

PLANNING POLICY NOTE

CHILDREN OBESITY DATA FOR APPLICATION OF POLICY R5 OF THE ROSSENDALE LOCAL PLAN (2019 – 2036) ON HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY DEVELOPMENTS

November 2023



Credit: Rosendale Borough Council Corporate Photobank



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1. Introduction

1.1 Policy R5 of the Rossendale Local Plan aims to manage the development of hot food takeaways to avoid over-concentration and to manage potential issues such as noise, litter and smell. In addition, health considerations are also important since the presence of hot food takeaways has been linked to obesity, especially in children. Therefore the Local Plan has introduced a criterion considering the children obesity data to assess hot food takeaway proposals (criterion 'd'). Please see below an extract of Policy R5 of the Rossendale Local Plan (2019 to 2036).

Policy R5: Hot Food Takeaways

The development of hot food takeaways will be supported provided the following criteria are met and subject to other policies of this plan:

- a) the development is located within a town or district centre and it would not adversely impact the vitality and viability of the area;
- b) where the proposed development would be located outside of the primary shopping area of the town or district centre, it is of no more than 100 square metres (gross) floorspace and it would not give rise to an over-concentration of hot food takeaways that adversely impacts the vitality and viability of the area;
- c) where the proposed development is located 400m of a secondary school that lies outside of designated town and district shopping centres, takeaway opening hours are restricted at lunchtimes and school closing times;
- d) applications for new hot food takeaways are not in wards where more than 15% of Year 6 pupils or 10% of Reception class age pupils are classified by Public Health England as obese;
- f) where a new shopfront is proposed it is of high quality design that is in scale and keeping with the area;
- g) provision is made for the control and management of litter both on site and on the public highway;
- h) provision is made for the treatment and management of cooking odours and any external flue/means of extraction would not cause harm to visual or residential amenity, and;
- i) the development would not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on local amenity, privacy or highway safety.

2. Children Obesity Data

2.1 The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (previously Public Health England) publishes obesity data on its Obesity Profile¹ website annually. The data originates from the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) which records the height and weight of children in Reception (4-5 years old) and Year 6 (10-11 years old) classes within primary schools every year. A Body Mass Index is then calculated and each child is assigned to one of four categories (underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obese). Obesity rates for Reception and Year 6 children are then reported over a three-year period, at various geographies, including at ward level.

2.2 As of November 2023, the latest period reported for the prevalence of obesity in children in England is the period 2020/21 and 2022/23. Please note that 2020/21 data is excluded from the '3-years data combined' indicators due to fewer measurements being taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.3 The prevalence of obesity is used to identify wards where more than 15% of Year 6 pupil or 10% of Reception children are classified as obese. Table 1 below reports the obesity rate for this period. Wards with a higher level than the Policy R5 thresholds are highlighted in red whilst wards with a lower level are shown in green.

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity for Reception and Year 6 pupils in Rossendale per ward for the period 2020/21 and 2022/23 compared to Policy R5 thresholds.

Ward	Prevalence of obesity Period 2020/21 – 22/23		Rossendale Local Plan Policy R5 Thresholds	
	Reception %	Year 6 %	Reception %	Year 6 %
Cribden	13.3	14.8	10	15
Eden	*	20.8	10	15
Facit and Shawforth	*	30.4	10	15
Goodshaw	8.3	14.8	10	15
Greenfield	10.3	25.6	10	15
Greensclough	8.6	22.7	10	15
Hareholme	11.5	22.2	10	15
Healey and Whitworth	*	24.1	10	15
Helmshore	9.1	13.9	10	15
Irwell	9.5	23.5	10	15
Longholme	7.4	20	10	15
Stacksteads	13	25	10	15
Whitewell	19.2	21.1	10	15
Worsley	10.3	29.2	10	15

* Value suppressed for disclosure reasons

¹ Obesity Profile, Office for Health Improvement & Disparities - <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/national-child-measurement-programme>

2.4 The table shows that two wards in Rossendale (Goodshaw and Helmshore) have a rate of obesity for both Reception and Year 6 pupils, lower than the thresholds set out in Policy R5, whilst the remainder of the wards have children obesity prevalence higher than the policy thresholds for Reception or Year 6 pupils. A map of the children obesity prevalence per ward is shown in Appendix A.

