



Our Manifesto

for Greater Manchester



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“This is Manchester. We do things differently here.”

Anthony H Wilson

Foreword

Greater Manchester is the home of radical forward-thinking. We have always done things differently here.

From the birthplace of the Co-operative and Trades Union Movements in the 19th Century, to the home of the Suffragettes in the last, Greater Manchester has a proud tradition of wrenching power from the Establishment and placing it in the hands of ordinary people.

Now we have the chance to do it again. And the health of our democracy demands we succeed.

The arrival of devolution in England presents the best opportunity we will ever get to rebalance this country from South to North and give real power to the people and places that Westminster has left behind.

At the launch of this Mayoral campaign, we invited the people of Greater Manchester to help us write a Manifesto for its future. And they have. Thousands have attended our meetings and sent their ideas.

The result is Our Manifesto - a political prospectus unlike any other.

As you will see, many of its proposals can be traced directly to individuals and organisations from all parts of our City-Region - and are true to its radical values.

People are proud of Greater Manchester. It is already a great place to live and, thanks to strong civic and political leadership, has come a long way in the last 20 years.

Now is the time to build on those foundations and make it even greater.

Our Manifesto sets new ambitions for what we want Greater Manchester to be: the best place to grow up; the best place to live and get on; the best place to grow older. A prosperous, modern place where no one is left behind.

But we won't get there by doing more of the same. It's time for our City-Region to do what it likes doing best and do things very differently.

For too long, politics at local and national level has made young people its target for cuts.

We will turn that thinking on its head.

Greater Manchester will only rise to the challenge of Brexit if we invest in our people and give all of our young citizens hope for their future at the end of school.

Our Manifesto's message to them is clear: this place is yours to explore, to shape and to build.

As well as redefining support for the next generation, we will re-write the rules about ageing.

Here, older people won't be spoken of as a burden. The term "bed-blockers" will be banished. Instead, we will pioneer a positive new vision of active ageing, with older citizens supported to live a longer life to the full and valued for the contribution they can make.

These are high ambitions - particularly at a time of continuing cuts to public services. They will only be achieved by working very differently and drawing on the natural generosity of our communities.

Our people want to get on in life. But they won't just walk on by those huddled in our doorways, avoiding their eyes. Here, rough-sleeping is not accepted as an inevitable fact of modern life.

So Our Manifesto commits to end rough-sleeping by 2020, not by throwing public money at the problem but through the compassion and contributions of our citizens.

This way, devolution to Greater Manchester will bring change to the way this country works. It will allow the values of our people truly to shine through.

In the future, more positive change will come by people taking inspiration from what is happening in Greater Manchester rather than through direction from Westminster.

This is a great place with great people. But our potential has been held back for too long.

It is time to build a new future for Greater Manchester.

A Digital City. A Green City. A Young City.

A modern capital of industry where everybody has a part to play and every voice is valued.

A beacon of social justice to the country.

Greater Manchester stands on the verge of a great new era.

Together we will make real change happen.

This is our time.

This is Our Manifesto.



Andy Burnham



Our ambitions for Greater Manchester

All our children starting school ready to learn and leaving with hope of a good future, through a new drive to improve technical education and help with transport costs

A decent and affordable home for everyone to rent or to own, with nobody forced to sleep rough on our streets

The 21st century UK industrial capital, a world-leading Digital City and Green City, where businesses are supported to succeed and jobs are decently-paid and secure

Reliable and affordable public transport serving all communities, with less congestion on our roads

Revitalised town centres and safe communities, where everyone can enjoy green spaces and breathe clean air

A more active society that equally values the voices of all its citizens and involves them in decision-making contribution

Home to the country's first fully-integrated National Health & Care Service

A place which pioneers a positive vision of ageing and helps older people live life to the full

Greater Manchester: the best place to grow up

We will establish a gender-balanced Youth Combined Authority, representative of all the Boroughs of Greater Manchester and reflecting its full diversity, to meet at least twice a year with the Mayor.

Early years

We will ask all public bodies in Greater Manchester to sign a specific undertaking to collaborate to improve levels of “school-readiness”. This will be a pre-eminent priority shared by all of Greater Manchester public services.

We will raise awareness of the importance of children’s oral health, promote new schemes in nurseries and schools and aim to reduce the number of child tooth extractions – which cost our NHS millions every year.

School years

We will fight for a fair funding deal for Greater Manchester’s schools and strongly oppose any new funding formula that seeks to move money out of schools here.

We will work with schools to establish a Greater Manchester “Curriculum for Life”. Our aim will be to develop a service that can provide independent, high-quality life advice for young people.

