

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

Policy@Manchester

GM POLICY HUB

GM Policy Hubdate | August 2026

New Greater Manchester Areas of Research Interest pilot

GMCA and Manchester City Council have been supported by the GM Policy Hub and academics at The University of Manchester to create pilot areas of research interest (ARIs) for the city region.

ARIs represent an opportunity for local government (local authorities and the combined authority) to think strategically about how to address major policy problems and offer a unique opportunity for academics to start policy conversations that can lead to research impact.

The new ARIs focus on two key priorities – good growth and prevention – and are designed to support long-term strategic goals while opening up new conversations between academia and policymakers.

The ARIs pilot seeks to identify the best evidence and new thinking on these themes: good growth and prevention. It is also interested in how evidence can be obtained (for instance, by how to involve residents in reforming public services) and is seeking evidence to inform policy on these themes over a 4-10 year horizon.

The pilot is now open on GM Consult until December 2026.





Housing, health and poverty roundtable

Manchester's economic growth in recent years has brought significant opportunities; yet persistent poverty, rising housing costs, and unequal access to safe, secure homes continue to shape residents' health and wellbeing.

Chaired by Professor Arpana Verma, we hosted a roundtable discussion bringing together academic and policy stakeholders to explore how data and community intelligence can inform policy decisions to address poverty and build a healthier Manchester.

We discussed work already underway and ideas to ensure economic growth does not exasperate housing affordability, how housing policy can support health and reduce poverty, and the role of place-based partnerships in addressing housing and health inequalities in Manchester.

If you would like to find out more about UoM research in this area, contact us.

[**Contact us.**](#)

North West Policy Pathway networking event

We were delighted to co-host an academic-policy networking event with the North West Policy Pathway (NWPP), bringing together around 60 academics and policy professionals on campus to explore how research can better inform policymaking.

The event featured lightning presentations about Policy@Manchester and NWPP, a case study from one of our former Greater Manchester Policy Fellows, and an update on the Places for Growth programme.

Following the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to connect directly. Through small-group discussions, academics and policymakers shared research interests, policy priorities and ideas for future collaboration, sparking new conversations about how evidence can support decision-making.

To keep up to date about future events, email us.



An aerial photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and pink, with long, horizontal clouds. The city features a variety of buildings, including modern glass skyscrapers and older brick structures. Several construction cranes are visible in the mid-ground. A semi-transparent white text box with a yellow diagonal border is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, containing the following text:

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