

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE: Friday, 28th October, 2022

TIME: 10.15 am

VENUE: Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall, Knowsley Street,
Bury, BL9 0SW

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

5. Minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 19 October 2022 - To Follow

To note the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 19 October 2022.

8. Minutes of the Greater Manchester Transport Committee held on 14 October 2022. - To Follow

To note the minutes of the Greater Manchester Transport Committee held on 14 October 2022.

9. Cost of Living and Economic Resilience in Greater Manchester 1 - 86

Report of Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business and Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Portfolio Lead for Equalities, Inclusion and Cohesion.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed via www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk, please speak to a Governance Officer before the meeting should you not wish to consent to being included in this recording.

10. Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales - Feedback from the GM Launch Event 87 - 94

Report of Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester.

13. GM Cultural Investment Approach 2023 Onwards 95 - 112

Report of Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture.

Name	Organisation	Political Party
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Gerald Cooney	Tameside Council	Labour
Councillor Neil Emmott	Rochdale	Labour
Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Bury Council	Labour
GM Mayor Andy Burnham	GMCA	Labour
Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes	GMCA	
City Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford City Council	Labour
Councillor Andrew Western	Trafford	Labour
Councillor David Molyneux	Wigan Council	Labour
Councillor Bev Craig	Manchester CC	Labour
Councillor Martyn Cox	Bolton	Conservative
Councillor Amanda Chadderton	Oldham Council	Labour

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Alternatively, contact the following

Governance & Scrutiny Officer: Governance and Scrutiny

✉ sylvia.welsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on 21 October 2022 on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 28th October 2022

Subject: Cost of Living and Economic Resilience in Greater Manchester

Report of: Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business and Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Portfolio Lead for Equalities, Inclusion and Cohesion.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide GMCA with an update on the cost of living pressures on residents and businesses in Greater Manchester, and some of the measures being put in place by the GMCA and partners to respond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the GMCA note the latest assessment, including the findings of the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel 2022 Survey, and emerging response, and give views on the next steps in that response.

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BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	N/A	
Resilience and Adaptation	N/A	
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the Greater Manchester Carbon Neutral 2038 target.		

No direct impacts arising from this report.

Risk Management:

None

Legal Considerations:

None

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

None

Financial Consequences – Capital:

None

Number of attachments to the report:1

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The author of the report must include list of those documents on the subject matter which:

- Disclose any facts or matter on which the report or an important part of the report is based;
- Which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?	No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN	
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?	
GM Transport Committee	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The current increase of the cost of living is notably impacting residents and businesses in Greater Manchester. This includes:
- **Increasing food insecurity** – for example, the latest wave of GM Resident Survey results shows there is the equivalent of almost half a million GM households that have experienced food insecurity in the past year and over half of households with children report having experienced food insecurity in that time.
 - **Increasing costs of doing business** – for example, 27.5% of respondents to the Growth Hub’s Business Survey reported rising costs of raw materials, staffing and other inputs in the 12 weeks to 3rd October 2022. In addition, 78.0% of businesses reported cashflow issues over the period.
- 1.2 Comparing the latest results from the Greater Manchester Resident’s survey conducted between 1st and 21st September, with those from six months ago, food insecurity is shown to have substantially increased (now affecting 42% of households, compared to 35% of households in the Spring). This equates to over 80,000 more households saying they have had problems at some point in the last twelve months. Food insecurity continues to impact disproportionately upon households with children (56% now reporting food insecurity at some point in the last year, compared to 42% of all households).
- 1.3 The impacts of the cost of living crisis are reaching far beyond ‘disadvantaged’ parts of our population: 4 in 5 (84%) Greater Manchester respondents say their cost of living has increased over the past month and a similar proportion (81%) are worried about the rising costs of living. Greater Manchester results are broadly in line with the national picture, though more residents here report being “very worried” (almost 2 in 5, 39%, compared to 32% nationally).
- 1.4 Ahead of the October price cap rise, energy costs were already one of the most significant aspects of hardship. Over half of residents say they are having difficulty being able to afford their energy costs (56%) – Greater Manchester’s results are significantly higher than the national average (48%).
- 1.5 More households have borrowed more money or used more credit in the past month, compared to this time last year. Again, the Greater Manchester rate is higher than nationally - 35% of households here report having to do so in September. This is substantially higher than the national figure of 22%. The next iteration of the survey will explore this in more detail (e.g. from whom are people borrowing). Almost half of Greater Manchester households would be unable to pay an unexpected but necessary expense of £850, suggesting many could be substantially impacted by rapidly rising interest rates - 43% of GM households would not be able to afford to do so, compared to 32% of households nationally.

- 1.6 The cost of living crisis also appears to be impacting on people's overall mental wellbeing. In April, 40% of respondents reported high levels of anxiety; this has now increased to 44%. For comparison, the equivalent figure nationally is 36%.
- 1.7 The results of the GM Big Disability Survey 2022 were also published on 20th September. 28% of disabled people could afford essential items but nothing else, and 20% sometimes could not afford essential items. A quarter of respondents have had to use a foodbank, meaning that disabled people use food banks at three times the rate of non-disabled people. Most people found dealing with benefits very difficult (13% said it was impossible). In text responses there was evidence of an abusive, inaccessible, and unfair system that negatively impacts physical and mental health. 68% have changed the food they eat to save money, a third cannot pay all their bills and 39% were in debt. 75% said they spend more on gas and electric because they were disabled, and a similar proportion are worried about this coming winter. 23% were not using digital services because of lack of money. The biggest negative influence on people's wellbeing and mental health was poverty (66%).
- 1.8 The Centre for Progressive Policy released a report in September looking into how different areas across the country are experiencing the crisis, different levels of vulnerability and variations in response. The report, 'Hard up,' also updates the CPP's previous cost of living vulnerability index in order to assess the changing nature of places most susceptible to poverty. The report highlights that "the vital role of local places in understanding and responding to the cost of living crisis has been almost entirely absent from the national conversation. The interviews and analysis conducted to produce this report highlight the varied ways in which places are experiencing this crisis and their underlying vulnerability to it. Yet national policy has had little to offer them."
- 1.9 The vulnerability index focuses on poverty-based vulnerability and work-based vulnerability and gives a ranking for all local authorities. Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside all sit in the top decile of the vulnerability index, with all 10 local authorities appearing in the top two thirds of most vulnerable local authorities. These overall rankings are based on food insecurity, fuel poverty, child poverty, claimant count, economic inactivity and the number of low paid jobs. The North West has overtaken the Yorkshire and Humber to become the second most vulnerable region, as the North East remains the most vulnerable. The report also notes that real-terms inflation disproportionately affects the North of England.
- 1.10 'Hard up' also concentrates on the response to the cost of living crisis from local authorities across the country, reflecting much of what we are seeing in Greater Manchester. This includes 'community hub' models of delivery to locate services where people are most vulnerable, the utilisation of geographic data analysis to best respond to local need and finally the VCSE sector playing a strategic role in coping with rising demand but simultaneously struggling due to lack of funding, a fall in public donations and rising operational costs.
- 1.11 The latest GM Quarterly Economic Survey for Q3 2022 conducted by the GM Chamber of Commerce shows that businesses are concerned about high inflation. To compensate for higher input costs, 65% of businesses surveyed expect to

increase their selling prices. The survey also showed business investment has declined since Q2 and recruitment difficulties have increased. Labour shortages and wage inflation are a serious concern for many businesses.

- 1.12 The GMCA Research team have access to CACI's disposable income data. This is a snapshot from Spring 2022 and provides an average per year, per postcode across key data items such as household income, tax, mortgages, rent, utility bills, food spend as a few examples. This is available across all of Greater Manchester at Postcode, Output Area, Lower Super Output Area and Council geographies. CACI are also exploring if neighbourhood level data is viable. The Research team have access to the raw data, and are able to provide aggregated outputs to GM Local Authorities. The team are working with LA officers to explore the best format for these outputs to enable Local Authorities to understand need and target support or advice to residents.
- 1.13 This report sets out the latest indicators and analysis on the Cost of Living and Economic Resilience. They include inflation and its direct impacts, but also some of the remaining impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and changes due to the UK's exit from the European Union. It also summarises some of the emerging responses to those insights.
- 1.14 The assessment is based on two dashboards:
- 1.15 The Cost of Living dashboard is designed to specifically track the cost-of-living in GM in comparison to England and the North West on a monthly basis. It allows for comparison between each Greater Manchester local authority, the city region as a whole, the North West and the whole of England.

The data is divided into five sections:

- Housing and Homelessness provides data on housing support and temporary accommodation use in GM.
- Employment, Finances and Welfare provides leading indicators on personal finances, financial support and living costs.
- Food provides data on food poverty and support in GM.
- Fuel provides the latest data on fuel prices and energy costs.
- Crime provides data on domestic abuse incidents and acquisitive crime in GM.

- 1.16 NHS GM is currently working with GMCA to incorporate appropriate health and care measures into the GM Cost of Living Dashboard in future editions. The monthly update will also be presented to the ICP Board and ICB as well as being cascaded through other significant parts of the GM health and care system such as place based leads and provider collaboratives. In addition, NHS GM will broaden representation (including from clinicians) at the GM Cost of Living response group as part of ensuring a whole system response to the cost of living crisis.
- 1.17 The latest version of the dashboard can be viewed live at this link (and is attached as a PDF report):

[Workbook: Cost of Living \(gmtableau.nhs.uk\)](https://gmtableau.nhs.uk)

- 1.18 The Economic Resilience Dashboard aims to provide up to date intelligence on the conditions in the Greater Manchester economy.

The data is divided into seven sections:

- Labour Market provides leading indicators on employment and economic activity.
- Household Finances and Cost of Living provides data on pay, debt and inflation.
- Business Outlook provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- Business Lending and Credit Risk provides information on coronavirus support measures and SME Lending.
- Behavioural Insights provides information on the movement of people across GM.
- International Trade provides the most up to date information available on exports at different geographies.
- National Indicators provides leading indicators on the state of the economy nationally.

- 1.19 The latest version of the dashboard can be viewed live at this link (and is attached as a PDF report):

[GM Economic Resilience Dashboard: About - Tableau Server \(gmtableau.nhs.uk\)](https://gmtableau.nhs.uk)

2. HEADLINES FROM THE COST OF LIVING DASHBOARD AND GM ECONOMIC RESILIENCE DASHBOARD

- 2.1 Inflation increased in September after declining slightly in August. The widely used CPI measure of inflation rose to 10.1%, an increase of 0.2 percentage points on the previous month. The largest contribution to the month-on-month increase was rising food prices. The 10.1% rate of inflation recorded in July and September 2022 is the highest level since 1982.
- 2.2 Latest labour market data shows that the volume of claimants for both unemployment benefits and Universal credit remained steady in the last month in Greater Manchester (albeit at levels well above those prior to the pandemic). However, rates of economic inactivity have begun to rise again in the North West and are now equivalent to the highest inactivity rates reached during the pandemic.
- 2.3 The latest Growth Company survey highlights the rise in the proportion of businesses reporting cash reserves that can support activity for over six months. This rose from 66% to 75% and the Growth Company suggest this could signal that firms have made adjustments to their business plans in order to build reserves to hedge against economic uncertainty.
- 2.4 UK Consumer Confidence worsened again in September falling by a five points below what were already historically low levels to -49, further confirming the worsening state of household finances.

- 2.5 Recent figures show that there has been a 15.5% increase in the number of employed people that have been referred to 'A Bed Every Night' for emergency accommodation and support (193 employed individuals referred in the period Jan-Sep 2021 compared to 223 in the period Jan-Sep 2022).
- 2.6 As the Cost of Living Dashboard continues to develop the range of measures is being widened to understand potential second order impacts of the crisis. One of these is assessing changes in crime rates. There has been a 17.2% increase in the volume of acquisitive crime recorded across GM (80,491 recorded crimes during Jan-Sep 2022 compared to 68,688 recorded during Jan-Sep 2021).

3. DEVELOPING RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS ON RESIDENTS

- 3.1 **Helping Hands Website and GM Public Information Campaign:** GMCA have launched an online resource to help guide residents to support available in their area, covering a variety of topics including help with food bills, energy, childcare costs, pension credit top-up, help with transport costs, mental health and well-being (including gambling harm) and digital inclusion. It signposts people to local authorities as well as national support where appropriate. The initial version of the site has been published with further developments to come. Residents can visit www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/helpinghand to find out more. In addition to the website it has become apparent that there is space for more action in the shape of GM-wide public information campaign. We know that the cost of living crisis is impacting everyone but as is often the case there is a differential impact on some groups. A range of intelligence points to the fact that due to confusion caused by some of the national messaging (or lack of) we are witnessing a behavioural risk amongst those most at risk from the cost of living crisis. Examples include older people not using their heating at all under the assumption they will not be able to afford it, or sitting in silence without the comfort of a TV or radio worried at the cost of electricity. The potential health and wellbeing issues here are obvious. Learning from the pandemic has shown that when a public information campaign is done properly it can be very effective in delivering clear, consistent and safe messages. Work is now starting to scope the design a GM-wide public information campaign that shares information in an accurate way.
- 3.2 **Warm Spaces Initiative:** GMCA are supporting localities to provide welcoming and warm spaces over the winter period. This initiative allows residents who are struggling to heat their home to attend a warm place in their local community such as Libraries, Community Centres, Leisure and Youth Centres. Attendees will receive a warm welcome, hot drinks, and in some cases the opportunity to engage in some wraparound to support issues including: income maximisation; debt advice; Mental Health and Wellbeing etc. GMCA has drawn together a networked offer that local areas can now connect into alongside their own offers including those being delivered by community groups. Discussion are taking place with a tech firm to provide an online mapping tool that will allow local warm spaces to register their

location and services so that residents can easily find these through a post-code search facility.

- 3.3 **National Challenge Poverty Week – England and Wales:** During the week commencing 17th October there were a range of events aimed at highlighting the injustice of poverty and to show that collective action based on justice and compassion can create solutions. The GM Food Security Action Network held a special in-depth event on 20th October that focused on what further can be done to address Food Insecurity in the face of the cost of living crisis. The session included an address from the Mayor and was attended by a cross-sector audience.
- 3.4 **Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) ‘Stay Fire Safe’ Campaign:** As a result of the increase in the cost of living, GMFRS expect to see a larger number of people/households who would be defined as being vulnerable to fire and an increase in behaviours which can increase the risk of fire. Negative outcomes might include increases in accidental dwelling fires, associated fire injuries and fire fatalities. GMFRS have been working with each of the local authorities on this and a targeted approach to Home Fire Safety Assessments aimed at high risk households is being rolled out. GMFRS will urge people to take simple steps to protect themselves from accidental fires and stay safe as they look to keep warm and cut energy use this winter. The call comes following concerns that the cost of living rise will mean people turn to alternative ways of heating and cooking in their homes. The approach of GMFRS is to work with local partners to generate more referrals to the service to get across the right thresholds to give the supportive advice and to carry out brief interventions that will promote fire safety whilst recognising the difficult choices people may have to make in the coming months.
- 3.5 **Winter Wise – A guide to keeping well this winter:** in partnership with national charity Independent Age, the GM Ageing Hub are producing a printed guide for older residents to help stay warm, well and safe this winter. It is anticipated that over 200,000 copies of the guide will be distributed to older people across the city region, with delivery expected from mid-November. Distribution is being supported by TfGM, GMP, GMFRS and North West Ambulance Service as well as local authorities, the NHS, housing providers and the voluntary sector. A supporting film (3-5 mins) is being co-produced with older people and a wider engagement strategy developed with the GM BAME Network.

4. DEVELOPING RESPONSE TO THE IMPACTS ON BUSINESSES

- 4.1 In response to the increased costs for businesses, partner organisations across Greater Manchester are mobilising activity and pivoting existing interventions in response, focused on helping businesses to manage increased costs and reduce their energy bills. These actions will develop over the coming months, informed by the macroeconomic context and any further announcements from the government.

Cost of Doing Business

4.2 The Business Growth Hub is developing a plan of activity to take a leading role in supporting businesses to manage the increasing costs of doing business. The ongoing programme on decarbonisation continues to support businesses to adopt and implement energy efficiency measures to reduce costs in both the short and longer term. This included a webinar held in October titled 'Making Sense of the Energy Challenge', focused on explaining the government intervention on energy bills and a discussion on some immediate opportunities to reduce consumption. Other activity will include:

- **A series of workshops called Strive and Thrive** to help companies develop a plan to respond to the current economic situation looking at areas such as operational costs including reducing waste, achieving better returns on investment, staff productivity, and payments etc. These will begin in November and will run weekly.
- **Pivoting one to one support** - as part of the diagnostic process, all advisors address current and future challenges. Advisors are concentrating activity on supporting businesses with practical solutions to the immediate challenges they are facing along with longer term planning.
- **Events, Drop-in Clinics and Seminars** – all future 'Match' networking events will focus on current business challenges. The last event in October focused on the energy crisis, with the next two focusing on finance & costs and leading in challenging times. All Account Managers are hosting drop-in clinics within their dedicated local authority areas and a series of seminars aimed at micro businesses and those in the foundational sectors will be delivered across the Local Authorities.
- **Access to Finance.** The team have developed a cohort programme which works with businesses to understand their costs, their cashflow and their income patterns with the aim of helping business owners understand where efficiencies can be made, where costs can be reduced and enabling the finance cycle to work in the best way for the business.
- **Decarbonisation** – continuing to support businesses to adopt and implement energy efficiency measures to reduce costs in both the short and longer terms.
- **#HereForBusiness Campaign.** A dedicated campaign including a social media campaign, digital marketing and PR on the support available to businesses and sharing practical solutions business can undertake. This will include informing businesses of the Government's Energy Relief measure, along with wider cost of operations, access to finance, restructuring, productivity, and leadership well-being support. These themes will be delivered via webinars, workshops, drop-in clinics, local in person events, and personal support, leveraging existing support across partner organisations where appropriate.

Energy Efficiency and Net Zero

- 4.3 **Journey to Net Zero.** The 8th Cohort launched in September with 15 businesses attending the first workshop and feedback from attendees remains positive. There are plans to develop a more holistic and larger scale programme, accompanied by the publication of four sustainability guides targeting sectors of the micro business community (Retail, Hospitality, Office, Light Manufacturing & Repairs). These guides will provide tips and recommendations to reduce energy and material waste.
- 4.4 **Energy Innovation Agency (EIA).** The agency is currently supporting 20 innovators and businesses and delivered a 30-minute session at the Green Summit in October on the energy crisis and how energy can be made more sustainable, more secure and fairer for all.

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Cost of Living Dashboard

[Housing and Homelessness](#)

[Employment, Finances and Welfare Support](#)

[Food](#)

[Fuel](#)

[Crime and Incidents](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Glossary](#)

The Cost of Living Dashboard aims to provide insight and evidence into the rising cost of living in Greater Manchester. The dashboard allows for comparison between each Greater Manchester local authority, the city region as a whole, the North West region and the whole of England. The indicators that are included in this dashboard, as seen below, cover between April 2019 and the present day, each showing monthly changes, which have contributed to the rising cost of living.

The data is divided into five sections:

Housing and Homelessness: Housing Support Claimant Share, Number of Individuals new to Rough Sleeping, Households in Temporary Accommodation and Employed individuals referred to ABEN Accommodation.

Employment, Finances and Welfare: Bank of England Interest Rate, Inflation Rate, Universal Credit Claimant Share, Median Monthly Pay and Council Tax Support claims.

Food: Food parcel and food voucher distribution levels, Free school meal eligibility, That Bread and Butter Thing transaction levels and Healthy Start Vouchers uptake levels.

Fuel: Petrol and Diesel prices, Energy Price Cap, Warm Homes Oldham levels and Tameside Fuel Poverty support levels.

Crime and Incidents: Domestic Abuse Incidents and Acquisitive Crime.

Page last updated: 12.10.2022

Page next update: 09.11.2022

RAG Ratings - to show comparisons with previous months for the same metrics.

August 2022	August 2022	September 2022	September 2022
64	£2,008.00	9,762	£1.67
Number of individuals new to sleeping rough	Median Monthly Pay	Number of transactions at That Bread and Butter Thing	Average Petrol Pay at the Pump Price per Litre

Other Relevant Dashboards

There are other highly relevant and insightful dashboards that are interlinked to the cost of living crisis, such as:

GM Welfare and Benefits Dashboard - A monthly update of data on Claimant Count, Universal Credit claimants, the employment status of UC claimants as well as their gender and conditionality.

- The GM claimant share in March 2022 was 5.6%, higher than the North West and UK averages (4.8% and 4.2%).
- In all boroughs across GM, the majority of UC claimants were in employment in February 2022.

GM Economic Resilience Dashboard - Intelligence on the GM economy, recovery from the pandemic and other emerging issues.

- Consumer Confidence Index decreased by 7 points in April 2022, to -38 - the lowest point since April 2008.
- 68% of survey respondents stated finances are a concern in the latest wave of the GM Resident Survey.

GM Poverty Action Dashboard - A multi-dimensional picture of poverty in GM across topics including child poverty, debt, education, fuel and so on.

- 1 in 4 children in the city region are living in poverty, equating to 144,784 children.
- 59.57% of those seeking debt advice in GM are aged between 25 and 49.

GM Housing Market Monitor - Provides an overview of the housing market in Greater Manchester.

- 40% of homes in Greater Manchester are in band C, in relation to their Energy Performance Certificate
- The highest residential house price in GM, is in Trafford where the average price in 2022 is £346,934. Trafford is the only borough in GM where this value is higher than the England average.

GM Strategy Dashboard - Central hub for the progress measures of the GM Strategy to monitor collective progress and assess changes within the region, across all Shared Outcomes and Shared Commitments.

- 26.8% of households reported that they had experienced some form of digital exclusion in February 2022.

GM Parity Dashboard - Provides a modelled housing stock baseline for GM.

In 2020, a modelled housing stock baseline was produced for GM providing an assessment of all housing stock, predictions of risks in the homes as well as an Energy Query Builder and Housing Query Builder.



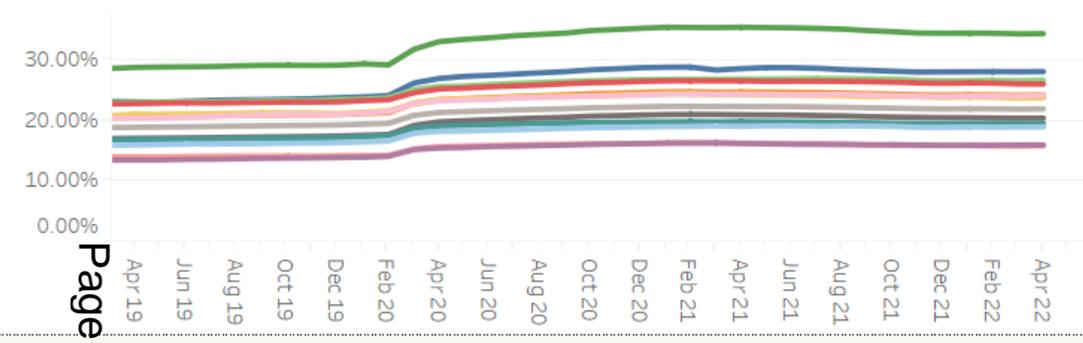
Housing and Homelessness

Housing costs account for a significant proportion of household expenses and so understanding the trends that are occurring in this area and the effect changes are having, is key to understanding the cost of living crisis. For the most vulnerable in society, becoming homeless and/or residing in temporary accommodation is a real risk of the cost of living crisis and so these metrics have also been included to give a full understanding of the situation.

Page last updated: 12.10.2022

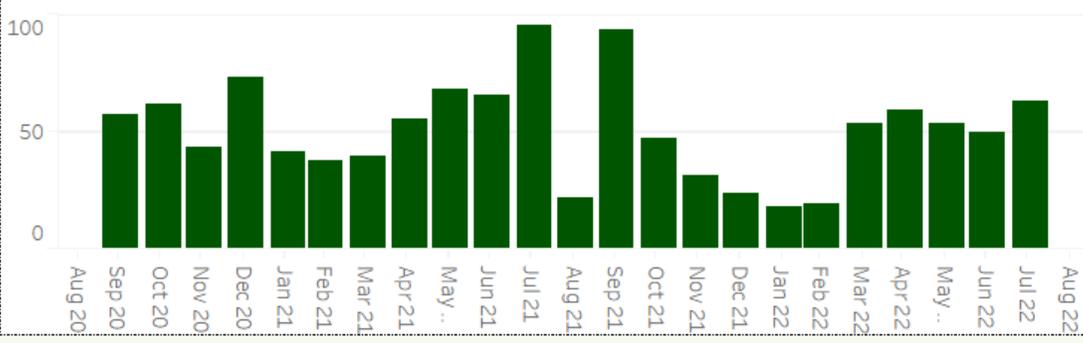
Page next update: 09.11.2022

Housing Support Share



The percentage of households receiving Housing Support. A combination of the number of households receiving Housing Benefit and the housing element of Universal Credit.

New to rough sleeping



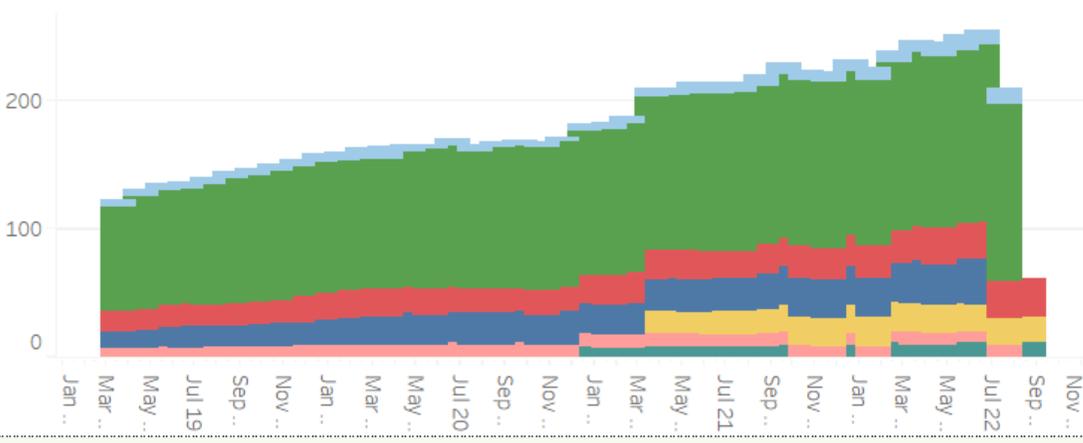
The number of individuals sleeping rough across Greater Manchester, for the first time in that local authority. [Click here for a breakdown of this by local authority.](#)

Housing Support Share - ..

