

Meeting of: The Council

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 6.30pm or at the conclusion of Question Time and Public Engagement whichever is the later.

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup. OL13 0BB



The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager Tel: 01706 252422

Email: democracy@rossendalebc.gov.uk

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	<p>Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer 01706 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 5 th March 2025.	
A3.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary.</i> Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.	
B.	Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service To receive any communications from the Mayor, the Leader, or the Head of the Paid Service that they may wish to lay before the Council.	<p>The Mayor, Councillor Driver, The Leader, Councillor A.Barnes and Rob Huntington, Chief Executive 01706 252447 robhuntingdon@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection on the Council's website <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/>. Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777 or contact Rossendale Borough Council, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB

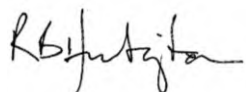
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C.	ORDINARY BUSINESS	
C1.	Making of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036) and approval of the Regulation 19 Decision Statement To consider the making of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036) and approval of the Regulation 19 Decision Statement.	Councillor A. Barnes/ David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development 01706 252429 davidsmurthwaite@rossendalebc.gov.uk
C2.	Urgent decisions To note any urgent key decisions that have been taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council: Special Urgency Decision taken 19 th March 2025 regarding the acceptance of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund for the decarbonisation of Marl Pits Leisure Centre and allocate the required council contribution from the Carbon Reduction Fund. https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/download/10714/decision-notices	Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal/ Monitoring Officer (01706) 252438 clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
D.	RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES	
D1.	Recommendation of Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Valley Plan 2025-29	Councillor Lythgoe/Clare Law, Head of People and Policy 01706 252457 clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 25th March 2025

COUNCILLOR JUDITH DRIVER, MAYOR

MINUTES OF: THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ROSSENDALE

DATE OF MEETING: 5th March 2025

PRESENT: The Mayor Councillor Driver (in the Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Ashworth, A. Barnes, Bauld, Belli, Bleakley, Cheetham, Eaton, Gill, Hancock, Harris, Harrison, Hodgkiss, Holland, Kenyon, Looker, Lythgoe, McInnes, McMahon, Neal, Royds, M. Smith, S. Smith and Walmsley.

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Huntington, Chief Executive / Head of Paid Service
Clare Birtwistle, Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer
Chris Warren, Director of Resources
David Smurthwaite, Director of Economic Development

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: 1 press
Kimberly Haworth, Head of Finance
Phillip Veevers, Mayor's Attendant

A short silence was held as a mark of respect for two former councillors: past Mayor of Rossendale John Holt and past Mayoress Janet Eaton.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received for Councillors S Barnes, Norton, Payne, Proctor and Woods.

2. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11th December 2024 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

3. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

4. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor McInnes was a member of Friends of Whitaker Park and Civic Pride Rossendale (Item D3 minute 11).
- Councillors S. Smith and Lythgoe were Leisure Trust Board Members (Item C1 minute 6).

5. Communications from the Mayor, the Leader or Head of Paid Service

There were no communications from the Mayor or Head of Paid Service.

The Leader of the Council responded to a statement made by Councillor Neal and would take up his traffic light issue with Lancashire County Council (LCC).

An update was provided on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire and the next steps:

The new Lancashire County Combined Authority had been agreed by Parliament. The first meeting of the new authority would be held at County Hall in Preston on 11th March. The aim would be to have simpler structures leading to better outcomes, significant financial savings,

and improved accountability, especially in two-tier areas like Lancashire. It was expected that the new unitary authorities would be operational by April 2028. Several potential options were being considered by different Councils within Lancashire at present. Leaders supported by Chief Executives would work through the potential options prior to the November submission. There would be an approval process for Rossendale in due course as the proposals were developed.

In response to the update, it was confirmed that consultation would take place with residents throughout the process.

POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK ITEMS

6. 2025/26 Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Council considered the 2025/26 Council Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Officers and members were thanked for their work and input into the budget process and proposals.

Background information was circulated for consideration which related to an amendment, which was moved by Councillor Scott Smith and seconded by Councillor Hodgkiss as follows:

To remove the £6m capital provision for the proposed Waste Transfer Station in Bacup and make all necessary adjustments to the budget.

Members discussed the amendment and it was confirmed that:

- Officers were thanked for assisting with the amendment at short notice.
- The S151 Officer had confirmed that the amendment impact was deliverable within this financial year 2025/26.
- There would be impact beyond 2025/26 taking the Council below the government threshold.
- The need for a waste transfer station came out of the need for infrastructure detailed in the Integrated Waste Strategy.
- There was a current climate crisis, but technology existed to be able to deal with waste.
- Discussions were started in 2021 notifying about the closure of Whinney Hill.
- This was the responsibility of the County Council.

Councillors S. Smith, Hodgkiss and Holland requested a named vote on the amendment.

Members voted on the amendment becoming the substantive motion as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	Against
Cllr Ashworth	Against
Cllr Alyson Barnes	Against
Cllr Bauld	Against
Cllr Belli	Against
Cllr Bleakley	Against
Cllr Cheetham	For
Cllr Driver	Against
Cllr Eaton	Against
Cllr Gill	Against
Cllr Hancock	Against
Cllr Harris	Against
Cllr Harrison	Against

Cllr Hodgkiss	For
Cllr Holland	For
Cllr Kenyon	Against
Cllr Looker	Against
Cllr Lythgoe	Against
Cllr McInnes	Against
Cllr McMahon	Against
Cllr Neal	Against
Cllr Royds	Against
Cllr Michelle Smith	Against
Cllr Scott Smith	For
Cllr Walmsley	Against
For:	4
Against:	21
Abstentions:	0

The motion was lost and members continued to discuss the original motion as follows:

- Thanks to the Finance Team for all their work on the budget.
- The predictions within the proposal would maintain the reserves until 2029.

Members voted on the recommendations of the report as follows:

Name	Vote
Cllr Adshead	For
Cllr Ashworth	For
Cllr Alyson Barnes	For
Cllr Bauld	For
Cllr Belli	For
Cllr Bleakley	For
Cllr Cheetham	Against
Cllr Driver	For
Cllr Eaton	For
Cllr Gill	For
Cllr Hancock	For
Cllr Harris	For
Cllr Harrison	For
Cllr Hodgkiss	Against
Cllr Holland	Against
Cllr Kenyon	For
Cllr Looker	For
Cllr Lythgoe	For
Cllr McInnes	For
Cllr McMahon	For
Cllr Neal	For
Cllr Royds	For
Cllr Michelle Smith	For
Cllr Scott Smith	Against
Cllr Walmsley	For
For:	21
Against:	4
Abstentions:	0

Resolved:

Council approve:

1. A revenue budget for 2025/26 of £11.535m, as detailed in the report
2. A Council Tax increase of 2.99%, increasing the Council Tax rate for a Band D property from £308.44 to £317.66, an increase of £9.22 pa.
3. Use of £574k from the reserves to support the 2025/26 revenue budget.
4. The proposed fees and charges attached as Appendix 1
5. The technical resolution necessary to give effect to these budget proposals attached as Appendix 3

Reason for Decision

The financial position for the council, like all local authorities, is challenging and subject to a high-level of risk regarding the current economic position. The council is proposing to set a revenue budget for 2025/26 of £11.535m. The Council must remain focused on identifying and delivering further savings and income in order to ensure annual balanced budgets over the immediate and medium term. It must also ensure that all its budget resource allocations are directed to the core functions of the council and that the use of its resources drives the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan priorities.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

7. Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29 and Capital Strategy 2025/26

The Council considered the Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29 and Capital Strategy 2025/26.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The levels of investment were welcomed.
- Thanks would be given to the Finance Team.

Resolved:

Council approve:

1. The capital programme for 2025/26 and associated capital expenditure of £24.272m and further capital expenditure of £11,928m for the period between 2026/27 and 2028/29
2. The Capital Strategy 2025/26 is attached at Appendix A

Reason for Decision

The proposed capital programme for 2025/26 and up to 2028/29 represents an affordable plan, as indicated by the prudential borrowing performance indicators the Capital Strategy (Appendix B).

Alternative Options Considered

None.

8. Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practises

The Council considered the Treasury Management Strategy & Treasury Management Practises.

Resolved:

Council approve:

1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the borrowing strategy
2. The Investment Strategy, including Investment Indicators
3. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

4. To delegate any further minor amendments to the Director of Resources (s.151) in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

Reason for Decision

To approve the adoption of the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Treasury Management Policy and Practises, which will ensure continued compliance with the Code and continue to manage the council's exposure to financial risk. In light of the current economic climate and potential resultant changing cash flow requirements, Members are asked to delegate any minor amendments required within year to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Lead Member for Resources.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

ORDINARY BUSINESS

9. Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26

The Council considered the Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26.

Resolved:

That Full Council approve the Rossendale Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025/26 as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

Councils are required to set a Council Tax Support scheme annually, before the 11th March on the charge year, in this case 2025/26. No conclusive case for significant amendment to the scheme has been identified at this time.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

10. Council Pay Policy Statement

The Council considered the Council Pay Policy Statement.

Resolved:

Full Council approves the attached Pay Policy Statement.

Reason for Decision

The Pay Policy Statement meets the legal requirements as per the Localism Act 2011.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

11. UK Shared Prosperity Funding 2025-26

The Council considered the UK Shared Prosperity Funding 2025-26 report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- There was a 25% revenue/75% capital split on the grant.
- It would be best to consult with the Whitworth Town Council Clerk regarding the funding.
- Blackpool was acting as the Combined Authority agent for the distribution of the funding.
- Officers would keep members updated regarding the payment and reporting mechanisms.

Resolved:

1. Full Council to authorise the acceptance of £857,874 UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) from the shadow Lancashire Combined County Authority.
2. Full Council to accept the proposed 25-26 investment plan and note the progress of 23-25 UKSPF funded projects.
3. Full Council to authorise the Head of Legal and Governance in conjunction with the Director of Resources to enter into necessary agreements to deliver the investment plan.
4. Full Council to delegate authority to the Director of Economic Development and Director of Resources to implement the investment plan and in conjunction with the lead member for Economic Development & Regeneration, make any required further minor amendments to the investment plan.

Reason for Decision

The UKSPF investment for 25-26 will continue the momentum gained through the first 3 years of the programme, leading to attractive and thriving town centres, enhanced leisure opportunities and support local businesses. This will help us achieve our economic and leisure aspirations.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

12. Acceptance of grants in relation to the prevention of Homelessness

The Council considered acceptance of grants in relation to the prevention of Homelessness.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Thanks would be given to the officers working hard for residents and trying to prevent homelessness.
- Council Tax was still payable on empty properties.
- Numbers of empty properties that could be brought into use
- The Council would give priority to Rossendale residents.
- This would work towards enabling long terms solutions to tackle temporary accommodation challenges.

Resolved:

1. That the Council approves acceptance of the following grants:
 - Homeless Prevention Grant - £387,639
 - Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant - £149,000
 - Local Authority Housing Fund - £356,000
2. To Delegate Authority to the Head of Legal, Director of Resources and Director of Economic Development with the lead member for Housing to enter into any agreements to accept and deliver the relevant grant funded schemes.
3. To note Rossendale Borough Council's continued role as the accountable body for the Rough Sleeping Initiative in joint delivery with Burnley and Pendle.

Reason for Decision

To accept the grants to prevent and relieve homelessness in the Rossendale Borough in line with the Local Authorities Visions and Priorities, specifically having access to a good quality home to either rent or buy plays a fundamental part in our residents' quality of life, as we want people to live long healthy lives and take pride in their communities.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

13. Urgent decisions

No urgent decisions had been taken since the last meeting of the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET AND OTHER COMMITTEES

14. Recommendation of the Governance Working Group – Constitution Review

The Council considered the Constitution Review report.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- The amendments to the Local Plan Steering Group were welcomed to ensure greater representation from across the borough.

Resolved:

To update the Council's Constitution as detailed in Appendix A in relation to:

- a) Local Plan Steering Group
- b) Roll of Honour

Reason for Decision

The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and it is in the interests of the Council to regularly review and update the document.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

15. Recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Climate Change Strategy Update

The Council considered the Climate Change Strategy Update.

Thanks was given to the Climate Change Officer for all the hard work.

Resolved:

That Council note the progress in year four of the Climate Change Strategy and approve the revised Climate Change Action Plan.

Reason for Decision

In 2020, the Council made an ambitious commitment to play its part in reducing carbon emissions. The subsequent 4 years have seen significant progress towards achieving this. Continued development of the outlined projects will allow us to move forward to achieve our net zero ambition. The adoption of the revised Climate Change Action Plan and implementation of outlined actions will ensure that we address the Climate Emergency that the Council declared in 2019, meet the strategic priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025 and ensure we reach our net zero ambitions by 2030.

Alternative Options Considered

None.

(The meeting commenced at 6.45pm and concluded at 8.37pm)

Signed.....
(Chair)

Date

Subject:	Making of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036) and approval of the Regulation 19 Decision Statement	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Council	Date:	2 April 2025
Report of:	Head of Planning	Lead Member:	Planning
Key Decision:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Anne Storah	Telephone:	01706 252418
Email:	annestorah@rossendalebc.gov.uk ;		

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To note the results of the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (the ENP) Referendum and the requirement of Rossendale Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, to formally make (adopt) this Neighbourhood Plan as part of the statutory Development Plan for the designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 1.2 To approve the Regulation 19 Decision Statement (attached) which sets out the Council's decision in terms of making (or adopting) the Neighbourhood Plan and the reasons for this decision.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The designated Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum (ECNF) has been progressing the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (ENP). Having prepared and consulted on the Neighbourhood Plan, this was submitted to the Council, and taken to independent examination in the autumn of 2024. The Examiner found the Plan to meet the basic conditions and other requirements set out in law, subject to a number of modifications being made.
- 2.2 As a result of making these modifications, the ENP was able to proceed to Referendum. Voting took place on Thursday 20 February within the designated Neighbourhood Plan area and more than 50% of those who voted agreed that they wanted the ENP to be used by Rossendale Borough Council in helping it to decide planning applications.
- 2.3 This means that decisions made by the Local Planning Authority and planning inspectors within the designated Neighbourhood Plan Area must be made in accordance with the relevant development plan policies in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan as well as the Rossendale Local Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 2.4 Rossendale Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, is now required to formally make (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan and to publish a Regulation 19 Decision Statement to set out this decision in relation to the making (adopting) of this Neighbourhood Plan and the reasons for that decision.

3 BACKGROUND

Members will recall that a Report was considered at Council on 11 December 2024 (<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/1438/council>) which discussed the background to the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (including the consultations that were undertaken and the findings of the independent Examination), and Council agreed that the ENP should proceed to Referendum, with the Recommendations put forward by the Examiner and other minor amendments, as agreed with the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum.

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 The Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum was designated initially in April 2018. Designation lasts for 5-years and the Forum successfully applied for re-designation in 2023.
- 4.2 The defined Edenfield Neighbourhood Area, which was also subject to consultation and formal designation in 2018, encompasses the village. The boundary follows the A56 to the west and Dearden Brook to the south. To the east it follows Michael Wife Lane/Gincroft Lane and the northern boundary is defined by Fish Rake Lane, following the ward boundary. Please see <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/18950/map-of-edenfield-neighbourhood-area>
- 4.3 Work has been ongoing by the ECNF in preparing this Neighbourhood Plan since the designation with informal consultations taking place. The Regulation 14 version was consulted on between 3 March 2023 and 20 April 2023 and the ENP was re-drafted in the light of comments received. In line with the Regulations, the Council published for consultation the Regulation 16 version of the Draft Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036). This consultation began on 17 June and ran for 6-weeks, finishing at 5pm on Tuesday 30 July. In total 22 responses were received from a number of statutory consultees, other organisations, residents and planning agents acting on behalf of developers.
- 4.4 The Neighbourhood Plan was submitted by the Council for examination and, in agreement with the Forum, Andrew Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI was appointed as the independent examiner. Copies of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, Policies Map, supporting documentation and representations received during the consultation on the Regulation 16 version were provided to the Examiner for his consideration.
- 4.5 The Examination was held by written representations, with the Examiner requesting further information and clarification from the Council and the Neighbourhood Forum. The Examiner considered if the plan met the basic conditions and other requirements set out in law, in particular whether it:
- has regard to national policy
 - contributes to the achievement of sustainable development
 - is in general conformity with the adopted strategic policies for the local area
 - is compatible with EU obligations.
- 4.6 The Examiner's Report was issued on 28 November 2024 and recommended modifications to the Plan in order to meet the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements in order to proceed to Referendum. The modifications are listed in the earlier Report to Council (11 December 2024) and in the Regulation 18 Decision Statement, dated 12 December 2024, [rbc-statement-that-edenfield-neighbourhood-plan-meets-basic-conditions-and-complies-with-legislation-regulation-18-decision-statement](#). The Examiner also considered whether the area for the referendum should extend beyond the designated area to which the Neighbourhood Plan relates and concluded that it should not.

The Examiner found that:

- the Plan has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body – Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum;
- the Plan has been prepared for an area properly designated – the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area – Figure 1 on Page 2 of the Plan;
- the Plan specifies the period to which it is to take effect i.e. 2021 - 2036; and
- the policies relate to the development and use of land for a designated neighbourhood area.

4.7 The Examiners Report concluded (para 5.1 and 5.2):

“The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan has been duly prepared in compliance with the procedural requirements. My examination has investigated whether the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements for neighbourhood plans. I have had regard for all the responses made following consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan and the evidence documents submitted with it.

“I have made recommendations to modify a number of policies and text to ensure the Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. I recommend that the Plan, once modified, proceeds to referendum”.

4.8 The Referendum was held on Thursday 20 February. The Referendum was conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections and the Edenfield Community Centre was used as the polling station.

