

# our **Bolton**

Issue 9 December 2021

**Christmas**  
*in Bolton*

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**Looking**  
**to 2022**

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**Climate**  
**goals on**  
**track**

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# Bolton Christmas Festival

**There's lots of Festive fun for all the family  
at this year's Christmas celebrations**

A traditional Christmas market, Santa's Studio and Bar and live music stage will help visitors of all ages get into the seasonal spirit this December.

The official countdown to Christmas begins on Friday 3rd December as Christmas lights across the borough are switched on. Each weekend, look out for our Advent Trail, fairground attractions along with Games and Craft Zones in the town centre featuring magic shows, arts and crafts, arcade games and more.

#### **Festive Bar and Stage 11th – 24th December**

Food and drink, in the Festive Bar on Victoria Square from 11th December.

The heated space will feature a live music stage with over 43 local artists along with local school choirs performing to shoppers. Check the website for all timings.

#### **Santa's Studio 11th, 12th, 18th-24th December**

Children can visit a real TV studio, meet Santa's helpers and chat with the man himself via a live link

to the North Pole. Each child will receive an early Christmas gift and the video can be downloaded afterwards. Tickets start at just £5 per child. Pre-booking is essential.

#### **Christmas Market 16th – 19th December**

For a chance to buy some last-minute Christmas gifts don't forget to visit our traditional Christmas Market – we'll have over 50 traders in the town centre for four days.

#### **Winter Owls 18th December**

If you saw the fantastic Night Owls in September, you'll love our specially commissioned light projection. With stunning winter scenes, the Night Owls come home to roost for Christmas on the Town Hall – this will be a real must-see event.



For all the latest news and information  
[www.boltonchristmasfestival.co.uk](http://www.boltonchristmasfestival.co.uk)

**Bolton  
Council**



# Health leaders take up job offer

↑ Bolton's Director of Public Health, Dr Helen Lowey having her flu jab

Health leaders are urging us all to roll up our sleeves and get our annual flu jab.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, Cllr Susan Baines and Bolton's Director of Public Health, Dr Helen Lowey each received their flu vaccinations in early November.

Flu is a serious illness that kills thousands of people in the UK each year and places immense pressure on our health services.

COVID-19 and flu will be circulating at the same time this winter so it's more important than ever that we get vaccinated against both to protect ourselves, protect vulnerable people in the community and ease the strain on the NHS.

A flu vaccination dramatically reduces your chances of getting flu and spreading it to others.

Among those who are most at risk from flu are the over-50's, pregnant women, children and people with existing health conditions such as diabetes or COPD.

They are entitled to get a free flu

vaccination along with carers and health and care workers.

Anyone who is not eligible for a free jab can still get vaccinated at their local pharmacy for around £10 to £15.

Cllr Baines said: "Flu is a nasty, debilitating illness than can put vulnerable residents at serious risk.

"Getting a flu jab is a quick and easy way to protect yourself and those around you.

"If you've not had your flu jab yet please do your part to help keep Bolton safe and healthy this winter."

Dr Lowey said: "COVID-19 has not gone away and the virus is more likely to spread during the winter months.

"With both COVID and flu circulating at the same time this winter, there is a real risk that residents could be infected with both.

"A good way to avoid that happening is to make sure as many people as possible are protected."

*"Flu is a nasty, debilitating illness than can put vulnerable residents at serious risk.*

*Getting a flu jab is a quick and easy way to protect yourself and those around you."*

- Cllr Susan Baines, Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing

## Message from the Leader of the Council



**Cllr Martyn Cox, Leader of Bolton Council**

The last 18 months have been tumultuous for Bolton as the worldwide pandemic has had a profound effect on our lives. Our health services have been put under immense pressure and businesses across the borough have had to rethink how they keep up with ever changing resources. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel, the vaccines are to keep COVID - 19 at bay and some sort of normality is returning to our lives.

We ask all residents to keep vigilant and whilst we have COVID on the ropes, it still has the potential to mutate and return, especially as we go into the winter months, we need to do all that we practically can to stop the spread of the virus.

The pandemic has done much to halt our regeneration plans but we have been busy getting them back on track. The new year will see starts on numerous sites within the town centre which will begin to see the renewal of our town, something we know you want to see.

