveraged towards an integrated work, health and skills system that best delivers the skills portfolio that businesses tell us are needed to harness growth. A flexible and adaptable skilled population are vital to creating a thriving economy that has inclusive growth at its heart.

The work and skills system needs to deliver not only what the economy demands but also to innovate and create solutions at a local level to enable individuals to reach their potential and actively participate and contribute to the local economy.

Recognising the ever-changing nature of job market requirements, influenced by technological progress, shifting industry dynamics, and new trends, it is crucial that Bury fosters a commitment to continuous learning. To this end, the Bury Work and Skills Strategy is a blueprint, a business case to empower individuals of all ages with the knowledge and capabilities they need to participate in both current and future job markets. The Work and Skills Strategy outlines our commitment to embed an integrated work and skills system that supports greater innovation and productivity in our economy.

The Work and Skills Strategy supports the Bury Economic Strategy and its goals by driving inclusive growth, boosting productivity, and ensuring the long-term health of our local and regional economy. It is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders, each contributing to the economic prosperity of Bury's residents.

National and City Region Context

Greater Manchester (GM) has been the trailblazer of English devolution since the agreement to create the city region's first directly elected mayor in 2014. This deal gave the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) powers covering transport, business support, employment and skills support, policing, spatial planning and housing investment. In the interim years GMCA negotiated a further five deals, doing the groundwork for deeper devolution across the region.

A deeper devolution agreement expands on the foundations laid by the Levelling Up White Paper. It is a landmark deal for GMCA, devolving responsibility for policies, functions and accountability. Collectively Greater Manchester will manage the devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills function with GMCA acting as the central convenor of careers provision across the city-region. More recently government has announced that integrated settlements will be implemented with Greater Manchester. Greater Manchester will receive integrated settlements from 2025-26.
In addition, a central area of devolvement will allow GMCA to co-design future employment support programmes ensuring they are aligned with other devolved powers and deliver the support residents need to have flexible career options that equip them to move and remain in good employment.

Using new powers granted to GMCA by the devolution deal sets the scene for the ambitions of the Greater Manchester Mayor who has set out his manifesto for his new term with his three big ideas including the MBacc (Greater Manchester Baccalaureate), a new technical education pathway that will rebalance the system and create parity of opportunities for those young people who want to pursue a technical pathway into employment and future careers.

This seismic shift of responsibility to GM with the powers and flexibilities is timely for the Bury system, giving us the opportunity to shape our hyper local work and skills system to meet our ambitions of a fair inclusive, economy with our businesses as our allies.

Bury's Work and Skills Strategy aligns with the strategic priorities of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, leveraging the transformative potential of the taking full advantage of the opportunities that the integrated settlement funding model offers to build a local skills system to meet our economic priorities.

The Single Settlement offers unprecedented flexibility, enabling Greater Manchester to streamline investment by aligning funding across education, housing, transport, and health for a unified approach to skills, health and economic development.

Bury's Work and Skills Strategy is underpinned by the Single Settlement and directly benefiting from Greater Manchester as a leader in devolved skills planning. By aligning our local skills system with economic priorities, Bury as a collective can build a hyper local system that ensures our residents are equipped to thrive in emerging industries while driving inclusive, sustainable growth.

Greater Manchester Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP)

LSIPs were introduced in the Skills for Jobs White Paper in January 2021 and now form

part of the Skills and Post-16 Education Act. LSIPs provide a far-reaching opportunity for post-16 technical education by putting employers at the heart of the skills system. LSIPs aim to broker a robust and impactful partnership between businesses, education and training providers, creating action and adaptation when the economy and employment landscape needs a response to market changes, new disruptions, challenges and emerging skills requirements. The finding of the research informing the priority actions of the LSIP will be incorporated into this strategy and will include wide ranging considerations such as addressing skills shortage, referencing disparities in workforce development, improving the integration of life ready skills and essential skills for work.

Bury LSIP Findings

The Bury LSIP findings from the surveys evidenced the following top training area of interest from Bury businesses:

- Basic functional skills for business - 32.2%
- Business leadership and management – 24%
- Essential ICT skills – 24%
- Sales and business development - 26%
- Customer service - 21.9%
- Digital marketing - 21.2%

Bury's Work and Skills Plan should also have an eye on future inward investment and development activity that could pivot local skills demands to meet the demands of wider sectors.

The local area LSIP report for Bury identifies several sectors that will be in scope for employment and skills development in the future:

- Construction
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing
- Professional services
- Green opportunities
- Health
- Education
- Logistics

Bury's Work and Skills Plan also needs to be mindful of wider skills needs across the conurbation noting transport infrastructure improvements creating realistic, affordable, sustainable travel to work opportunities. Emerging investment projects in Bury and the wider conurbation may call for even greater flexibility and adaptability from the education and skills system.

Bury Policy Context - A Case for Integration

Bury Council has been at the forefront of joining up services across work, health and skills, while further aligning our efforts with wider policy delivery in area such as transport, housing, early intervention and prevention. The devolvement of funding within the integrated settlement to Greater Manchester will play a key role in advancing the Governments mission to Get Britain Working, significantly accelerating the roll out and delivery of the Live Well initiative across the region. Building on the Live Well concept, Bury Council and partners aim to achieve deeper integration across services, systematically removing barriers that keep some of our residents trapped in an increasingly complex and hard to navigate system. This approach will ensure services are accessible, cohesive and transformative supporting residents to take charge of their lives and 'Live Well' in every sense.

Our policy approach for work and skills will build upon the concept of our joint venture in the Millgate Shopping Centre. Bury Works – Neighbourhub is a central location where residents can access multiple support in one location. The policy direction across Bury to place services in neighbourhoods under the Public Service Reform workstream will enable the next transformation of placed based delivery and prevention in Live Well centres.

The Bury Work and Skills Strategy is one of a suite of local strategies that deliver the high-level vision of the LET's do it! Strategy to stand out as a place that is achieving faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation.

Bury's suite of strategies do not sit in isolation, all contribute to the overall vision. They all support our inward investment ambitions by building an attractive local offer that includes good transport, a vibrant culture and leisure offer, a mixed housing offer, reputable education establishments and a skilled workforce. In essence a place where businesses want to invest, and people want to live.

The Work and Skills Strategy is a critical enabler of Bury's LET's do it! strategy, our overarching community strategy embodying the principles (Local, Enterprise, Together and Strengths) by which we will collectively as a system achieve our vision:

to stand out as a place that is achieving faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation.

The Work and Skills Strategy directly supports key priorities of LET's, namely -

1. A better future for the children of the borough
2. Improved quality of life
3. Improved early years development
4. Improved educational attainment
5. Increased adult skill levels and employability

It seeks to deliver educational improvement and employment, pre-employment and apprentice opportunities for young people, including targeted work

LET's do it! Strategy

for school age and school leavers, as well as provide every adult with the opportunity to be their best through access to high quality, local work.

It supports community wealth building by addressing some of our deepest challenges, from building a fairer society that leaves no-one behind and addressing inequalities of opportunity within our borough through the creation of pre-employment opportunities for those furthest away from the employment market through placements, apprenticeships and internments.

Bury Economic Strategy

The Bury Economic Strategy sets out a clear framework and priorities to guide the Council and partners (Team Bury) collaborative approach to delivering a sustainable, competitive, inclusive and resilient local economy that fulfils its growth potential, while making a significant contribution to Greater Manchester's wider economic growth over the next decade and beyond.

Bury Education Strategy

The Education Strategy aims to ensure that young people receive the highest quality of education in a range of safe and inclusive environments. It also strives to position our schools as the heart of community collaboration, fostering support for both young people and their families.

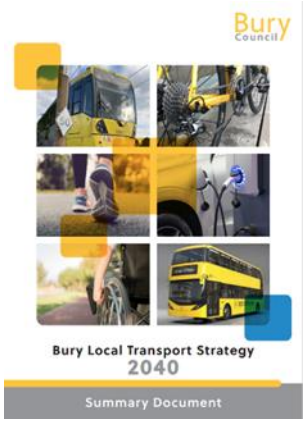
Providing our young people with the best educational experience is essential to securing the highest possible outcomes and preparing them for the world of work by equipping them with the skills, knowledge, resilience and connections needed to thrive in the competitive job market.

Bury Adult Learning Service

Bury Adult Learning Service is part of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council, funded by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to deliver post-16 programmes that lead to accredited qualifications or enable learners to develop new skills and knowledge through Community Learning activity.

The Service supports the vision, priorities, and ambitions of the Council and Greater Manchester Combined Authority, including improving the employment and skills prospects of local communities to support economic growth and contributes to a range of agendas and areas of policy and life, including digital inclusion, poverty, economic regeneration, community cohesion, health and wellbeing through both formal and informal learning

Bury Local Transport Strategy



A strategy to enable the borough's towns to be connected to each other, to Greater Manchester and beyond by an affordable, safe, reliable and well-maintained low carbon transport system. It will be easy to get around by public transport, on foot and by bike. Investment in transport will help to grow the economy, connect residents to employment, reduce deprivation and improve the health and well-being of residents.

Bury Cultural Strategy

A strategy to secure and maximise the outcomes of investment in culture. To maximise the opportunities around the creative economy, creative wellbeing, skills development and social cohesion.

Figure 1 All Roads lead to Let's!

Bury's Work and Skills Strategy forms a key element in the roadmap to achieving our vision of reducing deprivation, increasing social mobility and building a thriving resilient economy.

Through the implementation of the Work and Skills Strategy, we aspire to create a vibrant borough where all individuals have equity of opportunity to thrive, irrespective of their background or circumstances. By equipping our residents with the skills they need for work, fostering economic
independence, and embedding a culture of lifelong learning, we are building a solid foundation for a prosperous future—a future in which individuals can continually adapt, contribute, and find fulfilment in their personal and professional lives.

