

Council Plan

2026-2030



Introduction

From the stunning Pennine landscapes to the historic mills and canals that powered the Industrial Revolution, Tameside is rich in heritage and infrastructure. We're home to more than 300 listed buildings, three ancient monuments, and traditions like the world-famous Whit Friday Brass Band contests that bring communities together year after year.

Our Council Plan 2026–2030 sets out the vital role we play at the heart of Tameside—connecting people and places, supporting prosperity, and driving forward the transformation of the borough. It describes our medium-term ambitions and how we will achieve them through the delivery of efficient, effective and high-quality services.

The plan is shaped by the priorities established in the Borough Strategy and is underpinned by a suite of key strategies and delivery documents that guide how we will turn these ambitions into reality.

Vision for Tameside

Our Borough Strategy provides a shared strategic framework and the collective ambition for the Borough, developed through collaboration with our communities. The Borough Strategy unites public services, voluntary and community organisations, businesses and residents to work together to improve outcomes for everyone.

Our shared vision is:

Tameside Together

A great place for all



Priorities

The priorities identified through the Borough Strategy are our driving force to create lasting change across our nine towns, and one unique Borough.

People

Tameside is renowned for its friendly, innovative, and hardworking residents. Our priority is to provide support to all who need it, delivering access to employment opportunities in a growing economy and enabling our residents to live longer in better health. We will equip our residents with a good education, with the skills to succeed, and with development opportunities for all ages. Our improving Children's Services, renowned Adults Services and award-winning Cultural Services form the basis of creating a great place for all.

Place

Tameside is blessed with a rich heritage in its architecture and infrastructure and its picturesque setting on the edge of the Peak District. With excellent transport links and in close proximity to Manchester, it's a place of busy industry and scenic countryside. Our priority is to provide clean, safe, well-maintained and accessible public places and spaces and to protect the environment. We're committed to delivering modern, accessible and affordable active travel, connecting all parts of the borough and beyond, and a comprehensive housing offer that meets the needs of all our residents. We're also dedicated to providing high quality public services delivered in partnership with communities. Through our Growth team securing funding and driving investment in our town centres, our teams protecting the environment and countryside, plus our expanding cultural offer, we're transforming Tameside together.

Prosperity

Tameside is inspired by its thriving industrial past, being the home of pioneering and creative businesses that drive our local economy. Our priority is to attract investment and deliver development opportunities across the borough in order to secure high-quality jobs for everyone's future economic prosperity, while protecting our heritage and town centre identities. We will support our businesses and appeal to new enterprises to grow our economy, as well as offering state-of-the-art digital infrastructure and services. Our Growth and Employment and Skills teams are creating the conditions to transform Tameside into a place where everyone can prosper.

Our Successes and Continuing Transformation Journey

As we continue on our transformation and improvement journey, we are now seeing real successes and progress in the way we operate and deliver as an organisation, with visible and tangible impacts and benefits being seen and felt in our towns and communities.

Through substantial investment, regeneration attracting new and innovative businesses, and transformed services and facilities, Tameside is being redefined as a great place to live, work and visit – with its growth set to accelerate over the next four years. Plans to regenerate our town centres will come to fruition during this plan period, creating hubs of innovation and opportunity for thriving businesses and residents, and accelerating growth. Our leading role in coordination, delivery and attracting further investment will underpin this future growth and success of our Borough.

We will continue our organisational journey, modernising the way we design and deliver our operations, with the ambition of delivering timely, efficient and effective services in everything we do. The further development of our corporate transformation programme will further drive key developments and deliver financial savings, at pace and scale.



