

August 2026



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Manchester Local Plan (Publication Draft): Statement of Collaboration



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1 Manchester Effective Cooperation

- 1.1** This document is an Collaboration Statement and is required to support the preparation of Draft Manchester Local Plan. Set out in the Appendices are details of the log of activities and collaboration with neighbouring local authorities, public bodies and sets out the dates of important governance meetings progressing the Draft Manchester Local Plan.
- 1.2** It will be complemented by Statement's of Common Ground prepared from the Regulation 19 Stage which will be informed by the PfE Statement of Common Ground setting out the current collaborative position with key bodies on key issues.
- 1.3** In November 2025, Government took the decision to not to 'save' Duty to Co-operate, thereby removing this requirement from plans in the current system. It ceased to apply when the new Local Plan Regulations came into force in March 2026. Reference is made to Duty to Co-operate up to that point in this Collaboration Statement.
- 1.4** NPPF states effective cooperation should be undertaken to help deliver sustainable growth by addressing key spatial issues. Effective and on-going joint working between strategic policy-making authorities and relevant bodies is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy. In particular, joint working should help to determine where additional infrastructure is necessary, and whether development needs that cannot be met wholly within a particular plan area could be met elsewhere.
- 1.5** Effective cooperation should ensure:
 - a a consistent approach is taken to planning the delivery of major infrastructure and strategic health, education and other social infrastructure;
 - b unmet development needs from neighbouring areas are provided for;
 - c any allocation or designation which cuts across the boundary of plan areas, or has significant implications for neighbouring areas, is appropriately managed by all relevant authorities.
- 1.6** In order to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working, strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these. This Statement of Collaboration sets out those matters and the progress made to date.

2 Who needs to co-operate?

- 2.1** Despite the removal of Duty to Co-operate Manchester City Council will continue to collaborate with those bodies it previously co-operated with in the preparation of earlier drafts of the Local Plan. Below is a list of bodies with whom the Council will continue to work alongside in preparing its Local Plan. These can be grouped into neighbouring authorities and public bodies.

Neighbouring Authorities

- The Mayor of Greater Manchester
 - Bury Council
 - Cheshire East Council
 - Oldham Council
 - Rochdale Borough Council
 - Salford City Council
 - Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
 - Trafford Council
- 2.2** Whilst Bolton Council and Wigan Council do not have contiguous boundaries with Manchester for this Local Plan we recognise that as they are part of the City Region and members of the joint Greater Manchester plan Places for Everyone and there may be some strategic issues which impact them and we will seek to include them in any collaboration activities.

Public Bodies

- Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Natural England
 - The Civil Aviation Authority
 - Homes England
 - Clinical Commissioning Groups
 - National Health Service Commissioning Board
 - The Office of Rail Regulation
 - Transport for Greater Manchester
 - Highways Authorities
 - Highways England
 - Local Enterprise Partnership
 - Local Nature Partnership
- 2.3** Manchester City Council must cooperate with the Local Enterprise Partnership (Greater Manchester Business Board) and GM Local Nature Partnership (Natural Capital Group) and have regard to their activities.

3 Geographical Area

- 3.1** With regard to this plan, the geographical area for effective collaboration is those authorities with a contiguous boundary with Manchester City Council, plus Bolton and Wigan and this is shown below.

Picture 3.1 Geographical Area of Effective Cooperation



4 Collaboration

- 4.1** From the early Issues Stage Manchester City Council has been cooperating with neighbouring authorities and former Duty to Co-operate Bodies and sharing information on scope of the local plan including policy areas.
- 4.2** This Collaboration Statement is a record of the collaboration and effective cooperation with neighbouring authorities and former Duty to Co-operate Bodies and has informed the development of policy and effective consideration of cross border and thematic issues.

