

Tameside Borough Strategy

2026-2030



Tameside Together

A great place for all.

Foreword

Message from Chair of the Tameside Together Partnership

Tameside is a borough with enormous strengths – its people, its communities and its ambitions for the future. Our Borough Strategy sets out our shared vision for the years ahead, developed in partnership and shaped by the voices of residents. It reflects the challenges we face, but also the opportunity we have to work together to create a fairer, healthier and more prosperous Tameside.

The strategy provides a clear direction for organisations to take a lead on delivery, and to work together for Tameside on shared priorities. It focuses on the long-term changes that will matter most to our communities and outlines how we will collaborate to improve outcomes for everyone who lives, works or visits here. Delivering this vision is not something any agency can do alone; it relies on strong partnerships, shared commitment and a collective determination to make a difference.

I am proud of what we have already achieved together, and I am confident that this strategy provides the foundation we need to build a brighter future for Tameside. I look forward to working with partners, residents and communities to turn these ambitions into reality.



Cllr Eleanor Wills
Executive Leader,
Tameside Council



Vision

Our Borough Strategy sets the ambition for the future of Tameside – it sets what we want to achieve together for our people, places and businesses. The Borough Strategy also lays the foundations for greater collaboration and joint working in Tameside – showing not just what we want to do but how we want to do it, and how we will work in partnership to deliver. Our collective vision for the borough is:

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Role of the Borough Strategy

The Tameside Borough Strategy is a commitment from stakeholders and organisations in the borough, including Tameside Council, health services, Greater Manchester Police, colleges, housing providers, the VCFSE sector and businesses, to transform Tameside together.

Informed by a clear understanding of the views and needs of Tameside residents, evidence and data, recognition of the local, regional and national policy framework, and stakeholder knowledge and insight, the strategy is intended to:

- Provide a shared framework for collaboration, ensuring that public services, businesses and voluntary and community organisations work together towards a common and agreed purpose.
- Identify and make best use of collective learning and resources in order to improve outcomes for people and communities.
- Empower us as a borough to meet the challenges we all face, including tackling deprivation and inequality, improving public health, protecting our shared environment, and delivering targeted and sustainable investment and regeneration.

Underpinned by robust outcome measures and a performance framework tracking progress; the Borough Strategy and associated work will enable us to deliver our vision for Tameside.

Context

Greater Manchester Strategy

The Tameside Borough Strategy is aligned with the Greater Manchester Strategy 2025-35, which calls for integrated workstreams across the city region to deliver the following objectives:

- Making Greater Manchester a great place to do business
- Creating a healthy, safe, warm place for everyone to call home
- Building strong communities where people feel safe on their streets
- Developing the Bee Network as a transport system for a global city region
- Creating a clear line of sight to high quality jobs
- Providing everyday support in every neighbourhood via Live Well centres and spaces
- Connecting people and places through digital technology

The priorities outlined within this Borough Strategy are designed to reflect and complement these objectives in a Tameside context.



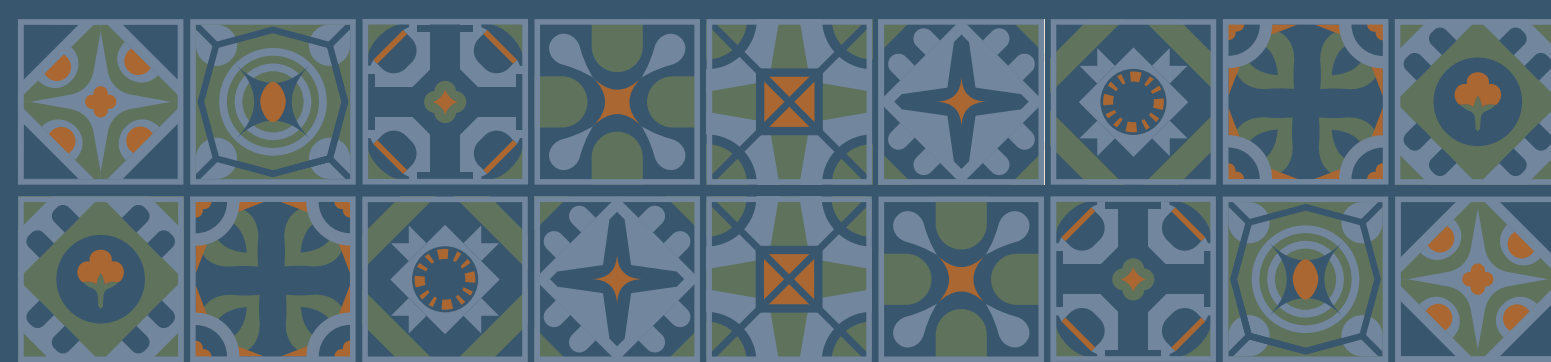
Reference has also been made in regard to public health and social care priorities in the "Putting Health at the Heart of Greater Manchester: Improving Health and Care in Greater Manchester 2023-28 Strategy".

