

Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan

Referendum Information Statement

A Referendum relating to the Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan will be held on Thursday 6th May 2021.

The question which will be asked in the Referendum is:

“Do you want Bolton Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for the Blackrod area to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”

The Referendum area is identified on the map in Appendix A. The Referendum area is identical to the area which has been designated as the Blackrod Neighbourhood area.

Who is entitled to vote?

A person is entitled to vote in the Referendum if on Thursday 6th May 2021:

- he or she is entitled to vote in a local government election in the Referendum area (is registered to vote and is 18 years of age or over on Thursday 6th May 2021); and
- his or her qualifying address for the election is in the Referendum area. A person's qualifying address is, in relation to a person registered in the register of electors, the address in respect of which he or she is entitled to be registered.

You have to be registered to vote by Monday 19th April 2021 in order to vote in the referendum.

You can check if you are registered to vote by calling 01204 331248 / 338784 / 333843.

If you are not on the electoral register, you will need to go online to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and complete an online application form.

Remember..... If you're not registered, you won't be able to vote.

How to vote

There are three ways of voting:

In person:

- Most people vote in person at their local polling station. It is easy and a member of staff will always help if you are not sure what to do.
- You will receive a poll card telling you where your polling station is.
- Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 6th May 2021.

If you do not receive your poll card, you can contact Elections Office on 01204 331248 / 338784 / 333843 to find out where your polling station is.

By post:

- To vote by post, fill in an application form and send it to Elections Office, 2nd Floor, Howell Croft North, Bolton BL1 1QY to arrive by **5pm on Tuesday 20th April 2021**. Scanned applications can also be e-mailed to elections@bolton.gov.uk
- Ballot papers can be sent overseas, but you need to think about whether you will have time to receive and return your ballot papers by **10pm on 6th May 2021**
- You should receive your postal vote about a week before polling day. If it doesn't arrive in time, you can get a replacement up to **5pm on 6th May 2021**

By proxy:

If you can't go to the polling station and don't wish to vote by post, you may be able to vote by proxy. This means allowing somebody you trust to vote on your behalf. Proxy vote application forms are available from Elections Office on 01204 331248 / 338784 / 333843 and must be returned by **5pm on Tuesday 27th April 2021**.

Referendum expenses

The Referendum expenses limit that will apply in relation to the Referendum is £2617.88 The number of persons entitled to vote in the Referendum by reference to which that limit has been calculated is 4337.

The Referendum will be conducted in accordance with procedures which are similar to those used at local government elections.

Specified documents

The specified documents are:

- The Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan;
- Report of the independent examiner;
- Summary of the representations submitted to the independent examiner;
- Statement by the local planning authority that the draft plan meets the basic conditions and complies with the relevant legislation;
- A statement that sets out general information about town and country planning including neighbourhood planning and the referendum.

A copy of the specified documents, that is those documents listed above, may be inspected at:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/planning-policy-strategy/neighbourhood-planning/1>

Paper copies are available to view at:

- Bolton Central Library, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE
- Blackrod Library, Church Street, Blackrod, Bolton. BL6 5EQ

If you have difficulty accessing these documents please phone (01204) 336109 to discuss alternative arrangements.

Appendix A: The Referendum Area (Blackrod Neighbourhood Plan)