5 Manchester Local Plan Issues Consultation - February 2020 to April 2020

- 5.1** This stage was prepared under the Duty to Co-operate requirements before they were removed by the Government and subsequent regulations.
- 5.2** This stage was approved by Manchester Executive on 15th January 2020. Consultation ran for twelve weeks between 7th February and 1st May 2020. It was extended due to COVID-19 lockdown giving more time to access the document and comment. Duty to Co-operate bodies were informed via email with a link to the Issues Consultation document.
- 5.3** Issues raised at the Issues Consultation stage include:
- Environment Agency: Broadly support the proposals and gave a large number of specific policy points related to the environment.
 - Highways England: Sought to understand the current transport provision, alongside individual and cumulative transport and highway traffic impacts associated with any proposed site allocations likely to impact the SRN. In particular, they highlight the area around Manchester Airport and the proposed location of the High Speed station adjacent to M56 Junction 5.
 - Historic England: Provided various points about the role of heritage and how it can support the wider objectives of the plan and the city. They say that the profile of heritage in all areas of the plan needs to be increased.
 - Homes England: Support the preparation of the Local Plan and are keen to continue to work with us to fulfil our housing growth ambitions.
 - NHS:
 1. Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust: Detailed comments submitted with regard to North Manchester General Hospital, Crumpsall, referring to the regeneration of the NMGH site and its transformation into an integrated and vibrant healthcare-hub.
 2. NHS Property Services Ltd.: Substantial rebuilding and expansion of hospital and other health facilities is expected, with potentially some funding using S106/CIL.
 - Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM): Detailed response including the following key points:
 - Seek the promotion of or support for, further commercial and residential development around Wythenshawe District Centre to complement the development of a second economic hub around Manchester Airport.
 - The proposed High Speed station at Manchester Airport will also offer the opportunity to increase investment, whilst the station itself will not be within Manchester the investment opportunities will be around the Airport especially if there are good transport connections to the proposed station, such as an extension to Metrolink.

Draft Local Plan 2025

- 5.4** In the preparation of the Draft Local Plan 2025, all comments were reviewed and where possible taken on board, including Duty to Co-operate bodies.
- 5.5** The structure of the draft Local Plan has been expanded and includes more content to reflect its move to a draft local plan stage. The vision and objectives have been updated to reflect the Our Manchester Strategy.
- 5.6** A new chapter has been added called Net Zero Carbon and Resilience and includes policies related to sustainable design and construction which includes net zero targets, EV Charging, delivering zero carbon and renewable energy, low carbon energy developments and heat networks. There is also a new chapter on the environment which is divided into two sections - Green and Blue Infrastructure and Regulatory Environment - and one on Social Infrastructure which covers policies such as open space. This provided more depth on many of the policy areas of concern expressed by the Environment Agency and TfGM.
- 5.7** The historic environment is picked up in key policies throughout the Local Plan, including Growth Locations and Development Management but there is also policies specifically dealing with the historic environment. This provides a plan wide approach to the historic environment as sought by Historic England.
- 5.8** The Draft Local Plan includes a chapter entitled Transport and Digital Connectivity which provides more detail, setting out transport principles, how the Council will actively manage the pattern of development to deliver sustainable development and infrastructure investment priorities. There is also reference to the delivery of Wythenshawe District Centre and Northern Powerhouse Rail. This reflects the shared focus of policy delivery by Highways England, TfGM and the City Council.
- 5.9** The request by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust to provide a policy context for the redevelopment of North Manchester General Hospital is provided in a Growth Location policy. There is a Planning Obligations policy which seeks, amongst other asks, contributions towards health and well being facilities which reflects comments made by NHS Property Services Ltd.

