



Walking for Pleasure in Greater Manchester

An outline of a strategy

This is a strategy to encourage and enable more people to walk for pleasure in Greater Manchester and so to support the development of the Bee Network.

Walking has many well documented benefits – improved physical health and wellbeing, more walking can also lead to more active neighbourhoods, more walking is part of the response to climate change – and is simply fun!

Partnership Approach

To be successful this strategy will need to be realised and delivered by a range of key partners. For example, GMCA will provide the overarching strategic support; TfGM will provide many of the key deliverable links and each local highway authority has statutory responsibilities for footpaths and rights of way. In addition, health and social care commissioners, neighbourhood planners and developers each have an interest and a contribution to make to promoting walking. Community based organisations such as Ramblers and others will also provide support, inspiration and volunteer time to help realise this strategy.

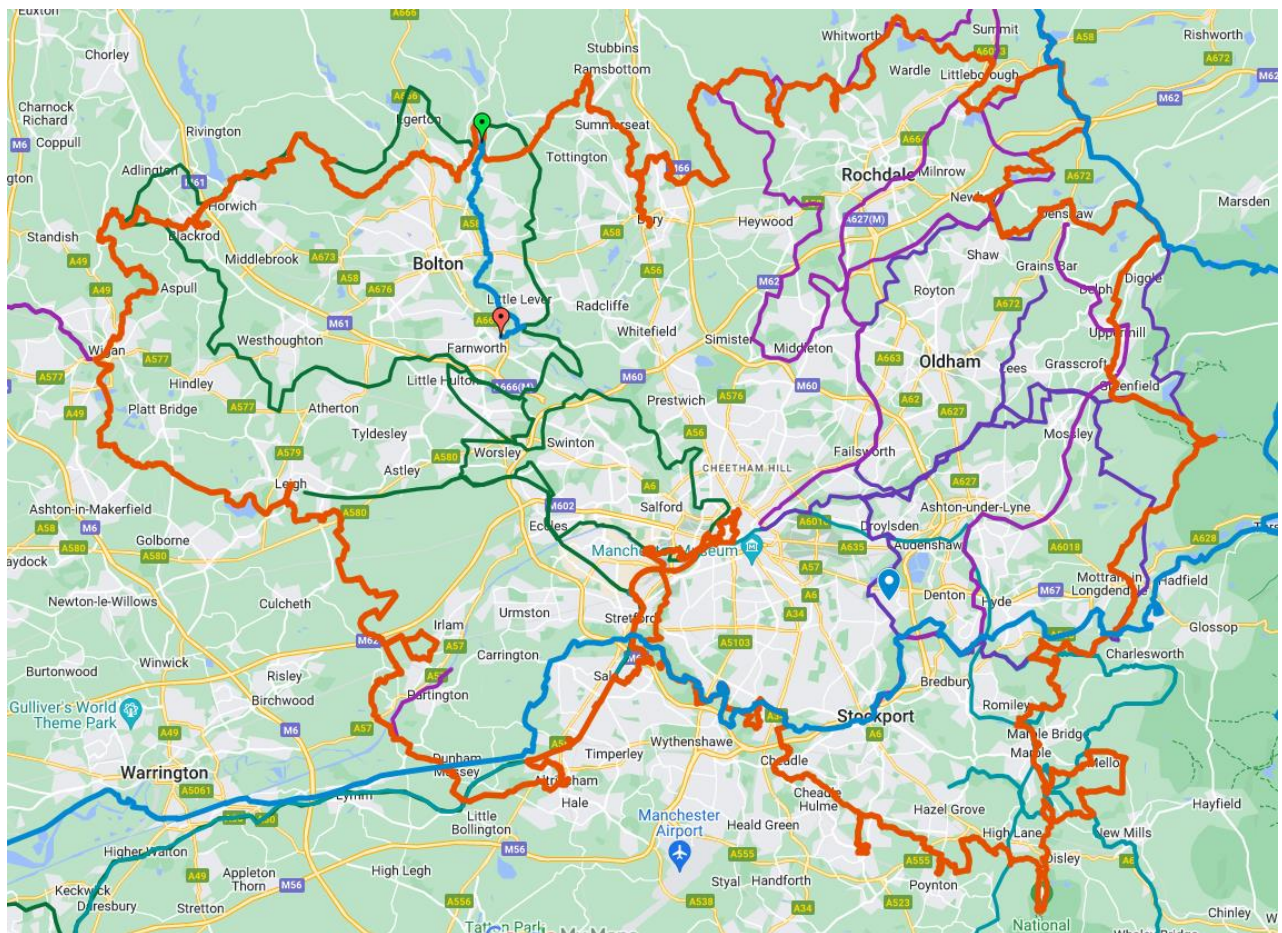
The Strategy

There will be two elements of the strategy: a GM wide network of walking routes and set of principles that partners would endorse to take the strategy forward.

GM Walking Network

The network would be based on the GM Ringway that covers all 10 boroughs and the national trails that cross GM; the Trans Pennine Trail crosses Trafford, Manchester, Stockport and Tameside and the Pennine Bridleway goes through Oldham, Tameside and Rochdale.

There are also a number of other established locally promoted green routes. Below is what a GM Leisure Walking Network could look like with a list of routes that are illustrated.



Routes included: GM Ringway, Trans Pennine Trail, Pennine Way, Pennine Bridleway.

Bridgewater Way, Bolton Rotary Way, Cheshire Ring Canal Walk, Cown Edge Way, Goyt Way, Kingfisher Trail, Medlock Valley Way, Tameside Trail, Oldham Way, Rochdale Way, Salford Trail, Tame Valley Walk, Wigan Canal Walk. Other routes not yet included Manchester Green Trail, Irwell sculpture Trail, Kirklees Trail Bury.

Key Principles

All partners would be asked to sign up to these principles:

- The GM Walking Network will be maintained to the highest standards and local authorities supported to help them meet their statutory responsibilities for all rights of way
- Partners are committed to the proactive removal of physical barriers on footpaths and rights of way
- Information and publicity on GM wide and local leisure routes will be widely available, via an appropriate variety of media and will be accessible and regularly updated
- There is a commitment to ensure that all communities are enabled to walk, through specific measures, confidence building, training and appropriate information
- Planning authorities will work with partners and developers to ensure that all new developments build in the promotion of walking from the outset of the design process.
- Health care partners will work with others to develop comprehensive information on well-being walks and encourage the health system to promote walking
- All will promote and encourage walking for the next generation.