In line with our ethos of early intervention, we will introduce a new general principle in Greater Manchester that no child here who needs mental health support will be turned away or forced to wait long periods to access the support they need.

We will call for the introduction of a Greater Manchester Schools Commissioner to work to drive up standards across the whole of the City-Region.

Teenage years

Working with Greater Manchester schools, colleges and businesses, we will deliver a revolution in technical education. Central to this will be the development of a ground-breaking UCAS-style application system for all apprenticeships in Greater Manchester.

We will work with businesses and colleges to develop a new supported route for young people who wish to start their own business. Alongside that, we will consider a new capital challenge scheme to build new business start-up units, including in the grounds of schools.

As powers to improve bus services become available, we will use them to give all 16-18 year olds in Greater Manchester a free bus pass. As a first step, we will introduce half-price travel for 16-18 year olds on public transport, starting with buses and extending to Metrolink as soon as possible.

We will task the Youth Combined Authority with scoping the development of an “Opportunity Pass” across Greater Manchester.

“ I would like to see a Youth Combined Authority where young people can question the Mayor. ”

Iqra



“ It’s important that we educate people in soft skills and include things like politics, sex and relationships and civic responsibilities in compulsory education. ”

Andrew



“ Children need more quality mental health support. This is essential to help avoid more complex problems later in life. ”

Dr Ranote



“ Apprenticeships and other vocational qualifications are just as valuable as academic ones, let’s celebrate this! ”

Duncan



“ If young people carry out volunteering work it would be great if they could have some rewards in return such as discounted leisure activities. ”

Nakash



We will work with NHS Trusts, universities and colleges across Greater Manchester to develop new pathways into Greater Manchester's NHS for our young people and develop new incentives for them to commit to it.

We will look at retaining an NHS Bursary and introducing a new system of support for anyone who graduates from a Greater Manchester university in a clinical course, whereby help with student loan repayments will be given in every year that they commit to working in Greater Manchester's NHS.

We will aim to give all young people in the care of CAMHS services across Greater Manchester the ability to set their own date of transition.

Rochdale Council has recently agreed to free young people leaving care from liability for council tax until they are 21. We will work with our councils to see if this policy can be made standard across Greater Manchester.

Greater Manchester: the best place to live, work and get on in life

We will need to invest in the industries of the future and set bold plans for them. To this end, Our Manifesto announces our ambition to be both a world-leading Digital City and a Green City.

Jobs, pay and business

We will establish a Mayor's Business Advisory Panel, with a revolving and representative membership, to work closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership to provide

guidance on policies and insight on future challenges.

Our goal will be to make Greater Manchester the modern industrial capital of the UK once again.

We will aim to become a leader in the specific sectors that will drive our future prosperity and task the new Business Advisory Panel to develop a clear plan to drive each forward.

We will make Greater Manchester a world-leading Digital City-Region. To signal our intent, we will hold a Mayor's Digital and Tech Summit within the first year of the election.

We will work with business, schools and colleges to raise awareness of the range of opportunities in digital careers, building better links between education and digital and tech industries.

We will develop a new digital infrastructure plan and deliver super-fast broadband connectivity across the whole of Greater Manchester, driving growth in every part of our City-Region. We will look at expanding public Wi-Fi provision in the city-centre and all the main towns of Greater Manchester.

Working with businesses here, and colleagues across the North, we will develop a powerful new campaign calling on the Government to bring forward plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail – connecting Manchester with Liverpool, Leeds and beyond - and call for HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail to be built as one single, integrated scheme.

As part of the new Contract with Business, we will develop a Good GM Employers' Charter – setting out the basic standards and actions expected of good businesses – such as addressing the pay gap between men and women, encouraging flexible working,

“I want Manchester to do more with digital. We've got so much going for us and now we've got the momentum we need to make even bigger strides forward.”



Mark

“A thriving economy is at the heart of any City Region. We need to make sure that businesses large and small work together to create an economy where everyone can prosper.”



Sue

“The public transport system is unreliable and not joined up so it's not a real alternative to using the car. With major cities like Liverpool and Leeds so close East-West rail needs to be the country's highest transport priority, certainly above Crossrail 2.”



Faysal



recognising trades unions and ending the use of enforced zero-hours contracts.

We will make the Mayor's office a Living Wage Employer and minimise use of agency staff and zero-hours contracts.

Skills

Working with colleges and employers, we will develop a new 14+ strategy for skills in Greater Manchester, including adult learning, re-training and workforce development.