- Bolton
- Bury
- England
- Greater Manchester
- Manchester
- North West
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport
- Tameside

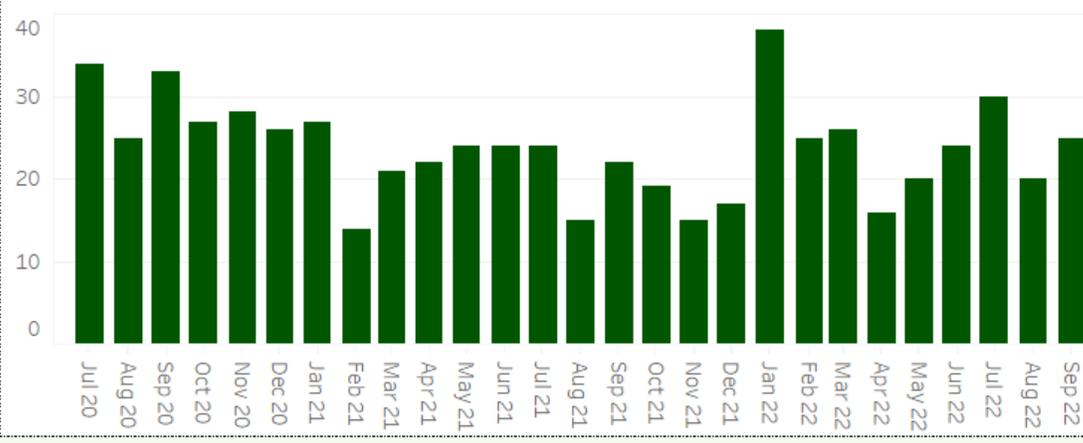
Where is this data from?

Temporary Accommodation, per 10,000 households



Temporary accommodation placements, across Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan, as per 10,000 households.

Employed Individuals referred to A Bed Every Night



The number of people referred to A Bed Every Night, each month, who are in employment. [Click here for a further breakdown of this visualisation.](#)

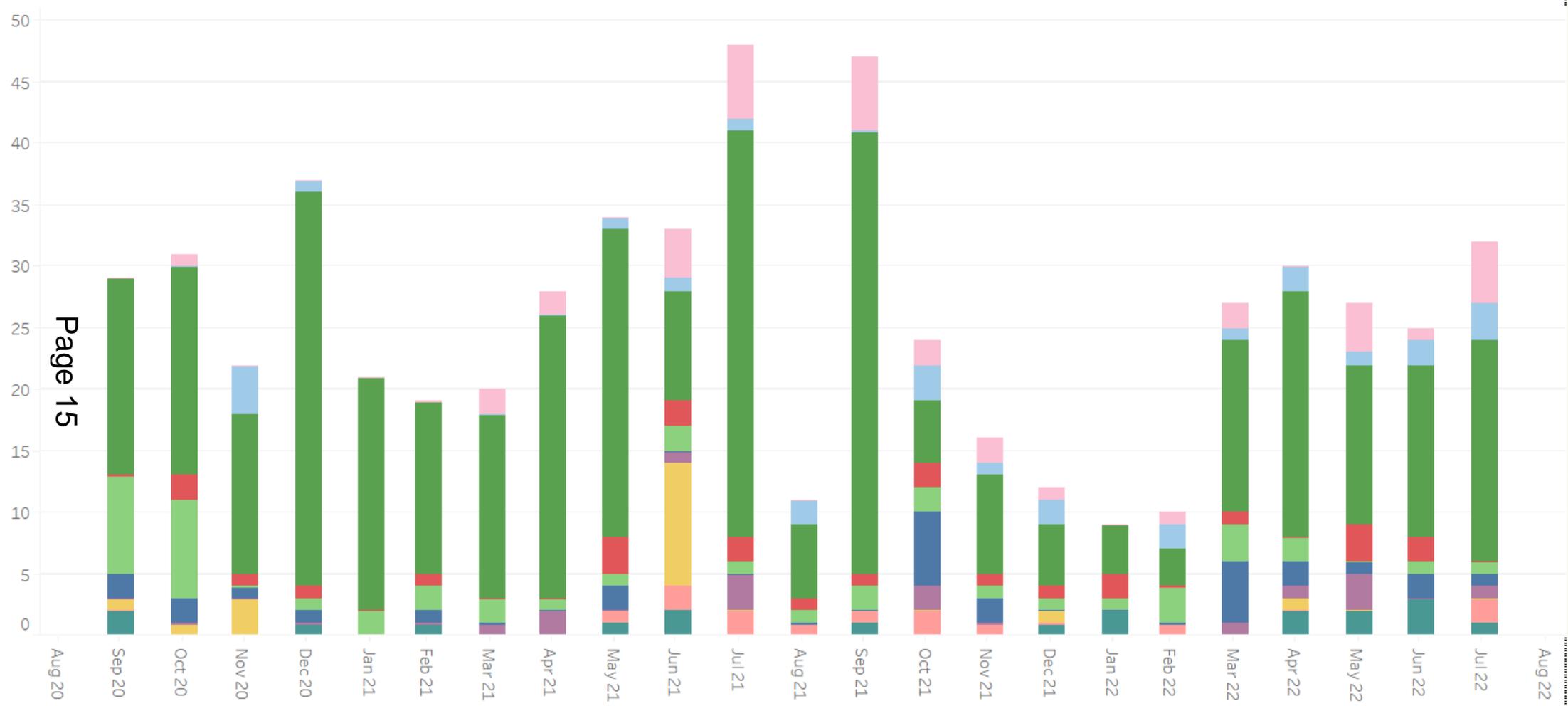
- #### Area
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - Manchester
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - Wigan
 - Greater Manchester
 - North West





Housing and Homelessness

New to rough sleeping by local authority



- Area
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - Manchester
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - Wigan

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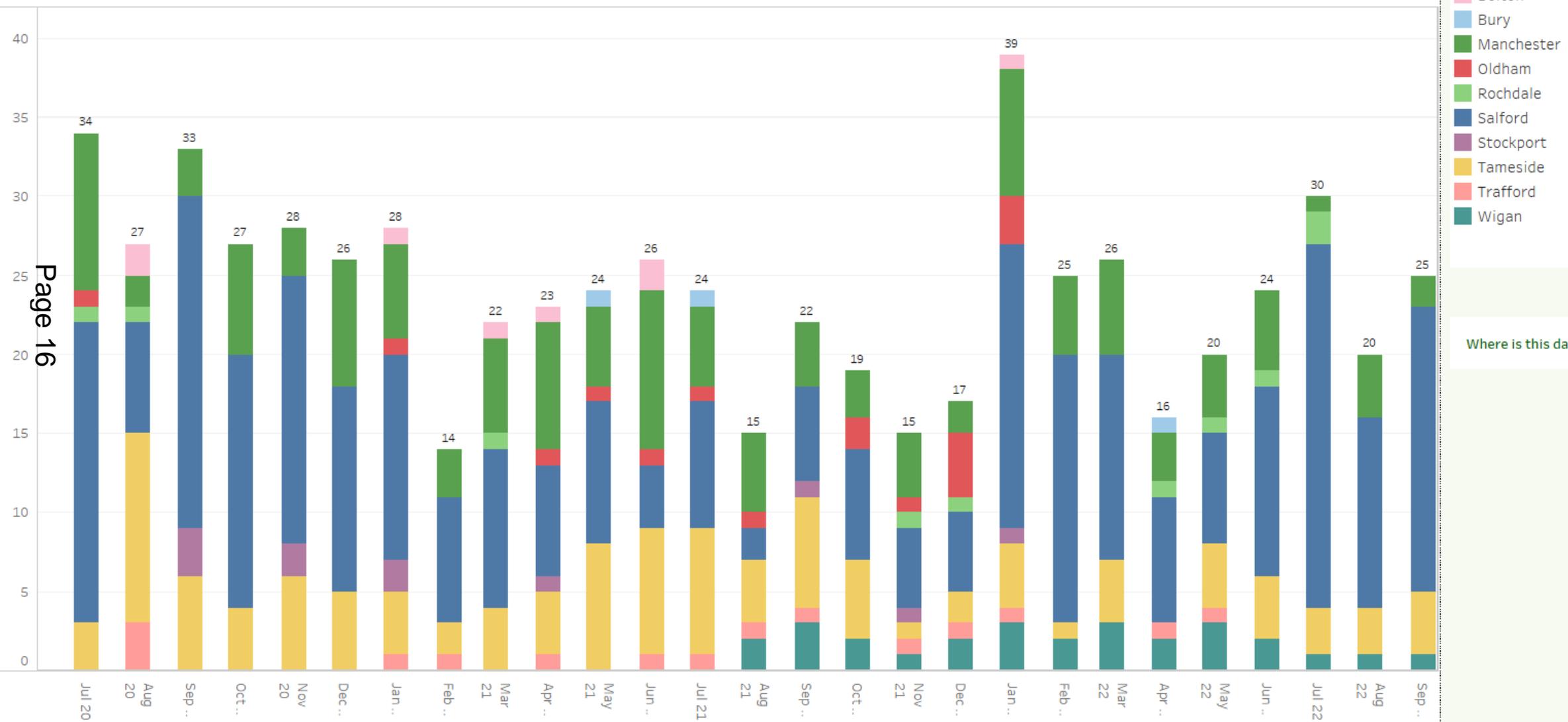
Where is this data from?

The number of people across Greater Manchester, who are new to sleeping rough in that local authority (we do not have insight into whether they have previously slept rough in another LA). Broken down further to examine the number of people in each local authority.



Housing and Homelessness

Employed Individuals referred to A Bed Every Night



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Where is this data from?

The number of people referred to A Bed Every Night, each month, who are in employment. Broken down further to examine the proportion of those referred in each local authority.



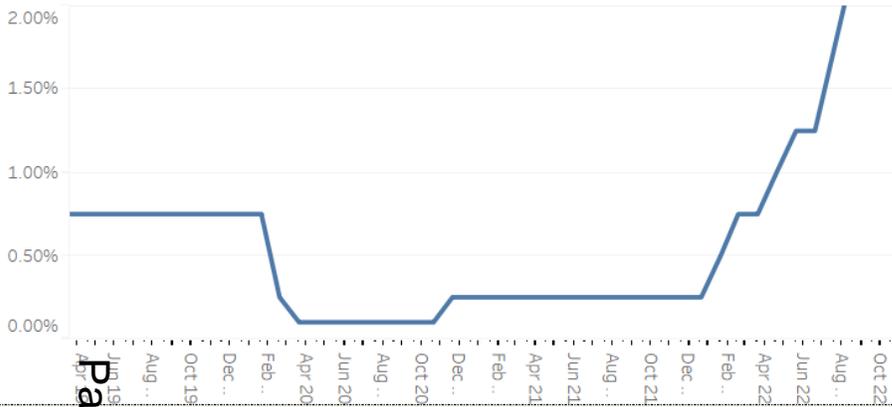
Employment, Finances and Welfare Support

Understanding the economic context in which people are experiencing the cost of living crisis is key, hence why the Bank of England Interest rate and CPI and CPIH rates are included on this page. It is also crucial to understand the effects this is having on the personal finances of everyday people, hence the inclusion of universal credit claimant share and median monthly pay (adjusted for inflation) as well as specific council tax measures including council tax support and council tax arrears.

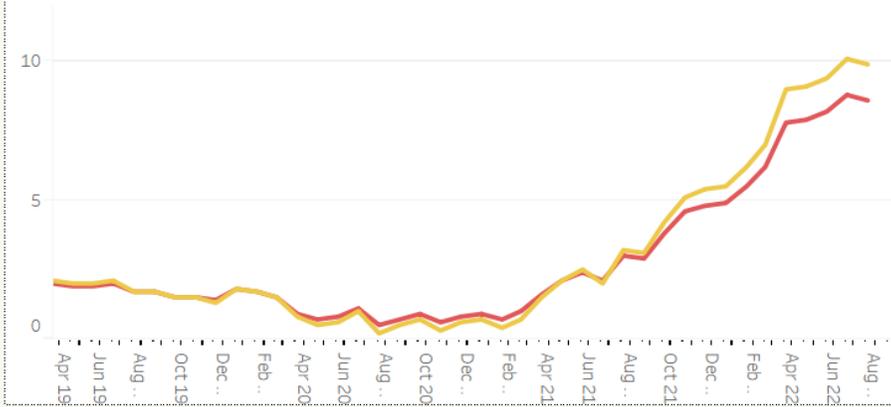
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Bank of England Interest Rate



Inflation Rate



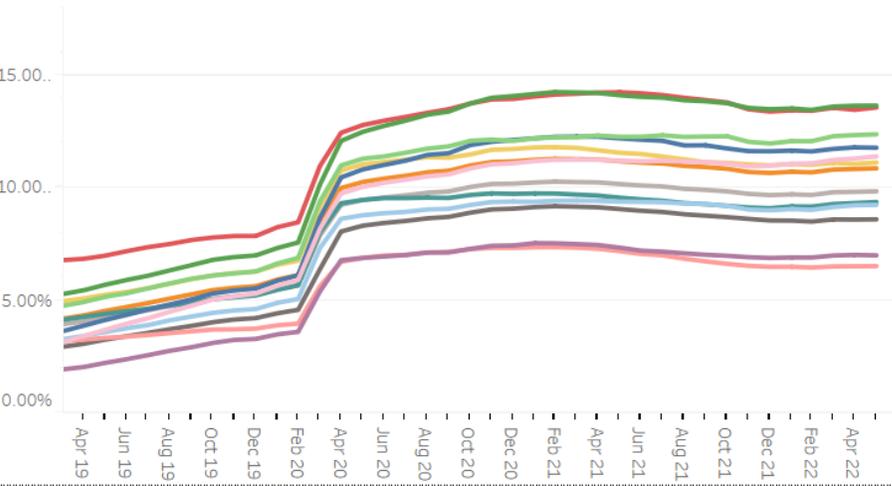
Inflation Rate
CPI
CPIH

- Universal Credit Share - C..
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - England
 - Greater Manchester
 - Manchester
 - North West
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - Wigan

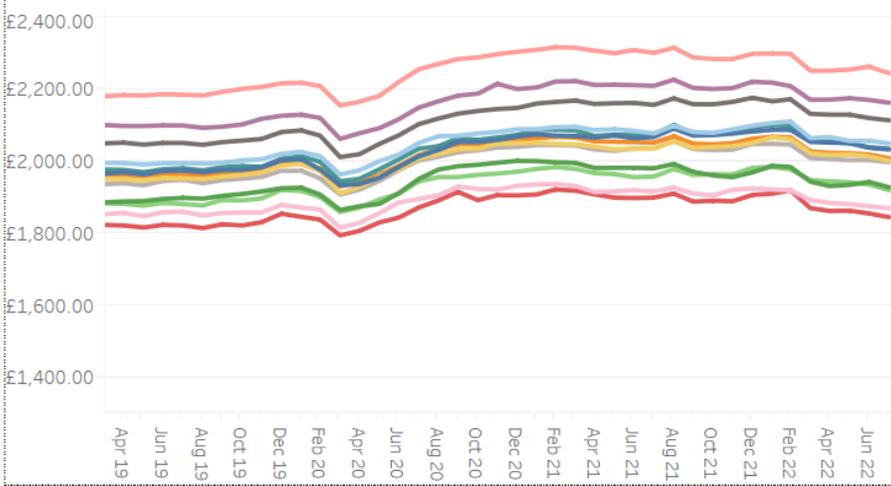
The interest rate set by the Bank of England to influence spending and inflation in the UK.

Consumer Price Index is the official measure of inflation of consumer prices in the UK. Consumer Price Index, including Housing costs extends the CPI to include the costs of maintaining a household.

Universal Credit Share



Median Monthly Pay, Adjusted for Inflation

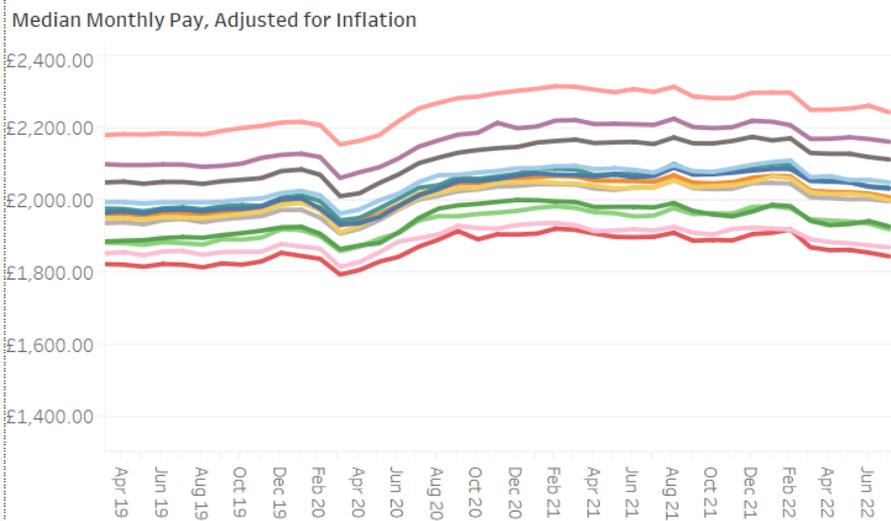
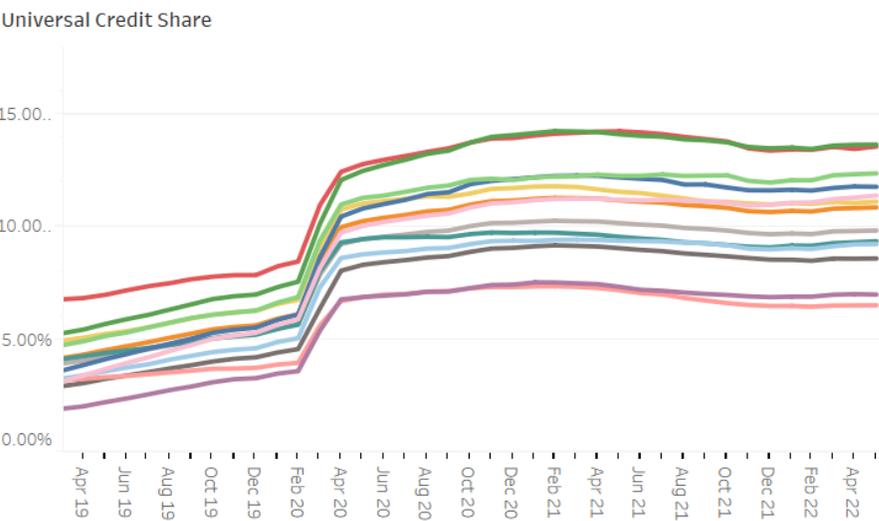


- Median Monthly Pay - Cho..
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - Greater Manchester
 - Manchester
 - North West
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - UK
 - Wigan

The percentage of Universal Credit claimants. A payment made up of a standard allowance and any extra amounts that apply to an individual.

Median monthly pay, adjusted for inflation for each local authority, Greater Manchester, North West and UK.

Where is this data from?

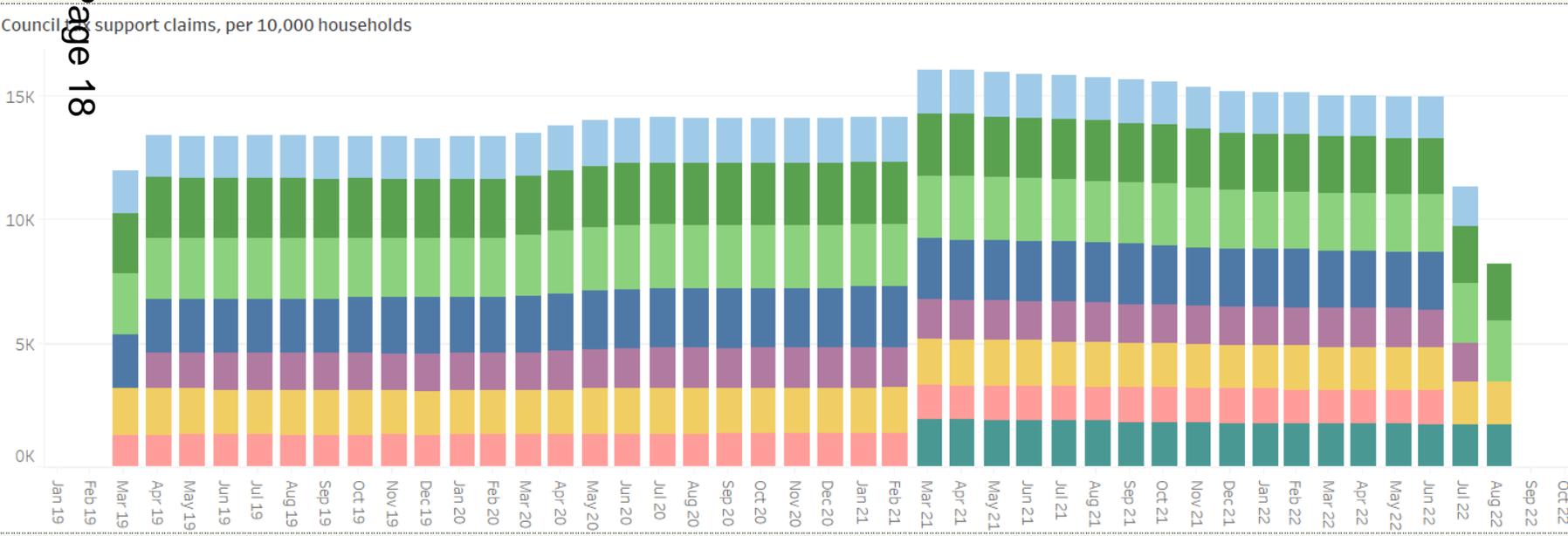


- #### Median Monthly Pay - Cho..
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - Greater Manchester
 - Manchester
 - North West
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - UK
 - Wigan

The percentage of Universal Credit claimants. A payment made up of a standard allowance and any extra amounts that apply to an individual.

Median monthly pay, adjusted for inflation for each local authority, Greater Manchester, North West and UK.

Where is this data from?



- #### Area
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - Manchester
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - Wigan
 - Greater Manchester
 - North West
 - England

Council tax support claims (sometimes referred to as council tax arrears), per month, per 10,000 households. It should be noted that changes in claims can be affected by team capacity rather than just resident need.



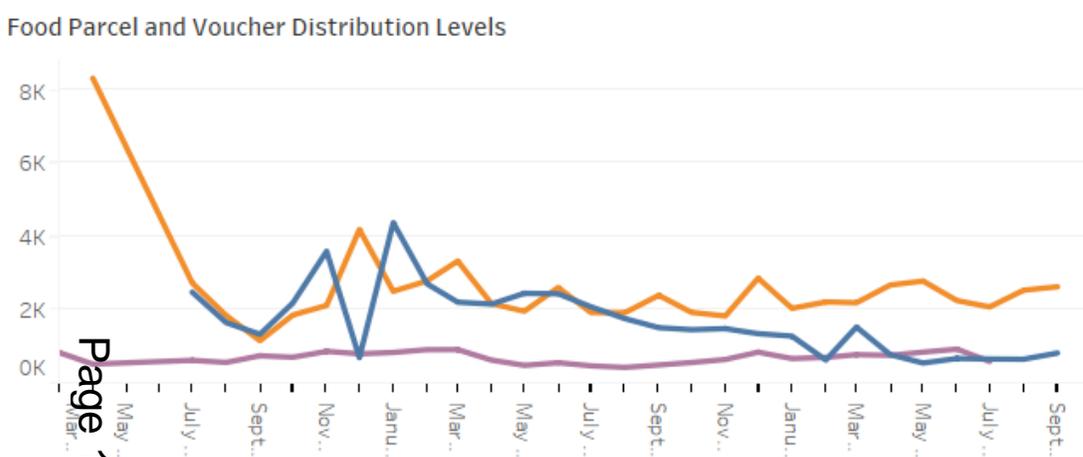


Food

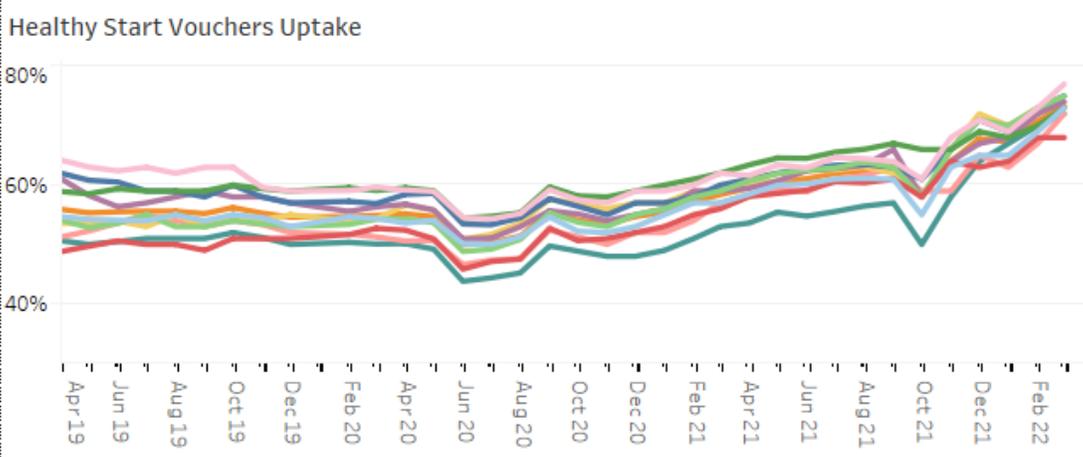
As inflation rises and households struggle to pay bills, the cost of food can be come a stressor for some and so it is key to track how the cost of living crisis is affecting food distribution services and recognise where peaks are forming and intervention may be necessary. It is also of great value to track trends in eligibility and claimant levels for government schemes in place which aim to support those experiencing food poverty, such as free school meals and healthy start vouchers.

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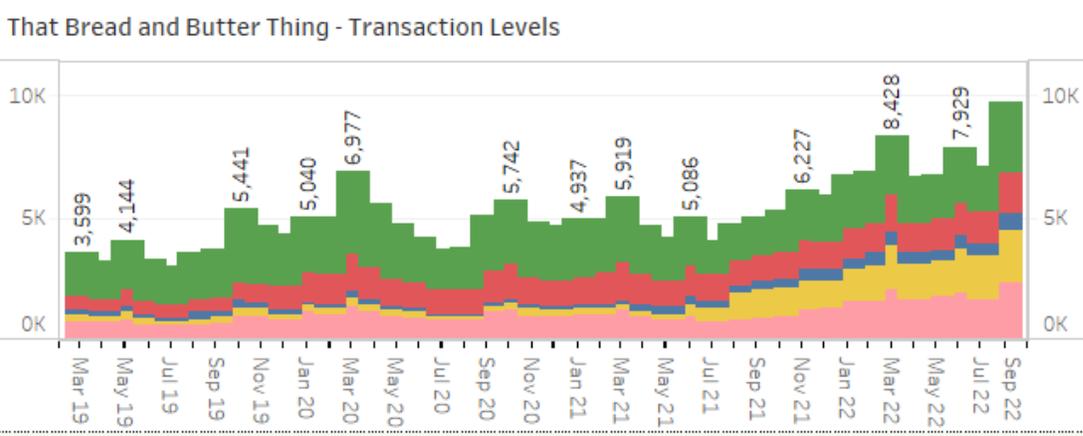
The number of food parcels distributed across Bury and Rochdale. Not all local authorities are able to collect this data due to the set up of food distribution services in their locality. These figures also do not represent a full pi...



