



# State of the Borough Report 2023



# Welcome...

... to Bury's State of the Borough report for 2023.

During 2020, the community strategy for Bury was published – our “LET'S Do It!” strategy. This set out the top seven outcomes that need to be achieved to deliver the LET'S vision of ensuring that Bury achieves **faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation.**



Last summer the first State of the Borough Report was published with the latest data available at the time and detailing progress against those outcomes. This report provides the most recent update on progress including:

- Population statistics from the 2021 Census outlining demographics, diversity and health.
- Update on progress against the seven outcomes through local intelligence that is available across the partnership.
- Wider performance metrics demonstrating current progress.

## Delivering the Seven Outcomes








LET'S Do It! is a call to action for everyone to share in the success of achieving the ambitious vision for Bury. It is not just a 'public sector' strategy, it belongs to everyone. Residents, businesses, voluntary groups and public services all share the responsibility to drive improvements against the seven overarching outcomes.

7 Outcomes	Key Partnership Involvement and Lead
1. Improved Quality of Life	Community Safety Partnership – Chief Superintendent Chris Hill Bury Integrated Care Partnership – Will Blandamer Health and Wellbeing Board – Jon Hobday
2. Improved Early Years Development	Children’s Strategic Partnership Board – Jeanette Richards
3. Improved Educational Attainment	Children’s Strategic Partnership Board – Jeanette Richards
4. Increased Adult Skills levels and employability	All Age Skills and Employability Board – Isobel Booler
5. Inclusive Economic Growth	Bury Business Leadership Group – Andrew Roberts & Paul Lakin
6. Carbon Neutrality by 2038	Climate Action Board – Laura Swann
7. Improved Digital Connectivity	All Age Skills and Employability Board – Isobel Booler, and Tracey Flynn



When the LET'S Do It! Strategy was published and the overarching outcomes developed, high level outcome measures were chosen which would incorporate impact from activity across the partnership. These measures are typically published at least annually. In this document there is new data against most of these outcomes and there are also new additional data sources and wider performance indicators to demonstrate progress in a more-timely way.

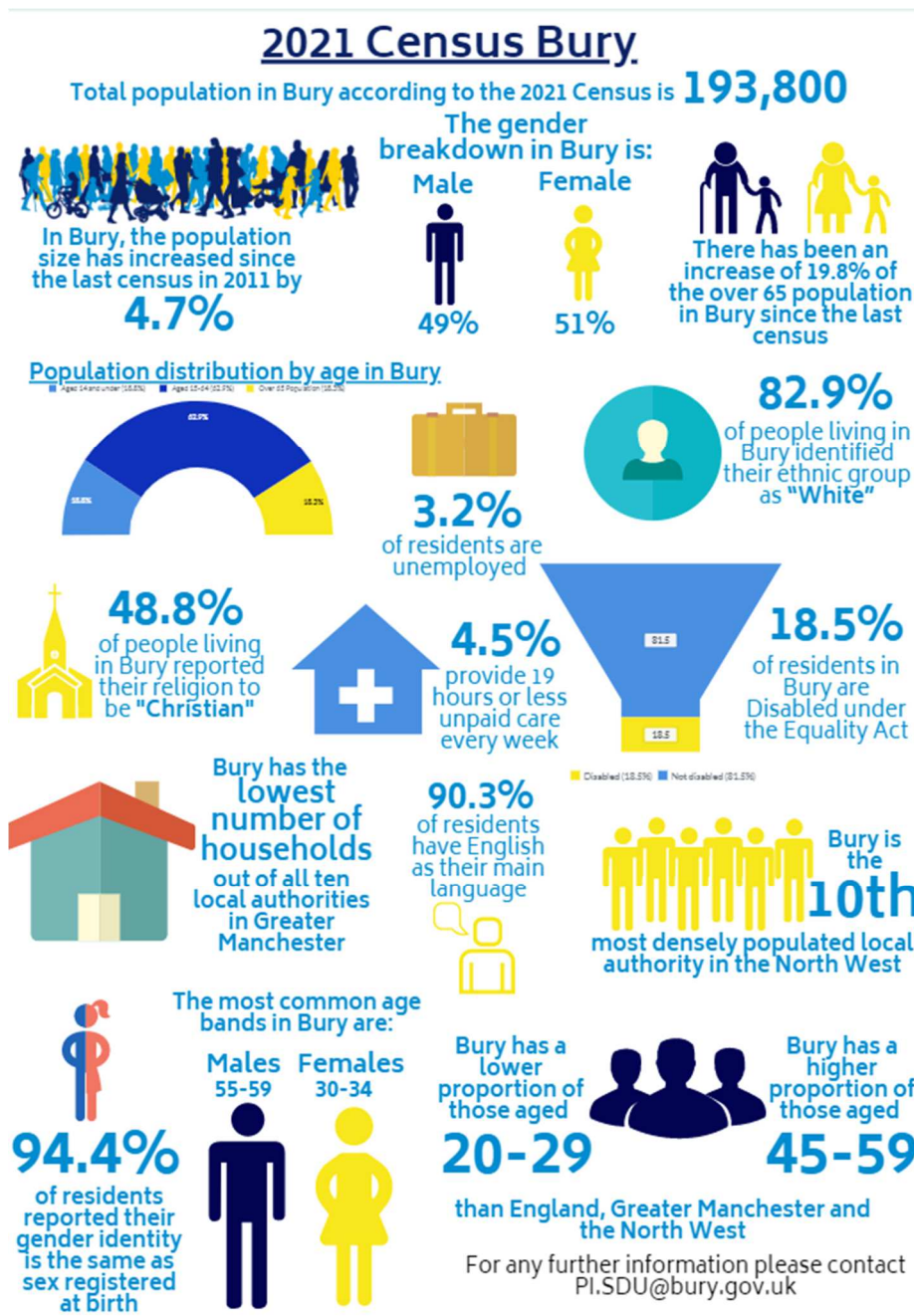
Outcome measures for economic growth and digital connectivity have been reviewed to align with the Greater Manchester Strategy which will enable more frequent updates and benchmarking to understand progress in a better way.

