GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Greater Manchester
Strategy 2021–2031
good lives for all

Progress Report: Spring 2023

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Context

- Second [progress report](#) at 12 months into delivery of the GMS

- Looks at whole system delivery and GM's collective ability to achieve the overall ambitions set in the strategy

- The last [GMS progress report](#) (at six months) found a greater pivot of system policy and delivery in support of GMS ambition was needed

- This Spring 2023 Report builds on the core findings from that initial review and looks at progress made in response to the report's recommendations

- It has been developed from information gathered via engagement with GM policy delivery groups and inputs from Local Authorities.

- A [monthly dashboard](#) to monitor the impact of the cost of living crisis is now being provided to GMCA, to inform all stakeholders of the latest position and ensure appropriate response actions are in place and visibility of available support is maximised.

- **The information gathered for the report has shown a responsive set of actions have been taken to the main findings and the implications from the first progress report, although overall further pivot, pace, and scale will be required if GMS ambitions are to be achieved.**

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Strategic Opportunities

- The Spring 2023 report - unlike the first progress report – focuses on the strategic opportunities presented to GM right now, and how these can be used to maximise the potential to achieve GMS ambitions. The timing of this review and progress report aligns perfectly with some key strategic opportunities, notably:

  - **Devolution** – single financial settlement

  - **Greater Manchester Integrated Care System** – further development of joint working and approaches in support of GMS ambitions

  - **Greener** – refreshing the 5 Year Environment Plan

  - **Fairer** – retain and regain focus on the prevention agenda and focus on greater targeting on addressing disproportionate access and outcomes

  - **More Prosperous** – refreshing the Local Industrial Strategy

  - **Ways of Working** – embedded and adopted to support maximising the benefits of the strategic opportunities above

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Floor targets

- The GMS is piloting use of floor targets in three areas:

  - digital download speeds

  - take-up of funded childcare and early education places for two-year olds

  - well-being amongst our young people (Year 10s).

- Local-level data highlight neighbourhoods (or other small areas) where performance is below the floor target baseline, to inform a **collective, pan-GM response that transcends district boundaries**. There is a **shared responsibility to support improvement over time in identified areas**.

- The floor target data are being used in different ways across the three pilots, and the way they are informing policy and delivery varies. Whilst it is too early to claim that the floor target is the core driver of improvements across the pilots, the approach is **cementing a focus on small areas within GM where outcomes are disproportionately poor**.

- The positive progress to date provides evidence that local-level data can be used to **bring relevant partners together around a shared challenge**, and to **support consideration of innovative, place-based solutions**.

- Whilst there are few areas where both fine-grained data are available and a floor target approach is appropriate, we will **continue to identify learning from the three pilots and explore opportunities to extend the approach from 2024 onwards**.

Floor target 1: [The proportion of premises unable to access digital download speeds of at least 30Mbps](#)

**Extent of Low Download Speeds (Selected Area)**

The % of premises unable to access 30MBit/s download speeds in **Greater Manchester** ranges across LSOA areas from **73.1% to 0.0%**
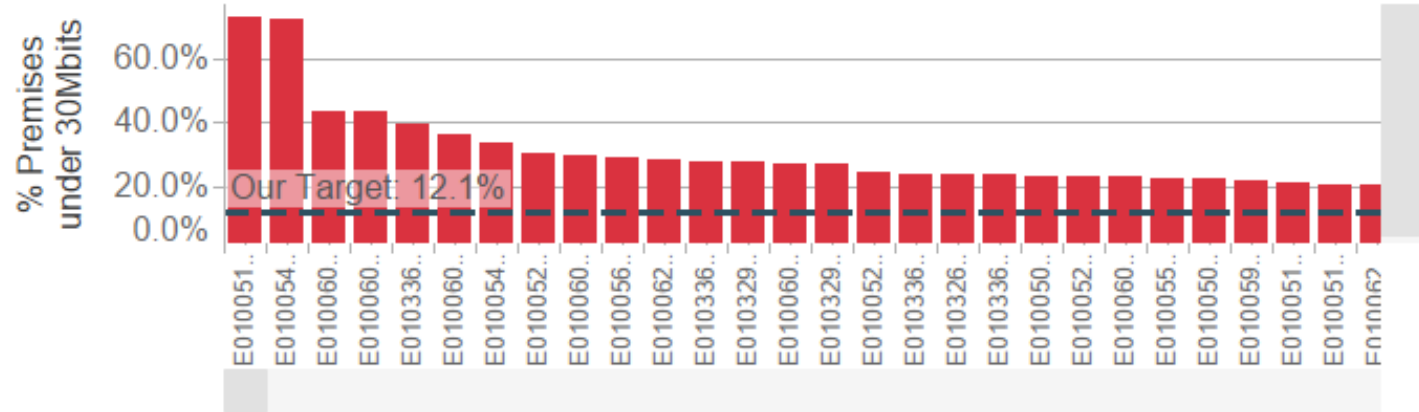
Due to considerable variance within neighbourhoods, the floor target focuses on finer-grained LSOA (lower-layer super output area) geographies. In May 2022, 66 GM LSOAs (3.9% of the GM total) were above the floor target threshold to have no more than 12.1% of premises unable to access 30Mbps download speeds. This was an improvement compared to December 2021, as previously reported (84 LSOAs, or 5.0% not meeting the floor target).

