

DRAFT BURY LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY **2040**

SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Introduction

“We are consulting on our draft local transport strategy so that you can help to shape investment in trams, buses, cycling and pedestrian facilities”

We have identified the need for Bury to have a local transport strategy to ensure that the Borough’s transport network can support our Let’s Do It vision for Bury to ‘stand out as a place that is achieving faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation’.

Our strategy is ambitious and won’t happen overnight, but we need to aim big if we are to have a truly inclusive transport system that addresses inequality and supports our growth plans to create jobs and provide more homes. We need our transport network to unlock new sites for development, to promote health and well-being through active travel and to help meet our commitment to having fossil-fuel free travel by 2038.

We are already working with the other the Greater Manchester councils and Transport for Greater Manchester to deliver a low carbon, London-style fully integrated public transport system across bus, tram, train and bike which we are calling the Bee Network, and we have signed up to the Greater Manchester 2040 Transport Strategy and the ambition for half of all journeys to be made by cycling, walking or public transport by 2040.

Our ambition is for Bury to have an integrated transport network that supports a healthy, green, connected and thriving Borough. Achieving this will be a challenge and will need us to rethink how we travel, changing our behaviour so that more of us can choose to walk, cycle or use public transport more often. As a Council, we will play our part by investing in new infrastructure and working with our partners to improve Metrolink and bus services.

Our vision is not just about getting about more quickly and more sustainably but is also about linking residents to new opportunities and delivering on our inclusive growth ambitions by connecting people to jobs, education, leisure and tourism.











Having a clear transport vision and strategy in place will help Bury get a fair share of the funding available for transport at national and regional level to help deliver our regeneration ambitions for our town centres and for Northern Gateway as part of Atom Valley.

Our transport vision is that ...

By 2040, 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. The improvements to transport and connectivity will help to grow the economy and reduce deprivation.’

Strategic Transport Objectives

We have identified six strategic objectives that will help to deliver our vision and structured our strategy around four themes.

 <h3>Metrolink</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Bury interchange Bury line stop improvements Better routes to Metro stops A new stop and travel hub/park and ride at Elton Reservoir Travel Hubs at Park and Rides Tram-train technology linking Bury and Rochdale 	 <h3>Support sustainable economic growth and regeneration</h3> <p>By enabling new jobs and houses in the Borough to be delivered in a sustainable manner through targeted transport investment in key growth and development locations</p>
 <h3>Bus</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus franchising Cheaper fares and integrated ticketing Electric buses More frequent, reliable services Better bus stops and interchanges Bus priority measures on key routes Quality Bus Transit corridors Better routes to bus stops New services to developments 	 <h3>Reduce carbon emissions</h3> <p>By investing in low carbon travel to support the climate emergency and help Bury be carbon neutral by 2038</p>
 <h3>Walking, Wheeling and Cycling</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Boroughwide network of routes New routes for new developments Secure cycle parking Bike libraries and bike hire Safer Routes to School Connected Blue and Green Infrastructure 	 <h3>Encourage healthy and active lifestyles</h3> <p>By creating a comprehensive walking and cycling network to encourage more journeys to be undertaken on foot and by bicycle across the Borough</p>
 <h3>Highways and Parking</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schemes to reduce congestion and severance Schemes to unlock development sites Road safety improvements Road maintenance and repairs Parking strategies Electric vehicle charging points 	 <h3>Improve connectivity</h3> <p>By delivering a high quality, modern and integrated multimodal transport network to improve connectivity between and within the Borough’s strategic towns, rural areas, the wider city region and beyond</p>
	 <h3>Improve the maintenance and management of the transport network</h3> <p>By ensuring the best and most cost-effective use of existing resources to manage and maintain a safe and resilient transport network</p>
	 <h3>Improve road safety</h3> <p>By continuing to work with Transport for Greater Manchester and others, such as Greater Manchester Police, to reduce the number of casualties on our roads and achieve the GM vision of reducing deaths to close to zero by 2050</p>

The objectives of our strategy are supported by a series of investment priorities for different types of transport that set out interventions needed to address local transport issues and challenges.

There is more information on all our investment priorities in the draft Local Transport Strategy.

Metrolink

For Metrolink, this includes a redeveloped interchange in Bury town centre, along with proposals to ensure that existing stops on the Bury line are modernised.

The existing Bury Interchange will be replaced with a modern, future-proofed, low carbon, safe, secure and accessible facility. Plans include a new concourse building, a refurbished Metrolink platform, upgraded lifts, stairs and escalator, a new step free access to the Metrolink platform from the south of the town centre and a new travel hub with additional capacity for cycles and e-bikes.

We are working with TfGM to explore the potential for tram-train technology to connect Bury and Rochdale as part of a future Metrolink network. We are also looking at how we could create Travel Hubs at some of our Metrolink stops which would bring a range of transport options into one place, including parking for cars, electric vehicles, bicycles and e-bikes and other facilities such as parcel lockers.

