



# PLANNING POLICY NOTE – CHILDREN OBESITY

## November 2024



# Contents

---

Introduction .....	3
Children Obesity Data .....	4
Conclusion .....	5
Appendix A – Children Obesity Prevalence Map by Wards .....	6
Appendix B – Children obesity prevalence data by wards .....	7
Appendix C – Comparison at local, regional and national geographies .....	7

<b>Responsible Service</b>	Forward Planning	<b>Version/Status</b>	Version 3
<b>Responsible Author</b>		<b>Date Agreed/ Agreed At</b>	
<b>Date last Amended</b>	November 2024	<b>Due for Review</b>	November 2025

Rossendale Borough Council is committed to encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion to eliminate unlawful discrimination. To support this other format of this document are available upon request. Please contact [PeopleandPolicy@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:PeopleandPolicy@rossendalebc.gov.uk).

# Planning Policy Note – Children Obesity

---

## 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.

## Children Obesity Data

2.1 The Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (previously Public Health England) publishes obesity data on its Obesity Profile<sup>1</sup> 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 2024, the latest period reported for the prevalence of obesity in children in England is the period 2021/22 and 2023/24.

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 2021/22 and 2023/24 compared to Policy R5 thresholds.

Ward	Prevalence of children obesity Period 2021/22 – 23/24		Rossendale Local Plan Policy R5 Thresholds	
	Reception %	Year 6 %	Reception %	Year 6 %
Cribden	10.5	13.3	10	15
Eden	9.5	12.5	10	15
Facit and Shawforth	*	33.3	10	15
Goodshaw	7.7	14.8	10	15
Greenfield	11.8	24.4	10	15
Greensclough	11.6	20.0	10	15
Hareholme	10.8	21.4	10	15
Healey and Whitworth	7.1	25.0	10	15
Helmshore	9.4	15.4	10	15
Irwell	8.5	22.2	10	15
Longholme	7.1	19.0	10	15
Stacksteads	11.5	22.2	10	15
Whitewell	13.9	20.5	10	15
Worsley	8.5	25.5	10	15

\* Value suppressed for disclosure control reasons

2.4 The table shows that two wards in Rossendale (Eden and Goodshaw) 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 a higher rate in either one or both groups of children. A map of the

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

former electoral wards colour coded according to whether they pass or not the Policy R5 criterion 'd' is shown in Appendix A.

2.5 As such, applications for new hot food takeaways in Goodshaw and Eden comply with criterion 'd' of Policy R5 from 5 November 2024 until new data is published. Any applications submitted in other wards in Rossendale would not meet the criterion and will therefore not be compliant with the policy.

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 Helmshore for both age groups but has improved for Cribden, Hareholme, Longholme, Stacksteads, Whitewell and Worsley. 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 a value suppressed due to a low number of measurements.