- Both urban areas in the regional centre and areas in the rural periphery have LSOAs with higher proportions of properties experiencing poor download speeds, with different factors driving under-performance. The floor target analysis is informing tailored responses …

  o in urban areas, working with internet service providers (ISPs), local authorities and housing associations to address access barriers to properties and develop harmonised wayleave arrangements

  o in rural areas, lobbying and co-ordination between central and local government, and working with ISPs to support delivery of new infrastructure where this would otherwise be uneconomic.

- Market developments are likely to drive better performance in any case, but **use of the floor target is accelerating progress and supporting improved outcomes in areas with particular administrative or economic barriers**.

Floor Target 2: The percentage take-up of funded childcare and early education places for two-year-olds
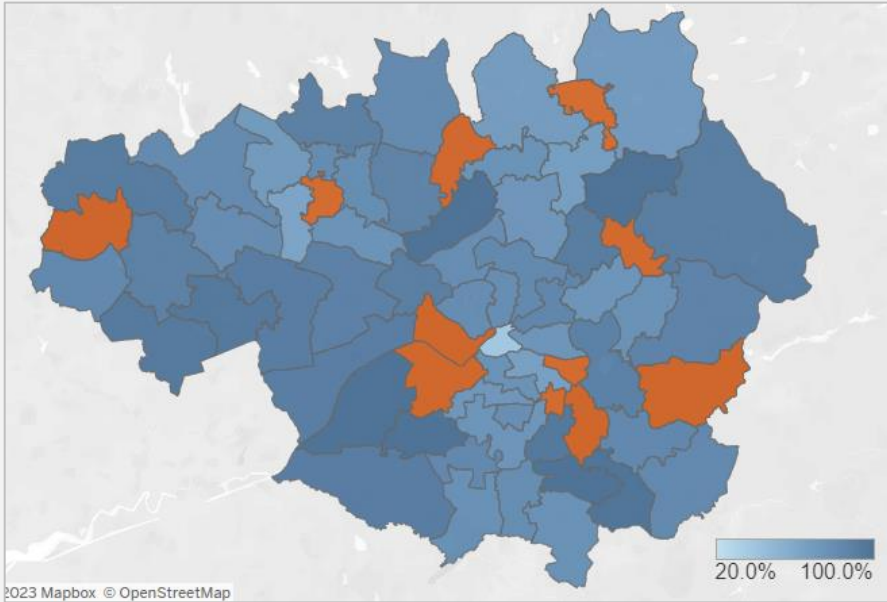
- Early education leads in all GM localities have committed to focus on one prioritised neighbourhood where take up of the funded childcare offer for 2-year olds is low or resistant to change compared to other neighbourhoods in the locality. The floor target ambition is that by April 2024, take up in each of these neighbourhoods will have improved, reducing (and, beyond 2024, closing) the gap with the rest of the locality.

- Current trends against this ambition looks positive. Local data show that eight of the ten targeted neighbourhoods have seen a term-on-term increase in take-up from summer 2021 to summer 2022, and the gap between the prioritised neighbourhood and the locality average has narrowed in six of the ten areas. Separately, national data show average take-up across GM in January 2022 at 74.4%, remaining above the national average (71.9%) and demonstrating a return to pre-pandemic levels (up some 7 percentage points since January 2021).