4.9 Residents living within the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area were asked *“Do you want Rossendale Borough Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Edenfield Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”*

4.10 There was clear support for the Neighbourhood Plan with 95.6% of those who voted, casting their vote in favour of Yes. Further information can be found on the Council’s website at <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/elections-voting/elections>

4.11 The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (2021-2036) therefore has come into force as part of the statutory development plan for this designated area of Edenfield, alongside the adopted Rossendale Local Plan (2019 to 2036). Decisions made by the Local Planning Authority and Planning Inspectors should, therefore, be made in accordance with the development plan policies in the Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

4.12 Following the positive result at the Referendum, Rossendale Borough Council must formally make (adopt) the Neighbourhood Plan within 8-weeks from the day after the date of the Referendum, in effect before Friday 18 April 2025. There are only limited circumstances where the LPA is not required to make a Neighbourhood Plan following a positive result at Referendum. These are where it considers that the making of the plan would breach, or otherwise be incompatible with, any EU or human rights obligations (see section 61E(8) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act as amended). It is not considered that these circumstances apply to the making of this Neighbourhood Plan.

4.13 Since the Referendum results were published, ECNF has notified the Council of a number of minor typographical errors which have now been amended in this final version of the NP.

	Amendment required
Contents page	Heritage assets should be page 26 (not 24)
Page 26, para 8.3	Figure 7 should read Figure 5
Page 34, policy T2, para 3	Delete the word "Given"
Last page (after p52)	Remove reference to Submission Version

- 4.14 As soon as possible after deciding to 'make' the Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Planning Authority is required to publish a Decision Statement setting out the authority's decision and the reasons for making that decision. Both the Decision Statement and the 'made' Neighbourhood Plan must then be published on the Council's website and in such other manner as the Council considers is likely to bring these documents to the attention of people, who live, work or carry-on business in the neighbourhood plan area. Details of where these documents may be inspected are also required to be published and any person who has asked to be notified of the Council's decision should be informed.

5 RISK

- 5.1 The report sets out the steps the Council is required to take to comply with its legal duties under the Town and Country Planning Act to make a decision on 'making' (adopting) a neighbourhood development plan following a positive result at referendum. Any decision not to make the Neighbourhood Plan for Edenfield, given the outcome of the Referendum will be open to challenge.

6 FINANCE

- 6.1 Once a neighbourhood area is designated by the Local Planning Authority it is legally required to support, advise and assist the qualifying body in producing a neighbourhood plan for their area. This Duty to Support does not require the provision of financial assistance, however, the Localism Act does require the authority to pay for the local referendum and examination of a neighbourhood plan.
- 6.2 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) provides financial support for neighbourhood planning in the form of a Neighbourhood Planning Grant (NPG). Local Planning Authorities can claim £5,000 each for the first five neighbourhood areas designated and neighbourhood forums created and £20,000 when they issue a Regulation 18 Decision Statement detailing their intention to progress a plan to referendum (as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012). A claim of £20,000 relating to the Neighbourhood Plan referendum has been made in line with the NPG requirements.
- 6.3 The grant from MHCLG will be sufficient to cover costs for the Examination and the Referendum.

7 LEGAL

- 7.1 The legal requirements of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) have been complied with to date. Following a positive referendum result, Rossendale Borough Council, as the Local Planning Authority, is now required to formally 'make' (adopt) the Edenfield Neighbourhood Development Plan 2021-2036. This includes requiring the Council to publish the 'made' (adopted) Neighbourhood Plan and the Regulation 19 Decision Statement on its website and in such other manner as the Council considers is likely to bring these documents to the attention of people, who live, work or carry-on business in the neighbourhood area.

8 POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached to this Report. As the plan content has not changed further, the earlier EIA is carried forward unaltered
- 8.2 Public consultations have been undertaken.
- 8.3 Any equality implications related to this report will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9 REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan, undertaken by the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum, has been consulted on and examined in line with the relevant Regulations. Following the examination, modifications were made to the NP for Edenfield, in line with those recommended by the Examiner, to ensure it meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements in order to proceed to Referendum. The Referendum took place on 20 February 2025 and received more than 95% of votes supporting the ENP to be used to help Rossendale Borough Council determine planning applications within the designated Neighbourhood Plan area. On making the Neighbourhood Plan, the Council must publish a Regulation 19 Decision Notice, which is attached.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Appendix 1: Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (Made April 2025)	Attached
Appendix 2: Appendices to the made Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan	appendix-1-policies-map-january-2024- Appendix 2 Factbook Jan 2024 appendix-3-design-code-report-january-2024- Appendix 4 LGS Jan 2024 appendix-5-locally-important-views-report-january-2024- Appendix 6 Consultation Statement Jan 2024 IBL appendix-7-glossary
Appendix 3: Rossendale Borough Council Regulation 19 Decision Statement	Attached
Appendix 4: Examiner's Report (November 2024)	examiner-s-report-on-the-edenfield-neighbourhood-plan
Appendix 5: Equalities Impact Assessment	C1.%20Edenfield%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20referendum
Appendix 6: Biodiversity Impact Assessment	C1.%20Edenfield%20Neighbourhood%20Plan%20referendum



Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan

2021 – 2036



Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum

Made April 2025



Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum
www.edenfieldcommunityforum.uk
neighbourhoodplan@edenfieldcommunityforum.uk

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Foreword

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011 as a way for local people to influence planning and development of the area in which they live and work. They can be prepared by Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums. The Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum (ECNF) was established in 2018 with one of its aims being to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Edenfield.

The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036 sets out a vision and objectives for the future of Edenfield. It has been prepared by ECNF and informed by the consultations detailed in the Plan.

It is a requirement of the Neighbourhood Planning regulations that Neighbourhood Plans should conform with the strategic local policies. The latest strategic policies of Rossendale Borough Council (RBC) are contained in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 which was adopted by the Council in December 2021.

Once approved the Plan will form part of Rossendale's development plan. Together with other adopted planning policies, it will form the legal basis for planning decisions across the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area.

The Neighbourhood Plan is important for the future of Edenfield and is driven by the views of residents.

Mervyn MacDonald

Chair, Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum

1. Introduction

A Plan for Edenfield

- 1.1 The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan covers the Neighbourhood Area designated by Rossendale Borough Council. The Area includes the village of Edenfield, as shown in Figure 1 and is intended to guide and shape the development of the area up to 2036 alongside the Rossendale Local Plan. Neighbourhood planning is intended to give communities the power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and to further shape the development and growth of their local area.
- 1.2 This locally driven exercise can influence design standards for new housing, the location of shops and services, protection of the environment, and will be used for determining planning applications as part of the Development Plan for the area.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan, upon approval at referendum, forms part of the Borough development plan and carries equal legal status to the Local Plan prepared by the local planning authority. This means the Neighbourhood Plan is given statutory consideration for applications regarding planning matters.
- 1.4 The earliest draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was prepared having regard to the Rossendale Core Strategy (2011 – 2026), in accordance with the basic conditions that a draft Neighbourhood Plan must meet, as set out in paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as applied to neighbourhood plans by section 38A of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 which was adopted by Rossendale Borough Council in December 2021 supersedes the Rossendale Core Strategy (2011-2026). The first draft was subsequently updated to ensure that the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan are not in conflict with the Local Plan.
- 1.5 The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan has been informed through a four-year consultation process by the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum (ECNF), outlined below and in the Consultation Statement (Appendix 6), as well as preparation of an evidence base, vision and objectives, and meetings with Rossendale Borough Council.

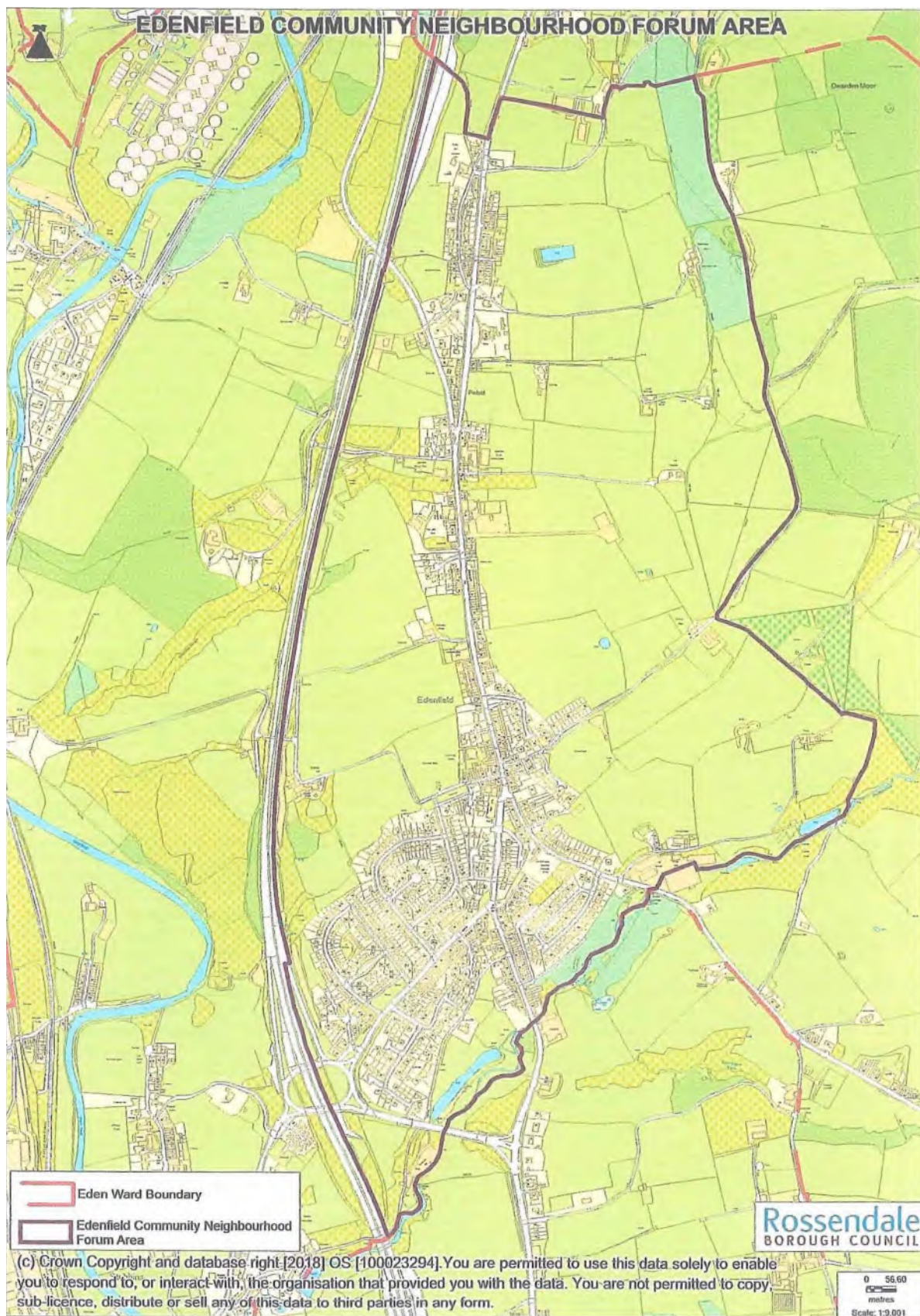


Figure 1: Map of the designated Neighbourhood Plan area

Engagement by the Neighbourhood Forum

- 1.6 Key engagement activities have been undertaken by the ECNF. For more information on each of these events please see the Consultation Statement. The engagement that has taken place has greatly informed this Neighbourhood Plan by providing a community-led approach to the values, objectives and policies brought forward. ECNF has been in regular communication with Rossendale Borough Council throughout the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan including multiple meetings.

Structure of the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.7 Following the introduction, the Plan comprises thirteen further sections, followed by appendices. These sections are:

- Section 2: 'History, Local Characteristics and Heritage Assets' lays out Edenfield's long and rich history, how the area's development has been informed by this history, and the key characteristics and heritage assets which will be considered in this Plan.
- Section 3: 'Edenfield Today' provides an overview of key facts about Edenfield. It presents an overview of the area's demographics and land use factors (including population breakdown, health and education, access to greenspace and other socio-economic data), and the key issues that have been identified from area analysis.
- Section 4: 'Edenfield Tomorrow' presents the vision and objectives for the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area as informed by the community, and the overarching principles which guide the development of this Plan.
- Sections 5 – 14: These sections present the policies for the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area and the justifications for these policies. The policies have been grouped under the following themes:

i) Development within and beyond settlement limits	vi) Local community infrastructure facilities
ii) Housing	vii) Local centre and commerce
iii) Design	viii) Green infrastructure
iv) Heritage assets	ix) Natural environment
v) Transport and travel	x) Delivery monitoring and review

Who has prepared the Neighbourhood Plan?

- 1.8 Unlike Local Plans which are prepared by local authorities, Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by local communities. The Localism Act 2011 granted parish and town councils the ability to produce neighbourhood development plans and neighbourhood development orders. In unparished areas, like Edenfield, community groups can apply to designate neighbourhood areas and form a neighbourhood forum of at least 21 people who represent the area.
- 1.9 In Edenfield, the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum, whose members either live or work in Edenfield. Any individual aged 18 or over living or working in Edenfield may become a member. The creation of the Plan has also been influenced through outreach and consultation with Edenfield residents and workers who are not part of the neighbourhood forum. Details of the Forum's purposes can be found within its constitution¹.
- 1.10 All preparation has been informed through a common purpose and objectives: to protect and enhance the rural character of Edenfield, to ensure that future development will reflect the historic character of the village, that new growth meets local and strategic policy needs, and that new transportation options enable a range of mobility choices for all. Collectively, this Plan helps to make Edenfield as desirable, green and safe a place to live, work and play as can possibly be.

What is in the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.11 A Neighbourhood Plan can contain a broad range of policies, and is largely influenced by visions, objectives, preceding consultations and the local evidence base. Ultimately, there is no standard for what a Neighbourhood Plan should contain, as such plans are meant to be tailored to the individual circumstances of each area.
- 1.12 The National Policy Planning Framework (December 2023) (NPPF) paragraph 13 states that Neighbourhood Plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in Local Plans and should shape and direct development outside of these strategic policies.
- 1.13 Key themes identified within the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan have emerged through the evidence base, visions and objectives, and ongoing consultations. We believe there are opportunities in Edenfield to influence the quality of future development, improve the look and feel of the village, preserve and maintain

¹ ECNF, 2019, ECNF Constitution:
<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/file/16385/forum-constitution-march-2019->

historical characteristics of the village and surrounding countryside, enhance the quality of green spaces, improve access and movement, and proactively plan for housing delivery in a manner that respects the village's rural character. These themes are reflected in the locally specific policies as set out in sections 5-14 of this document.

What is not in the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.14 Existing policy for Edenfield is set out in the adopted Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 and the Joint Lancashire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and is further guided by NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan is informed by all of these documents and will not be the only policy document that affects development in Edenfield upon adoption. The Rossendale Local Plan includes strategic policies for Edenfield, as noted at paragraphs 5.4 to 5.6 below, as well as site-specific policies for three housing allocations located in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.15 In this broad context, the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for development, but rather seeks to ensure that all potential development in the area, particularly housing, is appropriate to the area through its contribution to good quality design, greenspace allocation, protection of the natural environment and respect to neighbourhood heritage and character.

2. History, Local Characteristics and Heritage Assets

- 2.1 Edenfield's history can be traced from its farming and clergy origins, through the industrial revolution, to its present-day role as a post-industrial dormitory village. Edenfield Chapel, the precursor to the village's current parish church, was likely built in the 16th century and for several centuries was the main cultural landmark of the area. In the 18th century, only the church, a school, and a few farmhouses dotted the surrounding countryside. This changed with the Industrial Revolution. By the 1840s significant development had come to Edenfield, including turnpikes that would later become the A56, railways to the west, and mills to the east which generated much of the village's employment, character, and historical events into the 20th century.
- 2.2 Surrounding farmland has greatly informed Edenfield's character over the centuries, at one point with over 70 farms in existence in Eden Ward at the end of the 18th century. Industrial expansion through the late 18th century including mills, quarries, and coal mines, eventually led to a decline in farmable land and pastures. Much of Edenfield's housing stock through the 19th century was built to accommodate mill workers, with small cottages and Victorian era terraced housing overtaking, and in some instances demolishing, the area farmhouses.
- 2.3 As common with towns in the North, Edenfield had a burgeoning wool industry, with 21 mills at one point in operation within the wider area. This demand for worker lodging combined with land speculation resulted in the creation of almost entirely new settlements, and encroachment onto existing farmland. Following the First and Second World Wars, newer factory-brick houses were built, further eroding available farmland. The older Pennine stone houses continue to inform the post-industrial character of Edenfield, providing a visually pleasing and historic identity to the village.
- 2.4 Most mills have now been demolished, many for housing projects. The remaining mills still provide limited employment but virtually none is textile-related. One mill lies empty and is the subject of allocation for housing under H67 in the adopted Rossendale Local Plan. The community is mindful that without appropriate planning and development control, increased growth will further erode the countryside.
- 2.5 It is consequently important that any future development should pay respect to the industrial character of the area; adapt existing assets for local use; and preserve the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside.

- 2.6 Listed buildings are designated as such because of their special architectural or historical interest. Within the designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Area there are three listed buildings of Grade II² quality and one of Grade II*³ quality. These are detailed in Table 1 and reflect both the natural and historic characteristics of Edenfield.