So, our message is keep yourselves and your loved ones safe this winter. There is a lot to look forward to in 2022, starting with the Christmas Festival coming to Bolton for the first time, kicking off what will be a very exciting time of year.

Free holiday activities  
and food sessions

# Winter fun

Get active! Get involved!

Join #TeamBolton for a variety  
of activities this Winter!

Have yourself a Merry Christmas. Thousands of families will be supported this Christmas through Bolton Council's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

The scheme provides nutritious meals and rewarding activities during the school holidays, helping families who might otherwise struggle with the extra cost of food and childcare.

It offers a wide range of activities and is delivered with the support of a

network of charities and volunteer groups.

Over the summer holidays, 9,000 individual children accessed HAF services and enjoyed activities including skating, crafts and even cooking lessons with chefs at Bolton Food and Drink Festival.

Bolton's HAF programme has received excellent feedback from parents and was praised by the Department for Education on the way the scheme has been delivered.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cllr Anne Galloway, said:

"This can be a very

expensive time of year and we are delighted to once again work with our partners in the community sector to give families some extra support.

"As well as a nutritious meal, children have the chance to build confidence by learning skills and making new friends.

"I have seen first-hand the positive impact that the HAF programme has made, and I am sure the team will deliver more of the same over the Christmas holidays.

"I urge families to visit the website and find out more about the opportunities on offer."

For more information

about the programme over the Christmas holidays visit [www.bolton.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/HAF).

Sessions run for four days a week and are open to everyone, with priority given to those children on free school meals.

Just for Christmas, the offer will also include family cooking demos and meals, trips to the panto and activity packs.

The scheme has been funded with £1,487,820 from the government's Holiday Activities and Food Programme and used over the Easter, Summer and Christmas breaks in 2021.



Find out what's  
on and book at...  
[www.bolton.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/HAF)



# HEY BOLTON, WE ARE BACK!

**OCTAGON  
THEATRE**

After 3 years away we are back open in our newly redeveloped town centre building and we have lots of exciting events coming up for you!

Come down and see a show or have a drink and a meal in our new Kitchen & Bar - we can't wait to welcome you!

A vibrant, fantastical illustration for the Peter Pan musical. The title 'PETER PAN' is written in large, white, block letters with a blue shadow effect, set against a dark blue, starry night sky. Various elements are scattered around the title: a golden alarm clock, a green bottle, a pirate ship, a parrot, a palm tree, a red rose, a white bird, a window with a view of a city, a red horn, a pair of legs in blue sneakers, and a yellow circular badge that says 'PERFECT FOR ALL THE FAMILY!'.

Fri 26 Nov 2021 – Sun 9 Jan 2022

**TICKETS FROM £15, SELLING FAST – BOOK TODAY!**

## COMING UP IN 2022



**NEW SEASON NOW ON SALE!**

[octagonbolton.co.uk](http://octagonbolton.co.uk)

**Box Office: 01204 520661**

**Address:** Octagon Theatre, Howell Croft South, Bolton, BL1 1SB

Smithill's Hall, Bolton



.....*Countdown to*.....  
**CHRISTMAS**

Festive fun for all the family at Smithills Hall and Bolton's Museum

**Central Library and Museum**

Escape from the Museum

**Friday 3 Dec**  
**6.30-8.30pm**  
**£7.50 per person**

A naughty elf has put a magic spell on the Museum, locking all the doors and stopping our visitors from going home. Can you solve the puzzles, find the key, save Christmas and perhaps even meet Santa himself?

**Smithills Hall**

The Father Christmas Experience

**Sat 4, Sun 5, Sun 12, Sun 19 Dec**  
**12.15-1.45pm and 2.15-3.45pm**  
**£15 per child**

Visit our elf workshop and take part in some Christmas Crafts with our elves. You'll take part in a special story session, find out if you are on the nice list and learn your 'elf name.' You can write and post your letter to Father Christmas, meet him in his grotto, get a family photo to take home and a gift from Father Christmas.

**Smithills Hall**

A Christmas Carol

**Friday 10 December 7pm**  
**£10 per ticket**

**Sat 11, Sun 12 Dec**  
**5pm and 7.15pm**  
**£10 per ticket**

Join us for this exclusive production of a Christmas Carol from "A Place For Us". This beautiful performance takes place in the atmospheric setting of the Great Hall with an audience of just 50. Mulled wine and mince pies included.