Priority Objective: *Improving all age education, health and skills provision to support increase life chances and social mobility.*

Objectives

We believe that everyone deserves an equal opportunity to thrive and contribute to our borough's economy and recognise that where you live in the borough can

impact attainment, qualification levels which impacts on job prospects, prosperity, aspiration and social mobility. In line with the evidence that underpins our Economic Strategy, the Bury Work and Skills Strategy has identified three objectives.

1. **Advising and Preparing Young People for Work:** Young people are prepared for the world of work by providing them with the necessary learning and experiences that establish a solid foundation for future employment. Our young people understand the choice of pathways towards their future career choices and value the parity of opportunity between further education, apprenticeships, MBacc and on the job training.

2 **Reduce economic inactivity, unemployment and underemployment:** Economic Inactivity has a negative impact on individuals' life chances, the local economy and on long-term economic growth as it limits the pool of labour and skills available to employers We recognise the critical importance of lifelong learning for adults in today's fast evolving job market. Our strategy ensures that Bury adults are fully informed about funded upskilling and training opportunities, empowering them to enhance relevant skills throughout their careers. We will fully participate in the further development of the Local Skills Improvement Plan and £10m inactivity trailblazer.

3. **Employer Investment in Workforce and social value activity:** We will support employers to invest in their workforce by promoting accessible, high-quality, work and training opportunities. Through collaboration with local businesses and industries, we will promote skill development, apprenticeships, and lifelong learning programs that are aligned with the needs of the labour market.

Objective 1 - Advising and Preparing Young People for Work

KEY FACTS

- In Bury, 61.5% of young people achieve a level 3 qualification by age 19 in 2022 - above the national and regional averages of 60.7% and 58.1%, respectively.
- 3.9% of 16–17-year-olds are not in education, employment of training (NEET) or Not Known – below the national and regional averages of 5.6% and 5.3% respectively however Bury has high NEET figures for its vulnerable young people.
- 4.5% of 16–17-year-olds are currently in apprenticeships (April 24) - this is below the regional average of 6.5% and is slightly below the national average of 4.6%
- 19% of 16–24-year-olds in Bury are currently (October 2024) claiming out of work benefits – this is above Greater Manchester 18%), Northwest (18%) and United Kingdom (17%).
- 45.2% of young people progress to higher education. 34.9% of young people who are disadvantaged progress to HE – this is above the Northwest average of 26.1% and England average of 29.0%

A key objective within the LET's do it! strategy is to ensure that our children and young people have a better start in life, with access to improved education and broader horizons. Most young people in Bury successfully participate in education and training, making a positive transition into further learning or employment.

However, data indicates that not all young people in Bury have an equal chance to succeed, with some groups facing more barriers than others. As a borough, we will continue to tackle inequality in our learning and skills system, particularly for care leavers and young people with disabilities.

Youth unemployment in Bury accounts for 19% of the working age population. Youth unemployment and economic inactivity is rising in Bury and outcomes for care leavers are below the outcomes of other young people. There are multiple causes of youth unemployment, but the long-term impact can reduce life chances, motivation and quality of life. As a system it is crucial that young people are informed and inspired much earlier in their education journey.

A key priority for Bury Council and partners will be to embed work and skills conversation as the norm in interaction with young people throughout their education. It is crucial that young people understand the breadth of opportunity available to them as they navigate their early aspirations. Early interaction with inspirational business leaders and their organisations will be an offer that enhances a fundamental understanding that school and college education and further learning is a pathway to employment.

Schools have a vital role in ensuring the delivery a high-quality careers education programme. The Gatsby Benchmarks provide a framework for best practice, emphasising the importance of embedding careers education across the curriculum. By integrating careers into subject teaching, schools can help students see the relevance of their learning, raise aspirations, and improve engagement. A whole-school approach ensures that all staff contribute to preparing students for further education, training, and employment, supporting social mobility and strengthening the future workforce.

The local system will work with schools to identify those most at risk of disengaging. As a system, we will collaborate with partners to develop re-engagement programmes for young people who are NEET, utilising UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other external funding to support our offer. Bury will put transition support front and central post 16 –18 supporting young people to make informed choices to minimise the number of NEET and further stem the pipeline of migration to claiming out-of-work benefits. Through practical information, advice, and guidance Bury will support the navigation and understanding of the pathways and skills required to progress in work.

Priority Actions:

- Inspire our young people to understand the world of work by planned interaction at key stages throughout their primary and secondary education
- Support Bury Schools and colleges to work collaboratively with GMCA, national organisations and businesses to strengthen their careers guidance.
- Support Bury schools and colleges to deliver good quality careers provision against the Gatsby Benchmarks supported by businesses.
- Support and deliver Government initiatives designed to increase and maintain youth employment rates at a local level.
- Promote and support GMACS (Greater Manchester Apprenticeship and Careers Service).
- Reduce the number of young people at risk of being NEET by planned early intervention.
- Reduce numbers of NEET young people (including EHCP and Care Leavers), utilising funding for engagement and provision
- Supporting schools and colleges to promote and inspire young people to pursue higher level qualifications
- Promote parity of pathways for young people between academic and technical careers i.e. increased take up of technical pathways in Bury.
- Youth voice feeds into careers delivery within education

What does success look like?

- The education, employment and skills system are responsive to the needs of the local and national economy.
- Young people are job ready. They understand the labour market and the expectations of employers.
- Young people with SEND (Special Education Needs and Disability) and Care Leavers are supported to achieve their potential.
- The system has strong, mutually supportive relationships with businesses who collaborate with Further Education Colleges, Schools, Adult Education and Welfare to Work Providers.
- An increase in the numbers of young people starting and completing an apprenticeship.
- More high-quality apprenticeships and T Levels as a route into key employment sectors.

An inspirational careers session delivered to Year 6 students in a Radcliffe Primary School.

- Reduction in the proportion of young people aged 16-17 who are NEET.

Objective 2 - Reduce economic inactivity, unemployment and underemployment

KEY FACTS

- Bury has one of the lowest proportion of residents aged 16+ earning above the national living wage in Greater Manchester.
- Bury currently has 47.1% of its working age residents holding a level 4 qualification, the national average is 47.3%. Whilst in line with the England Bury lags other GM boroughs of Trafford (56%), Manchester (60.3%) and Stockport (53.9%).
- Bury has a skills shortage induced vacancy rate of 9%, higher than the GM and England average of 6%.
- The economic inactivity rate for Bury is 27.7% compared to 21.0 %. average (medium) of all other Local Authorities.
- Youth unemployment in Bury is currently 8% age 18 - 24 years compared to 6.3 in the Northwest and 5.5 in Great Britain.
- Over 74,000 residents leave the borough for work. This contributes to a self-containment rate (the proportion of residents living and working in their place of residence) of 44%. This means that two-thirds (66%) of residents leave the borough for work. *

*While outflow commuting is not inherently a challenge, it does imply a lower degree of opportunity within the borough and therefore a reliance on surrounding areas for employment and prosperity.

We want our workforce to be able to participate in the tremendous range of opportunities which will be coming to Bury through the Northern Gateway, town centre projects, housing development and the growth of key sectors such as manufacturing, health and social care and creative and digital.

Bury has an opportunity to enable the creation of a skilled local labour force, able to access high quality employment opportunities not only in our frontier sectors but also our economically important foundation economy. Our foundation economy plays a vital role in supporting our communities acting as the economic backbone of our town and district centres, enabling a varied and vibrant cultural offer and delivering crucial services. The foundation economy also offers a wide range of skill sets that can be progressed into a diverse career.

To support this, we will need a higher proportion of our adult population to have level 3 and level 4 qualifications in the areas that businesses report skills shortages and have access to an expanded Higher Education and Adult Skills offer.

Unemployment and underemployment can be detrimental to good health. and Skills and Public Health professionals have identified through evidence that good work has a positive impact on individuals, their families and the community. Unemployment and underemployment can have multi-faceted impacts and demands on public sector services.

Economic inactivity is on the rise in Bury and reflects a national trend most notable since the global pandemic. While not unique to Bury, those not in employment and not seeking employment have increased and long-term sickness is the

predominant reason for leaving the workforce. Bury's contribution to the productivity of the Greater Manchester economy has stagnated over several years.

Our economic contribution equates to just under 5% of all GVA in Greater Manchester (33bn). Bury has the lowest contributory share amongst all the 10 GM districts. The constrained supply of employment land across the borough for expansion and inward investment has compounded slow productivity and minimum opportunity for inward investment. Atom Valley and Northern Gateway will bring new employment opportunities for Bury residents that must be exploited to reduce deprivation and increase income levels across the borough.

Priority Actions:

- Actively promote the wide-ranging Adult Skills Budget funded skills programmes including Bury Adult Learning's offer.
- Support high quality higher education and adult skills and training offer shaped and led by industry/business.
- Create stronger collaboration between partners including GMCA led Employer Boards building upon existing business networks supporting employer led higher education offers.
- Increased number of learners choosing higher technical qualification routes and career pathways.
- Increase in the number of adults accessing Adult Skills Budget provision to increase employability and career advancement.
- Support employers to diversify their workforce, creating opportunities for disabled residents
- Support and deliver the Economic Inactive Trailblazer in Bury and all other funded activity that reduces the barriers that prevent adults from being economically active (poor health, disability, confidence, life events).
- Increase number of level 3 qualifications in the population in sectors important to the local economy.
- Support residents in employment to progress in their careers, improving skills, increasing income and or increasing number of hours mitigating in-work poverty.
- Support the integration of employment support & health, enabling residents to access support in community health settings

What does success look like?

