

Digitally Enabling a Greener, Fairer, More Prosperous City-Region for Everyone

- [Narrative and diagram that shows fit with GMS and other relevant strategies e.g. IGM, Information Strategy, GM Green City, One Model of Public Services].

The 2023 - 26 Digital Blueprint's Priorities

PRIORITIES

- Empowering People and Communities
- Building Responsible, Data Driven Public Services
- Enabling a Resilient and Prosperous Economy
- Creating Connected, Inclusive, Sustainable Places
- Strengthening our Position as a Global Digital Influencer

ENABLING WORK AREAS

- Building digital skills and literacy for life, education, work and business
- Strengthening our Digital Talent Pipeline
- Extending our world class digital infrastructure, technology and data
- Harnessing academia, testbeds and research

Priority 1: Empowering People and Communities

MISSION: We want to ensure that everyone in Greater Manchester, whatever their age, location or situation, can safely access and benefit from the opportunities digital brings if they want to.

WE WILL:

- Ensure everyone is able to digitally participate with confidence and make informed choices about how their personal information is used
- Help people stay safe online and tackle online abuse
- Ensure everyone has the skills to access good quality digital jobs
- Empower people to live healthier, more environmentally sustainable lifestyles through better use of technology and data
- Grow our digital ecosystems and ensure they continue to inform public policy
- Open more of our data for others to use and create great services
- Continue to invest in the security and privacy of systems that hold public data so that people have confidence in what's happening to their information

KEY ENABLERS:

- Building digital skills and literacy for life, education, work and business
- Strengthening our Digital Talent Pipeline
- Extending our world class digital infrastructure, technology and data

KEY INITIATIVES: Digital Inclusion Action Network and Taskforce, GM Information Strategy, Local Authority Digital Inclusion Grants, Get On GM, DERI Tool, GMACS, GM Careers Hub, T-Levels, Apprenticeships

QUOTE: “I didn't want to live anymore, it's as simple as that. I woke up in the morning and thought, what can I do today? I can't do anything for myself. It just killed me. I didn't have the tech know how to do anything, I just sat here getting worse every day.”

GM Resident, Bernard Whipbay

Priority 2: Building Responsible, Data Driven Public Services

MISSION: We will apply exemplar digital ideas and practice to reform and renew public services, linking innovative business, academic and public sector thinking with the needs of Greater Manchester's people.

WE WILL:

- Collaboratively foster innovation by engaging with digital, data and technology best practice to deliver transformed, sustainable and resilient public services that meet local needs
- Use data responsibly and effectively to improve decision making, support those people most in need, and reduce our carbon footprint
- Ensure digital services are co-designed with residents, are inclusive, and meet community and environmental needs
- Work together to develop the digital and data skills of Greater Manchester's public sector workforce
- Agree and adopt standards and information governance practices that enable responsible data sharing across GM
- Take measures to reduce the carbon footprint of technology infrastructure in line with our net zero ambition

KEY ENABLERS:

- Building digital skills and literacy for life, education, work and business
- Extending our world class digital infrastructure, technology and data
- Harnessing academia, testbeds and research

KEY INITIATIVES: GM Care Record, Early Years App, GM Data Accelerator, GM Data Mesh, A Bed Every Night System, GMACS, GM Information Strategy Delivery Plan, Health Innovation Manchester, NW Partnership for Security & Trust

QUOTE: “The Early Years Integrated Solution is a fantastic example of both effective collaboration and digital innovation to support a region wide ambition to give our children the best start in life, an ambition we must not underestimate. This solution is one way digital is being used to help us achieve those ambitions.”

*Chris McLoughlin OBE
Corporate Director People and Integration
Director of Children's Services*

Priority 3: Digitally Enabling a Resilient and Prosperous Economy

MISSION: We will both enable all businesses to use technology better and support the creation and scaling of digital organisations for the benefit of the UK and the people of Greater Manchester.