**For all events, please visit our Eventbrite page for booking information**  
**[www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk)**



# DO SOMETHING GREAT

Fostering is a really rewarding role which makes a massive difference to children and young people. It literally changes lives.

It takes a special person to become a foster carer – and with the right support and training, we can support every child who needs help.

If you are thinking about becoming a foster carer, then Bolton's Fostering Team is on hand to support you every step of the way. We can provide answers to those initial burning questions, giving you the best advice about what it takes to care for children as well as support you through the assessment process and beyond.

## Why foster with your council?

Here are several good reasons why fostering with your local council is the best choice.

- Fostering for your local council enables a child or children to remain in familiar surroundings, giving them stability when they are at their most vulnerable, for example, allowing them to attend their normal school.
- You're unlikely to have an empty bed for long as Bolton Council is a not-for-profit organisation and local authorities place children with their 'in house' foster carers first.
- You'll receive a regular competitive allowance, as well as other payments, to meet the child's needs.
- You'll have your own dedicated personal supervising social worker who will visit regularly and, if you need us, there is an on-duty team in the office, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- There's a full, training programme that continues long after you are approved, so you are always learning new skills.
- You'll be linked with an experienced buddy foster carer and invited to attend

regular support groups for carers and their children.

Social workers and others dedicated to the care of our looked after children all work for the council or our partner organisations. They follow the same policies and work

in the best interests of our children which helps to make things run smoother and easier.

**Together we can provide the best outcomes for our foster children**

## Recruiting now...

**There is no set time to apply to become a foster carer. We encourage and welcome applications all year round.**

When you feel the time is right and you meet the essential criteria, why not get in touch?

If you feel a role caring for children and young people is important, you're aged 21 or over and have a spare room, then you've already ticked three of the essential boxes required to be a foster carer.

If you want to apply as a couple, you need to have been together for two years but you are welcome to apply as a single person as well.

For more information about becoming a foster carer visit [www.bolton.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/fostering) email [fostering@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:fostering@bolton.gov.uk) or call **0800 107 1564**

**Foster with Bolton**



# Bolton Food & Drink Festival

returns August Bank Holiday 2022

See you there for the big weekend!

[www.boltonfoodanddrinkfestival.com](http://www.boltonfoodanddrinkfestival.com)




*Cllr Martyn Cox said:*  
**“From Friday 26th August for four days the town centre will be a vibrant place to be with all the music, entertainment and food and drink on offer – put it in your calendar for 2022”.**







SUPERSAPIENS  
**IRONMAN**  
 UK  **BOLTON**  
 ENGLAND



**is back in Bolton  
 next summer**

There's a full schedule of activities across three days, including the UK's only full-distance IRONMAN event and the country's largest IRONKIDS.

Entries are open NOW at [www.ironman.com/im-uk](http://www.ironman.com/im-uk)

**Friday 1 July: Night Run**  
**Saturday 2 July: IRONKIDS**  
**Sunday 3 July: IRONMAN**



 #IRONMANUK  
 IRONMAN UK

 VisitBolton  
 visitbolton

**Visit**  
**Bolton**

# Over 170 Community Champions protect our communities

## But there is plenty of room for more!

It is so important that the communities where we live, work and study are given all the information they need to live a safe and healthy life.

Until recently, our Champions have been sharing information about COVID-19 but, as we move through the recovery phases, we are starting to share other important information that will help residents, students and people who work here thrive in their day to day life.

Do you live, work or study in Bolton? To be a Champion you don't need any experience and you don't have to

commit huge amounts of time, just being able to spend some time (no matter how little) helping us and sharing useful information with your networks – family, friends and colleagues. This can be as simple as sharing things on social media, chatting to your friends or putting up posters in local businesses.

As a Community Champion, you'll

be fully supported, have access to optional training and an online bank of materials. You can also ask for bespoke material to share with your networks. You will also have a single point of contact for everything.

We encourage Champions to feed back issues and concerns from the community so that we can act on them and give local people a voice.

