

MANCHESTER CITY OF CYCLING

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
2026–2031



MANCHESTER
CITY OF CYCLING

**The key partners delivering this
Manchester City of Cycling Implementation Plan are:**



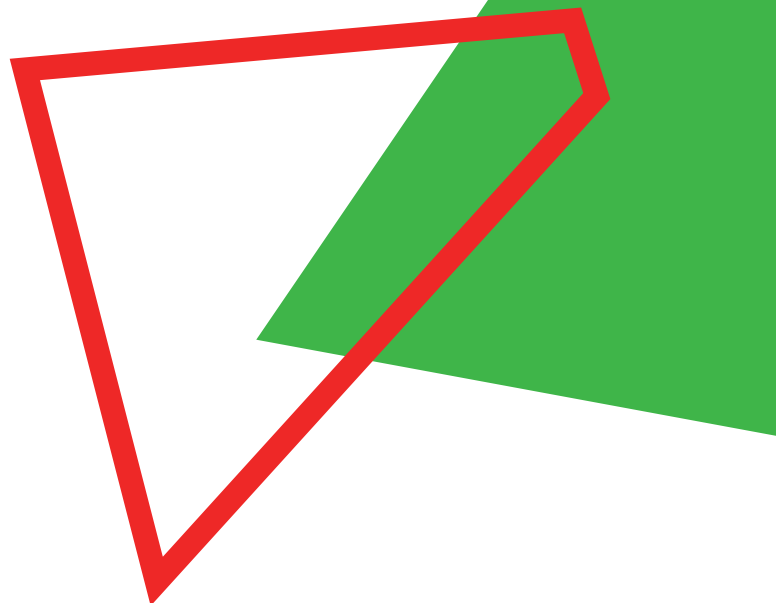
**Supporting partners and subgroup
membership includes:**

- Access Sport**
- Bee Pedal Ready CiC**
- Canal & River Trust**
- National Cycling Centre**
(operated by GLL)
- Oxford Road Corridor**
- Station South**
- Wheels for All**

Introduction

The Manchester City of Cycling Implementation Plan (2026–2031) sets out a bold vision to transform Manchester into a truly cycle-friendly city, embedding cycling as a safe, inclusive and accessible choice for all. Building on the success of Manchester’s designation as the European Capital of Cycling 2024, the plan outlines strategic themes designed to increase participation, widen access, enhance infrastructure, promote cycling and integrate it into sustainable travel initiatives. Each theme is supported by clear commitments that translate ambition into action, ensuring measurable progress over the next five years.

The plan emphasises collaboration across the Council, voluntary and community groups, and regional partners to deliver practical solutions that remove barriers, celebrate cycling culture, and create equitable opportunities. From expanding bike libraries and inclusive programmes, to improving infrastructure and launching impactful campaigns, these initiatives aim to make cycling not only a mode of transport but a catalyst for health, social connection and environmental sustainability. Together, they represent Manchester’s commitment to building a greener, healthier and more connected future.



Foreword

Manchester's journey to becoming a true City of Cycling is one of ambition, collaboration, and shared purpose. This Implementation Plan for 2026–2031 builds on the momentum of our designation as European Capital of Cycling 2024 and sets out our plans to make cycling a safe, inclusive and accessible choice for everyone in our city.

Cycling is more than a mode of transport – it is a catalyst for health, social connection, and environmental sustainability. Our success to date has been possible because of the unwavering commitment of our partners and the passion of our communities. From grassroots organisations to regional bodies, every partner has played a vital role in breaking down barriers, creating opportunities and embedding cycling into the cultural fabric of Manchester.

This plan focuses on strategic themes that will guide our work over the next five years:

- » **Cycling participation and community engagement** – celebrating cycling through events and programmes that bring people together and champion inclusion.
- » **Widening access and equity** – tackling inequalities by removing barriers and ensuring sustainable access to bikes and skills for all.
- » **Building sustainable cycling infrastructure** – delivering safe, high-quality networks and environments that make cycling a practical everyday choice.
- » **Promoting cycling through communications** – using positive messaging and clear resources to empower residents and normalise cycling.