Some of our recent successes and achievements have included:

People

- Achieved a **500% increase in children's attendance at Family Hubs** within two years of opening, enabling many more families to benefit from free support.
- Advanced plans to improve support for children with **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**, including a **£1.5m investment** to create **133 additional school places** (ages 5–16).
- **Modernised services** through transformation plans **delivering state-of-the-art digital solutions** that are efficient, cost-effective and easy to use, while retaining essential face-to-face support.
- Developed and commissioned a **new Community Navigation Service**, due to commence in 2026/27.
- Ensured **all children's homes are rated 'Good'** and progressed delivery of **two new homes** to meet the needs of Tameside's children.
- **Opened Birch Lea Park** in Hattersley, a Housing with Care scheme providing 91 high-quality apartments with on-site services for residents aged 55+ to live independently.
- **Hosted the Big Chat** at Tameside Wellness Centre, bringing together **130+ adults with learning disabilities** and/or autism, their families and carers, connecting them with 25+ services.
- Achieved ongoing **reductions in smoking in pregnancy rates** to 5.7%, now having all-time low rates and lower than the national average
- **Roll-out of a new supervised toothbrushing service** to all primary schools to increase early oral health education among young children.



Place

- **Secured £40m Government funding** to continue the revitalisation of Ashton and Hattersley through the Pride in Place programme.
- **Successfully implemented Ridgehill Together Community Interest Company**, part of the Ageing in Place and Live Well programme, delivered with Public Health and Jigsaw.
- Enabled more than **218 arrests** in 2025 through intelligence provided by the Council's CCTV team — over four times greater than 2024.
- Achieved the **highest fly tipping enforcement performance** of any council in the North West (second highest overall waste enforcement), **issuing 296 fines** and reducing incidents.
- **Expanded the borough's cultural offer** with award-winning theatre productions, Stalybridge Street Fest, and Mossley Farmers' Market (award-winning in its first season).
- **Delivered the Eco Streets pilot**, transforming the alleyway between Egerton Street and Raynham Street in Ashton, with further locations considered.
- Prepared and consulted on the **Local Plan – Homes, Spaces and Places**, shaping future housing, jobs, transport, environment, heritage and community facilities; responses now being reviewed ahead of final adoption.



Prosperity

- Launched Train Tameside 500, **creating 50 Council apprenticeships each year** to support residents into thriving careers.
- Unlocked Council-owned land to deliver up to **485 new social and affordable homes**, catalysing construction jobs, supply chain activity, and long-term economic stability.
- Supported the **Tameside Means Business Annual Net Zero Festival**, helping local businesses access fully funded offers and peer support towards GM's 2038 carbon neutral target.
- Hosted the **Think Green Tameside Climate Action Conference** at Victoria Market Hall, convening 100+ stakeholders to shape the borough's sustainability journey.
- Selected as a Heritage Lottery "Heritage Place" and **secured £40m Pride in Place funding** — both position the borough for sustained investment, footfall, and visitor economy growth.
- **Expanded the cultural offer** (award-winning theatre, Stalybridge Street Fest, Mossley Farmers' Market) boosting local spend, high street vibrancy, and reputation.
- **Local Plan – Homes, Spaces and Places** progress supports jobs and investment by giving certainty to developers and employers.



Our Services and Delivery Priorities by 2030

Adult Services

Providing support for people with social care needs and meet a range of statutory duties under the Care Act 2014. From reablement and occupational therapy teams to the Urgent Care team, support is provided to people in supported housing and residential care, as well as those living in their own homes—whether alone or with family or friends. The service assesses and supports the social care needs of people who are homeless and asylum seekers and delivers a range of in-house services.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Working in neighbourhoods to support residents to live well in Tameside
- Strengthening opportunities to support young people to prepare for a successful adulthood.
- Ongoing assurance of quality and any required improvements.
- Work with VCFSE to ensure ongoing community involvement and engagement