*Sign up!*

[www.bolton.gov.uk/communitychampions](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/communitychampions)

If you have any questions email

[communitychampions@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:communitychampions@bolton.gov.uk)

“

### What does it mean to you to be a Community Champion in Bolton?

The programme has allowed me to work with members of my community and talk to them about the importance of keeping safe to avoid getting infected by Covid-19.

My fellow champions and I have been concentrating on the various African churches as we know that a high proportion of our community will belong to a faith group and we've used the faith leaders to encourage getting vaccinated as well getting tested every week.

### What have you done that you are proud of?

So far, it's the camaraderie between the champions and the networks we've established as we go around Bolton being Community Champions.

Having such a diversified community of Champions has allowed us to make inroads into the hardest-to-reach communities as we're able to talk to them in the most spoken languages of east, north, and southern Africa.

### What would you say to other people who are thinking about signing up?

I would urge anyone who is thinking about it to do so immediately. Even the Bolton Mayor, Cllr Linda Thomas, has signed up and we visited her parlour recently to talk about our work as Champions in the community.

As well as helping one's community, family and friends, you also get to do training which is crucial to self-development and lifelong learning.

### Mandy Jelenje

Community Champion



”

# Improvements to roads and travel in Bolton

Many of our roads have been improved as part of a set of wider work within the Salford Bolton Network Improvement Programme (SBNI).

Work already completed as part of the programme includes Bridgeman Place and the CYCLOPS junction on Trinity Street.

More work on Trinity Street will start in early 2022 to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists and remove the existing vehicle drop off point.

The work is being delivered, using Local Growth Deal funding, by Bolton Council and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).

Work on the roads around Bolton Interchange are almost complete.

*These improvements include:*

- A new drop off/pick up facility for the train station
- Demolition of the redundant bus shelters outside the train station
- Construction of a drop off/pick up short stay parking facility for passengers.
- Remodelling of the existing taxi rank
- A cycle link between the recently completed CYCLOPS junction improvement at Newport St and Trinity St to the cycle hub outside Bolton Interchange

## Active Travel

The council is developing plans to improve walking and cycling across Bolton via its Active Travel Scheme.

Under the scheme, residents are being consulted on network improvements.

Most recently, a public consultation was held on a proposed Bolton Town Centre to Doffcocker link.

The proposed scheme has been developed as part of the Mayor of Greater Manchester's £160m Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund.

Improvements proposed include traffic calming measures and new and improved crossings to provide safer cycling and walking conditions at key intersections.

*"Improving road safety for all road users - pedestrians, cyclists and motorists is at the heart of this scheme. It should also give the additional and much needed benefits of reducing traffic congestion and improving accessibility. As well as reducing congestion, journeys will be much more accessible and most importantly made safer for all."*

- Cllr Stuart Haslam, Executive Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

## Council invests in new, greener bin wagons

We're replacing our old bin wagons with a fleet of more efficient, reliable and greener vehicles.

The new wagons are fitted with the latest technology to limit CO2 emissions to become compliant with GM's Clean Air Zone.

They have better fuel consumption and are fitted with new 'pedestrian recognition' technology which makes them safer.

They also carry more waste in one load, 10 tonnes to be exact, so they're more efficient – which is great news for everyone!

There are 19 vehicles in total - some are already in use and the rest will be in service next month.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, Cllr Nadim Muslim, said: "These new vehicles

will make a real improvement to our waste collection service.

"Our waste collection teams have done a great job working through the challenges of the pandemic, during which there has been a significant increase in demand for services.

"These new vehicles will enable us to provide an improved and more efficient service to residents."

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development, Cllr Adele Warren, said:

"This is a great step forward in our commitment to be a cleaner, greener, environmentally sustainable borough.

"These new vehicles will reduce carbon emissions and support our efforts to reduce pollution and deliver improved air quality in Bolton.

"Our vehicles will also be compliant with the requirements of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone."



# We're on track to meet our climate goals



As delegates gathered for the COP26 climate change conference in November, we took stock of our progress towards becoming cleaner and greener and playing a part in the global fight against climate change.

In September, the council formally adopted its Climate Change Strategy, setting out key targets and priorities.

During a public consultation, you told us that you wanted to see more trees planted.

And we have committed to creating 15 hectares of new woodlands and, with our partner, City of Trees, we've planted 7.58 hectares with over 13,500 new trees across 11 sites in 2021.