- There is **collective ownership of the floor target at locality level**, with early years leads engaged in co-production of the approach, which is being implemented in different ways across districts. Take up performance is now better understood as a single conversation at GM level. The range of activity in place should support **further improved performance in the targeted neighbourhoods**, and is providing **an evidence base of the effectiveness of different interventions**, including:

  o targeting resources in various ways, social media work and information sharing

  o GM-commissioned support to local delivery, including behavioural insights research and micro-grants to VCSE organisations

  o strategic buy-in, to ensure that early education is 'mainstreamed as everybody's business'

  o lobbying central government on the importance of free early education in improving outcomes for children growing up in disadvantage, and the benefits of a universal 18-month child development assessment.
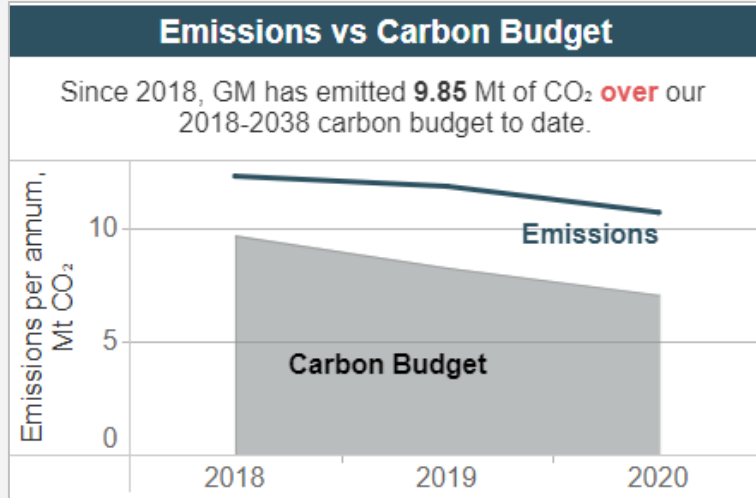
Floor target 3: [The proportion of young people (Year 10s) reporting good or higher wellbeing](#)

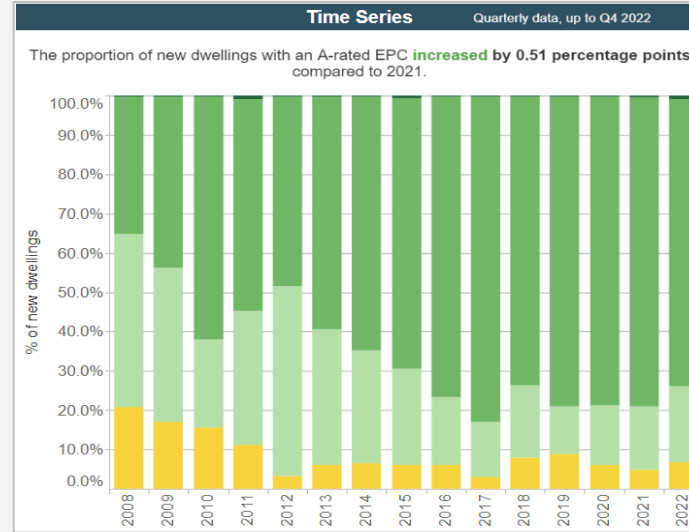% Good or Higher Wellbeing
40.3% — 70.0%
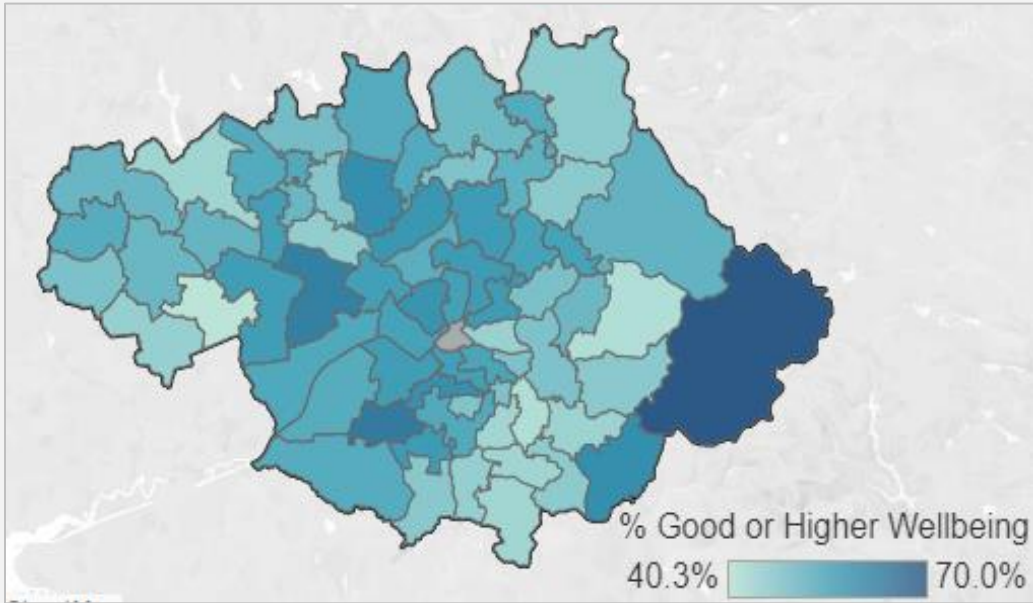
- Drawing on data from the GM #BeeWell programme, this indicator has an over-arching GMS target for the pan-GM average proportion of young people (Year 10) reporting good or higher wellbeing to improve from the 2021 baseline figure of 51.5% good or higher wellbeing. To address the potential for some neighbourhoods to remain 'left behind', the floor target is to reduce the range or 'spread' of wellbeing scores across the 66 neighbourhoods compared to baseline levels (39.1% to 61.0% in the initial dataset, a range of some 22 percentage points).