Children's Services

Providing support to children and their families to give them the best start in life and build the foundations for a happy, healthy and fulfilling future. The service covers everything from running Early Help sessions, Family Hubs, and support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) to Tameside Youth Service and Youth Justice. Children's Services also provides Employment and Skills provision including a post 16 strategy and delivery, apprenticeships, a Routes to Work service and support in employment.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Designed and implementing Families First reforms
- Fully embedded new strategies and family group conferencing service model
- Provide more Children's Homes places and ensure more of our Children remain in Borough
- Have a successful full reinspection showing consistent and embedded improvement across Children's and SEND services
- Delivering Virtual School efficiently and effectively
- Delivering targeted employment support programmes, including to young people not in employment, education or training



Public Health

Work in Public Health is delivered to prevent illness, tackle health inequalities, protect health and improve the lives of our residents and communities. The service provides a range of health improvement, prevention and protection services, from universal health visiting and school nursing services for children, to support for those who need more help such as drug & alcohol and domestic abuse services. There are also targeted services to protect and improve people's health including smoking cessation, health checks, sexual health services and infection control programmes.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Deliver the Live Well vision for Tameside to ensure more preventative, consistent, everyday support is available in shared Live Well centres and spaces, close to people's homes in neighbourhoods across the borough. This will be community-led and with sustainable capacity for the wider VCFSE sector.
- Lead the public leisure offer with a focus on high-quality sustainable leisure provision across Tameside, and a robust offer in our communities to support people to be more active and tackle inequalities.
- Increase the reach and effectiveness of mandated and core public health services to better address needs at an early stage and ensure provision is targeted. This includes 0-19 services; sexual health; substance misuse; domestic abuse; falls prevention; Community Navigation & VCFSE infrastructure.
- Improve the range of support available to improve mental wellbeing in Tameside, to address needs at an early stage, particularly for young people.

Housing, Environment and Estates

The service covers a wide range of responsibilities from the most visible and well-known, such as waste collection and street cleaning, to less recognised tasks such as tackling contaminated land. The directorate cares for our countryside and green spaces, our cultural attractions such as libraries, museums and theatre events, and manages our Community Safety and Emergency Response. In addition, the service promotes economic growth and regeneration, attracting investment and business growth into the borough, and are responsible for Strategic Property, Facilities Management and Homelessness.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Deliver a refreshed Housing Strategy and action plan which will increase housing supply, bring homes back into use and address homelessness
- Deliver a new Climate Change and Environment Strategy and action plan which will promote and drive a greener Tameside
- Implement a Highways Asset Management Plan which will improve and future proof infrastructure to support growth
- Develop an Asset Management Plan for the Borough which maximises the opportunities for our buildings and town centres
- Implement a cultural strategy and programme of events which drives footfall and supports economic growth in our town centres
- Implement the delivery plan to improve and modernise the delivery of frontline services across the borough.



Strategic Growth

Delivering activity to drive forward and guide investment and development within the Borough. The service is responsible for delivering our largest and most strategic development projects, whilst supporting local businesses to grow. Strategic Growth service also includes the Planning Department and Strategic Transport.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- New residents enjoying life at Godley Green Garden Village
- Homes Spaces Places adopted
- Ashton Salybridge MDC established to drive transport led regeneration, with significant progress on the interchange business case, plus:
 - » Advanced manufacturing premises delivered at Ashton Moss
 - » New homes delivered in Ashton town centre and Salybridge
 - » New leisure offer delivered in Ashton
 - » Ashton Town Hall refurbished
 - » Ashton Market Square completed
 - » Salybridge Cultural Quarter delivered
 - » Stockport-Denton- Guide Bridge- Ashton Tram Train business case and funding secured
- Destination Denton programme completed
- Ashton and Hattersley Pride in Place programmes underway
- Lock Keepers site in Droylsden redeveloped
- Former Hyde Library site redeveloped
- GM Spatial Development Strategy adopted