This strategy sets out the following missions led by the GM Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), which have also been reflected wherever possible within this Borough Strategy:

- Strengthening Our Communities
- Helping People Get Into, and Stay In, Good Work
- Recovering Core NHS and Care Services
- Helping People Stay Well and Detecting Illnesses Earlier
- Supporting Our Workers and Our Carers
- Achieving Financial Sustainability



Tameside – Nine Towns, One Borough



Our towns

Tameside is made up of nine towns, each of which has a history and identity as unique and diverse as their residents.



Ashton-under-Lyne

A market town and former mill town on the north bank of the River Tame, Ashton contains several amenities including the Ashton Arcades and Ladysmith shopping centres, a regionally significant IKEA store, and popular cultural and leisure attractions such as Portland Basin Museum and Ashton Leisure Park. Recent developments include a new bus and tram interchange to solidify Ashton's role as a major transport hub, and the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone to drive investment in housing, businesses and green space.



Hyde

A market town and former mill town, Hyde is home to a range of attractions, including parks and green spaces such as Werneth Low Country Park and Hyde Park, and civic facilities such as Clarendon Square Shopping Centre, Hyde Festival Theatre, and Hyde Leisure Centre with its renowned swimming pool and wave machine. The town is also flanked by the Peak Forest Canal and nearby Ashton Canal, both of which offer scenic towpath walks and cycling routes. In recent years, significant improvement works and events have taken place in accordance with the new Hyde Town Centre Masterplan, supported by funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the government's High Street Task Force Accelerator Programme.



Dukinfield

Originally a major site for coal mining and cotton manufacturing, it is now a significant residential area due to its location in between Ashton and Stockport. At one point the Astley Deep Pit Mine, off King Street in the town, was reputed to be the deepest coal mine in the world at 700 metres. A former mining and mill town on the south bank of the River Tame, Dukinfield is home to Dukinfield Park and Dukinfield Town Hall, with plans to open up and develop the public realm space around the Town Hall.



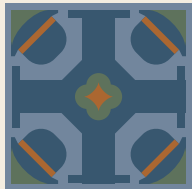
Audenshaw

Once a part of the Ashton parish, Audenshaw grew during the Industrial Revolution to become a town in its own right and a centre for coal mining and textile manufacturing. Prominent landmarks include Ryecroft Hall, a historic building gifted to the public in 1922 and now used for community purposes, and the Snipe Retail Park. The Audenshaw reservoirs, constructed in the late 1800s and now operated by United Utilities, are also a major piece of public infrastructure for Manchester as a whole. Recent investments in the town have seen the improvement of footways, crossing and cycle routes on Rayner Lane – connecting residential areas to the Ashton Moss Metrolink stop – and Guide Lane.



