

What am I voting for?

Explaining the different roles and services of the Government, local authorities and city regions



Elections are all about voting for councillors, elected mayors, and Members of Parliament to represent you and make key decisions on public services. Your vote helps determine which political representatives are elected to put these decisions into action.

Your local council

In 2023/4, Manchester City Council had a budget of £736.2million to spend on local services. This budget comes from a combination of local council tax, business rates, and direct grant aid from the UK Government.

The 96 councillors you vote for are tasked with determining how that money is spent by the Council officers who provide local services, taking into account the Council's core priorities.

Councillors have regular advice sessions at public and community venues, where you

can ask them questions and talk about local issues that affect you. To find out about your local councillor and advice sessions go to: <https://democracy.manchester.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1> or ring Members Services on 0161 234 3235.

If you have a query or need for a council service you can visit the Council's Customer Service Centre in Manchester Town Hall Extension to book an appointment with an advisor. Or you can ring 0161 234 5000 if you need to talk to an advisor about a council service.

Core services of Manchester City Council

- Provision of adults' and children's social care
- Supporting schools, colleges, youth and age-friendly services
- Protecting the local environment
- Providing waste collection and recycling facilities
- Providing parks, leisure centres, libraries and arts facilities
- Promoting good planning and regeneration policies
- Maintaining social housing and supporting the homeless
- Providing registration, legal, democratic and electoral services
- Licensing of taxis, pubs and clubs, and trading standards
- Maintaining local roads and parking services
- Supporting public health and wellbeing services
- Supporting local businesses and markets
- Assisting all local neighbourhoods
- Developing net-zero-carbon local projects

For a full list of services go to:

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/services>

Your GMCA

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was established in 2011 to take on the running of a number of regional policies and services devolved from the government. These include regional transport, health, planning and economic development strategies and services. GMCA is led by an Elected Mayor (elected every four years, with the next election in May 2024) who works with the Leaders of the 10 Greater Manchester Councils to determine regional priorities.

The Elected Mayor also has specific responsibilities for monitoring the work of Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

With Council Leaders, the Mayor directs officers to deliver city region policies and manage the likes of Transport for Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership and Greater Manchester Waste and Resources Team. The budget for this work comes largely from direct grant aid from the UK Government and a small part of council tax bills.

Core Services of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

- Public transport provision across Greater Manchester through the 'Bee Network'
- Local health and social care spending across Greater Manchester
- Economic development and international policy
- Waste and resource management across Greater Manchester
- Low carbon strategy and development across Greater Manchester
- Regional planning and housing policy

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor have responsibility for the governance and budgets relating to Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

For a full list of services go to:

<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/>

UK Government

The UK Government decides how much is spent on all national priorities paid through income tax and National Insurance. Voters elect 650 MPs from all parts of the UK and a range of political parties. The largest party usually forms the government, and its party leader takes the role of Prime Minister to direct making laws. Parliament monitors this work through a series of Select Committees and discussing all proposed laws that need its full approval.

To find out more go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/how-government-works>

Members of Parliament (MP)

You can contact your local MP to give them your views on an issue or provide more practical advice and support on areas where Parliament and the UK Government makes decisions. MPs split their time between working in Parliament and working in their constituency. When they are working in Parliament, they can suggest and consider new laws, and take part in important votes on how the country is run. They can also bring up issues that matter to people in their constituency with important members of the government.

To find out your local MP and how to contact them put your postcode in this webpage: <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>