Finance

Supporting all our services through robust financial management, collecting income, and delivering audit and assurance functions, while also supporting residents facing financial hardship.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Achieve an annual balanced budget aligned to a comprehensive medium term financial strategy and with rebuilt reserves.
- Implement a Capital Growth and Investment strategy which supports the regeneration of the Borough and delivers long term financial sustainability
- Deliver modernised and digitally enabled financial management and monitoring systems, including integration with performance and risk management reporting
- By 2030, at least 90% of Council Tax and Business Rates interactions will be completed through intuitive, automated digital journeys
- A single, joined up front door service providing financial support across Revenues, Benefits, Welfare, Housing and external partners, using data, automation, and streamlined verification to deliver faster, more accurate decisions for our residents

Corporate Services

Providing core corporate functions to the Council, including digital and IT infrastructure, people and workforce development, business support, policy, transformation and performance, and communications. The service leads, shapes and enables all aspects of service delivery.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Deliver modernised, efficient and effective enabling services, contributing to the achievement of Borough and organisational priorities, providing impactful support and service in a timely manner
- Maintain oversight and performance monitoring of key Borough and corporate plans and strategies
- Deliver an impactful corporate transformation programme, leading the organisation's modernisation and improvement journey, providing technological and digital solutions and achieving efficiency across the organisation supporting the financial sustainability of the Council
- Deliver a timely, responsive and proactive communications function to our staff, councillors, residents, stakeholders and beyond



Legal and Democratic Services

Supporting the legal operation of the Council and managing democratic processes including elections and the administration of Council committees.

Delivery priorities by 2030:

- Delivery of a fair and unchallenged elections
- Democratic Services structure review and implementation to achieve a settled resourced team that meets the requirements of the Council
- Bring in a balanced budget for service
- Legal Services structure review and implementation to achieve a settled resourced team that meets the requirements of the Council
- Ongoing support to children's Improvement Plan in response to Ofsted inspection to enable it to reach and maintain an improved position



Monitoring and Oversight

Delivery of this multi-year Council Plan will be supported by annual Directorate Business Plans, which set out the key milestones and performance indicators that track progress throughout the year.

Performance against the Council Plan will be reported through an annual “Year in Review,” assessing progress against our key success measures and highlighting the activity that has taken place, the impact achieved, and the difference this has made for residents and communities.

We are committed to transparency, and regular performance updates on our major projects and key indicators will be publicly shared so residents can clearly see how we are progressing. Ongoing monitoring of our objectives—through our Success Measures and a wider suite of Key Performance Indicators—will help us identify where we are on track and where further focus may be needed. This information will empower the public, our partners, Scrutiny Panels and Members to challenge performance constructively and support continuous improvement.

Alongside the annual monitoring of the Council Plan, the Borough Strategy’s partnership-led reporting arrangements will provide an additional layer of oversight. This will include opportunities to produce a broader annual assessment, drawing on contributions from partners across the system to demonstrate progress toward shared long-term priorities and outcomes.



Our Success Measures

The success measures selected are the core indicators we will use to demonstrate whether the Corporate Plan is achieving positive outcomes for our residents, communities and the organisation, and will form the basis of the annual “Year in Review” reporting.

People
Life expectancy and closing the gap with the national average
Under 75 mortality rate from all causes
Number of people helped to claim they're benefits entitled to through Welfare Rights
Number of people aged 16+ helped through Employment & Skills
Number of households with children in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households
Number of open cared for children cases per 10,000
Percentage of adults receiving adult social care in community-based services/at home
Place
Number of vacant dwellings brought back into use
Net number of new homes (including affordable and social housing)
Air Pollution: Concentration of small particulate matter per cubic metre of air (population-weighted annual mean PM2.5 $\mu\text{g}\text{m}^{-3}$)
Capital investment in public realm
Number of fly tipping enforcement actions taken
Percentage of adults who engaged in active travel at least twice in the last 28 days
Prosperity
Number of high growth enterprises per 100 enterprises
Job density
Percentage of children living in low-income households
Gross square metres of commercial floor space delivered for employment
Brownfield land developed
Number of apprenticeships delivered against a target of 50
Percentage of children with a good level of development at the early years foundation stage (school readiness)
Number of self-service payment transactions through the Tameside Council website

