

Bolton Vision

‘Story of Place’

Bolton’s LAA 2008/9 – 2010/11.

Summary

Bolton has:

- A compelling, outcome-focused and ambitious ten year vision with clear priorities based upon a sophisticated analysis of need, opportunity and the views of local people.(the Community Strategy – *Our Vision 2007 – 17*)
- A developing 3 year Delivery Plan for the Community Strategy indicating how we will progress towards the 10 year plan; this will include the indicators/targets we agree with Government as the LAA
- A mature and action based local strategic partnership (the Vision Partnership) focused on outcomes and all partner organisations aligned to the main aims and priorities identified in the Community Strategy.
- Major economic investment in the Borough over the next few years which is providing a once in a generation opportunity to maximise opportunity to narrow the gap between the most and the least well off (It’s Bolton’s time).
- An understanding that there are challenges to address and we need to redouble our efforts around improving health and reducing health inequalities, and improving the educational achievement of our children and young people.
- Strong community engagement with a clear focus on achieving better outcomes in line with local needs.

It’s Bolton’s time

Over the past ten years, Bolton has been transformed into a vibrant dynamic city in waiting. Until recently Bolton’s image was perceived as poor and based upon stereotypes from another age. 21st century Bolton is now more associated with Peter Kay, Sara Cox and Vernon Kay and the success of the Wanderers, than with an industrial legacy of economic and physical decline.

The Bolton of today is on the verge of a further transformation by taking its place as a key regional centre with a vibrant local economy and sustainable communities. Leading this change are the council and the Bolton Vision Partnership. Together we have forged a vision and infrastructure that will complete Bolton’s renaissance. Bolton’s people are its greatest asset and research shows that they are among the friendliest in the country. This character has been encapsulated into Bolton’s new brand with its values – open, colourful and sound – setting the tone for how the borough shows its face to the world.

Our ambition is underpinned by a renewed confidence and opportunities for growth that have developed over the last five years. Investor interest in the borough has never been higher and relationships with developers are strong with a commitment to the delivery of shared priorities. This strong sense of ambition and a powerful track record of delivery, coupled with the new opportunities, paints a compelling picture about what can be achieved over the coming years.

Bolton is a highly effective council with a track record of delivering outcomes and improving the quality of life for local people. Bolton was recently corporately assessed by the Audit Commission as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). The assessment indicated that Bolton has a bold vision for the future of Bolton which is driving ambitious plans for economic growth and for reducing inequalities; and that priorities are firmly based on a good understanding of the needs and views of local people, gained through thorough consultation and detailed information about local communities. Priorities reflect local circumstances, challenges and opportunities and are translated into action through outcome-based targets for the short, medium and longer term. Overall the Council was awarded a 4 for its corporate assessment with top scores for ambition and prioritisation.

Bolton - The Place

Bolton is a borough of contrasts, featuring some of the wealthiest neighbourhoods in the region – as well as some of its most deprived. Bolton in 2007 is now ranked 51st most deprived in England (previously 50th). There are 175 LSOA in Bolton of which 24 fall into the 5% most deprived and 69 within the 20% most deprived in England. Bolton is also extremely diverse with around 11% of the population from minority communities. Three quarters of local people are Christian, 7% Muslim and 2% Hindu. This diversity presents many opportunities for the borough but also a number of challenges not least those of community cohesion and opportunity for all. The Council and its partners have been instrumental in building and maintaining effective community cohesion and led the way in successfully integrating new and emerging communities. Recently, the Institute of Community Cohesion were commissioned to analyse our current achievements and strengthen our approach for the future; great strengths were highlighted although there are clearly challenges for the future. We are now working through an action plan to ensure communities in harmony in the future.

Our Vision

The Bolton Vision Partnership has a clear and compelling ten year vision (Community Strategy – *Bolton- Our vision: 2007 – 2017* refreshed in June 2007) which will deliver real and lasting benefits for everyone now and in future generations – it is focused upon achieving better outcomes and an improved quality of life for all Bolton's communities. It is a vision focused on transforming people and place –

'Our vision for Bolton in 2017 is to be a place where everyone has an improved quality of life and the confidence to achieve their ambitions.'

It sets out the Bolton story, which is one of drive, determination and ambition, of a town built on aspiration and resilience. It's a place with a clear vision and a committed, determined local partnership of private, public, voluntary, community and faith sector

organisations. The Strategy clearly indicates our vision, our main aims and priorities. These include local indicators with the expected outcomes over ten years, all with three and five year milestones. The community strategy can be downloaded from www.boltonvision.org.uk.

This strategy is the route map that will guide Bolton to 2017. We are preparing a three year delivery plan to help deliver our ten year community strategy, and the LAA will be a key part of this plan as an agreement with Government on our three year improvement priorities.

It has two main aims, to ensure **economic prosperity** and to **narrow the gap** between the most and least well off. Together, these aims demonstrate our ambition to seize the current opportunities for growth and investment, whilst ensuring that local people benefit by reducing inequalities that currently exist.