6 Manchester Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 - September 2025 to July 2026

- 6.1** Manchester Draft Local Plan was approved for consultation by Manchester's Executive Committee on 10th September 2025. It was also considered by Economy Scrutiny and Neighbourhoods, Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny on 7th October 2025. Consultation commenced on 22nd September 2025 for eight weeks, finishing on 17th November 2025.
- 6.2** A Collaboration Event was held in October 2025, inviting GM districts, Cheshire East and former Duty to Co-operate Bodies. It was an opportunity for invitees to find out about the Draft Local Plan and work undertaken since the Issues Consultation stage, such as, evidence base gathering, policy approaches etc. A presentation set out the main content of the plan and offered an opportunity for discussion to clarify or ask for further details.
- 6.3** Responses to the Manchester Draft Local Plan were received from a number of former Duty to Co-operate bodies and a summary of these is set out in Appendix 2 Manchester Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 - September 2025 to July 2026 and the Consultation Statement. Meetings were undertaken between the Environment Agency, Historic England, National Highways, Natural Capital Group (Local Nature Partnership), Natural England, NHS Property and GM NHS Integrated Care Board and TfGM. Matters related to neighbouring authorities were picked up through the GM Planning Officers Group. An email was sent to all GM authorities and also Cheshire East regarding an identified unmet need for accommodation for Travelling Showpeople and requesting whether there was potential to accommodate some of Manchester's unmet need. To date, no authority has offered to accommodate any of this unmet need.
- 6.4** Key changes to the plan or supporting evidence related to continued cooperation include:
- Environment Agency - Updated evidence with the preparation of a Level 1 SFRA 2026; inclusion of a Water Efficiency clause in Policy EN8 (Water Quality and Efficiency) seeking higher standards than PfE; amendments to Environment Policies including greater reference to Water Framework Directive; and greater emphasis on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy throughout the document.
 - Historic England - Preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments for Holt Town, Strangeways and Victoria North; amendments to the two heritage policies and the addition of archaeology; evidence of effective engagement with the local Historic England office regarding key Strategic Regeneration Frameworks.
 - National Highways - Evidence of current state of play of various development and transport proposals in and around the M56 SRN with a focus on Manchester Airport.
 - NHS Property and GM NHS Integrated Care Board (Meeting) - Preparation of an Infrastructure Plan supporting the plan and demonstrating delivery of infrastructure alongside development.
 - Natural England - further amendments to the plan particularly related to Environment Policies and amendments to the Habitat Regulation Assessment.

- TfGM - Reference to the GM Transport Strategy 2050 and Delivery Plans.
- Neighbouring Authorities - a request to accommodate unmet need in Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Accommodation and so far no offers of accommodating this need have been received.

Appendix 1 Manchester Local Plan Issues Consultation and preparation of Draft Local Plan- February to Summer 2025

Duty to Co-operate Bodies Responses to Manchester Local Plan Issues Consultation

Table 1.1 Duty to Cooperate Bodies Responses to Manchester Local Plan Issues Consultation

Environment Agency	The spatial principles should refer to a Nature Recovery Network in accordance with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. Seeks further amendments to the Vision, objectives and challenges in neighbourhoods to strengthen reference to the environment, climate change, flooding and water courses. Seeks policy development related to the environment and refers to various strategies, directives and statutory documents to inform policy development.
Highways England	Seeks to understand the current transport provision and in particular traffic impacts associated with any proposed site allocations likely to impact the Strategic Road Network. An example sited is Manchester Airport and the M56 Junction 5. Seeking to understand how evidence developed as part of the Places for Everyone process, will interface with any transport evidence being developed to support this emerging Local Plan.
Historic England	Ensure the Local Plan is based on an up to date evidence base relating to the historic environment, including a heritage impact assessment for any sites or growth areas in the plan. The vision and objectives should refer to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