These themes are underpinned by clear commitments that are developed collaboratively by our steering group and partners. Together, we will expand community offers, deliver inclusive programmes, improve infrastructure, and launch campaigns that inspire confidence and pride in cycling.

The role of our communities remains central. Their voices, experiences and energy will continue to shape this journey, ensuring that Manchester becomes a city where cycling is not just possible, but celebrated.

Thank you to all our partners, volunteers and residents who have helped us reach this point. Your dedication is the foundation of this plan – and together, we will create a legacy that transforms how Manchester moves.

Councillor John Hacking

Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

Councillor Tracey Rawlins

Executive Member for Clean Air, Environment and Transport



“On behalf of ACES, we extend our congratulations to Manchester on the outstanding achievement of being named the first ACES European Capital of Cycling 2024 and successfully delivering a year that has inspired communities across the city and beyond. This accolade reflects Manchester’s bold vision and collaborative spirit, and we commend the city for embedding cycling as a cornerstone of its sustainable future.

“Looking ahead, we strongly endorse the ambitions set out in the Manchester City of Cycling Implementation Plan (2026–2031). The focus on increasing participation, widening access, building inclusive infrastructure, and the promotion of cycling demonstrates a comprehensive approach to creating a cycle-friendly city. Initiatives such as increasing access to bikes, delivering inclusive programmes, and investing in high-quality active travel networks will not only transform mobility but also strengthen sport and physical activity, health, equity and the environment.

“Manchester has set a benchmark for European cities, and we look forward to the city delivering measurable progress over the next five years.”

Michelle Vorel-Adams

Theme 1: Cycling participation and community engagement

Lead organisation/Team:
Manchester Active

Partners: Access Sport, British Cycling, Cycling UK, GLL, Manchester City Council, Transport for Greater Manchester, voluntary sector cycling groups and organisations, Wheels for All.



Introduction

Manchester is committed to becoming a city where cycling is safe, inclusive and accessible to all. Through a vibrant programme of community events, inclusive initiatives and practical support, we will create opportunities for all ages, backgrounds and abilities to experience the joy and freedom of cycling.

We will celebrate cycling through engaging events – from family-friendly rides in parks and neighbourhoods, to local festivals – bringing communities together and showcasing cycling as a fun and social activity. In addition, Manchester City Council, Manchester Active and British Cycling work together to deliver a joint events strategy to bring events to the National Cycling Centre and city, from regional racing to international competition.

Through the range of partners involved in City of Cycling, we will champion inclusion and work to remove barriers to participation, offering tailored programmes for people with disabilities or long-term health conditions, women and girls, and underrepresented communities. Manchester has a vibrant and passionate network of volunteers, community cycling organisations and clubs that engage and work in communities across the city. By working closely with local groups, we will ensure cycling infrastructure and programming reflect the diverse needs and ambitions of Manchester's communities.

Together, these efforts will help Manchester become a truly cycle-friendly city, where cycling is not just a mode of transport but a tool for connection, empowerment and wellbeing.

Key areas of focus:

- » Community Cycling activity and events
- » Cycling Inclusion.

1. Community Cycling activity and events

We will:

- » Offer safe, fun and inclusive cycling experiences for children and young people, families and beginners, across parks and green spaces, facilities and neighbourhoods.
- » Support local cycling festivals, neighbourhood events and introduce cycling activities into Manchester events.
- » Work jointly to deliver, promote and celebrate major cycling events, including the Tour de France Femmes in July 2027, and increase opportunities for residents to engage with cycling events through targeted outreach and activation activities.

2. Cycling Inclusion

We will:

- » Offer inclusive cycling programmes, ensuring access for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions.
- » Champion women and girls in cycling, build capacity through training and support, and further develop women's cycling initiatives.
- » Develop partnerships with groups to reach and empower underrepresented communities in cycling.