List Entry	Name	Grade	List Date	Easting	Northing
1072820	Elton Banks	II	1984-11-30	379945	420081
1072821	Hey Meadow Farmhouse	II	1984-11-30	380326	419808
1163639	Elton Banks Farm	II	1984-11-30	380350	420239
1318084	Edenfield Parish Church	II*	1966-08-09	379858	419809

Table 1. Listed Buildings in Edenfield Neighbourhood Area

- 2.7 Edenfield also contains a number of buildings that are proposed by the Rossendale Civic Trust for inclusion in Rossendale Borough Council's list of buildings of local interest or importance. This list is to identify buildings which are not statutorily listed but are considered to be of local significance and importance for architectural, historical and local merit. These are identified in Table 2.
- 2.8 Historic England Advice Note 7 (Second Edition) Local Heritage Listing: Identifying and Conserving Local Heritage at paragraph 36 summarises commonly applied selection criteria for assessing the suitability of assets for inclusion in a local heritage list. These include age, rarity, architectural and artistic interest, group value and historic interest. The buildings identified in Table 2 all satisfy one or more of those criteria.
- 2.9 The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036 identifies some non-listed heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Area. These are Chatterton Hey (Heaton House), Mushroom House and the former Vicarage (paragraph 4 of the site-specific policy

² Grade II Listed buildings are buildings that are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them

³ Grade II* Listed buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest.

for housing allocation reference H66 Land west of Market Street) and Edenwood Mill (paragraph 1 of the site-specific policy for site H67).

Building and grid reference	Description and Reason for Local Interest/Importance
Chatterton Hey House 7961 1919 Off Exchange Street	Elegant stone built two-storeyed house with eaves cornice and hipped slate roof. Glazed and panelled door with depressed arch (keystone dated 1765) and cornice. Long stair window with small panes for full height of house. Three windows on each floor. Similar wing on right. Chatterton Hey stands on one of the oldest sites in Edenfield and has connections with some of the most important families in the village's history (Haworths, Rostrons, etc.).
1-5, Green Street and 2-6, Sarah Street. 8003 1923 Off Gin Croft Lane	Well-built back-to-back cottages, c.1840. These houses have an interesting history being built on land let by the trustees of the 'Sarah Green' charity. The original lettings conditions survive and specify the standards to which the houses were to be built.
59-69, Market Street. 7992 1940 Market Street.	Early example of speculative building in the village. Row of cottages known as 'Badger Row' built c.1782 by the landlord of the 'Horse and Jockey'.
136-150, Market Street. 79911967 Market Street	A good example of the piecemeal development of a row of houses encouraged by the textile industry and the advent of the turnpike roads. The old name for the houses is 'Temple Row' and they were built over the period from 1791 to c.1830. No.144 was 'lately erected' in 1806. The name 'Temple' is often associated with places where there were handloom weavers and there is a blocked taking in door in the gable of no.150.
4-26, Rochdale Road 8000 1913 Rochdale Road	Early 19th century (c.1825) row of millworkers' houses built by the Rostron family, important millowners in Edenfield. Very few houses of this date and type survive in the village. Formerly called 'Commercial Row'.
Rostron Arms	A public house at Market Place.
Milestone on Market Street. 7996 1927	On footway outside 16 Market Street. Defaced in anticipation of a German invasion in World War II and bears an Ordnance Survey bench mark with a small metal-domed brass rivet on top at the apex of the cut arrowhead marks.

Table 2. Buildings of local interest or importance in Edenfield

3. Edenfield Today

The study area

- 3.1 Edenfield is a village within the Greenfield and Eden Ward (created in May 2024 as a result of the district ward boundary review). It is located in the Borough of Rossendale in the County of Lancashire, in the north west of England. Edenfield is the largest of six villages in the area of the former Ramsbottom Urban District Council that was transferred to Rossendale Borough Council in 1974. The other villages are Turn (south east), Irwell Vale (north west), Stubbins, Chatterton and Strongstry (all in the south west).
- 3.2 Edenfield is at the southern border of Rossendale and is adjacent to the Metropolitan Borough of Bury. The village lies to the east of the M66, where it terminates and becomes the A56. Beyond the M66/A56 is the River Irwell and Edenfield lies above the east bank of the River. The village is 8km north of Bury and 14km south east of Blackburn.
- 3.3 The designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Area encompasses Edenfield village. The boundary follows the A56 to the west of the village and the Dearden Brook to the south. To the east the boundary follows Michael Wife Lane and Gincroft Lane due north, until it is in line with Fish Rake Lane, the northern boundary.
- 3.4 The population is mostly concentrated in the south of the designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Area, with ribbon development from the centre to the northern boundary along the Market Street/Burnley Road corridor.
- 3.5 Some key facts and issues identified within Edenfield's evidence base are shown in Figure 2 below.

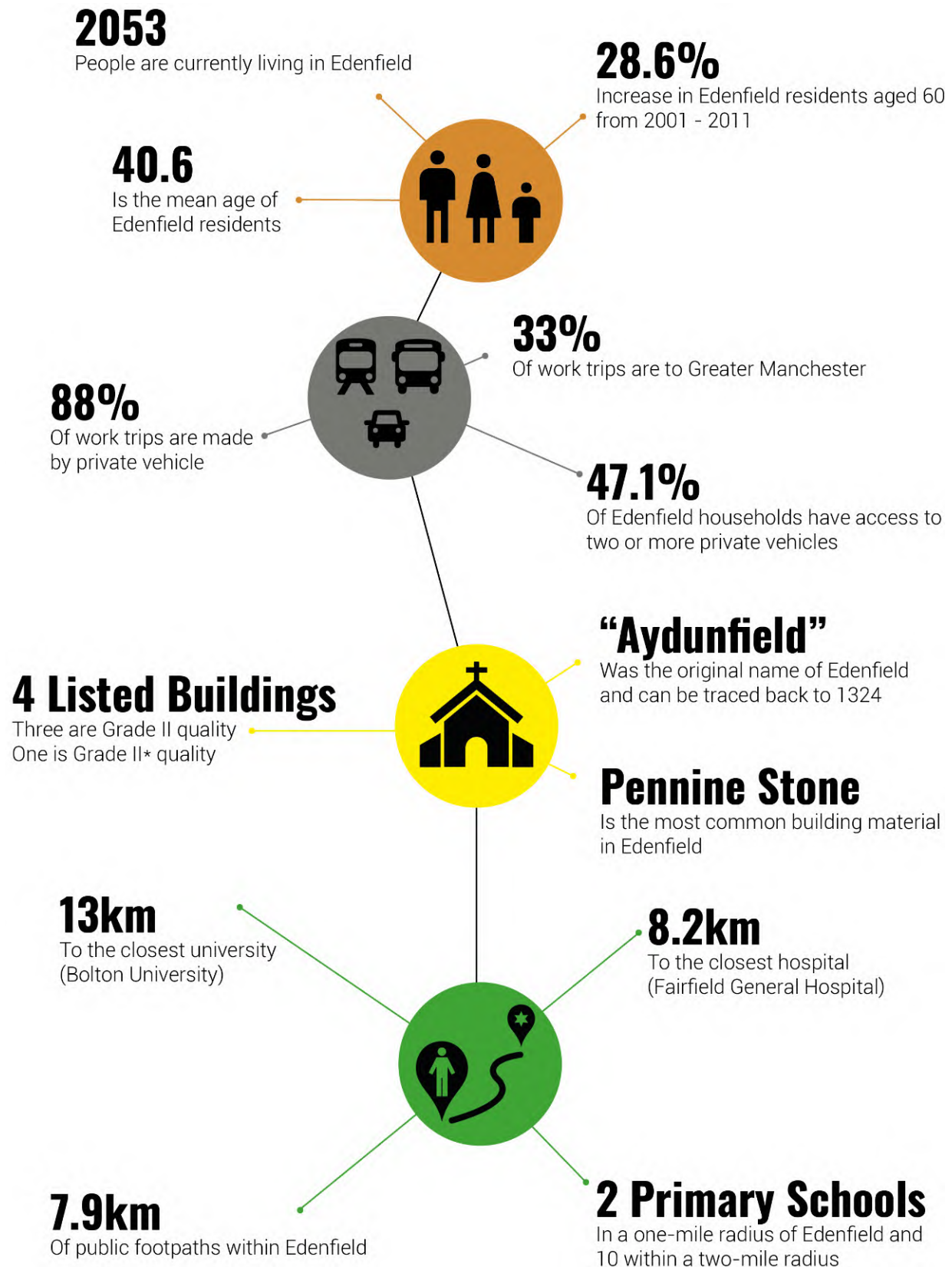


Figure 2. Edenfield Key Facts

Views of the community

- 3.6 Through the Neighbourhood Plan's engagement process, a range of matters were identified as important to address in the Neighbourhood Plan including:
- Recognition that Edenfield is a **rural settlement** with picturesque views of the countryside, and the Neighbourhood Plan must retain and strengthen this characteristic of the area.
 - A desire to protect connections to the natural environment through open and green spaces which are valued by local residents and visitors.
 - Clear support to enhancing the accessibility of important local services, especially doctors, dentists, post offices, recreational areas, and secondary schools.
 - A desire for policy requirements on new developments in the village to reflect the local scale and historic character of surrounding buildings
 - Acknowledgement that the private car and its impacts such as on-street parking, traffic, congestion, and speed of vehicles have an impact on journey times, and on pedestrian and cycle safety which must be addressed
- 3.7 These matters have informed the vision and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan, outlined in the 'Edenfield Tomorrow' section of this document. Where planning policies cannot directly address these matters (for example, allocating a new dentist in Edenfield), the Plan has laid the conditions for future improvement, and enabled alternative solutions to the issues faced by the Edenfield community.

4. Edenfield Tomorrow

Vision

4.1 This vision for Edenfield is:

“Over the Plan period the rural character of Edenfield will be retained and strengthened. New growth will reflect the historic character of the village and its setting, with the role of the Community Centre and Cricket Club reinforced as focal points of the local community.

New growth that takes place will be in response to meeting local needs and those specified for Edenfield in adopted Rossendale Local Plans. Growth will also help Edenfield become more self-sufficient, supporting existing and new amenities and services, including improved public transport, walking and cycling facilities, providing a range of mobility choices for all to reduce the reliance on the private car”.

Objectives

4.2 The objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan as identified through engagement with the local community are as follows:

- 1) Using sustainable, high quality, traditional materials for new development to maintain and strengthen the character and heritage of Edenfield, whilst still allowing for high quality and sustainable design innovation and growth.
- 2) To ensure that any development on land designated as Green Belt is consistent with the purposes of that designation
- 3) To support sustainable development that reflects local housing needs and requirements of the local community – considering affordability, type and mix. The size, density and design of these dwellings should reflect the rural character of Edenfield.
- 4) To maintain, conserve and enhance the natural environment, particularly through designated Local Green Spaces and the retention of public views particularly of the Irwell Valley and Edenfield Parish Church, ensuring connections to the natural environment are maintained.
- 5) To ensure Edenfield Recreation Ground, the playground on Exchange Street, Edenfield Community Centre and Edenfield Cricket Club and are retained for their current use and maintained to a high standard.

- 6) To support existing local services and promote the establishment of new local services to serve the community through the utilisation of existing buildings for alternative purposes. Establishment of retail services will be subject to the provisions of policies R1, R3, R4, R5 and R6 of the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 particularly in relation to the Edenfield Neighbourhood Parade as defined in that Plan.
- 7) To support the preservation of existing community facilities for community events and support the establishment of new facilities.
- 8) To improve the pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and network.
- 9) To ensure that, where parking is provided, it is well-designed and suitably located, so that it is used as intended and does not have a detrimental impact on the street scene, character and amenity.

Vision/Objectives/Policy Table

- 4.3 The vision and objectives identified above have been instrumental in the creation of Edenfield's neighbourhood planning policies, as demonstrated in Table 3 below.

Vision	Objective	Policies
Over the Plan period the rural character of Edenfield will be retained and strengthened.	1, 2, 3, 8	UB1, D1, D2, HE1, LC1, E1, GI1, GI2, NE1, NE2, NE3, NE4, NE5, NE6
New growth will reflect the historic character of the village and its setting, with the role of the Community Centre and Cricket Club reinforced as focal points of the local community.	2, 4, 5, 6	UB1, D1, D2HE1, HE2, HE3, LC1, LC2, E1, E2, GI2, GI3, NE1, NE2, NE4, NE5, NE6
New growth that takes place will be in response to meeting local needs and strategic housing policy and help Edenfield become more self-sufficient, supporting existing and new amenities and services, including improved public transport, walking and cycling facilities, and providing a range of mobility choices for all to reduce the reliance on the private car.	2, 5, 6, 7, 8	UB1, HO1, HO2, HO3, T1, T2, LC1, LC2, E1, E2, GI1, GI2, GI3, GI4, DMR1

Table 3. Vision, objectives and policies

5. Development Within and Beyond Settlement Limits

- 5.1 Edenfield itself is inset from the Green Belt, but virtually all the land surrounding the village is designated as Green Belt. It is particularly important that local development is directed in the most sustainable locations and sprawl is avoided.
- 5.2 Edenfield is a classic example of the ribbon development which is common across the Rossendale landscape. Whilst this linearity is strong in the north, the south of the village has a more expanded structure, due to significant post-war development which saw the settlement grow around Bolton Road North, Bury Road and Rochdale Road. Through the development of Site H66, some change to the existing pattern of development of the settlement will take place with the northern extent of the settlement becoming less linear. This will deliver a sustainable pattern of development by bringing new homes, population and associated expenditure into the settlement in close proximity to the settlement's centre and associated services.
- 5.3 Maintaining the rural character of Edenfield is an important vision for its community. It is appropriate that the village is able to manage and accommodate an appropriate level of growth in order to prosper. However, this must be balanced against the need to preserve its role as a rural settlement that does not encroach into the open countryside and Green Belt that surrounds the village.
- 5.4 The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036 is part of the current adopted development plan. An extract from the Policies Map of relevance to Edenfield is presented in Figure 3. Here the Urban Boundary is clearly displayed with Green Belt surrounding. The adopted Rossendale Local Plan removed the Green Belt designation that applied to most of housing allocation reference H66, on the basis that the A56 provides a strong defensible boundary and the site offers the opportunity to provide good quality, well-designed housing to meet Rossendale's housing needs, including local affordable housing, and associated infrastructure benefits.
- 5.5 The adopted Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 is a key part of the current development plan. The preamble to Strategic Policy SS: Spatial Strategy in the Local Plan identifies Edenfield as an Urban Local Service Centre, as distinct from a Key Service Centre or Rural Local Service Centre. This "settlement hierarchy is based on the facilities that are offered at present [December 2021] at each location" (Local Plan, paragraph 25). Geographically, it remains a rural settlement.
- 5.6 Strategic Policy HS1: Meeting Rossendale's Housing Requirement, of the Local Plan, stipulates: "The housing requirement figure for Edenfield Community

Neighbourhood Area from 2019-2036 is 456 dwellings". Policy HS2 allocates three sites in the Neighbourhood Area for housing development: H65 (9 dwellings), H66 (400) and H67 (47).

- 5.7 The Neighbourhood Plan policies support the Government's objective to protect Green Belt land and reiterate that only in very special circumstances will inappropriate development be permitted in the Green Belt.

Policy UB1. Development and the Urban Boundary

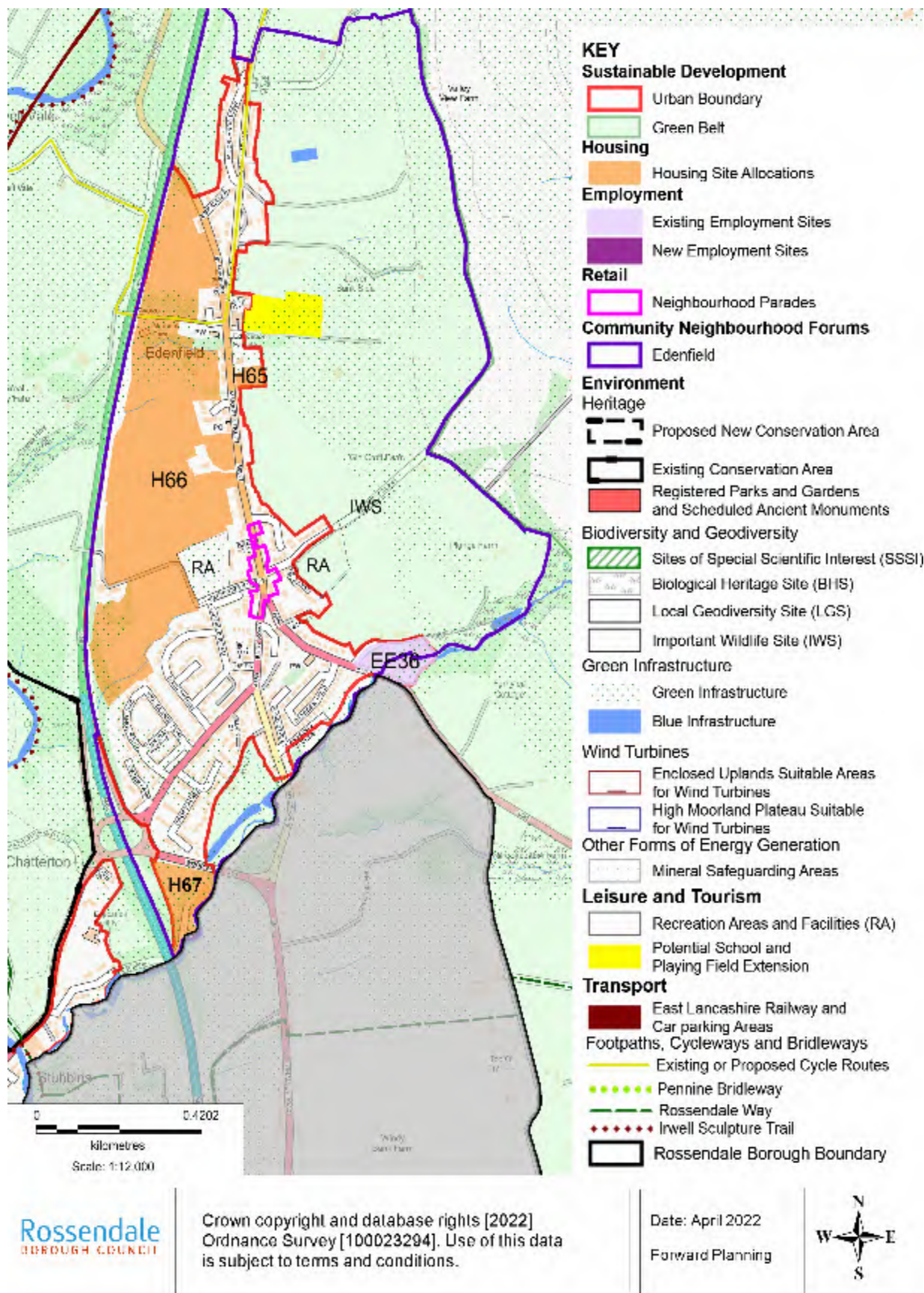
1. Future development in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area shall be focused within the Urban Boundary as identified on the Policies Map.
2. Development proposals will be supported within the Urban Boundary subject to compliance with other policies in the Development Plan.
3. Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt. Only in very special circumstances will inappropriate development be permitted in the Green Belt. Exceptions to inappropriate development are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
4. Where development is proposed on land which was removed from the Green Belt by the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036, the developer will be required to provide for compensatory measures in the remaining Green Belt in accordance with Policy SD4 of the Local Plan and other guidance.