	The Spatial Portrait needs to describe its historical growth and historic environment. The Plan should include strategic policies to conserve and enhance the historic environment and also development managements policies.
Homes England	Supports the Manchester Local Plan Issues Consultation
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	Seeks a policy framework for the redevelopment of North Manchester General Hospital. This should be set in the context of more detail about the challenges faced in North Manchester.
NHS Property	Consideration should be given to the changing nature of health provision. It should support the use of Section 106 funds for wider determinants of health and health and care services.
TfGM	Seeks a focus on Wythenshawe District Centre to complement the development of a second economic hub around Manchester Airport. The proposed High Speed station at Manchester Airport will also offer the opportunity of increase investment, whilst the station itself will not be within Manchester the investment opportunities will be around the Airport especially if there are good transport connections to the proposed HS2 station, such as an extension to Metrolink. (HS2 to Manchester was scrapped in 2023). Raised the quality of the walking and cycling network and the public realm. Also the need to expand the EV charging network. Seek substantial reductions in carbon emissions from Transport. Consider transport interventions alongside land use patterns to enable people to sustainably

	access employment services and leisure opportunities within the Regional Centre or other key centres. Delivery of spatial development should be supporting sustainable transport systems. Refers in detail to the contents of the 2040 Transport Strategy and how this can inform the Local Plan, plus other strategies and documents of relevance to transport. Also refers to the importance of high densities, mixed uses contributing to increased route viability and enhanced frequencies, minimising lengths of journeys and reducing car trips. The Local Plan will need to consider ways to support the more efficient and sustainable movement of freight. The Local Plan should address all parking needs including cycle parking, EV charging points (including electric bikes) and provision for EV car clubs, in new development.
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Established Collaborative Activity 2023 to 2024

Table 1.2

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
GM LA Nature Recovery Group Teams Meetings	Neighbouring Authorities across GM, GMCA , Natural England	11/05/23 13/07/23 14/09/23 9/11/23 11/01/24 14/03/24	Discussion on nature recovery, BNG, green infrastructure	GM
Local Nature Recovery Strategy Workshops	GMCA, Natural England and GM LA's	29/11/23 7/12/23 13/12/23	Discussed Local Nature Recovery Network and Biodiversity Net Gain • River Valleys	GM

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
			• Trees & woodland • Urban Green Space	
GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy Group	Neighbouring GM Authorities, GMCA	23/8/23, 30/10/23, 28/11/23 29/11/23 05/12/23 07/12/23 12/12/23 13/12/23 15/2/24	Discussion on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Network including: • Upland, Moorland & Heathland priorities • River Valleys • Grassland, Cropland, and Heath • Woodlands, Trees, and Hedgerows • Lowlands, Mosslands, and Wetlands • Urban Green Spaces	GM wide
BNG/Urban Green Factor Stakeholder Workshop	Groundwork, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, GMCA GMCA, Natural England, Environment Agency and various other bodies not related to DtC	5/9/23 11/9/23	Biodiversity Net Gain	NW
Co design workshop to develop guidance for GM planners on	GM authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, GMCA	6/12/23	Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Planning	GM

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
Water Framework Directive				
Planning Officer Group	GMCA and Planning Officers from all districts	Monthly	Discussion on GM Planning Policy issues	GM
PfE Land Supply and Monitoring Framework (included GM Land Supply collation)	GM Districts and GMCA	25/04/24 17/10/24 3/04/25	Agreed how to monitor indicators in PfE. Agreed dates and info to be submitted for GM Land Supply collation. GMCA feedback on 2024 supply returns. Agreed 2025 Land Supply Schema, PfE Monitoring deadlines and publishing dates and update on MappingGM.	GM
Transport Strategy Group	TfGM, GM Local Authorities	Monthly	Discussed the new Local Transport Plan and Strategic Transport Funding	GM
Highways England	Highways England, Manchester City Council Highways and Transport Strategy, TfGM	12/05/2025	Mitigation for air quality along the M56	MCC
Historic England	Historic England, Manchester City Council	4th September 2024	Conservation Area Review	MCC

Appendix 2 Manchester Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 - September 2025 to July 2026

Collaboration Bodies Summary of Responses to Manchester Draft Local Plan Consultation - September 2025 to November 2025