1	Our target is to reduce the life expectancy gap between our worse and best performing MSOAs to under 10 years for males and females.	
2	The target is to narrow the gap between the school readiness of all pupils and those eligible for free school meals. The gap is to be narrowed by reducing inequality for the free school meals cohort of our children.	
3	By 2030 we want to narrow the gap in average attainment 8 score for all pupils and those eligible for free school meals.	
4	We want to widen the gap of adults with no qualifications and those with NVQ Level 3+ qualifications by reducing the number of adults with no qualifications	
5	The aim is to maintain our position in the top 3 Greater Manchester authorities for average household income and increase incomes for residents	
6	By 2030 maintain decline in CO2 emissions per capita and be within the top 5 localities in Greater Manchester with the lowest emissions per km2	
7	We want to increase digital connectivity and the speed of broadband available to those who live Bury and particularly support our young people to access digital technologies.	

1		Baseline: 2015 - 2019	Males 16.7 yrs Females: 11.7 yrs	2016 - 2020	Males 12.3 yrs Females: 10.4yrs	↓	The gap between areas has been reduced but this is due overall to a decline in the best performing areas.	This is the most recent data available			
2		Baseline: 2019	All pupils 71.4% FSM Pupils 59.8% GAP 11.6%	2022	All pupils 63.3% FSM Pupils 50.0% <b>GAP 13.3%</b>	↑	The gap has increased and performance for both groups has got worse	2023 provisional	All pupils 65.7% FSM Pupils 48.5% <b>GAP 17.2%</b>	↑	Inequalities have increased where performance has declined for our FSM pupils and increased for all pupils compared to the baseline.
3		Baseline: 2019	All pupils 43.5% FSM Pupils 34.9% GAP 8.6%	2021	All pupils 49.4% FSM Pupils 37.9% <b>GAP 11.5%</b>	↑	The gap has increased but performance for both groups has improved. Caution has to be taken using this data as a comparison to previous years as based on teacher assessed grades due to exams not taking place during COVID	2022	All pupils 46.3% FSM Pupils 37.8% <b>GAP 8.5%</b>	↓	The gap between the FSM and overall cohort has become slightly smaller following an increase during COVID. There has been improvements for both cohorts in terms of attainment achievement compared to the baseline.
4		Baseline: 2019	NVQ3+ 57.9% No quals 9.1% GAP 48.8%	2020	NVQ3+ 61.7% No quals 4.5% <b>GAP 57.2%</b>	↑	An increase in residents with NVQ3+ qualifications and a reduction of those with no qualifications so performance has improved.	2021	NVQ3+ 61.9% No quals 6.5% <b>GAP 55.4%</b>	↓	A small increase in residents with NVQ3+ qualifications – 0.2% however also an increase in residents with no qualifications.
5		Baseline: 2019	Median hourly earnings for residents £13.80	2020	Median hourly earnings for residents <b>£14.73</b>	↑		2022	Median hourly earnings for residents <b>£14.55</b>	↓	
6		Baseline: 2018	4.6 co2 tonnes per capita	2020	3.8	↓	Likely the impact of COVID with reduced footfall which has made a significant reduction on the tonnes per capita.	2021	4.2	↑	Levelling out the significant reduction post COVID, still a reduction trend from baseline however no longer top 5 per km2 in GM, now ranking 6 <sup>th</sup> .
7		Baseline: 2019	2.7 % of premises unable to access good download speeds	2020	2.1 % of premises unable to access good download speeds	↓		2021	1.2 % of premises unable to access good download speeds	↓	

## Updated Information from the 2021 Census

When the State of the Borough report was published last year only the headline results were available from the 2021 Census. Further information has now been released that shows that the borough has seen an increase in the population of 4.7% since 2011. Not only has the population increased, but the make-up of residents within the borough has also become more diverse. There has been a significant increase in the older population of 19.8%. Therefore it is important to retain the focus on inclusivity and reduce the risk and impact of inequalities across the communities in the borough.



## Outcome One: Improved Quality of Life

The latest data published shows a narrowing of the gap of life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of the borough which follows the target set in LET'S Strategy. For males the gap is now 12.3 years (Sedgley Park 83.5 years compared to Radcliffe 71.2 years) and for females the gap is 10.4 years (Summerseat 86.2 years compared to Radcliffe 75.8). These gaps of 12.3 and 10.4 years have narrowed compared to 16.7 and 11.7 years respectively in the previous report however this due to a decrease in life expectancy in the borough's more affluent areas. Little or no improvement in life expectancy has been recorded has occurred in the borough's more deprived areas.

Addressing these continued health inequalities requires a comprehensive approach as a population health system. The gap in life expectancy is caused by higher rates of death from several major killers in more deprived areas including heart disease, stroke, cancers, liver disease and more recently COVID-19. The Bury Health and Well Being Board provides a focus for this work and have published a Reducing Health Inequalities Strategy in 2023 with a detailed delivery plan to address the main causes of preventable and early death.

Health inequalities make themselves felt from the start of life. Infant and child mortality are closely linked to poverty. Uptake of childhood immunisations is lower among children from more deprived families, child development as measured by school readiness (see outcome 2) is lower for children who are eligible for free school meals. Data gathered from Primary Care on vaccinations is therefore used to target where risk groups may not be getting the vaccines they need.

