

Frequently asked Questions

What is the Bee Network?

The Bee Network, Greater Manchester's cycling and walking infrastructure proposal, is a vision to make Greater Manchester an easier place for people to get around on foot or by bike. Our aim is to make the region a nicer place to live, work, get on and grow old and to connect every neighbourhood and community, while helping people to be less dependent on cars.

Through delivery of the vision, Greater Manchester will become the very first city-region in the UK to have a fully joined-up cycling and walking network: the most comprehensive in Britain covering over 1,800 miles.

Bee Network schemes are being funded across Greater Manchester through the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF). The link below provides access to a map of the Bee Network routes being planned across Greater Manchester, including a number in Bolton.

<https://mappinggm.org.uk/bee-network/>

Find out more about [Made to Move](#) and [The Bee Network proposal](#).

What is the Mayor's Challenge Fund?

Chris Boardman, Greater Manchester's Cycling and Walking Commissioner, unveiled an innovative new plan to create a city-region-wide cycling and walking network. The Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) aims to kick start the delivery of Chris Boardman's vision for Greater Manchester to become a city region where walking and cycling are the natural choices for shorter journeys.

The MCF has so far made £160 million available to deliver schemes across Greater Manchester between now and 2022. Around £4m has been allocated to Wigan Council to support the delivery of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Towpath and wider links scheme.

This was made possible thanks to national government's Transforming Cities Fund. This aims to improve productivity and spread prosperity through investment in public and sustainable transport in some of the largest English city regions.

This supports Greater Manchester's Transport Strategy 2040, the Made to Move ambitions and the Bee Network infrastructure proposal.

Find out more about [Greater Manchester 2040](#) Strategy.

Why can't the money be spent on other things?

MCF funding is specifically designated for cycling and walking improvements. If this allocation wasn't spent in Wigan for this purpose the money would be spent elsewhere in Greater Manchester.

People don't cycle in Wigan so why spend money on facilities that wouldn't be used?

Research shows that if safe, convenient and direct cycle facilities are provided then cycling numbers increase.

A lot of people are also put off cycling because they don't feel safe cycling on the road. By providing segregated cycle facilities, cyclists can be separated from traffic and experience a much more secure and pleasant journey.

This encourages more would-be cyclists to get on their bike.

We have already installed cycling and walking counters across the borough that actively monitor the number of cyclists and walkers using popular routes. There is a counter at Scott Lane towpath that monitors cyclists and has recently counted large numbers using this proposed route.

Why are you concentrating the cycling and walking facilities in this area rather than elsewhere in the borough?

We are developing a number of cycling and walking improvement schemes across the borough, not just this area of Wigan town centre.

For more details visit our website www.wigan.gov.uk/majorprojects

When will the construction work take place?

The works are currently planned to start in late 2021 / early 2022 (the date is yet to be confirmed), if our proposals are acceptable to residents, businesses and commuters. There is still further work required to develop the scheme and so further details will be communicated via the council's website and in the media as the scheme develops.

Can I still access my home or business?

The scheme involves the upgrade of key routes, new surfacing, some on road cycle infrastructure and crossing facilities. These will be positioned to ensure that properties with existing accesses on the route are not affected.

What does the scheme involve?

The scheme primarily aims to upgrade existing walking and cycle routes to a suitable surface with enhanced on road cycle infrastructure and crossing facilities.

How can I have my say?

Visit our website: <https://leedsriverpoolcanaltowpath.commonplace.is/>

Email majorprojects@wigan.gov.uk