- The 2022 data show the GM average at 51.6%, virtually unchanged from the 2021 baseline and indicating stability in wellbeing across the two years. The 2022 neighbourhood range (40.3% to 70.0%, or 30 points) was wider than in 2021, but largely due to one particularly high-performing area in the latest data. Prevalence of good or higher wellbeing was higher in 2022 in those neighbourhoods that were in the lowest 25% of scores in 2021, but lower in neighbourhoods that were in the highest 25% of scores.

- The neighbourhood-level #BeeWell data are being used to **improve support and share best practice** across neighbourhoods, **informing place-based targeting and prioritisation** where appropriate, and **catalysing community-led ownership of wellbeing as a local objective that helps to create the conditions for young people to thrive**. In the first year, #BeeWell has seen over £700,000 committed in response to the inequalities highlighted through the data, and ways of working have been altered in response to the voices of 60,000 young people.

- The #BeeWell Champions Social Prescribing Pilot is working at a place-based level in five of the neighbourhoods with levels of wellbeing below the GM average. **A youth-led response is being designed and delivered to provide young people with the skills to support peer-to-peer health interventions**, with £100,000 of youth-led investment into voluntary and community sector partners.

Greener Greater Manchester: Headline Metrics

Emissions vs Carbon Budget

Since 2018, GM has emitted **9.85** Mt of CO_2 **over** our 2018-2038 carbon budget to date.

A carbon neutral GM remains possible by 2038, but it seems increasingly unlikely that we will meet the carbon budget set for the 2018-38 period

Time Series — Quarterly data, up to Q4 2022

The proportion of new dwellings with an A-rated EPC **increased** by 0.51 percentage points compared to 2021.

Very few new GM homes are fully energy efficient, with a considerable proportion being the opposite
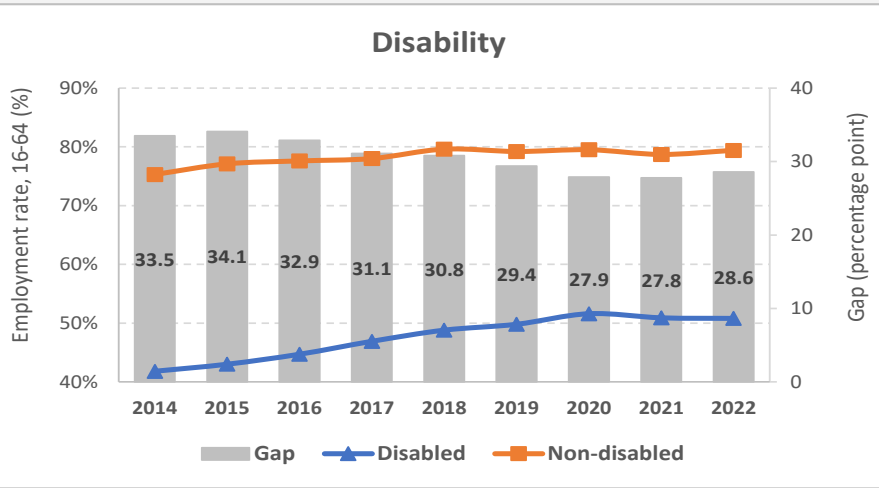