These inequalities cascade forward and appear later as worse educational outcomes, worse employment prospects, higher rates of harmful behaviours. This leads to the inequalities in work limiting illness and ultimately life expectancy. Quality of life is also about where people live, their happiness, their satisfaction with life and their ability to feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods.

The Council's Public Health Team works with partners to commission services to improve physical activity, diet and reduce smoking particularly for those groups who may have difficulty accessing services. All partners are aware of and supporting residents through the cost of living crisis and particularly where this impacts upon fuel poverty and the ability for residents to keep warm in the winter period.



Further Initiatives include:

- The “wellness offer” for the borough continues to be developed, including active travel schemes, outdoor gyms and maintenance of the 14 award winning parks that can proudly boast a Green Flag recognising the quality of the borough’s green space.
- Focused work collaborating with primary schools in Radcliffe to promote increased physical activity in children including bikeability, after schools activities, school routes, daily mile, and linking with the creating active schools programme.
- Supporting the GP FED to develop a plan to support the delivery of the secondary prevention CVD work in General Practice.
- Completed a refreshed version of the comprehensive Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for use in commissioning and service design.
- Developed a robust tobacco control and smoking plan which includes developing innovative interventions to support specific groups experiencing high rates of smoking rates including those with serious and enduring mental health conditions.
- Made huge progress on the food and health agenda establishing a robust partnership and local delivery plan and achieving Bronze ‘sustainable food places’ award for Bury.
- Established a robust multi agency drug and alcohol partnership, with a localised plan which aligns with both national and regional plans and meets the need of the local population.
- Focus on suicide prevention with the borough partnership.

## Community Safety

The Bury Community Safety Partnership provides the lead for creating safer communities in the borough. Bury remains one of the safest Borough’s in Greater Manchester, with the third lowest overall crime rate in the region, with proactive partnership activity across six community derived priorities including reducing drug related harm; domestic abuse; strengthening cohesion and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

A recent report to the Council’s Scrutiny panel provides an overview of the breadth of activity, from multi-agency high visibility operations, to engagement in schools; targeted preventative activity to joint enforcement.

A Team Bury session took place in June 2023 showcasing the partnership activity on prevention and early intervention against anti-social Behaviour. This included work between Bury College, Greater Manchester Police, Bury Council, the Violence Reduction Unit Community Led Pilot. Partnership problem solving has taken place to address ASB concerns in relation to Kay Gardens including in conjunction with the Bury Business Improvement District and a series of ASB surgeries at hotspots across the Borough.

Partners are working together under the Serious Violence Duty to currently develop a Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment.



**What additional insight and activity support this outcome?**

- Accessibility of services
- Education starting point
- Job, Safe environment
- Local information required – granular data

**What more could be done to collectively achieve the outcome?**

- Designing out ASB hotspots
- Promotion of opportunities – good comms, inc to people digitally excluded
- Co-ordinated approach to issues
- Engaging the wider population – subtle conversations
- Capture the unwritten knowledge – community groups, professionals

## Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
% of 10/11 year olds who are a healthy weight	Baseline: 2018/19	<b>64.8%</b>	2020/21	<b>57.6%</b>	↓	2021/22	<b>60.4%</b>	↑	We saw a decline in healthy weight amongst children during the pandemic. This could be a combination of children being both over and underweight in the measurement programme and also numbers of children being measured reducing during lockdown. Latest performance however is now back on track to reach pre pandemic levels.
Number of new referrals received by Live Well Service (Q1 snapshot)	Baseline: 2022	<b>660</b>	2022 was Baseline			2023	<b>965</b>	↑	Nearly a 50% increase in new referrals by the Live Well Service year on year. Significant increase in referrals due to alignment with health and care integrated neighbourhood colleagues and Primary Care Networks, doing more population-based interventions and community facilitation. In addition close links with Beacon service (social prescribing) More proactive work with groups we know are experiencing inequalities, including engaging communities through a range of campaigns e.g. Know Your Numbers Week
% of adult social care providers rated good or outstanding by CQC (quarterly)	Baseline: Q4 22/23	<b>81%</b>	Baseline set at previous quarter			Q1 23/24	<b>83%</b>	↑	Continued improvement and increase of % of our providers rated good or outstanding which will hold us in good stead for the new CQC inspection regime
Rate of ASB Offences per 1000 population	Baseline: Q1 2020	<b>1.36</b>	Q4 21/22	<b>0.87</b>	↓	Q4 22/23	<b>1.26</b>	↑	Q4 21/2 equated to 1681 actual offences which raised to 2437 offences in the latest data. There has been an increased focus on raising awareness of the reporting, including a new ASB Policy Handbook; targeted ASB surgeries in neighbourhoods and Team Bury session on tackling the causes of ASB. Of note figures decreased earlier in the decade due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions; and have subsequently increased.
Rate of crimes per 1,000 monthly snapshot	Baseline: Sept 2019	<b>6.4</b>	Sept 2021	<b>9.8</b>	↑	Sept 2022	<b>9.4</b>	↓	Despite a recent decrease rate of crimes is higher than the baseline.
Bury Residents who responded Very Safe or Fairly Safe to 'How safe do you feel in your local area?'	Baseline: Q1 2022	<b>88%</b>	Q3 2022	<b>91%</b>	↑	Q1 2023	<b>90%</b>	↓	Small fluctuations have occurred here which haven't impacted overall performance over time.

## Outcome Two: Improved Early Years Development

This outcome has now been refreshed with two sets of data since the gap in reporting during the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest data shows that less of the last two cohorts of early year age children have achieved good levels of pre-school development compared to 2019, and that this is getting worse with time. It is likely that the pandemic has impacted early years development through absence during lockdowns.

Not only has the performance declined for both the overall and free school meal cohorts, the gap between the two continues to widen to 17.2% (provisional). The latest annual refresh shows this is due to a slight improvement in performance for the overall cohort compared to a further decline for our free school meal cohort. This shows how the pandemic has widened inequalities further for young children the borough.