Table 2.1

Environment Agency	The Level 1 SFRA should be reviewed/ updated to ensure the most up to date evidence is considered and each site should be appraised following the similar methodology in the GM Level 1 SFRA. EA had highlighted the lack of a water efficiency policy in the Draft Local Plan. They raised this due to EA previously declaring a Prolonged Dry Weather in 2025, plus issues related to climate change, population growth and urban infrastructure and the water use linked with Data Centres, which are significant users of water. Seeks policy amendments related to a variety of policies with a particular emphasis on the Environment Chapter and Growth Location policies. They requested the addition of buffer area of at least 8 metres adjacent to bank of main rivers.
National Highways	Seeks to understand the traffic impacts associated with any proposed development likely to impact the Strategic Road Network, with a particular focus on Manchester Airport and the M56. NH are keen to understand the current position with regard to transport evidence base and development phasing, particularly in and around the Airport.
Historic England	Raised concerns about the evidence base supporting the Draft Local Plan and the lack of Heritage Impact Assessments for Victoria North, Strangeways and Holt Town.

	Seeks policy amendments to heritage policies D4 and D5 with the inclusion of archaeology and more narrative about the historic environment in Manchester.
Natural England	NE raised concerns about the HRA in relation to air quality, particularly at Manchester Airport and Cotteril Clough SSSI. They raised concerns about the impact of the Growth Locations - North Manchester General Hospital, Mix and Manchester Airport on priority habitats and species. NE sought policy amendments to various Environment policies including EN1 Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure and reference to how Green Infrastructure should be managed, maintained and monitored for 30 years. They are also seeking reference to Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) in the development principles. The focus on LNRS was raised with regard to EN4 Biodiversity & Geodiversity. NE raised concerns about peat and soils.
Trafford MBC	Generally supports the Local Plan. Raised the need to collaborate to ensure cross boundary matters are fully considered with regard to Timperley Wedge PfE allocation within Trafford, Manchester Airport, Wythenshawe Hospital and Heat Networks.
NHS Property Services and NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board	Residential development impacts the need for additional primary healthcare provision. This should be a priority for infrastructure delivery. Planning policies should enable the delivery of essential healthcare infrastructure and be prepared in consultation with the NHS. Largely support Draft Policies SGL9: North Manchester General Hospital, SGL11: Wythenshawe Hospital and H2: Affordable Housing. Recommend the Council factor in local need for affordable housing in housing

	needs assessments and other studies and consider site allocations for identified need for affordable housing for NHS staff. With regard to Draft Policy DC1: Developer Contribution, NHSPS recommend that the Local Plan have a specific section in the document that sets out the process to determine the appropriate form of developer contributions to health infrastructure Draft Policies SGL1: Strategic Growth Locations, SGL3: City Centre Areas and SGL4: Victoria North and SGL5: Holt Town should consider the capacity and any additional need for healthcare infrastructure. Suggest the inclusion of a policy on health.
TfGM	Broadly supportive of objectives and especially higher density development around key transport nodes. Comments are made around the need to increase capacity of the rapid transit system within the City Centre, the need to address the barrier created by the Inner Ring Road such as Great Ancoats Street with regard to SGL1, SGL2 and SGL3. Specific comments are made with regard to Victoria North and the new Sandhills Metrolink Stop and Travel Hub. The need for further reference to active travel is raised in relation to Victoria North, Holt Town. Specific infrastructure needs related to the Rapid Transit System are raised in relation to Sportcity, Strangeways, North Manchester General Hospital, Wythenshawe Hospital. They seek further information with regard to the proposed mobility hub at Wythenshawe Centre. Generally supports Manchester Airport Strategic Sites policy. Suggests policy wording to Policy T1 Transport Principles and T3 Transport Infrastructure Investment.