We will call for the Apprenticeship Levy to be placed under the direction of the Mayor and allows for it to be developed into a Skills Levy. This could turbo-charge skills devolution in Greater Manchester and allow the Mayor to invest in high-quality vocational education and business support.

Environment and climate change

Within a year of the election, we will host a Mayor's Green Summit to declare a new, accelerated ambition for Greater Manchester on the green economy and carbon-neutrality. In the meantime, we will ask experts and city stakeholders to lead a public debate on what that new goal should be.

Through the Greater Manchester Minerals Policy, the Mayor will propose a presumption of a ban on fracking across our city-region.

We will support City of Trees to establish a City Forest Park and back the plan to plant three million trees, making our streets greener and our communities more attractive.

We will introduce a new Clean Air Action Plan for Greater Manchester.

Housing

We will refocus the Greater Manchester Housing Fund, with the explicit aim of solving the housing crisis and building affordable homes. We will seek to renegotiate the terms of the fund so that it can be used to help councils and housing associations build more council homes and social housing.

We will work with housing providers to establish a new GM-wide Rent-to-Own scheme that will be particularly focused on people under-30 to help them on to the housing ladder. We will focus Rent-to-Own schemes on our town centres to revitalise them.

We will introduce a GM-wide voluntary registration scheme for private landlords in Greater Manchester, with a clear standard that they are pledged to meet.

Alongside the regulatory scheme, we will develop a new partnership scheme, working with local councils, to take tough action against private landlords who fail to maintain properties to basic health and safety standards or who allow seriously anti-social or criminal behaviour to take place inside them.

Over the next 20 years, Greater Manchester will apply the same level of ambition and vision to the outlying parts of the city-region as it has shown in the last 20 to the development of the centre.

“ We want to see a greener city region with a genuine commitment to tree planting and open spaces. It is vital for the people of GM to enjoy green spaces and for our children have somewhere to play and learn about nature. ”



Jess

“ The need for affordable housing in Greater Manchester has never been greater. Local people now need a pay rise of 57% just to afford an 80% mortgage on a typical home in the area. And local people want more homes too. ”



Ian

“ Good private landlords like me can help drive up standards across Greater Manchester. We need to work together to form a voluntary registration scheme to reassure tenants. ”



Tony

We will require a radical re-write of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to produce a plan which provides solutions to the housing crisis, manages traffic congestion, raises our ambitions for jobs and maximises the “liveability” of Great Manchester.

Transport

We will publish a new plan to tackle congestion and commission an urgent review of the condition and configuration of our busiest roads, working with businesses, road users and Transport for Greater Manchester to see what quick changes can be made to improve traffic flows.

We will use new powers to make our bus services more affordable, more reliable and more accessible to disabled people and families with pushchairs.

We will use the latest technology to introduce an integrated ticketing system on all forms of public transport, making travelling round the city-region more affordable and more convenient.

We will require bus operators to provide accessible information on their services, including audio announcements and visible media.

We will work with our councils to build a new network of dedicated cycle lanes, making full use of old infrastructure (such as disused railways and canal towpaths), to link up each borough to the city-centre and create radial links.

We will launch an iconic bike-hire scheme, making use of the latest technology, to make cycling a more accessible and convenient way to get around.

We will appoint an Active Travel Commissioner for Greater Manchester and ask them to report back to the Mayor on a regular basis.

We will reinvest the profits from Metrolink towards expanding the network, and develop new high-quality transport links with a particular focus on radial routes across boroughs.

We will put forward a plan to modernise our local train stations, making them more accessible, linked to other forms of public transport, and work with local businesses to make better use of empty waiting rooms.

We will work with Rail North to replace our outdated trains, increase capacity and help deliver new services, such as a fast Northern Connect service between Manchester and Liverpool.

Safety and security

We will do more to protect our police force against cuts. We will recruit more police officers and protect neighbourhood policing teams from any further reduction in numbers.

We want to provide new opportunities for young people to join the police and contribute to making our communities safer and more secure. We will support the expansion of the cadet and apprenticeship schemes in Greater Manchester Police, creating real opportunities for young people.

“ We should tackle congestion and look for different ways to make traffic more free-flowing on the busy roads in Greater Manchester. ”

Mariam



“ Cycling is more than just a way of getting around, it’s a life skill and is central to ensuring our children are healthy, active, well-rounded and school-ready. ”

Eve



“ Metrolink is brilliant, an incredibly convenient service, if you live in the right place. I would like to see it extended throughout Greater Manchester so that everyone can enjoy it. ”

Tali



“ The real issue is police numbers. The service has borne the brunt of cuts. You’re unlikely to see an officer face-to-face unless you’ve committed a crime or you’re the victim of a crime. We need more and better trained police officers. ”

Mike



Too often, the 112 service does not provide a responsive enough services to the public and can leave people waiting a long time for call to be answered. We will set up a review of it with a view to improving it significantly.