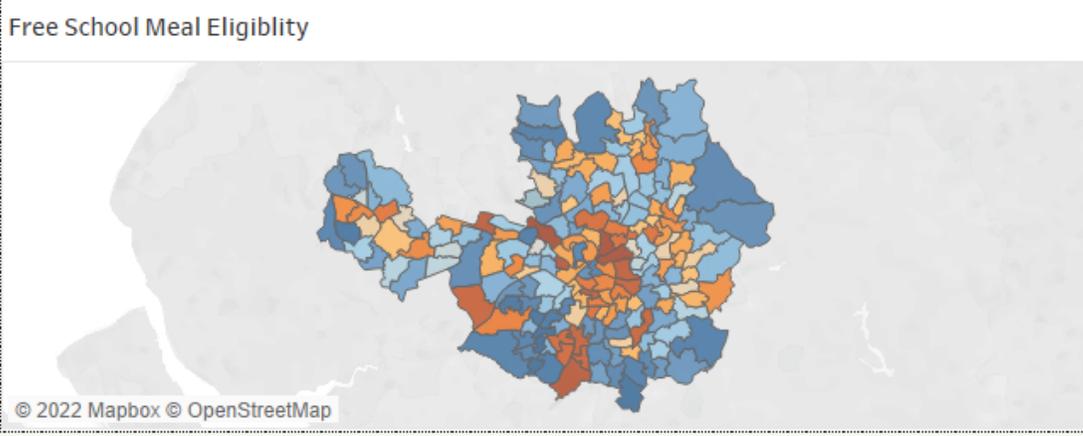
- Healthy Start - Choose Ar..
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - England
 - Greater Manchester
 - Manchester
 - North West
- Healthy Start - Area
- Bolton
 - Bury

The percentage of healthy start vouchers taken up by those eligible across each local authority in Greater Manchester, in comparison with the GM average. The data published on this may contain some double counting.

Where is this data from?



The number of transactions, per month, in the 5 local authorities that 'That Bread and Butter Thing' operate in...



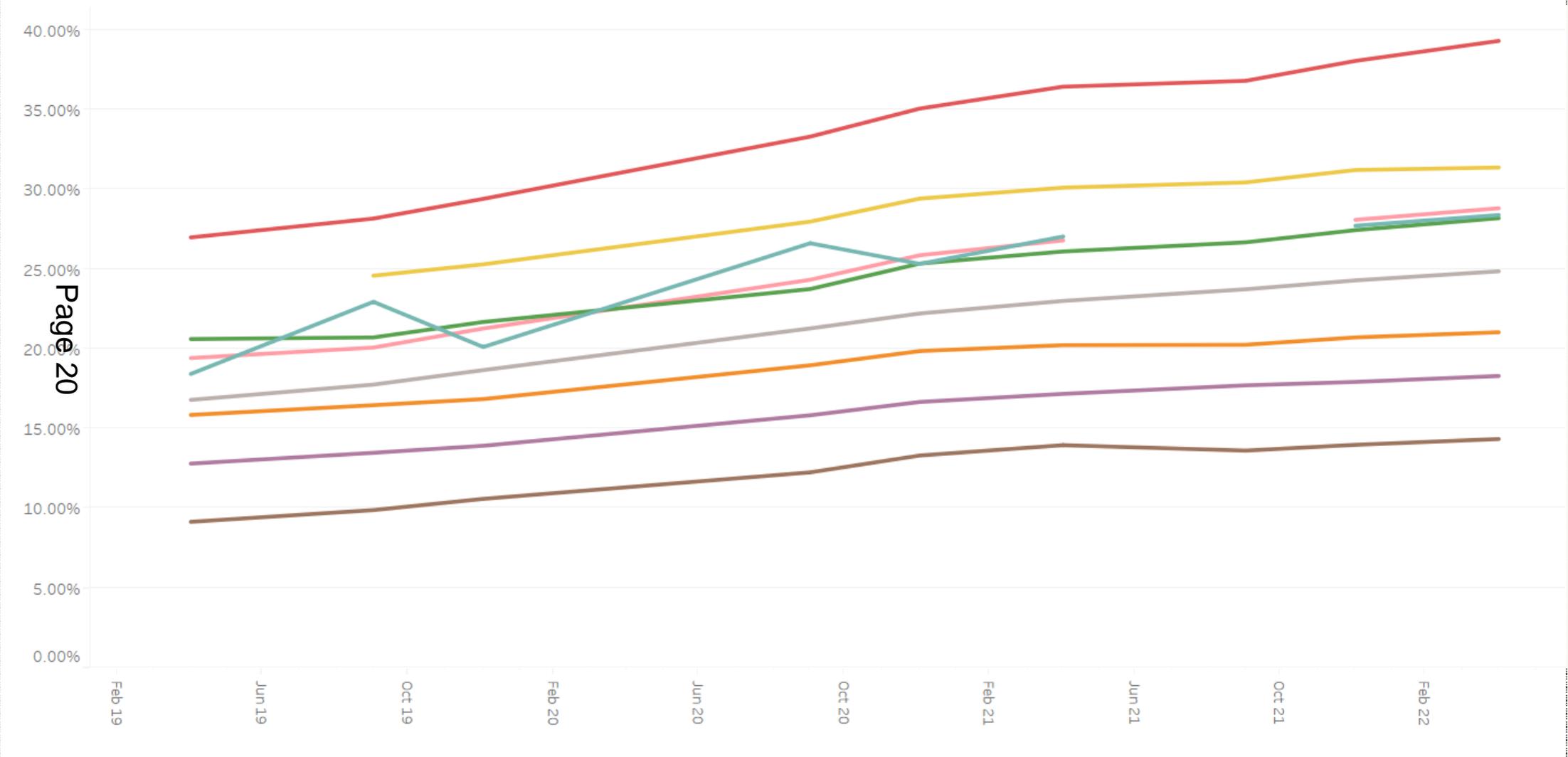
The percentage of children eligible for free school meals. Click here to show a graph detailing year on year chan...

- FSM - Choose Month
- May 2019
 - October 2019
 - January 2020
 - October 2020
 - January 2021
 - May 2021
 - October 2021
 - January 2022
 - May 2022



Food

Free School Meal Eligibility Average Local Authorities



- Local Authority
- Bolton
 - Bury
 - Manchester
 - Oldham
 - Rochdale
 - Salford
 - Stockport
 - Tameside
 - Trafford
 - Wigan

Where is this data from?

The average proportion of students eligible for free school meals in each local authority, in order to show change overtime.

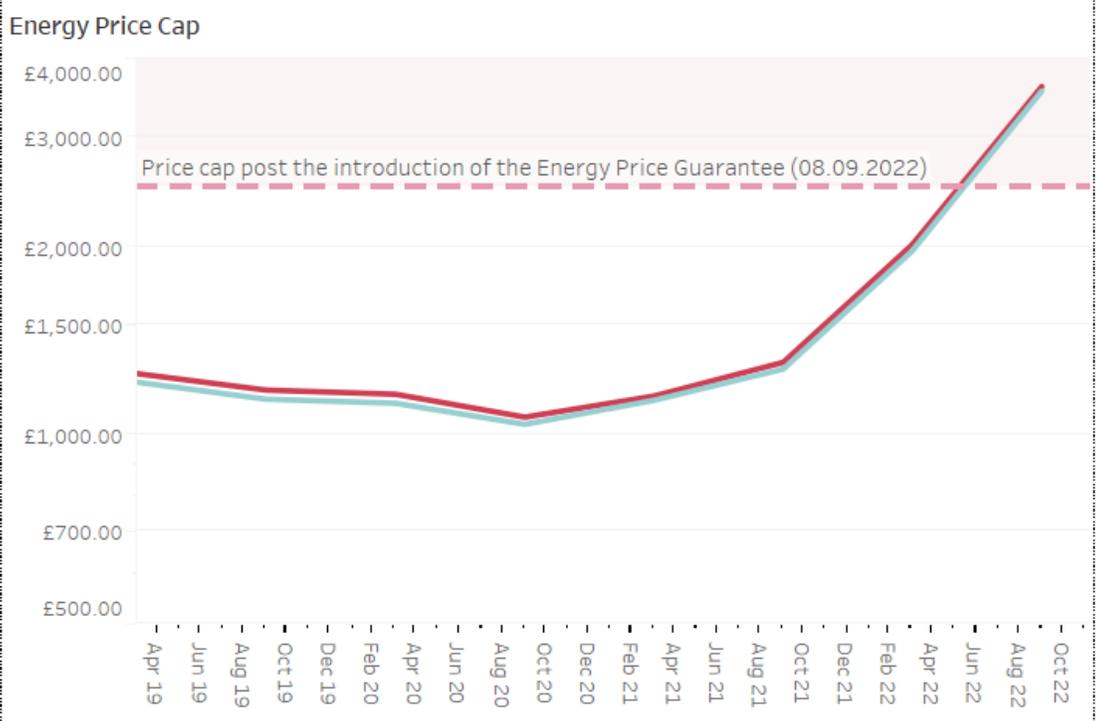
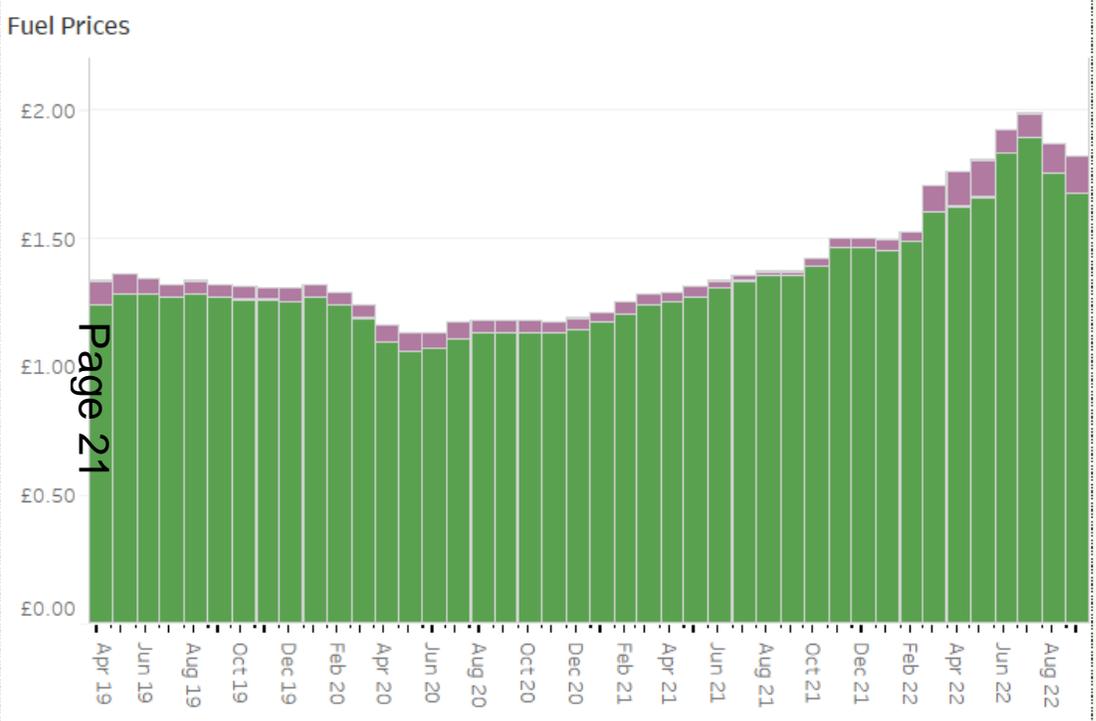


Fuel

The historically high prices of fuel, on an international basis, have had a direct effect on the cost of living for households. Effecting both pay at the vehicle fuel prices, as well as energy costs for running a household. It is also key to recognise government intervention in this area, for example the energy price cap and how this has an effect on household costs.

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Fuel Type

- Diesel Prices
- Petrol Prices

Payment Methods

- Direct Debit Payment
- Pre-Payment

Where is this data from?

Monthly average 'pay at the pump' prices for fuel, per litre, in the UK.

A backstop protection for those on a default energy tariff set by Ofgem. This graph includes a projection for the Energy Price Cap in October 2022.

Different support measures are being used to help with the rising costs of fuel and energy for households across Greater Manchester. Due to the variety in measures being used, there is understandably difference in how these are recorded, tracked and measured and so availability of data in this area varies. As with all council provided data, lack of data for any of the 10 local authorities does not indicate that support is not being provided.

[Click here to navigate to a fuel and energy support measures.](#)





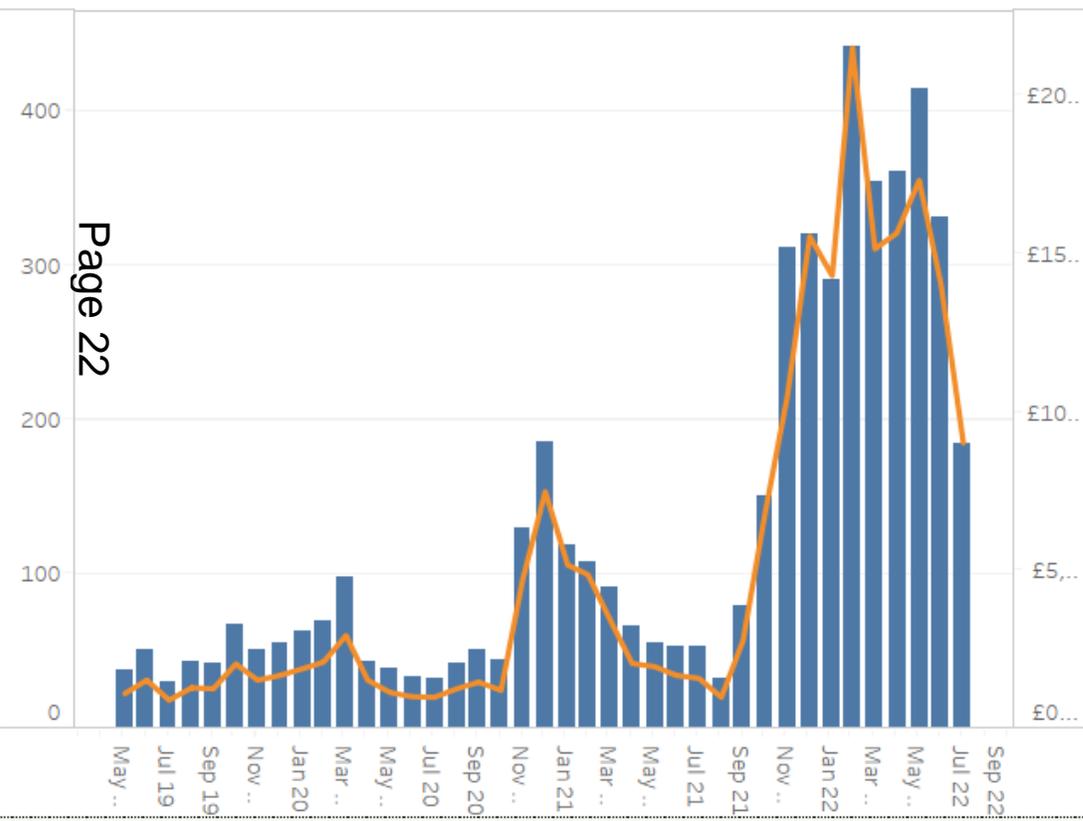
Fuel

As households feel the effect of rising fuel and energy costs, councils are implementing support packages, on top of government support. This page details some of these support packages in place. Future iterations of this dashboard will include further metrics in this area, some of which have already been provided by councils.

Page last updated: 12.10.2022

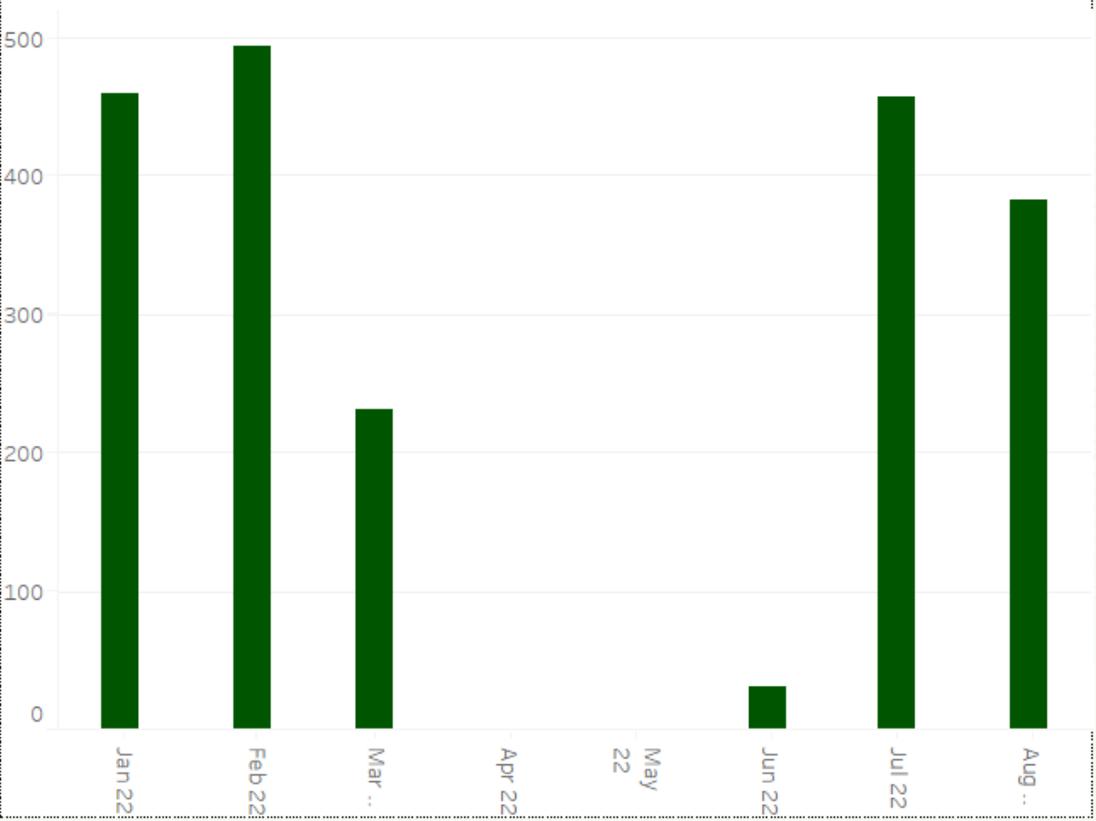
Page next update: 09.11.2022

Warm Homes Oldham



The number of families helped via the Warm Homes scheme in Oldham and the monetary value of the support provided.

Tameside Fuel Poverty Support



Utilities requests made through the household support fund programmes in Tameside, please note due to these being utility requests, this could include water bills. Please also note, there is recognition from Tameside council that the volume is likely limited by available funding rather than the number of households in need.

Warm Homes Oldham
No families claiming h..
Value £

Where is this data from?





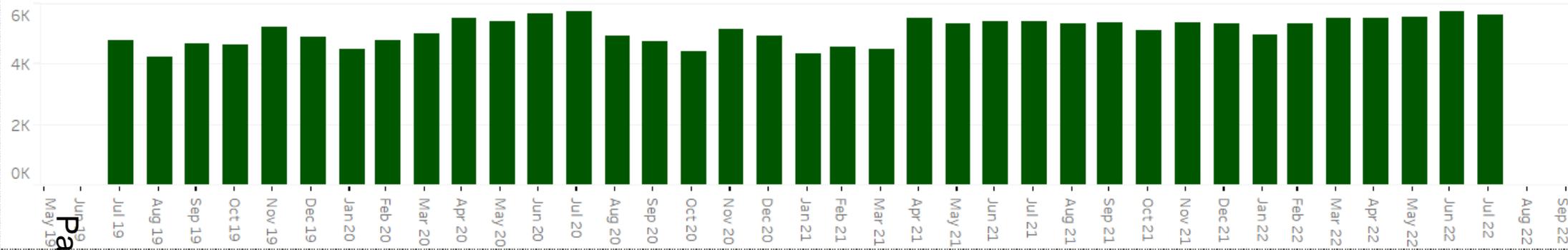
Crime and Incidents

As we experience a rising cost of living, concern is increasing that we could see a rise in crime as a result. This is particularly the case for acquisitive crime and domestic abuse incidents. This theme aims to explore these metrics in further depth.

Page last updated: 12.10.2022

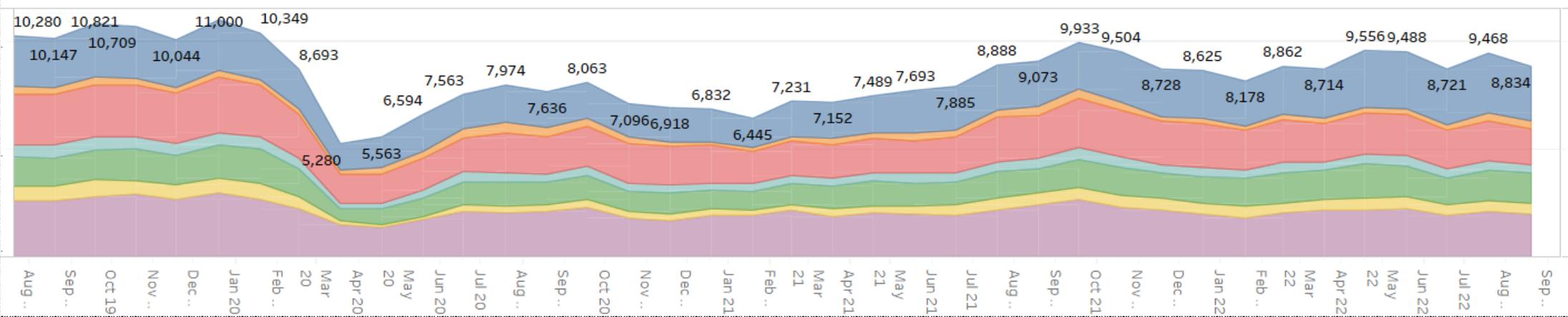
Page next update: 09.11.2022

Domestic Abuse Incidents



The number of domestic abuse incidents, per local authority. [Click here for a further breakdown of this graph.](#)

Acquisitive Crime



Where is this data from?

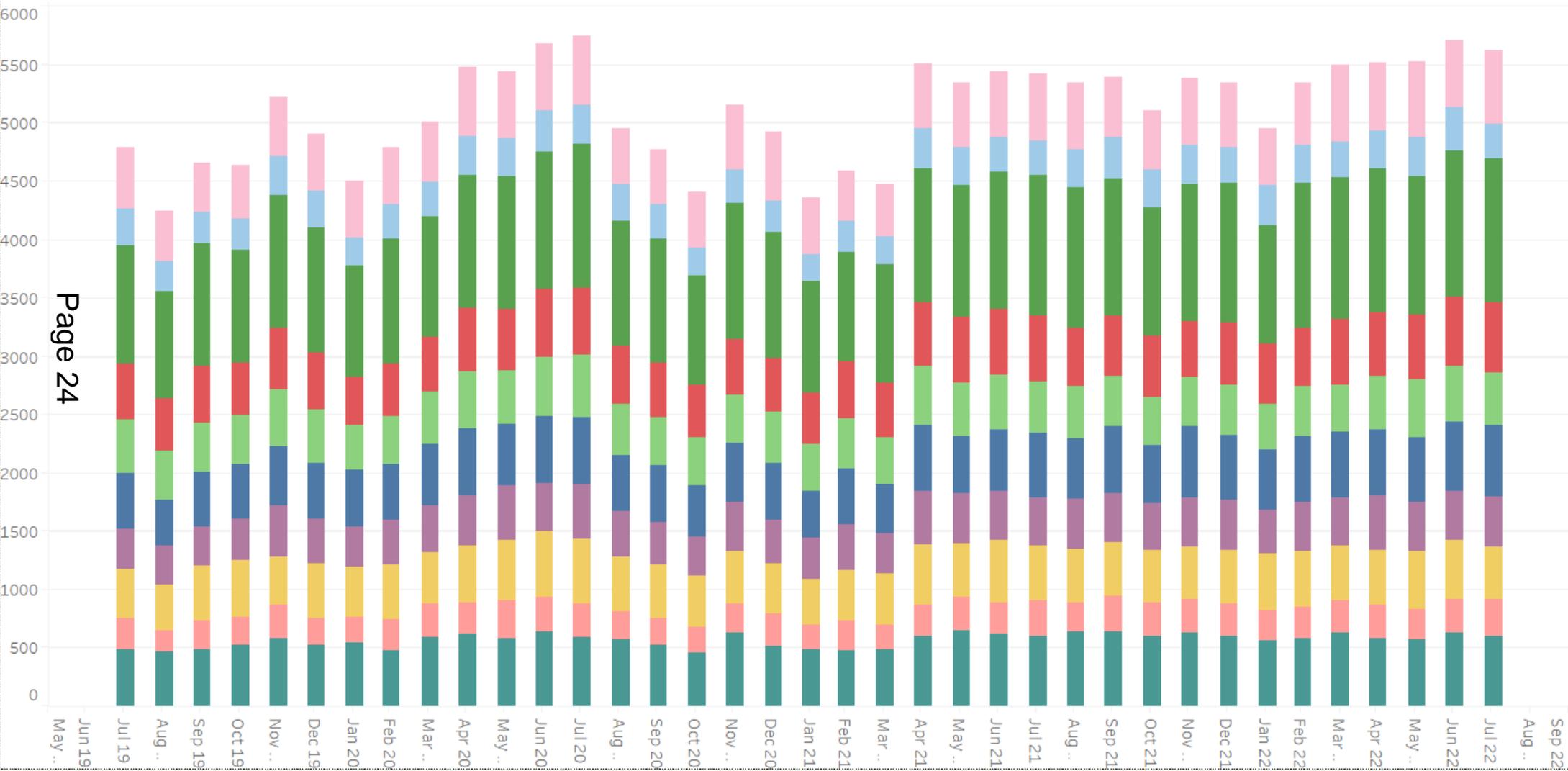
- Crimes Recorded
- All other theft offenc..
- Bicycle theft
- Burglary
- Robbery
- Shoplifting
- Theft from the person
- Vehicle offences

A breakdown of all acquisitive crimes reported in Greater Manchester, by the type of crime.



Crime and Incidents

Domestic Abuse Incidents



Local Authority

- Bolton
- Bury
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan

Where is this data from?

The number of domestic abuse incidents. Broken down further to examine the proportion of those referred in each local authority.





Metadata Information

Housing Support Claimant Count

Combination of Housing Benefit claimants and those who claim the Housing Element of Universal Credit, as a proportion of 2021 population estimates.

[Stat-Xplore: Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Claimants](#)

[ONS: Population and Household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

New to rough sleeping

Combination of data published online, for link please see below, and more up to date figures provided directly from DLUHC.

[Gov.uk: Support for people sleeping rough in England, March 2022.](#)

Number of Households in Temporary Accommodation

Combination of council provided data and household estimates from Census 2021.

Data provided by Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan councils.

[ONS: Population and Household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

Number of Employed Individuals referred to A Bed Every Night.

Data kept locally at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Bank of England Interest Rate

[Bank of England Database: Bank Rate History and Data](#)

Inflation Rate

[ONS: Consumer Price Inflation Tables](#)

Universal Credit Share

The proportion of Universal Credit claimants, as a proportion of 2021 population estimates.