Duty to Co-operate Activity 2023 to 2024

Table 2.2

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
GM LA Nature Recovery Group Teams Meetings	Neighbouring Authorities across GM, GMCA , Natural England	11/05/23 13/07/23 14/09/23 9/11/23 11/01/24 14/03/24	Discussion on nature recovery, BNG, green infrastructure	GM
Local Nature Recovery Strategy Workshops	GMCA, Natural England and GM LA's	29/11/23 7/12/23 13/12/23	Discussed Local Nature Recovery Network and Biodiversity Net Gain • River Valleys • Trees & woodland • Urban Green Space	GM
GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy Group	Neighbouring GM Authorities, GMCA	23/8/23, 30/10/23, 28/11/23 29/11/23 05/12/23 07/12/23 12/12/23 13/12/23 15/2/24	Discussion on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Network including: • Upland, Moorland & Heathland priorities • River Valleys • Grassland, Cropland, and Heath • Woodlands, Trees, and Hedgerows • Lowlands, Mosslands, and Wetlands • Urban Green Spaces	GM wide

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
BNG/Urban Green Factor Stakeholder Workshop	Groundwork, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, GMCA GMCA, Natural England, Environment Agency and various other bodies not related to DtC	5/9/23 11/9/23	Biodiversity Net Gain	NW
Co design workshop to develop guidance for GM planners on Water Framework Directive	GM authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency, GMCA	6/12/23	Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Planning	GM
Planning Officer Group	GMCA and Planning Officers from all districts	Monthly	Discussion on GM Planning Policy issues	GM
PfE Land Supply and Monitoring Framework (included GM Land Supply collation)	GM Districts and GMCA	25/04/24 17/10/24 3/04/25	Agreed how to monitor indicators in PfE. Agreed dates and info to be submitted for GM Land Supply collation. GMCA feedback on 2024 supply returns. Agreed 2025 Land Supply Schema, Pfe Monitoring deadlines	GM

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
			and publishing dates and update on MappingGM.	
Transport Strategy Group	TfGM, GM Local Authorities	Monthly	Discussed the new Local Transport Plan and Strategic Transport Funding	GM
Highways England	Highways England, Manchester City Council Highways and Transport Strategy, TfGM	12/05/2025	Mitigation for air quality along the M56	MCC
Historic England	Historic England, Manchester City Council	4th September 2024	Conservation Area Review	MCC

Local Plan Activity with Collaboration Bodies

Table 2.3

Date	Body	Collaboration
14/10/2025	Collaboration Event attended by: Bolton MBC Bury Council Cheshire East Council GMCA Manchester City Council Natural England NHS (MFT) Oldham MBC Rochdale Borough Council Salford City Council Stockport MBC	An overview of the Manchester draft Local Plan was given by Manchester City Council covering topics such as strategic growth locations, Housing, Employment, Environment, Zero Carbon and Transport. Issues raised included: • Process of assessing sites Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople ongoing • Approach to quantum and distribution of employment

	TfGM Trafford MBC	space in PfE within Manchester Local Plan. • Proposed City Centre boundary change • Evidence basis for Urban • Green Factor • Waste and Minerals • Affordable Housing 30% • Green Infrastructure Strategy • Peat • Tree Policy • Water Management • Collaboration with Local Nature Partnership
29/10/2025	NHS Property and GM NHS Integrated Care Board (Meeting)	Sought further information on prioritisation of different S106 asks on contributions and expressed concern that health is overlooked. Asked about the existence of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan supporting the Local Plan. GM ICB and NHSPS confirm they are happy to input into the IDP. Explained that they are preparing an Infrastructure Strategy which should be ready for sharing with external bodies by the end of the year.
3/12/202	TfGM (Meeting)	TfGM's Rapid Transit Team are undertaking a number of assessments exploring possible need to improve capacity and connectivity of the rapid transit system. As assessment(s) work is at different stages the purpose of the meeting was to understand how best to address some of this work within the local plan.