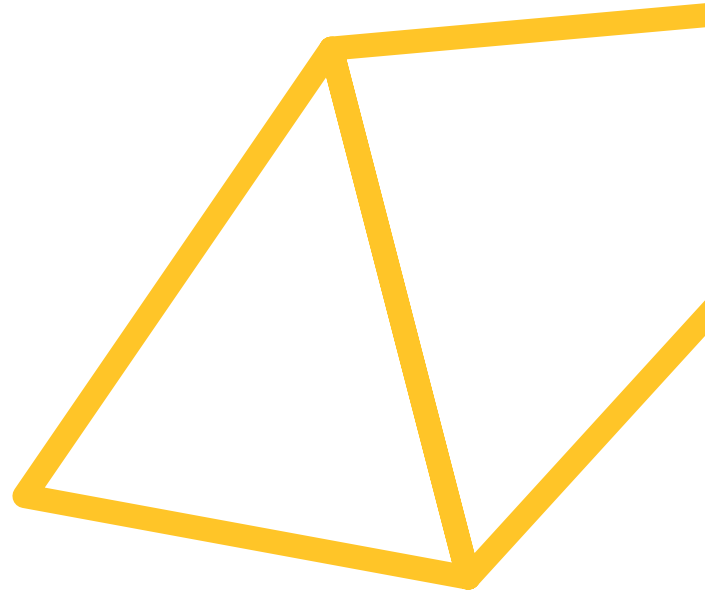
Theme 1 case studies:

British Cycling Pedal Party

Pedal Parties are fun and family-friendly community cycling events held in safe, traffic-free spaces. They support children and young people to enjoy cycling, develop skills, and provide opportunities for families to ride together. They currently operate seasonally on a monthly basis at Wythenshawe Park, each event averaging around 50 participants, including pre-booked attendees and walk-ins. Activities provided include free bike hire, learn-to-ride activities with volunteers, and coaches on hand to support new riders. Pedal Parties serve as a gateway to further cycling opportunities, signposting participants to other citywide cycling activities.



Pedal Party at Wythenshawe Park

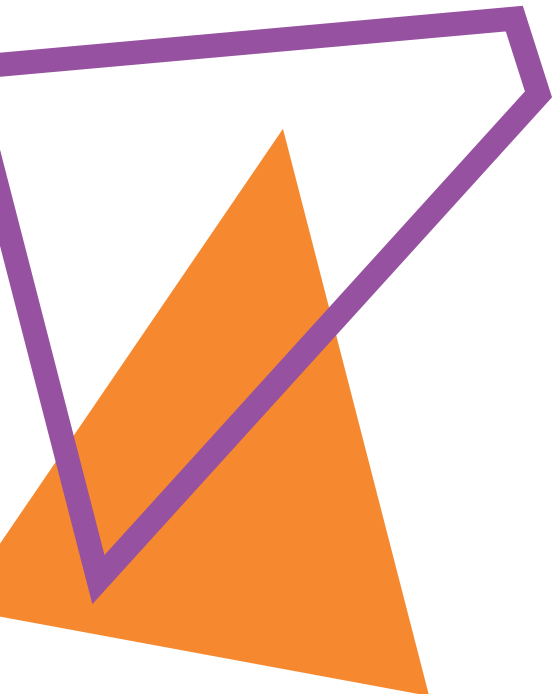


Lights Up

For the third year running, Lights Up transformed Manchester's streets into a vibrant and illuminated spectacle, bringing together over 200 cyclists for a night-time ride aimed at promoting safer, more inclusive cycling for women, girls and underrepresented groups after dark. Organised by Bee Pedal Ready and Station South, the free community-led event had the largest number of riders to date. Support from partners included community cycling groups, Manchester Metropolitan University, Transport for Greater Manchester, Manchester City Council, Manchester Parks and Manchester Active.