Transport Modes
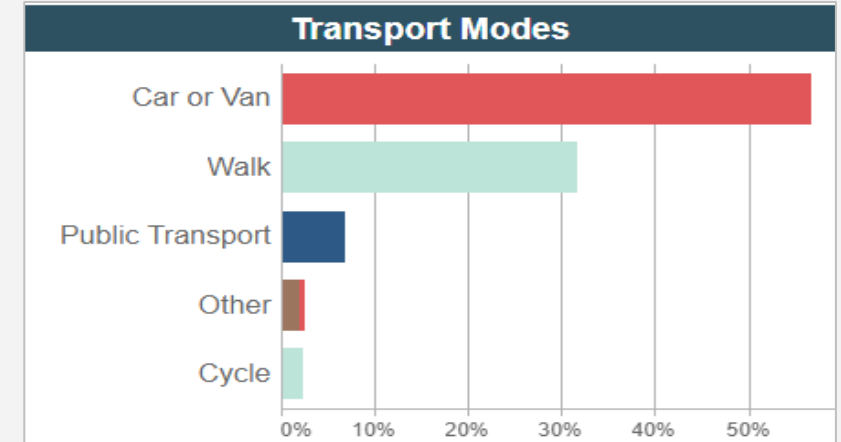
Public transport and active travel trips have increased gradually over time, but most trips are still made by car or van
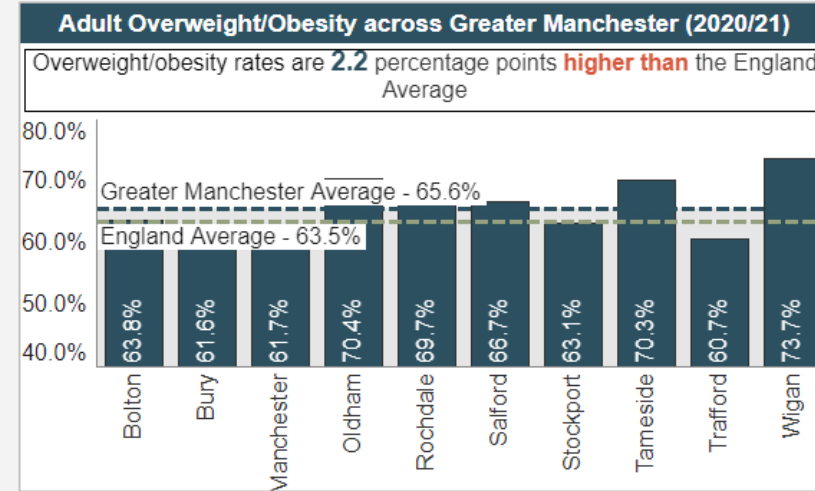
- Installation of new renewable electricity capacity is gaining pace, with the expectation that the 2024 target will be met

- A higher proportion of GM homes improved their energy performance in 2022/23 compared to previous years

- The proportion of GM buses that are electric is currently small, but set to increase in line with the 2024 target

- There is greater evidence of actions being responsive to the issues identified in the previous report, and greater understanding of the environmental agenda across policy portfolios, **further work is required to fully embed the ownership and accountability of this agenda within other policy areas**.

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Fairer Greater Manchester: Headline Metrics

Disability chart (2014–2022): Gap (percentage point) values — 33.5, 34.1, 32.9, 31.1, 30.8, 29.4, 27.9, 27.8, 28.6. Lines for Disabled and Non-disabled employment rate.

GM residents from within racially-minoritised communities, older workers, females and disabled people are much more likely not to be in work, and the gaps are proving enduring over time

Adult Overweight/Obesity across Greater Manchester (2020/21). Overweight/obesity rates are 2.2 percentage points higher than the England Average. Greater Manchester Average - 65.6%. England Average - 63.5%. Bolton 63.8%, Bury 61.6%, Manchester 61.7%, Oldham 70.4%, Rochdale 69.7%, Salford 66.7%, Stockport 63.1%, Tameside 70.3%, Trafford 60.7%, Wigan 73.7%.

Nearly three-quarters of adults in the worst-performing GM locality are overweight or obese, and childhood obesity for pupils in the final year of primary school is nearly double the rate for reception-aged children

- Satisfaction with Greater Manchester Police services has been improving over time, but there is considerable variation, both across GM localities and amongst particular demographic groups

- Courses funded under the devolved GM Adult Education Budget are largely focused on lower-level learners

- Floor Target: Positive progress on take-up of funded early education places for two-year olds in GM, with the gap between neighbourhoods prioritised under the GMS floor target and the locality average narrowing in six of ten targeted areas

- Floor Target: there has been little change in the GM average for reported wellbeing amongst Year 10 pupils. Although the range in the neighbourhood-level data increased between 2021 and 2022, this was largely due to one particularly high-performing area in 2022, and prevalence of good or higher wellbeing was higher in 2022 in those neighbourhoods that were in the lowest 25% of scores in 2021

- Across the range of delivery and policies in place and in development there was evidence of actions being responsive to the issues identified in the previous report, and greater embedding of understanding of the equalities agenda across policy portfolios.