- 5.8 Other guidance to be taken into account by developers comprises national and local guidance for the time being in force. Currently, local guidance is contained in the January 2023 version⁴ of RBC's paper *Compensation Measures for Green Belt*. This is not a Supplementary Planning Document, but the Explanation of Policy SD4 in the Local Plan includes (paragraph 59):

"Further details of precise measures are set out in the relevant site specific policy, and the Council's Green Belt Compensatory Document or its successor. Additionally a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be produced setting out the details of these schemes, for example, showing PROW improvements, locations for tree planting etc. These documents inform the site-specific policies and will inform future site-specific negotiations".

4

[https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/download/11553/compensation measures for green belt release](https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/download/11553/compensation%20measures%20for%20green%20belt%20release)



6. Housing

- 6.1 Rossendale Borough Council's 2019 updated Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) identifies that there is considerable need for affordable housing in Rossendale and that this matter must be tackled urgently. Furthermore, the SHMA highlighted that there is a particular need to provide for the growing elderly population as well as a growing need for housing for families with children.
- 6.2 As established within this Plan's evidence base⁵, housing within Edenfield is on average more expensive than in the wider borough of Rossendale and a lack of high-quality affordable housing was also raised as a key issue during the consultation process. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to address this issue through supporting housing development which meets the needs of the local population.

Policy HO1. Identified housing needs

1. Proposals located within the Urban Boundary, which meet the identified housing needs (including affordable housing) will be supported subject to the other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and wider Development Plan.

Policy HO2. Affordable housing delivery

1. Proposals for new residential development that secure the delivery of affordable housing and provide for the size, type and tenure of homes to meet local needs will be supported, provided they comply with other policies of the development plan and with policy HS3 of the adopted Local Plan, the objective of which is the provision of 30% on-site affordable housing from market housing schemes including 10% affordable home ownership. The application of this policy will maintain a focus on affordable housing but will be sufficiently flexible to take account of viability and changing market conditions over time. The size (number of bedrooms), type (flat, house, etc) and tenure (social and affordable rented, intermediate, shared ownership or other) of affordable homes for each proposal will be based on up-to-date evidence of local needs. It is recognised that housing need in the Neighbourhood Area in relation to tenure, mix and type will change over the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Plan.

⁵ Troy Planning + Design, 2020, Edenfield Factbook

Policy HO3. Affordable housing eligibility

1. The eligibility for affordable housing will be administered by Rossendale Borough Council as the Housing Authority. However, the affordable housing shall be first occupied by applicants who can demonstrate a local connection to the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area through either of the qualifications below.
2. Residency qualification:
 - a) have had their principal residence in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area for a continuous period of twelve months immediately prior to the application; or
 - b) have lived in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area for 3 out of the previous 5 years or for 6 out of the previous 12 months; or
 - c) have close family (parent, sibling, child or grandparent) who have been resident in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area for 5 continuous years and who continue to reside there.
 - d) Members of the Armed Forces, veterans of up to 5 years and their spouses/civil partners are exempt from any local connection criteria. Armed Forces members are defined as: a member of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army or the Royal Air Force or a former member who was a member within the five years prior to the purchase of the First Home, a divorced or separated spouse or civil partner of a member or a spouse or civil partner of a deceased member or former member whose death was caused wholly or partly by their service.
3. Employment qualification:

An individual will be considered to have a local connection if he/she or his/her partner meets all of the following criteria:

 - a) works at or from an office or business establishment based in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area; and
 - b) has been in paid employment or self-employed for 12 continuous months at a minimum average of 16 hours per week over a period of 12 continuous months at the time of application.
4. In the situation where affordable housing is available but no applicant can demonstrate a local connection to Edenfield, priority will be given to applicants who can demonstrate a local connection to Rossendale, such connection to be determined by reference to paragraphs 2 and 3 above as if "Borough of Rossendale" had been substituted for "Edenfield Neighbourhood Area".

Policy HO4. Site H66 design and layout

1. Development of site H66 (land west of Market Street) as identified in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 will be supported if it also takes into account the following design and layout criteria specified in the Local Plan:
 - a) Retention and strengthening of the woodland enclosures to the north and south of the church.
 - b) The layout of the housing parcels should be designed to allow views to the Church to continue.
 - c) The relationship of the new dwellings to the Recreation Ground to ensure safe non-vehicular access is provided.
 - d) Public open space to be provided along the woodland area south of the brook/Church enclosure.
 - e) Landscaping of an appropriate density and height is implemented throughout the site to “soften” the overall impact of the development and provide a buffer to the new Green Belt boundary.
 - f) Materials and boundary treatments should reflect the local context.

7. Design

- 7.1 The achievement of high-quality design is a core principle of the NPPF. It states, at paragraph 131, that “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”. The importance of the design of the built environment and its contribution to making better places for people is emphasised. It states that “Neighbourhood planning groups can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area explaining how this should be reflected in development, both through their own plans and by engaging in the production of design policy, guidance and codes by local planning authorities and developers” (paragraph 132).
- 7.2 The Local Plan places great importance on the design of new developments, supporting the national objective of promoting good design.
- 7.3 Notwithstanding the policy drivers for achieving high quality design, it was also established through consultation events that the community of Edenfield also places high importance on the rural character of the village as this was identified as a key strength.
- 7.4 Through the plan preparation a Design Code for the area has been produced. The purpose of the Design Code is to raise an appreciation for Edenfield’s existing village character, and to use this understanding to provide design guidance to strengthen and protect the village setting. It will identify the various character areas of the village, and provide a set of guidance which aligns to the objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan and the ambitions of the Neighbourhood Forum,
- 7.5 The Neighbourhood Area is made up of a number of distinctive built character areas (as identified in the Design Code). These areas reflect the history of the area and are closely linked with phases of development over the years. These distinctive areas can be broadly identified as:
- Character Area 1- Village Cores
 - Character Area 2- Traditional Terraces
 - Character Area 3- Piecemeal Domestic Development
 - Character Area 4- Rural Fringe
 - Character Area 5- Former Rural Fringe
- 7.6 It is recognised that Edenfield has developed organically and consists of a variety of architectural styles. It is accepted that a number of properties (post 1940s) do not reflect the historic local vernacular and incorporate contemporary building

materials that are not in keeping with their environs, however this is not a reason to allow further inappropriate development within it. Therefore, this plan seeks to ensure that new development is sympathetic to its rich built heritage and outstanding landscape by using design principles and key design elements that are reflective of local character and context and use appropriate building materials in their construction.

- 7.7 The Design Code provides guidance for new development in the Edenfield neighbourhood area. Fundamentally, design policies aim to conserve and enhance the character and quality of the village's built environment and ensure contextually appropriate design. A design-led response to development, referencing good practice principles⁶, will help create successful places. The design guidance provided in the Design Code seeks to protect the existing character of Edenfield and this is reflected in policy D1. The document also recognises the importance of enhancing the sense of place and this is reflected through Policy D2.

Policy D1. Design and amenity standards and village character

1. All development within the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area must:
 - a) meet the highest standards of design, make a positive contribution to the character of Edenfield; and
 - b) respect and enhance the built character of the village and its high-quality countryside setting; and
 - c) be of a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants; and
 - d) as appropriate reflect the vernacular of Edenfield and be in keeping with local character.
2. Any innovative and contemporary designs shall be complementary to their context.
3. To achieve this, and in support of the Design Code, development proposals will be supported, subject to their satisfying the following criteria as appropriate to the particular development:

⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2021, National Design Guide:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843468/National_Design_Guide.pdf

- a) The context of the site in relation to topography, landscape, setting, character, local distinctiveness and building types; and
 - b) A density, scale, height and massing that is appropriate to its context; and
 - c) A layout that demonstrates how buildings, spaces and parking spaces relate to each other to create a practical coherent and legible structure; and
 - d) A hierarchy of linked routes and space that are permeable, relate to local facilities and provide parking provision that makes a positive contribution to the setting of buildings; and
 - e) The creation of a sense of place through massing and built form and sensitivity in respect of edge treatment, entrances, enclosures, active frontages, heights, detailing and rooflines; and
 - f) Landscape design and green infrastructure that contributes to a sustainable sense of place, such as wild areas for outdoor play, shelters, biodiversity buffers and wildlife corridors, and which softens the impact of the built form and is reflective of distinctive local landscape features; and
 - g) Materials and detailing relating to the design and context of development, including walls, roofs, openings, paved surfaces, signage and external lighting; and
 - h) Sustainable principles such as the curtilage storage of waste and recyclable material, cycle storage, homeworking and the durability and adaptability of buildings over time; and
 - i) Development forms and layouts that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utilise energy efficiency measures and water efficiency measures and the use of renewable de-centralised and low carbon energy generation; and
 - j) Proposals for development within the Green Belt will be supported only if they accord with national policy (currently set out at paragraphs 152-156 of the NPPF December 2023; and
 - k) The ten Principles of Active Design identified by Sport England and supporting guidance – <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>
4. Where planning permission is required extensions to dwellings, residential annexes, residential care institutions (Class C2) and detached buildings in residential curtilages shall be:
- a) In character with the host dwelling and subservient in scale taking into account any previous extensions or outbuildings added after the original building was constructed; and
 - b) Detached curtilage buildings shall be sited in a manner which minimises landscape intrusion; and
 - c) Proposals shall not be detrimental to the amenities of neighbours as a result of scale, siting, massing, impact, or overlooking.

Policy D2. Built heritage and character

1. All new development should actively respond to the rich built heritage and character of the Neighbourhood Area, with particular attention to layout, density, form, massing (on plot), setbacks, roof form, and boundary treatment to contribute to an improved quality of place. This should be achieved by:
 - a) As appropriate incorporating similar architectural features into the design as those that are found in traditional buildings in the village.
 - b) Having external materials reflect the palette of materials found in traditional buildings within the Neighbourhood Area.
 - c) The use of traditional, local materials is always preferred. However, modern construction materials such as reconstituted or cast stone may be an appropriate material provided that it results in an appearance that reflects and harmonises with the local stone material palette.
 - d) Other materials may also be appropriate, for example, in sustainably focussed, energy efficient buildings which require different material application.
 - e) Utilising external building materials and features that reflect the rich heritage of the Neighbourhood Area including Pennine stone, slate pitched roofing, chimney columns and off-set gable ends to match adjacent properties
 - f) Building frontages that align with the existing built form and overlook the street clearly defining the public and private realm.
 - g) Creating landscape schemes for housing which include the planting of trees and/or hedges
 - h) In the case of residential development providing private amenity space to the front and/or rear of the properties;
 - i) In the case of residential development providing parking within the plot and in accordance with adopted standards, unless it can be evidenced that the proposal will result in fewer spaces being required.
 - j) Creating parking spaces that are visually unobtrusive and use permeable surfaces to allow for rainwater absorption.
 - k) Taking full account in any proposal of any relevant considerations concerning the historic environment and designated and non-designated heritage assets in the area and their setting.
2. Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change in a proposal for development.
3. Rear parking courtyards should be avoided unless there are no other practical solutions. Where rear parking courtyards are provided development should be arranged such that some residential units front onto and overlook this space.

4. Developers should demonstrate how they have responded to best practice design principles, including those set out in Building For a Healthy Life (or any subsequent update of this).

7.8. In addition to the National Design Guide and other guidance noted in Policies D1 and D2, there is a selection of current best practice guidance, or any relevant successor document, which should be taken into account by developers:

- National Model Design Code Part 1 The Coding Process (MHCLG) 20217
- National Model Design Code Part 2 Guidance Notes (MHCLG) 20218
- Building for a Healthy Life (Homes England / Design for Homes) 20209
- Streets for a Healthy Life (Homes England) 202210
- Planning Practice Guidance: Design Process and Tools (MHCLG) 201911
- Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play (Fields in Trust) 202012
- Best Practice in Urban Extensions and New Settlements (TCPA, CABE) 200713
- Rising to the Climate Crisis (TCPA / RTPI) 201814
- Climate Change: Adaptation by Design (TCPA) 200715
- Cracking the Code (RTPI / RSPB) 202216
- Design for Play (Play England) 200817
- Manual for Streets (DfT) 200718

⁷https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/611152f98fa8f506ca458925/NMDC_Part_1_The_Coding_Process.pdf

⁸https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6111531fd3bf7f043c4badd1/NMDC_Part_2_Guidance_Notes.pdf

⁹<https://www.designforhomes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BFL-2020-Brochure.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62cd61768fa8f54e8405571e/Streets-for-a-Healthy-Life.pdf>

¹¹<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design>

¹² <https://fit.viewcreative.agency/content/files/Guidance-for-Outdoor-Sport-and-Play-England.pdf>

¹³ https://www.tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/best_practice.pdf

¹⁴ <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3568/rising-to-the-climate-crisis-1.pdf>

¹⁵https://www.preventionweb.net/files/7780_20070523CCAlowres1.pdf

¹⁶ <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/11054/design-codes-report-final.pdf>

¹⁷ <https://www.playengland.org.uk/designforplay>

¹⁸<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7e0035ed915d74e6223743/pdfmanforstreets.pdf>

- Manual for Streets 2 (CIHT) 201019
- Secured by Design: Homes (UK Police) 202420
- Creating Civilised Streets (Lancashire County Council) 201021, referenced in the LCC Highways and Transport Strategy, 2023-2522."

¹⁹ <https://www.ciht.org.uk/media/9351/manual-for-streets-2.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.securedbydesign.com/images/HOMES%20GUIDE%20May%202024.pdf>

²¹ https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/81455/creating_civilised_streets.pdf

²² <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads-parking-and-travel/highways-and-transport-strategy-2023-2025/>

8. Heritage Assets

- 8.1 These policies support a positive approach to conserving the historic environment and their setting as set out in the NPPF chapter 16 (Conserving and enhancing the Historic Environment) and Policy ENV2 of the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036.
- 8.2 Edenfield has a long and rich history, which has heavily influenced the character of the village and surrounding areas. The surrounding farmland greatly influenced the character of the village until the end of the 18th century. Industrial expansion through the late 18th and 19th centuries led to a decline in farmable land and a significant increase in industrial mills and houses for workers. During the 20th century, many of these mills were demolished to accommodate housing developments. Notwithstanding this, a high proportion of the elements that reveal the significance of this rich heritage have been retained and relatively well preserved. Table 4 and Figure 4 provide further details about some of the non-listed historic elements in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area.
- 8.3 There are three listed buildings of Grade II²³ and one of Grade II*²⁴ in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area (See Table 5 and Figure 5).
- 8.4 The Design Guide notes that the listed and non-listed assets are concentrated along Market Street but also include farmhouses to the east. As such, these policies seek to conserve and enhance the heritage assets and their setting.
- 8.5 The importance of these heritage assets to the local community has been acknowledged within the objectives of this Neighbourhood Plan.
- 8.6 The Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036 identifies some non-listed heritage assets in the Neighbourhood Area. These are Chatterton Hey (Heaton House), Mushroom House and the former Vicarage (paragraph 4 of the site-specific policy for housing allocation reference H66 Land west of Market Street) and Edenwood Mill (paragraph 1 of the site-specific policy for site H67).

²³ Grade II Listed buildings are buildings that are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them

²⁴ Grade II* Listed buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest.