Last year the decline in local performance in school readiness led to a sector-wide survey. It is clear from this that the pandemic has had a significant impact on school readiness, with particularly notable effect on speech, language and communication skills and in social and emotional development. Education partners have been working intensively to support the sector, rolling out a universal and targeted speech, language and communication offer, delivering WellComm training for early years practitioners and specifically targeting early years settings with the largest number of vulnerable 2-year-olds. Bespoke WellComm training has been delivered in all 30 nurseries for staff teams taking the total of trained practitioners to 459. There are also 224 communication champions across Early Years settings and schools. The Council has also revised the support available to all early years settings to include a quality visit to drive improvement and to support school readiness.

In terms of additional support, Speech Language and Communication (SLC) have been prioritised, delivered through the 'Building blocks to words' training and SLC drop-in sessions for parents. Work continues to embed this with a transition event to support school readiness held in May 2023. This event received good attendance from across the Early Years sector and schools. A maths project has also been completed with those settings with the highest number of 2-year-old funded places.

Bury's pilot Family Hub is due to launch in the Autumn 2023, strengthening partnership working and engagement with families. An action plan is now in place to increase the take up of 2-year-old funding, with a communications campaign having been devised to raise local awareness. New materials have been developed which are being used to promote the offer and encourage take up across the borough.

Regarding Early Help assessments, partner agencies have been undertaking Multi Agency Assessments and between April 22-March 23, there were 943 registered interventions from partners which were multi agency. When families are supported through early help Locality teams, this is having a positive impact.

Key health improvement messages continue to be a focus throughout all our work with Early Years settings and with parents and expectant parents, including at baby stay and play sessions. An antenatal parenting programme has been co-produced and will be launched via the new Family Hub covering all key health messages. A 'Coordination Matters' toolkit is being launched for Early Years practitioners with the Occupational Therapy team which is exploring the opportunity of physical development champions and a pathway for Bury.

Bury is leading in Greater Manchester on delivering the mental health in schools programme and has delivered a nationally recognised model of supporting well being and resilience in very young children (My Happy Mind). This includes new routes of social media based mental health support and has secured substantial initial investment in CAMHS services.



**What additional insight and activity support this outcome?**

- Promote EY 2 years old nursery placements – understanding barriers eg cultural – community engagement
- Better utilise voluntary sector, advertise for volunteers, peer mentor, role modelling
- Lots of unregistered childcare
- Sufficiency in settings is limited, differing offers, cost to provide lunch
- Understand who is using Early Help, can we monitor where they are from

**What more could be done to collectively achieve the outcome?**

- Understand 2 year old uptake in more detail by area
- Targetted campaign / work with community to promote uptake
- Explore volunteers options with VCFA

## Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
% of children accessing 2 year take up of free childcare	Baseline: December 2022	<b>74.1%</b>	April 23	<b>68.5%</b>	↓	July 23	<b>69.9%</b>	↑	Whilst there has been a recent increase the performance is still far off the baseline which is less than 12 months ago so a significant decline overall.
% of Early Help assessments by Partners	Baseline: Q3 22/23	<b>61.4%</b>	Q4 22/23	<b>61.9%</b>	↑	Q1 23/24	<b>66.9%</b>	↑	Between April 22-March 23, there were 943 registered interventions from partners which were multi agency
Low birth weight of term babies	Baseline: 2019	<b>2.3%</b>	2020	<b>2.5%</b>	↑	2021	<b>3.0%</b>	↑	Whilst small variations in the figure over time there is no significant change
Hospital admissions of babies 14 days old and under	Baseline: 2019/20	<b>69.0</b>	2020/21	<b>82.7</b>	↑	21/22	<b>74.4</b>	↓	Whilst small variations in the figure over time there is no significant change
% of reception children who are a healthy weight	Baseline: 2018/19	<b>75.6%</b>	2020/21	<b>70.3%</b>	↓	2021/22	<b>75.6%</b>	↑	We saw a decline in healthy weight amongst children during the pandemic. This could be a combination of children being both over and underweight in the measurement programme and also numbers of children being measured reducing during lockdown. Latest performance however is now back on track to reach pre pandemic levels.

## Outcome Three: Improved educational attainment for young people

For the first time since the pandemic there is full and robust attainment & achievement data available through the usual assessment processes. This latest data again shows the impact pandemic has had on the borough's young people and their education. During the pandemic grades were assessed using centre and teacher assessments which showed a steady improvement in attainment, however this data cannot be compared to usual assessment processes.

The improved overall performance of disadvantaged children in Bury's schools in 2022 indicates that the support provided through the COVID pandemic and the recovery work undertaken subsequently by schools has been more effective in supporting their learning than for their peers elsewhere in the country. Having said this, the gap remains and intensive work will need to continue by all partners to ensure that this performance is maintained in 2023.



The local authority continues to work with secondary schools to focus their improvement activity and improve outcomes for children through annual quality assurance meetings. The universal quality assurance offer means that the local authority has a clear line of sight on all schools with local authority education services currently being reshaped to focus more on supporting the education of the most vulnerable children in the borough.

Our regular Head Teacher conferences have been successful and are developing further to include relevant external speakers to ensure heads are abreast of all current issues. Early Career Teachers (ECT) Induction meetings are in collaboration with the Teaching School Hub and with strong Bury Trusts to broker support into schools. Packages of support are being developed in collaboration with Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and strong maintained schools.

In 2021 83% of our primary pupils were attending good or better schools; this year it is 90%. The School Assurance Board meets monthly and regular meetings are held with multi-academy trust leaders to maintain this success. Targeted school to school support based on clear schools causing concern criteria. The School Improvement offer has been redesigned along with the Inclusion service following an education service restructure. To support our pupils further trauma informed training has been offered to schools, the Attendance and Exclusions offer has been revised, and exclusion protocols have been launched in line with the Graduated Approach.

