GM residents' survey

Bolton

About the survey

Aims to gain insight from the people of Greater Manchester about their...

- **attitudes**
- **behaviours**
- **experiences**

in relation to living in our city region

Survey waves **run quarterly**

Each survey wave:

- **~2,000** respondents **in total**
- **~200** respondents **from Bolton**

Run by **GMCA** with key **stakeholder input** from the 10 councils & TfGM

How to access:

- **Main reports** for each wave on the GMCA webiste[1]
- **Borough summaries** of key questions are circulated internally
- **Custom table builder** & **data download** for BRAIN members[2]

What can you find out?

The survey covers a **broad range of topics**, reporting against the **GM strategy** themes

The survey gives **good population estimates**

- A good **GM estimate** from **1 wave**
- A good **Bolton estimate** from **2 waves combined**

Some topics are covered **regularly**, some **new** to meet **particular needs**

Reports cover:

- **Change over time** across GM
- Differences between **equality groups**

Topics regularly covered include:

- Cost of living
- Perceptions of your local area
- Digital inclusion
- The environment
- And more...

Cost of living highlights[4]

Across GM, **31%** had **borrowed more money** or used more credit than usual in the previous month.

- **41%** with a **disability**
- **44%** of females U30 with a **child U5**

Across GM, **46%** think they will be able to **save money** over the next year

- Similar to the picture in previous surveys

Across GM, **51%** think they would be able to pay an **unexpected** but necessary expense of **£850**

- **Lower than** 64% of **GB**

Renters find most **difficulty affording** their **energy costs**

These questions are **returning** in wave 22, **to be released soon...**

Home & neighbourhood highlights[5]

Across GM, **73%** are **satisfied with their local area** as a place to live

- Similar to levels seen nationally

Across GM, **80%** think people from **different backgrounds get on together** well in their area

- Similar to levels seen nationally

The main ways housing was **negatively affecting people's health** were

- Fear of losing their home
- Community or neighbours
- Affordability

Across GM, households with a **wheelchair user** were more likely to experience a **negative** impact from their **housing**

- Lack of **accessibility** at home was impacting mental & physical health

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Environmental highlights[5]



Across GM, **69%** are **concerned** about **climate change**

- **Lower** than 84% of **GB**
- Those **aged 25-44** are **more likely** to be **concerned**
- Those who **feel hopeful about the future** or who have **volunteered** are more likely o be concerned



Those who **haven't made a change** are most likely to say this is because they **don't think their actions will have an impact**



Across GM, **75% have made a change in their lifestyle**

- **54%** have changed their **shopping** e.g. buying secondhand or repairing
- **50%** have changed their **transport** e.g. walking/ cycling more or driving less

Digital inclusion highlights[5]



Across GM, **79% go online as much as they want**

- **8%** don't go online & **don't want to**
- **4%** don't go online but **want to**

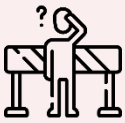


Across GM, **61%** of those **aged 75+** are **offline**



The most popular activities are also what are most likely to **prompt people to go online** in the next year

- Online shopping
- social media/messaging
- watching tv/ films



Across GM, **54%** have a **barrier** or vulnerability to **full digital inclusion**

- **30%** have an access & a skills barrier
- **Access** barriers relate to devices & connections,
- **Skills barriers** are about confidence & knowledge

References

September 2026

[1] GMCA (2026). Greater Manchester Resident surveys Resident Surveys - Greater Manchester Combined Authority
[2] Bolton JSNA (2026). Useful websites – GM residents' survey Useful websites – Bolton JSNA
[3] GMCA (2025). Greater Manchester strategy: Together we are GM. Together we are Greater Manchester | Our Strategy
[4] GM residents survey wave 17 Greater Manchester Residents' Survey
[5] GM residents survey wave 21 GM Residents Survey November 2025

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