2.5 As such, applications for new hot food takeaways in Goodshaw and Helmshore meet criterion 'd' of Policy R5 and would be supported subject to compliance with the remainder of the criteria in Policy R5 as well as other local and national policies. Any applications within other wards in Rossendale would not meet the criterion and will not currently be supported.

2.6 For information, changes in the children obesity rate between the last 3 periods are reported in Appendix B. Comparison between the last two periods show that the children obesity rate has worsen in Hareholme and Whitewell but improved in Greensclough and Irwell in both age groups. Other wards have seen in a reduction in the prevalence of obesity in an age range but an increased in another age group, or had one of the indicator remaining stable or had a value suppressed due to a low number of measurements.

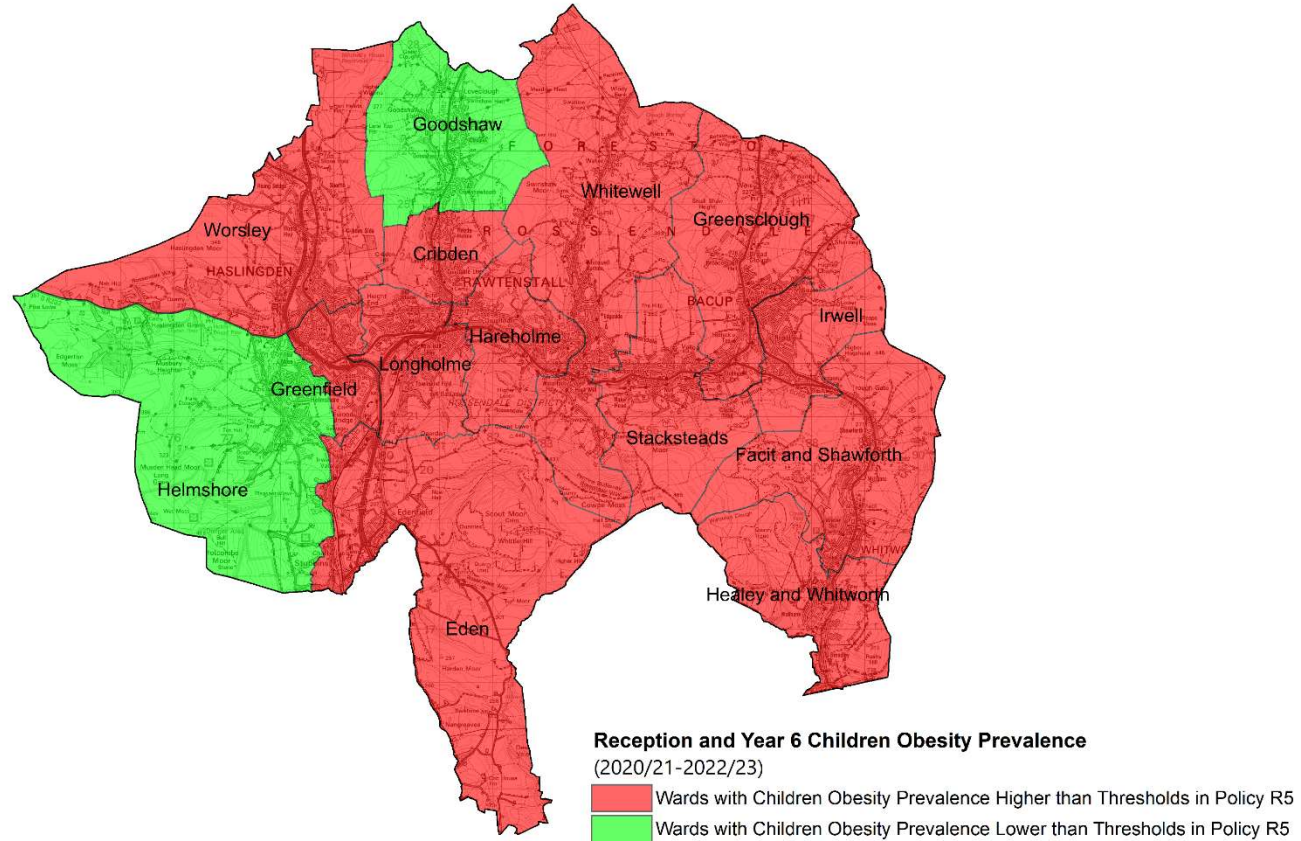
2.6 It is to be noted that the prevalence of children obesity for Year 6 pupils in Rossendale is lower than the average in Lancashire, North West or England. Regarding Reception age pupils the obesity prevalence in Rossendale is higher than in Lancashire and England but lower than the North West's average (please see Appendix C).