**What additional insight and activity support this outcome?**

- Pre school capacity
- Language – parents gaining confidence to talk to their children
- Communication – children being able to talk at school start time
- Encourage parents with 2 yr old take up of nursery provision
- English language
- Impact of COVID – age related impact – mental health
- What horizons beyond where people live do people have?

**What more could be done to collectively achieve the outcome?**

- Parenting classes and support
- Think about men/dads not just women/mums
- Provision of school meals for all
- Ambitious examples put before pupils/students of employment
- Encourage children by exposure to wider culture -push boundaries and experience



## Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
% of pupils attending a good or better school in Bury	Baseline: March 2020	<b>71.5%</b>	March 2022	<b>73.1%</b>	↑	March 2023	<b>71.2%</b>	↓	Whilst there are some ups and downs we are still maintaining the general trend
Rate of school permanent exclusions	Baseline: Sept 21	<b>0.001</b>	Sept 22	<b>0.016</b>	↑				Whilst slightly higher than NW rates still inline
% of pupils with an EHCP	Baseline: Dec 2020	<b>3.6%</b>	Oct 2021	<b>4.2%</b>	↑	Oct 2022	<b>4.8%</b>	↑	We know there is increasing demand post COVID for SEND services. We are managing demand in this service areas through our Project Safety Valve programme
Rate of children looked after per 10,000 (snapshot)	Baseline: March 21	<b>78</b>	March 22	<b>83</b>	↑	March 23	<b>80</b>	↓	Whilst remaining static over recent months still higher than the England average.
KS2 Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths	Baseline 2019	All pupils 64.8% FSM Pupils 46.3% <b>GAP 18.5%</b>	2022	All pupils 59.4% FSM Pupils 43.0% <b>GAP 16.4%</b>	↓	2023 (provisional)	All pupils 58.3% FSM Pupils 47.4% <b>GAP 10.9%</b>	↓	The gap has narrowed and performance of FSM cohort has reached pre pandemic levels however the performance of the overall cohort continues to decline

## Outcome Four: Increased Adult Skills and Employability Levels

Based on the latest data for this outcome, following a positive trajectory at the previous data point, there has been a slight increase in adults in Bury who have no qualifications and only a small increase in those who have obtained a NVQ3+ or equivalent. Whilst this is still an improvement against the 2019 baseline, it again highlights the impact of the pandemic on progress as adults were unable to attend learning provision in the same numbers during lockdown.

The Bury Adult Learning Service had developed a programme offer to address this issue and focus on the need to ensure adults have the skills needed to participate fully in the local economy, including digital skills, English and maths. The service continues to work with vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community to provide first steps in learning for those furthest away from the workplace. Support is also available for those in employment with low skills and/or on low pay in their efforts to upskill themselves to attain better paid jobs and improve their earning potential.

Work is progressing with the refreshed Skills Strategy which will have 3 pillars: Young People, Adults and Employers. A Skills Strategy board has been set up, with subgroups due to meet to work this term to work on the under-pinning Action Plan. An example of some of these priorities is below:

- Proactively work to reduce and remove the barriers (such as managing health conditions) that some people and communities face when accessing learning and employment.
- Extend the reach of adult education in the borough into our most disadvantaged communities, particularly those experiencing health inequalities, ensuring that there is a good quality offer in improved learning environments.
- Maximise the impact of available Government funding (including the Levelling Up Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund) on employment and skills outcomes in Bury.
- Work with education and training providers to ensure training meets the demands of the labour market, is of good quality, and can respond to changes in the economy and growth sectors.

Further planned activity includes:

- Pop up events planning underway, these will be hyper local, focussed on employment, skills and under employment. There will be a focus on live job vacancies within these communities.
- Employ GM to be launched in the Autumn. This will be a single-point-of-contact website/portal with advice and support and help residents to find skills courses and training, information on employment support, live job vacancies, labour market Info and careers pathways.

- SMEs - Apprenticeships and Skills for Growth is linked into a number GMCA funding schemes such as UKSPF (UK – Shared Prosperity Fund) which will fund programmes for both pre and post 18 year olds. This will look at reducing NEET and progressing young people into positive destinations and supporting residents and businesses with Enterprise Support and Employment and Skills.
- Multiply money – a funded project to Support Bury residents with maths.
- Working Well: Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care – this project delivered by Ingeus supports those with a physical or mental health disability that want to find work or sustain work. It also supports residents who are economically inactive as well as those in receipt of benefits.
- Working Well programmes – the Restart and Work & Health Programme are both continuing to deliver employment support for our vulnerable and economically inactive residents offering a range of practical and therapeutic support.

Bury Adult Learning and BGI have accessed grants through GMCA to support the ESOL (English as a second or foreign language) Advice Service, leading a cross borough approach to meeting the needs of ESOL learners. Bury Adult Learning service has recruited a Learner Engagement Officer to target residents who need to gain employment or upskill.

Bury College and Bury Adult Learning have strong links in providing pathways for learners to progress to higher level qualifications. Joint events and interviews take place to raise awareness of next step opportunities. The partnership is also supporting entrepreneurship and business start-ups through 'Build A Business' and 'Enterprising You' schemes.