- Achieve at least 80% employment rate in Bury.
- Reduction in the percentage of economically inactive people in the working age population.
- Barriers (such as managing health conditions) that some people face when accessing learning and employment are mitigated.
- Reduction of the disability employment gap.
- All communities are aware and are supported to access good qualitylearning opportunities: as a system we can measure the post codes where learning is accessed and the outcomes through the GMIT system.

- The system has maximised the impact of available Government funding delivering improved employment, skills and health outcomes in Bury.
- Evidence of collaboration, good news stories and a reduction in skills gaps reported by employers.
- Employers can fill their vacancies.
- Education and training providers expand and deliver Higher Education and Adult Skills offer in line with business demand.
- Digital exclusion is minimised; by ensuring our working age residents have access to the necessary equipment and connectivity. Our efforts will focus on bridging the digital divide, enabling our working age residents to participate fully in the digital world, enhancing their skills leading to job opportunities.
- Stronger integration across the Public Sector – NHS, Police, Probation, Early Years, VCFA (Voluntary Community and Faith Alliance) to maximise outcomes and develop efficiencies through partnership working.

Objective 3 - Employer Investment in Workforce Skills and Social Value activity

Bury has a good record of accomplishment of entrepreneurialism and innovation with a strong record of business start-ups.

Insert infographic here showing level of start up across the borough.

There is forecasted growth in business, financial and professional services, wholesale and retail and health and social care. Bury also has a policy focus on advanced manufacturing, digital and creative, hospitality and tourism and low carbon.

It is imperative that the policy focus is to support our business base by ensuring that they are connected to funded business support and skills programmes to facilitate their growth and to create employment opportunities.

Bury Council and partners including (but not limited to) the GMCA the Growth Company, Manchester Inward Investment Agency (MIDAS) and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce must promote business engagement activity to support skills development within organisation from entry level skills up to higher technical skills including leadership and management.

Employers investing in their workforce will enhance their productivity and competitiveness whilst contributing to the overall growth of the region.

We want Bury employers to aspire to have a highly skilled and adaptable workforce that can meet the evolving demands of their sectors through developing and promoting a culture of lifelong learning. By

upskilling employees through investing in training and development programmes, employers can ensure that their workforce possesses the necessary technical, digital, and life skills required to excel in their roles and adapt to the changing sector landscapes.

Key facts:

LSIP Key Findings:

- 64% of businesses in Bury reported recruitment problems.
- Resident earnings in Bury are 13% higher than workplace earning (residents travel outside of the borough to access higher-value employment).
- Bury businesses have reported that candidate soft skills are an issue:
- 30.7% of businesses in Bury reported that the skill lacking most amongst candidates was 'customer handling.' This was followed by 'ability to manage own time and prioritise own tasks' (28%) and 'team working' (28%). 'Reading and understanding operating instructions' was a prominent category in Bury.
- Median gross weekly pay for Bury residents in 2023 is £575 compared to a Northwest average of £552. Bury has the third highest median gross weekly pay in GM after Trafford and Stockport. This reflects the high number of residents who travel to work outside of the borough.
- In 2021, Bury had a job density of 0.70 compared to a GM and England average of 0.86
- Current GVA (Gross Value Added) per job filled shows that Bury is at 87.8, 12 points behind the national average.
- Bury has a much lower number of high growth businesses than the Northwest and less than Manchester, Stockport, Trafford and Bolton a reflection of the lack of employment land for inward investment and expansion.

Priority Actions:

- Work with employers to understand barriers to recruitment and ensure careers, skills and employment services respond to employers' needs.
- Support employers to invest in the quality and quantity of skills within their work force (number of apprenticeships starts, starts on degree apprenticeships, Leadership and Management).
- Support Bury employers to embed social value activity in their business plans. Employers support work experience placements, T Level Industry Placements, and graduate internships.
- Expand involvement and engagement between employers and education with inspirational business interactions in educational settings.
- Deliver support to Bury's manufacturing sector to attract talent to rebalance the ageing workforce in this sector through a Manufacturing Academy.
- Support for residents in work but at risk of falling out of work.

What does success look like?

- Increased number of Bury businesses assessing funded skills provision for their workforce.
- Increase in the number of apprenticeships starts and completions in Bury.
- Increased diversity in the workplace including residents with disabilities, women returners, over

50's, ex-offenders, veterans and other priority groups.

- Reduction in reported skills gaps in the economy.
- Collaboration and productive networking delivered with Bury's manufacturing sector and other key sectors.
- Successful delivery of WorkWell and In Work Progression activity to support residents remaining in work and progressing in work.
- Tracked and impact measured social value activity.

Making the Case for Change

As an integral part of Greater Manchester, Bury must make the case for change in the employment, education and skills sector. The trailblazer devolution deal goes a long way to achieving the power to make real changes across this landscape.

Collectively we can do more to support our Further Education settings. To raise the level of available skills and talent pipeline in our frontier sectors we must support our colleges to attract the teaching professionals who are experts in their field. Evidence shows we have an ageing workforce in the frontier sectors in particular manufacturing and construction and all age skills shortages in clean growth and low carbon, health innovation and the digital and creative sectors. Creative avenues to attract industry professionals into teaching should be further explored, transferring a great wealth of knowledge and working experience to both teaching professional and students.

In Bury we need to make a stronger call for the power of devolution to trickle down to localities across Greater Manchester. We are not a homogenous city region, even within our own Local Authorities we have areas that sit next to each other geographically but could not be more different in terms of employment rates, life expectancy, poverty and health. For over a decade the 10 constituents of Greater Manchester have worked together to create partnerships and innovative approaches to delivering change that has influenced policy direction in government departments. We should build on this supported by talent and experience within the GMCA to further deliver innovation at a granular level, delivering placed based solutions that support our residents but also allow an element of challenge to their life choices.

Autonomy and funding to deliver place-based solutions locally whilst still supported by GMCA will take us to another level of integration across all our services.

The lobbying strength and expertise within in the GMCA and the Mayoral leadership to do things 'differently here' is an opportunity to focus on the places and the cohorts in each Local Authority.

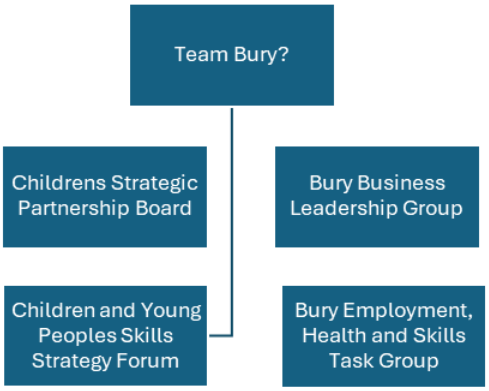
Governance and Delivery

Governance and delivery are of crucial importance if we are to make an impact and deliver on our strategic objectives. The

All-Age Work and Skills Strategy and the accompanying Delivery Plan will be owned by Team Bury supported by the Bury Business Leadership Group and the Children's Strategic Partnership Board. However, this strategy interacts with all the leadership boards that deliver on the LET'S do it! ambitions:

- Public Service Reform Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Anti-Poverty Steering Group
- Regeneration Board
- Children's Strategic Partnership Board

Governance



Acknowledgements

This page is intentionally left blank

Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

Name of Policy/Project/Decision	All-Age Work and Skills Strategy
Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)	Sarah Porru
Department/Team	Directorate of Business, Growth and Infrastructure - Business and Investment
Proposed Implementation Date	April 2025
Author of the EqIA	Simone Starr
Date of the EqIA	18/03/25

1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?

All-Age Work and Skills Strategy

Good jobs are the foundations from which we build happy and prosperous lives. We want everyone in Bury to access meaningful and worthwhile employment, building prosperity and well-being for individuals and our borough. Bury is at the forefront of delivering unprecedented job opportunities for our residents over the next 20 years. The borough will see new employment sites, new transport infrastructure, a brand-new secondary school, and housing development. This comes at a time when Greater Manchester has agreed to the seventh devolution deal with the government, a groundbreaking deal that will give us greater autonomy over our collective decision-making in the areas that will have the greatest impact on our residents.

Providing accessible and affordable skills and training opportunities throughout people's lives, suited to the economy now and fit for the future, is the only way in which we can ensure that working age residents in Bury can pursue the jobs and careers that they want. This strategy intends to influence policy and create supportive structures across our education settings through primary schools, secondary and further education that reimagines the role of education to be focused on education for work. Beyond compulsory education we will deliver a local work and skills eco-system, by focusing on the changes that we can make and influencing and lobbying for the changes we cannot.

The intended outcome is an integrated work and skills system that supports residents to access the skills they need to start, progress and maintain good employment. It will also support residents of working age with disabilities to access skills provision and support for employment through funded activity.

Section 2 – Impact Assessment (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?

Employees: **Yes**
Community/Residents: **Yes**
Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: **Yes**

If the answer to all three questions is 'no' there is no need to continue with this analysis.

2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation

Documentary Evidence:

Data:

Census 2021 Data - Bury Local Authority				
Age (6 categories)	Number (Bury)	Bury %	GM %	Eng & Wal %
Aged 15 years and under	38978	20.11%	20.39%	18.51%
Aged 16 to 24 years	18299	9.44%	11.49%	10.60%
Aged 25 to 34 years	25011	12.90%	14.49%	13.51%
Aged 35 to 49 years	37922	19.56%	19.64%	19.34%
Aged 50 to 64 years	38193	19.70%	18.14%	19.48%
Aged 65 years and over	35448	18.29%	15.85%	18.56%

Census data suggests Bury has an age profile in line with the rest of England and Wales however Bury has a marginally older population compared to Greater Manchester.

Stakeholder information/consultation: Shared with BHEAST, BBLG, colleagues at GMCA, Bury College, VCFA, Team Bury, Shared with portfolio leads. The EQIA will be updated as the strategy progresses and/or individual connected projects will be assessed as an individual activity

2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups?
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic?
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic?
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal?
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation?
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)?
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council?