[Stat-Xplore: Universal Credit Claimants](#)

[ONS: Estimates of the population for the UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland](#)

Median Monthly Pay

Median monthly pay from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, seasonally adjusted.

[ONS: Earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn Real Time Information](#)

[ONS: Consumer Price Inflation Tables](#)

Council Tax Support Claims, per 10,000 households

The proportion of Universal Credit claimants, as a proportion of 2021 population estimates.

Data provided by Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.

[ONS: Population and Household estimates, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

Food Parcels Distribution Levels

Data provided by Bury, Rochdale and Wigan.

Free School Meals Eligibility

Data provided by Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan.

That Bread and Butter Thing – Transaction Levels

Data provided by That Bread and Butter Thing.

Healthy Start Vouchers Uptake

[NHS: Healthy Start Vouchers](#)

Fuel Prices

Weekly road fuel prices, averaged over the month.

[GOV.UK - Weekly road Fuel Prices](#)

Energy Price Cap

[Ofgem - Check if the energy price cap affects you](#)

[House of Commons Library - Domestic energy prices](#)

Warm Homes Oldham

Data provided by Oldham council.

Tameside fuel poverty support

Data provided by Tameside council.

Domestic Abuse Incidents

Data kept locally at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Acquisitive Crime

Data kept locally at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.



[Contact Us](#)

Any feedback on how this dashboard could be changed or expanded is more than welcome. We are also happy to help with any relevant queries.

We are contactable via:

beth.kilheeney@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk or
daniel.morris@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk



Glossary

As the cost of living crisis has progressed, more resources and tools have been created to further understand or help support those in need. This page acts as a glossary for these resources. We welcome any suggestions or recommendations on links to be added to this page - please see our details on the Contact Us page.

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Helping Hand

Advice for all those affected by the cost of living crisis across Greater Manchester. A directory of help and support, broken down by locality.

[Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Helping Hand](#)

Cost of Living Hub

A hub sharing best practice and help focused on councils supporting their residents with the rise in cost of living.

[Local Government Association: Cost of Living Hub](#)

Cost of Living Data Dashboard

A dashboard sharing insights gained from across the Citizens Advice service focused on the cost of living crisis, with monthly updates .

[Citizens Advice: CA cost of living data dashboard](#)

Tracking Financial Vulnerability in the UK

UK Financial Vulnerability Index using publicly available measures and unique consumer data from Lowell, one of Europe's largest credit management services companies. Tracking financial vulnerability since 2017, at a parliamentary constituency level.

[Urban Institute: Tracking Financial Vulnerability in the UK](#)

Economic Resilience Dashboard



Tracking the Greater Manchester Economy

economy, recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and other emerging issues.

The data is divided into seven sections:

- **Labour Market** provides leading indicators on employment and economic activity.
- **Household Finances and Cost of Living** provides data on pay, debt and inflation.
- **Business Outlook** provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- **Business Lending and Credit Risk** provides information on coronavirus support measures and SME Lending.
- **Behavioural Insights** provides information on the movement of people across GM.
- **National Indicators** provides leading indicators on the state of the economy nationally.
- **International Trade** provides the most up to date information available on exports at different geographies.

The economic data in response to Covid-19 and other events is changing rapidly with new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn on a regular basis. The dashboard will be updated with the best available data each month with the resultant analysis described in the Analysis tab.

We would welcome feedback on alternative measures to be included in the dashboard or insights on the data provided. If you have any feedback please email jack.james@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

Analysis



90,505

GM residents were in receipt of unemployment benefits in September, a decrease of 0.4% since August.



14,047

4-week average of online job postings in week ending 27th August 2022. This is 34% higher than the 4 weeks to 30th July.



10.1%

UK Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index was 10.1% in the 12 months to September '22. This was a 0.2 percentage points increase on the August figure of 9.9%.

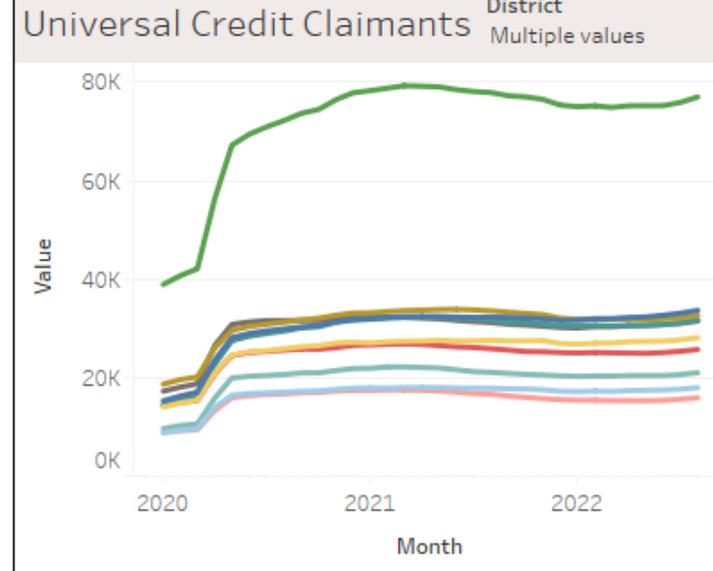
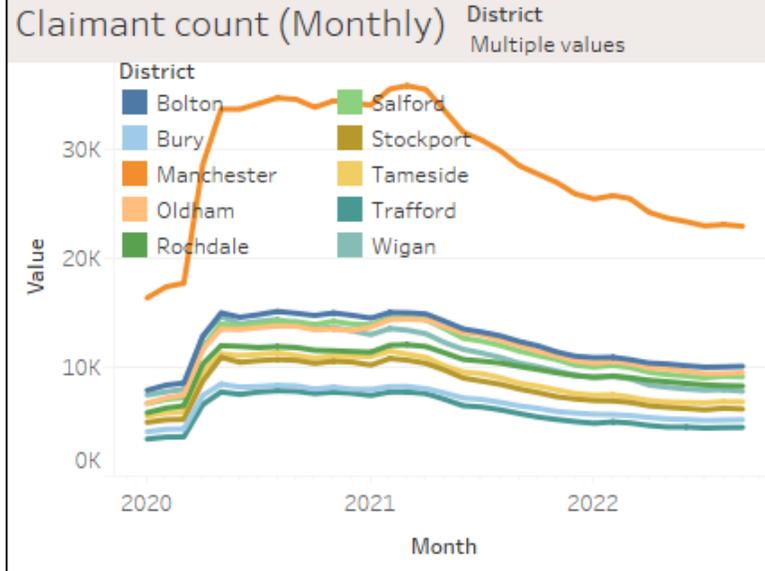
Inflation increased in September after declining slightly in August. The widely used CPI measure of inflation rose to 10.1% an increase of 0.2 percentage points on the previous month. The largest contribution to the month-on-month increase was rising food prices. The 10.1% rate of inflation recorded in July and September 2022 is the highest level since 1982.

Latest labour market data shows that the volume of claimants for both unemployment benefits and Universal credit remained steady in the last month in Greater Manchester (albeit at levels well above those prior to the pandemic). However, rates of economic inactivity have begun to rise again in the North West and are now equivalent to the highest inactivity rates reached during the pandemic.

The latest Growth Company survey highlights the rise in the proportion of businesses reporting cash reserves that can support activity for over six months. This rose from 66% to 75% and the Growth Company suggest this could signal that firms have made adjustments to their business plans in order to build reserves to hedge against economic uncertainty.

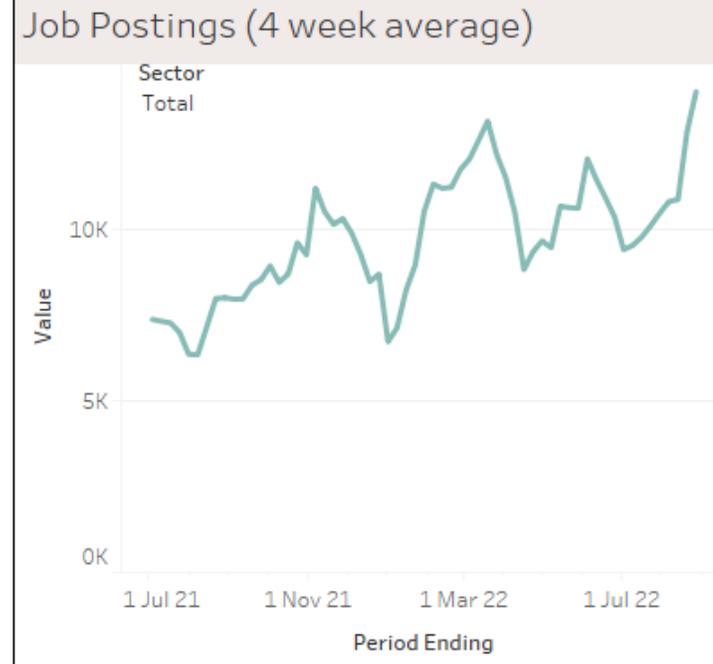
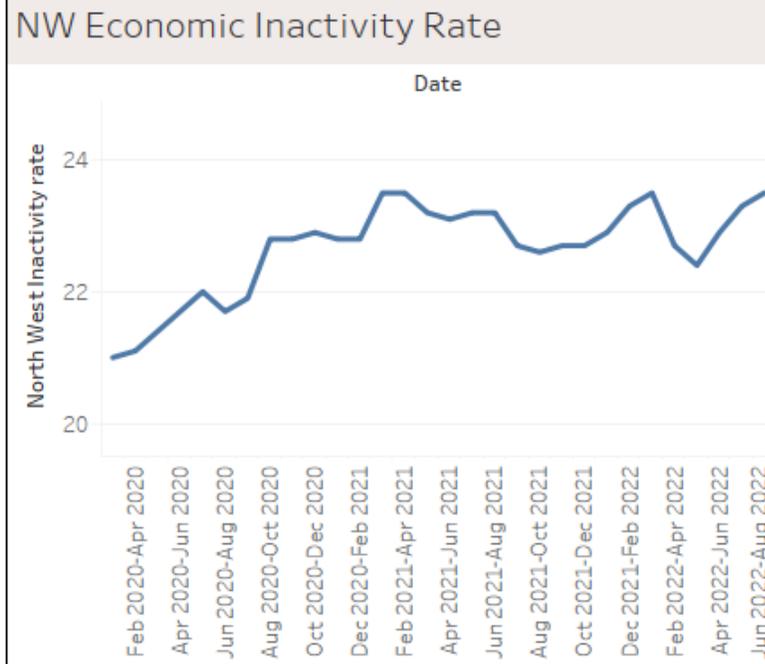
UK Consumer Confidence worsened again in September falling by a five points below what were already historically low levels to -49, further confirming the worsening state of household finances.

Labour Market



The number of claimants decreased by 0.4% to 90,505 between August and September. The decrease in GM was slightly higher than the decrease across the UK (0.3%). Between September 2021 and September 2022, claimants have fallen by 20% in GM.

There were 315,378 Universal Credit claimants in GM in August. This is an increase of 1.6% compared to the previous month. The number of claimants also increased by 1.6% across both the North West and Great Britain.

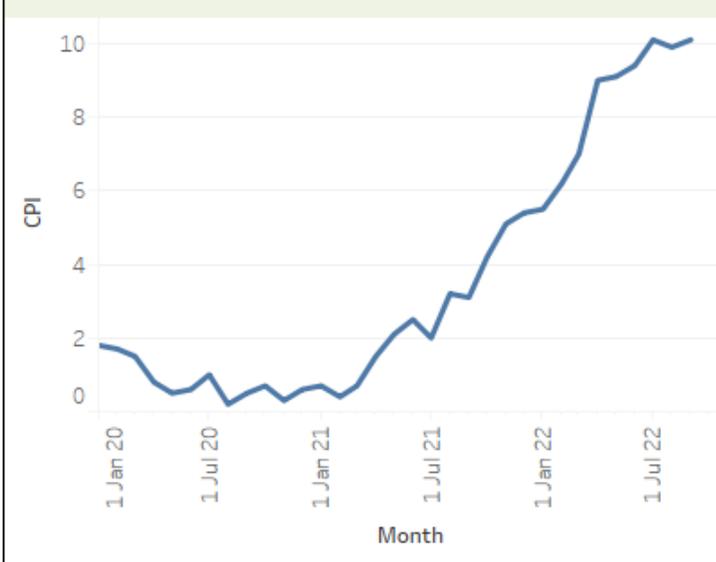


The number of people neither working nor seeking employment stood at 1,056,158 (23.5% of working age population) in the three months to August 2022 in the North West. This was a rise of 7,351 people from the three months to July.

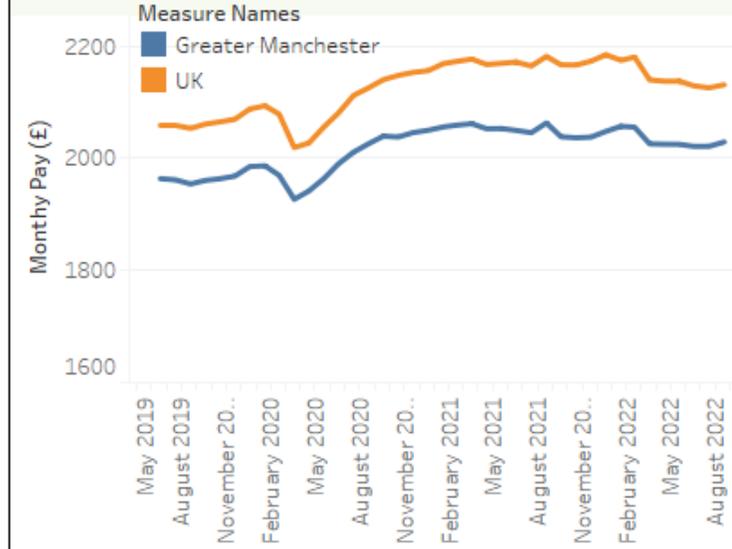
The 4-weekly average of online job postings increased to 14,047 in week ending 27th August 2022. This is 34% higher than the 4 weeks to 30th July 20..

Cost Pressures

UK Inflation



Median Monthly pay (Inflation Adjusted)



Key Facts

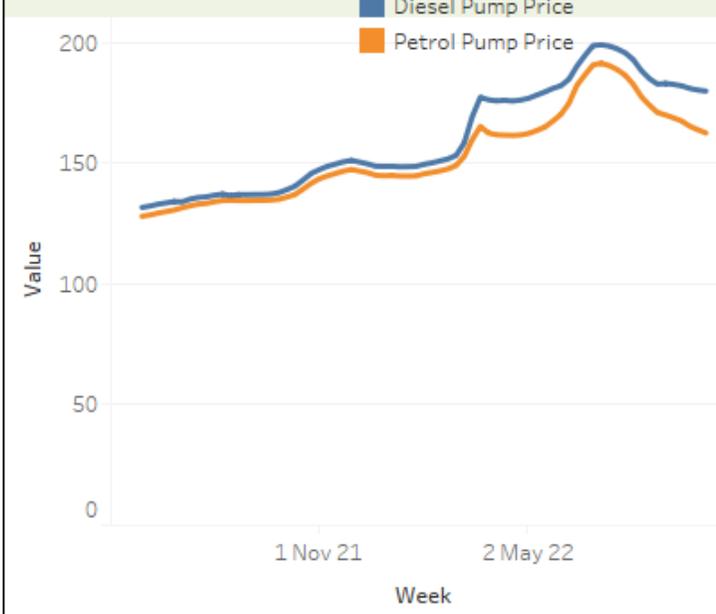
UK inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index was 10.1% in the 12 months to September 2022. This was a 0.2 percentage points increase from the August figure of 9.9%. Inflation including housing costs was 8.8% in September.

Median monthly pay adjusted for inflation in Greater Manchester was £2,029 in September, compared to £2,131 for the UK, according to PAYE RTI data. Median monthly pay in GM has decreased by -1.6% since September 2021, compared to -2.3% for the UK as a whole.

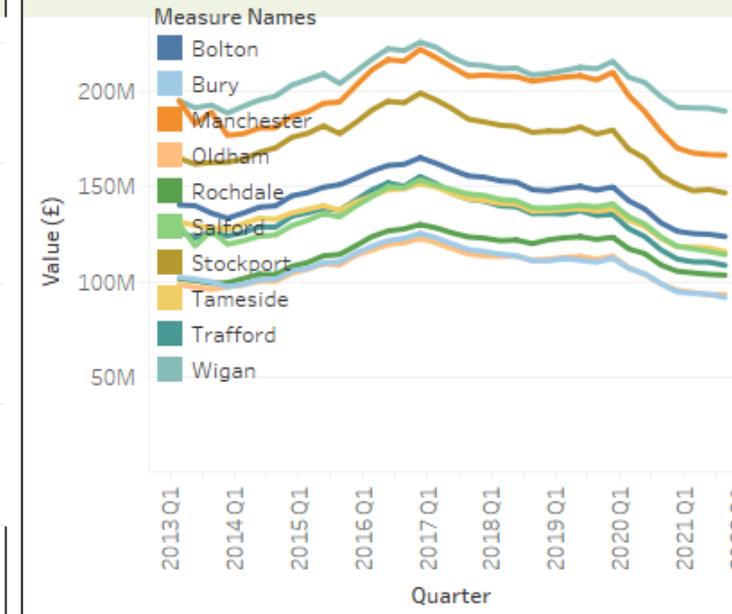
Petrol pump prices were 162.67p per litre in week commencing 3rd October 2022, -3.7% lower than a month earlier. Diesel pump prices were 180.04p per litre, -1.5% lower than a month earlier.

The value of Unsecured Personal Loans across Greater Manchester decreased by 0.9% from £1.27 billion in Q3 2021 to £1.25 billion in Q4 2021.

Weekly Fuel Prices

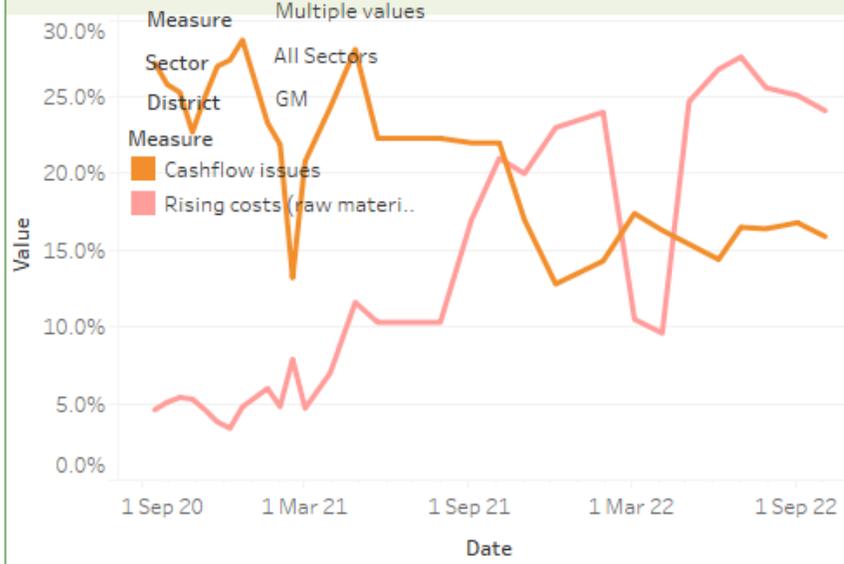


Unsecured Personal Loans

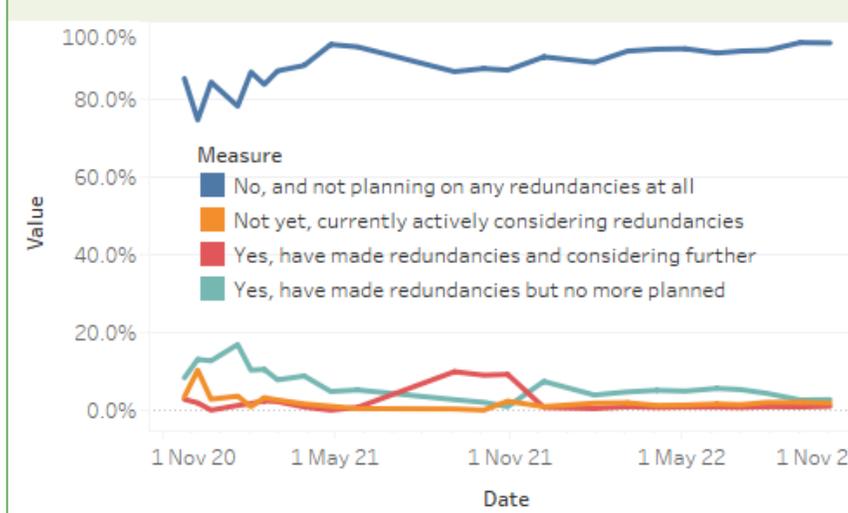


Business Outlook

Business Growth Hub Survey



Business Growth Hub Survey: Business planning to make redundancies



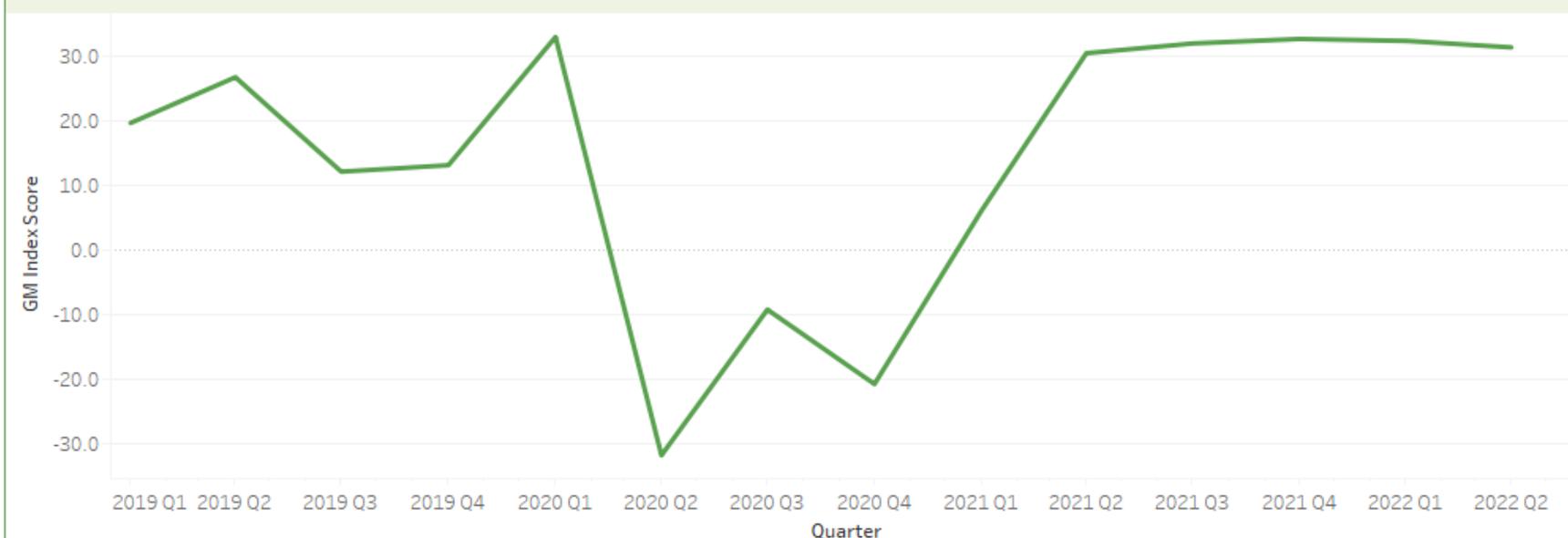
Key Facts

24.1% of businesses reported rising costs in the 12 weeks to 3rd October, according to the Growth Hub's Business Survey. Previously, 25.1% of firms reported rising costs in the 12 weeks to 2nd September. 15.9% of businesses reported cashflow issues over the period, compared to 16.8% in the 12 weeks to 2nd September.

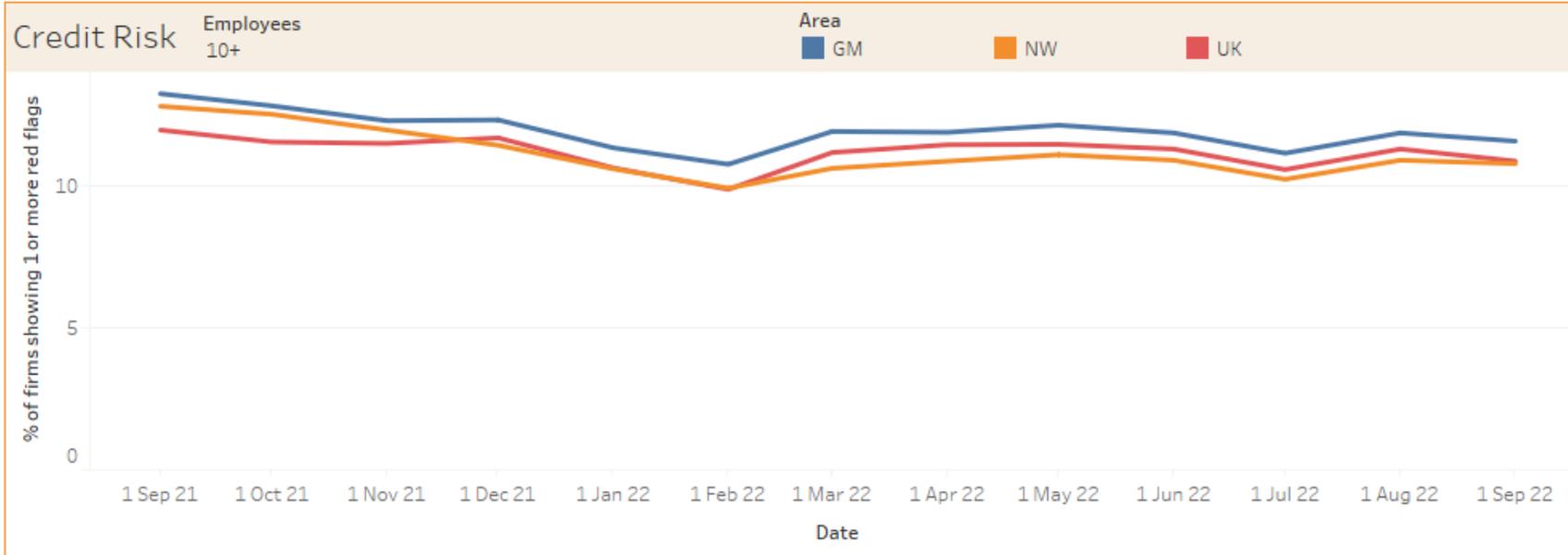
The number of firms that said they were considering making redundancies was 2.8% in the 12 weeks up to 3rd October. 2.7% of firms said they had already made redundancies.

GM Chamber's GM Index decreased from 32.3 in Q1 2022 to 31.3 in Q2 2022. This is the sixth consecutive positive score since Q1 2021.