*Lights Up mass ride, November 2025.
© Bee Pedal Ready, Station South*



Theme 2: Widen access and equity in cycling

Lead organisation/Team:
Manchester Active

Partners: Access Sport, British Cycling, Cycling UK, GLL, Manchester City Council, Transport for Greater Manchester, voluntary sector cycling groups and organisations.



Introduction

As Manchester continues to grow as a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable city, investing in cycling offers a powerful opportunity to address key social, environmental and health challenges. This theme focuses on two core areas: improving access by reducing barriers, and ensuring long-term sustainability through access to bikes and cycling skills. Together, these priorities aim to create a more equitable and active city for all residents.

By targeting areas with low cycling participation and high health inequalities, the programme supports Manchester's broader goals, such as those outlined in the Making Manchester Fairer strategy. It uses cycling as a tool to tackle physical inactivity, social isolation and economic exclusion, while also building local leadership through education, training and volunteering.

Sustainable access is equally vital. Expanding bike libraries, offering free training, and supporting bike-recycling initiatives ensure that cycling remains an affordable and accessible option for everyone, including those who need adapted or electric bikes. These efforts not only promote greener travel but also strengthen community resilience and reduce long-term transport inequalities.

Focusing on these outcomes will help Manchester become a healthier, more connected, and environmentally responsible city, where cycling is a realistic and attractive choice for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Key areas of focus:

- » Widen access and reduce barriers to cycling.
- » Sustainable access to bikes and skills.

1. Widen access and reduce barriers to cycling

We will:

- » Build capacity for voluntary and community groups through education, training and skills development, offer volunteering opportunities to empower individuals, and build local cycling leadership.
- » Prioritise opportunities in areas with health inequalities and low cycling participation, using cycling as a tool to tackle physical inactivity, social isolation and broader health disparities.

2. Sustainable access to bikes and skills

We will:

- » Grow Manchester's network of bike libraries, enabling free access to bikes in community centres, schools and leisure facilities.
- » Deliver free and low-cost cycle training to residents, including bike maintenance workshops and Learn to Ride, in partnership with community groups and cycling clubs.
- » Increase awareness of and expand access to initiatives that offer loans and training to increase access to electric and adapted bikes.
- » Support a network of organisations to repair, recycle and redistribute bikes so they can be used by those in need.



Theme 2 case studies:

Manchester Bike Kitchen (MBK)

Manchester Bike Kitchen launched its bike hub in Wythenshawe Civic Centre in 2024. The hub offers a bike library, bike maintenance sessions, a place to donate bikes, affordable repairs, refurbished bikes for sale and at low cost, volunteering opportunities and an employment support programme. MBK recycles donated bikes, preventing them from going to landfill, and transforms them into affordable and sustainable transport for local people.

Community Cycling Activator Training

In 2024 and 2025, Manchester Active funded two British Cycling Community Activator training courses. These new courses teach entry-level cycling, such as Learn to Ride, basic cycling skills and traffic-free led rides.

The courses have been fully booked and attended by ten Manchester VCSE organisations, including Manchester Young Lives, Manchester Young Community Champions, Geared Riders, Moston Cycling Club, Max Trax, Ensemble Manchester, and Kingsway Athletic.

Feedback from the training:

“It was a fantastic day. I learnt loads and really enjoyed meeting other participants. I’m particularly grateful to have filled my ‘toolbox’ with cycling games. I hope to organise some activities in our youth centres soon.”

Anna – Manchester Young Lives

Anna has already used the training to deliver led rides for women and recently applied for a City of Cycling grant to deliver cycling for young people.

“The whole day was really interesting. I learned so much and have come away with confidence and knowledge I didn’t have before. I cannot wait to deliver with confidence our Learn to Ride activities.”

Kerrie – Max Trax

Kerrie has used the training to deliver Learn to Ride sessions and will develop the cycling offer when the Max Trax facility opens in 2026.