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
Age	Likelihood that older working age individuals may face challenges with using technology and digital approaches to learning. They may respond more effectively to in-person and paper-based support.	Early intervention can help individuals of all ages find work, upskill and remain in work.	• Tailored support for different age groups. Including online, , telephone, and in person support as required. • We will provide accessible and affordable skills and training opportunities for people throughout their lives.	Positive
Age	Younger people may face youth unemployment, which can significantly impact their life chances, motivation, and quality of life. Therefore, it is essential to inform and inspire young people much earlier in their education journey.		• The strategy will support education from primary school to further education, focusing on preparing students for work. Beyond school, we'll create a local system to help people gain the skills they need for good jobs. • We will offer a variety of learning methods to ensure that everyone's preferred learning style is accommodated. This way, each individual can engage with the material in the way that suits them best.	Positive
Age	Working age people who work may have a barrier to accessing learning and training for new		To accommodate varying work hours and personal commitments, flexible learning schedules, including online	Neutral

	careers due to their working hours		courses and self-paced modules, can be implemented. Evening and weekend classes provide additional opportunities for those unable to attend during standard hours. Promoting all-age apprenticeships ensures access to training and career development for individuals of any age. Collaborating with employers to create training programs that align with work schedules, including on-the-job training and employer-sponsored initiatives, further supports accessibility	
Disability	People with physical, mental, or sensory disabilities may face barriers, leading to exclusion from essential services.	All funded work and skills support will have their own EIA and support in place for residents with disabilities	A key element of the W & SS is to support residents with disabilities or health related barriers into good employment. The programmes that the strategy supports will be promoted across multiple groups, communities and the Third Sector to reach residents who need support to enhance their skills and/or move into and sustain employment.	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	No impacts expected			Neutral
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impacts expected			Neutral

Pregnancy and Maternity	Support for recently unemployed or at-risk individuals includes those on maternity leave	No specific evidence provided	Flexible support options and early intervention with employers to facilitate return to work. Support to access advice and guidance from specialists for issues such as post partum depression, guidance on breastfeeding at work	Neutral
Race	Minority ethnic groups may face language barriers and increased risk of digital exclusion, childcare issues and Visa status which may affect access to public services, education, and employment.	Inclusive programme design to support diverse communities	Culturally sensitive support and outreach taking into consideration the demographics of ethnicity in some of our wards.	Neutral
Religion and Belief	The W&SS and delivery plan must be mindful of religious periods and observances, particularly Friday afternoons for Muslims and the Sabbath for Jewish residents in Bury. This consideration ensures that service delivery respects and accommodates the religious practices of these communities, promoting inclusivity and equitable access.	No specific evidence provided	Flexible to allow adjustments for religious observances; respecting religious restrictions; dress code flexibility for religious attire; training on religious diversity and inclusion; recognition of various religious holidays; and open communication channels for discussing religious needs. These measures aim to foster an inclusive and respectful culture for all participants this will help people gain the skills they need for good jobs	Neutral

Sex	Tailor support to the distinct health, social, and economic needs of different genders, ensuring more effective and relevant assistance.	Support for individuals regardless of gender.	Gender-sensitive support and outreach	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	No impacts expected			Neutral
Carers	Carers need extra support with employment because they often juggle significant caregiving responsibilities which impact availability alongside their work. This dual role can lead to increased stress, and ill health	Support for individuals with caring responsibilities	We will provide accessible and affordable skills and training opportunities for all carers as part of the delivery plan for the All age W&SS. This will help working-age residents in Bury pursue their desired careers. Our strategy will support education at all levels and create a local work and skills ecosystem. We will also work with employers to support carers with flexible arrangements and tailored services,	Neutral
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Care leavers often face significant challenges in securing and maintaining employment and accessing training opportunities due to a lack of family support, financial instability and the impact of significant childhood trauma	Early intervention can help care leavers remain in work.	To mitigate the impact on care leavers, we will provide tailored support through partnerships specializing in this cohort, ensuring individual action plans that align with corporate parent policy. This approach is closely linked with the Care Leavers Covenant, reinforcing our commitment to meeting their unique needs	Neutral

Socio-economically vulnerable	May impact individuals experiencing digital exclusion, those who cannot afford travel for meetings or support, and those who are potentially homeless or in temporary accommodation. These factors can limit their access to essential services and support,	Early intervention can help socio-economically vulnerable individuals remain in work	Our strategy, aligned with the Bury Economic Strategy, includes targeted support and outreach such as digital access assistance, travel subsidies, and flexible meeting options. These measures ensure that everyone can access essential services and support, regardless of their circumstances. This approach complements our efforts to support lifelong learning and reduce inequalities	Neutral
Veterans	Veterans often face significant challenges in securing and maintaining employment and training due to a lack of civilian work experience, financial instability, and the impact of service-related trauma.		Tailored support for veterans: Utilizing existing partnerships that specialize in this cohort to provide the individual action plans required to support the unique needs of each veteran, in alignment with the Bury Armed Forces Covenant	Neutral

Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date
All	We will provide accessible and affordable skills and training opportunities throughout people's lives to help working-age residents in Bury find and keep the jobs they want. Our strategy will support education from primary school to further education, focusing on preparing students for work. Beyond school, we will create a local system to help people gain the skills they need for good jobs. We will offer tailored support for different age groups, including online, telephone, and in-person assistance. We will	Sarah Porru	Ongoing

	utilise partnerships with the Digital Inclusion Officer and accessible spaces like the Neighbourhub to ensure a person-centric approach for residents		
Disability	To ensure inclusivity for individuals with disabilities, we will make physical spaces, digital platforms, and materials accessible; provide alternative communication methods; offer tailored support services; implement training programs for awareness; and adjust policies and procedures to avoid disadvantages.-working in partnership with dedicated services such as the Bury Blind society to ensure that every participant and their individual and specific requirements are met	Sarah Porru	Ongoing
Pregnancy and Maternity	Provide flexible support options and early intervention. Working in partnership with colleagues from Public Health to ensure specialist support is offered for delivery of the W7SS.	Sarah Porru	Ongoing
Race	Implement culturally sensitive support and outreach taking into consideration the demographics of ethnicity in some of our wards. Awareness of Visa status and post traumatic stress and working in partnership with internal and external partners to address issues such as housing and trauma.	Sarah Porru	Ongoing
Carers	Offer flexible support options and early intervention.	Sarah Porru	Ongoing
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	Tailored support for care leavers. Using existing partnerships which specialise in this cohort to provide the individual action plans required to support the needs of the individual in line with corporate parent policy. Utilising relationships with the Care leavers specialist support for Health, Employment and Wellbeing depending on the needs of the individual		Ongoing
Socio-economically vulnerable	Implement targeted support and outreach	Sarah Porru	Ongoing
Veterans	Provide tailored support for veterans Additionally, we will ensure accessible and affordable skills and training opportunities, aligning with the current and future economy, to help working-age veterans in Bury pursue their desired jobs and careers.	Sarah Porru	Ongoing

Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score			Likelihood			
			1	2	3	4
			Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely
Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

Risk Level	No Risk = 0	Low Risk = 1 - 4	Medium Risk = 5 – 7	High Risk = 8 - 16

3.2 Level of risk identified	Low Risk = 1 – 4
3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation	The Work & Skills Strategy and Delivery Plan can be considered a Low Risk level for the following reasons: **Targeted Mitigation Strategies:** The strategy has clearly identified vulnerable groups, such as older adults, people with disabilities, minority ethnic groups, and socio-economically disadvantaged individuals. By implementing targeted actions, the strategy addresses the specific needs of these groups. **Comprehensive Inclusion Statement:** The strategy and delivery plan encompasses a wide array of actions to ensure that potential impacts on various characteristics, such as age, disability, and race, are effectively mitigated. By incorporating priority groups like care leavers, recently unemployed individuals, and low-income families, the initiative ensures robust support for those most at risk. This approach

	significantly reduces the potential for negative outcomes, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all participants. **Proactive and Preventative Measures:** The all-age Work and Skills Strategy and Delivery Plan proactively addresses potential barriers to employment and skills. It ensures that necessary tools, training, and support are provided upfront. This proactive approach significantly reduces the risk of negative impacts arising and reduces the opportunity for inequalities, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all residents. **Stakeholder Involvement:** The strategy actively collaborates with specialised organisations and community groups, such as disability support organizations, LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, veteran support services, and ethnic minority support groups. This collaboration ensures that the actions taken are well-informed, culturally sensitive, and tailored to address the specific needs of each group. By leveraging the expertise and insights of these stakeholders, the strategy effectively minimizes risks and enhances the support provided to all residents. The Work and Skills Strategy is essential to Bury's Let's Do It! Strategy, which aims for faster economic growth and lower deprivation than the national average. It supports key priorities such as a better future for children, improved quality of life, early years development, educational attainment, and increased adult skills and employability. **Evidence-Based Approach:** The Work and Skills Strategy is a critical enabler of Bury's Let's Do It! Strategy, which aims for faster economic growth and lower deprivation than the national average. This strategy embodies the principles of Local, Enterprise, Together, and Strengths. It directly supports key priorities such as a better future for children, improved quality of life, early years development, educational attainment, and increased adult skills and employability. Overall, the strategy's careful planning, targeted interventions, and involvement of relevant stakeholders contribute to its classification as Low Risk, as it effectively mitigates potential negative impacts on residents.

Section 4 - Analysis Decision (Page 11 of the guidance document)

4.1 Analysis Decision	X	Reasons for This Decision
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed		
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed		

There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions (Page 11 of the guidance document)

5.1 Sign Off	Name	Date	Comments
Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager			
Responsible Asst. Director/Director			
EDI			

EqIA Revision Log

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details

Agenda Item 15

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Approval to proceed with Bury's Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Minor Works Road Safety programme of works for financial year 2025/26.	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations	

Summary

1. This report seeks formal approval to proceed with the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Minor Works Road Safety programme of works for financial year 2025/26.