You told us that renewable energy was another priority and we are making council buildings more energy efficient, with

solar panels and air source heat pumps installed as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation scheme.

Our Climate Strategy also reaffirms the council's commitment to working with community groups and voluntary organisations. Some of this work has been supported by Bolton's Fund, a voluntary sector grants programme.

£5,000 was ringfenced to encourage young people to engage with the scheme. Among the successful applicants was Bolton Youth Council, who won a grant to develop a swap shop.

Naomi Petho from Bolton Youth Council said: "As

young people, we don't want tokenism. We have been really inspired that we've been supported to see through this idea and put this into action.

"We hope that these

swap shops will help expand young people's understanding of fast fashion and climate change."

*Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr Adele Warren, said:*

**"Bolton Council is proud to join other organisations, of all sizes, in committing to making greener choices and reducing our emissions. With the climate agenda in the spotlight like never before, now is a good time to take stock of the achievements we have already made and refocus on what still needs to be done."**





# Prepare for Clean Air in Bolton

The Greater Manchester-wide Clean Air Zone is coming to Bolton from 30 May 2022. It will NOT include private cars, motorbikes and mopeds.

You could be affected if you drive a heavy goods vehicle (HGV), van, light goods vehicle (LGV), bus, coach, taxi or private hire vehicle.

From 30 November, HGVs registered in Greater Manchester can apply for funding support. All other impacted groups can apply from January 2022.

Find out if you are impacted by the zone, eligible for an exemption or support and sign up for updates at [cleanairgm.com](https://cleanairgm.com)



# Aiming to improve and modernise our services

**Bolton Cares and the council are aiming to improve and modernise a wide range of services for older people and people with additional needs such as learning disabilities and autism.**

The first step has been to gather views on what services people would like to see in the future and how to best deliver them.

An online survey and a series of face-to-face workshops in October and November gave almost 300 people the opportunity to have their say.

The next step is for an independent organisation, Community Catalysts, to collate all the feedback and then bring local people into working parties. The results will guide the review.

We've also invited other organisations, including Age UK Bolton, Bolton Dementia Support and Bolton Carers Support, to help with the project.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Adult



Services, Cllr Andy Morgan, said: "We think it's important that people can flourish through varied and fulfilling opportunities, like hobbies, employment, art, outings, leisure, learning, fitness and friendships.

"We understand that people have different interests and needs and want to do different things. That's why we want to offer a range of services that give people more choice in the activities they take part in and which help them to reach their goals.

"We're also aiming to make services available in ways that are more flexible, creative and convenient."

The feedback gathered from the online survey and workshops will be shared this month, along with suggestions for how to improve services in the future.

For more information, visit [www.bolton.gov.uk/yourlifeyouropportunities](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/yourlifeyouropportunities) or email [yourlife@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:yourlife@bolton.gov.uk)

## Bolton's Fund helps build stronger communities

**Bolton's Fund continues to support our outstanding charity and volunteer sector with more funding rounds planned for 2022.**

Set up in 2019, Bolton's Fund is a voluntary sector grants programme delivered by the council, Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group, Bolton at Home and Bolton CVS.

Grants of varying size are made available across different rounds, with each round themed on a key priority for the Bolton community.

So far, the scheme has seen £1.8m awarded across 15 different rounds, dealing with issues such as digital exclusion, poor health and climate change.

Looking ahead, upcoming rounds will focus on tackling hate crime, making our communities safer and giving Bolton children the best possible start in life.

Full details for each round are published on the Bolton CVS website and application criteria varies depending on the size of the grants available.

Bidding is an open and transparent process with all decisions taken by an independent panel.

A full list of successful projects is available at [boltoncvsvs.org.uk/grants-awarded](http://boltoncvsvs.org.uk/grants-awarded).

Bolton CVS is available to support charities and volunteer groups with their applications as well as offering a broader range of guidance and support to the sector.

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities, Cllr Mudasar Dean, said:

"Bolton's Fund has been a great success, bringing key partners together to make sure the grants we award are being used to address the issues that matter most to Bolton people.

"The long list of projects already supported by Bolton's Fund is testament to the knowledge, talent and compassion that makes our voluntary sector the envy of the UK.

"I have enjoyed seeing first-hand how Bolton's Fund is making a real difference in the community and the lives of residents.

