



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Delivery Plan

2021-2030

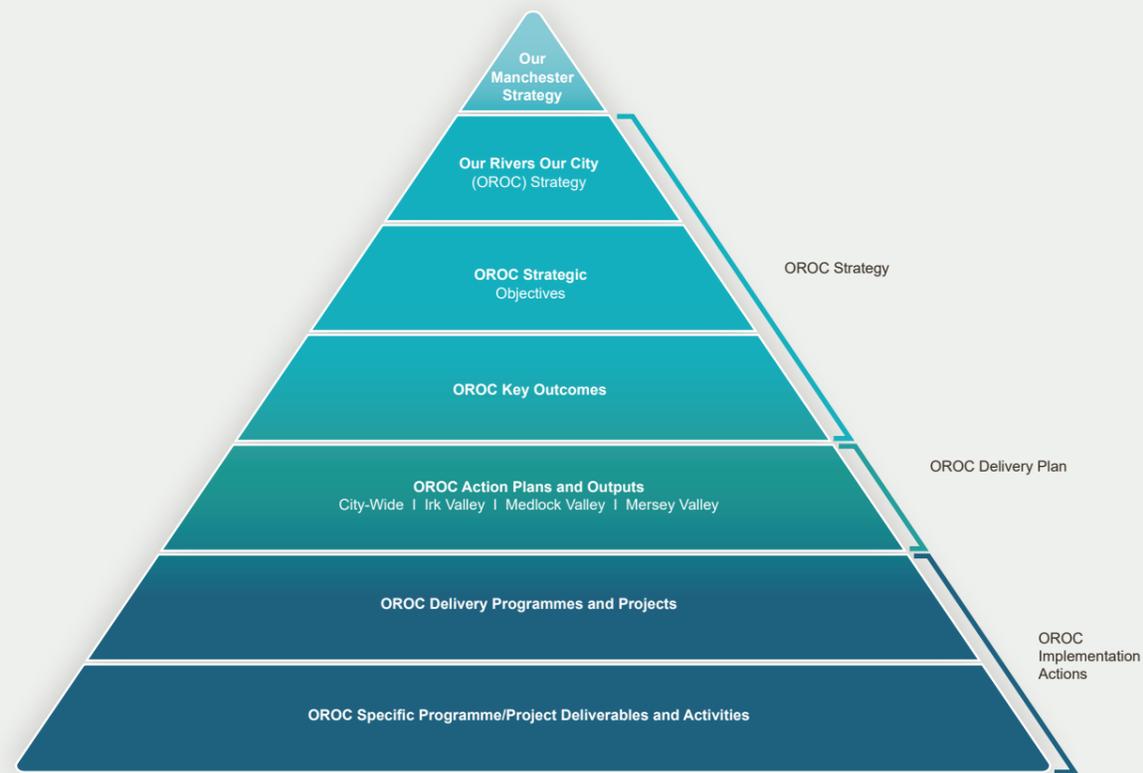
OUR RIVERS
OUR CITY





Section One

Delivery of Our Rivers Our City Strategy



This Delivery Plan sets out how the Our Rivers Our City strategy, objectives and outcomes will be delivered over the next 10 years.

Our Delivery Plan focuses on achieving the objectives and outcomes of the Our Rivers Our City (OROC) strategy. It has been shaped by conversations with local communities and stakeholders as part of the development of the strategy. The Delivery Plan summarises the strategic actions that will need to be further developed into detailed implementation actions by Manchester City Council and a range of co-delivery partners.