2. These schemes support Bury's Road Safety strategy and Transport for Greater Manchester's (Tfgm) Vision Zero strategy of improving road safety and reducing road danger on the roads of Bury.

3. The total funding allocation for the proposed schemes is £543,000 from ITB funding provided by Tfgm

    - The full breakdown of schemes proposed for the financial year can be seen in **Appendix A**

4. No Business case is required for this work

5. Approval of the programme will enable works to commence in **April 2025** and be complete by **March 2026,** ensuring compliance with funding conditions.

Recommendation(s)

6. That Cabinet approves the proposed ITB programme of works for 2025-26.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

7. To meet the commitments to spend ITB monies on behalf of Tfgm.

8. Delays to the progression of the schemes may risk funding withdrawl by Tfgm and impact the council's reputation with TfGM and the Department for Transport (DfT).

Alternative options considered and rejected

9. Selection of other safety schemes lower down the priority list.

10. Costs. ITB is provided for the introduction of more moderate sized road safety schemes which it is hoped will provide good returns in improving road safety and reducing road danger reduction. The funding is not to be used on one large project.

11. Not proceeding with the schemes could result in funding withdrawal by Tfgm.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Kenneth Asquith
Position: Road Safety Engineer- Transportation
Department: Operations
E-mail: k.asquithi@bury.gov.uk

Background

12. The ITB funding provided for road safety schemes in Bury is provided by Tfgm. ITB monies are distributed to all 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester as part of Tfgm's City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) initiative. This money is provided to Tfgm by the Department of Transport (Dft) for it to spend on a variety of Transport initiatives throughout Greater Manchester of which ITB is one such programme of works. The ITB money provided for each of the 10 Local Authorities is 'divvied up' and distributed to the 10 Greater Manchester authorities. The amount received by each Local Authority depends on its size.

13. The total funding provision for ITB road safety schemes at Bury for the financial year 2025/26 is £543,000. This money comes with the proviso that the funding is spent on modest safety schemes which target recognised existing injury collision 'hotspot' locations, schemes which help to reduce speeds, safety schemes in the vicinity of schools and schemes which assist vulnerable road users (ie pedestrians and cyclists) on the highway such as the provision of new or upgraded crossing points.

14. The selection of schemes for progression is based around several key factors. Primarily this is existing injury collision information but also evidence of regular speeding being recorded, rat running traffic, volume of traffic, costs of the schemes proposed and evidence of significant footfall for pedestrian schemes.

15. Schemes selected for inclusion in the programme also need to tie in with Tfgm's 'Vision Zero' policy and 'Road Danger Reduction' targets regarding injury collision reduction throughout Greater Manchester.

16. 'Vision Zero' is a global movement which has been adopted by Tfgm and the 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities. The goal is to eventually eliminate all traffic related fatalities and injuries. Bury's Road Safety plan links in to this strategy.

17. The purpose of the ITB funding provision to Local Authorities by Tfgm is to provide funding for relatively modest road safety schemes which can provide high value for money with the finite resources provided.

18. As noted previously, the ITB schemes proposed for financial year 2025/26 are listed in **Appendix A.**

Social Value Considerations

19. The schemes proposed will improve road safety, reduce road danger for all road users and help to contribute to Bury Council's corporate priorities.

20. The schemes will also help promote healthier lifestyles, reduce carbon emissions, improve permeability and improve safer travel for all throughout the borough.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Please summarise how this links to the Let's Do It Strategy.

21. These schemes directly support the priorities outlined in Bury's Let's Do It Strategy, including:

- Local Neighbourhoods: Enhancing access to safe, active travel infrastructure fosters healthier, more independent, and cohesive communities.

- Delivering Together: Collaboration with TfGM, community stakeholders, The Police, Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control (GMUTC) and contractors demonstrates a commitment to co-design and shared accountability.

- Strength-Based Approach: Utilising local assets to amplify community strengths while advancing carbon neutrality goals.

- Economic Growth and Inclusion: Improved connectivity and safety of transit boosts local commerce, attracts investment, and supports inclusive growth within the borough.

- Climate Agenda: Promoting walking and cycling directly aligns with Bury's target of carbon neutrality by 2038.

- The measures proposed also support Bury's corporate plan which feeds in to the 'Let's do it Strategy'

Equality Impact and Considerations:

A full EIA has been completed **(Appendix 2)**. The Works will have an overall positive impact and improve road safety for all characteristics and circumstances. Accessibility may be disrupted during works however mitigations will ensure this is minimised as much as possible.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

22. The scheme proposals will improve road safety, reduce road danger reduction on the roads of Bury, promote sustainable travel and contribute towards Bury's 'Zero Vision' targets of injury collision reduction and Bury's target of Carbon neutrality by 2038.

23. Biodiversity impacts will be assessed and mitigated during the design phase.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Failure to approve progression of the schemes could result in delays to the delivery of the scheme improvements proposed or them not being progressed at all.	Approval of scheme proposals will ensure compliance with funding spend and delivery timescales.

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

24. There are no legal implications connected with the proposal outlined above.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

25. 25 There are no financial implications resulting from the proposal with the schemes being funded from the ITB funding provided. As noted in the body of the report there is a risk that delays to the progression of the schemes could lead to withdrawal of that funding from Tfgm and impact the council's reputation with TfGM and the Department for Transport (DfT).

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – ITB4 Scheme programme 2025/26

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
ITB	Integrated Transport Block
TfGM	Transport for Greater Manchester
CRSTS	City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement
DfT	Department for Transport
GMUTC	Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1. ITB4 Schemes 2025-2026

Location	Scheme Proposed
B6196 Bury Old Road / Arthur Lane - Ainsworth	New Mini-roundabout
Sunnybank Road – Unsworth – near Bloomfield Drive	New Zebra Crossing
A56 Walmersley Road – Chesham - near Chesham Road	Upgrade of old Pelican Crossing to a modern Puffin Crossing
Charlton Avenue - Prestwich	20mph speed limit school scheme
Clough Street area - Radcliffe	20mph speed limit school scheme
Various Sites	4 x replacement interactive safety signs
A56 Bury New Road – Prestwich – near Park View Road	New Puffin Crossing
Church Street area - Bury	Proposed 20mph Zone scheme featuring traffic calming
Radcliffe Road - Bury	New PULSA school crossing patrol flashing lights
Remedial Traffic Calming measures – various locations	Small allocation of funds for remedial safety lining and signing measures throughout the borough.
Fees @ 18%	

This page is intentionally left blank

Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

Name of Policy/Project/Decision	Road Safety Scheme programme for 2025/2026
Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)	Kenneth Asquith
Department/Team	Transportation
Proposed Implementation Date	April 2025 – March 2026
Author of the EqIA	Kenneth Asquith
Date of the EqIA	18/03/2025

1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?

The main purpose of the proposed report submission is for the decision to approve the ITB4 programme of road safety works for 2025-2026

The outcomes of which would be to:

a) Reduce the number of injury collisions taking place at hotspot locations in the borough therefore reducing costs to society and reducing road danger.
b) Improve Road Safety around schools therefore reducing improving road safety and reducing road danger.
c) Introducing speed reduction measures to improve road safety
d) Providing pedestrian facilities at key locations on the road network in Bury to improve road safety for vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians and to increase permeability of the network for such road users.

Section 2 – Impact Assessment (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?
Employees: **Yes** Community/Residents: **Yes** Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: **Yes** If the answer to all three questions is 'no' there is no need to continue with this analysis.

2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation
Documentary Evidence: i) Schemes selected are based around guidance around the selection of schemes by Transport for Greater Manchester (Tfgm) as ITB4 funding is provided by them and not by the Council. ii) The schemes chosen also support the 'Vision Zero' proposals of Tfgm regarding injury collision targets for the whole of the Greater Manchester area. iii) The selected schemes also fit in to the aims and objectives of Bury's Road Safety Plan iv) Some of the schemes selected also tie in with Greater Manchester Urban Traffic Control's (GMUTC) vision of providing pedestrian facilities at most intersections in the borough and also modernising old Pelican Crossings to new Pelican Crossings
Data: v) Some schemes have been selected based on injury collision history records using the GMAXI injury collision analysis system vi) Other schemes have been selected based on priority assessment lists related to speed information, evidence of rat running traffic, footfall levels, Police concerns and existing injury collision information
Stakeholder information/consultation: vii) Any proposed scheme will be subject to scrutiny by the Council's Traffic Management Unit (TMU). This is a bi-monthly meeting that senior engineers attend, the Police, Emergency Services, Legal Services and Tfgm (primarily

representing the Bus companies). If a scheme is endorsed by TMU then it can progress to the next stage of consultation or implementation.

viii) Where appropriate, informal consultation exercises will be undertaken with local residents and community groups who might immediately be impacted by any road safety schemes proposed.

ix) Local Councillors will be notified of any schemes proposed for informal consultation

x) Where appropriate, formal legal advertisement processes will be adhered to when progressing any scheme where it is relevant to do so.