GM Index (Quarterly)



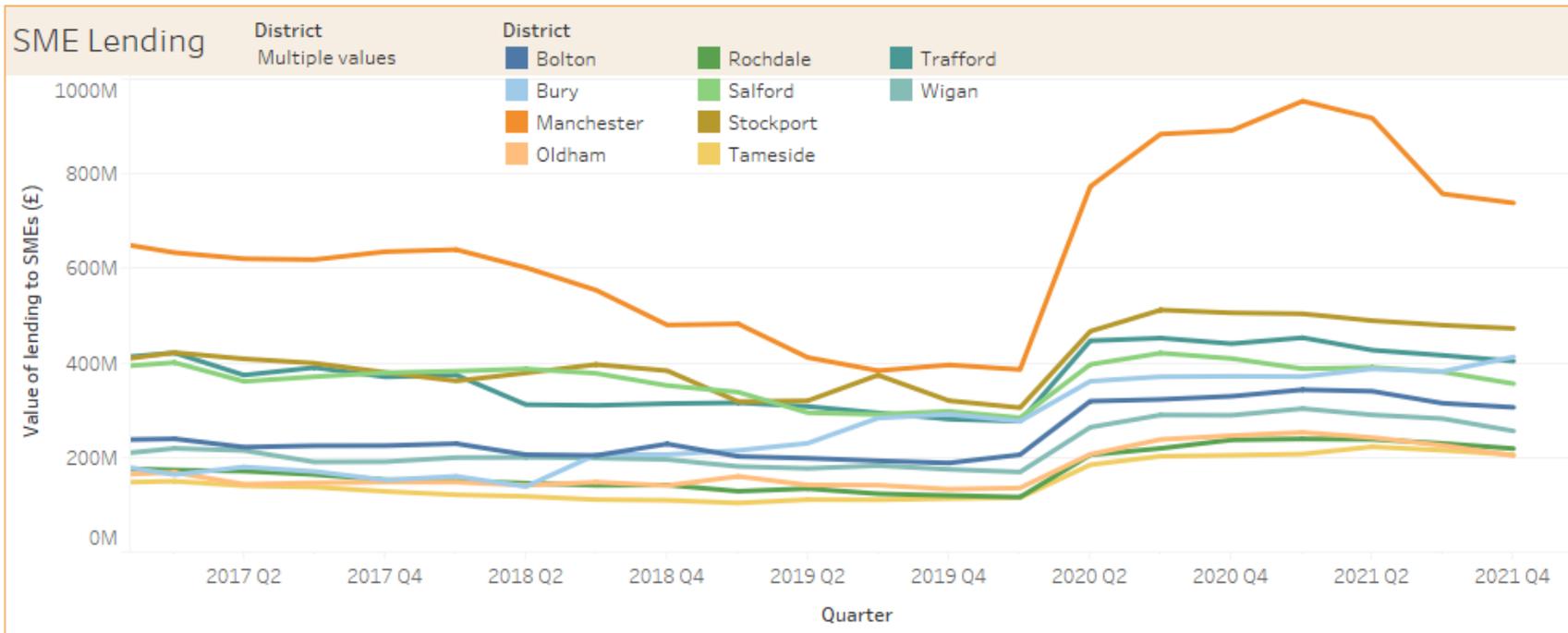
Business Lending and Credit Risk



Key Facts

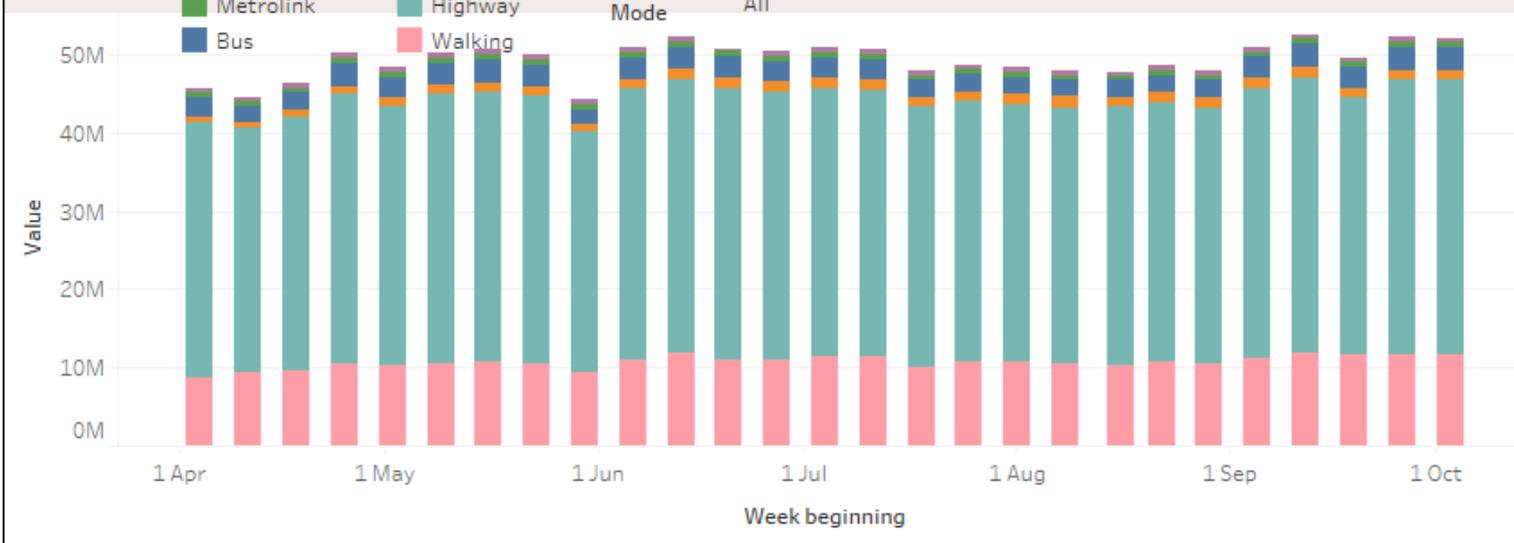
11.6% of all firms with 10 or more employees in GM had 1 or more red flags in the month to 1st September 2022, compared to 10.8% for the North West and 10.9% for the UK as a whole. Previously, 11.9% of firms in GM had 1 more red flags in the month to 1st July.

The value of loans to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) decreased by -3.0% from £3.68 billion in Q3 2021 to £3.57 billion in Q4 2021. This data includes loans issued under the CBILS and BBLs schemes.



Behavioural Insights

Greater Manchester Transport Usage by Mode (Weekly)

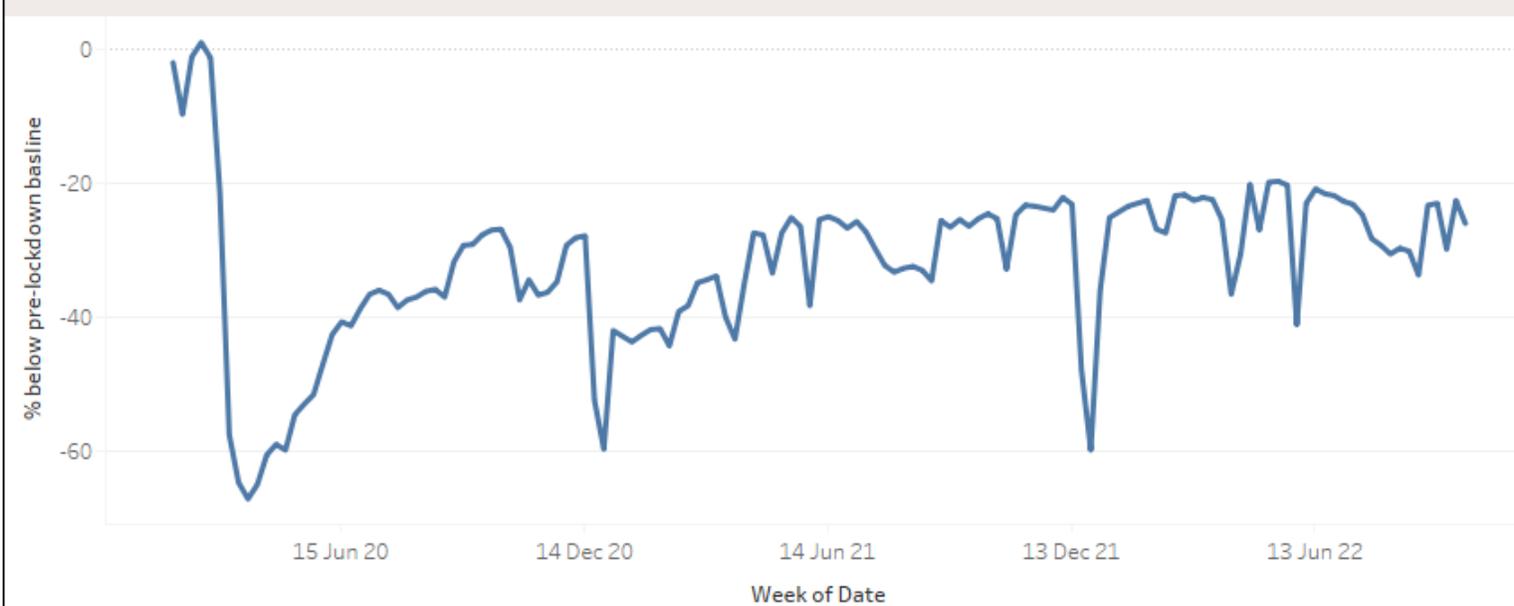


Key Facts

There were 52.1 million passenger journeys across all modes of transport in Greater Manchester in week commencing 3rd October 2022. Total passenger journeys are now roughly equal to pre-crisis levels.

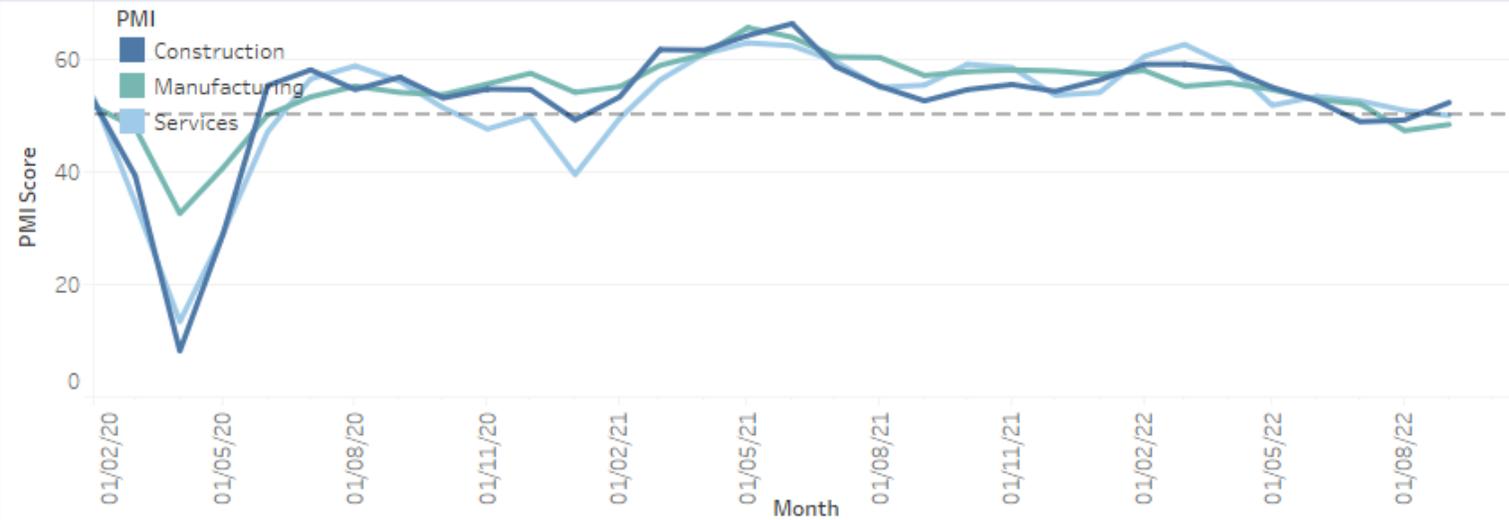
Google Mobility data for GM shows that the weekly average number of people moving through workplaces was -26% below the baseline in week commencing 3rd October.

Google Mobility Data - Travel through Workplaces District Greater Man..



National Indicators

UK purchasing managers index (Monthly)

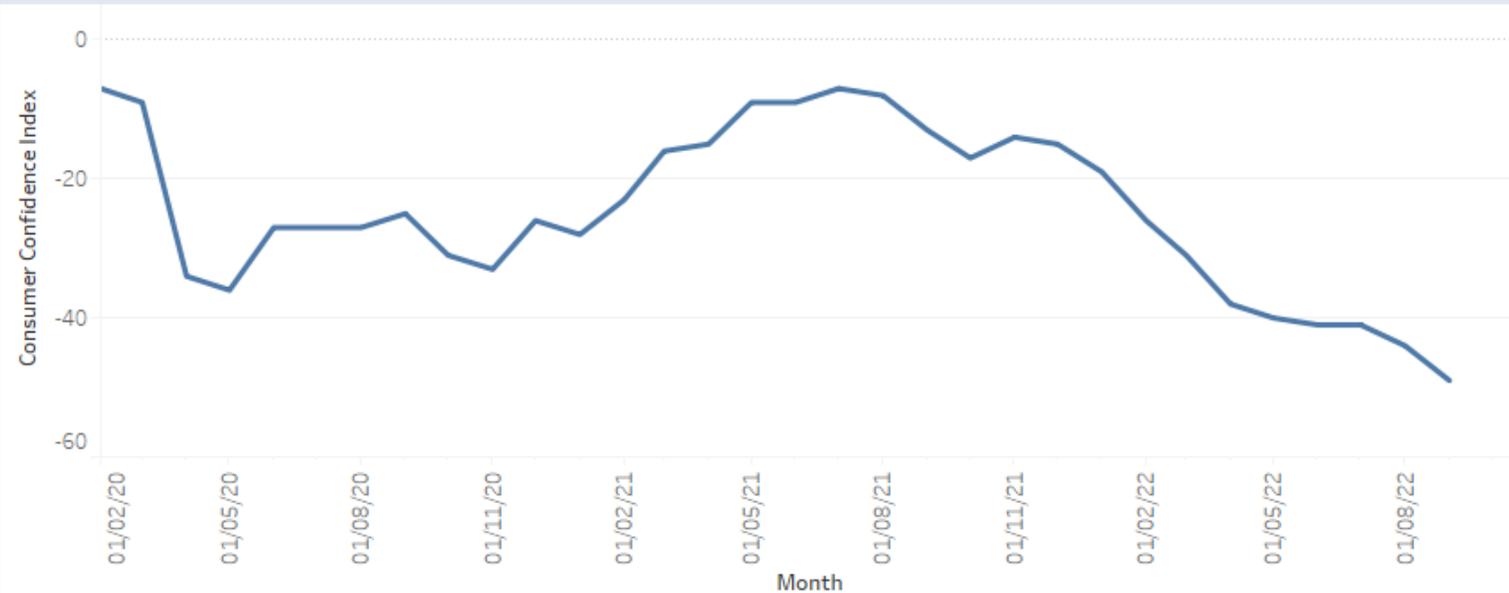


Key Facts

Two out of three sectoral PMIs increased in September 2022, Manufacturing PMI increased from 47.3 to 48.4 and Construction PMI increased from 49.2 to 52.3. Services PMI decreased from 50.9 to 50.0. Manufacturing PMI is now below the 50.0 threshold that indicates growth.

The UK Consumer Confidence Index declined to -49 in September 2022. Consumer confidence is lower than at any point during the pandemic.

UK consumer confidence (Monthly)



International Trade

Export Documents (Monthly)



Regional Goods Exports (Quarterly)



Key Facts

Export documents processed by the GM Chamber of Commerce decreased by -3.4% between August and September, from 1,966 to 1,899. The total number of export documents is down -13.7% since September 2021.

The total value of goods exports from the North West was £8.2 billion in Q2 2022, 9% more than Q2 2021. The total value of UK exports was £92.2 billion in Q2 2022, 19% more than Q2 2021.

Definitions

Labour Market

Claimant Count - This data is taken from a monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics. Alternative Claimant Count experimental statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began) with the broader span of people this covers.

Economic Inactivity - This data is taken from a quarterly release by the ONS. Economic inactivity refers to people who are not participating in the labour market: they are neither working nor seeking employment.

Job Postings - Job postings data is taken from Burning Glass and updated on a weekly basis. This measure indicates new job vacancies posted in that week for GM as a whole. New job postings are averaged over 3 weeks.

Household Finances and Cost of Living

Median Monthly Pay - Taken from the ONS's monthly experimental release using PAYE data. Median monthly pay shows what a person in the middle of all employees would earn each month. The median pay is generally considered to be a more accurate reflection of the "average wage" because it discounts the extremes at either end of the scale.

Unsecured Personal Loans - This is taken from UK Finance's quarterly statistical release and shows statistics on the geographic distribution of personal loans by certain UK lenders (Barclays, CYBG, Lloyds Banking Group, HSBC, Nationwide Building Society, Royal Bank of Scotland and Santander UK in Great Britain; Bank of Ireland, Danske Bank, First Trust Bank, Nationwide Building Society and Ulster Bank in Northern Ireland).

Inflation - This data is taken from a monthly release by the Office for National Statistics. The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) is the most comprehensive measure of inflation. It extends the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to include a measure of the costs associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home, known as owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH), along with council tax.

Weekly Fuel Prices - This data is taken from a weekly release by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. It provides average UK retail pump prices.

Business Outlook

Growth Company Business Survey - Figures relating to the impact of COVID-19 on business are taken from the Growth Company's monthly business survey. The survey covers all businesses that are Growth Company Clients, this means that some businesses outside of GM that access Growth Company services may be included in the dataset.

GM Index - The Greater Manchester Index is a quarterly composite indicator taken from seven measures in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey. Those seven indicators are Domestic Sales, Advance UK Orders, Export Sales, Advance Overseas Orders, Capacity Utilisation, Turnover Confidence, Profitability Confidence.

Business Support and Lending

Credit Risk - This data is provided on a monthly basis by RedFlag, a provider of real-time business intelligence. The data shows businesses that have 1 or more 'red flags', this means that they are at risk of potential insolvency.

SME Lending - This is taken from UK Finance's quarterly statistical release. Trends covering member lending to UK small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Data is shown for loans and overdrafts across postcode sectors. This data includes loans made under CBILS and BBLs.

Behavioural Insights

Google Mobility Data - This data is from Community Mobility Reports published by Google. The reports chart movement trends over time by geography, across different categories of places such as retail and recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces, and residential.

Greater Manchester Transport Usage by Mode - This data is provided by Transport for Greater Manchester and measures the number of passenger journeys on each mode of transport (Car, Bus, Rail, Cycling, Metrolink).

Workers Index - This data is taken from the Centre for Cities Workers Index released on a monthly basis. The index looks at city-centre workers in the city centre in the daytime on weekdays, compared to a pre-lockdown baseline of 100. The index uses anonymised mobile phone data from Locomizer.

National Indicators

Purchasing Manager's Index - The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing, service and construction sectors. It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting. The Index is published on a monthly basis by IHS Markit Economics. The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

Consumer Confidence - In the United Kingdom, the consumer confidence survey measures the level of optimism that consumers have about the performance of the economy in the next 12 months. Published on a monthly basis by GfK. The GfK Consumer Confidence is derived from the survey of about 2,000 consumers which are asked to rate the relative level of past and future economic conditions including personal financial situation, climate for major purchases, overall economic situation and savings level.

International Trade

Export Documents - This is a monthly count of the number of export documents processed for GM businesses, as reported to GMCA by the GM Chamber of Commerce. It gives an indication of the level of international trade happening in GM in the month.

Regional International Trade - This data is published by HMRC on a quarterly basis. The data combines EU and Non - EU trade for all regions of the UK.

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**Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel
Greater Manchester Big Disability Survey 2022:**

Cost of Living



Nothing About Us,
Without Us.

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1.1 About the Panel

The Panel is convened by the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) in partnership with GM Mayor Andy Burnham and the GM Combined Authority (GMCA). There are 15 Disabled People's Organisations (majority or wholly led and run by disabled people as distinct from charities) on the Panel drawn from across the city region, they are:

Breakthrough UK • Bury People First • Disability Stockport • Embrace Wigan & Leigh • GM Autism Consortium Advisory Committee • GMCDP (Convenor) • George House Trust • Manchester Deaf Centre • Manchester Disabled People's Access Group • Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts • Manchester People First • People First Tameside • Rochdale and District Disability Action Group • Salford Disability Forum • Stand Up Sisters

We have three Co-Chairs: Michele Scattergood (Breakthrough UK), Chris Hamnett (Embrace Wigan & Leigh), Sarah Cross (Rochdale and District Disability Action Group).

We also have a wider associate network of interested stakeholders who don't attend meetings with whom we share information.

We work in co-operation with the other Greater Manchester Equality Panels.¹

The Panel and members operate from the perspective of the Social Model of Disability.²

¹ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/equalities/>

² <https://gmcdp.com/beliefs-values-aims/social-model/>

We would like to extend our thanks to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for their support with this Survey, especially to Shona Boyle for her data analysis.

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1.2 Executive Summary

Disabled people are now managing under a threefold assault on our rights and quality of life, firstly austerity, which the UN described as the grave and systemic removal of rights amounting to a human catastrophe, then Covid where we made up 60% of deaths whilst only being 20% of the population, now the ‘cost-of-living’ crisis for a community that is overrepresented in poverty and makes up over half of foodbank attendees already³. For over a decade, Central government policy choices have created an ingrained poverty that has multiplied the barriers disabled people face.

This survey is the second to be undertaken by GM Disabled People’s Panel after our Covid-themed survey of 2020. We wanted in 2022 to quantify what we were already hearing from our member organisations about the extent of increasing poverty. We have engaged with stakeholders including: GM Combined Authority, GM Poverty Action, TfGM, and GM Equality panels to design the survey and ensure we added to understanding and didn’t duplicate existing activity.

The survey comprised 97 questions and ran for six weeks from July to August. The online version received 1,617 responses. We also had responses from accessible easy workshops which totalled 1,700 responses. Of those 1495 were disabled people living within Greater Manchester; their responses formed the base of our analysis.

It is currently the largest survey of disabled people in the UK.

With a particular emphasis of the Cost of Living we wanted to identify the size and level of risk people were exposed to by increasing costs, as well as updating on the 2020 survey. We included many free text boxes to capture qualitative testimony should people want to give it—and they

³ <https://www.trusselltrust.org/2021/06/28/the-state-of-hunger-its-not-right-that-disabled-people-are-being-forced-to-turn-to-food-banks/>

did! By combining this with the quantitative data we now have a real-world picture of the challenges disabled people face.

However, the lived expertise of our disabled people's organisations means we are not surprised by any of the results of this survey—this is the reality we live every day. We should not have to persistently prove the reality of disabling social and cultural barriers that leaves us always fighting to provide proof and not working on removing and solving barriers.

There are a number of indicators in the 2022 findings that show that the situation for disabled people in Greater Manchester has worsened since 2020. The survey also shows that there is a large percentage of disabled people for whom the layers of disadvantage are significantly impacting on disabled people's quality of life. Given the disproportionate impact of poverty and rising living costs on disabled people, there is a need for greater recognition of the intersection between poverty/socio-economic status and disability in Greater Manchester.

'Households with people living with disabilities⁴. Living with a disability increases the risk of experiencing fuel poverty. It leads to a reduced income: 27 per cent of households that include someone who is disabled are on a low income when measured before housing costs, compared with 15 per cent of households with no disability; and their cost of living is higher. Disabled people face higher energy bills due to having additional needs (such as medical equipment that requires a power source) and spending longer periods at home.'⁵

-Sir Michael Marmot

⁴ Under the social model we prefer the term Disabled People.

⁵ <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fuel-poverty-cold-homes-and-health-inequalities-in-the-uk/read-the-report.pdf>

1.3 Five Immediate Actions for the Mayor, GM Combined Authority, and Local Authorities and Health & Social Care

1.3.1 Immediate Action One

- We ask the GM Combined Authority, the Integrated Care Partnership, and Local Authorities to look at re-profiling 'universal' budgets to enable targeted support for disabled people.
- Despite recent government interventions, the energy price cap is still twice what it was this time last year. Further action is urgently required to support those already in debt, and those now at risk of debt. GM should look into protecting the highest risk homes from 'self disconnection' by engaging with energy suppliers and ensure people are supplied with sufficient energy to support their wellbeing.
- We ask GM Retrofitting programme to prioritise disabled people in poverty.

1.3.2 Immediate Action Two

- Coordinate advice and general advocacy across GM to address low capacity and inconsistency, waiting times, and cumulative worsening of disabled people's living conditions. The cracks between services are so large and deep and people are being forgotten and effectively abandoned.
- GM should work locally with the DWP to ensure it is more accessible and more supportive.

1.3.3 Immediate Action Three

- Social care should be made free at the point of delivery to uphold disabled people's right to a full and independent life. While increasing the Minimum Income Guarantee at the local discretionary level would help many, a simpler and cheaper solution would be for local authorities to cease the discretionary practice of charging low income disabled and older people for

meeting their statutory care needs. We ask GM to lobby Central Government for a National Independent Living Service.

1.3.4 Immediate Action Four

- Fund Disabled People’s Organisations and the Panel to Develop Disability Equity training, and approve it for rolling-out to Local and City Region-wide institutions. This would speed access improvements and culture change, which in turn will remove disabling barriers.

1.3.5 Immediate Action Five

- We ask GMCA and the ten Greater Manchester Councils to consider how to ensure that the voice of the Greater Manchester Disabled People’s Panel is heard at the highest levels and to confer participatory powers in the decision-making process, as far as democratically possible. We also ask for support for the Panel to engage with the private sector.

1.4 Structural Recommendations

A Rights-Based Approach

Greater Manchester has already led the way nationally by being the first city region to appoint a Disabled People’s Panel.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Cost-of-Living Crisis have had a profound impact on disabled people. This has been captured in this latest 2022 GM Big Disability Survey and in the 2020 GM Big Disability Survey, with its Covid-19 focus. During engagement with stakeholders following the launch of the 2020 Survey recommendations, GMDPP became aware that organisations and public sector bodies nationally and in Greater Manchester were not talking about disabled people in the context of their rights under national and international frameworks;

including those set out in the provisions of the Care Act (2014), the Equality Act (2010), the Mental Capacity Act (2005), the Human Rights Act (1998), and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (UNCRDP).

We have to report that the situation has not improved, with disabled people reliant for their basic needs on foodbanks and their families and friends, and / or government support payments (publicly referred to as “handouts” by the Prime Minister) in the face of inadequate uprating of benefits and rising social care charges. Disabled people are commonly unaware of their rights under legislation and when they are aware, have little access to legal advice provision and advocacy, in particular to face-to-face advice⁶. Disabled people are often also digitally excluded and have a right to accessible information⁷.

During the last three years, GMDPP has emphasised the critical need across Greater Manchester for a rights-based approach to disabled people’s service provision and we have supported the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commissions (IIC):⁸

- GMCA and the ten GM councils should implement the recommendation of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commissions to establish an anti-discrimination unit
- The IIC report noted that the Disabled People’s Panel has already been working with GMCA to develop a means to realise the rights of disabled people under the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People. A similar approach should be adopted for all the Panels.
- Give more power to the Equality Panels. These advise the Greater Manchester Mayor. They are made up of people who represent groups such as disabled people, or people from different ethnic groups.