Of the 17 people who have attended to date, 59% have been women and 59% have been BAME, including two young volunteers who attended, demonstrating the appeal to groups who are underrepresented in cycling. Further courses will be offered in 2026 and beyond.



Theme 3: Building sustainable cycling infrastructure and active travel networks

Lead organisation/Team:

Manchester City Council Sustainable Transport

Partners: Canal & River Trust, Manchester Active, Manchester City Council (Active Travel, Highways, Parks, Neighbourhoods), Oxford Road Corridor, Transport for Greater Manchester.



Introduction

Cycling plays a vital role in addressing climate change, reducing traffic congestion and improving public health. Manchester aims to integrate cycling into broader sustainable transport initiatives.

Manchester set out its vision for active travel in the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (MATSIP) 2023, namely that *“... everybody in Manchester will be able to walk, wheel or cycle as part of their everyday lives – for school, work, shopping and socialising, in safety, comfort and happiness.”*

To achieve the MATSIP vision, Manchester has produced a network plan to guide investment in safe, accessible and high-quality cycling infrastructure. Schemes have been delivered throughout the city, including Deansgate to Chorlton, Yellow Brick Road, Levenshulme and Burnage Active Neighbourhood, and Victoria North Eastern Gateway. More schemes are funded and are due to be delivered by 2027, including Wythenshawe crossings and junctions, and Fallowfield CYCLOPS.

The plan was refreshed in 2025 to be more granular and to cover a wider range of journeys across walking, wheeling and cycling; it is due to be published later 2026. The new network plan identifies a prioritised pipeline of schemes to put forward for delivery funding in the 2027–2032 funding period.

Manchester will support the development of safe, accessible and high-quality cycling infrastructure to enable more people to choose cycling for everyday travel.

Key areas of focus:

- » Expand and secure cycle storage and parking across the city.
- » Deliver infrastructure improvements for cycling, including quiet streets, traffic-free routes and protected cycle tracks.



1. Expand and secure cycle storage and parking across the city

We will:

- » Install at least 30 additional on-street secure cycle hangars by early 2026 and continue their delivery as funding allows, ensuring residents have safe and convenient options for bike storage.
- » Increase cycle parking in key destinations: continue the citywide programme to install cycle parking in district centres and high-footfall areas through March 2026, improving accessibility for everyday journeys.

2. Deliver infrastructure improvements cycling, including quiet streets, traffic-free routes and protected cycle tracks

We will:

- » Deliver School Streets in every ward by 2028: implement a phased delivery starting in 2026 to create safer, child-friendly environments that encourage walking, wheeling and cycling to school.
- » Remove physical barriers to inclusive cycling: audit and prioritise removal of restrictive barriers on off-road paths to enable access for wheelchairs, mobility aids, and non-standard cycles, supporting inclusive active travel.



Theme 3 case studies:

Cycle hangars

Lack of space to securely store a bike at home is a key barrier to people taking up cycling. To remedy this, our Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (MATSIP) committed to a citywide programme of secure, on-street cycle hangars. A cycle hangar pilot was launched in March 2025. Since going live in June 2025, nine hangars have been installed. These are fully occupied and there is a waiting list of 90 people. Funding is in place for a further 30 hangars to be installed in early 2026.