### **What additional insight and activity support this outcome?**

- Comparison to national trends
- Feedback from residents on what the barriers to learning are (could we reach out to a university to look into this?)
- Breakdown of those without qualifications (postcodes, ethnic groups)
- Activity
  - GMCA grants – UKSPF, AEB, Multiply
  - Skills forum and strategy
  - Apprenticeship providers
  - Active adults education team – community outreach
  - Variety of college provision both within borough and neighbouring areas

### **What more could be done to collectively achieve the outcome?**

- Encourage employers to upskill employee – greater than apprenticeships and soft skills, IT
- Most employers have greater interface with apprenticeship providers but need other skills providers such as adult educations to address below level 2 skills
- Focus needed on low skilled workers in employment to enter into culture of life long learning – how do we reach these people
- Need flexible delivery – what do residents want? Blended approach – remote learning/ in person

## Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
EET Rate of 16/17 year olds	Baseline: Dec 20	<b>96.2%</b>	Dec 21	<b>96.4%</b>	↑	Dec 22	<b>96.0%</b>	↓	We have maintained a similar trajectory despite small fluctuations in the last year.
% of Bury adult learners who gain employment directly after training	2021/22	<b>24%</b>							Latest comparative data due October 23
% of Bury adult learners who have gained a qualification	2021/22	<b>87.9%</b>							
% economically active residents in employment	Baseline: Jan-Dec 2019	<b>74.0%</b>	Jan – Dec 2021	<b>75.0%</b>	↑	Jan – Dec 2023	<b>83.3%</b>	↑	Above NW and national benchmarks. Recently seen an uptick in employment opportunities across GM.
% of workless households	Baseline: Jan-Dec 2019	<b>15.1%</b>	Jan – Dec 2020	<b>14.2%</b>	↓	Jan – Dec 2021	<b>12.0%</b>	↓	This measure has also slowly improved and is the lowest % in last 20yrs
Claimant count	Baseline: Dec 2019	<b>3.4%</b>	Dec 2020	<b>6.8%</b>	↑	Jul 23	<b>4.3%</b>	↓	Following a peak during the pandemic we are now working our way back down to previous levels however challenge still remains with the economically inactive and long-term sickness benefits

## Outcome Five: Delivering Inclusive Economic Growth

A new measure and data set has been chosen to support this outcome in order to align with the GM Strategy and provide more timely data refreshes to understand progress of LET'S.

In September the draft Economic Strategy was presented to the Council's Cabinet which sets out a clear framework to delivering a sustainable, competitive, inclusive, and resilient local economy that fulfils its growth potential. This will be achieved through the realisation of identified key opportunities. For example, the realisation of significant new and higher skilled employment opportunities through the release of employment land at Atom Valley/ Northern Gateway, which presents a 'Game changing' opportunity for Bury. The Economic Strategy is based on:

- Bury's Place: Understanding the spatial, social and environmental factors affecting the prosperity and vitality of Bury's place ... to create an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous place, where people choose to live, work, invest and visit.
- Bury's People: Understanding Bury's resident and worker population to ensure that the local economy meets their needs and aspirations and supports inclusive growth ... to build the capabilities of people to find, sustain and progress in employment and achieve economic security.
- Bury's Economic Base: Understanding Bury's business landscape, employment characteristics and specialisms ... to create the conditions for business to prosper and accelerate the transition to a fairer, greener and more resilient economy.

There has been significant progress in the last twelve months on regeneration plans for Ramsbottom, Radcliffe, Bury, Whitefield and Prestwich as a key contributor to increasing living standards and improving health. Bury was the only district to be awarded two levelling up bids injecting £40 million into the local economy through the Radcliffe town centre regeneration and Flexi Hall initiative in Bury.



To compliment the physical regeneration plans for the Borough, work has progressed to develop of People & Communities Plans to connect local residents into the opportunities of regeneration and economic development, firstly in Radcliffe and Bury East, with other neighbourhoods now in development. This is to maximise the connections between residents, local assets and their priorities as a means to drive inclusive growth. This work has built on engagement delivered by Hatch and PlacED at a Team Bury session in the summer of 2022.

The borough's draft Local Transport Strategy states the vision to "create an attractive, well-connected borough that supports economic growth and helps to reduce deprivation. By 2040, the borough will be connected by a modern and efficient transport network, including comprehensive, affordable, high quality and attractive sustainable transport links." It is these world class connections, also as part of the wider GM strategy that will support long term sustainable economic growth, which in turn should impact positively on the hourly pay of residents.

Locally the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have been running a number of successful initiatives to engage job seekers to support economic growth including 'Sector Based Work Academies Programmes' (SWAPS) with local employers, these give training and work experience to those interested in a business' job and then are offered interviews at the end of the process. The DWP has also been running regular recruitment events at it's Millgate Centre for local jobs seekers and local employers.

The supply of affordable housing across the borough is increasing to support working families hit by rising house prices. Nearly 100 acres of land has been identified for thousands of new homes, with the aim of completing 450 every year until 2037. This includes schemes like Pyramid Park which will bring around 135 new homes to a brownfield site next to the town centre.

The LET'S strategy recognises the value that Culture has to play, both as a means of promoting community creativity and celebrating our communities, but also the contribution to the borough's economy (including the night time economy). Bury's new Cultural Strategy, "Different Cultures Same Horizons", was launched earlier this year to transform Bury's cultural and creative sector as a catalyst for growth, intrinsically linked into the stories of our local communities.