⁶ <https://wearedebtadvisers.uk/news/debt-advice-agencies-demand-equal-treatment-from-energy-companies>

⁷ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/patient-equalities-programme/equality-frameworks-and-information-standards/accessibleinfo/>

⁸ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/equalities/independent-inequalities-commission/>

1.4.1 Structural Recommendation One

We recommend that the GMCA, the ten Greater Manchester Councils and GM NHS Integrated Care Partnership adopt a rights-based approach following the lead of Hammersmith and Fulham Council, and Cheshire West and Chester Council⁹ (which in August 2022 passed a motion pledging to uphold the United Nations Convention (UNCRPD) as a framework for delivery of their services to disabled people) and the Scottish Government's rights-based approach¹⁰ also urge the adoption of the Socio-Economic duty across GM in line with the work already undertaken by the GM Poverty Alliance¹¹. There is no question that disabled people are impacted more by poverty and that in itself is a disabling barrier as well as exacerbating many of the other barriers we encounter.

1.4.2 Structural Recommendation Two

We recommend that the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities work with GMDPP to establish a framework for measuring the progress of disabled people's rights that goes beyond Equality Impact Assessments, which often do not deliver change and tend to focus on process rather than outcomes. The use of data and intelligence is key to eliminating inequality. GM Institutions planning services and budgets should improve their understanding of the needs of disabled people. Local Authorities should improve their data gathering on disabled people and use this in decision-making. Data gathering should be coordinated across Greater Manchester to ensure a city-wide picture.

1.4.3 Structural Recommendation Three

We recommend that the GMCA, the ten Greater Manchester Councils and GM NHS Integrated Care undertake cumulative impact assessments that look at the intersecting aspects of public service design and provision and the ways in which housing, social care and other services have an interconnected impact on the lives of disabled residents.

⁹ <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news/council-adopts-un-convention-on-the-rights-of-people-with-disabilities>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-disabled-children-young-people-and-their-families/pages/disability-in-context>

¹¹ <https://www.gmpovertyaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Socio-Economic-Duty-Guide-v6.pdf>

1.4.4 Structural Recommendation Four Disabled People’s Voices and Inclusion in Making Change Happen

It is clear from the comments made by disabled people in this Cost-of-Living Survey that disabled people do not feel they are sufficiently heard in the decision-making that affects their lives. People talked about having a voice and wanting to be heard. They talked about it being easy to identify problems, but more difficult to achieve change. There was a note of resignation that even expressing their voices through our Survey would not lead to concrete outcomes. One respondent commented:

‘Local and national governments need to do better for their disabled populations. All promises and no tangible progress on inclusion’

We asked about disabled resident’s hopes for the future and there was a noticeable lowering of hopes and horizons. Many people said that they just wanted to get through the next year and not worry about getting into debt. Very few people expressed any other aspirations and did not appear to see themselves attaining leadership or decision-making positions.

And at the same time people felt that the Government and Greater Manchester Local Authorities were doing less to help disabled people since 2020. This is concerning, given that the 2021 recommendations made by the Independent Inequalities Commission¹² (IIC) made the link between the voice of excluded people and participation in decision-making. The IIC report said:

‘Greater Manchester needs to go further than just better consultation on decisions—a more diverse range of people need to be making those decisions. This means better pathways to representation in elected office and positions of power for people from diverse communities and in marginalised groups who feel ‘locked out’ of politics.’

¹² <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/4605/the-next-level-good-lives-for-all-in-greater-manchester.pdf>

The Government-commissioned 2021 report “Barriers to political representation: disability and the EnAble Fund”¹³ highlighted that “around 20% of the UK population is disabled [this is estimated to be higher in Greater Manchester] but disabled people remain under-represented in our Parliaments, Assemblies and councils”. The report’s authors Professor Elizabeth Evans and Dr. Stefanie Reher noted that: “While disabilities are sometimes invisible or ‘hidden’, and people seeking elected office might be hesitant to disclose them, all available figures and estimates suggest that the proportion of disabled politicians vastly lags behind 20%”¹⁴. This is due to several barriers: financial resources provided by the Government and political parties, inaccessible meetings and events, and documented concerns about institutional ableism. Disabled people are further disadvantaged by the reliance on informal and intra-party networks for spreading information. The intersection of disability with other (under-represented) identities creates additional barriers.

It is also clear that the organisations that sit on the Greater Manchester Disabled People’s Panel have a wealth of lived experience about how the Cost-of-Living is impacting on their disabled members and can offer useful practical solutions to Greater Manchester senior decision makers. We feel that insufficient progress has been made on the Independent Inequalities Commission’s recommendation to give more power to the Equality Panels¹⁵.

During our Year 3 evaluation of GMDPP’s work, we identified a need to ensure that the Panel was always working at the most strategic level where decisions are being made. We have witnessed a lack of consistency in terms of the level at which the Panel’s voice is heard. It appears to be dependent on the commitment of individual officers, teams or departments to the inclusion of disabled people—and we

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/barriers-to-elected-office-for-disabled-people/barriers-to-political-representation-disability-and-the-enable-fund>

¹⁴ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0192512120947458>

¹⁵ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/4605/the-next-level-good-lives-for-all-in-greater-manchester.pdf>

acknowledge and are deeply grateful for the continuing support of those colleagues— rather than systematic and strategic inclusion, i.e., a guaranteed “seat at the table.” The Chairs of GMDPP attend the Greater Manchester Tackling Inequalities Board and the Equality Panel Chair’s meetings, but these do not appear to be the places where the key decisions are being made.

The delay in getting our voice heard has led to us producing this Survey and has slowed down effective action to reduce the harms that cost-of-living increases are already having on disabled people in Greater Manchester. Similarly, GMDPP calls for the support of the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to enable us to offer immediate recommendations on how to best support disabled residents—for example, we would recommend the targeting of any future tranches of the Household Support Fund.

We ask GMCA, the ten Greater Manchester councillors and MPs to commit to the following measures to increase the number of people in political decision-making and leadership roles:

- In recognition of the absence of a national political fund for disabled people (the last one ended in 2020) and the variable levels of support given by the political parties to disabled candidates, the creation of a permanent source of Greater Manchester funding to support disabled residents seeking selection as elected representatives and to support their disability-related campaigning costs.
- The creation of peer-support and mentoring schemes for disabled people who wish to stand for, and who enter, elected office.
- We ask all the political parties to make their meetings and selection processes fully accessible and to create job-sharing opportunities to widen access.
- To undertake an awareness-raising campaign about disabled people’s voting and political participation rights.
- Political parties should build on the data gathered by the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office about disabled candidates to establish the effectiveness of these measures and to

benchmark progress to significantly improve levels of representation.

- We ask GMCA to create a leadership programme for disabled people, similar to the GMCA Civic Leadership Programme 2021¹⁶. This programme should include the GM Integrated Care Partnership.

1.4.5 Structural Recommendation Five

We ask GMCA and the ten Greater Manchester Councils to consider how to ensure that the voice of the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel is heard at the highest levels and to confer participatory powers in the decision-making process, as far as democratically possible.

1.4.6 Structural Recommendation Six

The government has removed the right to vote from anyone without photo ID. In our survey we asked disabled people if they had photo ID. 20% of respondents did not, of which 42% said that they did not need photo ID, and 37% believed that they could not afford it.

This is concerning to us that people are unaware of the need for photo ID to protect their basic democratic rights and believe that the cost would be a barrier to having one.

We ask all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to ensure that all disabled voters have exactly the same options for casting their vote as non-disabled electorate: polling station voting must be as fully free and accessible as the other voting mechanisms. We ask the ten GM Councils to ensure that the 'free voting card' (that the Elections Act will require local authorities to provide to those members of the electorate without a qualifying form of photo ID) must be wholly accessible, and entirely free to access, to avoid any possible discriminatory impact¹⁷.

¹⁶ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/greater-manchester-leaders-promote-operation-black-vote-programme-at-moss-side-community-event/>

¹⁷ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9187/>

2.1 Money, Benefits, and Energy Costs.

Main Findings

- A quarter of disabled people who responded to the survey have had to use a food bank or have relied on others to get food. Since 2020, 68% have had to change the type of foods that they usually buy or what they eat because of low income. A report from the Women’s Budget Group titled ‘The Income Crisis: A Gendered Analysis’ (June 22) shows that in that year up to March 2022 food bank use increased 81% compared to the same period in 2016. This need is disproportionately experienced by disabled people, who constitute 62% of working-age adults referred to Trussell Trust food banks (three times the rate of disabled people in the general population).
- A third of disabled people who responded to the survey cannot afford to pay all their bills. When asked what they were doing about this, 70% said that they were using heat and light less and 54% were eating less. Some were missing payments (7%) and 31% were borrowing money. This mirrors the findings of the GM Residents ¹⁸Survey that found that 40% of disabled people have cut the size of a meal or skipped a meal due to finances, compared to a Greater Manchester average of 25%.
- Respondents were asked whether they think that being disabled meant that they had to spend more on gas and electric—three-quarters agreed with this statement.
- There are multiple mentions by respondents about having been put on a StepChange debt repayment plan.
- Disabled respondents said accessing benefits was extremely difficult, the assessment systems were ‘abusive,’ and the amounts of money ‘inadequate’.

¹⁸ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/6141/greater-manchester-resident-survey-wave-2-april-2022.pdf>

What disabled people have said about managing their money:

- ‘My neighbour brings me leftovers sometimes.’
- ‘Stopped branded shopping and only buy from the cheaper priced supermarkets: Home Bargains, B&M, Lidl, Aldi, Iceland, etc. These supermarkets do not have online delivery so I am usually reliant on others to do my shopping here.’
- ‘I skip meals, I half every portion, I live very minimally, I never go shopping for anything other than bits of food, I pay minimum amounts off debts as I need to keep them happy so that I can order a new vaccume [sic] or washing machine in the future as I have no other means of affording/replacing needed items I am currently in rent arrears of £535 as I could not afford to pay the rent last month and got so sick of having empty cupboards and freezer. I am hungry’
- ‘I have numerous items of equipment that run off electricity, all of which are needed. This is inclusive of hoists and machines that allow me to breathe, my ventilator is to be used for nine hours a night and incorporates a heating element which heats water to ensure my airways don't get to dry.’

Recommendations

2.1.01 We ask GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to ask Ofgem to engage with disabled people-led organisations’ calls for the implementation of a social tariff or variable cap on energy costs, to lower the rates on existing pre-payment meters to the same rate as tariffs paid by standard meter customers and to ensure that information is accessible to disabled energy users, including British Sign Language (BSL) provision. We support the Greater Manchester Money Advice Group’s calls for an end to warrants being used to place consumers in arrears onto pre-payment meters, and share their concerns at the discriminatory impact of retail suppliers compelling low-income disabled consumers to enter debt repayment arrangements with remote for-profit debt advisers such as StepChange (who offer no face-to-face provision). Our position is that

other options can produce better results, e.g., debt relief orders¹⁹. Greater Manchester's disabled residents must have access to properly resourced, uncharged debt advice from local, accessible, disability-aware, face-to-face services.

2.1.02 We ask the Government to provide (and the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to support) statutory funding given to local authorities and ring-fenced to providing²⁰ debt/benefits advice²¹.

2.1.03 We call on GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to ask the Government:

- To add an emergency uprating to all benefits—including the 'extra-costs benefits' (PIP, DLA and AA) in line with the rate of inflation and cost of living indexes and that this happens several times a year. The uprating must at least match the latest Bank of England predicted inflation rate²².
- In periods of high inflation, benefits should also be increased more than once per year.
- To abolish the bedroom tax and two child limit
- To restore legal aid to include first tier tribunals,
- To introduce interim assessment rates and remove mandatory reconsideration.
- To end the unfair regime of Work Capability and Personal Independence Payment assessments and to introduce co-produced assessment as has happened in Scotland with the Adult Disability Payment.

2.1.04 We call on GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to ask the Government to ensure that the one-off Disability Cost of Living Payment of £150 should be given to every disabled person in receipt of a qualifying benefit. Under the

¹⁹ <https://wearedebtadvisers.uk/news/debt-advice-agencies-demand-equal-treatment-from-energy-companies>

²⁰ <https://www.lag.org.uk/article/212255/the-uncertain-future-of-debt-advice>

²¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-58993223>

²² <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/press-releases/new-pms-term-in-office-on-course-to-be-marked-by-deepest-living-standards-squeeze-in-a-century-and-three-million-more-people-in-absolute-poverty/>

current rules disabled people must have received a payment of one of these qualifying benefits on 25 May 2022 to get the payment. If somebody qualifies for the benefit after this date, we believe, that they should still be entitled to the payment. There is no justification for an arbitrary eligibility start date.

2.1.05 We call on GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to ask the Government to ban all arrears-related deductions from benefits.

2.1.06 We call on GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to ask the Government to revise the eligibility criteria for the Warm Home Discount to reinstate eligibility for disabled benefit claimants whose entitlement to the rebate was removed by the Government in April 2022.

2.1.07 We ask Social Housing Providers and private sector landlords in Greater Manchester to follow the action of the Scottish Government²³ and freeze rent increases, especially for disabled people, to stop rental debt recovery and to introduce a moratorium on evictions.

2.1.08 We ask GMCA to consider establishing a Good Housing Charter similar to the Good Employment Charter and engage with tenants' rights groups/unions and build on work undertaken by GM Housing Action.

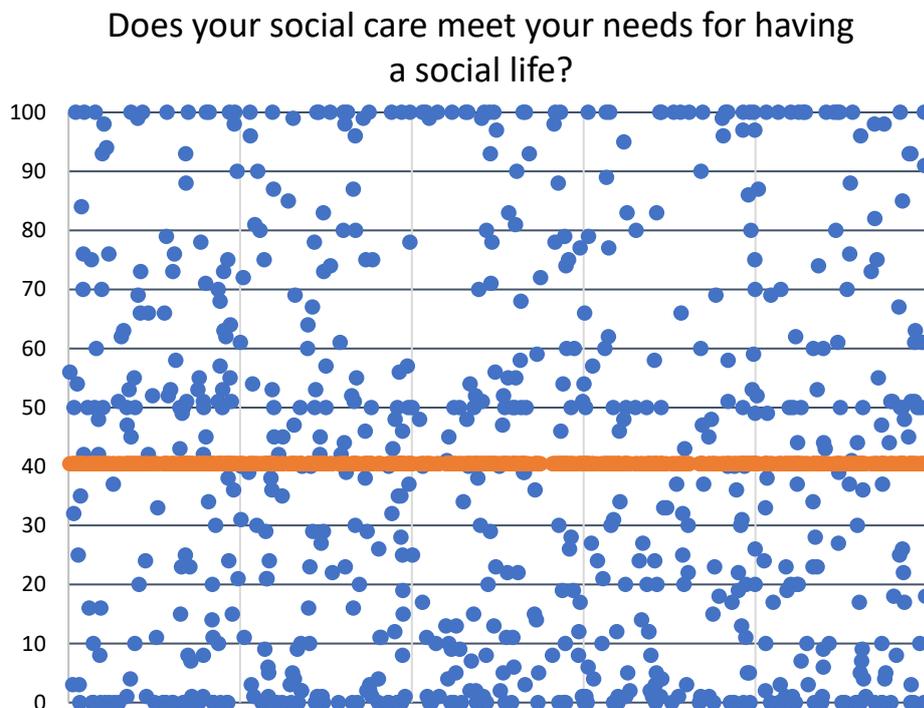
2.1.09 We ask GM Institutions to favour 'cash first' responses to poverty both for speed, effectiveness, and dignity and to prioritise giving people money over in-kind support such as food parcels and energy vouchers.

²³ <https://www.gov.scot/news/rent-freeze-focus-of-programme-for-government/>

2.2 Social Care and Personal Assistance

Main Findings

- Disabled people were asked about the social care they receive. 62% have help with daily living or going out. 21% said that they have to pay for this.
- 29% of disabled respondents have not had the care they needed because they could not afford it.
- 63% of disabled respondents felt that the support they received had not changed over the last two to three years but 29% thought it had become worse.
- Learning disabled people would like more choice and control -and the support to do that- of their care and support packages.
- Respondents were asked whether their social care met their needs for having a social life on a scale of 0 (not at all) to 100 (fully met). The graph below shows the distribution of responses, with the red line representing the average of 40. Nearly a quarter of people (23%) scored between 0 and 5.



If the right level of support is provided, people said this:

- 'Would improve my outcomes for getting a good job.'
- '[would create]more independence and less stress, [I'd] be able to work more self-employed hours, eat more healthier and exercise little more.'
- 'would mean me and my mum could go out a lot more together, if there was someone to help us. It would also mean my mum could have some time to herself to visit her friends.'

What disabled people have told us about Social Care:

- 'Haven't had full cover since the start of the pandemic. Difficult to find staff at the terrible pay rate.'
- 'My husband had to give up his full-time work to care for me. It is very expensive having a carer.'
- 'I had a PA for 20 hours a week, to help me wash, dress and prepare meals. They wanted more in contributions from me, than her weekly wage, and I couldn't afford it at all! So now I injure myself and am exhausted because I have no help.'
- 'Family and friends are relied on too much. It makes them ill. Eventually friends leave.'

Recommendations

2.2.01 We ask GM Local Authorities to implement measures to alleviate severe risks to disabled social care recipients' health and wellbeing outcomes, caused by increases in care charges and the cost of living. We recommend an increase the discretionary element of the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) by at least an additional £150 per week, and call for the cessation of debt recovery actions against the growing numbers of disabled residents who have fallen into arrears.²⁴

2.2.02 We ask all ten Local Authorities in Greater Manchester to follow the example of Hammersmith & Fulham Council to coproduce statutory social care free at the point of use.

2.2.03 We ask for an end to the culture of 'assessing away need'. Ensure Care Act means-testing financial assessments are meeting the legal standard and put in place methodology to record and publish unmet need.

2.2.04 We ask the ten GM Local Authorities to work with the Panel and Disabled People's Organisations to advocate for genuinely fully funded social care provision, reframed as services upholding the right to a full and independent life. Our preferred option is for the disabled-people-created National Independent Living Support Service model.

2.2.05 We ask the CA and Local Authorities to explore viability of supporting Personal Assistant co-operatives to connect disabled people needing PAs with good candidates. For example, currently the just-above minimum wage pay level makes recruitment and retention of PAs very difficult, along with visa restrictions on overseas candidates.

2.2.06 We ask Local Authorities to review the differing rates paid to agencies in contrast with the lower rates paid to disabled people on direct payments for employment of PAs.

²⁴ Disability News Service: <https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/tens-of-thousands-driven-into-debt-by-care-charges-new-figures-show/>; GMB Union: <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/least-130000-trapped-social-care-debt> Open Democracy: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/cost-of-living-social-care-bills-people-cant-pay-exclusive-england/>

2.2.07 Independent General Advocacy must be truly independent, and fully accessible to everyone seeking social care.

2.2.08 We ask the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to develop a fully co-produced complaints system. The current system is leaving many having to seek Ombudsman help which takes many months.

2.2.09 There is clear relationship²⁵ between delay to discharge from hospital with lack of timely and sufficient social care provision. This means fixing social care should be a shared objective of the NHS, social care departments, and service users, making the solution a natural candidate for meaningful co-production.

2.2.10 We ask that the CA and Local Authorities work with current campaigns to establish good wages, dignity, and professionalism of PA and care work so that it is valued and properly rewarded; this creates good employment and raises the quality of care.

2.3 Housing and Neighbourhood

²⁵<https://twitter.com/MichaelMarmot/status/1570858091276795905>

Main Findings

- 57% of disabled respondents felt that their housing met their needs. This means that 43% of disabled people that responded to the survey are living in housing that either partially meets their need, or does not at all. When a similar question was asked in the 2020 Covid survey of disabled people, 37% of respondents said that they were in inaccessible or partially accessible housing, which indicates that the problem is worsening.
- When this is split into the cohort that has used a food bank, and the cohort that either has not or has relied on others to get food, there are clear differences. Only 37% of those who have relied on a food bank have housing that meets their need. This compares to 63% of those who have not relied on a food bank. This demonstrates the multiple challenges that some disabled people in Greater Manchester are facing.
- 64% of disabled respondents said that they were worried about their housing situation. 15% said that they are worried 'a lot'. In 2020, 32% of respondents said that they were worried about their housing situation. This is a huge and wholly unacceptable increase over the last two years.
- There is a clear economic divide amongst the respondents, with the poorest disabled people feeling the most worry about their housing security and standards
- Disabled people are living in deprived areas, in poor housing stock with damp problems and poor insulation. Some disabled people need adaptations in their house that they are unable to afford.
- Disabled people told us that they were worried that a deterioration in their health would leave them struggling in the future. Many respondents are worried that partners or family members who currently provide them with care and support might become unable to help them in future (see the Social Care and Personal Assistance section).
- Disabled people reported that shops were inaccessible and that they were coming across fewer accessible toilet facilities and parking spaces when out and about. This is in keeping with the

findings of a recent ONS report: Disabled People's Experiences with Activities, Goods and Services.²⁶

- When asked how safe and included they feel in their neighbourhood, more than half do not feel completely included and safe. 18% said they do not feel safe and included, and 35% said they only feel partially safe and included.
- Many commented on the crime and antisocial behaviour within their neighbourhood, which does not make them feel safe; examples given were burglary and youths loitering. There was also an alarming number of responses that noted a lack of action by the police.

What people have told us about their housing and neighbourhood:

- 'The place I am living is overrun with rats I cannot leave my doors open there is antisocial behaviour all around it interrupts my sleep. I cannot move because I can't afford to.'
- 'Kind of cramped—6 people (of which more than half are autistic) in a 3-bedroom house with small rooms, a tiny kitchen and small bathroom.'
- 'With the long-term conditions I have I do need a downstairs toilet but no success yet.'
- 'I'd feel like I was wasting police time if I rang them to report someone being mean because I'm disabled'
- 'It was a few years ago. Reported [hate crime] to the police but they did not seem to think it was serious.'
- 'The house itself is fine, but the neighbourhood is rough. Constant shouting and fighting overstimulates [sic] me and fireworks trigger my PTSD frequently.'
- 'People can be lovely and very helpful when you have a disability, my neighbours are outstanding. However, you do get the odd person who feels like they can shout abuse at you in the street. This makes you feel very vulnerable.'

Recommendations

²⁶<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/disability/bulletins/disabledpeoplesexperienceswithactivitiesgoodsandservicesuk/februarytomarch2022>

2.3.01 We ask the ten GM Local Authority planning committees to ensure that all new homes are built to Building Regulation M4(2) 'accessible' standard, with 10% built to M4(3) wheelchair-accessible standard, then this will help to address the current shortage of accessible homes in GM. These requirements have been part of the London Plan for some years and have also been recently adopted by Liverpool City Council. We also encourage the ten Greater Manchester boroughs to consult early with disabled people to ensure any new outdoor spaces, and access routes, are fully accessible.

2.3.02 We ask Local Authorities to engage in co-production with disabled people when developing their Local Housing Plans.

2.3.03 We call on GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to ask the Government to increase the Disabled Facilities Grants and Local Authorities to increase the number of assessment staff.

2.3.04 We ask the GM Retrofitting Programme to include improvement of older housing in retrofitting as well as improving energy issues to make older housing more accessible.

2.3.05 Many green technologies that deliver environmental benefits and lower running costs are not accessible to disabled people because of the high upfront cost. We ask GM systems to explore ways to deliver the best greenest solutions to disabled people who, because of our over representation in poverty, cannot access them otherwise.

2.3.06 We ask Social Housing Providers and private sector landlords in GM to follow the action of the Scottish Government²⁷ and freeze rent increase especially for disabled people, to stop rental debt recovery, and to introduce a moratorium on evictions.

2.3.07 We ask GMCA to establish a Good Housing Charter similar to the Good Employment Charter.

²⁷ <https://www.gov.scot/news/rent-freeze-focus-of-programme-for-government/>

2.3.08 We ask the ten GM councils to use their licensing function to ensure that pubs, bars and restaurants are fully accessible.

2.3.09 We ask GM councils to follow the recommendation of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission²⁸ to look at options for establishing an independent anti-discrimination body to tackle breaches of the Equality Act. The body must support disabled people in taking action against inaccessible shops and businesses.

2.3.10 We ask Greater Manchester Police and GMCA to resource an extensive campaign across Greater Manchester to prevent and raise awareness of disability hate crime. Further, we ask Greater Manchester Police and the local authorities to ensure that reporting mechanisms are fully accessible, with particular attention to the needs of learning-disabled people. Greater Manchester Police and the Greater Manchester authorities must improve on the support given to disabled people reporting hate crime, and ensure that complaints are taken seriously and investigated quickly. Frontline officers should receive training in disability awareness, including the social model of disability²⁹.

2.4 Accessibility, Transport, and Lifestyle

²⁸ <https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/4605/the-next-level-good-lives-for-all-in-greater-manchester.pdf> <https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/4605/the-next-level-good-lives-for-all-in-greater-manchester.pdf>

²⁹ <https://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk/about-us/disability-in-london/social-model/the-social-model-of-disability-and-the-cultural-model-of-deafness/>

Main Findings

- Only a quarter of respondents (24%) felt that they could travel everywhere they wanted without difficulty, with three-quarters saying they cannot travel everywhere they would like, or that they have difficulty doing so. When asked about the reasons they found travelling difficult, the most common reason given was accessibility, followed by cost.
- Multiple respondents commented on the importance of Ring and Ride to their lives and many would like to see improvements to this service (hours and distances travelled).
- Many disabled respondents reported financial and physical barriers to public transport (trains, buses, and trams – although trams are reported to be generally more accessible). Disabled people reported problems with broken lifts.
- 20% of disabled respondents do not have photo ID (which the Elections Act (2022) will make mandatory for voting in a polling station—this requirement is currently planned for introduction in May 2023³⁰); 41% of this cohort believe they did not need one, and 37% said they could not afford it.
- 82% of respondents said that they are stuck with problems, or sometimes feel that way, and have no one to help them.
- When asked who they go to for help, the overwhelming majority said that they rely on family. Some said that this was because they could not afford to access other sources of help, others said that it was because their family knew their challenges, and that they felt most comfortable with them. However, others commented that they were reliant on their family because there were no other available options. Disabled people also report drawing on help from disabled peers with relevant / expert experience and knowledge.
- Further, disabled people have sought help from Citizens Advice and other community and voluntary organisations when trying to find solutions to a particular challenge. For example, administration and dealing with benefits and filling out forms.

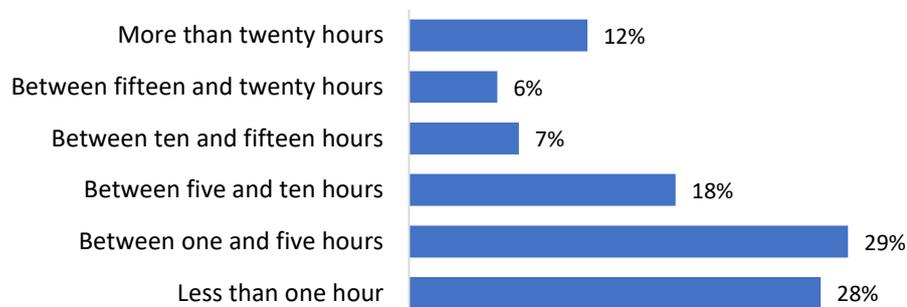
³⁰ <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/nalc-blog/entry/2185-elections-act-2022>

On Peer support:

- 'because i found they understood better than alot of healthy / able bodied people, simply because they havent experienced the same push back'
- 'Because they understand and we're able to help me navigate'

- Respondents were asked how many hours per month they spend solving problems or removing barriers. 12% said that they spend more than twenty hours doing this, 28% said that they spend less than one hour, and 29% said that it took them between one and five hours per month.