WE WILL:

- Lead the way on inclusive employment practices to support diverse communities to thrive in tech roles, creating belief in these opportunities and to attract experienced individuals
- Enlarge our tech talent pipeline and develop advanced technical skills for growth and innovation, driving investment in our high growth sectors
- Provide support and guidance to businesses to access and retain skilled individuals
- Support all businesses to upskill their workforce, adopt the right digital tools and cyber secure practices
- Expand and better exploit our research and development assets, in particular our universities, to increase the productivity of Greater Manchester's frontier sectors and to level up through innovation.
- Continue to develop a world leading, responsible digital security ecosystem and sector
- Pursue environmentally sustainable business practices through better use of technology and effective use of data
- Attract further international and UK inward investment

KEY ENABLERS:

- Building digital skills and literacy for life, education, work and business
- Strengthening our Digital Talent Pipeline
- Extending our world class digital infrastructure, technology and data
- Harnessing academia, testbeds and research

KEY INITIATIVES: Innovation GM, MIDAS, Growth Company, HOST, School for Digital Arts, Creative Scale-Up programme, GM Cyber, Digital Innovation Security Hub (DISH), Made Smarter

QUOTE: “Looking ahead, Manchester seems well placed to maintain its position as the UK’s pre-eminent tech city outside of London.”

John Ogden, Manchester Managing Director, CBRE, The Business Desk.com

Priority 4 – Creating Connected, Inclusive, Sustainable Places for everyone

MISSION: We will build out our world class digital infrastructure, ethically using technology and data to create resilient, connected, accessible and sustainable places for everyone.

WE WILL:

- Achieve minimum 85% gigabit coverage across GM by 2024, levelling up localities below that percentage
- Ensure we have world class digital infrastructure that stimulates economic growth and enables the development of our growth zones, across sectors and localities
- Leverage our GM Local Full Fibre Network to maximise the value of this asset across the public sector
- Equip our residents and business to respond to evolving national digital infrastructure
- Use technology, data and analytics to enable and drive de-carbonisation and improve decision making about places
- Improve the ease with which people can travel, participate in their community and feel connected to one-another through digital infrastructure, technology and data
- Leverage our infrastructure, technology, research and data to improve access to facilities, services, and opportunities for safe, healthy lifestyles

KEY ENABLERS:

- Extending our world class digital infrastructure, technology and data
- Harnessing academia, testbeds and research

KEY INITIATIVES: GM One Network, TFGM Smart Junctions initiative, MappingGM, Places for Everyone, Bee Network, Contactless Ticketing, Digital Infrastructure Advisory Group, Atom Valley

QUOTE: [To agree].

Priority 5 - Strengthening our Position as a Global Digital Influencer

MISSION: For Greater Manchester to be further acknowledged as a global centre of digital innovation, research and practice.

WE WILL:

- Further showcase Greater Manchester across the world as a leader in digital innovation and practice
- Enhance Greater Manchester's reputation as a UK and European centre for ethical AI and data driven technology, digital trust and security, and immersive technologies
- Champion Greater Manchester as a place with an incredible, collaborative digital ecosystem
- Ensure Greater Manchester is known as an extremely attractive place to develop, grow and stay, for individuals and businesses contributing to digital innovation.
- Promote the GM digital economy on a national and international stage, as a destination for digital organisations that align (or have the aspiration to align) with the values and ambitions of the city region

KEY INITIATIVES: MIDAS and Marketing Manchester, Innovation GM, Bee Network, School of Digital Arts, Home of Science and Technology, Oxford Road Corridor, NW Partnership for Security & Trust

QUOTES: [To agree].

GM Digital Strategic Enablers

- Greater Manchester has a range of strengths, capabilities and assets which we will leverage to enable contributions to the 5 GM Digital Priorities and fulfil our strategic ambitions for the city-region.
- [Diagram of the 5 enablers in relation to the priorities]

Building digital skills and literacy for life, education, work and business

Greater Manchester will lead the way in empowering its residents and businesses to access digital skills opportunities and support.