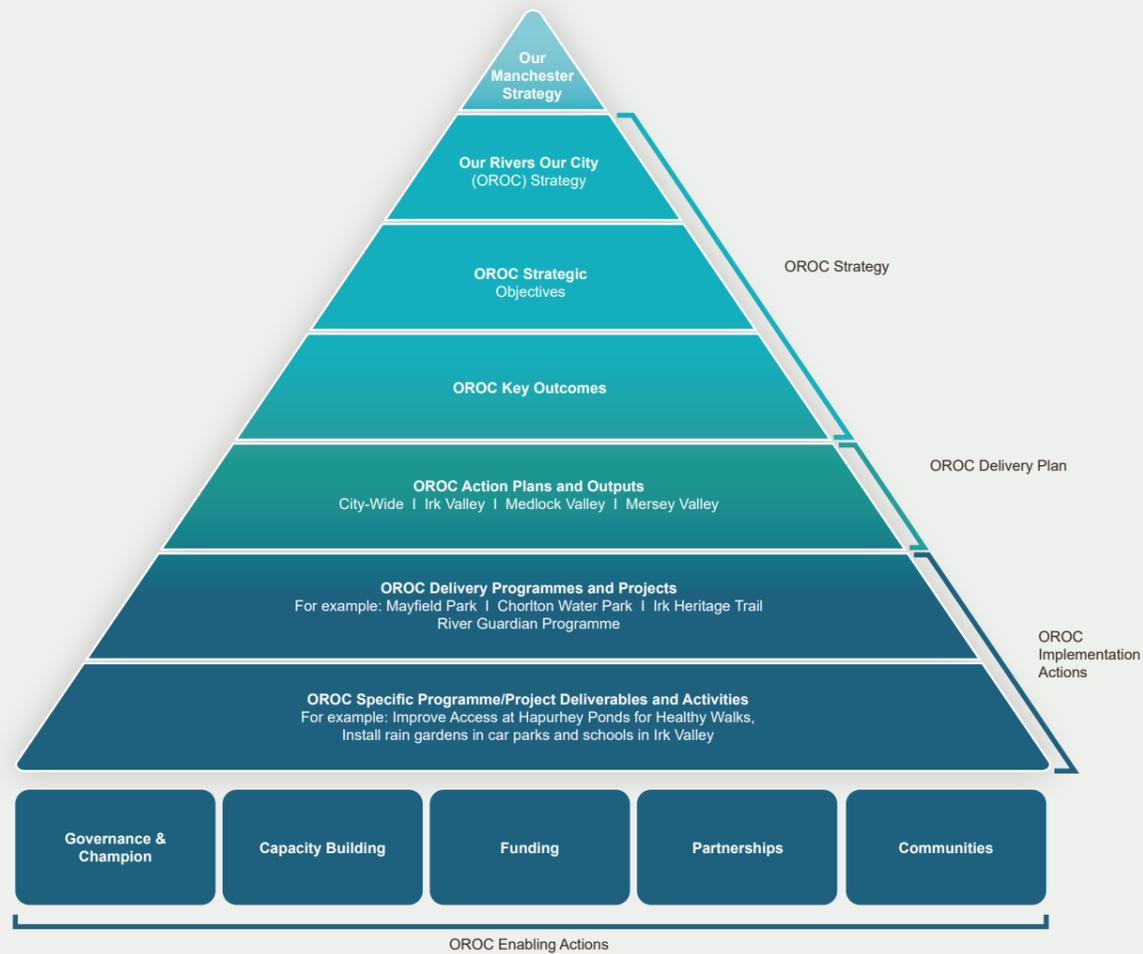
Manchester City Council will champion the Delivery Plan and implementation actions, but in most cases the implementation actions require the involvement of co-delivery partners. Partnership working and engagement with local communities is essential to access funding, ensure successful delivery and secure the OROC objectives and outcomes.





Section Two

Securing Delivery: Key Enabling Actions



The Our Rivers Our City strategy is ambitious. Delivery of the objectives and outcomes over the coming decade requires some key initial enabling actions to maximise future success and provide a robust foundation for delivery to take place.

Governance and Champion

The City Council will take a lead on developing an efficient and effective governance approach with partners to co-ordinate delivery. The City Council will also appoint a Water Champion to promote the strategy and galvanise collective action by the council, partners and local communities to deliver the strategic objectives and outcomes.

Capacity Building

Support is required to enhance the capacity of the council, statutory bodies, local communities and NGOs to be able to participate in the co-design and co-delivery of actions to improve our river valleys. This will include activities such as knowledge transfer, training, supporting the preparation of funding bids by NGOs and strengthening relationships with local communities.

Funding

We will develop a funding strategy as an early action to identify sources of financing. It will be developed in partnership with co-delivery partners, developers and financing bodies (e.g. green finance providers, Greater Manchester Environment Fund, environmental funding bodies). It will focus on the proactive activities required to secure non-City Council funds, including influencing funders and developing funding portfolios for projects to help attract potential investors/funders. The funding strategy will continue evolving, taking account of anticipated positive changes in environmental, social and economic funding streams over the next few years, including green finance and biodiversity net gain opportunities.

Partnerships

Successful delivery of our strategy will require strong partnerships across the public, private and third sector, including the City's contractor partners. We need to build on the partnership working that has helped shape our river valley strategy so that we can collectively deliver more by working together to achieve the strategic outcomes.

Communities

There is need for continuing engagement with our communities as part of our commitment to place-based planning. We need to ensure everyone in our communities has an equal opportunity to contribute their views and get involved in designing and delivering our river valley strategy objectives.



Section Three

Key delivery components

“The Delivery Plan actions will collectively contribute to improving climate resilience, strengthening our green economy and addressing social inequality across the City”

There are 16 key components of our Delivery Plan. Each component has a range of actions. Collectively they will deliver the ten objectives of Our Rivers Our City.