Name	Justification/Description
Chatterton Hey House	Elegant stone built two-storeyed house with eaves cornice and hipped slate roof. Glazed and panelled door with depressed arch (keystone dated 1765) and cornice. Long stair window with small panes for full height of house. Three windows on each floor. Similar wing on right. Chatterton Hey stands on one of the oldest sites in Edenfield and has connections with some of the most important families in the village's history (Haworths, Rostrons, etc.).
1-5, Green Street and 2-6, Sarah Street	Well-built back-to-back cottages, c.1840. These houses have an interesting history being built on land let by the trustees of the 'Sarah Green' charity. The original lettings conditions survive and specify the standards to which the houses were to be built.
59-69, Market Street	Early example of speculative building in the village. Row of cottages known as 'Badger Row' built c.1782 by the landlord of the 'Horse and Jockey'.
136-150, Market Street	A good example of the piecemeal development of a row of houses encouraged by the textile industry and the advent of the turnpike roads. The old name for the houses is 'Temple Row' and they were built over the period from 1791 to c.1830. No.144 was 'lately erected' in 1806. The name 'Temple' is often associated with places where there were handloom weavers and there is a blocked taking in door in the gable of no.150.
4-26, Rochdale Road	Early 19th century (c.1825) row of millworkers' houses built by the Rostron family, important millowners in Edenfield. Very few houses of this date and type survive in the village. Formerly called 'Commercial Row'.
Rostron Arms	A public house at Market Place.
Milestone on Market Street	On footway outside 16 Market Street. Defaced in anticipation of a German invasion in World War II and bears an Ordnance Survey bench mark with a small metal-domed brass rivet on top at the apex of the cut arrowhead marks

Table 4. Edenfield Buildings of Local Interest or Importance



Figure 4. Edenfield Buildings of Local Interest or Importance Map

Map No	List Entry	Name	Grade	List Date	Easting	Northing
1	1072820	Elton Banks	II	1984-11-30	379945	420081
2	1072821	Hey Meadow Farmhouse	II	1984-11-30	380326	419808
3	1163639	Elton Banks Farm	II	1984-11-30	380350	420239
4	1318084	Edenfield Parish Church	II*	1966-08-09	379858	419809

Table 5. List of Designated Heritage Assets in Edenfield



© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

Figure 5. Map of Listed Buildings in Edenfield

Policy HE1. Conservation and enhancement of heritage assets

1. Within the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area, any listed or non-listed heritage assets and their setting will be conserved or enhanced in a manner appropriate to their historic significance. Development within the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area must ensure that the local distinctiveness and character of these listed heritage assets are conserved or enhanced.

Policy HE2. Non-designated heritage assets

1. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies the properties in Table 4 of the Plan as locally important, non-listed heritage assets. Proposals for development that affect non-listed historic assets shall be considered taking account of the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage assets.
2. The effect of a proposal in a planning application on the significance of these non-listed heritage assets will be taken into account in determining the application in order to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Policy HE3. Planning applications and heritage assets

1. A planning application for or impacting a listed or non-listed heritage asset or its setting will be required to:
 - a) provide a description of the significance of any heritage asset affected, including any contribution made by its setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance. This should be undertaken by a suitably qualified expert.
 - b) where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include a heritage asset with archaeological interest submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. This should be undertaken by a suitably qualified expert.
 - c) take account of potential harm to the significance of non-listed heritage assets;
 - d) avoid the total loss of significance or substantial harm to listed heritage assets in their setting through alterations or new development except where this accords with local and national policy requirements.

Policy HE4. Site H66 mitigation measures

1. Development of site H66 (land west of Market Street) as identified in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 will be supported provided suitable mitigation measures identified in the Local Plan are identified and secured to conserve, and where possible, enhance the setting of the Church and the non-designated heritage assets Chatterton Hey House (Heaton House) and Mushroom House and the former Vicarage.

9. Transport and travel

- 9.1 The village lies to the east of the M66, where it terminates and becomes the A56. The A56 allows vehicles to travel in a north/south direction and bypasses the village to the west. Burnley Road/Market Street is the main road which runs directly through the village. To the south, the road forks into Bury Road and the A680.
- 9.2 Within the Neighbourhood Area, there is a high reliance on private motor vehicles. The dominance of the private car and impacts were highlighted as a key issue during consultation events. Particularly, the volume of traffic along the main central routes has been identified as an issue through the consultation exercise.
- 9.3 Consultation responses showed a desire to improve walking and cycling conditions, in and around the Neighbourhood Area, providing travel choice and opportunity for all and this has been reflected within the vision of the Neighbourhood Plan. There are significant social, economic, health and environmental benefits to be gained through a modal shift from private vehicles to walking and cycling. As such, policy T1 seeks to ensure that any new development will promote sustainable forms of transport to support this modal shift.
- 9.4 Policy T2 seeks to address the transportation issues in the area by minimising the potential impacts of new developments. The policy also has a particular focus on minimising the impacts of new developments on the central routes which have been identified as being particularly problematic.

Policy T1. Promotion of sustainable forms of transport

- 1. Proposals for new development in the Neighbourhood Area should promote sustainable forms of transport, including measures to promote walking, cycling and the use of public transport and electric and low emission vehicles.

Policy T2. Mitigation measures and Transport Assessments

1. Mitigation of traffic impacts may be required in order to address the negative impacts of traffic generation arising from development proposals. Such mitigation measures could include the requirement for improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport in the area, and will be secured by legal agreements linked to planning permissions granted.
2. Where a Transport Assessment (or equivalent) is required to support a planning application, this must evaluate the effects of additional traffic movements generated by the development on the core local road network comprising Market Street, Burnley Road, Bury Road, Bolton Road North, Rochdale Road, and Blackburn Road. Such traffic analysis must also evaluate the impact of additional traffic movements on/off these major thoroughfares.
3. Upon the request of the Local Planning Authority, and given the proximity of the Strategic Road Network, any development proposal within the Neighbourhood Area that would be expected to generate more than 30 two-way vehicle trips per day should include within the accompanying Transport Assessment an assessment of the impact of traffic generated at the M66 junctions 0 and 1 with the A56.

10. Local Community

Infrastructure facilities

- 10.1 The Local Plan recognises the importance of community facilities to the areas that they serve both for local residents and visitors. Figure 6 maps the community infrastructure facilities within the designated neighbourhood area.
- 10.2 During the consultation exercises, it was identified that whilst there are some community facilities within Edenfield, the current provision needs to be increased and improved. The provision of infrastructure is critical to ensuring that local residents have access to essential services and facilities to maintain a high standard of living and is important for community building. Locating such uses in easy access of the home and co-located with other activities will help increase access and use by the whole community.
- 10.3 Services which were highlighted as desirable during consultation by the community included a permanent library, local shop with fresh produce and an enlarged Community Centre.
- 10.4 The Rossendale Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2018 and its March 2019 update state that the Edenfield Community Centre, in line with other community centres in the borough, has been affected by cuts in central and local government funding. The consultation process also raised concerns regarding the current state of the village's infrastructure, where deficiencies were identified in both social and physical infrastructure, including transportation issues and local facilities. In order to address this and ensure that new development does not exacerbate the deficiencies, policy LC2 seeks to ensure that new housing developments are well supported by Infrastructure.



Figure 6. Edenfield Community Infrastructure Facilities

Policy LC1. New, improved or extended community facilities

1. Proposals for new, improved or extended community facilities will be supported subject to Policy GI1 and subject to the following criteria:
 - a) The proposal would be compatible with the character of the site and its surroundings.
 - b) The proposal would be well related to the built form of the settlement and close to existing development.
 - c) The site is accessible by a variety of modes of transport, including walking and cycling.
 - d) The amount of traffic generated by the proposal can be accommodated on the local highway network without harming road safety.
 - e) The proposal would not be detrimental to the amenity of neighbouring residents by reason of noise or traffic.
 - f) A need for the facility has been established.
 - g) Any new or improved sports facility in the Neighbourhood Area shall be designed in accordance with the latest design guidance issued by Sport England: <https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>
2.
 - a) All existing premises last used as a community facility will be protected for that use unless a clearly justified case can be made for development of the premises for other purposes.
 - (b) Any proposal for such development will be required to demonstrate:
 - i. that the premises have not been in active use for a sustained period (normally at least twelve months)
 - ii. through a rigorous marketing strategy to be agreed with the local planning authority and normally of twelve months' duration and a full valuation report, that there is a lack of demand for their use as a community facility; and
 - iii. that the proposal is appropriate for the premises, having regard to other policies of the development plan and planning guidance.
3. Community facilities are community centres, sports facilities, places of worship, parks and recreation grounds

Policy LC2. Sports facilities

1. If existing sports facilities do not have the capacity to absorb the additional demand for sport generated by new housing development in the Neighbourhood Area financial contributions will be sought from the developer through negotiations with Rossendale Borough Council and secured as appropriate through a Section 106 planning application.

Policy LC3. Required local infrastructure

1. The provision of required local infrastructure will need to be planned and delivered alongside new housing development to ensure that local infrastructure is provided for and / or improved in relation to the size and scale of development proposed. This requirement will apply to all infrastructure including physical, social and green infrastructure.
2. A Local Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be kept up to date by the Neighbourhood Forum which prioritises infrastructure needs, estimates costs and assigns delivery responsibilities.

Policy LC4. Policies for sports facilities

1. Notwithstanding policies LC1, LC2 and LC3, any development proposals concerning current or proposed sporting facilities in the Neighbourhood Area shall have regard to:
 - i) The national policy for sport (as currently set out in NPPF, December 2023, especially paragraphs 102 and 103),
 - ii) The Playing Fields Policy and Guidance promulgated by Sport England:
https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/planning-sport#playing_fields_policy and
 - iii) The RBC Sport Strategy:
<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/downloads/download/11571/playing-pitch-and-outdoor-sport-strategy-2022>

11. Local Centre and Commerce

11.1 The NPPF highlights the role that local centres play at the heart of local communities and that development should seek to ensure the vitality of these areas. The Neighbourhood Area provides employment opportunities for the local population, as well as an accessible place to shop for residents.

11.2 Class E uses` are those listed in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, as amended, under Use Class E – Commercial, Business and Service, which took effect from 1st September 2020. Planning permission is not required to change between any of the uses within Class E. Class E is, in summary, use for any of the following purposes:

E(a) Display or retail sale of goods, other than hot food (excluding small shops selling essential goods, including food, where there is no such facility within one kilometre).

E(b) sale of food and drink for consumption (mostly) on the premises.

E(c) Provision of: (i) financial services, (ii) professional services (other than health or medical services), or (iii) other services which it is appropriate to provide in a commercial, business or service locality.

E(d) Indoor sport, recreation or fitness (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms and excluding swimming pools and skating rinks).

E(e) Provision of medical or health services (except the use of premises attached to the residence of the consultant or practitioner).

E(f) Creche, day nursery, or day centre (not including residential use).

E(g) Uses which can be carried out in a residential area without detriment to its amenity:

- (i) offices to carry out any operational or administrative functions,
- (ii) research and development of products or processes,
- (iii) industrial processes.

Class E uses benefit from permitted development rights that include:

- Changes to use Class C3 (dwelling houses) subject to prior approval
- Changes to mixed use for anything within Class E and as up to two flats (and back again) subject to prior approval
- Change to a state funded school or back to a previous lawful use.

- 11.3 The Local Plan for Rossendale supports this objective of the NPPF through focusing retail and other town centre uses within defined centres. Edenfield is identified as a neighbourhood parade in the Local Plan. The Local Plan makes reference to the Town Centre, Retail, Leisure and Tourism Study (2017). This study identified that while neighbourhood parades are not 'centres' in the same way that town, district and local centres are, they should still be afforded some protection.
- 11.4 Policies E1 and E2 seek to support these national and local objectives through supporting proposals which generate and develop local business and opposing the loss of these services unless evidence to justify the loss can be provided. In order to generate employment and develop local business, policy E1 also highlights that these proposals may be supported outside of the local centre if appropriate.
- 11.5 While Policy E1 supports the national and local objectives of ensuring the vitality of local centres, it also seeks to ensure that proposals will not create significant adverse effects within the Neighbourhood Area. Proposals should have particular regard to factors which have been raised as key issues throughout the consultation events and these include neighbouring amenity, local and rural character and traffic-related nuisance.

Policy E1. Planning permissions – commercial, business and service establishments

1. Where planning permission is required for proposals for the provision of new E(a), E(b), E(c) uses or a drinking establishment with or without the provision of food these proposals will be supported, provided that they are in compliance with other policies of the development plan and in particular policies D1, D2 and T2 of the Neighbourhood Plan and avoid significant adverse effects in terms of:
 - a) Impact on neighbouring properties, or the locality in general in terms of noise, air pollution, odour or other nuisances; and
 - b) Impact on local and rural character in terms of scale, visual impact and nature of operations; and
 - c) Traffic generation, congestion and other vehicular traffic-related nuisance

Policy E2. Loss of commercial, business and service establishments

1. Where planning permission is required all existing premises last used for E(a), E(b), E(c) uses or as a drinking establishment with or without the provision of food will be protected for those uses unless a clearly justified case can be made for development of the premises for other purposes.
2. Any proposal for such development will be required to demonstrate:
 - a) that the premises have not been in active use for a sustained period (normally at least twelve months)
 - b) through a rigorous marketing strategy to be agreed with the local planning authority and normally of twelve months' duration and a full valuation report, that there is a lack of demand for their use for E(a), E(b), E(c) uses or as a drinking establishment; and
 - c) that the proposal is appropriate for the premises, having regard to other policies of the development plan and planning guidance.

12. Green Infrastructure

- 12.1 Paragraph 105 of the NPPF allows the designation of land as Local Green Space through Neighbourhood Plans. This will afford protection from development other than in very special circumstances. Paragraph 106 of the NPPF says that Local Green Space should only be designated where it is:
- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- 12.2 A number of areas were identified by the community as being of value to them and in need of protection. These areas have been assessed against the criteria in the NPPF and the following areas are considered to be appropriate for designation:
- Playground on Exchange Street
 - Recreation Ground
 - Edenfield Cricket Club
- 12.3 The methodology used to consider the above areas is outlined in the Local Green Space report as part of the evidence base for this Plan.
- 12.4 It is further considered important to seek to enhance the green infrastructure assets of the area where possible as their inclusion in an area has a number of social and environmental benefits. Both the adopted and emerging development plans for Rossendale acknowledge the importance of Green Infrastructure and state that development should protect, manage, enhance and connect Rossendale's green infrastructure network.
- 12.5 The consultation exercises have identified that the form and function of these connections is highly valued by the local community and should be recognised as part of any new development proposals. This includes the existing relationship between built development and the countryside beyond, the relationship with locally important views and connections to the surrounding landscape. As such, policy GI3 seeks to ensure that any new developments will establish new connections to maintain this positive attribute of Edenfield.

- 12.6 The assessment of Chatterton Hey Field, showed this space was unsuitable for designation as a local green space, but revealed that the site was locally valued by the community as the only space for off-lead dog walking. As such, policy GI4 seeks to expand the opportunity for this activity throughout the village.

Policy GI1. Local Green Space designations

1. The following areas below, and as shown on the map in Figure 7 are designated as Local Green Spaces:
 - a) Playground on Exchange Street
 - b) Recreation Ground
 - c) Edenfield Cricket Club
2. Development shall be consistent with national and local policy for Green Belts.

Policy GI2. Wildlife areas and green spaces connectivity

2. Proposals that seek to improve the connectivity between wildlife areas and green spaces will be encouraged in order to enhance the green infrastructure of the Neighbourhood Area and its contribution to landscape character and local identity.

Policy GI3. Footpaths, cycle paths and green spaces accessibility

1. New development will provide for links from development sites to the wider footpath and cycle-path network and green spaces wherever possible.

Policy GI4. New development and Local Green Spaces

1. New development that impacts or affects Local Green Spaces or which will contribute to the increased use of Local Green Spaces through population growth will make provision for a proportionate increase in space that meets the criteria set out in the NPPF and/or enhancement of existing on-site facilities. Such provisions may include but are not limited to those as set out in policy DMR1.



Figure 7. Designations Map for Local Green Spaces

13. Natural Environment

- 13.1 The Lives and Landscape Assessment for Rossendale Borough Council (2015) highlighted that the irregular topography of Rossendale means that there are a number of expansive views across the area. The report makes specific reference to Edenfield, citing that “the cumulative effects of developments needs to be taken account of” with regards to their effects on the landscape character of the borough.
- 13.2 The 2015 Assessment defines Edenfield as being located within Settled Valleys character area: 8b Irwell Valley. This is characterised as an area with reduced densities of housing and extensive areas of open pasture. The report recognises that development is generally acceptable within the townscapes of this area, however specific regard should be had to where suburban areas abut the rural landscape.
- 13.3 One of the distinctive features of Edenfield Neighbourhood Area is the visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from the village and public footpaths. The landscape character type of Edenfield is defined as a series of interlocking valleys with the built form laid out as ribbon development within the valley.
- 13.4 The local topography also enables long views from surrounding listed assets into the neighbourhood area. This is especially true with the long views from Peel Tower, a monument located to the south west atop Holcombe Hill. As well as protecting views out, these long views into Edenfield also need to be considered when determining the impact of any development, especially that which could affect the skyline of the settlement against the landscaped ridges. As such, the importance of Locally Important Views is highlighted within the Design Code.
- 13.5 Recent consultation events have highlighted that residents value highly the visual connection across the settlement and into the surrounding countryside. Through this a number of views were highlighted which bear importance for the local community. These views were critically assessed by consultants and shortlisted. It is important to protect and enhance the character and natural beauty of the countryside more generally whilst protecting the footpaths which allow access to it. Thus, the focus of the Key Views Assessment are those views of and from Edenfield Neighbourhood Area which contribute to local character and amenity.
- 13.6 Notwithstanding the views which have been regarded as locally important, the overall rural nature of the settlement and its countryside setting are fundamental to Edenfield’s character and this was highlighted as a key strength through the consultation exercises.

- 13.7 It is important that development should involve biodiversity net gain and the protection, and enhancement where possible, of watercourses and their ecological habitat value.

Policy NE1. Locally Important Views

1. The following, as identified in Figure 8, are identified as Locally Important Views which will be maintained to ensure continued visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside:
 - f) KV1 - Market Street, adjacent to its junction with Footpath 14-3 FP 126
 - g) KV2 - Market Street, adjacent to no 117 Market Street
 - h) KV3 - Lane leading west off Market Street by Mushroom House. 14-3 FP 126.
 - i) KV4 - Lane Leading west off Market Street by Mushroom House 14-3 FP 126.
 - j) KV5 - Gincroft Lane adjacent to Gincroft Farm. 14-3 BOAT 275.
 - k) KV6 - Footpath leading south from Hey Meadow Farmhouse 14-3 FP136
 - l) KV7 - Footpath leading south from Hey Meadow Farmhouse 14-3 FP136
 - m) KV8 - Church Lane and the Graveyard.
2. Development proposals should take into account Locally Important Views and minimise their adverse affect on the views.