- The diverse and thriving VCSE (voluntary, community and Social Enterprise) Sector is building the **digital skills and capacity of communities** through informal and community learning partnerships
- Partners from across sectors are collaborating through the **Digital Inclusion Action Network and Taskforce** to collectively remove the barriers that exclude people from engaging with digital skills support
- **Adult Education flexibilities** enable direct investment in localities to increase engagement with digital skills provision, **informal and entry level digital learning** and enhancements to the local digital skills offer to include level 2 qualifications
- Collaboration with FutureDotNow is raising understanding of the importance of **essential digital skills** across all sectors, connecting businesses with resources and support to develop the digital skills of their workforce
- GMCA are **leveraging social value** of public sector digital infrastructure investment to enhance digital skills support for communities and schools
- **Social prescribing and community-based support** and mentoring is helping everyone to gain essential digital skills that are increasingly needed in society

Strengthening our Digital Talent Pipeline

Greater Manchester is committed to ensuring Residents reach their potential and businesses are enabled to play their part in developing a talent pipeline that is diverse and resilient

- **The GM Careers Hub** enables students to gain first hand experience of digital businesses through workplace safaris and insight days, enhances the enterprise and careers advice offered within schools and colleges, and supports educators with curriculum development
- Across the wider ecosystem collaborations such the **North West Tech Talent Group** and **Microsoft Get On** are enabling people of all ages are able explore, enter and progress in the creative, digital and tech sectors
- Greater Manchester's colleges and universities are growing the STEM **graduate pipeline** across a diverse range of qualifications and apprenticeships that traditionally lead to digital roles, whilst also developing the digital skills of the wider student population through innovative approaches to flexible learning and industry partnerships
- **GM is developing its ambition as a Technical Education City-Region** leading the way in technical education transformation and providing the advanced and higher technical skills the UK and GM economies need, with an ambitious T-Level offer, stimulating demand for Apprenticeships, enabled by innovative institutes including, **Ada, UA92 and HOST** and the new **Institute of Technology** (opening September),.
- A diverse range of skills providers are supporting **career changers and returners** to enter the tech sector, enabled by local funding freedoms and flexibilities secured through devolution.
- **Industry collaboration** is putting employers at the heart of creating and investing in the talent pipeline, developing industry led routes into digital roles to ensure the supply of skills meets business needs
- Development of a **Digital Skills Plan** will consolidate this work setting a clearer ambition and framework for collective action

Extending our world class digital infrastructure, technology and data

Greater Manchester continues to develop its world leading digital infrastructure to stimulate and enable economic growth, attract investment and enable the online offer of services and digital participation to GM residents.

- **Connection to backbone of Global Internet** with transatlantic connection to Manchester Internet Exchange
- **Gigabit coverage (80.9%) well above UK average (73%)**
- **41% premises with Full Fibre Connection**
- Greater Manchester's **largest UK public sector Local Full Fibre Network Programme** and **One Network** the largest civic network of its kind in Europe will enable multi-agency working and data sharing as well as achieving substantial economic efficiencies for the Public Sector.
- Greater Manchester has powerful technology and data assets which can be used to transform public services and drive planning, decision-making and effectively target resources including **GM Digital Platform, GM Data Mesh, Mapping GM** and **CCTV and sensors**.

Harnessing academia, testbeds and research

Greater Manchester has an ambitious plan to use innovation to level up.

- The digital ecosystem is part of a broader innovation ecosystem that brings together **businesses, universities, R&D institutions and public sector agencies** to stimulate and support innovation across our city-region for the benefit of all our businesses, people and communities.
- **GM's innovation plan** (Innovation GM)'s vision is that by 2030, dynamic and connected R&D intensive business clusters centred on our frontier sectors, including digital, creative and tech, will fuel productivity growth and prosperity across the North.
- Greater Manchester has **leading academic and research assets and anchor businesses** that are working collaboratively with SMEs including start-ups, supported by public sector institutions, to identify new opportunities for digital products and services
- This **'triple helix' of industry-academia-public sector** is well-established in GM, and we will work to enhance and support this activity, including the IGM targets to increase business and public sector R&D, as a critical enabler of the Blueprint priorities.