Manchester cycle hangar

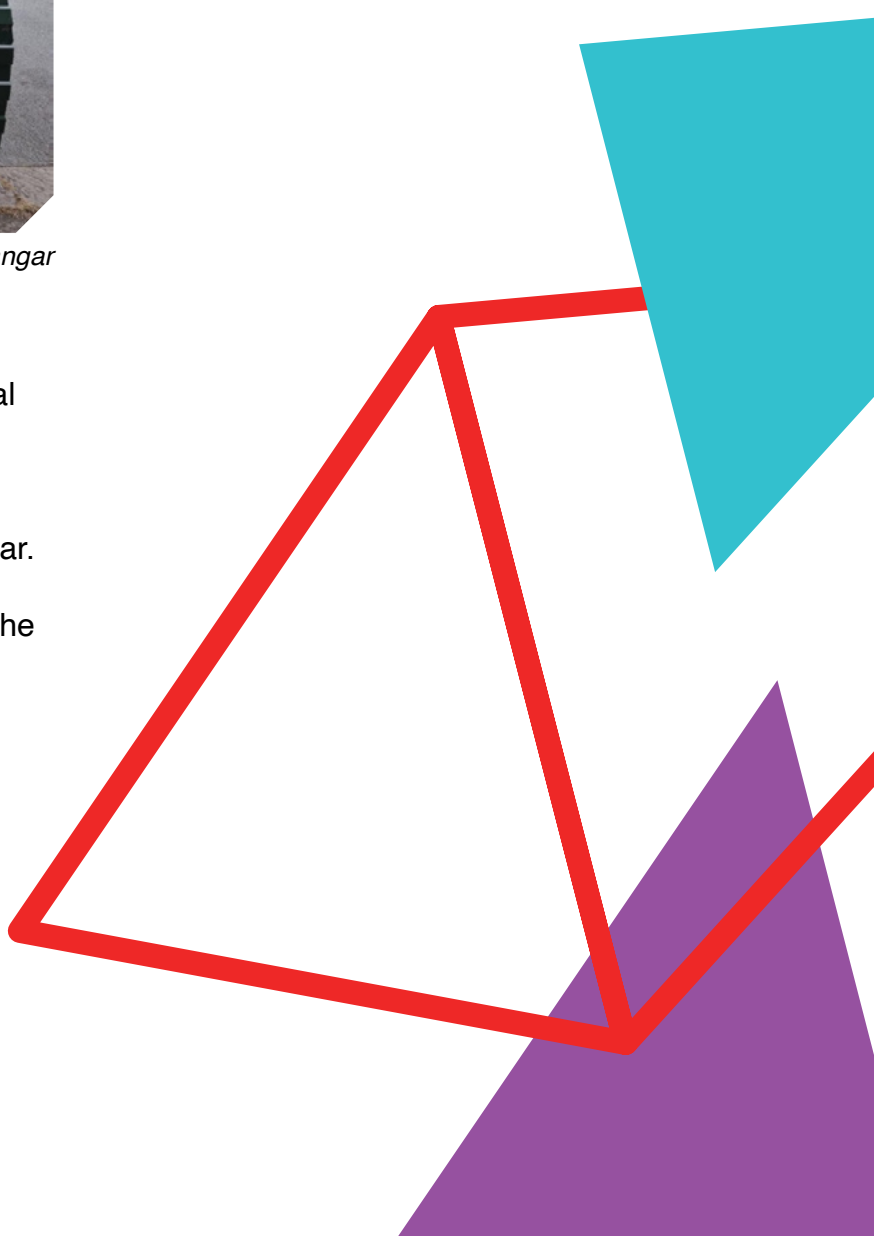
The hangars are provided by leading supplier Cyclehoop, and each can store six standard bicycles. Users purchase an annual membership and access the hangars via a mobile app, removing the need for key administration and replacement of lost keys. The scheme has quickly become very popular. As well as the 90 people on the waiting list, many have also registered their interest on the Cyclehoop website, as of December 2025.

Hangars are designed for convenience and security; they are accessed from the pavement and built to protect bikes from theft, vandalism and bad weather. They support modal shift by removing a key barrier to cycling, enabling residents to choose active travel for short journeys.

The pilot hangars are in Levenshulme, Withington, Old Moat, Whalley Range and Chorlton. They are based on resident requests and detailed engagement with residents in areas of high interest to make sure the hangar locations are matched with demand. Our intention is to build on the success of the pilot and place hangars in every neighbourhood where our residents want to use them.