Policy NE2. Development proposals and the local environment

1. All development proposals should seek opportunities to conserve or enhance the local environment commensurate with their scale and location and in accordance with other policies within the development plan. Proposals should demonstrate that they have taken account of locally distinctive landscape features and landscape character types contributing to the identity of locations within the Neighbourhood Area.

Policy NE3. Development and landscape and topography

1. Development will retain or enhance well-established features of the landscape, including mature trees, hedgerows and ponds. Any proposal for removal of such features must be justified by substantive evidence. If there is significant loss of trees and shrubs as part of development, then new provision will be expected elsewhere on the site or if not possible on sites elsewhere within the Neighbourhood Area providing equivalent coverage and acceptable contribution towards the natural environment and local character.
2. Development will be expected to reflect local topography and mitigate any adverse impact on views into and across the development from other locations through changes to skyline, hill slopes, height or mass.
3. Proposals for development will be expected to provide for biodiversity net gain (BNG) where possible in accordance with national policy (NPPF, December 2023, paragraphs 180(d), 185(b) and 186(d) and the Natural Environment Planning Practice Guidance). Developments shall comply with the requirements of the Environment Act 2021, including demonstrable minimum 10% BNG, when these come into force through the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended.
4. Any trees or plants to be provided in a development as part of a landscaping scheme shall be of a species native to England and characteristic of the local area, in the interests of affording sources of suitable nectar and seed for bees and birds and of making a positive contribution to the local landscape.

Policy NE4. Development and ecology

1. Development should not adversely affect priority habitats and other areas of ecological importance and should, wherever possible, contribute to wider ecological networks.

Policy NE5. Site H66 watercourses and ecology

1. Development of site H66 (land west of Market Street) as identified in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 will be supported provided that existing watercourses on or adjoining the site are protected and, if possible, enhanced and that the site layout does not encroach into riparian corridors and does not negatively impact upon flood risk, water quality or ecological habitat value.

Policy NE6. Site H67 watercourses and ecology

1. Development Proposals for re-development of site H67 (Edenwood Mill) as identified in the Rossendale Local Plan 2019-2036 should, where possible, incorporate the removal of man-made structures from the river channel and the restoration of riverine habitats to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance ecological habitat value.

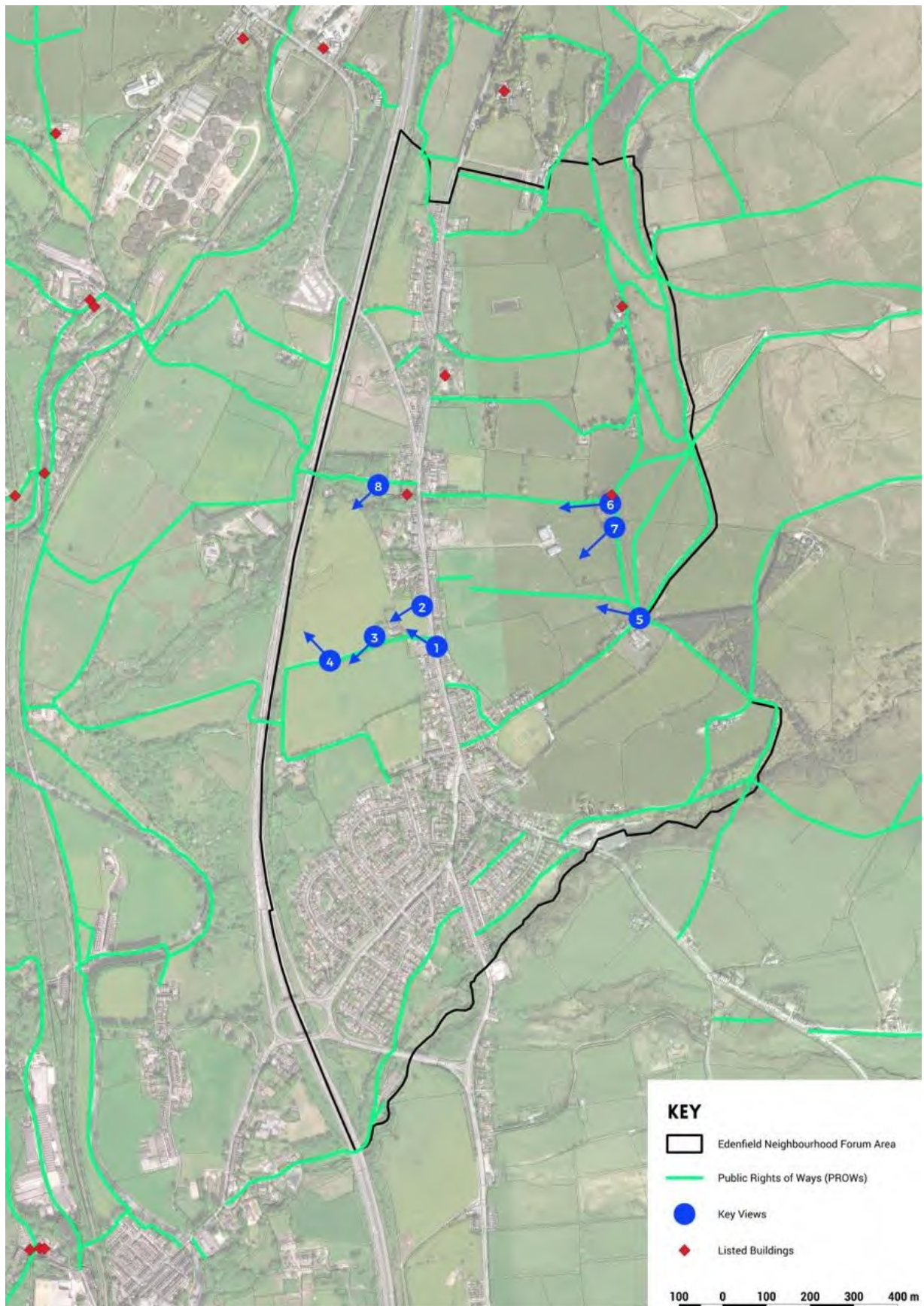


Figure 8. Map of Key Views in Edenfield

14. Delivery, monitoring and review

- 14.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is intended to guide development for a period of 15 years. It is recognised that there may be significant changes in national and local policy within this timeframe which the Neighbourhood Plan should respond to.

Policy DMR1. Local infrastructure delivery plan

1. The improvement or development of locally important infrastructure will be supported where it is needed to serve existing or new development, provided that the need for such facilities is consistent with other policies within this Plan and Paragraph 57 of the NPPF. A Local Infrastructure Delivery Plan (LIDP) which prioritises infrastructure requirements, priorities, funding and responsibilities will be kept up to date by the Neighbourhood Forum. This LIDP will inform infrastructure decisions whether they be through developer contributions, Section 106 agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy (as and when applicable in Rossendale) or other sources of funding.

- 14.2 This Neighbourhood Plan has been developed to plan sustainable growth for a period of up to 15 years (2021 – 2036). A formal review process in consultation with the community and Local Planning Authority should be undertaken at least once every 5 years, to ensure the Plan is still current and remains a positive planning tool to deliver sustainable growth.

15. Appendices

Appendix 1: Policies Map

Appendix 2: Edenfield Factbook

Appendix 3: Edenfield Design Code

**Appendix 4: Edenfield Local Greenspace
Report**

Appendix 5: Locally Important Views Report

**Appendix 6: Consultation Statement and
supporting documents**

Appendix 7: Glossary

Acknowledgements

The Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum would like to extend their grateful thanks to the residents and businesses of Edenfield and the organisations listed below for their input, assistance and support. Without them this Neighbourhood Plan would not have been possible.

AECOM

Edenfield Cricket Club

Edenfield District Community Association

Edenfield Village Residents Association

Locality

Rossendale Borough Council Forward Planning Department

Troy Planning + Design

Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum

Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (ENP), 2021- 2036



Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum

www.edenfieldcommunityforum.uk

neighbourhoodplan@edenfieldcommunityforum.uk



Regulation 19 Decision Statement: Edenfield Neighbourhood Development Plan

Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and
The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012

Regulation 19 Decision Statement

1. Summary

- 1.1 In line with Regulation 19 of the regulations set out above, Rossendale Borough Council has produced this Decision Statement in relation to the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036.
- 1.2 Following a positive result at the referendum held on Thursday 20 February 2025, Rossendale Borough Council has now 'made' (brought into legal force) the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036. The Neighbourhood Plan now forms part of the statutory development plan for Rossendale and will be used to help determine planning applications in the designated Edenfield neighbourhood plan area.

2. Decisions and Reasons

- 2.1 An independent examination of the Plan, carried out by Andrew Freeman BSc (Hons) DipTP DipEM FRTPI, through consideration of written representations, has taken place. The Examiner concluded that, subject to a number of modifications, the Plan meets the basic conditions set out by law and that the Plan, as modified in line with the recommendations, should proceed to referendum with a recommended voting area of designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan Area.
- 2.2 On 11 December 2024 Rossendale Borough Council met to consider the Examiner's report and recommendations. The Council agreed to each of the modifications recommended by the Examiner and the reasons put forward for them. A number of minor modifications, including typographical errors, which had been previously agreed with the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum, were also supported. It was agreed that, as modified, the Plan meets the basic conditions and other relevant requirements, and that the Plan should proceed to a referendum of electors in the designated neighbourhood plan area). Further information on the decision to proceed to referendum can be found in the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 18 Decision Statement available on the Council's website at:
[Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum | Neighbourhood Plans | Rossendale Borough Council](#)

- 2.4 A referendum was held on Thursday 20 February 2025 within the designated Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan Area and posed the following question: “Do you want Rossendale Borough Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”
- 2.3 Paragraph 38A (4)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that the Council must make the Neighbourhood Plan if more than half of those voting have voted in favour of the Plan.
- 2.4 On the day of the referendum 95.6% voted ‘yes’, therefore more than half of those voting were in favour of the Plan.
- 2.5 Following this outcome, on 2 April 2025, Rossendale Borough Council agreed that the Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2036 is formally made and approved this Decision Statement for publication.

3. Inspection of Regulation 19 Decision Statement

- 3.1 A copy of this Decision Statement is being sent to:
- The qualifying body that prepared the Plan (Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum); and
 - Any person who asked during the Regulation 16 consultation to be notified of the decision.
- 3.2 This Decision Statement, the made Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan and other supporting documents can be inspected:
- By appointment at the Council’s Office, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB.

Please phone 01706 252418 / 252415 or email forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk
 - Or viewed on the Council’s website at:

[Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum | Neighbourhood Plans | Rossendale Borough Council](#)
- 3.3 For more information please contact: forwardplanning@rossendalebc.gov.uk or phone 01706 252418 / 2415
- 3.4 This Decision Statement is dated 3 April 2025 (day after Council meeting)

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes
Date agreed: 19th March 2025

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes
Date agreed: 17th March 2025

Decision Taker:

Chief Executive
Date: 13th March 2025

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund of £1,379,172.00 for the decarbonisation of Marl Pits Leisure Centre and allocate the required council contribution of £300,000 from the Carbon Reduction Fund.

The PSDS Phase 4 funding round opened for submissions on 25th November 2024 and the Council submitted a proposal to decarbonise Marl Pits Leisure Centre in Rawtenstall as a two-year project, starting circa May 2025 and finishing by March 2027. A two-month delay in the portal opening for submissions created uncertainty and impacted the organisation of the application. In light of the very late confirmation of the portal opening and the timescales remaining to seek formal approval to bid, officers had to submit the application prior to Council approval. However, details of the application were included in the Climate Change Strategy Update Report which was reported to and approved by Full Council on 5th March 2025. Salix Finance, administrators of the grant advised that applicants should expect to be notified of their applications outcomes by May 2025. Therefore, officers initially planned to send a report to the Full Council meeting in April to seek approval for the grant in the event of application success. However, on March 11th, 2025, Rossendale Borough Council was informed that the grant funding application had been successful.

Under normal circumstances, and in accordance with the Constitution, the decision to accept the grant would be made by Full Council due to its value. However, as there is no Full Council meeting before the required deadline, approval cannot be obtained on time. The next Full Council is scheduled for 2nd April 2025, and there is insufficient time to convene an additional meeting before then.

Due to tight timescales, officers must confirm acceptance of the funding by 24th March 2025. An urgent decision is now required to accept the funding offer by this deadline.

This is not a legally binding document but sets out the understanding of the grant.

In summary, the funding aim is:

1. To decarbonise council-owned buildings with end-of-life fossil fuel heating systems, by financing alternative energy systems and measures to reduce energy through a whole building approach.

The project fund must be spent by March, 2027, with a total project value of £1,679,172.00 including a mandatory council contribution of £300,000. This is split over two years:

- £107,250.00 in 2025/26
- £1,271,922.00 in 2026/27.

Decision to be taken by: Chief Executive

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

Grant Offer Letter
Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

Implications:

Legal – As the value of the grant is over £250k, Full Council would ordinarily give approval for acceptance of the same. There is a requirement of the funders to accept the grant within the 10 days of offer therefore there is insufficient time for a meeting to either be convened or enough time to wait until the next meeting to seek the approval of Full Council. The timing of the award has come much sooner than officers anticipated. The Head of Legal (Monitoring Officer) will arrange for the completion of the grant funding agreement in line with the Council's Constitution.

HR – There are no HR implications arising from this decision.

Finance – Failure to accept this much needed grant within the timescales may put the funding in jeopardy, the Council in breach of the requirements stipulated and would be contrary to the member agreed Climate Change Action Plan. The £300k council match funding has been allocated from the Carbon Reduction Fund as outlined in the body of this decision.

Status: Open - for publication

Date: 19th March, 2025

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
 - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
-
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
 2. Implications — List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
 3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.

Subject:	Valley Plan 2025-29	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	2 nd April 2025
Report of:	Head of People and Policy	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Clare Law	Telephone:	01706 252457
Email:	clarelaw@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 Full Council to discuss and agree the Council's proposed Valley Plan 2025-29.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Full consultation has been undertaken to refresh the Council's Valley Plan for the next four years (2025-2029).
- It is proposed the Council's Vision and four Priorities will remain the same.
- The Strategic Priorities will be re-designated to Key Actions
- The Outcomes and Key Actions have been reviewed to support the Council's mission for the next four years.
- The Valley Plan will be supported by an Annual Action Plan refresh and delivery will be managed via the Council's Performance Framework.
- The Overview and Scrutiny committee and Cabinet have reviewed and agreed the proposed Valley Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current Valley Plan 2021-25 will expire on 31st March 2025. During recent months the Council has consulted stakeholders to form part of the plan's review.
- 3.2 Multiple consultation methods were used to gather feedback from Members, residents, businesses, community groups, and staff.
- 3.3 The Council's 2024 Residents Survey (5,688 responses) was used to gauge resident's satisfaction with Rossendale as a place to live and council services, highlighting what the Council does well and what could be improved.
- 3.4 An additional question was included within the 2024 survey, requesting residents to select three services they would like the Council to prioritise over the next four years.
- 3.5 An additional online survey was open for two-weeks during November 2024, and was shared via the Council's social media platforms and business and community group mailing lists. Questions included within the survey were:
- Do you feel the Council's vision and priorities align with the needs of Rossendale?
 - Are we heading in the right direction?
 - What should we be prioritising over the next four years?

- Are there any priorities missing from our current plan?
- What does the Council do well?

3.6 The same questions were asked to participants who attended the resident focus group (10 attendees) and staff focus group (14 attendees).

3.7 The consultation identified key areas that stakeholders are satisfied with:

- Maintenance and improvements to our parks
- Waste and recycling collection services
- Investment into our town centres
- Planning services
- Partnership working

3.8 Similarly, the consultation identified areas that the Council should continue to focus on and/or improve:

- Two-way communication
- Derelict building
- Delivering our Green Agenda
- Supporting to community groups
- Anti-social behaviour
- Improving our sports and leisure facilities

3.9 The feedback from the consultation was used to support the Valley Plan's review, ensuring that the proposed outcomes and actions align with the views and needs of key stakeholders.

4. DETAILS

4.1 The Valley Plan 2025-29 set's out of the Council's vision, priorities, outcomes, and actions for the next four years, up to the end of March 2029. The outcomes from the consultation indicated the current vision and priorities should remain the same.

Vision

'To have a thriving economy, built around our changing town centres, creating a quality environment for all and improving the life chances of all those living and working in our borough.'

Priorities

- Thriving Local Economy
- High Quality Environment
- Healthy and Proud Communities
- Effective and Efficient Council

4.2 Keeping the same Vision and Strategic Priorities will enable the Council to continue its mission in making Rossendale a great place to live, work, and invest, whilst addressing key areas of concern and/or improvement through a refresh of the Outcomes and the Strategic Priorities.