"I look forward to seeing more projects supported by these upcoming funding rounds."

# Tickets on sale for the Rugby League World Cup

With less than a year to the start of the tournament you can get your tickets now.

The Rugby League World Cup promises to be an amazing spectacle of sport, bringing together the giants of the game and their supporters which will help light up Bolton and the rest of the world.

The University of Bolton Stadium is hosting two Rugby League World Cup games, a significant England game against France and a Quarter Final.

Bolton will also be home to the French national team during the competition who will use the town's facilities

as their training base.

From Friday 19th November, tickets became available for all 61 matches.

Cllr Martyn Cox, Bolton Council's Leader, said: "Next year is a big year for sport and we're delighted Bolton's hosting two huge games in the Rugby League World Cup and being the home to the French national squad during the tournament.

"It promises to be the biggest and best competition yet and with all 61 games being broadcast on BBC it will showcase the

game and Bolton across the world.

"Bolton is sure to put on a great show so buy tickets, give the game a try and follow England and our guests France, all the way to the final."

We owe huge thanks to our partners and all those who supported our campaign to secure our involvement in the games, and for the RLWC2021 for putting their faith in Bolton.

Apply for tickets at [rlwc2021.com/tickets](https://rlwc2021.com/tickets)



RUGBY LEAGUE  
**WORLD CUP**  
ENGLAND + 2021

BIGGER, BETTER, CLOSER, LOUDER IN  
**2022**

15 OCTOBER - 19 NOVEMBER 2022  
[RLWC2021.COM/TICKETS](https://rlwc2021.com/tickets)

REFUND GUARANTEE  
£

PRINCIPAL PARTNER  
**CAZOO**

# CityFibre's full fibre mission in Bolton

We're building full fibre networks across the UK. Join the digital revolution, find out if you can connect today!

## Who is CityFibre and what are we doing in Bolton?

We want to improve the UK's connectivity from the ground up – literally! We're putting brand new Full Fibre infrastructure into the ground across Bolton, bringing the best available full fibre broadband to nearly every home and business.

This is a game-changer, enabling residents and businesses to benefit from ultra-fast internet speeds, stability, and reliability, whilst making the existing part-fibre, part-copper technology a thing of the past.

We were thrilled to attend the Food and Drink Festival and Farnworth Live Festival earlier this year and meet residents face-to-face. We're proud to be bringing better broadband to Bolton via our network and it has been great to be able to talk to you about what we're doing in your area and how it will improve everyone's connectivity.

## Where are we working at the moment?

You will be able to spot our teams in action around Moses Gate and just north of Astley Bridge, as well as around Farnworth. Many homes can connect to Full Fibre in Farnworth now via TalkTalk, however more providers are joining the network shortly, which means more choice and flexibility. We aim to reach nearly every home and business across Bolton by 2023.

## How does Full Fibre benefit me?

We know that across the Covid-19 pandemic, many residents in Bolton experienced poor connection, loss of connection, slow speeds, and a whole host of problems that made lockdown even more stressful. With Full Fibre, it doesn't matter if you have one device connected or a household full of connected devices, it doesn't matter whether it's 6pm and the whole street is online; if you pay for a 500Mbps, you get it.

## How do I get it?

CityFibre doesn't provide broadband packages to residents, we only lay the fibre cable. Currently, TalkTalk is offering Full Fibre via our network, with speeds up to 500Mbps available. We're working to bring more internet service providers on board over the coming months, so that people in Bolton not only have better broadband, but better choice too.

If you live in Farnworth, there is a good chance you can connect to Full Fibre via TalkTalk today, call **0800 049 6253** to find out more.

The easiest way to check if you can connect is to use the postcode checker on the CityFibre website. If it's not available yet, you can register for updates, and once work is complete, CityFibre will email you a list of available Full Fibre providers.



To be first to get access to one of the fastest and most reliable broadband services in the region, register for updates at **[www.cityfibre.com](http://www.cityfibre.com)**



# Transforming services through digital innovation



We're at an exciting time in Bolton for all things digital.

Over the last few months, we've been developing a digital plan to help us do things like modernising the council, improving the services we provide, and supporting residents businesses and staff to get the training and support they need to be confident about going online.