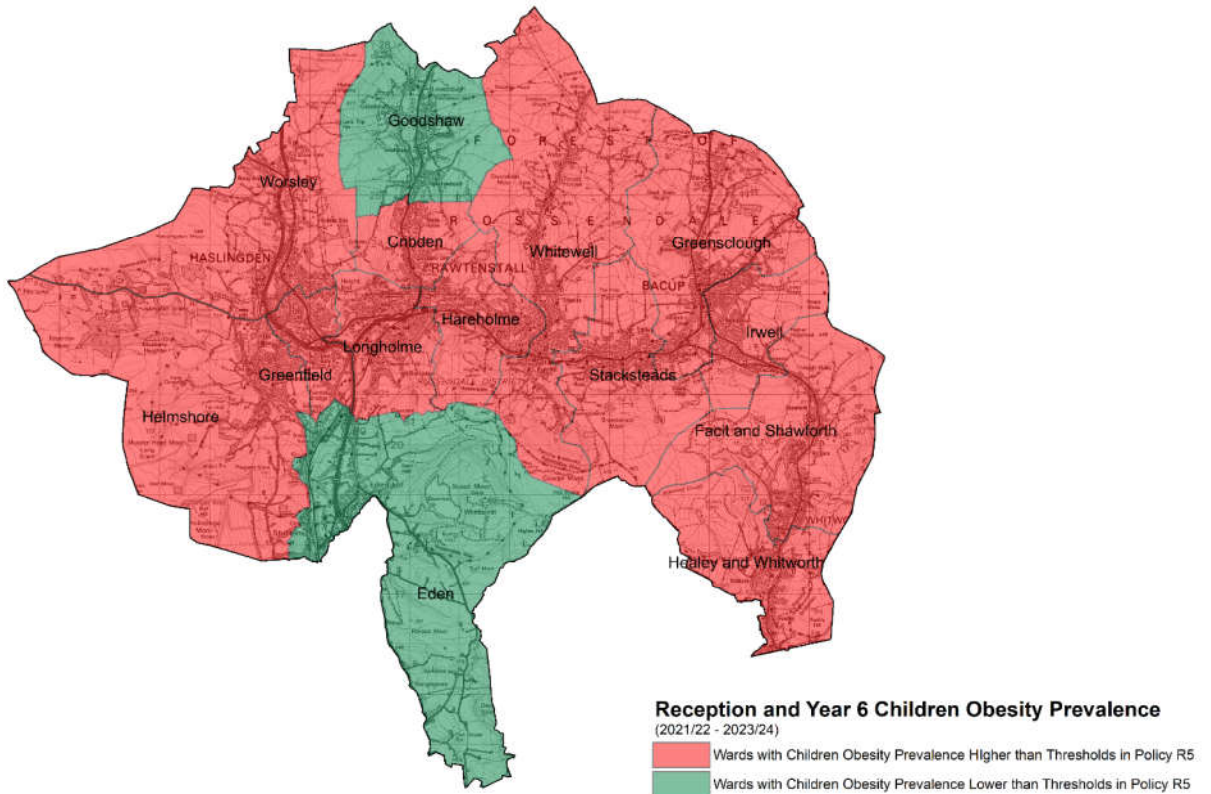
2.6 It is to be noted that the prevalence of children obesity for Year 6 pupils in Rossendale is lower than the average in Lancashire, North West or England. Regarding Reception age pupils, the obesity prevalence in Rossendale is lower than in the North West and the same as in Lancashire and England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

## 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 Eden). As such, applications for new hot food takeaways in these two wards meet criterion 'd' of the policy, whilst applications in other wards do not, for the period from 5 November 2024 until new data is published. This note will be reviewed and updated when new data becomes available from the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, usually every year in November.

# Appendix A – Children Obesity Prevalence Map by Wards

**RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 CHILDREN OBESITY RATE BY WARDS  
FOR THE PERIOD 2021/22 - 2023/24**



Crown copyright and database rights [2023] Ordnance Survey [100023294]  
Use of this data is subject to terms and conditions.  
Map displays NHS England data from the National Child Measurement Programme

Scale 1:100,000  
Date drawn: November 2024  
Drawn by: Forward Planning

## Appendix B – Children obesity prevalence data by 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		2019/20 to 2021/22 (Year 2020/21 excluded)		2020/21 to 2022/23 (Year 2020/21 excluded)		2021/22 to 2023/24		Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)
	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)		
Cribden	10	15	11.8	17.9	13.3	14.8	10.5	13.3	↓	↓
Eden	10	15	10.5	22	*	20.8	9.5	12.5	N/A	↓
Facit and Shawforth	10	15	12.5	25	*	30.4	*	33.3	N/A	↑
Goodshaw	10	15	8.3	18.5	8.3	14.8	7.7	14.8	↓	→
Greenfield	10	15	9.4	25.6	10.3	25.6	11.8	24.4	↑	↓
Greensclough	10	15	11.8	23.3	8.6	22.7	11.6	20.0	↑	↓
Hareholme	10	15	9.1	20.6	11.5	22.2	10.8	21.4	↓	↓
Healey and Whitworth	10	15	15	27.6	*	24.1	7.1	25.0	N/A	↑
Helmshore	10	15	8.3	15.8	9.1	13.9	9.4	15.4	↑	↑
Irwell	10	15	10.4	25.5	9.5	23.5	8.5	22.2	↓	↑
Longholme	10	15	6.7	18.6	7.4	20	7.1	19.0	↓	↓
Stacksteads	10	15	18.2	24.1	13	25	11.5	22.2	↓	↓
Whitewell	10	15	14.3	18.4	19.2	21.1	13.9	20.5	↓	↓
Worsley	10	15	12.5	27.1	10.3	29.2	8.5	25.5	↓	↓

\*Value suppressed for disclosure control reasons

## Appendix C – Comparison at local, regional and national geographies

Prevalence of children obesity (including severe obesity)	2021/22 - 2023/24 (3 year combined data)	
	Reception (%)	Year 6 (%)
England	9.6	22.7
North West	10.2	23.8
Lancashire	9.6	22.0
Rossendale	9.6	20.7