- 4.3 The Council is proposing to keep the term Outcome to define the desired output within the priority area and to change the term Strategic Priority to Key Action to define the proposed work to achieve the Outcome. This ensuring the Valley Plan provides clarity on the key areas the Council intends to focus on throughout the duration of the Valley Plan.
- 4.4 The Valley Plan 2025-29 will be supported by Council Strategies and an Annual Action Plan to define specific activities and objectives to achieve the Valley Plan's outcomes.
- 4.5 The Council delivers on many of these Outcomes in partnership with other organisations in the public, private and voluntary sector. The Council will both seek to add further value to the activities for other partners and will continue to find ways to improve partner working to deliver services to our communities.
- 4.6 Nationally, Borough Councils may face changes to the national local government reorganisation and devolution agenda. While these changes may bring challenges, they also offer opportunities to shape regional policies, attract investment, and improve local services. To adapt, the Council will address challenges and adjust actions as needed to remain focused on its mission.
- 4.7 Delivery of the Valley Plan will continue to be managed via quarterly performance management updates, the annual Residents Survey, national and regional benchmarking, and service performance measures.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- A range of factors may impact on the Council's ability to achieve its priorities.
- The Council uses a Corporate Risk Register to identify and track these risks.
- Members track the overall implementation of the Council's Valley Plan through quarterly performance reports
- At this time, it is difficult to predict accurately the full impacts of the national local government reorganisation and devolution agenda.

6. FINANCE

The Council's Valley Plan is fundamental to the budget planning process. Council resources (people, assets, money, etc.) should align to and facilitate the delivery of our actions and outcomes. Therefore, at a time of uncertainty regarding future funding it is important to identify priority activities for the Council to deliver.

There are no immediate financial implications as a result of this report. However, each service area and Council projects will have financial implications, which are considered addressed separately through robust project and risk management approach.

7. LEGAL

There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. However, service delivery and Council projects may have legal implications, which are considered addressed separately through robust project and risk management approach.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate policy and equality implications arising from this report.

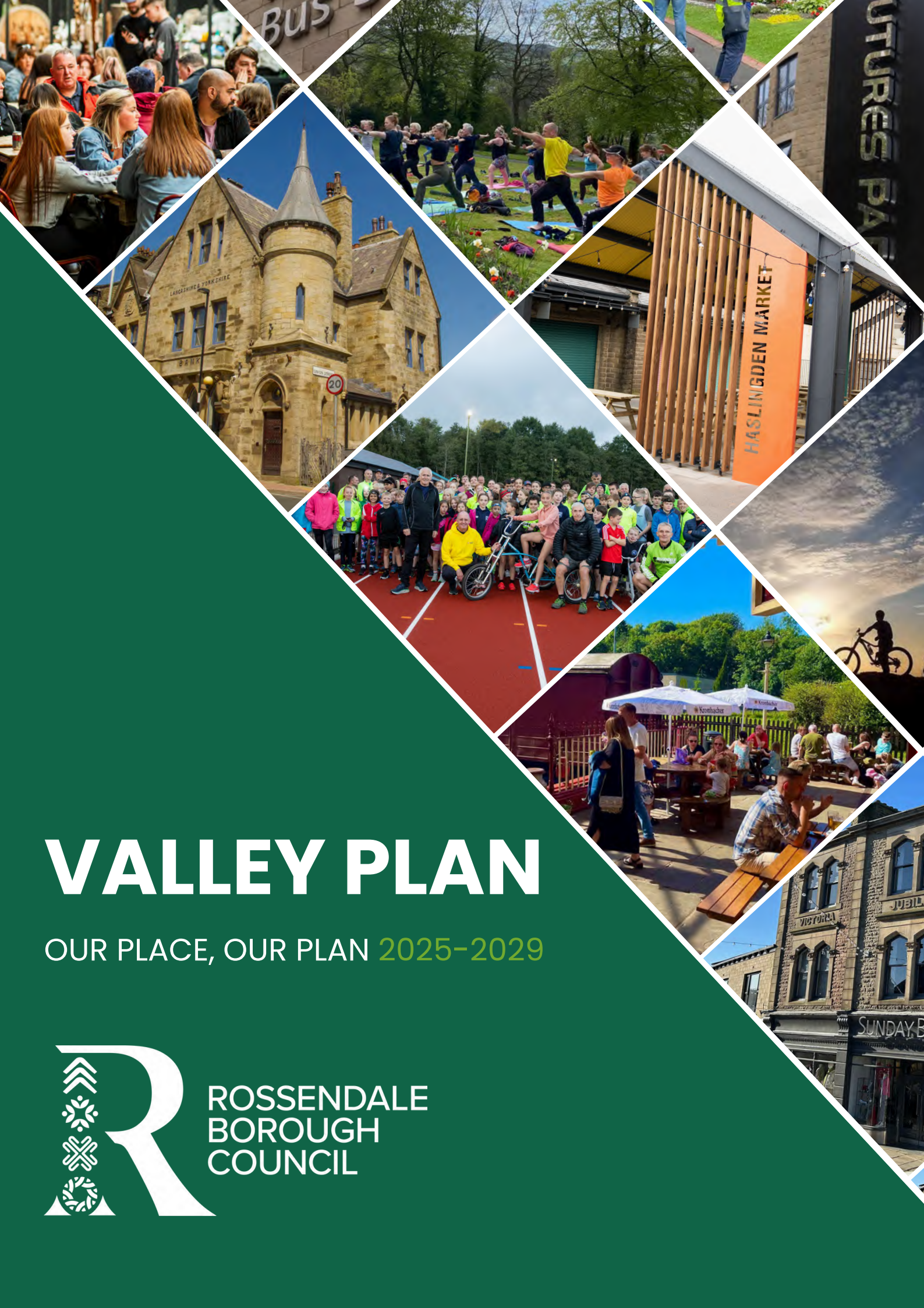
Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team, Members, all staff, residents, community groups, and businesses.

An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken throughout the consultation, no adverse impact has been identified.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

- 9.1 This is an opportunity for Full Council to review and agree the final version of the Valley Plan 2025-29.
- 9.2 By approving the proposed Valley Plan, Full Council are agreeing the Council's priorities for the next four years to address any issues and opportunities to make Rossendale a better place to live, work, and invest.

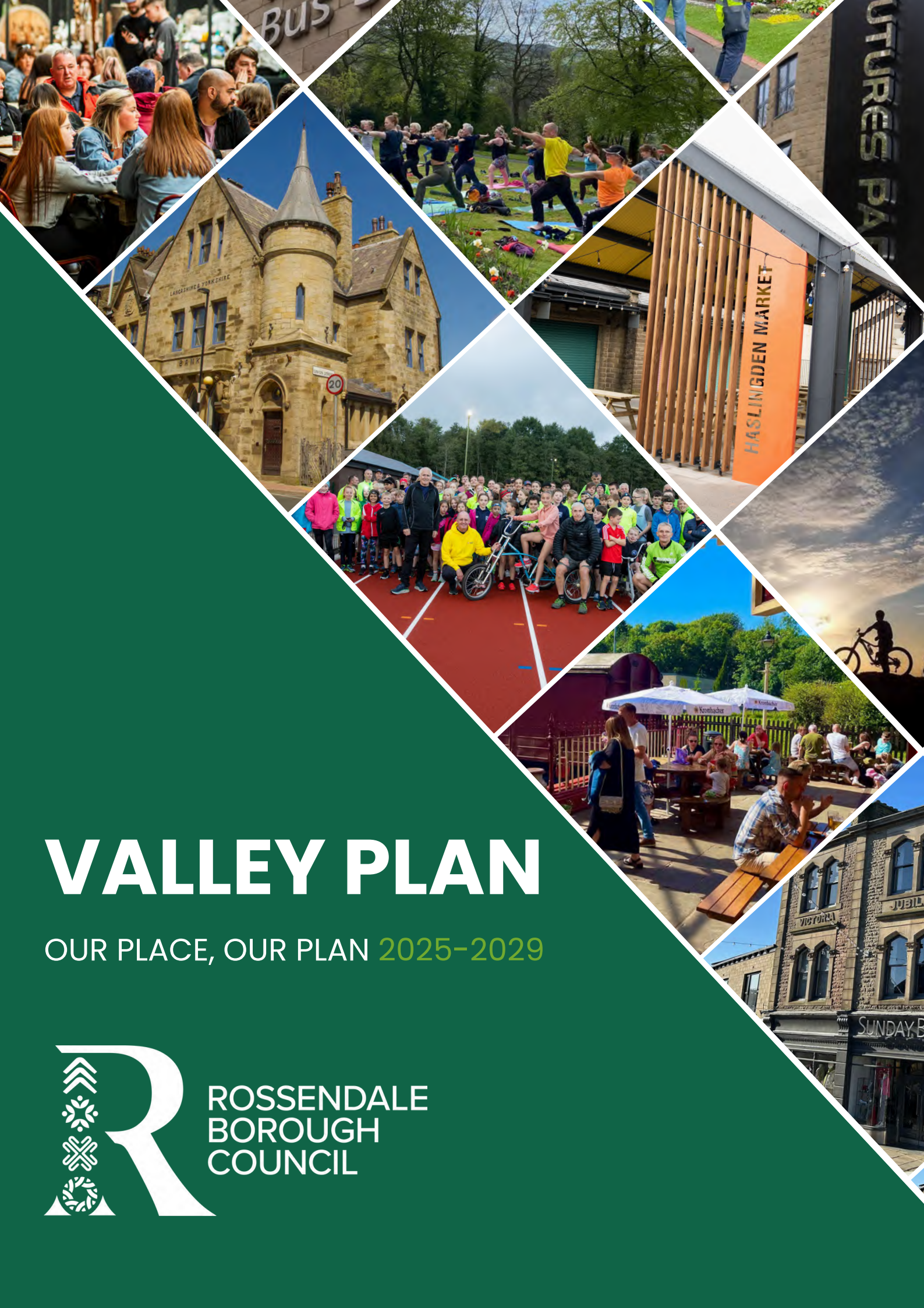
Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
DRAFT Valley Plan 2025-29	Appendix 1
Valley Plan 2025-29 – Plan on a Page	Appendix 2
Valley Plan – Proposed Outcomes and Actions	Appendix 3
Corporate Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan	Corporate Plan 2021-25 – Our Place, Our Plan



VALLEY PLAN

OUR PLACE, OUR PLAN 2025-2029

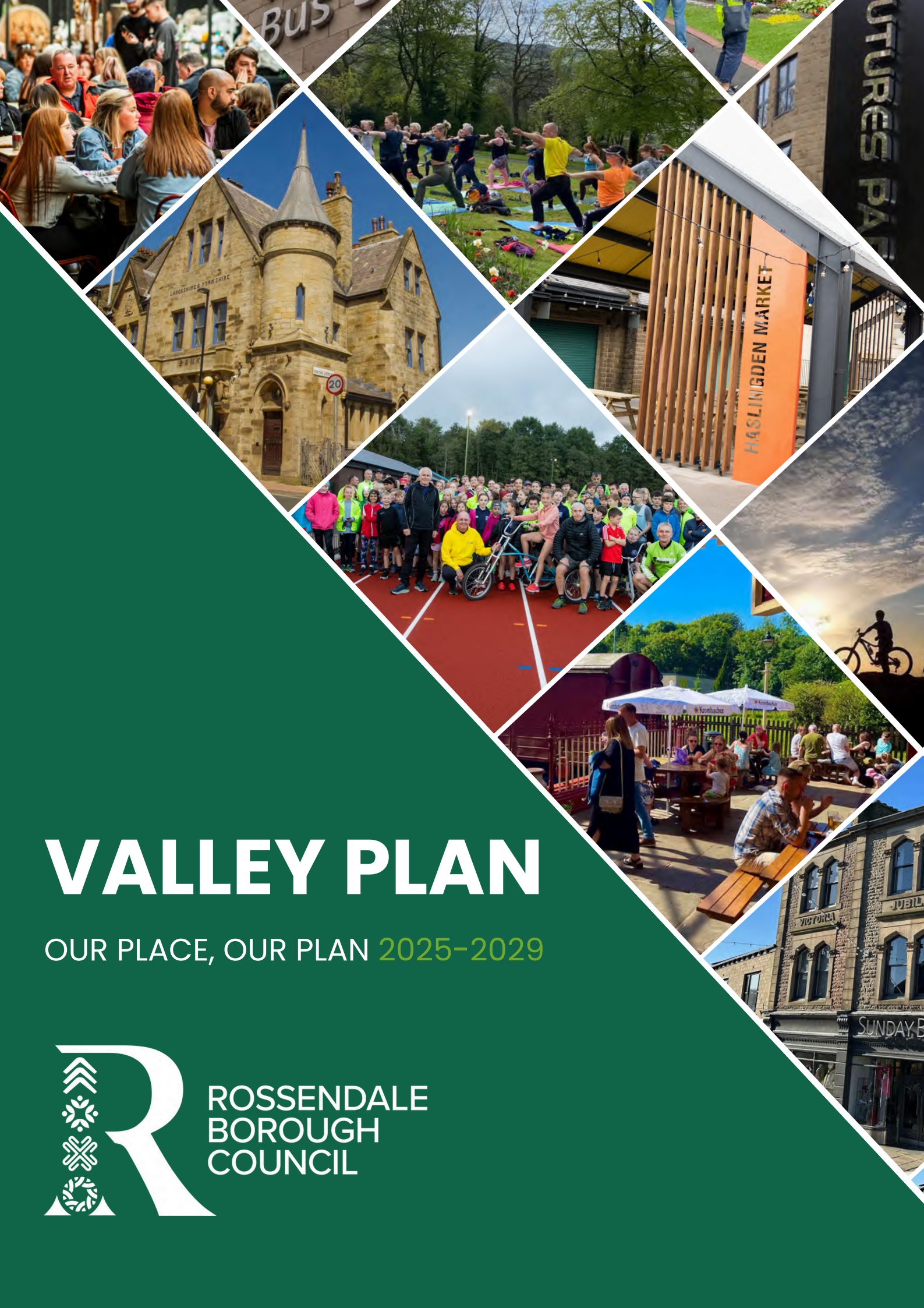
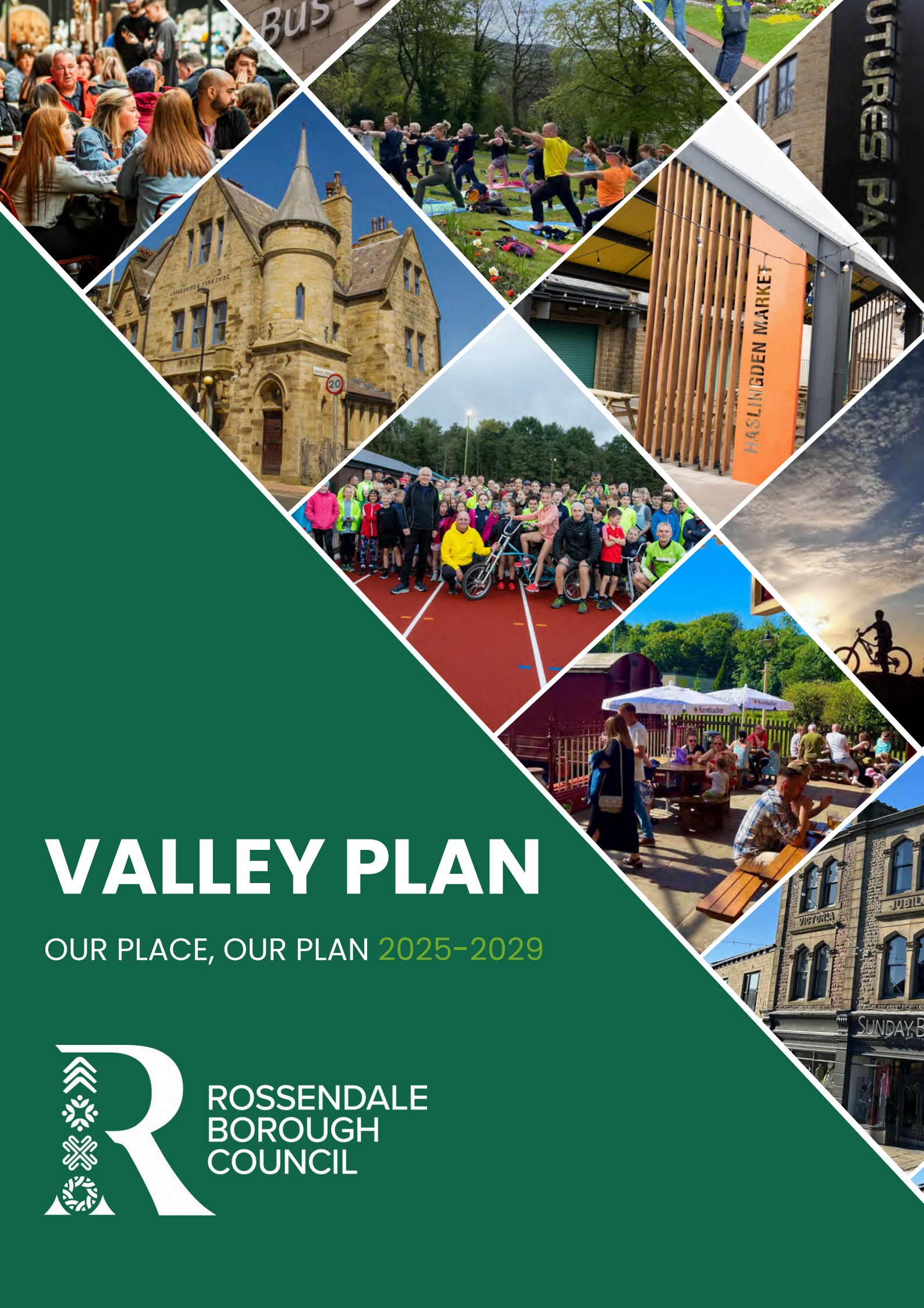
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VALLEY PLAN

OUR PLACE, OUR PLAN 2025-2029

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BOROUGH
COUNCIL



VALLEY PLAN

OUR PLACE, OUR PLAN 2025-2029

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COUNCIL

FOREWORD

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER

Our Valley Plan 2025-2029 builds on our successes to make Rossendale a place where residents thrive, businesses succeed, and our environment is protected.

Over the past four years, we have made significant progress in achieving our vision, remaining focused on developing our towns, strengthening our communities, and enhancing our surroundings.