Further information and video:

<https://cyclehoop.com/case-study/manchester-bikehangar-scheme/>



Deansgate to Chorlton Cycleway

The Chorlton Cycleway is Greater Manchester's longest fully protected cycle route, running for 6.5 kilometres between Chorlton and Deansgate in the city centre. It was completed in April 2025 and includes kerb-protected cycle lanes in both directions, ten major junction upgrades, 25 bus stop bypasses, and improved pedestrian crossings. The scheme introduced the UK's first CYCLOPS junction at Royce Road, which prioritises cyclist safety and reduces conflict with vehicles.



Deansgate Cycleway

One of our key MATSIP commitments is to double cycling-mode share from 2023 to 2028, and this scheme is a key piece of the puzzle for breaking down barriers to cycling and making it truly inclusive.

Monitoring shows that cycling along the corridor has increased by 37% and walking by 9%. The estimated annual reduction in car kilometres is 242,900, equating to 577.3 tonnes of CO₂e saved over 30 years, calculated using the Department for Transport's Carbon Mass Tool.

Work to build on the success of the scheme continues in Manchester and further afield, including schemes led by Trafford MBC for Seymour Grove and Trafford Bar, which will connect into the Chorlton scheme and create a truly integrated Greater Manchester active travel network across district boundaries.



Theme 4: Promote cycling through communications and signpost to information and resources that support cycling

Lead organisation/Team:
Manchester City Council
Communications

Partners: Manchester Active, Manchester City Council, Marketing Manchester, Transport for Greater Manchester. *Throughout the delivery of the implementation plan, additional communications support from partners will be required.*



Introduction

Cycling campaigns and positive messaging play a pivotal role in shaping public attitudes towards cycling, raising awareness of its multifaceted benefits, and driving behaviour change at scale.

A number of programmes and support interventions in Manchester have been designed to address the challenges and barriers to cycling. By highlighting cycling as a healthy, sustainable, and cost-effective mode of transport, communications and marketing can normalise cycling as a viable everyday choice.

Effective campaigns will use storytelling, community engagement and inclusive imagery to resonate with Manchester's diverse audiences. This will foster a sense of belonging and empowerment among potential cyclists and provide examples of how barriers have been overcome.

Lack of information can be a significant barrier to increasing cycling. People often worry about safety, affordability, infrastructure and knowing the best routes. To overcome this, our ambition is to provide clear, accessible and engaging resources that empower people to cycle confidently.

Following a successful year of cycling, Manchester is positioned to build a lasting legacy by leveraging effective cycling campaigns and positive messaging. Future messaging can reinforce the ongoing benefits; these tools are essential to not only celebrate achievements but also for embedding cycling into the cultural fabric of communities.

By using inclusive, aspirational messaging and showcasing real stories from local residents, Manchester can foster a sense of pride and ownership around cycling. This will make it a mainstream and accessible choice for all while encouraging continued and expanded participation.

Key areas of focus:

- » Cycling campaigns and messaging
- » Signposting to information and resources that support cycling
- » Cycle tourism

1. Cycling campaigns and messaging

We will:

- » Develop a year-round communications calendar based on the agreed programme of activity, to maintain visibility of cycling opportunities and benefits, working with partners to share and amplify.
- » Celebrate and promote the delivery of cycling infrastructure and improvements in the city, to demonstrate commitment to safe and connected cycling routes.
- » Deliver an annual Celebration of Cycling month (June) to showcase cycling activity and events, link to national cycling campaign days and engage new audiences.