- **However, there appears to be further scope to reflect and evaluate the impact of current activity to underpin the development of new strategies. This could include consideration of development of the prevention agenda alongside delivery of current and urgent needs**.

More Prosperous Greater Manchester: Headline Metrics
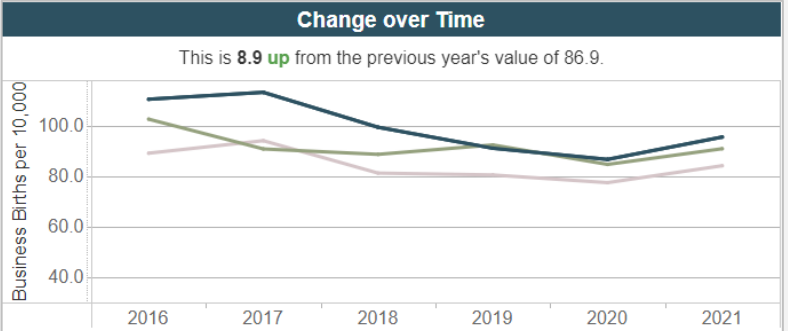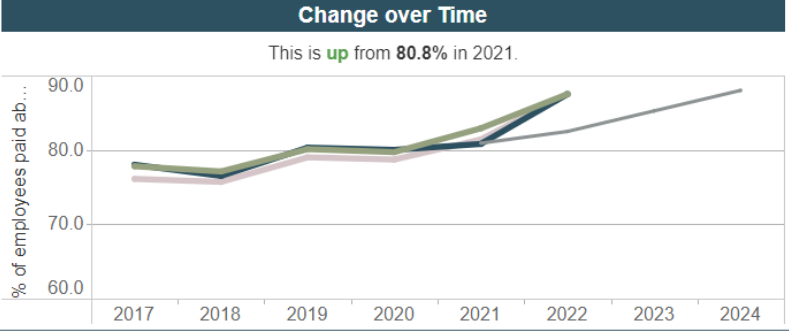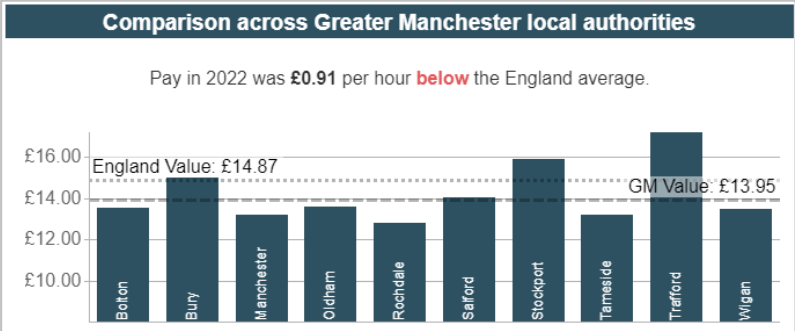
Earnings in GM have increased, but still lag the national average, with female and part-time workers earning less

More employees earn above the Real Living Wage, making it more likely that we will meet our 2024 target, although the latest data might be something of an anomaly

GM is out-performing the national average on new business start-ups, but with wide variance across the localities

- Whilst the number of employees in GM's frontier sectors has increased, the number of businesses decreased by a similar amount

- Floor Target: Digital download speeds have improved, but vary considerably across areas of GM – poor performance was found in both central urban and more peripheral rural areas

- New additions to the housing stock reduced for the second year in a row, but remained above the GM target

- **Economic restructuring continues - GM needs to ensure that it utilises the levers within its control to maximum effect to ensure that the contribution of restructuring to economic success across the city-region is maximised.**

- The cost of living crisis and very limited national growth forecast makes for a more challenging economic climate. The refresh of the Local Industrial Strategy provides opportunity for GM to restate its economic ambitions, enabling and supporting economic growth and innovation, and ensuring that economic growth is accessible to, and benefitting all the people and places of Greater Manchester.

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