As we outline our priorities until 2029, we look to build on this momentum, ensuring we continue our journey in making Rossendale a better place to live, work, and invest.

While we remain committed to delivering our ambitions, we set these priorities in a time of both opportunity and challenge for local government.

Like many councils across the country we continue to face ongoing budget pressures, rising inflation, and an increased demand for vital services, this requiring us to be both adaptable and collaborative in how we work.

At the same time, the proposed devolution and local government reforms present an opportunity to shape services that better reflect our local needs.

As part of this, we must ensure that Rossendale's voice is heard, to help influence decisions that will shape our future.

Our Valley Plan outlines how we will navigate these challenges while fulfilling our mission.

It focuses on strengthening our local economy, enhancing the Borough's clean and green environment, supporting healthier communities, and delivering high-quality services for all.

We will achieve our priorities through outcomes and key actions, supported by Council Strategies and an Annual Action Plan, which will help guide our budget-setting and decision-making processes.

I am confident that, as a result, we will continue our journey toward becoming a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable Borough - one that provides opportunity and prosperity for all.

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
Councillor Alyson Barnes



OUR VISION

MISSION TO SUCCESS

‘To have a thriving economy, built around our changing town centres, creating a quality environment for all and improving the life chances of all those living and working in our borough.’



OUR PRIORITIES

Our Valley Plan 2025-29 is set in the context of the Borough's long-term vision. We will continue to work towards this vision by focusing on four key priorities.



ABOUT OUR BOROUGH

ROSSENDALE IS A **UNIQUE** PLACE

With its rich industrial heritage and picturesque Pennine landscapes, Rossendale is filled with welcoming communities spread across a number of vibrant market towns and villages.

Our Borough offers an excellent quality of life and is well-connected to the rest of Lancashire, West Yorkshire, and Manchester, making it a great place for investment, growth, and sustainable development.

However, our rural landscapes also present challenges around waste services, flood risks, and public transport connectivity. Despite these obstacles, we are committed to innovation and are ready to tackle the challenges head-on.



Rossendale's demographics highlight a diverse and growing community, shaped by its history and evolving economy.



4.8%

of Lancashire's
total area



2,540

active businesses



35.2%

of children overweight
or obese at Year 6 age



£26,537

average weekly
earnings



71,500

residents



15.3%

live in fuel poverty



11.6%

have no
qualifications



4%

claiming benefits
aged 16-64



32,600

homes



19.8%

living with a long-term
health condition
impacting their daily life



10

Conservation areas



79.2 years

average life
expectancy

ABOUT US

A SMALL BUT **AMBITIOUS** COUNCIL

As a two-tier local authority we work with Lancashire County Council to provide services for our community.

The County Council provides education, social care, and highways maintenance services.

Our responsibilities include waste collection, street cleansing, green spaces, homeless and housing support, community support, and local regeneration and planning.

It is important for everyone to have access to the support they need.

We will continue to work with our partners to improve our health and leisure services and infrastructure to reduce inequalities and create healthier, more inclusive communities.



To achieve our vision, we are guided by our three core values. These principles shape our decisions, inspire our actions, and define our commitment to Rossendale.



PRIDE

We take pride in the way we help our residents and are proud to work for the Council.



PASSION

We are ambitious for Rossendale, enthusiastic and want to improve residents' lives.



PEOPLE

We work together, treat everyone with respect and take ownership of problems.

THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY



We will regenerate our towns and strengthen our local economy by empowering individuals, supporting businesses, and attracting investment into our area.

We remain committed to investing external funding into our main town centres - Bacup, Rawtenstall, and Haslingden, to create thriving hubs for both residents and visitors.

We will continue our journey to transform, grow, and animate our towns and surrounding areas, creating vibrant, welcoming spaces that attract investment, increase footfall, and encourage our communities to come together.

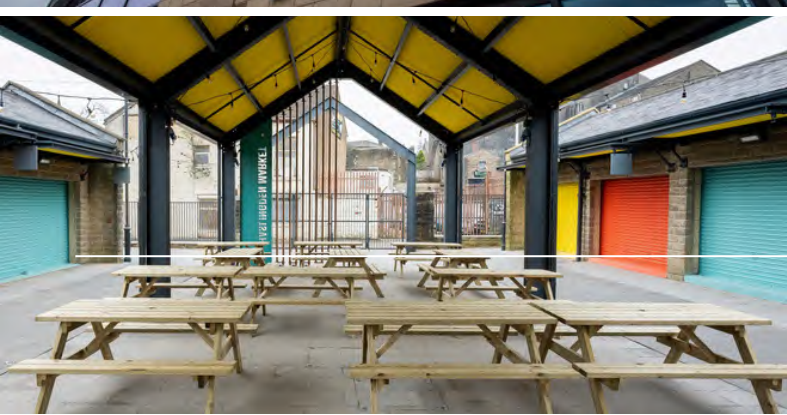
Our transport links and infrastructure are underdeveloped, presenting a challenge that must be addressed.

Through partnership working, we aim to improve the Borough's accessibility and connectivity.

We want to make it easier for our businesses to thrive and for our residents to access jobs, services, and community spaces.

We will work closely with local businesses and residents to provide the support they need to grow, innovate, and create high-quality jobs.

We are committed to regenerating Rossendale's towns and economy, creating a Valley where people and businesses thrive.



OUTCOMES

Our towns will be thriving, vibrant and attractive centres for our communities and businesses.

We will be a supporting environment for business growth, innovation, and job creation.

We will have cultural and community attractions, supporting a strong visitor economy.

KEY ACTIONS

Transform the Borough's town centres through the delivery of key regeneration projects.

Deliver an enhanced heritage, cultural and creative offer for businesses and residents.

Develop partnerships with key stakeholders to address prominent derelict buildings.

Provide space and support for high value business development and innovation.

Work with partners to support people in attaining and maintaining good employment.

Make Rossendale a centre for digital innovation by working with local tech partners.

Work with Lancashire County Council and other key partners to ensure the Valley benefits from a modern, efficient transport network.

Promote and enhance visitor experiences across our towns and landscapes.

There are a number of detailed strategies and action plans that will support our mission to a thriving local economy:

Bacup 2040 Vision and Masterplan

aims to revitalise Bacup's town centre by 2040

Rawtenstall Masterplan

aims to transform Rawtenstall into a vibrant, attractive, and sustainable community

Economic Development Strategy 2018 - 2033

aims to foster sustainable economic growth within the Borough

Visitor Economy Strategy

aims to make Rossendale a premier destination for visitors

Haslingden 2040 Vision and Masterplan

aims to create a hub for community activity and heritage

Waterfoot Masterplan

aims to improve pedestrian connections and celebrate Waterfoot's cultural history



HIGH QUALITY ENVIRONMENT



We will develop the Borough's unique character and Pennine landscapes by delivering the Green Agenda and improving our local environment and green spaces.

Protecting and enhancing Rossendale's green spaces and Pennine landscapes is key to creating a greener, healthier, and more sustainable borough.

We will continue delivering our Green Agenda.

We recognise our climate is changing and that we must lead by example at a local level. Our aim of becoming a carbon neutral council by 2030 is at the centre of our plans.

We work to support our businesses to reduce their emissions, championing sustainable practices that benefit both the local economy and the environment.

We will work in partnership with our Civic Pride groups to maintain our areas, making sure people live in clean and attractive places.

Recycling and waste reduction are key priorities.

We will work to increase recycling rates and minimise the impact of food waste collections, helping residents and businesses play their part in creating a cleaner, more sustainable future.

We will lead by example in delivering the Green Agenda and enhancing our local landscapes.



OUTCOMES

A high quality, clean and green local environment will be maintained.

We will be carbon neutral by 2030, supporting the wider Borough to reduce carbon emissions.

We will have enhanced our waste and recycling services, boosting recycling rates and minimising the impacts of food waste.

KEY ACTIONS

Maintain a clean and attractive Borough, focusing on our parks, streets, cemeteries, and trees.

Effectively tackle and reduce fly-tipping and littering hotspots through pro-active removal and enforcement powers.

Reduce our carbon emissions within our facilities and services.

Work with partners and communities to encourage climate action and promote sustainable energy alternatives.

Redevelop the Henrietta Street Waste Transfer Station.

Establish an effective infrastructure for weekly food waste collections to support 2026 Government reforms and boost recycling rates.

There is a detailed strategy and action plan that will support our mission to a high quality environment:

Climate Change Strategy

aims to address environmental challenges and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030



HEALTHY & PROUD COMMUNITIES



We will work with partners to provide residents with access to the housing and support services they need, supporting healthier lifestyles and communities.

We are committed to building strong, supportive communities.

We will improve access to the housing, services, and opportunities, enabling our residents to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Moving forward, we will work closely with our partners to ensure housing is accessible, appropriate, and meets the needs of all residents.

As part of this, we will continue to support our most vulnerable residents, and working to prevent the risk of homelessness and support residents to remain in their own homes.

By improving access to essential support services, we will help people lead healthier lifestyles and enhance overall well-being across the Borough.

Through community engagement, investment, and partnership working, we will continue to make Rossendale a place where everyone feels safe and connected.

We want to support communities to be vibrant and sustainable, creating areas where people are proud to live.



OUTCOMES

We will have accessible and appropriate housing in Rossendale.

Residents will lead healthier lifestyles, with better access to the support they need.

Rossendale will be a safe place where people are proud to live.

KEY ACTIONS

Support sustainable housing and employment growth while preserving the Valley's landscape.

Deliver improvements or adaptations to enable vulnerable residents to remain in their homes.

Tackle homelessness by reviewing our current temporary housing provision in the Borough.

Work with social housing and private landlords to address health related issues and energy efficiencies.

Work with partners to enhance and promote the Borough's leisure facilities and outdoor offer.

Facilitate inclusive support services to improve the physical and mental well-being of residents, while reducing health inequalities.

Work with partners, ensuring a strong sense of community safety.

Support the Borough's vulnerable individuals and families.

There are a number of detailed strategies and action plans that will support our mission to healthy and proud communities:

Rossendale Physical Activity Strategy 2025 - 2030

aims to promote health and well-being for all residents.

Housing Strategy 2023 - 2027

aims to address housing challenges, improve living conditions, and support our residents.

Local Plan 2019 - 2036

aims to provide a comprehensive framework for the development and use of land in Rossendale.

Our Health, Our Wellbeing, Our Place 2022

Aims to create healthier, more connected communities based on residents' needs.

Rossendale Leisure Trust (RLT) Strategic Plan

Aims to boost residents' health and wellbeing through community engagement and activity.



EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT COUNCIL



We will be an ambitious, effective, and efficient council, delivering high quality services and providing good value for money for residents.

We are committed to being an ambitious, forward-thinking council that delivers social value and high-quality services for our residents.

As we move forward, we will ensure financial stability through strong budget management and a robust governance framework.

This allows us to make responsible, well-informed decisions that benefit the Borough both now and in the future.

We aim to use the local government reforms to shape services that meet Rossendale's needs.

Our goal is to make sure Rossendale's voice is heard in decisions that shape our future.

By investing in our staff, we will continue to build a dedicated team that is equipped to deliver excellent services and respond effectively to the needs of our communities.

Our workforce is at the heart of what we do.

We are dedicated to delivering high-quality services and ensuring good value for money for our residents.



OUTCOMES

Residents receive modern, high-quality services.

We will be financially stable, delivering services and projects within a robust governance framework, always ensuring value for money.

Services will be delivered by a skilled and motivated workforce.

KEY ACTIONS

Utilise digital technology to deliver responsive, efficient, and cost-effective services.

Be recognised as a Council with a reputation for exceeding expectations.

Embed and monitor performance and project management processes to ensure accountability, transparency, and effective decision making.

Maximise income to support budgets through effectively managing the Council's property assets and securing external funding.

Ensure the views and needs of Rossendale are represented within any future local government reorganisation.

Apply good employment good practices and be known as an employer of choice.

There are a number of detailed strategies and action plans that will support our mission to be an effective and efficient council:

Risk Management Strategy

aims to identify and proactively manage any potential risks that could impact the Council.

Medium-Term Financial Strategy

provides a framework for the Council to plan and manage its resources.

Constitution

sets out how the Council operates, including how decisions are made and how the Council is accountable to the public.

Communications Strategy

aims to support the Council to effectively communicate and engage with stakeholders.

Customer Digital Strategy

aims to improve our services through online platforms and digital channels.

Performance Management Framework

a structured system for the Council to monitor, evaluate and improve performance.

Organisational Development Strategy

aims to improve overall performance by focusing on workforce development.









VALLEY PLAN

OUR PLACE, OUR PLAN 2025-29

Rossendale Borough Council
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OL13 0BB



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Rossendale Borough Council is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion to eliminate unlawful discrimination. To support this other format of this document are available upon request. Please contact PeopleandPolicy@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

Rossendale Borough Council's Valley Plan 2025-29 is set in the context of the Borough's long-term vision. We will deliver our mission through four priority areas; Thriving Local Economy, High Quality Environment, Healthy and Proud Communities, and Effective and Efficient Council, which will be achieved through twelve outcomes.

Thriving Local Economy

We will regenerate our towns and strengthen our local economy by empowering individuals, supporting businesses, and attracting investment into our area.

Our towns will be thriving, vibrant and attractive centres for our communities and businesses.

We will be a supportive environment for business growth, innovation, and job creation.

We will have cultural and community attractions that support a strong visitor economy.

High Quality Environment

We will develop the Borough's unique character and Pennine landscapes by delivering the Green Agenda and improving our local environment and green spaces.

Our local environment will be high quality, clean and green.

We will be carbon neutral by 2030, supporting the wider Borough to reduce carbon emissions.

We will have enhanced our waste and recycling services, boosting recycling rates and minimising the impact of food waste.

Healthy & Proud Communities

We will work with partners to provide residents with access to the housing and support services they need, supporting healthier lifestyles and communities.

We will have accessible and appropriate housing in Rossendale.

Residents will lead healthier lifestyles, with better access to the support services they need.

Rossendale will be a safe place where people are proud to live.

Effective & Efficient Council

We will be an ambitious, effective and efficient council, delivering high quality services and providing good value for money for residents.

Residents receive modern, high-quality services.

The Council will be financially stable, delivering services and projects within a robust governance framework, always ensuring value for money.

Council services will be delivered by a skilled and motivated workforce.

Our Valley Plan highlights the work we aim to deliver against our priorities over the next four years. Our priorities will be delivered through our outcomes, which are supported by Council Strategies, an Annual Action Plan, and by everything we do to improve Rossendale as a place to live, work, and invest.

We will report and manage our progress on the Valley Plan through regular updates and performance measures. This will demonstrate transparency, accountability, and progress towards our vision. We will address challenges and adjust our actions as needed to remain focused on our mission.

**OUR
PLACE,
OUR
PLAN**

Thriving Local Economy

Outcomes	High Level Actions
Our towns will be thriving, vibrant and attractive centres for our communities and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Transform the Borough’s town centres through the delivery of key regeneration projects. – Deliver an enhanced heritage, cultural and creative offer for businesses and residents. – Develop partnerships with key stakeholders to address prominent derelict buildings.
We will be a supportive environment for business growth, innovation, and job creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide space and support for high value business development and innovation. – Work with partners to support people in attaining and maintaining good employment. – Make Rossendale a centre for digital innovation by working with local tech partners. – Work with Lancashire County Council and other key partners to ensure the Valley benefits from a modern, efficient transport network.
We will have cultural and community attractions that support a strong visitor economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote and enhance visitor experiences across our towns and landscapes.

High Quality Environment

Outcomes	Actions
Our local environment will be high quality, clean and green.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maintain a clean and attractive Borough, focusing on our parks, streets, cemeteries, and trees. – Effectively tackle and reduce fly-tipping and littering hotspots through pro-active removal and enforcement powers.
We will be carbon neutral by 2030, supporting the wider Borough to reduce carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduce our carbon emissions within our facilities and services. – Work with partners and communities to encourage climate action and promote sustainable energy alternatives.

We will have enhanced our waste and recycling services, boosting recycling rates and minimising the impact of food waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Redevelop the Henrietta Street Waste Transfer Station. – Establish an effective infrastructure for weekly food waste collections to support 2026 Government reforms and boost recycling rates.
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Healthy & Proud Communities	
Outcomes	Actions
We will have accessible and appropriate housing in Rossendale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support sustainable housing and employment growth while preserving the Valley’s landscape. – Deliver improvements or adaptations to enable vulnerable residents to remain in their homes. – Tackle homelessness by reviewing our current temporary housing provision in the Borough. – Work with social housing and private landlords to address health related issues and energy efficiencies.
Residents will lead healthier lifestyles, with better access to the support services they need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work with partners to enhance and promote the Borough’s leisure facilities and outdoor offer. – Facilitate inclusive support services to improve the physical and mental well-being of residents, while reducing health inequalities.
Rossendale will be a safe place where people are proud to live.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work with partners, ensuring a strong sense of community safety – Support the Borough’s vulnerable individuals and families. – Support local voluntary groups to maintain and continuously improve our public spaces.
Effective & Efficient Council	
Outcomes	Actions
Residents will receive modern, high-quality services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Utilise digital technology to deliver responsive, efficient, and cost-effective services. – Be recognised as a Council with a reputation for exceeding expectations.
The Council will be financially stable, delivering services and projects within a robust governance framework, always ensuring value for money.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Embed and monitor performance and project management processes to ensure accountability, transparency, and effective decision making. – Maximise income to support budgets through effectively managing the Council’s property assets and securing external funding. – Ensure the views and needs of Rossendale are represented within any future local government reorganisation.

Council services will be delivered by a skilled and motivated workforce.	– Apply good employment good practices and be known as an employer of choice.
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