**What additional insight and activity support this outcome?**

- Adjusting skills system around regeneration
- Not work ready – life skills, fitness, resilience challenges
- Schools – ambition – show and tell
- Attract large companies
- Companies what they do – opportunities/careers
- Employer specific training – what are we doing to provide courses, lived in experience mentors
- Skills system money – link generational unemployment

**What more could be done to collectively achieve the outcome?**

- Working more collaboratively
- Businesses
- DWP
- Courses at colleges – training that in giving opportunities to wok in local large businesses

## Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
% of employment in Bury within SOC major group 1-3 (Managers, Directors, Senior Officials, Professional and Associate Professional Organisations)	Baseline: April 2022– March 2023	<b>49.0%</b>							Compared to 49.8% NW and 51.5% Great Britain.
% planning decisions granted	Baseline: Q1 2020-21	<b>98%</b>	Q1 2022-23	<b>94%</b>	↓	Q1 2023-24	<b>88%</b>	↓	There could be various reasons for decline in performance here including the quality of the application received
Annual housing completions	Baseline: 2018/19	<b>391</b>	2021/22	<b>289</b>	↓	2022/23	<b>280</b>	↓	There is no RAG rating indicated here because whilst numbers are declining the performance would be determined by whether the completions were are planned.
Number of housing units completed in the borough which are affordable	Baseline: Q4 2018/19	<b>184</b>	Q4 2021/22	<b>145</b>	↓	Q4 2022/23	<b>80</b>	↓	
Total employee jobs in Bury	2019	<b>72000</b>	2020	<b>65000</b>	↓	2021	<b>69000</b>	↑	A relatively significant increase in 2021 but not returning to pre-pandemic levels.
Total business enterprises in Bury	2019	<b>8535</b>	2021	<b>7975</b>	↓	2022	<b>8060</b>	↑	A small increase in 2021 but not returning to pre-pandemic levels.

## Outcome Six: Delivering Carbon Neutrality by 2038

New data for this outcome shows little movement for Bury. There has been a 10% improvement in emissions per capita, reducing from 4.6 in 2018 to 4.2 in 2021, but this change now leaves Bury as the fourth highest emitter per capita in the Greater Manchester rankings. This latest data shows emissions have actually increased from 2020 to 2021, which is not surprising given the relaxing of lockdown conditions that occurred in 2021. The emissions are still lower than before the pandemic. Given the potential major impacts that climate change could have on the borough it remains an important priority to address this issue.

Greater Manchester has a 5-year Environmental Plan, which is a supporting strategy of the Greater Manchester Strategy. It outlines the Greater Manchester's approach to achieving carbon neutrality and Bury's own Climate Strategy and Action Plan are aligned closely with this. These documents set out a wide set of performance indicators which look at all the various areas of action that need to be taken. These indicators allow the identification of areas of strength and weakness so that the partnership can adjust our approach to ensure progress is made towards meeting the 2038 carbon neutral target.



Bury and neighbouring Greater Manchester local authorities are still working to address issues in meeting legal targets for the road transport pollutant nitrogen dioxide. Despite the disruption of the pandemic, car and freight travel has now returned to 95% pre-pandemic levels and therefore action still needs to be taken to clean up the air residents breathe but does not put jobs, livelihoods and businesses at risk.

The original proposals for a Greater Manchester-wide Clean Air Zone had to be reviewed in early 2022, following the impacts of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. Both the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester local authorities are currently liaising with the government to agree a workable plan to meet the nitrogen dioxide targets in the shortest time possible.

Progress has been made since Bury declared a climate emergency in 2019, but there is much more still to be done. Nearly half of the borough's emissions are produced by transport, a third from domestic gas and electricity use and the rest made up of commercial, industrial, waste management, agricultural and public sector use.

The Climate Action Board activity over the past year has included:

- Work with Electricity North West and GMCA to complete a Local Area Energy Plan.

- Six Town Housing were successful in bidding for the wave 1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund which is being targeted at the Chesham estate. Over a hundred properties have received energy efficiency improvements.
- A communications campaign called Bee Net Zero has been launched to engage with business on tackling carbon emissions.
- Your Home Better have secured an arrangement with Manchester Credit Union to help finance retrofitting measures.
- A Joint Commissioning Partnership with Registered Providers across the borough has been established to ensure carbon neutrality is centre of new Council homes.
- Climate Change e-learning course introduced for Bury Council employees
- Working with Six Town Housing to implement Greater Manchester's Landlords Combined Climate Strategy
- Local partnership working with TfGM to support the move to ULEV buses with £35.73 million secured to introduce 170 green buses to the region.
- Measures to increase cycling through the introduction of bike libraries across the Borough and Cyclops junction installed at Angouleme Way and Jubilee Way
- The Bury Catering Service achieved the prestigious Food for Life Served Here award
- In collaboration with City of Trees we have planted around 26,000 trees across the borough including links to Bury's now 14 Green Flag Parks
- Delivery of face-to-face energy efficiency and retrofit advice, advice on how to save money on energy bills and heating homes for less through funding secured from the North West Net Zero Hub via a GMCA bid to deliver a Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Pilot. In addition, the Council is working with 0800 repair via GMCA to obtain ECO4 funding for residents across the Borough for energy efficiency retrofit measures.



**What additional insight and activity support this outcome?**

- Financial – Business cases need to stack up
- Legislation – needs to support change but with financial backing
- Public transport infrastructure
- Consider dimming street lighting in side streets etc
- Need to look out what those that have seen improvement have done – is it more investment?

**What more could be done to collectively achieve the outcome?**

- Communication & education
- Manage messages
- Reuse
- Carbon footprint challenge
- Small changes that are manageable make a difference

## Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
	Period	Value	Period	Value	Trend	Period	Value	Trend	
% of council vehicles changed to lower emission versions	Dec 2020	<b>33%</b>	Dec 2021	<b>39%</b>	↑	Dec 2022	<b>45%</b>	↑	There have been supply issues, but we are moving closer to a lower emissions fleet, with more vehicles ordered and awaiting delivery. This includes 5 of the 15 fully electric vans ordered.
Total CO2 emissions resulting from council operations (tonnes of CO2 equivalent)	Baseline: Q4 2019-20	<b>15650</b>	Q4 2020-21	<b>13715</b>	↓	Q4 2021-22	<b>11007</b>	↓	We continue to see a decline in the Council's own emissions. Some of this can be attributed to a reduction in the Council's size and the continued academisation of schools, but we have made some progress to decarbonise our assets and the roll out of LED street lighting continues to contribute to reductions.
Total CO2 emissions produced within our borough (kilo tonnes Co2 Equivalent)	Baseline: 2019	<b>925.8</b>	2020	<b>834.7</b>	↓	2021	<b>878.1</b>	↑	The pandemic and the associated lockdowns understandably produced lower emissions. Once the lockdown conditions were relaxed, emissions have increased. However, they are still lower than pre-pandemic.
Number of air quality monitoring stations breaching nitrogen dioxide targets	Baseline: Q4 2019-20	<b>6</b>	Q4 2020-21	<b>0</b>	↓	Q4 2021-22	<b>1</b>	↑	The zero performance in 2020-21 is likely to be an impact of reduced travelling during the pandemic. Improvements have been realised since the baseline year.
% of street lighting converted to LED	Baseline: Q2 22/23	<b>59.52%</b>	Q4 22/23	<b>61.77%</b>	↑	Q1 23/24	<b>68.05%</b>	↑	Progress continues on our conversion of street lighting to LED, saving considerable carbon emissions and costs.
Number of EV Charge Points	Baseline: Q1 22/23	<b>23</b>	Q3 22/23	<b>26</b>	↑	Q1 23/24	<b>29</b>	↑	The Council procured a supplier earlier this year to install additional EV sites. We should therefore see a significant increase in charge points over the next couple of years.

## Outcome Seven: Improved Digital Connectivity

A new measure and data set has been chosen to support this outcome in order to align with the GM Strategy and provide more timely data refreshes to understand progress of LET'S. High quality digital access is key to unlocking many areas of inclusion and that digital poverty has an impact on educational attainment, employment prospects and social connectivity. Bury now has above-average coverage of superfast broadband, although there are rural areas with low speeds that still need to be sorted.

Data from the Bury Economic Strategy highlights that within the borough there are significant areas where digital infrastructure is poor with low download speeds (mostly in rural areas). However, there are also some areas of relative good performance. In terms of making use of this infrastructure, the Council has seen an uptake in digital skills courses within the provision for Adult Learning. In the last academic year we have had 426 enrolments in our adult learning services in some case leading to positive job outcomes for those individuals.

There are a number of determinants of digital poverty in itself and of the impact digital exclusion has on hardship including: affordability of devices and connectivity, capability to utilise technology through lack of access to skills, Lack of awareness of capability of online platforms, ie benefits available through having online access to retail, webchats with support organisations; awareness of support organisations, such as through the Bury Directory, Support into digital inclusion and cultural sensitivities and norms with regards to the use of technology.

Bury's communities experience different approaches to utilising digital services and online offers. Research has been commissioned to support a targeted approach to the delivery of training and access to support. Our local priorities around this include exploring linkages with the Digital Poverty Alliance, promotion of digital awareness, increase access to skills and confidence development around digital and explore further social enterprise opportunities.

Bury Adult Learning provide digital skills training from basics up to Level 2, including new programmes focus on cyber security and digital skills in the workplace. Short courses are offered in all libraries supported by digital buddies and volunteers. The service provides option of loaning tablets/laptops and access to data where this is not available in the home. Bury Adult Learning have had 569 enrolments in digital courses in 2022/2023.



# Wider Performance Indicators

Measure	Baseline		Previous			Current			Commentary
Digital start courses (Greater Manchester)	2019/20	<b>4875</b>	2020/21	<b>8266</b>		2021/22	<b>6348</b>	Awaiting local data in the Autumn	
% residents experiencing Digital Exclusion (Greater Manchester)	Jan 2023	<b>35.3%</b>	New survey data available currently only at a Greater Manchester level						
% disabled residents experiencing Digital Exclusion (Greater Manchester)	Jan 2023	<b>46.1%</b>							
% under 25s residents experiencing Digital Exclusion (Greater Manchester)	Jan 2023	<b>32.6%</b>							
% over 65s residents experiencing Digital Exclusion (Greater Manchester)	Jan 2023	<b>67.4%</b>							

## Summary

Latest performance against the seven key outcomes of the LET'S Strategy indicates a mixed position. It demonstrates the difficulties that a pandemic and consequent cost of living crisis have brought for our residents and the further impact on health inequalities and educational attainment.

Priorities for improvement in 2023/24 include:

- Support for our youngest residents through early their early years.
- A combined effort to further support and deliver the Carbon Neutrality strategy.
- Supporting all our residents with regards to Quality of Life , focused on reducing health inequalities in our most deprived wards.

An accompanying delivery plan is being monitored through the Team Bury Co-Ordination Group in order to focus partnership activity where these areas of improvement are most required to keep the borough on track for achieving the 2030 vision.

These targets are deliberately stretching however achieving all seven means that everyone in the borough will have the opportunity to share in the success of the LET'S Strategy. Key activities to achieve this include:

- Delivering on the actions set out in the Health Inequalities Strategy, particularly targeting support towards those most likely to be experience poor health and preventable diseases.
- Following through on the commitments made in the borough's Anti-Poverty Strategy, particularly to support low income families and those in receipt of free school meals.
- The launch of the All Age Skills Strategy to ensure that from cradle to grave residents of Bury have high aspirations and access to quality education and training to allow them to achieve their full potential.
- Finalising the People and Communities Plans for all Neighbourhoods to ensure the co-production of neighbourhood plans that link people and place, achieving inclusive economic growth.
- Utilising the new Transport Strategy and accelerated housing programme to target the two main causes of carbon emissions.
- Maximising the opportunities from the newly devolved powers within Greater Manchester to improve digital inclusion rates through high quality training and support.

Progress will be monitored through a quarterly dashboard shared with the Team Bury Partnership.