3. Conclusion

3.1 Currently, two out of 14 wards in Rossendale have a rate of obesity for pupils in Reception and Year 6 lower than the thresholds set out in Policy R5 (Goodshaw and Helmshore). As such, criterion 'd' is currently met for applications for new hot food takeaways in these wards. However, the development of new hot food takeaways will not be currently supported in the remainder of the wards due to them failing to meet criterion 'd' of the policy. This note will be reviewed and updated when new data become available from the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, usually in November of each year.

Appendix A – Map

RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 CHILDREN OBESITY RATE BY WARDS FOR THE PERIOD 2020/21 - 2022/23



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Scale 1:100,000
Date drawn: November 2023
Drawn by: Forward Planning

Appendix B – Trend in the prevalence of children obesity in Rossendale’s wards

Ward	Rossendale Local Plan 2019 - 2036		Obesity rate (including severe obesity) from the National Child Measurement Programme						Recent Trend (between the last two periods)	
	Policy R5 Children Obesity Rate Thresholds		2017/18 to 2019/20		2019/20 and 2021/22 (Year 2020/21 excluded)		2020/21 and 2022/23			
	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)
Cribden	10	15	13.6	24.1	11.8	17.9	13.3	14.8	↑	↓
Eden	10	15	*	19	10.5	22	*	20.8	N/A	↓
Facit and Shawforth	10	15	14.3	24	12.5	25	*	30.4	N/A	↑
Goodshaw	10	15	8	16.7	8.3	18.5	8.3	14.8	→	↓
Greenfield	10	15	9.1	21.4	9.4	25.6	10.3	25.6	↑	→
Greensclough	10	15	9.7	21.1	11.8	23.3	8.6	22.7	↓	↓
Hareholme	10	15	8.3	21.2	9.1	20.6	11.5	22.2	↑	↑
Healey and Whitworth	10	15	15	27.6	15	27.6	*	24.1	N/A	↓
Helmshore	10	15	7.7	15.9	8.3	15.8	9.1	13.9	↑	↓
Irwell	10	15	12	22.6	10.4	25.5	9.5	23.5	↓	↓
Longholme	10	15	10	20.9	6.7	18.6	7.4	20	↓	↑
Stacksteads	10	15	18.2	24.1	18.2	24.1	13	25	↓	↑
Whitewell	10	15	11.5	21.6	14.3	18.4	19.2	21.1	↑	↑
Worsley	10	15	10	25.5	12.5	27.1	10.3	29.2	↓	↑

*Value suppressed for disclosure reasons

Appendix C – Comparison of the prevalence of children obesity at local, regional and national geographies

Prevalence of children obesity (including severe obesity)	2020/21 - 2022/23	
	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)
England	9.7	22.5
North West	10.4	23.8
Lancashire	9.8	22.1
Rosendale	10.2	21.8