We have a big programme to deliver, and have already made great progress, so far mostly behind the scenes to get our set-up right. This means that you'll be able to use our services more easily and flexibly in the future. One example is online payments – we've been setting up our systems to take payments digitally and, by Spring 2022, you'll be able to pay for a replacement bin or for a taxi licence application online, with other services following. This might seem a long way off, but we want to make sure that we get everything set up right to run smoothly.

There's also been a lot of work going on to help people to get online who currently aren't, maybe because of the cost, not being confident or not having a device. Our Libraries service has been running training to help

residents build skills, knowledge, and confidence. We're also working with Bolton College, Bolton at Home, Bolton CVS, and other partners to develop a support programme for residents to access devices and develop digital skills that local employers are looking for and to help them access services online.

*These are some of the key things we're working on, and we'll be adding lots more over the coming months.*

- **Assistive technology** – to help people with care needs stay in their own homes for longer, for example providing falls alarms
- **Moving application forms online** – so you can apply at a time to suit you and save yourself time and money by not having to print and post the form to us
- **Publishing more useful information online**
- **We'll simplify** the ways you can get in touch online
- **Working with infrastructure providers** e.g. to deliver better access to fast internet across the borough
- **Working with employers** to look at skills gaps and provide training to residents to meet those needs

**Some of this work requires investment. It will also mean we're saving money by making things easier and quicker for you and our staff to do things digitally.**

You can find out more at Digital help  
[www.bolton.gov.uk/digital](http://www.bolton.gov.uk/digital)

**DIGITAL  
Bolton**  
A way of life

# New 'shop local' free app for Bolton

Bolton Council has launched a 'shop local' app to bring businesses and leisure together in one place.

Everything that's happening in the borough, from events to shopping discounts, will be sent directly to your phone.

Businesses in the town centre and district centres (Farnworth and Kearsley, Horwich and Blackrod, Little Lever and Westhoughton) have their own space within the app to promote themselves and any special offers.

Everyone can download the free app from app stores to discover the best Bolton has to offer.

### Key features of the app:

- Shopping and hospitality discounts and special offers
- Loads of community activities and events
- Culture, heritage and leisure activities
- Public announcements such as adverse weather, road closures and live updates



Leader of Bolton Council, Cllr Martyn Cox said:

**"In the aftermath of the pandemic, this app will promote local businesses to give a much-needed boost to the town centre economy.**

**"Many of us rely on mobile phones in our day-to-day lives, so to be able to access all this local information at the touch of a button, is fantastic."**

Bolton Council's Executive Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr Adele Warren said:

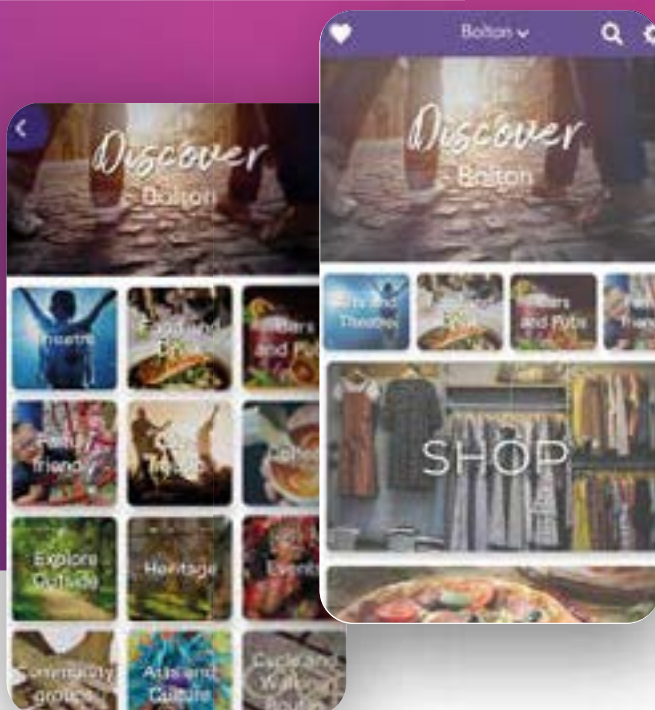
**"This app is a great opportunity for people to discover the best of Bolton and the district centres."**



Scan to download the app now



Search 'dscvr'



# Meet your councillors..

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