We will strengthen the openness and effectiveness of the police complaints system, ensuring that malpractice is dealt with robustly, and complaints are responded to in a timely and sensitive manner.

We will work to make Greater Manchester Police digitally accessible by 2020 and improve data sharing across public services so that they work more effectively to tackle and prevent crime.

We will put in place a plan to reduce violence against women and girls.

We will prioritise a greater staffing presence on public transport in the evenings to reassure passengers. More broadly, we will build on the successful Reclaim the Night initiative, we will encourage all boroughs in Greater Manchester to follow Bury's lead and secure Purple Flag status for the night-time economy.

We will have a zero-tolerance approach to hate-crime and it will be clearly communicated across Greater Manchester on public transport and in other locations.

We will support firefighters to continue delivering, and building upon the work they are doing to assist our ambulance service, whilst at the same time maintaining acceptable levels of emergency response cover in all communities, including for flooding incidents.

We should aim to ensure that our police and firefighters are representative of Greater Manchester's diverse population – encouraging more women, and more people from under-represented communities to consider training as police or firefighters.

We will build a "heart-safe" Greater Manchester. We will establish an open public register of all defibrillators so that, if someone calls 999 in the event of a cardiac arrest, they can be immediately directed to the nearest. We will also encourage the placing of defibrillators in major public places.

Greater Manchester: the best place to grow older

Economic participation amongst older people

We will work to tackle age discrimination in the work-place and work with businesses to help them upskill and recruit older people.

Access to transport

We will guarantee all existing travel concessions for older people, including free travel on all Metrolink trams after 9.30am Monday to Friday, and all day at weekends and on public holidays.

“ Violence or the threat of it blights the lives of women and girls. No one should be in fear of physical violence or control. ”



Marzia

“ Music and culture is such a rich part of Greater Manchester's history. Let's make it part of our future, too. ”



Amy

“ I don't want to live in a place where violence or abuse motivated by prejudice is accepted. The people of Greater Manchester are better than that. ”



Hamza

“ As a retired Firefighter I am concerned that the cuts to the fire service budget could lead to unsafe levels of emergency response cover. We need a Mayor with the experience to stand up for us. ”



Peter

Volunteering

We will work with voluntary organisations to create a new volunteering scheme for older people across the whole of Greater Manchester, focusing on school-readiness, mentoring and ESOL for new arrivals. We will make sure that we maximise the contributions of older people who want to give something back to society.

State pension inequality for women

We will look at giving women affected by the chaotic way the Government implemented its retirement-age changes help with travel costs.

Age-friendly communities

We will encourage more shops to open up their facilities to older people or families with a small child.

We will make sure that we build new homes which meet the Lifetime Homes Standard, and ensure that a greater proportion of all new-build homes are wheelchair accessible.

Loneliness

We will trial new ideas for combating isolation in our city-region, working with the Jo Cox Foundation, and support our voluntary and community organisation to promote befriending services.

On the weekend of the 17-18 June, to mark the anniversary of Jo’s death, we will host The Greater Manchester Get Together – a series of community events across Greater Manchester where neighbours and

friends, young and old, can enjoy being together and celebrate what we have in common.

National Health and Care Service

We will demand a fair funding deal for Greater Manchester’s NHS and social care so we can give older people the care and dignity they deserve.

We will introduce in Greater Manchester the country’s first fully-integrated National Health and Care Service, building on the work that is already ongoing across our region to bring our services together.

Rather than having to deal with numerous different organisations, and being passed from pillar to post, we will give people a single point of contact for all their care needs.

We will introduce a new social prescribing scheme across Greater Manchester, where GPs are able to offer patients a range of non-traditional support, working with voluntary organisations to deliver more counselling and help to get active.

We will champion unpaid family carers and work with the NHS and local councils to ensure they are identified and properly supported.

Over time, we will bring social care staff into the NHS family, with proper training and support and more opportunities for career progression. We will require care workers to be paid the living wage and end the business models that rely on exploitative zero-hours contracts.