Because you are disabled how many hours a month do you have to spend solving problems or removing barriers?



Ring & Ride users depend on it, and would like to see improvements:

- 'Ring & Ride can only take me 6 miles'
- 'I need to use Ring & Ride to get to places I need'
- 'Ring & Ride take me where I need to go'
- 'cannot now get ring and ride at 4pm to return home after attending age uk centre which have done for 24 years. have to spend £11 on taxis to get home each week'

What disabled people have told us about their lives and access needs:

- 'I cannot use my local train station (Levenshulme) due to it having three flights of stairs. I have a Blue Badge but driving to accessible parking spaces in the city centre is increasingly difficult.'
- 'Access isn't available in possibly over 50% of where I try to venture.'
- 'I can't go out often, due to my physical health and lack of transportation. I can't afford to pay for transport.'
- 'Public transport in Greater Manchester is a joke, delays are constant, prices are too high and it can take so long to get from a-b when it wouldn't in a car and needing multiple changes and different bus companies.'

Recommendations

2.4.01 Disabled people's organisations have concerns about the impact of photo ID on the disabled electorate's democratic participation rights. We ask the ten GM Councils to ensure that the 'free voting card' (that the Elections Act will require local authorities to provide to those members of the electorate without a qualifying form of photo ID) must be wholly accessible, and entirely free to access, to avoid any possible discriminatory impact³¹.

2.4.02 We ask Local Authorities to recruit more Access Officers to ensure policies and practices meet access standards.

2.4.03 Ring and Ride users love the service and depend upon it, we ask the GMCA, TfGM and Local Authorities to meaningfully co-produce improvements and reforms with this ardent user group and establish GM-wide coordinated provision.

2.4.04 All new transport vehicles and infrastructure should meet level wheelchair access standards as a minimum. We ask GMCA, Network Rail and TfGM to implement a program to bring existing facilities (e.g., railway stations) up to standard before the end of the decade. We ask GMCA, Network Rail and TfGM to work with disabled people's organisations in their applications to central government for funding to improve station accessibility (for instance Access for All funds and Community Infrastructure Levy)

2.4.05 We ask the Mayor and Transport for Greater Manchester to continue with plans to introduce accessible buses, concessionary fares and an overall integrated transport system that puts access and affordability at its heart

2.4.06 There is a widespread and increasing problem of taxis operating a de facto blanket refusal to pick up wheelchair users. Many excuses are being offered to disabled people, resulting in many giving

³¹ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9187/>

up trying. We recommend an easy and accessible system of logging refusal incidents directly with the Local Authority licensing team, this log should trigger a removal of license at a certain level. Taxi operators need to be made aware of this change ahead of time, to give them an opportunity to transition from current informal practices and meet their legal and licensing conditions.

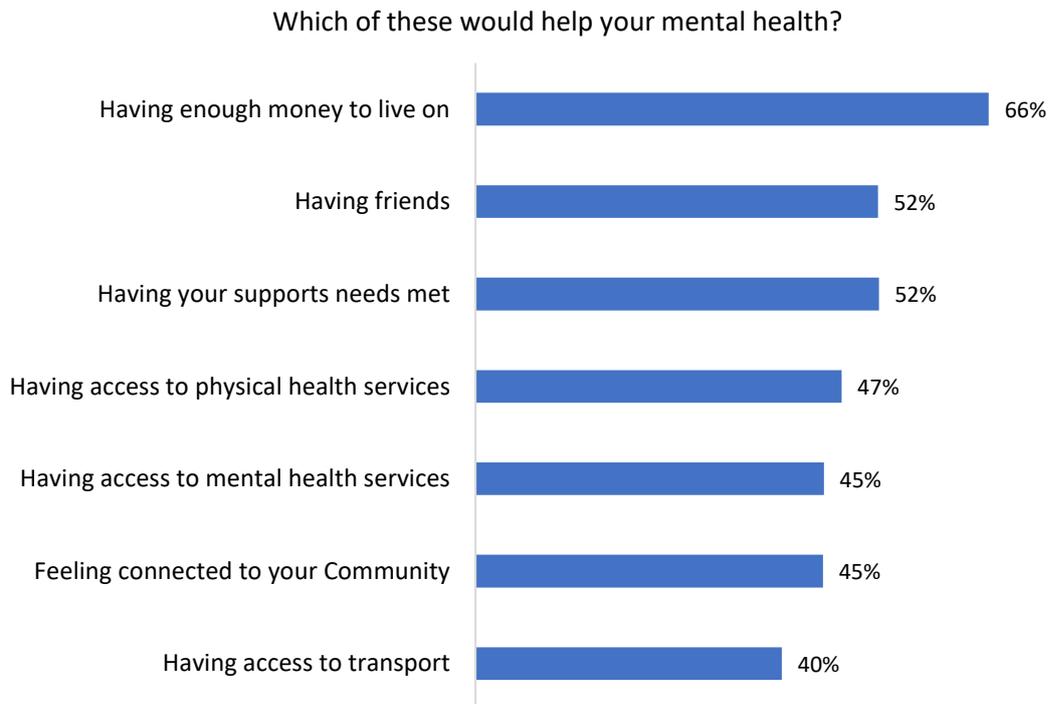
2.4.07 We ask for live fault reporting on lift faults, as many trams and rail stations are only accessible by lift, and faster repair contracts.

2.4.08 GMCA and the ten GM councils should implement the recommendation of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commissions to establish an anti-discrimination unit

2.5 Mental Health and Wellbeing

Main Findings

Poverty, Inequality, and lack of support are huge factors affecting disabled people's mental health.



45% of the disabled people who responded to the survey identified factors that had stopped them getting support with their mental health. People overwhelmingly report being put off by waiting lists or being in limbo waiting for the right help; the limited options within IAPT are not considered helpful. Some have had challenges with professionals in the past and there were reports of a lack of neurodivergent-aware professionals.

Comments conveyed that the benefits regime and poor working conditions were causes of mental health worsening, yet these were the only financial options available for the meeting of affording basic necessities.

What worked well for people's mental health: disabled people said that getting out in nature and enjoying green spaces was particularly beneficial. Some also mentioned seeing family and friends. Similar

beneficial impacts from spending time with family and having hobbies were shared by disabled people in the Greater Manchester Mental Wellbeing & Disability Report³².

What disabled people told us about their mental health and wellbeing:

- ‘The lack of a social life. Staying indoors 24 hrs a day. No money.’
- ‘Not being able to get out and do the things I like doing gets me down.’
- ‘Too much time alone, money concerns, lack of general health appointments GP—don't want to clog up the system.’
- ‘Stress. It also affects my physical health which has a knock on effect to my mental health. Pain... not being able to exercise increases my pain levels. Money... not being able to afford the food or supplements I need.’
- ‘lack of services and obtuse and indifferent so-called "mental health" professionals.’
- ‘Generally I would say that waiting lists and demand on services is the biggest barrier.’
- ‘Mental health. Its still carries the stigma.’

39% of the disabled people who responded to the survey felt that attitudes towards disabled people were worse than before Covid, and just 6% felt that they were better.

When asked about how safe and included they feel in their neighbourhood, more than half did not feel completely included and safe. 18% said they do not feel safe and included. 35% reported that they only feel partially safe and included (see also Housing and Neighbourhood section).

³² <https://www.gmhsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/GM-MWD-Report-Final-v7.pdf>

Recommendations

2.5.01 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts to offer more holistic tailored support to people in a timely fashion. From the qualitative responses it is clear restrictive NHS diagnostic pathways and limited options for treatment largely rest upon behavioural assumptions that do not meet people's differing needs nor cultural differences.

2.5.02 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts to urgently reduce waiting times. Long waiting times are a factor in the worsening of mental health, including the management of distress. They are also a denial of healthcare, where the need is often for immediate support.

2.5.03 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts for more resourcing and facilitation of Service User and survivor voices in order for co-production to happen in a meaningful way, where power differentials are equalised³³. GMIHSCP & GMMHT need to outreach, beyond current networks to have the difficult conversations, they must search out community user-based organisations and give them the means to coordinate co-production, understood as democratic partnerships. ³⁴These resourced entities can then work together on an equal basis to create a service or come to a decision which works for them all.

2.5.04 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts to reduce inequality acknowledge and address intersecting structural factors, including those in operation within the institutional cultures of the public sector e.g., in social care, housing and planning, regressive forms of taxation, and the DWP.

³³ <https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/co-production-in-commissioning-tool/co-production/in-more-detail/what-is-co-production/>

³⁴ <https://www.nsun.org.uk/projects/4pi-involvement-standards/>

2.5.05 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts to consider pilots of innovative alternatives such as the Trieste model³⁵.

2.5.06 We ask GM Integrated Health Partnership and Social Care and GM Mental Health Trusts to end ‘stepping down’/‘off-rolling’, and use of ‘resilience,’ ‘dependency,’ and ‘recovery’ s euphemisms for the removal of healthcare and support.

2.5.07 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts to listen to people labelled with a personality disorder (PD) diagnosis, they often have the worst outcomes³⁶ and to consider ending the use of PD diagnoses and seek more holistic, tailored responses to service users.

2.5.08 Where services are failing or effectively non-existent because of lack of funding, we ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership and GM Mental Health Trusts, senior decision-makers and elected representatives to work with disabled people to lobby central government for rights-based improvement.

2.5.09 We ask the Integrated Care Partnership to recognise institutional culture and its role in the recently exposed abuse.³⁷ The ICP must be committed to co-production to level the power differentials and support whistle-blowers.

³⁵ <https://www.livingwellsystems.uk/trieste>

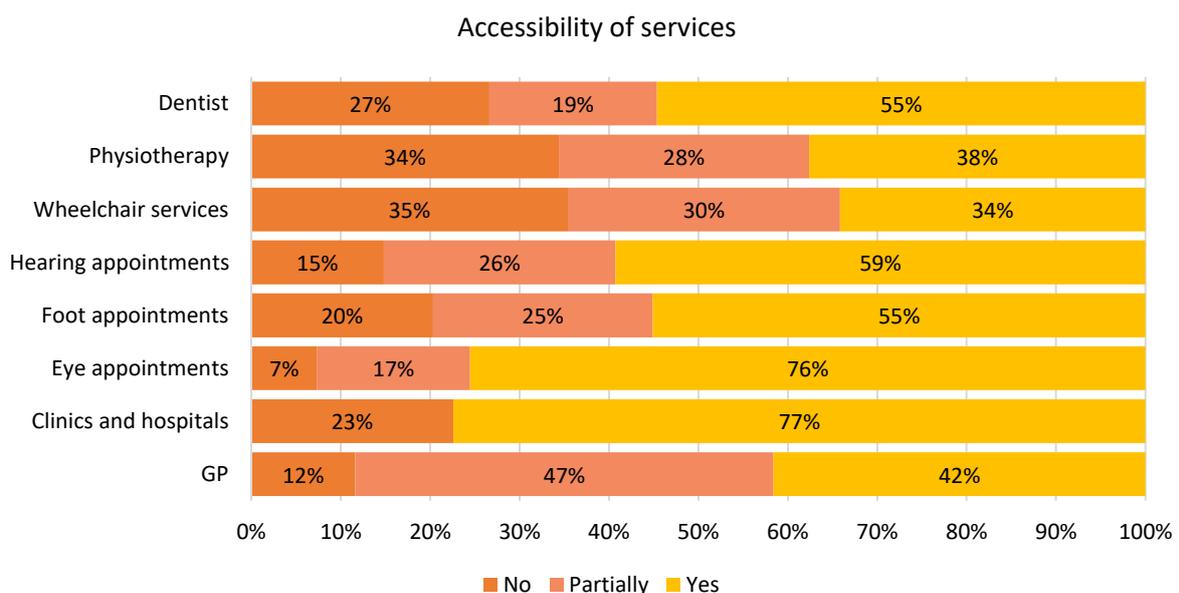
³⁶ <https://www.clinicalkey.com/#!/content/journal/1-s2.0-S2215036616303145>

³⁷ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63045298>

2.6 Health Services

Main Findings

- 62% of disabled people who responded to the survey felt that being disabled will affect the treatment that they receive.
- Over two-thirds of respondents felt that their physical healthcare needs were not being fully met. 46% said that their physical healthcare needs were being partially met and 19% that they were not being met at all.
- 39% of those whose housing needs are not being met are not having their physical healthcare needs met—this is in comparison to 12%, in the cohort whose housing needs are being met. This statistic illustrates one intersecting driver of the socio-economic disadvantage that reduces disabled people’s quality of life.
- 42% of respondents said that they cannot afford all the things that they need to maintain their wellbeing.
- Health service professionals were reported to have low understanding that the presence of their personal assistant is integral to a disabled person's functioning, and cannot be excluded from accompanying the disabled person during health appointments.



What people told us about Health Services:

- 'Prescription costs and transport to appointments (which are becoming more frequent lately) are difficult to fund. I can't afford to have the heating on anymore so try my hardest to get warm with layers and alternative methods such as hot water bottle and heat pads. I'm eating less food than I should be doing due to the rising costs, but I do manage to get at least 1 meal a day with a snack or 2.'
- 'Prescriptions are getting more expensive and I keep needing more of them. Heating is needed much more than for most and is becoming worse than ever. I cannot afford to have it on as much as I need'
- 'It's a nightmare trying to get GP or nurse appointment I have been waiting over 2 years to see some of my consultants and almost 3 years fir [sic] operations I need'
- 'Waiting lists are now obscenely long, and appointments when they finally arrive feel rushed and like they don't want to listen. When you have complex health needs this is disappointing.'
- 'my GP is physically inaccessible (doors too small for a standard 18 inch wheelchair) as well as there being no appointments to make I literally do not have any kind of healthcare plan.'
- 'Yes the rules about carers makes it very very difficult. A lot of people have to have 2 carers, especially as most hospital departments don't have hoists.'
- 'Well in my condition I will need someone by my side to care for me. So the hospital should have room to accommodate my full time carer.'

Recommendations

2.6.01 There is a clear relationship between a delay to discharge from hospital and a lack of timely and sufficient social care provision³⁸. Therefore, fixing social care should be a shared objective of the NHS, social care departments, and service users, making the solution a natural candidate for meaningful co-production which we ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to commit to. Central government must accept that delays to healthcare or social care provision are denials of provision.

2.6.02 Records can be patchy and insufficiently joined up, leaving some disabled people having to re-negotiate afresh at every engagement. Therefore, we ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership for one unified simple record that records name, address, date of birth and access needs. Administration staff should pro-actively ask for people's access requirements, record these and make them available to all health and social care service providers.

2.6.03 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to empower disabled staff networks, improve data collection of workforce and disability, implement Disabled People Panel/DPO approved disability equity training, to be attended by consultants and senior staff, including directors and board members.

2.6.04 The NHS accessible information standard document is 62 pages long, off-putting in length and inaccessible for some disabled people. We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to produce an easily accessible shorter version of ideally no more than ten pages in length, created with accessible communications experts. We further advise production of video and audio versions to optimise all staff uptake of the key points.

2.6.05 There were significantly higher access issues with dentistry, physiotherapy, GP services, and most alarmingly, wheelchair services. These need rapid action to arrest this decline. We ask GM Integrated

³⁸ <https://twitter.com/MichaelMarmot/status/1570858091276795905>

Health and Social Care Partnership to resource a Panel task group to review and reform wheelchair services, with work on the other areas to follow. Regional recruitment and retention of dentists must find innovative ways to keep dentists in the city region and providing NHS services.

2.6.06 The responses show a correlation between medical needs and unmet housing needs³⁹. This exemplifies the reality of complex systems being resistant to change. This hard to navigate rigidity has a cumulative disabling effect. Systems need reforms that deliver a cultural shift from rigid proceduralism to democratic, inclusive problem-solving with service users. We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to prioritise coproduced troubleshooting, not gatekeeping.

2.6.07 Most disabled people are still taking Covid precautions. Whenever possible GM should, as a City Region, endeavour to stem further peak outbreaks and the impact of Covid on disabled people, rather than following central government policy if this is based on political rather than health-protection grounds.

2.6.08 Members of the social groups who disproportionately experience health inequality are worse hit by the current cost-of-living crisis, and structural poverty more generally. We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to address the drivers of this in whole-system responses.

2.6.09 We ask GM Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to give greater publicity to Prescription Prepayment Certificates: they can save considerable sums for those who do not qualify for free prescriptions, but require more than one prescription item per month. Ideally, England would follow Wales and Scotland and end prescription charging.

³⁹https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.equalityhumanrights.com%2Fsite%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fhousing-and-disabled-people-britains-hidden-crisis-main-report-accessible-version_0.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

2.7 Problem Solving and Support

Main Findings

- Disabled people are typically expert in overcoming barriers and solving problems; we have to be, to navigate a disabling world. But problem-solving can be a time-consuming burden, and can consume a lot of a disabled person's energy. Our survey asked how many hours a person estimated they spent each month solving disability-related problems. 30% spent between 1 and 5 hours a month on disability problem-solving, with 17% spending 5 to 10 hours and 8% spending 10 to 15 hours; 12% spent over 20 hours a month.
- 58% Disabled respondents said central government was harming or neglecting them. This is an increase of 10 points since our last survey in 2020. This compares with 38% saying the same of local authorities. An increase of 12 points since our 2020 survey.
- We asked who disabled people approached when they needed help; for 63% the answer was 'family,' 13% responded 'friends', followed by charities for 7%, Citizens Advice for 5%, a DPO for 4%, 'peers' for 4%, and the local council for 3%. 54% had good experiences of getting help, but 46% did not.
- When we include people's experiences where their access needs were not met, negative experiences of obtaining help rise to 64%
- 43% of respondents had the impression of a lack of available help and 'can feel stuck with a problem' with a further 40% saying this happens sometimes.
- 40% of disabled respondents said they thought attitudes to disabled people had worsened over the last two years.

What people told us:

- ‘I’m deaf coming from a deaf family... This has a major impact on our health as there already a huge waiting list and our appointments have been delayed further due to BSL interpreters not being booked.’
- ‘I’d love to get a good job and be able to afford to buy and do things. I rely heavily on my family for money and food and wouldn’t be able to cope without them.’

Recommendations

2.7.01 Advice and Advocacy, welfare rights and complaint handling is piecemeal, underfunded, and uncoordinated, leaving many lacking awareness of how to get help in dealing with complex bureaucracies. Advice and advocacy must be accessible and central to integrated services. We ask for a GM-wide advice and advocacy service to be put in place, and this should be co-produced with the VCSE sector to ensure rights-based provision

2.7.02 Accessibility should be embedded within the culture of all institutions. We recommend that all publicly funded bodies fund Disabled People’s Organisations and the Panel to Develop Disability Equity training, and approve it for rolling-out to Local and City Region-wide institutions

2.8 Education

Main Findings

- 58% of disabled respondents said they did not feel welcome in mainstream education.
- 28% were negatively affected by increases in the cost of living, affecting choices around pursuing or continuing education

What people told us about Education:

- 'I would love to go to university and complete my learning but getting to and from my uni, having finances to do it etc prevent me doing it'
- 'Teachers did not understand me. The headteacher called me 'naughty' for not hearing a teachers instructions but he knows I wear hearing aids. Teachers often told me my disabilities were 'not that bad' and other children have worse difficulties. I was not offered help to understand lessons despite wanting to learn. Teachers just praised my good behaviour but did not help my learning. I did not get help with social development and making friends.'
- 'I have problems with bullying. I have been out of school for most of this academic year because my needs haven't been met by school. They haven't tried hard enough to meet my needs.'
- 'University is INCREDIBLY ableist and this feeling of not feeling welcome or wanted is shared by many in the disabled students society'
- 'One of my children attends mainstream school. They don't feel safe there. They are constantly made to feel that they have to comply when they can't and it damages their mental health. They hurt themselves frequently and have panic attacks.'

Recommendations

2.8.01 Disabled People should be part of mainstream education, and feel included and welcome. Many parents and carers have to take legal action to get the bare minimum of support and win 96% of cases. We recommend education departments stop the costly and time-consuming effort of fighting to deny support and instead co-produce with disabled students good quality Education Health and Care Plans.

2.8.02 Waiting for diagnosis can take years, leaving children and young people with no support pending a diagnosis. We recommend instead that anyone who is seeking a diagnosis is treated as having that diagnosis for the purposes of needing support.

2.8.03 Disability support in university continues to be inadequate, especially where students are having to arrange placements as part of their course. We recommend an increase of funding and staffing and Panel/DPO approved Disability Equity Training.

2.8.04 Cost of transport is a barrier for disabled people. Inclusion in education can be improved by promoting awareness of access, available travel grants and continuing with the updating with the Panel of the concessionary pass scheme.

2.9 Employment

Main Findings

- 50% of respondents were not in employment. TUC research reflects this disability employment gap⁴⁰. For those that were, they were asked whether they think that they get the same career opportunities and pay as a non-disabled person. 80% said that they did not feel that they did.
- Nearly half of those that are working said that they were not paid enough to cover all of their living expenses. A report from the House of Commons highlights that disabled people were paid £2 per hour less than non-disabled people in 2021.
- 27% of disabled respondents said that they had left their job because of disabling barriers since 2020.
- 42% of respondents did not feel safe going to work because of the impact of Covid on themselves or someone that they live with
- Some commented that they find it exhausting within work having to constantly ask for suitable adjustments or adaptations. Many also said that working in the disabled sector meant that their needs were catered for within work.

What people told us about employment:

- 'It can be exhausting to have to be the person who is saying they have a disability and that you need something that is actually quite simple and would probably be of universal benefit for all people. The building I work in has almost no disabled parking (7 spaces for 1400 workers and public) and it is a council building. If you have a disability then you have limited access to the building meaning that you are less likely to want to work there.'
- 'I work for charity that works with people with the same disability I have, therefore it's very inclusive. Not everyone has that benefit.'

⁴⁰ <https://www.tuc.org.uk/research-analysis/reports/disability-pay-and-employment-gaps-2020>

Recommendations

2.9.01 We ask GMCA, MPs, Local Authorities and Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board to support the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union in asking the Government for greater resources to reduce the backlog of assessments by the DWP's Access to Work service. Access to Work should also harmonise its approaches to home-working, self-employment and employed workplace provision. The right to work from home must be supported, particularly where it is an access need.

2.9.02 We ask the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter to educate employers and employees about the Access to Work scheme and publicise it to encourage take up.

2.9.03 We ask GM wide systems, organisations, and institutions to improve the collection of data on employment levels, job retention and career progression however, disability remains a sensitive area and many disabled workers do not disclose their disabled status because of discrimination concerns. The choice to disclose is still dictated by disablist workplaces. Gathering comprehensive qualitative and quantitative data on the picture of disabled employment needs to negotiate this delicate terrain and investigate the lack of job progression.

2.9.04 We ask GM wide systems, organisations, and institutions to set targets to reduce the disability employment and pay gaps.

2.9.05 GMCA and the ten GM councils should implement the recommendation of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commissions to establish an anti-discrimination unit.

2.9.06 We ask GM wide systems, organisations, and institutions to improve support for people employing Personal Assistants on an individual budget, so they are funded to pay a competitive living wage, allow for travel expenses, blue light card eligibility, and work with the Personal Care Panel convened by Embrace.

2.9.07 DWP job coaches do not have sufficient understanding of disabled people's lives. We recommend Panel/DPO approved Disability Equity training and expansion of initiatives in Greater Manchester to improve on national DWP practices, as already seen in the Work and Health programme. DPO's should be commissioned to provide peer led employment programmes.

Ends.

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 28th October 2022

Subject: Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales – Feedback from the GM
Launch Event

Report of: Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham

Purpose of Report

To provide the GMCA with an update from the ‘Challenge Poverty Week’ GM partnership event that took place on Monday 17th October 2022

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the feedback and suggestions made by cross-sector partners and residents who attended the third party ‘Challenge Poverty Week’ GM partnership event.
2. View the report with reference to and alongside the GMCA Cost of Living Resilience update. Recognising that those responses are immediate, and this paper points to the need for GMCA to consider the medium to long term anti-poverty approach across the city-region.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	N/A	
Resilience and Adaptation	N/A	
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the Greater Manchester Carbon Neutral 2038 target.		

No direct impacts arising from this report.

Risk Management:

N/A

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Capital:

N/A

Number of attachments to the report:0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 We all want to live in a just and compassionate society, but to achieve this, action must be taken to loosen the grip of poverty on people's lives. The pandemic and now the cost of living crisis has brought into stark relief the inequalities in our society and intensified them. People on low incomes and in disadvantaged areas, and people in ethnic groups already suffering from social and economic injustice, are disproportionately affected.
- 1.2 Challenge Poverty Week England & Wales 2022 is the annual Campaign Awareness Raising week which provides an opportunity for us all to say what needs to change and a chance for voices that are too often ignored to be heard loud and clear. It is an opportunity to show that it is possible to build a better, more compassionate society in which everyone can live life to the full.
- 1.3 The theme of this year's campaign (which is coordinated nationally by the charity Church Action on Poverty) is 'Living not existing – Dignity for all.' GMCA in collaboration with key partner organisations from the 10 Local Authorities, the Voluntary, Community, Faith, Social Enterprise and business sectors organised a launch event which was hosted by Reverend Ian Rutherford on Monday 17th October at Methodist Central Hall Manchester.
- 1.4 The key objectives of this event were:
 - Raise awareness of the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis on the residents of Greater Manchester.
 - Identify a range of practical solutions at a local and regional level.
 - Campaign for Government action on the cost of living.
 - Provide opportunities for attendees to say what needs to change to enable our own communities to thrive.
 - To change the conversation around poverty and help end the stigma.
 - Promote local and national activities taking place across this week of action.

2. HEADLINES FROM THE GUEST SPEAKERS

- 2.1 **Opening Address** - The Keynote address was given by Cllr Amanda Chadderton who made it clear that the Cost-of-Living Crisis is the biggest issue for our residents right now. She emphasised that we are facing an even more challenging winter ahead with a lot of our residents having to choose whether to heat or to eat and over the next two years we are going to see more people falling into poverty, in communities already scarred by entrenched deprivation and the impact of the pandemic. However, she recognised that there is so much within the gift of Greater Manchester that we can do to support residents through this very difficult time.
- 2.2 **Scene Setting** - David Ottiwell from the GMCA Research Team and Jane Partington from 'The Bread and Butter Thing' (TBBT) a registered charity that provides a mobile food club to various locations within GM set the scene by providing some bleak statistics and qualitative insights based on the findings from the recent GM Residents Survey and TBBT member survey. Key findings include:
- 4 in 5 Greater Manchester respondents say their cost of living has increased over the past month.
 - Over 4 in 5 Greater Manchester respondents are worried about the rising costs of living.
 - 22% of TBBT members are already cutting back on essential food/drink and household essentials.
 - 62% of TBBT members have already had to borrow more money or use more credit than usual in the last month, compared to the last three months.
- 2.3 **Experiences of people with lived experience of poverty** – Two members of Oldham Poverty Truth Commission delivered a candid account of their participation in this initiative. They explained how it had enabled them to not only tell their individual and unique stories but had allowed them to grow in confidence and learn new skills.