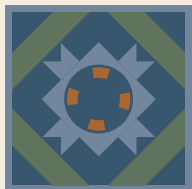
Stalybridge

A market town and former mill town in the foothills of the Pennines, straddling the River Tame. It features the attractive Armentieres Square, which the Huddersfield Narrow Canal runs through, and Stalybridge Civic Hall. Stalybridge is also home to Stamford Park, Cheetham Park and the site of Buckton Castle. The train station, renovated in the 2000s, is a major node on the TransPennine routes from Manchester to Liverpool, Hull and York. The town is currently undergoing a £20 million regeneration project to develop housing, transport links, and heritage assets, including a new River Tame bridge.



Denton

A former mining town, Denton rose to prominence during the Industrial Revolution for its part in the hatting and battery-making industries. The town contains major shopping and leisure hubs in the Crownpoint Shopping Centre and Tameside Wellness Centre respectively, and well-known local landmarks such as Denton Rock. Its proximity to the M60 and M67 also makes Denton a major motorway hub. The town has also recently received significant investment to build enhanced walking and cycling routes, and repair and redevelop key buildings such as Denton Town Hall and the Festival Hall.



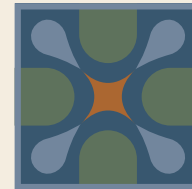
Droylsden

A former mill town on the Ashton Canal, Droylsden is home to a shopping centre, Guardsman Tony Downes House, which is the base for the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, and Droylsden Marina. Recent investment in housing and strong Metrolink and Bee Network links into Manchester and Ashton have made it an increasingly popular home for young families and professionals.



Mossley

Located in the Tame Valley and foothills of the Pennines, Mossley is renowned for its industrial heritage, canalside walks, and unique location straddling the borders of Lancashire, Cheshire and Yorkshire. Once a centre for wool and cotton manufacturing, the town is now known for its tight-knit community, local pubs and independent shops, as well as community assets such as the George Lawton Hall and The Vale arts centre.



Longdendale

The area of Longdendale gets its name from the valley, within which the villages of Broadbottom, Mottram, and Hollingworth are situated. The artist L.S Lowry came to live on Stalybridge Road in Mottram in 1948 and remained there until his death in 1976. Longdendale is also known for the "Longdendale Trail", a 6.5 mile route that runs along the former Woodhead railway track, its reservoirs that supply water to much of Greater Manchester, and the mysterious "Longdendale lights".

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Opportunities and Regeneration

Tameside's geographic position puts it in the heart of the Northern Powerhouse region, making us an ideal location for workers wanting to live within commutable distance of Manchester and Leeds, and for businesses looking for links and ease of access to markets and skills bases across the North.

The borough is also fully integrated into the motorway network, including the M60, and Bee Network and train links into Manchester, the Peak District and beyond. Tameside is set to become a national model for transport-led regeneration providing further improved connectivity and opportunities.

Tameside's nine towns each have a unique history and culture, and present diverse opportunities for growth, regeneration and building better communities.

Our ambition is to build on the strengths of each town to make them centres of economic and cultural development.



Some examples of how we're already working towards this include:

- Several of Tameside's towns have received money from the government's Levelling Up Fund to drive investment in town centre regeneration. This includes the development of walking, cycling and public realm improvements in Ashton, Stalybridge and Denton, and the restoration of cultural assets such as Stalybridge Civic Hall, Denton Festival Hall, and Ashton Market Square and Town Hall
- The establishment of the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone and Corporation, including the regeneration of Ashton town centre, the St. Petersfield Business Hub and the advanced manufacturing centre on Ashton Moss
- Godley Green is set to deliver around 2,150 new homes alongside community facilities, green spaces and local centres. One of the largest development sites in Greater Manchester, this innovative and exciting development aims to deliver a sustainable, accessible and attractive garden village
- Ashton and Hattersley have both been selected to receive up to £20 million in funding from the Pride in Place programme over the next decade. This national scheme aims to tailor funding to help local communities rebuild and revitalise their neighbourhoods
- The designation of Tameside as a "Heritage Place" by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, unlocking £10 million in funding to revitalise heritage, boost local pride and support regeneration

With this package of investments and improvements, and the potential for more still to come, we have an unprecedented and exciting opportunity to transform Tameside together, reshaping the borough into a place that we can all be proud to call home.