Key Component	Economy & Place	Wild Rivers	Clean Waters	Access	Sponge City	Zero Carbon	People & Neighbourhoods	Going Digital	Policy & Partnerships	Delivery & Finance
Waterways in the Heart of the City	Dark Green		Purple				Yellow			
Irk City River Park	Dark Green			Dark Red			Yellow			
Bringing the Irk to Life		Green	Purple						Red	
Medlock Valley Community Greenway				Dark Red		Blue	Yellow			
Mersey Valley Regional Park and Visitor Hub	Dark Green			Dark Red					Red	
Mersey Brooks and Streams		Green	Purple				Yellow			
River Valley Nature Recovery Networks		Green	Purple						Red	
Clean Waters 2030		Green	Purple					Orange		Teal
Access and Welcome for All	Dark Green			Dark Red			Yellow	Orange		
Spongy Parks and Streets					Pink	Blue			Red	
Engagement and Education			Purple			Blue	Yellow			
Local Stewardship							Yellow		Red	Teal
School of Urban Waters			Purple		Pink			Orange		
Big Data and Climate Resilience						Blue		Orange	Red	
Integrated Water Management: Policy and Partnerships					Pink				Red	Teal
Water Champion	Dark Green					Blue			Red	Teal



Bridge Water Canal

Waterways in the Heart of the City

Creating a valuable, healthy water and river environment in the City Centre to attract new development and inward investment for the benefit of residents and visitors to the City.

- Enhancing our rivers and waterways to act as key gateways into the City;
- Completion of Mayfield Park;
- Implementing the Victoria North development plan;
- Enhancing the River Medlock corridor in the City Centre, securing its place at the heart of strategic regeneration frameworks for each district in which it runs.



Plantit IE

Irk City River Park

Creating a network of parks and greenspaces along the river and across into Collyhurst and Moston Brook.

- Implementation of new and enhanced interconnected blue and green spaces;
- Provision of easy river valley access networks within the Victoria North development area.



People by River, TEP

Bringing the Irk River to Life (BRIL)

Engaging with local communities to co-design and co-deliver improvements to the Irk Valley to bring it back to life.

- River restoration activities to address the legacy impacts of industrialisation;
- Community bluelines and greenways access from Queen's Park to Heaton Park, Boggart Hole Clough and along Moston Brook;
- Engaging local communities to have a sense of ownership of their local river;
- Create green employment opportunities for local communities to sustain river valley improvements.



Medlock Fishing

Medlock Valley Community Greenway

Involving local communities to enhance the community greenway along the Medlock Valley, including:

- Enhancement and restoration of parks, paths and community linkages from Great Ancoats Street upstream to the City boundary;
- Creation of a new visitor hub in the Etihad Campus area;
- Development of pocket parks along the Medlock Valley;
- Working with Oldham and Tameside Councils on cross-boundary initiatives to increase access to the Medlock Valley Way.



Dave Barlow

Mersey Regional Park and Visitor Hub

Establishing the Mersey Valley as a city-regional outdoor destination and visitor hub.

- Partnership working with Stockport and Trafford Councils and a range of community groups, NGOs and other landowners (e.g. Golf Clubs);
- Rights of Way, access and wayfinding Improvement plans to develop greenways and access routes into and across the valley;
- Developing a new visitor hub at Chorlton Water Park with onward wayfinding into the wider Mersey Valley;
- Working with major landowners to improve flood resilience, biodiversity and fish passage;
- Community Enterprise plans to enhance the local economy;
- Working with partners and neighbouring local authorities to establish the Mersey Valley as a Regional Park.



Francis Hesketh

Mersey Brooks and Streams Project

Involving local communities in river restoration, habitat enhancement and access improvements along the Chorlton, Platt, Fallowfield, Baguley, Gore Brooks and other tributaries of the Mersey within Manchester.



Dave Almond

River Valley Nature Recovery Networks

Designating and managing the river valleys as the backbone of Manchester's Nature Recovery networks, and integration with the Greater Manchester Nature Recovery Network.

- Develop and implement river valley wildlife priorities (enhancement, restoration and stepping-stone zones);
- Improving people's connections with river wildlife;
- Enhancing our existing nature reserves and Sites of Biological Interest;
- Creating new nature reserves or Sites of Biological Interest where feasible and desirable working in partnership with local communities to value river valley nature.



Mersey Rivers Trust

Clean Waters 2030

Working with the water industry, landowners and the transport sector on a ten year plan to remove persistent sources of pollution.

- Address problematic Combined Sewer Overflows and highways discharges that adversely affect river health and amenity value;
- Develop a strategy to address historic urban pollution sources such as old waste tips and old landfill sites;
- Enhance enforcement activity against litter, fly tipping and unlicensed discharges;
- Continue public education campaigns to help eliminate sewer blockages (e.g. fatbergs);
- Work on the city's built estate to tackle misconnected discharges to rivers.

Access and Welcome for All

Working with local communities to address physical, social, gender, health, disability and cultural barriers to access to ensure a welcome for all in the river valleys.