“ Without our travel passes getting around would be expensive. We enjoy getting out and about and it helps keep us young so I’m really pleased to hear about Andy’s commitment to concessionary travel. ”



Audrey

“ Social care is under huge pressure. We need someone who will fight for adequate funding for Greater Manchester. We need to make sure we care for our elderly people with dignity and respect. And we need to make sure that our care workers have the time and resources they need to provide quality care and that they have fairly-paid and secure jobs. ”



Ann

“ There are so many hospital visits that could be avoided or time in hospital reduced if good quality social care is in place. ”



Dr Dow



We will make mental health a priority in Greater Manchester and ensure that parity of esteem between mental and physical health finally becomes a reality.

We want the Mayor to take the lead on building a healthier society and reducing health inequalities, by bringing together different public services from across Greater Manchester.

We will support public awareness campaigns so that people know how to spot the signs and symptoms of cancer, and know when to go see their GP to get it checked out.

The Mayor will ask Greater Sport to coordinate efforts to deliver an ambitious physical activity target and report directly on progress to the Mayor's office.

Greater Manchester: a more equal society – and a beacon of social justice to the rest

Inclusive and diverse

We commit to a gender-balanced Combined Authority and will agree a plan with member councils as to the best way of achieving it as quickly as possible.

We will back the LGBT community by supporting and attending events such as Pride and Sparkle, and encouraging Pride events in all boroughs and towns.

We will aim to make Greater Manchester the most inclusive city-region in the country on disability issues.

We will ensure our Police and Fire Service is representative of all our diverse communities.

A new relationship with the voluntary sector

We will sign a new concordat with the voluntary and community sector based on a relationship of trust. This is essential if we are to unlock the full potential of our citizens and communities to contribute to our ambitious vision for Greater Manchester.

Making Greater Manchester the most accessible city-region in the UK

We will set an ambition of making Greater Manchester Autism-Friendly and Dementia-Friendly and establish a network of interested individuals and organisations, such as Autistic Wigan, who want to drive real change in this area.

Homelessness and rough-sleeping

We will establish a new Homelessness Action Network led by Ivan Lewis MP and Councillor Beth Knowles bringing together charities, businesses and faith groups and any individuals who wish to make a contribution in this area, with the goal of eradicating rough-sleeping in Greater Manchester by 2020.

Working with local authorities and the Combined Authority, the Network will be supported by a new Mayor's Homelessness Fund.

“Pills are not always the answer but GP's don't currently have other prescribing options.

Health issues often arise through debt, bereavement, relationship break-down, poor housing. If, as doctors, we were able to prescribe things like short-term gym membership, debt and bereavement counselling it would reduce pressure on the system and also give patients meaningful help and support.”

Dr Singh



“Caring for someone with dementia can be lonely – there are lots of reasons not to go out - but if you know you're going into a safe environment where people are understanding and aware it can be so much easier”

Eamon



“I was homeless and lost in the system. It was the lowest point in my life. I managed to get help from local services and I'm back on track now but I'm really pleased to see Andy has made homelessness one of his main priorities.”

Amanda



Fairness Commission

We will build on experience in Salford and Oldham to establish a GM-wide Fairness Commission to develop more detailed plans to tackle inequalities across our city region.

A new way of doing politics

We will develop new mechanisms to help people hold the Mayor to account and commit to holding at least one Mayoral Question Time in each borough every year.

Collaboration across the North

We will work with other parts of the North to ensure that our voice is heard more loudly on the national political stage, including actively considering the idea of a Council of the North. We call on the Government to establish a Brexit Committee of the Nations and Regions, with a seat for Metro Mayors, to guard against the risks of a London-centric Brexit.

The devolution journey

As we have seen in Wales and Scotland, devolution is a journey. As we demonstrate the difference that devolution will make in Greater Manchester, we will call on the Government to go further and deliver other powers over crucial areas.

Firstly, to achieve all of our ambitions for young people, we believe the Mayor and Combined Authority should have much stronger influence over all aspects of education policy from 0-19.

Secondly, we will argue for much greater devolution of the Department for Work and Pensions budget, allowing us to link it to our local organisations.

Above all, devolution is a chance to change politics and break out of the old way of doing things.

To achieve our ambitions, we cannot wait for Westminster to come up with the answers. We need to think of our own solutions.

Greater Manchester's history is full of examples of changing politics from the bottom-up. It is time to do the same again.

If you agree with the vision in Our Manifesto, please come forward and let us know how you would like to contribute to implementing it and making Greater Manchester truly a beacon of social justice for others to follow.

“ I have to apply to several different pots of funding to get the support I need to go to university. It's complicated and sometimes it all feels like a bit of a battle. ”



Rachael

“ The “Our Manifesto” process is a fascinating insight into the future of democracy and public engagement in Greater Manchester. ”



Lee