		TfGM suggests the SGL policies are likely to require some further mention of Rapid Transit System.
9/01/2026	Historic England (meeting)	HE wanted more evidence supporting some of the Growth Locations in terms of heritage impact. HE and MCC to have a dialogue on this basis – need to consider what is proportionate evidence. HE raised concerns about the terminology used in policy D4 Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, and Registered Parks and Gardens. HE are seeking more description of heritage of the area supporting the Heritage policy. HE picked up lack of coverage of archaeology in policy – suggested picking this up in either D4 or D5. HE seeking more information on the expected scope and content of the Development Frameworks. (Email exchange related to the above between 22nd March and 15th April 2026.)
14/01/2026	National Highways (Meeting)	NH are keen to understand the current position with regard to evidence base and development phasing, particularly in and around the Airport. At the Airport and surroundings there are multiple proposals coming forward which are likely to impact the

		SRN. References were made to Rainbow Works, Timperley Wedge, MIX . There is a need to identify the evidence gaps by establishing what is going on with regard to studies around the Airport and other key locations in the surroundings ie Trafford and Stockport. Collaborate with TfGM, neighbouring authorities, NH on collection of evidence base, working groups etc.
4/03/2026	Environment Agency (Meeting)	SFRA Level 1 JBA have been commissioned to undertake Level 1 SFRA and if appropriate a Level 2 SFRA, to inform the Manchester Local Plan. The EA attended the Inception Meeting with MCC and JBA and fed into the planned programme of work particularly around climate modelling. EA had highlighted the lack of a water efficiency policy in the Draft Local Plan. MCC asked if there was any evidence of the impact on viability of introducing tighter water efficiency standards on development. There was a discussion about the need to avoid repetition of PfE policies and whether PfE adequately covers some of the issues raised in EA's comments. Discussion took place regarding EN2: River Valley's and Waterways - MCC will consider how to include

		reference to the Water Framework Directive and the need for WFD assessments where applicable. There was a discussion between EA and MCC about incorporating an 8-10 metre buffer for development adjacent to watercourses. EA referred to an existing bylaw relating to any works within 8 metres of a waterway requiring permission from the EA as part of the reason for this policy. It was agreed this might be an area for further discussion. Discussion also took place regarding EN3 Trees & Woodland, EN5 BNG, EN9: Flood Risk, EN Policies General, ZC3 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments, T1: Transport Principles and Growth Location Policies. (Email from EA updating their position on key points related to Water Efficiency Policy: PfE and River Buffers)
21/04/2026	Natural England and GMEU (Meeting)	Air quality was discussed in relation to Manchester Airport and the HRA plus EN7 Air Quality. Concerns were raised about increased aviation and transport and associated rise in emissions. NE said they were exploring this under Manchester Airport Strategic Site policy and also Air Quality. MCC clarified that no further quantum of development was planned at

		Manchester Airport than set out in PfE and PfE HRA had dealt with quantum of development. NE agreed to send their standing advise on air quality, setting out when impacts need to be considered. Responsibility lies with the LPA to follow the steps in this standard advise. GMEU agreed to review HRA in terms of wider development schemes which may impact road traffic. NE sought reference to LNRS in objectives and principles of the Plan. Discussion on EN1 Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure and EN4 Biodiversity & Geodiversity took place. NE also raised peat and sustainable management of soils. (Email from NE 27/04/2026 related to the above highlighting the need for greater clarity in how the Local Plan interacts with PfE; need to reference peat policy in PfE Policy JP-G8 A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity; specific comments on HRA and IA)
29/04/2026	Historic England (Meeting)	MCC presented their approach to HIA using the example of Victoria North. The HIA followed an approach suggested by HE in an email dated 12th March 2026. HE indicated that this table was useful. This was the approach they were looking