2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups? **N**
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic? **N**
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic? **N**
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal? **N**
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation? **N**
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)? **N**
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council? **N**

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
Age	The programme aims to improve road safety for people of all ages	Vision zero strategy aims and objectives		Positive
Disability	The programme aims to improve road safety for	Vision zero strategy aims and objectives		Positive

	people with limited mobility			
Disability	Disruption during works could affect accessibility and/or require longer journeys to alternate crossing points for people with limited mobility or accessibility needs		Each individual works will ensure accessibility is considered. Works on the programme will be for a limited time and alternate routes will be clearly signposted during works	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	No impact identified			
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact identified			
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact identified			
Race	No impact identified			
Religion and Belief	Access to places of worship may be disrupted during works		Each individual works will ensure access to places of worship is maintained safely during the works. Works on the programme will be for a limited time and alternate routes will be	Neutral

			clearly signposted during works	
Sex	No impact identified			
Sexual Orientation	No impact identified			
Carers	No impact identified			
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact identified			
Socio-economically vulnerable	No impact identified			
Veterans	No impact identified			

Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date
N/a			

Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score			Likelihood			
			1	2	3	4
			Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely
Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

Risk Level	No Risk = 0	Low Risk = 1 - 4	Medium Risk = 5 – 7	High Risk = 8 - 16

3.2 Level of risk identified	2
3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation	i) Potential Objections to schemes at the Legal Stage ii) Potential rise in the Cost of schemes due to the 'Cost of Living Crisis'

Section 4 - Analysis Decision (Page 11 of the guidance document)

4.1 Analysis Decision	X	Reasons for This Decision
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed	x	
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed		

There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions (Page 11 of the guidance document)

5.1 Sign Off	Name	Date	Comments
Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager	Kenneth Asquith	18.03.2025	
Responsible Asst. Director/Director			
EDI	Lee Cawley	19.03.2025	QA Complete. Works will have an overall positive impact and improve road safety for all characteristics and circumstances. Accessibility may be disrupted during works however mitigations will ensure this is minimised as much as possible.

EqIA Revision Log

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 16

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Highways Capital Programme Update	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations	

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is twofold –

    - Re-profile the proposed spending priorities for the remaining years of the Highway Maintenance element of the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) funds, including structures, to take account of changing need for spend on structures. An updated scheme list for the structure's element will be presented in the Appendix.

2. The highway network is one of the most valuable assets that the Council operates, and is a fundamental connector of people, businesses, and the services that the Council provides. A well-maintained highway network supports our Council priorities as set out in Let's Do It.

3. As a highway network ages, deterioration increases to the stage where potholes form and require expensive reactive repairs. We have valued the deterioration of our network at approximately £5 million per year.

4. The funding we receive from the Department for Transport (DfT) generally only allows us to prioritise approximately £1.2 million per year for resurfacing schemes and structures. This is not sufficient and will lead to a deteriorating network.

5. Through HIS (Highway Investment Strategy) tranches 1, 2 & 3 an additional substantial investment in our highway asset has been made available since 2017/2018. This additional funding has allowed us to halt deterioration on our classified highways. The current HIS3 programme is addressing some member aspirations by prioritising works to the local network and is on-going. This is approaching its final year and will be the subject of a future report, so this report concentrates solely on the DfT element of the funding

6. Highway Maintenance CRSTS funds have also been allocated to Bury through GMCA from the Department for Transport. They are an amalgamation of funds received in previous years under the guises of pothole and challenge funding, together with highway maintenance and incentive funding.

7. Highway Maintenance CRSTS is a five year settlement of £12.745 million from 2022/23 to 2026/27. Some of the priorities for expenditure have altered since the previously approved report and therefore this report will focus on the remaining two years of the CRSTS settlement. This amounts to a total of £2.549 million annually

8. In line with previous years 50% of CRSTS will be allocated to planned maintenance, including highway resurfacing and bridge and structures maintenance. The remaining proportions will be allocated to preventative maintenance.

9. The table below summarises the proposed spending profile for planned maintenance schemes only, including structures, based on allocations of the above proportions over the remaining 2 year period from the 2025/26 financial year. The overall figures include an amount of slippage from previous years due mainly to inflationary pressures not having as significant an impact as anticipated, plus technical difficulties pushing some of the structures schemes further back in the programme

Year	Resurfacing ('000s)	Structures ('000s)	Total ('000s)
2025/26	£ 1,140	£ 1,160	**£ 2,300**
2026/27	£ 1,820	£ 480	**£ 2,300**
Total	**£ 2,960**	**£ 1,640**	**£ 4,600**

10. The resurfacing schemes have been prioritised based on condition surveys, road hierarchies and other relevant data, including input from highway inspectors. These schemes are detailed are combined with HIS3 schemes as two ranked order lists for strategic and unclassified roads respectively.

11. The initial prioritisation of schemes has been shared with ward councillors as part of an engagement process culminating in the lists set out in the Appendices.

12. Anticipated inflationary pressures which saw construction prices increase significantly in recent years have slowed down, leading to underspends on schemes undertaken from the existing lists, such that reserve list schemes are already being scheduled. This underspend coincides with an increased demand for spending on structures due to outcomes from principal inspections and feasibility work. The above table includes for the resultant slippage on highway works along with slippage of structures costs from previous years

13. It should be noted that there are also risks of some parts of the network deteriorating quicker than others, which could also mean the rank order of proposed schemes may need to change to reflect future condition.

14. The DfT funding allocations were traditionally split to allow capital maintenance of the Council's highway structures based on a fixed percentage of the overall allocation. The dwindling scale of the allocation in relation the comparative costs of undertaking refurbishments of structures has meant that one year's structures allocation is not sufficient for an individual major scheme. Consequently, there have been recent years where no works were undertaken to structures, but larger percentages are required when major works become necessary. The following works are required to highway structures in the coming years

15. Miscellaneous Structures and Feasibility – The Council's structures priorities change annually following results from principal inspections which can often highlight major safety issues. Miscellaneous schemes under this heading are often urgent due to the increased health safety risks associated with structures, but without a specific budget. There may also often be preliminary, feasibility and investigation, preparatory and design work required in order to progress larger scale schemes not yet in the main programme of works, or to prepare work bank schemes for bids for future external funding

16. Market Street Bridge - The bridge carries Market Street, near to Bury town centre over the East Lancashire Railway line. A principal inspection has identified a number of concrete bearing plinths that support the bridge have or are failing. Further investigation has been undertaken to determine why these plinths have failed and a scheme of repair has been designed to repair the failed plinths and associated defects. The amended programme of structures reflects the costs of the final scheme following detailed design. The complex nature of these works and the impact on the highway and East Lancashire Railway operations has delayed the start of these works, which are due to commence shortly

17. Eagle & Child Retaining Wall – This structure retains the A56 in Ramsbottom. Recent inspections noted bulging and other defects to the wall and heavy deformation of the footpath to the front of the wall. Investigative works and design has now been undertaken masonry for repairs/refurbishment of the wall, but the start of construction is being hampered due to agreeing easements / access to the adjoining land, which is adjacent to the garden of the public house / restaurant.

18. Subways & lighting - The Structures Team have been undertaking an ongoing improvement project to subway lighting converting existing lighting units to more efficient LED unit, which also aligns with the street lighting strategies

19. Walshaw Bank Footbridge – This footbridge is in very poor condition and requires replacing, together with refurbishment works to the abutments and training walls

20. Woodhill Bridge – This structure is a masonry arch bridge which has extensive defects to the masonry and requires repairs, rebuilding and pointing to the masonry arch, spandrels and training walls

21. Protective Systems to Structures – the life of structures can often be greatly extended by renewing protective systems to steel elements or renewing waterproofing to bridge decks. There are a number of smaller structures currently in need of treatment to prevent further erosion of the main steel elements

Recommendation(s)

22. It is recommended that the updated programme of structures schemes in Appendix 1 are approved.
23. It is recommended that delegated authority given to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations to approve any changes in the ranking required by fluctuations in construction prices and network deterioration that are recommended by officers be extended to include structures to allow flexibility for shifting priorities.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

24. The Council as the Highway Authority in Bury has a statutory duty to maintain those parts of the public highway, including structures deemed to be publicly maintainable.
25. The condition of the Council's highway and bridges stock is assessed annually, leading to changing priorities year on year, which needs to be reflected in the on-going programme as some parts of the network and associated structures deteriorate more quickly than others

Alternative options considered and rejected

26. To continue with the previously approved programme, which would not fund some vital structures works and lead to unacceptable health and safety risks

---

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: P.Stokes, A.Southgate
Position: Head of Engineering & Streetscene, Group Manager (Major Projects)
Department: Operations
E-mail: p.stokes@bury.gov.uk, a.m.southgate@bury.gov.uk

Background

27. Cabinet Report (16/03/23) – Highways Capital Programme – Highway Maintenance Funding 2023/24 – 2026/27 and Integrated Transport Block 22/23

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Please summarise how this links to the Let's Do It Strategy.

28. Well maintained highways provide better environments for our local communities and support the activities of businesses, enterprises and people. The consultation across all wards, has ensured a collaborative approach has been taken with local communities involved

---

Equality Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is here.*

29. EIA is not required as this is an update and information report. Full EIAs may be required for individual works detailed within this report.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

*Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both **Carbon emissions** (contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and **Biodiversity** (contact c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk for advice)*

30. We use various materials to carry out resurfacing, which are carbon intensive. The transportation of the materials to the site will also contribute to the carbon footprint of the programme, together with the construction machinery used during the project. However the project may result in reduced carbon emissions in the long term by improving local road conditions and reducing the need for regular reactive repairs which can lead to fewer carbon emissions from maintenance activities.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Further deterioration of the highway network and associated structures.	If approved, it will allow adjustment of CRSTS funding to reflect current needs

---

Legal Implications:

31.The Council as the Highway Authority has a statutory duty under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, to maintain those parts of the public highway, at public expense.

Financial Implications:

31. There are no direct implications on the MTFS resulting from the proposal which, if agreed, will be reflected in the updated capital programme for delivery

Appendices:

Please list any appended documents.

