

Title: Streets for All Strategy: A Summary

Date: June 2021

1. What is Streets for All?

- 1.1 Streets for All is a new approach for everything we do on streets in Greater Manchester. Achieving our ambition for more travel by walking, cycling and public transport will help us to tackle our most pressing economic, environmental, quality of life and innovation challenges.
- 1.2 The ambition is to design streets which enable people to incorporate more physical activity into their daily lives; which have clean air; which are safe and secure for everyone; which provide good access to public transport; and which are accessible for those with mobility impairments.
- 1.3 When published, the Streets for All Strategy will build on the policy direction set out in the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and our Right Mix vision. It emphasises the importance of delivering active travel and public transport infrastructure and service improvements in a co-ordinated way, and supporting land use changes which bring day to day services closer to where people live. Culture change around active and sustainable travel is also becoming more embedded across Greater Manchester, and this also forms a key part of the Streets for All Strategy.
- 1.4 Streets for All offers a long term approach - rather than an overnight 'quick fix' - which will require changes to how streets are designed and managed. It will also involve changes to the role of some existing streets where, for example, place-making may be given greater emphasis than the movement of private vehicles. Political leadership will be required - alongside close dialogue with local communities – as we transition towards Streets for All across Greater Manchester, as part of our ambition for clean air and carbon neutrality, and our ongoing commitment to improving public health.
- 1.5 For us to achieve all these important ambitions, our city-region needs to be much easier to get around on foot, by cycle and using public transport, with streets which are more pleasant to spend time in. The purpose of Streets for All is to set out Greater Manchester's progressive approach to making this happen, by putting people first as we shape and manage our streets.

2. What kind of values underpin 'Streets for All'?

- 2.1 **Streets for All will be guided by 7 Essentials** which are for us – GMCA, 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities, TfGM - to deliver in partnership with the NHS, emergency services, stakeholder groups, businesses and residents - all working together and doing our bit.



2.2 Our 7 Streets for All essentials are our priorities and our promise that support our people centred approach to streets across Greater Manchester.

3. The Streets for All Approach

3.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the quality of our streets into sharp focus. Residents are spending more time in their local areas and high streets, and recognise the value of having safe places to walk and cycle and to spend time in. Our residential streets have started to feel more like community spaces as people have been interacting more. Now, more than ever, people understand the urgent need to improve streets in their local neighbourhoods and town centres to support better health, wellbeing and economic vitality.

3.2 The Streets for All approach is about working at three levels (1. Spatial Planning; 2. Network Planning; and 3. Street Design & Management) to ensure that Greater Manchester’s streets feel like Streets for All.

3.3 Central to the approach is reducing the distances people need to travel to reach everyday destinations such as work, healthcare, education, green spaces and leisure facilities. Shorter distances mean more trips that can easily be walked or cycled and new developments can be designed to be easy and safe to access on foot, by cycle and using public transport. The 15 minute neighbourhood concept, whereby in urban areas residents can meet most of their needs within a short walk, cycle or public transport journey is an example of this.

3.4 Our streets have different roles. One objective of ‘Streets for All’ is to ensure the right movement is happening on the right kind of street. Some streets are ‘Destination Places’ or ‘Active Neighbourhoods’ which have low levels of moving vehicles – we need to make sure these kinds of streets are pleasant places to live and spend time in, where it is easy to access local facilities on foot or by cycle. Active travel - alongside public

transport - also plays an important role in supporting economically successful ‘High Streets’.

- 3.5 ‘Connector Roads’ are important for moving buses and making sure that public transport has adequate priority to be reliable and attractive to users. They are also important for service and delivery vehicles accessing our city and town centres. Strategic Roads should be carrying larger vehicles on longer journeys to ensure that the impacts of motorised traffic on local streets are minimised.



- 3.6 A major benefit of this Streets for All approach is that it avoids pitting different transport users against one another (e.g., drivers vs. cyclists; bus users vs. pedestrians) and instead starts with a consideration of people and places and then what sorts of movement need to be facilitated within a broad corridor or across a local area. It also helps us to take a more strategic and integrated view of the transport networks we’re delivering (whether that is walking and cycling networks; bus networks or networks for moving freight and general traffic) and makes sure we provide the right quality and capacity of transport and infrastructure to meet that need. It also doesn’t require ring-fenced funding pots for different transport modes: for example, within a single Streets for All scheme, we can design the right facilities for walking and cycling, buses and general traffic.

- 3.7 We are piloting elements of the Streets for All approach through a number of transport projects such as Quality Bus Transit, as we believe that these will make things better for people travelling in our local neighbourhoods, towns and cities. We are clear, however, about the need to review and report progress on these different elements of Streets for All, as we aim to deliver our overall transport vision for the people of Greater Manchester. We commit to keeping the Streets for All strategy and policies under regular review to ensure it meets the needs of the people of Greater Manchester.