Their personal journeys had led them into further volunteering opportunities and an ambition to seek paid employment in the near future.

2.4 **Perspectives from Regional and National Partners** – Several partners were keen to showcase their current initiatives to support GM residents through the Cost of Living Crisis.

- **GMPA** – Outlined their vision of a “Greater Manchester free from Poverty where all residents can realise their potential and access the benefits of living in a diverse and vibrant city region.” Key areas of work included: promoting a Cash First approach; Maximising Incomes; Embedding their Money Advice Referral Tool across GM and promoting the use of the GMPA Poverty Monitor.
- **Trussell Trust** – Presented their 4 key responses to Poverty and the Cost of Living Crisis which are Provision through their Foodbanks; Partnership working to provide wrap around support for customers; Participation to listen the voices of lived experience to understand what needs to change; Policy Change through National Campaigning.
- **FareShare** - Focused on their Slow Cooker Project which will see 250 Slow Cookers distributed to families across GM through their charity partners. Not only are Slow Cookers fuel efficient, but they are also a much healthier option to conventional cooking. Families will also be encouraged to attend ‘Supper Clubs’ to learn new cooking skills and weekly recipe cards will be sent based on the availability of local seasonal fruit and vegetable.
- **GM Integrated Care System** – Summarised the work that is underway in response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis in the short, medium, and longer term. With a focus on maximising signposting opportunities to benefits and debt advice, improving uptake of free prescriptions, patient transport and action to address cold homes. In addition, The GM Workforce Wellbeing Programme is delivering a programme of workshops and masterclass sessions to support individual financial wellbeing, as well as

promoting financial wellbeing resources which collates practical support and links to support colleagues with the cost of living.

2.5 Organisations and local Businesses supporting GM Residents

- **National Illegal Money Lending Team** – Highlighted the increasing prevalence of illegal money lenders across Greater Manchester and new techniques via social media to lure vulnerable individuals and families to borrow money. A recent campaign 'Ask the Question' encourages advice services to ask if someone owes money to someone 'they think is a mate but isn't.' An information pack including an online toolkit for public sector and VCFSE organisations is available to support
- **Lloyds Banking Group** – Offered to make available branch advisors in community hubs and other locations across GM to provide digital skills and financial advice and support. They have recently produced a Cost of Living leaflet based on the GMCA Helping Hands Website that they will be giving to their customers in an effort to target cohorts who may never have experienced poverty before.
- **One and All** – A local SME that has already signed up to the GM Good Employment Charter and pays the Real Living Wage. In addition, this business is committed to supporting their staff through the Cost of Living crisis. Key activities include: Regular confidential surveys to ask how employees are coping financially; Training programmes for managers to support colleagues more effectively with financial difficulties; Providing No Interest Loans, extra tax free money staggered over a 6 month period, Shopping Vouchers and Money Management Programmes.

3. KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTNERS

3.1 How can we change the conversation around poverty and help end the stigma?

- Importance of not attaching blame to the word 'Poverty'

- Framing the causes of Poverty by external factors e.g. Covid/Cost of Living Crisis rather than an individual's fault.
- Actually listening to people and asking them to tell their story without judging them but asking how you can help.
- Importance of sharing these individual stories and ensuring decision makers/leaders are present when these stories are shared.

3.2 What else could be done at a Local and Regional Level?

- Ensure information and support is accessible and available in one place through a number of communication channels.
- Consider the value of a Greater Manchester Poverty Truth Commission that could support future policy making decisions.
- Improve cross sector collaboration to avoid duplication and gaps in service provision.
- Consider appointment of a local level lead/voice for the Cost of Living response for each of the 10 Localities.
- Corporate responsibility and accountability – Real Living Wage, GM Good Employment Charter.
- How could more direct funding be made to local, grassroots organisations who already have the trust of local people and are already delivering successful, practical solutions.

3.3 What are the key issues that we need to lobby Central Government about?

- Increase state benefits in line with inflation.
- Increase Minimum Wage.
- Extend Free School Meals and Healthy Start Voucher eligibility.
- Continued lobbying to ensure individuals that are eligible for Healthy Start Vouchers, Free School Meals and Pension Credits are aware/accessing this entitlement ideally through auto enrolment.

- Provision of more funding for Local Authority Local Welfare Provision Schemes.

3.4 Overarching Themes from the event.

- Engage more Elected Members and Leaders in these conversations
- More time, energy and funding could be directed into peer support and Poverty Truth Commissions that represent the whole of GM and are an ongoing source of intelligence, advice and targeted solutions
- We cannot simply engage with trusted leaders who know what needs to change. We need to bring those on board who are not yet involved but have the power and influence to make a difference to GM residents` lives.

4. Further opportunities

- To note the feedback and recommendations from other Challenge Poverty events taking place across Greater Manchester and Nationally during the week of action.
- To hold a Round Table event with Business Leaders to share best practice interventions
- To engage with the existing GM Poverty Truth Commission Network to ensure that we continue to systematically involve people experiencing poverty in generating change.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 28 October 2022

Subject: GM Cultural Investment Approach 2023 Onwards

Report of: Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture and Alison McKenzie-Folan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Culture

Purpose of Report

This report sets out for agreement, a new approach to culture investment by GMCA. This is in response to a request by GMCA to review the current approach and test if it is still fit for purpose following the difficult few years the cultural sector has gone through. The report includes the outcome of consultation on this proposed approach undertaken over summer 2022.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the consultation response to the proposed new approach to GMCA's cultural investment.
2. Agree the new approach to GMCA's Cultural Investment
3. Agree in principle to an indicative investment period of three years subject to annual review and approval of the Culture Fund as part of the GMCA annual budget setting process.
4. Agree the timeline for the GMCA Culture Fund to open for bids in preparation for the new investment approach starting from April 2023.
5. Note the decision of the impact tool, and that the proposed approach will support equality inclusion, health outcomes and the economy in Greater Manchester.

Contact Officers

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Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers		
<i>The proposed cultural investment approach will support equality and inclusion, health outcomes and the economy in Greater Manchester</i>		
Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	
Health	G	
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment	
G Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		RR Negative impacts overall.

Risk

Management

n/a

Legal Considerations

n/a

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The revenue funding for the Cultural Fund is met from District contributions and retained business rates. Proposals in this report are subject to the approval of the GMCA revenue budget for 2023/24 in February 2023.

Financial Consequences – Capital

Nil

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

n/a

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In September, 2021, GMCA agreed a one-year roll-over of cultural investment at the same financial levels as 2020/21. GMCA agreed this roll-over of funding to give stability to a sector disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and in recognition of the role the sector will play in the recovery of our places and supporting the wellbeing of our people. This followed agreement in February 2020, to increase the GM Culture budget to £3.84m p/a in recognition of the important role culture plays in the lives of our people and the reputation of our places. This increase saw the culture portfolio grow to 35 organisations, with direct investment into every GM district for the first time and increased investment in disability, LGBTQ+ and BME-led organisations.

Art with Heart	Salford	HOME	Manchester	Oldham Coliseum	Oldham
Arts for Recovery in the Community	Stockport	Manchester Camerata	Manchester	People's History Museum	Manchester
Brighter Sound	Manchester	Manchester Histories	Manchester	Quays Culture	Salford
Cartwheel Arts	Rochdale	Manchester International Festival	Manchester	Royal Exchange Theatre	Manchester
Centre for Chinese Contemporary Arts	Manchester	Manchester Jazz Festival	Manchester	Sheba Arts	Manchester
Comma Press	Manchester	Manchester Jewish Museum	Manchester	The Halle	Manchester
Company Chameleon Dance Theatre	Manchester	Manchester Literature Festival	Manchester	The Met	Bury
Contact	Manchester	Manchester Pride	Manchester	The Turnpike	Wigan
English Folk Expo	Rochdale	MancSpirit	Trafford	Walk the Plank	Salford
Gaydio	Manchester	Music Action International	Manchester	Wigan STEAM CIC	Wigan
Global Grooves	Tameside	Octagon Theatre	Bolton	Z-Arts	Manchester
GM Arts	GM	Old Courts	Wigan		

GM Culture Portfolio 2020-2022

1.2 As part of the February 2020 GMCA report setting out proposal for GMCA Culture Funding, and following feedback from Leaders and colleagues across GMCA and strategic partners including Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund, it was agreed that a further report would be brought to GMCA in 2020 outlining a new approach to cultural investment in GM, with potential to align to Arts Council England's National Portfolio investment (four year funding settlement). The devastating impact of COVID-19 on the cultural sector meant that this work was delayed to 2022 with a view to launching a new investment approach in Autumn, 2022, ready to award investment from April 2023 onwards.

1.3 Between January and March 2022 the GM Culture team consulted colleagues across Greater Manchester, including GM Leaders, cultural organisations and external stakeholders as well as undertaking desk-based research on the best possible

approach to funding to supporting Greater Manchester’s vibrant culture, heritage and creative industries while ensuring any new approach supports delivery of the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy. Further consultation has taken place over the summer and the outcome of this consultation is contained within this paper.

2. CONTEXT

2.1 In February 2022 the Centre for Cultural Value released its Culture in Crisis¹ report, a deep-dive into the impact that COVID-19 had on the cultural sector, featuring an in-depth case-study on the response of and impact on the cultural sector in Greater Manchester. The report summarises its findings into three key areas, all of which will be relevant in developing and delivering a new investment programme fit for current times.

Workforce

The pandemic held a mirror up to a deeply unequal cultural sector.

- Its impact was not experienced evenly across the sector, with younger workers, women and workers from ethnically diverse backgrounds among the hardest hit in terms of losing work and income.
- For freelancers, who make up a significant part of the cultural workforce, the impact was major and sometimes devastating. Freelancers constituted 62% of the core-creative workforce before the pandemic and only 52% by the end of 2020.
- The most dramatic decline in the cultural industries workforce was observed in music, performing and visual arts, where the professional workforce fell by around a quarter between March and June 2020, with no signs of significant recovery by the end of 2020.

Organisations

Places with a history of obtaining public investment – and the arts and cultural

¹ [CCV Covid Report A4 AW \(culturehive.co.uk\)](https://culturehive.co.uk/ccv-covid-report-a4-aw/)

organisations based in those places – benefited most from the Culture Recovery Fund (CRF).

- Networks played a key role in building resilience and, in light of the pandemic and Black Lives Matter, many cultural organisations re-evaluated their relevance to local communities. This was complemented by an increase of hyperlocal engagement due to lockdown restrictions on travel and behaviour.

Audiences

Despite the rapid take-up of vaccines, the population’s confidence in returning to cultural venues has remained stubbornly low throughout 2021.

- While the shift to digital transformed cultural experiences for those already engaged with cultural activities, it failed to diversify cultural audiences.
- An increased digital offer did transform the cultural experiences of those who already engaged in cultural activities, especially disabled audiences and older audiences living away from major urban centres.
- ***80% survey respondents said that taking part in arts and culture was important to their wellbeing, positively affecting their mood and helping them to manage anxiety.***

2.2 While the sector has undergone significant challenge over the past two years it has also played a significant role in supporting the recovery of Greater Manchester’s people and places. This has included cultural events driving footfall to our town and city centres, creative organisations taking over empty retail units to bring vibrancy to our places, the delivery of programmes designed to help residents overcome the trauma or physical impact of COVID-19 and the development of schemes to help combat social isolation.

2.3 As Greater Manchester emerges from the impacts of the pandemic, culture and creativity will be even more important as our cultural organisations and artists contribute directly to our economy, bring vibrancy and visitors to our places and support our residents to live well. Prior to the pandemic arts and culture contributed more than £8.5bn² per year to the UK economy. As the second largest creative cluster

² <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/economic-contribution#section-1>

outside London and the South West³, this economic impact cannot be underestimated in Greater Manchester, and further work is planned to consider how the economic impact of a successful cultural sector in Greater Manchester can be supported to grow. The importance of culture and creativity to the prosperity of Greater Manchester is demonstrated in the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy which states that;

In delivering this Strategy we will ensure easy access for all of our residents to high quality culture, outdoor, sport and leisure opportunities, recognising the significant benefits this can bring for health and wellbeing

If we want to harness the economic and social potential of the cultural sector in Greater Manchester we need to ensure that it is fairly funded to ensure equality of access to opportunity, quality of output and growth of our international reputation. Any new GMCA Culture Fund investment approach needs to support the delivery of the new Greater Manchester Strategy, as well as the myriad strategies that underpin it, including the Greater Manchester Culture Strategy.

2.4 On April 28th 2022, Arts Council England opened applications for its National Portfolio (NPO) programme, providing core funding for cultural organisations in England. Between 2018 and 2022, organisations based in Greater Manchester received more than £106m from this investment stream (other investment streams, inc project grants, capital and strategic funding are additional to this but NPO typically makes up around 66% of Arts Council England's total budget).

Arts Council England's new investment approach, the first to deliver their new 10-year Strategy, Let's Create, is underpinned by four investment principles; Inclusivity & Relevance; Environmental Responsibility; Dynamism; Ambition & Quality.

In February 2022, DCMS announced 109 Levelling Up Culture priority places. The 109 places will have 'increased' access to NPO funding – so applications from those places will stand a better chance of success. There are six Levelling Up Culture Priority Places in GM - Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Tameside and Wigan.

³ https://media.nesta.org.uk/documents/creative_clusters_and_innovation.pdf

Applications closed on 18th May 2022 and will undergo appraisal throughout the summer. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by 14th October, 2022.

Given the change in investment principles and the identification of Levelling Up Priority Places we expect some organisations will lose investment, some will receive less than they previously had, some will receive more and some will enter the NPO portfolio for the very first time. Given the potential for significant change in the funding landscape in Greater Manchester it is proposed that GMCA open for applications to the GMCA Culture Fund and our new investment approach when GM organisations know their financial position and GMCA knows the spread of investment before making decisions.

2.5 In 2020-2021 and 2021-22 GMCA's Culture Fund included an element to fund activity that could not be delivered by a single cultural organisation. This was invested in the following;

- GM Town Of Culture
- Creative Improvement Districts
- GM Music Review
- GM Covid Commissions
- United We Stream / StreamGM
- Chat Moss
- Centre for Creative Ageing
- Arts, Health and Wellbeing
- Cultural Tourism
- Ripples of Hope
- GW Theatre
- The North Will Rise Again
- A Modest Show (British Art Show GM Satellite Programme)
- WeEuro

These investments were of strategic importance to the cultural sector across Greater Manchester and allowed GMCA to invest in projects beyond the 35 organisations that are part of the Culture Fund. It is the ambition to continue this strategic funding approach in the new investment approach, allowing GMCA to support the wider cultural ecosystem where appropriate and of significance to the sector locally, across Greater Manchester, and on a national and international basis.

2.6 Beyond the cultural sector, much has changed since GMCA agreed its last Culture Fund investment approach, from the impact of COVID-19 on the health of our people and prosperity of our places to the Levelling Up agenda to the impact of Brexit. While GMCA investment into arts and culture has increased over the past five years and a strategic budget has supported the delivery of activity that cannot be delivered by a single organisation, the priorities and design of GMCA's core funding has not undergone any significant review or change.

Organisations in receipt of GM Culture funding who previously received AGMA Section 48 have not had amounts increased in more than 10 years. Given inflation and rising costs this is no longer sustainable and we need to look to new ways of supporting organisations while respecting the challenging financial positions of GM local authorities.

By aligning cultural investment more closely with delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy we will be able to better demonstrate the value of cultural investment to our people and places.

3. THE PROCESS SO FAR

3.1 Between October and December 2021, GMCA Culture Officers met with all 35 cultural organisations in the GMCA Culture Portfolio to undertake due-diligence ahead of the rollover of cultural investment and better understand the pressures on the sector. The following key themes emerged from these discussions.

- Increasing costs of 20%+ for cultural events and activities, due to covid, staffing challenges, cost of materials and labour, Brexit
- Increased needs of vulnerable residents – more call on cultural activities as many smaller community organisations ceased operation during the pandemic.
- Staff burnout
- Real-terms drop in funding over past 10 years
- Skills shortages across all parts of the sector
- Reduction in corporate support / sponsorship
- Narrowing of investment priorities and opportunities
- Pressure on availability of spaces due to booking backlog caused by COVID
- Reduction in product due to pause in production and rehearsal during COVID
- Slower than hoped return to cultural activity / earned income

- Concern around impact of cost of living on ability for people to afford tickets and non-essential experiences

3.2 In February 2022, all local authority culture officers from across Greater Manchester and organisations currently in receipt of GM Culture funding gathered in Salford for a day-long workshop around the best way to support culture in Greater Manchester from 2023 onwards. The following themes emerged as key priorities for any cultural funding;

- Arts and education - using the arts to teach
- Regeneration / Levelling Up / Pride in place
- Arts, health and Wellbeing
- Support for all levels of the cultural ecology
- Support for freelancers and individual artists
- Cultural guarantee to residents
- Innovation
- International

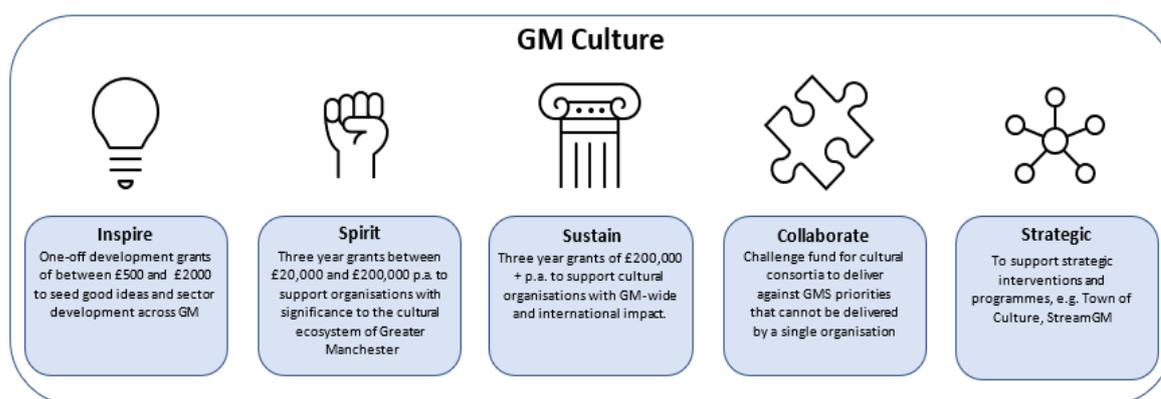
3.3 Throughout March and April, the then GM Culture Portfolio leads Councillor Martyn Cox and Alison McKenzie-Folan offered all GM leaders the opportunity to share their ambitions for culture in their places and across Greater Manchester. The following themes emerged from those conversations;

- The value of culture to the health and wellbeing of our people and prosperity of our places
- The need to balance support for internationally significant organisations based in Greater Manchester and smaller grass-roots organisations
- How GM can support culture in places without significant cultural infrastructure
- The importance of investment delivering wider GM priorities
- The need for close consultation with national partners and stakeholders
- The need for a strategic approach to investment, clarity of purpose and management of expectations – what can GM cultural investment do that can't be done at district level?
- Better signposting of opportunities across Greater Manchester
- How can GMCA work better with the private sector and other bodies in Greater Manchester to grow support for culture?

- The need to better integrate support for culture and existing support for the wider creative industries and business – a clear pipeline of opportunity and support

3.4 In April 2022, GMCA Culture officers undertook desk-based research into cultural investment in other Combined Authorities and Local Authorities as well as international examples. Aside from GLA, GMCA appears to have the most mature investment approach. There are some examples of interesting approaches from local authorities including [Bristol](#) and [Lancashire](#). Both have adopted a really clear, strategic approach to multi-levelled funding.

3.5 The GM Culture team has synthesised information gathered so far into a proposed investment approach with five strands set out below. Applicants to any of the strands will be asked to demonstrate how their activity will help deliver GMS priorities of a Greener, Fairer, More Prosperous Greater Manchester. All five strands taken together should ensure a coherent investment approach across the city region that provides development support for individuals and organisations of local significance where cultural infrastructure might be less-well developed while continuing to support those organisations with a GM-wide footprint. This comprehensive investment approach recognises the complex eco-system in Greater Manchester providing opportunity for talent, artists and audiences across the city region, regardless of location or maturity of traditional cultural infrastructure.



3.6 **INSPIRE** - A small grants programme to support individual practitioners, freelancers and grass roots and community organisations, building on the success of GMCA's cultural 'covid commissions' project. This will ensure that talent is supported and developed across the city region. Awards will be between £500 and £2,000 p/a. GMCA will procure a partner to deliver this programme. Grants will be given across

several thematic areas to ensure the total grant programme supports delivery of strategic aims. There will be a light-touch application process to ensure equality of opportunity and funding decisions will be made by panels that include local and artform representation. There will be a bidding round every three months. Costs for the delivery partner will be included within the allocated sum.

- 3.7 **SPiRiT** - These grants will support locally-loved and important organisations with an award of between £20,000 and £200,000 p/a. Organisations in receipt of Spirit Grants will not need to deliver across all of Greater Manchester, but will be of strategic importance to the cultural ecosystem of the city region. Spirit investment will be aligned with Arts Council England, three year NPO funding, so subject to GMCA agreement, successful organisations will receive an indicative three-year funding settlement 2023-2026, with annual review, subject to performance and funding. Following an application and appraisal process, LA Culture officers will be asked to support geographic balancing, providing places with an opportunity to identify organisations of strategic importance to their place.
- 3.8 **SUSTAIN** – This strand will provide support for organisations who require £200,000 or more per annum to deliver GM-wide activity and support for artists and grass-roots organisations in every district of Greater Manchester. Sustain organisations will be expected to have both local and international impact and will be required to support the cultural ecology across Greater Manchester, providing space, expertise and employment for artists and smaller cultural organisations across the city region. Sustain investment will be aligned with NPO, so subject to GMCA agreement, successful organisations will receive an indicative three-year funding settlement 2023-2026, with annual review, subject to performance and funding. Following an application and appraisal process, GMCA will agree the levels of investment into Sustain organisations.
- 3.9 **COLLABORATE** - Collaborate provides organisations in Greater Manchester with an opportunity to form consortia to deliver the strategic aims of GMS. Consortia will be asked to apply to deliver one of the three core aims of GMS; Greener, Fairer, More Prosperous. This programme will stimulate innovation in the delivery GMS priorities by cultural organisations. Consortia will be expected to match-fund activity to bring the greatest possible value to GM investment. This will strengthen partnerships between the cultural sector, the private sector, universities, and GM partners like GMHSCP.

3.10 **STRATEGIC** - GM Strategic funds will continue to fund activity that supports delivery of the GM Culture strategy, including Town of Culture, Creative Improvement Districts, StreamGM and the Greater Manchester Music Commission.

3.11 The scale and distribution of GMCA Culture Funding across the five strands set out above will be determined by GMCA at the same time the portfolio of funded organisations is agreed.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Given the proposed changes to cultural investment in Greater Manchester proposed within this paper, GMCA Culture Team officers have consulted on the proposed new approach set out above, as well as testing if the current investment priorities, as set out in the GM Culture Strategy, are still fit for purpose. The previous priorities were to:

- Contribute to the recognition of Greater Manchester locally, nationally and internationally to attract new investment, new visitors and new talent to Greater Manchester
- Make a positive contribution to improving skills and employability of residents in Greater Manchester, including support for the creative education, expression and ambition of young people across Greater Manchester
- Play a strong role in developing strong and inclusive communities and an improved quality of life for residents, particularly those residents at risk of disengagement or social isolation
- Be able to evidence how the project will make a positive contribution to improving residents' health and well-being and meeting our equality duties.
- Provide paid employment and opportunities for freelancers, individual practitioners and organisations within the Greater Manchester

4.2 Consultation response has been high with 52 responses to an online questionnaire shared through GM Consult, 58 attendees to online consultation events and 28 attendees to in person events, giving 138 responses in total. Attendees ranged from freelancers and sole traders to larger cultural organisations.

4.3 84.6% of respondents agreed the investment priorities set out in the GM Culture Strategy remain fit for purpose. 79.6% of respondents agreed with the proposed investment approach set out above, and 78.9% of respondents agreed this revised

approach better reflects GM's cultural landscape. Comments from respondents reflected many of the comments from stakeholders set out in 3.1 to 3.3 above, particularly emphasising the importance of supporting the sustainability of the culture sector in GM, and welcomed the two new areas for investment proposed, namely Inspire and Collaborate.

4.4 One area of concern raised during consultation was the timeline to bid into the pillars. It was suggested that the primary focus should be to look to have Spirit and Sustain application process in place from Autumn 2022 so successful organisations can deliver from April 2023. For both Inspire and Collaborate, to allow potential bidders more time to develop proposals and bring together consortia for Collaborate, it was suggested that the application process for these opens from Spring 2023. This is reflected in the timeline below.

5. TIMELINE

November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised GMCA investment approach launched with a series of in-person and online drop-in sessions Applications to new investment approach for Spirit and Sustain open to allow for NPO announcements to be made Four week application window
November 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application process closes
December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraisal and balancing
January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appraisal and balancing
February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMCA agrees GMCA Culture Fund budget and portfolio for Spirit and Sustain
February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants informed of outcome and due diligence and contracting starts
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery begins for Spirit and Sustain

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for proposals Collaborate begins. • Delivery partner for Inspire identified, first call for Inspire bids begins
June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appraisal of Collaborate bids with successful organisations informed June/July.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The recommendations can be found at the front of this report.

Appendix A – Current GMCA Culture Portfolio Investment 2021/2023

Organisation name	£ p/a
The Halle	£749,170.00
People's History Museum	£408,970.00
GM Arts (link4Life)	£306,000.00
Royal Exchange Theatre	£219,340.00
Old Courts	£200,000.00
The Lowry (Quays Culture)	£190,000.00
HOME	£136,900.00
Octagon Theatre	£107,200.00
Oldham Coliseum	£102,430.00
Contact	£97,000.00
Manchester International Festival	£90,000.00
Art with Heart	£82,856.00
The Turnpike	£60,750.00
Manchester Camerata	£54,800.00
Company Chameleon Dance Theatre	£54,450.00
The Met - Bury Metropolitan Arts Association	£50,000.00
Z-Arts	£49,750.00
Wigan STEAM CIC	£49,500.00
MancSpirit	£44,756.17
Arts for Recovery in the Community	£40,000.00

Global Grooves	£40,000.00
Manchester Literature Festival	£40,000.00
Walk the Plank	£40,000.00
Centre for Chinese Contemporary Arts	£35,000.00
English Folk Expo	£35,000.00
Manchester Jewish Museum	£35,000.00
Cartwheel Arts	£30,000.00
Manchester Pride	£30,000.00
Manchester Jazz Festival	£29,524.00
Manchester Histories	£25,000.00
Comma Press	£24,697.00
Brighter Sound	£14,544.00
Gaydio	£13,000.00
Music Action International	£12,580.00
Sheba Arts	£10,000.00

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