The Community Strategy sets out our ambition to maximise the benefits of the economic prosperity which is coming to Bolton. Bolton is now recognised as the largest and fastest growing economic centre outside the conurbation core with investor confidence and momentum at unprecedented levels. The town centre alone is set to generate over 5,000 new jobs in key growth sectors and £600m in new investment. We are determined that this opportunity is used to improve the life chances of our disadvantaged residents. In short we believe that we have the people and infrastructure to be one of a few boroughs where the regeneration of both people and place can be delivered whilst providing high quality public services across the board

Ongoing Challenges

In developing our priorities, our analysis has been based upon:

- A review of our performance against the priorities in our previous community strategy.
- Understanding the evidence of need and priorities in the local area and thorough assessments of economic and social change across the borough
- What local people have told us is important to them
- An understanding that we need to redouble our efforts around improving health and reducing health inequalities, and improving the educational achievement of our children and young people.
- The evidence base we used to develop LPSA 1, 2 and our LAA.
- Regular engagement with partners including the voluntary community and faith sector.

This process has recognised that we have made good progress on issues like crime, cleanliness and housing, but challenges remain - there are deep-rooted issues around health inequalities, improving educational attainment and skill levels in our deprived areas e.g.

- in our most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Bolton people may live on average fifteen years fewer than those in the most affluent neighbourhoods. On average the difference in life expectancy between the most disadvantaged areas and Bolton as a whole is 7.4 years.

- Overall, according to the analysis from the 2006 data, 20% fewer of our children in our more deprived areas are achieving 5A* to C awards at GCSE level.

We have identified in the community strategy that these are the areas where we need to double our efforts. Importantly, the issues identified by local people such as crime, cleanliness, health and good homes are all reflected in our priorities. Key to addressing this is the need to raise the aspirations of local people – this is a focus of our Community Strategy.

Bolton's economy is set to grow significantly over the coming years and we must ensure that local people, particularly those in deprived areas, have the personal ambition and skills to access the new jobs and benefit from the growth.

The Delivery Plan will assist us to deliver positive outcomes for the people of Bolton – we are aiming for big improvements in the next decade which includes the following outcomes:

- increasing life expectancy
- improving skills and qualifications
- benefiting from £600 million of private investment and 10,000 extra jobs
- reducing crime down by a quarter
- providing cleaner streets, better parks and open spaces, and
- enjoying even stronger relations between our communities

To support the achievement of our main aims, the Strategy sets out six priority themes providing a focus for our joint efforts over the next decade:

Healthy priorities

- narrow the health gap by improving the health of those living in the least well off areas
- address the causes of ill health
- tackle drugs and alcohol misuse
- promote independence
- increase physical activity and sports participation

Achieving priorities

- improve educational attainment
- provide everyone with the chance to learn
- raise aspirations
- improve skills

Prosperous priorities

- match jobs and investment to those most in need
- build a transformed, vibrant town centre
- raise and improve the profile of Bolton

Safe priorities

- further reduce crime and the fear of crime
- prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour
- make our roads safer

Cleaner and greener priorities

- make public spaces cleaner
- improve parks and open spaces
- living within environmental limits

Strong and confident priorities

- create housing that meets your needs
- further reduce homelessness
- encourage everyone to become more active in their community
- ensure we all live in harmony
- support more people to enjoy cultural activities

Each priority has a set of outcome focused ten year targets with three and five year milestones against which performance will be managed. For example, we will increase the total number of jobs in the town centre compared to 2006/07 by 750 by 2010, 2,250 by 2012 and 6,000 by 2017. The developing Community Strategy Delivery plan will set out the three year indicators/targets with a number agreed with Government (the LAA).

Our suite of Neighbourhood Action Plans (NAPs) provide a focus on tackling deprivation in our most deprived areas which have built upon a sound track record that includes our successful area-based regeneration initiatives in East Bolton and Great Lever.

Bolton's Delivery Plan (including the LAA)

It is worth restating that our main aims to **narrow the gap** between the most and the least well off and to ensure **economic prosperity** are our priorities for the future of Bolton and are therefore the key priorities for the Delivery Plan including the LAA. Within this context, we are working closely with the other Greater Manchester districts to develop the *Manchester Area Agreement* which proposes a range of actions and targets across a number of issues that can best be tackled on a sub regional basis – transport, business, skills and employment. Consequently the priority themes we outline in the community strategy will contain our actual priority areas for progress under the new LAA.

At this stage we are developing the 3 year Delivery Plan and have matched the Community Strategy indicators and targets against the most appropriate of the national indicator set; and we have developed a long list of indicators against the priority themes of the community strategy, based on maximising economic prosperity for local people and narrowing the gap. Over the coming weeks we will be developing the Delivery Plan further, agreeing the indicators and targets for the Plan including identifying and negotiating with GONW the indicators which will become the LAA element of the Delivery Plan.