

Greater Bollin Trail Stakeholder Engagement Summary

A number of briefings have been undertaken to gather feedback on the Greater Bollin Trail proposed route. The briefings were completed across November-December 2024 and January 2025 with TfGM, neighbouring Local Authorities (Warrington Borough Council, Stockport Council, Trafford Council, Manchester City Council), Sustrans, Cheshire East Council Members and Cheshire East Town and Parish Councils. Feedback from these meetings is set out below:

- Support in principle given by all Local Authorities and Sustrans – they are all keen to be kept in the loop regarding further design and progress. Written support given by Warrington Borough Council.
- Challenges raised around LTN 1/20 in rural areas and this would be the ideal standard when designs are investigated further.
- Challenges of linking into Middlewood Way from Stockport raised and would need further consideration.
- Warrington Council have a particular interest in the within their boundary including the Trans Pennine Trail and Bridgewater Way.
- TfGM are most interested in connecting into Greater Manchester and transport links. It was raised to consider the TfGM design guide and note that when progressed, sections through Greater Manchester will need to go to the TfGM Design Review Panel.
- Stockport Council have a long term aspiration for a connection between the A6 and Middlewood Way.
- Trafford Council are particularly interested in the Dunham Massey / Altrincham links. From their perspective, would like to create a route up to Bow Green (A56) and link the GBT to the canal towpath. Discussions around how this could interface with the proposed Tatton Services.
- Manchester Council have very high ambitions for active travel in South Manchester, they are interested in how GBT can connect into these routes particularly around Wythenshawe and Manchester Airport.
- It was raised by Cheshire East Council members that the A34 underpass as an issue due to lighting and maintenance, noting that solar panels could be an option to solve the lighting issue.
- Cheshire East Council members raised the Eastern section as a potential cycle route for children attending South Poynton School as it is a good alternative to cycling down the A6.
- Concerns were raised at a Town and Parish Council meeting about extra congestion that may be caused past Dunham Massey as a result of this trail – particularly around the narrow bridges across the River Bollin. It was also noted that the route into Bowdon would need a new river crossing.
- It was raised at a Town and Parish Council meeting that there is a desire for an active travel route between Wilmslow East and Macclesfield as this would be beneficial from a commuting standpoint.
- At a Town and Parish council meeting, it was raised that the Handforth Garden Village plans have changed therefore Cheshire East Council should ensure the GBT is included in these plans.
- Raised that Wilmslow Neighbourhood Plan has infrastructure projects included that may support the GBT. Suggestion to cross check the Neighbourhood Plan with where the GBT route follows.
- It was raised in general at a Town and Parish Council meeting that it is understood there are challenging aspects to the trail and the long distance.

- It was raised at a Town and Parish Council meeting that representatives would have liked to be engaged earlier in the optioneering process/technical work.
- Support given by Town and Parish Councils present at the two meetings.
- Support given by Cheshire East Councillors in attendance with the strategy/plan for the trail.
- One major landowner fully supportive of the trail.