Appendix 1 – Proposed Structures Programme 2025/26 to 2026/27

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

Capital budget 2025/26 - 2026/27			24/25 Slippage	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Proposed Works/Expenditure **Capital Programme for Highway Structures (Est.) DfT CRSTS funding**	**Details**	**Comments**				
Retention/Misc.	Release of retention for previous works carried out and minor miscellaneous items			£15,000	£15,000	£30,000
Miscellaneous Structures and feasibility	This item covers feasibility and design works associated with bidding and programming future works, together with in year urgent schemes identified by on-going inspections and assessments			£225,000	£225,000	£450,000
Subways & LED lighting	On going improvements to subways/lighting to replace/converting existing units to more efficient LED units.			£25,000	£25,000	£50,000
Protective systems to structures	Apply new protective system to steel elements of structure(s)				£50,000	£50,000
Eagle & Child Retaining Wall	Recent inspections have noted bulging and other defects to the wall and heavy deformation of the footpath to the front of the wall. Investigative works and masonry repairs/refurbishment of the wall is required.	Priority works - Feasibility ongoing, costs are likely to be met from 2023/24 budget.		£250,000	£15,000	£265,000

Market Street Bridge	A principal inspection has found a number of concrete bearing plinths that support the bridge have/are failing. A scheme of repair is required to replace/make good the failed plinths and associated defects.	Feasibility completed, design/contract documentation ongoing.	£350,000	£600,000	£50,000	£650,000
Walshaw Bank Footbridge	Replacement of footbridge inc. new abutments, rebuilding of training walls and new superstructure.	Desing and construction 2024/25		£45,000		£45,000
Woodhill Bridge	Refurbishment of masonry arch bridge inc. repairs/provision of training walls, rebuilding of spandrel walls and pressure pointing of arch ring.	Desing/documentation ongoing. Construction 2024/25			£50,000	£50,000
Replacement of minor Structures	Replacement, renovation of smaller structures.				£50,000	£50,000
Total DfT Funding			**£350,000**	**£1,160,000**	**£480,000**	**£1,640,000**

Classification:	Decision Type:
Open	Non-Key

Report to:	Cabinet	**Date:** 16 April 2025
Subject:	Millwood Primary Special School – Update & Request for approval to proceed to Pre-Construction Services Agreement stage (PCSA) with a contractor	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

Summary

1. This updated report is presented to Cabinet with the latest position and details of the Northwest Construction Hub (NWCH) provisional milestone dates. Indicative budget costs were approved at the February 2025 Cabinet meeting. It is seeking approval to proceed to the Pre-Construction Services Agreement stage (PCSA) for the construction of the new wing extension; roofing remedial and other outstanding defects scheme.

2. The potential value of the full contract enables the Council to utilise for procurement purposes the NWCH High Value Construction Framework Lot 1 (£8m to £25m) pre-qualified panel of Contractors.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

(a) Approve entering into a Pre-Construction Services Agreement stage (PCSA) with [the contractor selected]
(b) Delegate finalisation of the terms of the Agreement to the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director for Children and Young People.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

Approval to proceed to PCSA stage is required for the Millwood scheme to progress. This enables the detail of the project to be developed, enabling greater confidence in the capital cost and programme for delivery. The previous scheme was developed to RIBA Stage 4 but unfortunately the contractors ISG went into Administration in September 2024. Allowing a new contractor time to develop the RIBA Stage 4 is required by the Northwest Construction Hub (NWCH) two stage process. This allows for design responsibility handover and Client Engagement Meetings to take place with the selected Contractor Partner prior to the bid being submitted.

Cabinet approval to proceed to the PCSA stage is needed at the April 2025 Cabinet meeting to ensure a quicker start on site to achieve the tight deadlines for the 4th wing extension and completion of the roofing remedial/outstanding defects work.

Development of additional capacity at Millwood Primary Special School, as set out in the Project Safety Valve agreement between the Council and the Department for Education, is a key element of the specialist place sufficiency strategy. Taken together, the Agreement and strategy set out the business case for the development of new provision and expansion of existing specialist provision to meet increasing demand within Bury and reduce the reliance on placements in Independent Non-Maintained Special Schools (INMSS). The extension scheme at Millwood Primary Special School is a priority within this strategy.

Urgent completion of the roofing remedial works/other outstanding defects is required. This has already been delayed due to the previous contractors going into Administration.

At the end of the next stage, RIBA 4, the bid will be returned and finalised figures will be available. They will then be reviewed internally and validated by independent quantity surveyors Poole Dick. That firm carried out a similar exercise in respect of the ISG bid last year. This will provide Cabinet with valuable additional assurance. Provided that the bid figures can be recommended a further report will then be submitted to Cabinet in July 2025 seeking approval to enter into a Contract on that basis.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing. If we don't proceed with the extension this would mean pupils being sent to out of borough provisions which would be at a large cost to the council.

We must address the roofing remedial works/other defects as a priority as the original contractors only re-roofed approximately half of the school roofs. The roof is deteriorating and needs to be replaced as soon as practically possible.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Samantha Horrocks
Position: Asset Manager (Education Operations)
Department: C & YP
E-mail: S.J.Horrocks@bury.gov.uk

Background

1.1 Cabinet have received a suite of reports regarding progress/approvals in relation to this scheme. (See below for links to the reports).

- 14 December 2022
- 12 July 2023
- 6 September 2023
- 5 June 2024
- 26 June 2024 – Urgent Decision Form
- 12 February 2025

1.2 At the February 2025 Cabinet meeting the following was approved:

(a)To approve the indicative budget and provisional works programme with an anticipated 12 month build scheme and targeted completion of September 2026.

(b)To approve the seeking of competitive tenders for the works, subject to report back to Cabinet for approval of the tender sum and contract award to the preferred contractor.

1.3 The original contractors had developed the scheme to RIBA stage 4 before going into Administration in September 2024. It is now necessary to allow a new contractor time to develop their scheme per the NWCH milestone stages.

1.4 Below are the dates the Council are working towards as agreed with NWCH. At this stage the dates are only indicative: -

Milestone	Date
Soft Marketing Event at the school for interested contractors	**Monday 17.02.2025**
Expression of Interest documents (EOI) issued by NWCH	**Thursday 19.02.2025 to Friday 28.02.25**
Issue Mini-Competition document	**Monday 3.03.2025**
Mini-Competition briefing meeting	**Friday 7.03.2025**
Mini-Competition return	**Monday 31.03.2025**
Clarification interview	**Friday 4.04.2025** (if deemed necessary)
Constructor Partner selection / notification (including notification & feedback to unsuccessful partners) stated to be subject to Cabinet approval	**Friday 11.04.2025**
Bury Council Cabinet Meeting – approval to proceed to PCSA	**Wednesday 16.04.2025**
Pre-Construction activity	**Thursday 17.04.2025 to Monday 23.06.2025**
July Cabinet-to request approval to enter into a legal Contract.	**Wednesday 9.7.2025**
Agree Contract	**Monday 7.07.2025**

Contract period commences	**Monday 28.07.2025** (53weeks contract period)
Contract period completion	**Monday 03.08.2026** (for 4week client fit out)

1.5 The Council are working in partnership with the NWCH framework based at Manchester City Council as it is an efficient and cost-effective method of proceeding.

1.6 To further develop the design the Council is required to enter into a Pre-Construction Services Agreement with the contractor to develop the scheme further at RIBA stage. This enables the detail of the project to be developed, enabling greater confidence in the capital cost and programme for delivery.

1.7 In entering into a PCSA, it does not commit the Council to award a contract for delivery of the project. The PCSA stage is prior to awarding the main contract. The main contract will be funded from the Children's Services Capital Programme. The successful partner for the PCSA will be determined prior to the Cabinet meeting.

1.8 In order to progress the scheme to extend Millwood Special School; address roofing remedial works/other outstanding defects, Cabinet is asked to approve a decision to proceed to the Pre-Construction Services Agreement stage.

1.9The Children's Services capital programme includes a provisional sum in respect of the extension project, but also a further allocation for potential roof remediation/other defects works which is a legacy of the long-standing uncertainty about how the roof defects would be funded.

1.10The appointment of a contractor to carry out the project requires a specific procurement approach on which the Council's Legal Services and Procurement Team have advised. 'Stage 1' of a two-stage call-off procurement process under the protocols and procedures of the NWCH requires a Pre-Construction Services Agreement (General Contractor) 2016 (PCSA), which enables the contractor to collaborate with Council and team of consultants to develop detailed designs, to develop the main contract works, and to compile specialist bid documents.

1.11 This more detailed design work enables greater understanding of costs, and how the overall cost of the project and the programme for delivery can be improved upon. Once detailed bid costs are available, a further report will be presented to Cabinet seeking approval to proceed with a contract award.

1.12 Since the original contractors went into Administration the responsibility to complete the re-roofing of the school has passed to the Council. Therefore, it is proposed to combine the 4th wing extension scheme with the roofing remedial work/other outstanding defects and deliver it as one scheme by the main contractor.

1.13 Due to the delays in progressing the expansion project this has inevitably resulted in the school not being able to accommodate additional pupils in September 2025. Therefore, the Council has considered various options to provide additional space for

the pupils. In discussions with Millwood Senior Leadership Team, they have identified space consisting of the Theatre and a meeting room which can be converted into two classrooms. The Council have begun working on this option which will need to be complete by September 2025. Costs/timescales have been provided and an Operational Decision form has been signed.

The temporary classroom arrangement will be in place until the expansion project is completed which is hoped by September 2026.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The proposal will support key ambitions of the Let's do it strategy:

- A better future for the children of the borough
- A better quality of life
- A chance to feel more part of the borough
- Building a fairer society that leaves no-one behind

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Environmental impacts and concerns will be considered as part of the pre-construction services and will be in-line with existing Council policies.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Bid costs come back higher than anticipated	Commissioning an external Quantity Surveyor company to provide assurances to the council that the Bid represents value for money.

Legal Implications:

The process being followed under the NWCH High Value Construction Framework is compliant with the new procurement legislation which came into force on 24th February 2025 as it utilises a continuing valid framework under the Procurement Act 2023. The form of call off contract will be determined by the Framework.

