

GM Walking Voice Manifesto September 2021

The GM Walking Voice

The GM Walking Voice is a collective of organisations that promote walking as a core purpose or part of what they do. This support and advocacy for walking may be for a variety of reasons including the environment and climate emergency, transport, health and wellbeing, or community connectivity and resilience.

The GM Walking Voice is working to further Greater Manchester's shared walking ambition, to enable the greatest number of people to *routinely walk for pleasure, personal or environmental benefit and travel convenience*.

The purpose of the GM Walking Voice is to provide an effective means to bring together people and organisations in Greater Manchester, to enable them to:

- Facilitate greater and richer partnership working to encourage increased walking in Greater Manchester.
- Speak with a collective voice on policies and good practice to promote walking in Greater Manchester
- Share ideas, information, insight and experience of effective ways to increase walking in communities.

The GM Walking Voice has representatives from Ramblers, Living Streets, GreaterSport, local authorities, TfGM, Groundwork Greater Manchester, City of Trees, Canals and Rivers Trust as well as local community organisations across Greater Manchester. We are a network of almost 570 members. The Voice has connections into communities and good reach across the GM system because of our broad membership, and we are working to expand our connections to better understand the issues and inequalities experienced by the diversity of our communities.

What the GM Voice offers

As a collective, we can draw on GM and national resources and support functions such as strategy, marketing and research, thereby contributing to the work at multiple layers of the web. We offer a collective voice around holistic walking policy, we can be a communications conduit and offer a route for sharing good practice.

- National and GM policy advocacy, supported with research
- Connections to colleagues in transport planning, strategy, highways engineers, public health and community development.
- Connections with communities across GM through community and partnership work, relationships, project delivery, including work with diverse groups and communities.
- Involvement in planning and developing activation projects
- Experience with community engagement
- Delivery in GM – generating data, and developing contacts in neighbourhoods
- Experience supporting workforce development and building community capacity
- Expertise around green and blue spaces, SUDS (e.g. trees in streets)

The Opportunity

The GM Walking Voice has a role in creating active environments and a walkable city region. GM Walking Voice will work with TfGM, GMCA and local partners to understand the mechanisms:

- to write early drafts of strategy or action plans to ensure a walking perspective is considered,
- to strengthen the community engagement process, helping TfGM and localities to consider walking issues during their planning and scheme design,
- to develop local approaches to engage with people in communities around activation.

The GM Walking Voice can help to;

- strengthen the strategic frameworks being developed by TfGM, GMCA and local authorities, from a walking perspective,
- ensure walking is a key part of the whole system solutions being developed in GM,
- support the implementation of the strategic principles set out by TfGM and localities.

Achieving Our Collective Ambition

The GM Walking Voice calls for the Streets for All Essentials to be embedded in to GM wide strategies for climate, transport, housing and place making. They should also be incorporated into district plans and neighbourhood activities.



Streets for All: Part of the 2040 Transport Strategy (TfGM September 2021)