Our Shared Evidence Base

A strong evidence base underpins our Borough Strategy. It highlights Tameside's unique character, strengths, challenges, and what matters most to residents. This evidence has shaped our shared priorities and will guide future investment, delivery and activity to help us achieve our vision for the borough.

Strengths

- **Tameside has a strong community spirit** – Tameside’s nine towns give the borough a unique spirit and character, and many residents have highlighted the sense of community and connection with other people in their area as a source of strength and pride. The borough also has a strong and active Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector with 1,223 voluntary organisations and more than 37,000 volunteers, working in partnership at neighbourhood level to provide many of the services needed and valued by our residents
- **A green and open borough** – The borough of Tameside contains eight Local Nature Reserves, three Country Parks, 37 public parks, over 126 miles of rights of way and concessionary paths, and national and local trails like the Trans-Pennine Trail, Tameside Trail and Tame Valley Loop. As well as positively impacting the quality of life of our residents, it provides opportunity for the development of our visitor economy and is a vital asset in the fight against climate change
- **Easy access to Greater Manchester, the North and beyond** – Tameside has excellent regional and national transport connectivity, including easy access to the M60 and M67 motorway, and excellent local rail, tram and bus services. Tameside has also been prioritised in the expansion of the Bee Network to train lines, with routes from Manchester to Glossop and Stalybridge due to be completed by the end of the year
- **Tameside is a well-connected digital borough** – The majority of premises in Tameside have access to high-quality digital connections, and the dark fibre network installed by Cooperative Network Infrastructure is one of the best in the country. Leveraging this infrastructure will allow us to attract and support modern and high-tech businesses
- **Tameside is at the heart of the devolution revolution** – Tameside, as one tenth of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, is part of the most pioneering and devolved city region in England, providing opportunities for resourcing, flexibility and greater local control as part of a national exemplar. Our strong foundations and established ways of working for example, through NHS Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care and NHS Pennine Care Foundation Trusts, puts us in a strong position to reap the benefits from devolution in Greater Manchester

Challenges

- **Workers in Tameside are less qualified and earn less** – The number of jobs paying above the National Minimum Wage in Tameside needs to increase, and residents must be offered support to gain the skills and qualifications they need to take advantage of opportunities
- **Improving educational outcomes and wellbeing for our children and young people** – We must take steps to make sure our children and young people are given the tools to succeed in their futures. This does not just mean seeking improvements in terms of educational metrics like exam results and Good Level of Development, but also building on our strong work in prioritising their life satisfaction and general wellbeing
- **People in Tameside live shorter and less healthy lives** – Too many of our residents suffer from poor physical and mental health. Life expectancy is comparatively low and too many people die of preventable illnesses. There are also significant inequalities in health outcomes between different parts of the borough
- **Housing in Tameside is cheaper, older and less environmentally friendly** – A fifth of homes in the borough were built over a century ago, presenting challenges for energy efficiency, fuel poverty and connectivity to employment. Demand for social housing is outstripping supply with long waiting lists in place. Also most of our housing stock we do have is in the two lowest bands for Council Tax, impacting on the available funding base to deliver some public services
- **Residents in Tameside feel cut off from services and cultural/leisure activities** – Many residents feel like they are unable to participate in high-quality culture and leisure activities. A number have also said that they experience some form of digital exclusion, and that they are not comfortable using digital services online
- **Residents in Tameside feel unsafe despite relatively low crime rates** – Crime rates in Tameside, including neighbourhood crime, victim-based crime and violent crime, are generally lower than other parts of Greater Manchester. However, many residents still say they do not feel safe in their local area or that people do not look out for each other

What Our Residents Are Telling Us

Our Borough Strategy is responsive to what matters to our residents. The voice of our citizens has shaped our shared priorities for delivery.

Residents feel most proud of:

- A strong sense of community and positive connections with neighbours
- Good access to parks and green spaces
- Rich community life, including cultural events and an active VCFSE sector
- Local heritage, such as historical buildings, local history, and notable figures

How residents want their borough and towns to improve:

- Stronger community safety and policing
- Better-quality local economy and high-street offer
- Better support for community life
- More provision for young people
- Cleaner, better-maintained public spaces
- Investment in transport, roads and footpaths
- Better communication and services from the council



Our Shared Priorities

People, place, prosperity

Our Shared Priorities			
The difference this will make...	People	Place	Prosperity
	Proud to live in supportive, safe and clean neighbourhoods	Clean, safe, well maintained and accessible public places and spaces	Attracting investment and delivering developments across the borough
	Residents can access good employment opportunities, in a growing economy	Modern, accessible and affordable transport of all types, connecting all parts of the borough and beyond	A growing economy, supported businesses and attracting new enterprises
	The support, information and opportunities that all our people need to live longer and in better health	A comprehensive housing offer meeting the needs of all our residents	Offering high-quality jobs for the economy of the future
	Support available to all who need it through high-quality public services delivered in partnership with communities	A shared approach to protecting our environment, enhancing our parks and green spaces and responding to climate challenges	Residents with the skills to succeed, with a good education and development opportunities for all ages
	Communities have the support to build connections and help one another	Celebrating and strengthening the unique heritage and civic pride of all our towns	Using digital technology to improve accessibility and quality of services, while ensuring no one is left behind



Our Success Measures

The success measures play a central role in understanding whether the Borough Strategy is delivering the long term improvements that we want to see for people and places across the borough. They provide a shared, system-wide way of assessing progress against the strategy’s collective ambitions.

People
Life expectancy and closing the gap with the national average
Percentage of Children and Young people aged 0-17 receiving first assessment within 12 weeks of mental health referral
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes
Referral to treatment waiting times (elective) - % waiting within 18 weeks
Number of A&E attendances per 1,000 residents and % waiting less than 4 hours from arrival
90% of clinically urgent patients to be seen on the same day
NHS Talking Therapies - % reliable improvement rate
Percentage of people who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live
Percentage of people who agree adults in their communities can be trusted
Percentage of young people aged 16-17 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
Proportion of households receiving council tax support

Place
Percentage of rental housing deemed decent (social and private rented)
Percentage of homes rated energy performance certificate (EPC) C and above
Percentage of new dwellings which are social or affordable homes
Percentage of households with access to green or blue space within a 15 minute walk
Percentage of people who are satisfied with community/cultural facilities in their local area
Crime rate per 1,000 residents
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) rate per 1,000 residents
Connectivity score for public transport to key services



Prosperity
Business density
Percentage survival rate of newly born enterprises in the first year
Percentage of people in employment in skilled occupations
Gross value added per hour worked (productivity)
Gross value added per head
Percentage of 18 to 24-year-olds in full-time education or employment
Employment rate for 16 to 64-year-olds
Gross disposable household income
Improving educational attainment at KS2 and KS4 and reducing the gap between different cohorts
Percentage of area with outdoor 5G coverage from at least one provider

Our Partnership Governance, Oversight and Delivery

The Tameside Borough Strategy is a shared document and approach, developed in partnership by a number of public, private and voluntary organisations with a stake in Tameside’s success.

Responsibility for the oversight of delivery of the Tameside Borough Strategy will fall to the newly established Tameside Together Partnership.

Formed from key partners from across sectors, the Partnership will oversee the delivery of activity contributing to the attainment of the strategy’s shared priorities. The Partnership will track progress of the outcome success measures, provide updates on contributory delivery activities and will facilitate joint working across agencies, to deliver better outcomes for our residents.

Annual Position Statement for the Borough Strategy performance reports will be produced and published, providing visibility of progress and accountability to our residents.



Community Forums

Feedback from residents, communities and other stakeholders will also be facilitated through the establishment of our new Community Forums.

These replace the current Strategic Neighbourhood Forums to drive meaningful engagement and partnership in all parts of Tameside through in-person meetings, bespoke agendas and a single council director for each area to act as a point of contact.



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Tameside Borough Strategy 2026 - 2030

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