The proposals will support the sufficiency of educational places in the borough which is a statutory duty under section14 Education Act 1996.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications at this stage.

Appendices: None

Background papers:

Cabinet Report – 14 December 2022 – Millwood Primary Special School: Update on remediation Programme and expansion proposal. Link

Cabinet Report – 12 July 2023 – Children's Services Capital Programme Link

Cabinet Report – 6 September 2023 – Millwood Primary Special School -request to approve additional expenditure -Link

Cabinet Report – 5 June 2024 – Millwood Primary Special School - Programme Update & request for approval to appoint contractor -Link

Urgent Decision Form - 26 June 2024 Link

Cabinet Report – 12 February 2025 - Millwood Primary Special School – Update & Request for approval to go to tender - Link

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects

Agenda Item 18

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT TRAFFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Elaine Taylor
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Eleanor Wills
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Group Chief Executive Officer, GMCA, GMFRS & TfGM	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
Group Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Tom Stannard
Oldham	Mike Barker
Rochdale	Stephen Rumbelow
Salford	Melissa Caslake
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Ashley Hughes

Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Managing Director, TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

GMCA 28/25 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Arooj Shah (Oldham), Shelley Kipling (Oldham) & Harry Catherall (Tameside).

GMCA 29/25 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, opened by welcoming Tom Stannard in his first meeting as the new Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, and welcoming Melissa Caslake to the meeting in her role as the Interim Chief Executive of Salford City Council.

RESOLVED /-

1. That Tom Stannard be welcomed to the meeting in his new role as Chief Executive of Manchester City Council.

2. That Melissa Caslake be welcomed to the meeting as the Interim Chief Executive of Salford City Council.

GMCA 30/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interests received.

GMCA 31/25 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 31 January 2025 be approved.

GMCA 32/25 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED /-

That the proceedings of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 January 2025 be noted.

GMCA 33/25 MINUTES OF THE GMCA BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2025

RESOLVED /-

That the proceedings of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 30 January 2025 be noted.

GMCA 34/25 BUDGET REPORTS

A. GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2025/6 Overview

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, was invited to introduce the overarching report on the GMCA budget proposals for 2025/26. The report summarised the position on the Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals, The GMCA General Budget, GMCA Transport budgets including Transport Levy and Statutory Charge and the GM Waste Services Levy. It also set out the implications of the proposed budgets and the resultant charges on districts and the Mayoral Precept.

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the summary report be noted.

B. Mayoral General Budget & Precept Proposals 2025/26

City Mayor Paul Dennett, GMCA Deputy Mayor, took the Chair for this item of business.

The report sought approval for the Mayoral General Precept for 2025/26 and recommended the setting of the Revenue Budget for 2025/26 as required under section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (updated in the Localism Act 2011) and the precepts and relevant levels of Council Tax required under sections 40, 42B and 47 of the Act.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, was invited to comment on his budget and proposals. He stated that these remained difficult times in terms of budgetary pressures on residents, and across Greater Manchester there had been a conscious effort to minimise extra pressures as much as possible. However, there were vital areas that required an element of extra funding. This included putting further investment into neighbourhood policing across the region, reversing the decade of cuts faced by GMFRS, and following the successful reregulation of bus services in the region, the need to secure the financial base of the system going forward.

The Mayor reaffirmed his commitment to retaining the £2 bus fare cap for the remainder of 2025, in addition to the impending commencement of the hopper fare scheme. Discussion took place around the future of the Integrated Settlement Transport System and the importance of continuing to drive up patronage through the extension of fare capping schemes. Commitment to regular network reviews and the expansion of night bus pilot services was reaffirmed.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee's discussion of the budget and proposals was reported back to the GMCA. It was advised that the Committee had considered the suite of reports and provided a number of comments. The cost minimisation culture across the group was welcomed and the opportunities for increased sharing of resources through the integrated settlement. It was asked that consideration be given to how the integrated settlement would be scrutinised through the single assurance framework. There was concern that some precept increase looked to be higher than inflation and that the reasoning behind this needed to be clearly explained to the

public. Benchmarked on the value for money provided by GMFRS would also be welcomed.

The GMCA recorded its thanks to the Group Treasurer Steve Wilson supported by the GMCA finance team for the significant work put into managing the overall budget process.

Steve Wilson was invited to comment, expressing his thanks to the local authority treasurers of the ten Greater Manchester authorities who supported his team throughout the budget setting process.

The meeting was advised that a named vote was required to approve the proposals for The GM Mayoral General Budget. Members voted on the recommendations as follows:

District	**GMCA Member**	
Bolton	Cllr Nicholas Peel	**Agreed**
Bury	Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	**Agreed**
Manchester	Cllr Bev Craig	**Agreed**
Oldham	Cllr Elaine Taylor	**Agreed**
Rochdale	Cllr Neil Emmott	**Agreed**
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett	**Agreed**
Stockport	Cllr Mark Hunter	**Agreed**
Tameside	Cllr Eleanor Wills	**Agreed**
Trafford	Cllr Tom Ross	**Agreed**
Wigan	Cllr David Molyneux	**Agreed**

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Mayor's General budget for 2025/26, as set out in this report together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates set out in Appendix 2, be approved.

2. That the Mayoral General Precept to £128.95 (Band D) comprising of £86.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £42.75 for other Mayoral General functions be approved.

3. That the following be approved:
   i. the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2025/26 covered by the Mayoral precept.
   ii. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service.

4. That approval be given to the use of reserves, as set out in section 3 of the report, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2026 were adequate.

5. That it be noted that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes will record the names of those Members voting for or against the Mayor's budget and precept proposals.

6. That the feedback from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

7. That the thanks for the GMCA was expressed to the Group Treasurer and his team, as well as the financial leads in each individual districts for their considerable work during the budget process.

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham retook the Chair from this point in the meeting.

C. GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2025/26

Steve Wilson, Group Treasurer, advised that the paper requested an increase in the levy including the statutory charge paid by the 10 GM authorities of 3% recurrently, as well as the continuation of the non-recurrent 1% contribution of £2m to the budget. There was some use of reserves as set out in section 5 of the paper, however this use of reserves was expected to be temporary in supporting the delivery of the new operating model.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the risks and issues which were affecting the 2025/26 transport budgets, as detailed in the report, be noted.

2. That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in this report, for 2025/26 be approved.

3. That a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2025/26 of £125.657m, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2023, be approved.

4. That a Statutory Charge of £86.7m to District Councils in 2025/26, as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2023, be approved.

5. That the proposal to increase fees and charges, as noted in the report, including the increases proposed Departure Charges and Bus stop closure charges, as set out in paragraphs 4.24 and 4.25, be endorsed.

6. That the use of Transport reserves in 2024/25 and 2025/26, as detailed in section 5, be approved.

D. GMCA Revenue General Budget 2025/26

Steve Wilson, Group Treasurer, highlighted two areas of note that would be brought back for further discussion. Firstly, the impact of the Integrated Settlement, which had

been felt most acutely against this budget. Secondly, was the commitment being made to investing proceeds from the retained business rates scheme. In good news for authorities, it was proposed that the general GMCA levy would be phased out, and would instead be delivered through efficiencies.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the budget relating to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority functions, excluding transport and waste in 2025/26, as set out in section 2 of the report, be approved.

2. That approval be given to local authority contributions of £7.95 million as set out in section 5 of the report including the recurrent reduction of £650,000 to be delivered through group efficiencies in 2025/26 ahead of further reductions in future years.

3. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 6 of the report, be approved.

4. That approval be given to the establishment of a two-year fixed term group Chief Transformation Officer at a grade up to SM3 and the establishment of seven fixed-term senior programme director posts, up to grade SM3, to support the delivery of growth location programmes.

E. GM Waste Budget and Resources - Budget and Levy 2025/26 and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2027/28

The increase in the levy for 2025/26 was an average increase of 2.8% and a total of £4.9m. This was a differential rate across the authorities relating to tonnage across the system. Underspend in the previous year would result in returns to districts.

It was noted that 2025/26 would be the first year of the Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme which was expected to deliver £1.1bn nationally to support public authorities in dealing with waste from packaging.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the forecast outturn for 2024/25 be noted, and a return of £10m of reserves to districts from the forecast in-year underspend be approved.

2. That the proposed 2026/27 Trade Waste rate of £141.94, to allow forward planning by Greater Manchester Local Authorities, be approved.

3. That the capital programme for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved.

4. That the budget and levy for 2025/26 of £179.2m (2.8% increase) be approved.

5. That the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy be noted, and approval be given to a further reduction of £20m of reserves to districts in 2025/26.

6. That approval be given to the proposal of a partial return of funds to districts from the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR) and responsibility be delegated to the Group Chief Financial Officer to finalise the amount, estimated to be £17.7m, once the final notice as assessment is received from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

F. GMCA Capital Programme -2024/25 - 2027/8

These figures set out the latest position for 2024/25 capital expenditure forecasts and the medium term financial plan up to 2027/28.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current 2024/25 forecast of £631.6m compared to the previous forecast of £581.8m be noted.

2. That approval be given to the addition to the 2024/25 capital programme of £4.4m for 2024/25 local highways maintenance and £14.8m (£11.1m to be

paid to local authorities and £3.7m retained by the Department for Transport (DfT) as a new incentive element) for 2025/26 local highways maintenance, as outlined in sections 2.9.8 and 2.9.9 of the report.

3. That the addition to the 2024/25 capital programme of £0.3m, funded by borrowing, for the replacement of end-user networking hardware at Tootal Buildings as per section 3.17.1 of the report be approved.

4. That approval be given to the capital programme budget for 2025/26 of £598.3m and the forward plan as detailed in the report and in Appendix A.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank