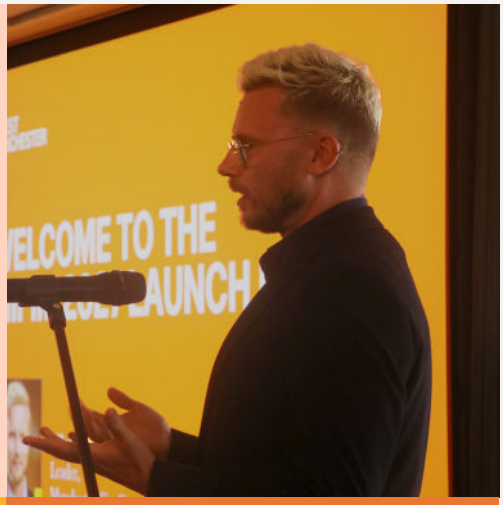
INVEST MANCHESTER QUARTERLY ROUNDUP

OCTOBER 2026

The Invest Manchester Quarterly Roundup provides an up-to date overview of activity and opportunities across Greater Manchester.

A round-up of the key stories and successes showcasing why Greater Manchester continues to be one of the UK's most dynamic, forward-looking and globally recognised city regions.







INVEST MANCHESTER

GREATER MANCHESTER IN THE SPOTLIGHT – ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOLADES

Manchester continues to perform strongly on a national and international scale, reinforcing its position as the UK's leading city for inward investment and economic growth.

GREATER MANCHESTER'S AI SECTOR HITS $4.7BN

New data published shows Greater Manchester's AI sector has reached a valuation of $4.7bn, up 9% in 2026. The data sourced from Dealroom highlights the city region as continuing to attract investment from some of the world's leading technology companies.

Greater Manchester has attracted almost $1bn in cumulative AI investment since 2010 and is now home to 13,500 AI professionals. In the past 18 months, 59 AI fundraisings have been completed in the city region totalling $167m.

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GREATER MANCHESTER WINS LANDMARK BID TO HOST THE TV FESTIVAL FROM 2027

Greater Manchester has been announced as the new host city for the TV Festival from 2027, following an extensive bidding process led by Marketing Manchester and partners across Greater Manchester.

The TV Festival has been held in Edinburgh since 1976, and this announcement marks the first time in its history that the event will move to a new host city.

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MANCHESTER BECOMES MOST TALKED ABOUT CITY OUTSIDE LONDON

Manchester became the most talked about UK city outside of London, overtaking Liverpool for the first time, according to new analysis from consultancy ING. According to the report, governance reform and the rise of AI-powered discovery are reshaping how people encounter cities online.

The annual UK's Most Talked About Cities ranking measures online mentions from news outlets, digital publications and social media, and is widely used as a leading indicator of how visible cities are in the online conversation. This, in turn, is linked to their overall success in attracting tourism, investment, business and prosperity.

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2026 GLOBAL CITIES INDEX: MANCHESTER OUTPACES ALL OTHER UK CITIES

Manchester is highlighted as a standout performer following two decades of profound economic transformation in the 2026 Oxford Economics Global Cities Index.

Anchored by a thriving cultural economy, a massive student population, and rapid expansion in knowledge-based industries, Manchester has recorded some of Europe's sharpest employment gains.

Driven by strong momentum in professional business services, the city outpaced all other UK cities in GDP and productivity growth.

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BIG WINS & INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACROSS THE REGION

A series of high-profile announcements underline growing confidence in Greater Manchester as a location for business expansion, innovation and long-term investment.

LOCATION OF MANCHESTER UNITED'S NEW 100,000-SEATER STADIUM REVEALED

Manchester United has confirmed the proposed location for its new 100,000-seater stadium, marking another major milestone in the long-term vision to transform the Old Trafford area.

The reveal came as part of an ambitious masterplan for the sports-led regeneration of Trafford Wharfside published by Trafford Council and supported by partners including the Old Trafford Regeneration Mayoral Development Corporation (OTR MDC), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). United's proposed new home will sit at the heart of a new Stadium District, approximately 350 metres north-west of the existing Old Trafford stadium.

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MIDDLETON MDC REGENERATION TAKES ANOTHER STEP FORWARD

A consultation on the formation of a mayoral development corporation (MDC) for Middleton has launched. The proposed MDC for Middleton, which would be chaired by Middleton born actor and comedian, Steve Coogan, and Rose Marley, chief executive of Co-operatives UK, could bring major benefits to the town.

A Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) is a statutory body which can speed up the regeneration of a particular area. It has the power to buy and develop property and create new infrastructure.

In Middleton, it has the potential to support the delivery of 1,500 new homes, including affordable homes, and to create an improved commercial and leisure offer, while improving public spaces.

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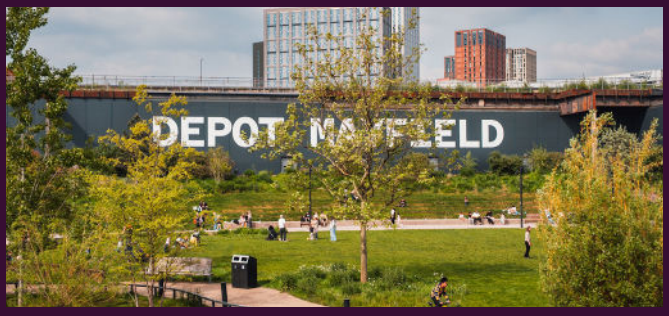
CONNECTIVITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Strategic investment continues to unlock development, improve accessibility and support long term growth.

ELEVEN ANNOUNCED FOR CYANLINES PARTNERSHIP BOARD

CyanLines has announced the appointment of its new Partnership Board, bringing together senior leaders from the public, private and cultural sectors to help deliver a 100-mile-plus network of walking, wheeling and cycling routes across Greater Manchester. The initiative aims to connect parks, rivers, canals, squares and green spaces while supporting healthier communities, biodiversity and climate resilience.

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NORTHERN ECONOMY TRANSFORMED THROUGH EVOLUTION OF AIRPORT

A report published to mark 25 years of Manchester Airport's Runway 2 highlighted the scale of its contribution to the North's economy. The airport now generates £9.5 billion in annual economic impact and provides connections to more than 200 destinations worldwide, underlining the importance of international connectivity for businesses across the region.

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RIYADH AIR CELEBRATES FIRST FLIGHT FROM MANCHESTER TO SAUDI CAPITAL

A new link between Manchester and the Saudi capital of Riyadh launched with Saudi Arabia's new digital-led airline Riyadh Air making the North's hub airport just its fourth destination in Europe.

The service will not only open up connections to Saudi Arabia for travellers from the North but will also give them access via onward connections to Riyadh Air's network of destinations across Africa and Asia. The airline, which is owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) and has ambitious plans to become one of the world's largest operators, with a goal to serve 100 destinations across six continents by 2030.

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CULTURE & LIVEABILITY

Investment in place, wellbeing and culture continues to support talent attraction and business confidence.

GREATER MANCHESTER LAUNCHES MIPIM 2027

Leaders from across Greater Manchester's public and private sectors gathered to launch the region's official presence at MIPIM 2027, setting out how to showcase a new generation of investment, regeneration and growth opportunities on the global stage.

The launch, held at Soho House Manchester, marked the start of preparations for MIPIM 2027, building on the success of Greater Manchester's presence in 2026 which highlighted projects such as Middleton Regeneration, Stockport MDC, transport-led regeneration and ambitions to boost the region's creative sector.

As the world's largest property event, MIPIM provides an important platform for Greater Manchester to attract investment, build international partnerships and support the delivery of its long-term growth ambitions.

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FEC DELIVERS 634 NEW HOMES AT MANCHESTER'S VICTORIA RIVERSIDE

A major milestone has been reached in the £4bn Victoria North regeneration project, following completion of the final homes at Victoria Riverside. The occasion marks the first residential development in Red Bank – one of the initial phases of the 15,000-home regeneration programme, delivered by Far East Consortium (FEC) in partnership with Manchester City Council (MCC).

Supported by Housing Infrastructure Funding from Homes England, which helped unlock more than 10.5 hectares of brownfield land within Red Bank, the area is one of the first to come forward as part of the wider Victoria North regeneration programme.

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STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Manchester's international and UK partnerships are expanding rapidly, opening new routes for trade, research collaboration and high-value investment.

INDIA TRADE MISSION DELIVERS MILLIONS IN NEW INVESTMENT AND OVER 600 JOBS FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

Greater Manchester is celebrating a successful trade mission to India which has secured over 600 new jobs and delivered new opportunities for businesses and closer partnerships in innovation, culture and sport.

Mayor of Greater Manchester Bev Craig led a 60-strong delegation on the week-long, multi-city mission which included meetings and engagements to promote the city region to India and open up new opportunities for our businesses.

During the mission the Mayor and Invest Manchester met with Indian IT company Hexaware to sign off on a deal to create 420 jobs at a new £9m Design and Innovation Centre in Manchester, while tech giant Infosys committed to working with Greater Manchester to create 80 new apprenticeships.

The mission concluded in Kolkata with a visit to RPSG Group, who have partnered with Lancashire Cricket Club to acquire a majority stake in the Manchester Super Giants and put forward plans to build a new high-performance cricket training facility next to Old Trafford Cricket Ground.

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