		for. They wish to review Victoria North in detail and will send through comments. They confirmed it fills the gap between SRF's and Local Plan evidence. MCC explained they are redrafting D4 Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, and Registered Parks and Gardens based on HE's suggested wording in the email dated 22 January 2026. MCC confirmed D5 Heritage is being amended to include more narrative about the historic environment within Manchester. MCC confirmed they are looking to add in wording around archaeology. MCC explained they had sent through evidence to show the local HE team had commented and been involved in the SRF's. HE confirmed this had been proven.
11/05/2026	Letter emailed to: Bolton Bury Oldham Rochdale Salford Stockport Tameside Trafford Wigan Cheshire East	MCC wrote to all GM authorities and Cheshire East regarding an identified unmet need for accommodation for travelling showpeople. A request was made to each authority to consider whether there is potential to accommodate some of Manchester's unmet need for accommodation for travelling showpeople within their area.
11/06/2026	Environment Agency	Update on the Local Plan. MCC approach to the Statement of Collaboration.

		Confirmed proposed policy amendments focused around buffer zone matter being picked up in supporting text, higher Water Efficiency standards, Water Framework Directive. Plus drawing out PfE policies more within the document. SFRA Level 1 - discussed the need for a rerun of the land supply following latest data updates. Inclusion of policy wording relating to the need for a Level 2 SFRA will be included where necessary.
16/06/2026	Natural Capital Group (Local Nature Partnership) made up of City of Trees, United Utilities (UU), Natural England, Natural Capital Chair and Royal Horticultural Society.	Discussed EN3 Trees and Woodland Policy and aspirations for tree coverage and amenity value of trees. UU raised the need to look beyond the policies to delivery. NE discussed peat protection in local plans and that there is very little in Manchester. RHS alerted MCC to lottery funding for community gardening.
19/06/2026	Letter emailed to: Bolton Bury Oldham Rochdale Salford Stockport Tameside Trafford Wigan Cheshire East	MCC wrote a follow up to the 11/05/2026 email letter to all GM authorities and Cheshire East regarding an identified unmet need for accommodation for travelling showpeople. It also made a new request to consider whether there is potential to accommodate some of Manchester's unmet need for accommodation for Gypsy and Traveller pitches within their area.

19/06/2026	Wigan	Email confirming they are unable to accommodate any of Manchester's unmet need for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
19/06/2026	Bolton	Email confirming they are unable to accommodate any of Manchester's unmet need for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
24/06/2026	Tameside	Email confirming they are unable to accommodate any of Manchester's unmet need for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
26/06/2026	Trafford	Emailed letter confirming they are unable to accommodate any of Manchester's unmet need for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
30/06/2026	National Highways, TfGM and MCC	Discussed evidence based being gathered setting out development and transport pipeline in and around the M56.
20/07/2026	Salford	Emailed letter confirming they are unable to accommodate any of Manchester's unmet need for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.
22/07/2026	Bury	Email confirming they are unable to accommodate any of Manchester's unmet need for Gypsy and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Established Collaborative Activity 2024 to 2025

Table 2.4

Meeting/ Strategic Issues Considered	With whom the issue was discussed	Date	Outcome of Discussion	Geographical Scale of the Issue
Planning Officer Group	GMCA and Planning Officers from all GM districts	Monthly	Discussion on GM Planning issues, including Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and Travelling Show People.	GM
Irwell Catchment partnership including BRIL	Environment Agency - Irwell Catchment partnership co- ordinator role Membership - LAs, Third Sector NGOs	Monthly to every 6 weeks	Partnership's Vision is to make a healthy water environment a positive part of people's daily lives	GM
Medlock Valley Nature Partnership	Natural England -Project co- ordinator role Membership - Oldham, Tameside MBC, Third Sector NGOs	4/9/24 28/11/24 25/3/25	Discussion on water management towards a healthy water environment, supporting economic growth and health and well being.	GM
Bollin - Mersey Nature Recovery Partnership	Natural England - Project Co- ordinator Role Membership - South Cheshire, Trafford, Stockprt	30/07/2024 5/11/2024 18/03/2025	GM/NE discussions	GM/NW
Transport Strategy Group	TfGM, GM Local Authorities	Monthly	Discussed the new Local Transport Plan and Strategic Transport Funding	GM

