

GM Policy Hub update | January 2024



Welcome to our January 2024 GM Policy Hub update. In this update we share information about:

- our Civic Engagement Coordinator vacancy;
- our upcoming seminar on the implications of AI for transport policy; and
- GM MPs visiting The University of Manchester campus.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the research featured in this update, please get in touch.

[Civic Engagement Coordinator vacancy](#)



We're hiring a Civic Engagement Coordinator to support the work of the GM Policy Hub.

We work with researchers right across the University, providing professional advice on how academics can best engage with policy audiences, and influence our society for the better.

The successful candidate will play a leading role in the successful delivery of a number of key engagement initiatives, aimed squarely at policymakers and influencers. With a regional focus, they will utilise a broad range of tools and channels to set the agenda for policy debates and create impact.

The deadline for applications is 20 February 2024.

[Read more about the role here.](#)

GM Policy Hub seminar: AI and Transport



Experts agree that automated driving technologies constitute perhaps the most significant transformation in urban and transport planning since the invention of the private motor vehicle. AI applications in the transport sector could help unlock opportunities that are crucial to GM's long-term growth and prosperity, and contribute to achieving carbon neutrality. However, AI applications are not without challenges.

As automated driving technologies are introduced gradually into cities, urban planning has a critical role to play in anticipating the implications of this transition and mediating unwanted consequences for societies. Policymakers must recognise and provide opportunities for diverse viewpoints in envisioning and creating desired mobility futures. Crucially – uncertainty cannot lead to inaction. Transport and mobility policies and plans must address local needs and strategic imperatives. Engagement and constructive dialogue are key.

When: Thursday 15 February 2024, 1:00-2:30pm (with registration and light lunch from 12:30pm)

Where: The University of Manchester, Oxford Road (room to be shared on registration)

Speakers:

- Dr [Ransford A. Acheampong](#), Senior Lecturer in Transport and Urban Futures at The University of Manchester
- Sam Li, Senior Innovation Officer at Transport for Greater Manchester

Chair: [Professor Cecilia Wong](#), Professor of Spatial Planning at The University of Manchester

Registration: To register for this session, email policy@manchester.ac.uk with your name, job title, and any access or dietary requirements.

Save the date: Our March seminar will take place on Wednesday, 20 March, with Dr Elaine Dewhurst discussing economic inequalities in work and retirement.

GM MPs visit University of Manchester campus



Over the last few months, Policy@Manchester has welcomed three MPs representing Greater Manchester constituencies to The University of Manchester. In October, we welcomed Afzal Khan, MP for Gorton; in December, Chris Green, MP for Bolton West; and this month, Mike Kane, MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East.

Manchester Gorton MP Afzal Khan MP visited The University of Manchester to meet academics from our [Power in Place](#) publication. During his visit, he also toured the Sustainable Materials Innovation Hub at Henry Royce Institute, the UK's National Centre for research and innovation of advanced materials.

Of the visit, Afzal Khan said:

"It is always a delight to visit The University of Manchester. The evidence-based research it produces across so many subject areas is greatly valued and has real influence on policymakers in Westminster, Whitehall and beyond.

"Power in Place is another thoroughly impressive piece of work and it was helpful to discuss some of its key recommendations with academic staff."

Bolton West MP Chris Green recently visited The University of Manchester to meet with academics from Dalton Nuclear Institute, who work closely with the nuclear industry to highlight the steps needed to develop a policy framework which can secure a long-term nuclear future. He was also given a tour of the Bioprinting Technology Platform which is contributing to progress being made in personalised and regenerative medicine.

Chris Green said:

"It was a fascinating morning. The University of Manchester has a thoroughly merited global reputation for research excellence across a vast swathe of subject areas, not least in technology, innovation and health."

Mike Kane MP, Shadow Aviation and Maritime Minister and Wythenshawe and Sale East MP, visited The University of Manchester to meet academics leading research on the urgent need to reduce shipping emissions. He also toured the ID Manchester site - a £1.7bn tech and science location set to create over 10,000 jobs. Professor Alice Larkin and Dr Simon Bullock, researchers at the University's Tyndall

Centre for Climate Change Research, briefed the shadow minister on achieving Paris Agreement climate goals, specifically on requiring 34% shipping emission cuts.

Of the visit, Mike Kane commented:

“As a Manchester MP, I take great pride in the quality of research and teaching happening here. The work on shipping emissions, led by Professor Larkin and Dr Bullock, is of especially high quality and it was useful for me to drill down into their findings in my meeting with them.”

[Get in touch](#) if you would like to meet with any of our academics to discuss their

Current publications

- [Power in Place](#) provides evidence-led solutions for thriving and sustainable communities.
- [Working Futures](#) provides evidence and ideas to shape the future of work in the UK.
- [Open Minds](#) combines leading research expertise on mental health and wellbeing with evidence-led policy analysis.
- [On Resilience](#) provides robust research informed evidence and ideas for the future of energy and resources.

Connect with us

Within Policy@Manchester, the GM Policy Hub seeks to build relationships between researchers and regional stakeholders to resolve societal challenges and optimise collaborative opportunities across the region. The Hub is a dedicated resource for GM policymakers to access academic expertise to help inform evidence-based policymaking.

If you would like to receive future updates by email, you can [sign up here](#). If you already receive the update by email and would prefer not to, please [let us know](#).

You can also sign up to our [weekly Policy@Manchester newsletter](#) to be kept up to date with new articles and publications, providing academic expertise and insight on pressing policy issues, as well as contributions to evidence sessions, upcoming events, and more.

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