Our intervention priorities for Metrolink also include a new stop, and travel hub/park and ride at Elton Reservoir and better routes to existing stops to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle to use the Metrolink.

The existing Bury Interchange will be replaced with a modern, future-proofed, low carbon, safe, secure and accessible facility

Walking, Wheeling & Cycling

Making it safer and more pleasant for us to make more of our short journeys by walking, wheeling and cycling is a key part of our local transport strategy. This will help with our plans to become a carbon neutral Borough by 2038 and to clean up our air. Walking, wheeling and cycling are also the cheapest and healthiest forms of travel.

Our ambition is to create an inclusive and accessible network of routes for walking, wheeling and cycling and to connect them to public transport for longer journeys. We will identify and remove barriers to walking, wheeling and cycling where we can, which could mean providing more crossing facilities and giving more road space to pedestrians and cyclists. We also want to provide more cycle parking and cycle hubs, and better access to bikes, with more bike libraries in the short-term and bringing the GM cycle hire scheme to Bury in the longer-term.

In planning new developments, we will make sure that active travel facilities are provided from the outset. We will also focus on creating safer routes to school and implementing School Street schemes to make it easier for short journeys to school to be made by walking, wheeling or cycling.

Walking, wheeling and cycling is a key part of our local transport strategy

Bus

Improving bus travel is a key part of our transport strategy. We want all our residents to have access to a modern, low-emission, affordable and accessible bus system.

The new Bury Interchange will transform the experience of bus passengers with modern facilities

Bus franchising is being rolled out across Greater Manchester which will transform the way buses are run by bringing them back under local control. Our aim is to provide more frequent and reliable services. To achieve this, we will explore how we prioritise bus movement across the Borough. This could mean we need to introduce bus priority measures such as bus lanes on key routes. We are working with Transport for Greater Manchester to investigate opportunities for bus improvements on the A58 between Bury and Rochdale as part of a Quality Bus Transit scheme.

The new Bury Interchange will transform the experience of bus passengers with modern facilities to rival those

seen at bus stations in other parts of Greater Manchester. We also want to improve the routes to bus stops for pedestrians and create a better waiting environment at bus stops.

Cheaper bus fares have already been introduced on buses in Greater Manchester and electric buses are on their way as part of the roll out of bus franchising.

Highway Network

We know that congestion is an issue in certain places at certain times of the day. Whilst our strategy aims to reduce the number of journeys made by car, it also seeks to provide more capacity on the highway network, including new roads and junction improvements, where they are needed to support new development

Too many people are injured or killed on our roads every year, which is why our strategy supports GM's Vision Zero ambition for there to be no road deaths or serious injuries by 2050.

We want to make the highway network more reliable and safer for everyone

We want to make the highway network more reliable and safer for everyone, including buses, freight and other essential journeys, and to support the move towards electric vehicles by ensuring we meet future demand for public charging points.

Our highway network is what connects us all to jobs, commerce, services, schools, health care and we need to invest in road repairs and keep it in as good a condition as we can as cost-effectively as we can.

We will also look to address the different parking challenges that exist across our Borough.



Townships

This Strategy is not a one size fits all and we recognise that our six Townships all have their own identity and unique characteristics.

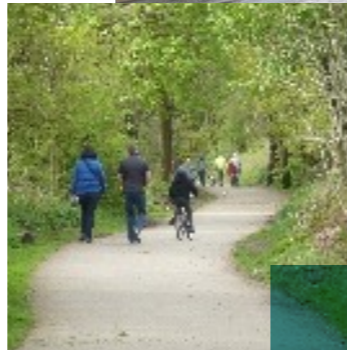
To be effective it is important that our transport strategy considers the needs of each one.

Ramsbottom and Tottington

Our transport strategy needs to support the Ramsbottom Town Plan and help bring its ideas forward to support more sustainable travel. We also need to look at ways of resolving parking pressures in the town in a way that meets the needs of residents, businesses and the town's many visitors.

We have secured £2.3 million of Government funding to improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in and around Ramsbottom town centre. We are developing our ideas and will be consulting on them later this year, but you can see some of them in the Ramsbottom and Tottington chapter of the strategy.

We also need to work with partners such as Transport for Greater Manchester to get better bus services for Ramsbottom and Tottington. This could include more high frequency bus routes as well as Local Link type services to some parts of the Ramsbottom and Tottington townships.



Bury

We need our transport strategy to support the ambitions of the Town Centre Masterplan and complement the new market flexihall plans that have attracted £20 million of government Levelling Up Fund money. We need a new state-of-the-art Bury Interchange and a new step-free access to the Metrolink platform from the south of the town centre to support development.