2. Signposting to information and resources that support cycling

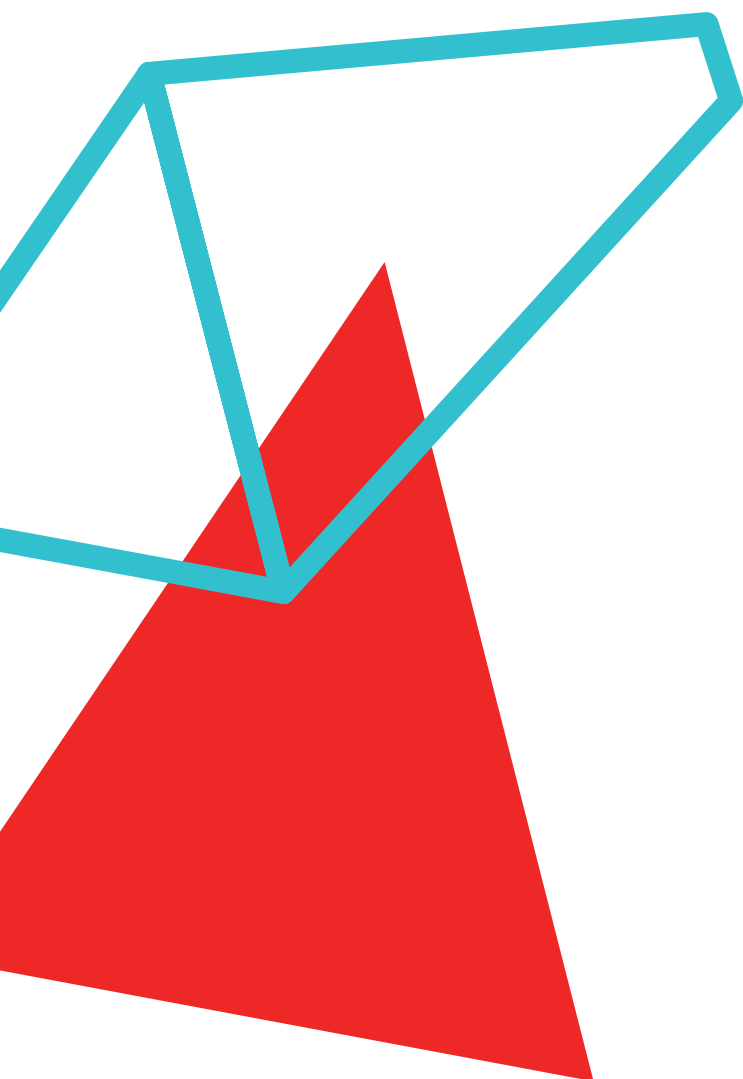
We will:

- » Provide clear, accessible and engaging resources that empower people to cycle confidently.
- » Develop interactive maps of safe cycling routes and highlight available infrastructure, such as bike parking and repair stations.

3. Cycle tourism

We will:

- » Encourage and incentivise visitors to the city to use Starling Bank hire bikes, focusing on how they can be accessed to visit key attractions within the city.
- » Promote Manchester as a cycle-friendly city, drawing attention to cycling infrastructure, linking key attractions and hotels.
- » Position Greater Manchester as a hub for visitors to base themselves as part of wider cycle tourism in the north west – linking with rail providers and hotels where relevant.



Theme 4 case study:

It's Your Move

Launched in 2023, Transport for Greater Manchester's Active Travel campaign, It's Your Move, returned for a third time in 2025, with engaging video content and eye-catching graphics shared across multiple channels. This year's campaign highlighted the benefits of walking, cycling and wheeling, sharing real-life stories from across Greater Manchester.

The personal stories highlighted the interventions and schemes people used across Greater Manchester to help them travel actively, including bike libraries, cycle training and hiring a Starling Bank Bike, as well as joining local walking clubs, to help them break down barriers and get active.

The campaign shared the story of George, who lives in Manchester and uses a Starling Bank Bike to cycle into the city centre and to the Etihad Campus. It celebrates how the cycle hire scheme has made getting around Manchester quicker, easier and more cost-effective.



*It's Your Move campaign example
(George, Manchester resident)*

Link to video:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNAf_pvv9yz/





Contact details

mcractive.com/cycling

The City of Cycling Implementation Plan will be reviewed annually through the Council's scrutiny processes and quarterly through the governance arrangements of the steering group and board.