



Greater Manchester's Consultation Plan: Active Travel Fund

Greater Manchester is on a mission to make every-day journeys on foot and by bike the natural choice. The city region's plans are underpinned by the [Bee Network](#) – a proposal for Greater Manchester to become the very first city-region in the UK to have a fully joined-up cycling and walking network: the most comprehensive in Britain, covering 1,800 miles.

Our aim is to make the region a nicer place to live, work, get on and grow old and to connect every neighbourhood and community, while helping people to be less dependent on cars.

This consultation plan is a required process as set by the Department for Transport for recipients of the Active Travel Fund.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has been granted £15.97 million from the government's Active Travel Fund to create safe space for cycling and walking.

As set out by the [Department for Transport](#), the funding will be used to deliver measures including:

- 'School Streets', where streets around schools are closed to motorists at school times
- low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs), where residential side streets are closed to through traffic to stop rat-running
- segregated cycle lanes
- pedestrian improvements

On behalf of the GMCA, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Greater Manchester's ten Local Authorities have developed a programme of work to meet the funding criteria, consisting of 24 individual schemes across all ten local authorities and a GM-wide programme of activity to support active travel on the journey to school.

These schemes will deliver around 24 miles of walking and cycling routes and dozens of new neighbourhood interventions. This programme of work is in addition to the significant level of investment underway to deliver the [Bee Network](#).



As required by the [Active Travel Fund](#), all these schemes will be subject to consultation with residents and key stakeholders. This means final routes may alter in response to feedback. The Department for Transport require appropriate surveys (before schemes are finalised and post-implementation) to be undertaken with local residents and engagement with residents, businesses, emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, local MPs and ward councillors.

Roles and responsibilities

Greater Manchester’s ten local authorities are responsible for ensuring the appropriate level of consultation is conducted for their schemes. TfGM and GMCA will support GM local authorities to ensure consultation and engagement meets the requirements of the Active Travel Fund and will conduct GM strategic level engagement with key stakeholders.

Scheme consultation activity – local authority led

Greater Manchester’s ten local authorities will publish detailed scheme consultations which will be made available on their websites, which can be accessed via www.gmconsult.org. Significant engagement and consultation activity has already taken place on many of these schemes as part of Greater Manchester’s Covid response and as part of longer-term priorities.

These will be supported by other activity to engage ward members, local residents and businesses that may be affected by the scheme including, but not limited to, statutory

consultations e.g. for any Traffic Regulation Orders, public meetings, webinars, leaflet drops and community forums.

Pre- and post-delivery survey and monitoring work will be conducted on significant schemes in the programme to assess the level of public support and use.

Local authority schemes vary in scale, approach and level of development. Therefore, the associated consultation activity will take place at different times. It will be the role of local authorities, with the support of TfGM, to communicate to those that may be affected by the scheme about the consultation process.

GM strategic consultation activity – TfGM led

TfGM will undertake GM strategic-level consultation activity in support of local authorities. This includes the monitoring and evaluation of the programme and related surveys. This is necessary because the Active Travel Fund is being used to support a much wider integrated investment programme in active travel and public transport.

Key stakeholders including executive members, bus operators, Members of Parliament, Royal Mail and emergency services will be sent information about the programme and be invited to take part in webinars to hear about the programme in more detail. This will include the purpose of the programme, standard scheme design detail and the approach that will be taken by local authorities to local scheme consultation.

TfGM will also work with local authorities through existing officer forums to share best practice, to find solutions to common issues and to promote a collaborative approach to communications and consultation plans.

Best practice

All consultation will comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, the Common Law duties for consultation ([Gunning Principles](#)) and General Data Protection Regulations 2018. It will be the responsibility of Local Authorities to undertake the necessary Equality Impact Assessments for each scheme and to ensure that consultation is accessible.

Consultation Plans

A variety of methods will be used to consult and engage with different stakeholders. Detailed plans will be developed over the next few months but could include the following:

Activity	TfGM	Local Authority
Online consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online survey form hosted on www.gmconsult.org to consult on GM strategic level activity Paper version available on request for those without digital access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online survey forms hosted on individual websites/digital platforms and linked to from www.gmconsult.org to consult on scheme-specific activity with residents and impacted groups Paper versions available on request for those without digital access Distribute to Council's online panels as appropriate
Awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posts on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram Letters and emails as appropriate Website content will be developed to provide a central point for information on all 24 schemes Press releases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's social media channels will be used to promote scheme-specific consultation Articles in local press/council magazines/community newsletters Letters and emails as appropriate Public meetings if Covid-19 restrictions allow Online webinars/public meetings Leaflet/letter drops Online exhibitions
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GM-wide stakeholders and strategic partner engagement including the emergency services, bus operators, Royal Mail, health partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with residents, local stakeholders and impacted groups (e.g. schools, businesses, youth groups, local community/neighbourhood groups) Local scheme engagement with emergency services, bus operators etc
Online meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online meetings and webinars with GM stakeholders as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online meetings and webinars with local stakeholders as required
Comms support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide comms support to GM local authorities to ensure consistent messaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use local media as necessary to raise awareness of the project
Political stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with GM MPs and Executive Members Support with briefings and material for local engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member briefings Briefings with local MPs as appropriate
Statutory consultations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory consultations as required (e.g. TROs)

Contact: active.travel@tfgm.com