On bus, the Quality Bus Transit proposals being investigated for the A58 Bury to Rochdale corridor complement the Masterplan proposal to reconfigure Angouleme Way and prioritise bus movements around the south of the town centre. This would reduce severance the ring road creates for pedestrians and cyclists wanting to access the town centre. The 471 service that uses Angouleme Way and connects Bury with Bolton and Rochdale will be one the first services to benefit from the roll-out of bus franchising in September. This could include new electric buses which would help to address persistent air quality issues at Bury Bridge.

We have secured £4.1 million of Government funding to improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes in and around Bury town centre. We are developing our ideas and will be consulting on them later this year, but you can see some of them in the Bury chapter of the Local Transport Strategy.



Radcliffe

Our transport strategy needs to support the ambitions set out in the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework. These include a new Civic Hub, improvements to the Market Hall, a new secondary school and new homes on sites such as the former East Lancashire Paper Mill.

We have secured £9 million of Government funding to deliver walking, wheeling and cycling schemes which will link some of Radcliffe's new and existing facilities together. We are developing our ideas and will be consulting on them later this year, but you can see some of them in the Radcliffe chapter of the Local Transport Strategy.

Other proposals include more high frequency bus routes, a new Metrolink stop, travel hub/park and ride at Elton Reservoir and improved routes to the existing Radcliffe Metrolink stop to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle there.

Whitefield

Although Whitefield has good road and public transport connections to both Bury town centre and Manchester City Centre, it still has issues that we need to address through our transport strategy.

Customer parking for local businesses in the town centre can be difficult and both Whitefield and Besses O'Th' Barn Metrolink stops are in need of improvement. There are also places on the road network that suffer from congestion, which causes delays for general traffic and buses, and the busy A56 makes for a vehicle-dominated Whitefield town centre.

Whitefield has been selected to receive support from the Government's High Street Task Force. A new town plan will be developed to help unlock Whitefield's potential for regeneration, which our transport strategy will need to support.

As part of Greater Manchester's ambitious plan to reform the bus offer through franchising, there are more high frequency bus routes planned for Whitefield.



Prestwich

Prestwich is a thriving town and one of the best places to live in the north-west. Our transport strategy needs to support the plans for Prestwich Village, including redevelopment of the existing Longfield Centre which we are bringing forward in partnership with Muse.

Some parts of the township have good road, Metrolink and bus connections to Bury town centre and Manchester City Centre, and good access to the motorway network via the A56 Bury New Road. But there are other parts such as Simister and Rainsough/Carr Clough where connectivity is poor and public transport is limited.

The A56 Bury New Road and the A576 Bury Old Road are very busy main roads and often experience congestion and delay, particularly if there is an incident on the motorway.

Prestwich, Heaton Park and Bowker Vale Metrolink stops all need improving, including routes to the stops, platform access and buildings, with the lift at Heaton Park being a particular issue as it often breaks down.

Delivering our strategy

Our strategy sets out a range of exciting and complementary measures which will help deliver a modern transport network that everyone can benefit from.

We have secured some funding already which will help us make progress towards delivering our transport vision over the next five years. However, to secure the necessary funding to achieve the overall ambition, we need to show that we have a long-term commitment to sustainable movement across our Borough.

The main source of funding for transport investment is Central Government. Greater Manchester has won over £1 billion from the government's first City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) to invest in transport infrastructure over the next 5 years. This includes over £47 million of the £84 million needed for the new Bury Interchange.

There is up to £15 million available in the CRSTS programme for walking, wheeling and cycling improvements in Bury, Radcliffe and Ramsbottom town centres for which we are currently developing plans and £17 million for road maintenance over the next 5 years.

As a Council, we have also been investing heavily in repairing and maintaining the highway network, spending £20 million in the six years to March 2023 through our Highway Investment Strategy, resurfacing over 40 km of carriageway, carrying out preventative maintenance and repairing thousands of potholes. We will invest another £9.5 million over the next two years.

Government has recently announced a further £8.8 billion of funding for a second round of CRSTS for the five years from April 2027. We won't know for some time how much Greater Manchester could get from this fund but having our Local Transport Strategy in place by then will help us make the case for investment in Bury.

We are excited to share our ideas with you and look forward to receiving your views on how best we can deliver a clean, reliable, affordable transport network that meets the needs of all our local communities. Your views will help shape the final strategy, which we aim to publish later this year.

How to get involved and have your say

Consultation on our Bury Local Transport Strategy runs from Friday 24th March to Friday 30th June.

Submit a questionnaire at www.onecommunitybury.co.uk/bury-transport-strategy

Email your comments to engagement@bury.gov.uk

Paper copies of the questionnaire can be requested from engagement@bury.gov.uk

We will also be holding some engagement events at venues across the Borough towards the end of the consultation period where we will invite you to come and talk to us. Paper copies of the questionnaire will also be available for completion at the engagement events. We will publish details of these events on our website nearer the time.