- Implement a Design and Management Protocol for paths in river valleys, balancing the needs of wildlife and people;
- Implement defined quality standards for access to rivers and river valley open spaces;
- Improve wayfinding (including use of digital apps) and physical access to encourage more people to visit their local river.



Our Local Voice Mersey

Spongy Parks and Streets

Using our open spaces to help manage storm water and filter pollution before it reaches the rivers.

- Gear up and expand our sponge parks programme to reduce surface water flooding;
- Work with partners to introduce distributed Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in highways and public realm;
- Partnership working to develop blue-green infrastructure to help reduce surface water flood risk;
- Implement Natural Flood Management measures in river valley green spaces and woodlands, including upstream of Manchester working with neighbouring local authorities.



Mark Waugh

Engagement and Education

Raising awareness of the critical importance of clean waters for health, biodiversity, neighbourhood quality and economic development.

- Enhance engagement and education on protecting the river environment, including advice on correct plumbing, what not to flush, safe disposal of fats, oils and greases, recycling, preventing litter and responsible access to nature;
- Develop local River Schools or nature camps along our river valleys;
- Enhance our City's River Valley citizen scientists;
- Provision of more guided educational walks or paddles along our river valleys.



Mersey River Trust



Matt Doran

Local Stewardship

Supporting local community volunteers and businesses to take ownership of their local river environment.

- Enable "Friends groups" to manage stretches of river;
- Enable the angling community and other local groups to implement river habitat enhancements;
- Train voluntary water bailiffs and local river guides to support safe public access to river valleys and tackle anti-social behaviour;
- Enable Citizen Science monitoring to assess the health of our river valleys and support the design of environmental improvement works.

School of Urban Waters

Establishing Manchester and Salford as a global centre of excellence in integrated urban water management, sponge city thinking and participatory design with river valley communities.

- Technical training and skills uplift in the design, delivery and management of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), Nature-Based Solutions and smart water management systems;
- Innovation in urban river restoration, management and monitoring.

Big Data and Climate Resilience

Using and developing technology in the water sector to make the city more resilient to floods, droughts and adverse effects on water quality.

- Using telemetry and forecasting to improve early warnings of climate-related water hazards, especially flooding;
- Integrating a catchment-wide approach to digital data banks, including building-scale systems and waterbody catchment systems.



Bruntwood Bloc

Integrated Water Management – Policy and Partnerships

Creating a framework for policy-makers, landowners, engineers and environmentalists to work together to improve the way the city's waters are planned and managed.

- Ensuring policy for the public sector, infrastructure and utility providers is aligned around the concept of integrated water management;
- Embedding the role of catchment partnerships in planning decisions;
- Establishing funding streams for river restoration, sponge city actions and access improvements, and particularly ongoing maintenance funding.



Matt Doran

Water Champion

An individual (or organisation) who will champion and campaign for our rivers, clean waters and encourage community involvement in Manchester's river valleys.



Parks Team



Section Five Summary of Key Delivery Actions

City-wide Actions Summary

Many actions in our Delivery Plan will be implemented at the city-scale, particularly engagement, digital and policy actions such as:

- Include integrated water and flood management policies into City and partner land-use plans;
- Ensure river restoration, water quality and waterfront access is built into Strategic Regeneration Frameworks for major development
- Sponge City highways and paving design standards: update City's design standards for new or upgraded highways and public realm paving to support Sponge City objective and demonstrate leadership to developers.
- Develop and implement a River Valley Access design guide
- Develop digital river valley walking and cycling routemaps and an annual programme of themed river valley walks
- Develop a city-wide strategy to address invasive species of concern on council- owned property. Work with other landowners to ensure they also control invasive species.
- Contaminated land strategy: work with Environment Agency, other agencies, local partners and research organisations to address ongoing pollution of rivers and groundwater from contaminated land and old waste tips.
- Continued collaboration with the Irwell and Upper Mersey catchment partnerships to support delivery of their environmental and social objectives for the city's rivers.
- Address barriers to fish passage: City Council to use its planning role to help address physical barriers to fish migration during new riverside developments as part of biodiversity net gain requirements
- Citizen-friendly online story maps (including heritage stories) are maintained and promoted for all Manchester's rivers.
- Support river valley micro-enterprise and social enterprise start-ups: publish guidance regarding insurances, river access protocols, licences to run businesses on city council land, signposting to sources of business support and grants.

River Valley Actions Summary

The maps below summarise the main place-based actions for each of the three river valleys in Manchester over the coming decade, subject to detailed planning and securing the required delivery and ongoing maintenance funding. Not shown on maps are the overarching community engagement, biodiversity, access and water quality improvement projects, which are listed above as city-wide actions, but will be implemented in each river valley as appropriate.

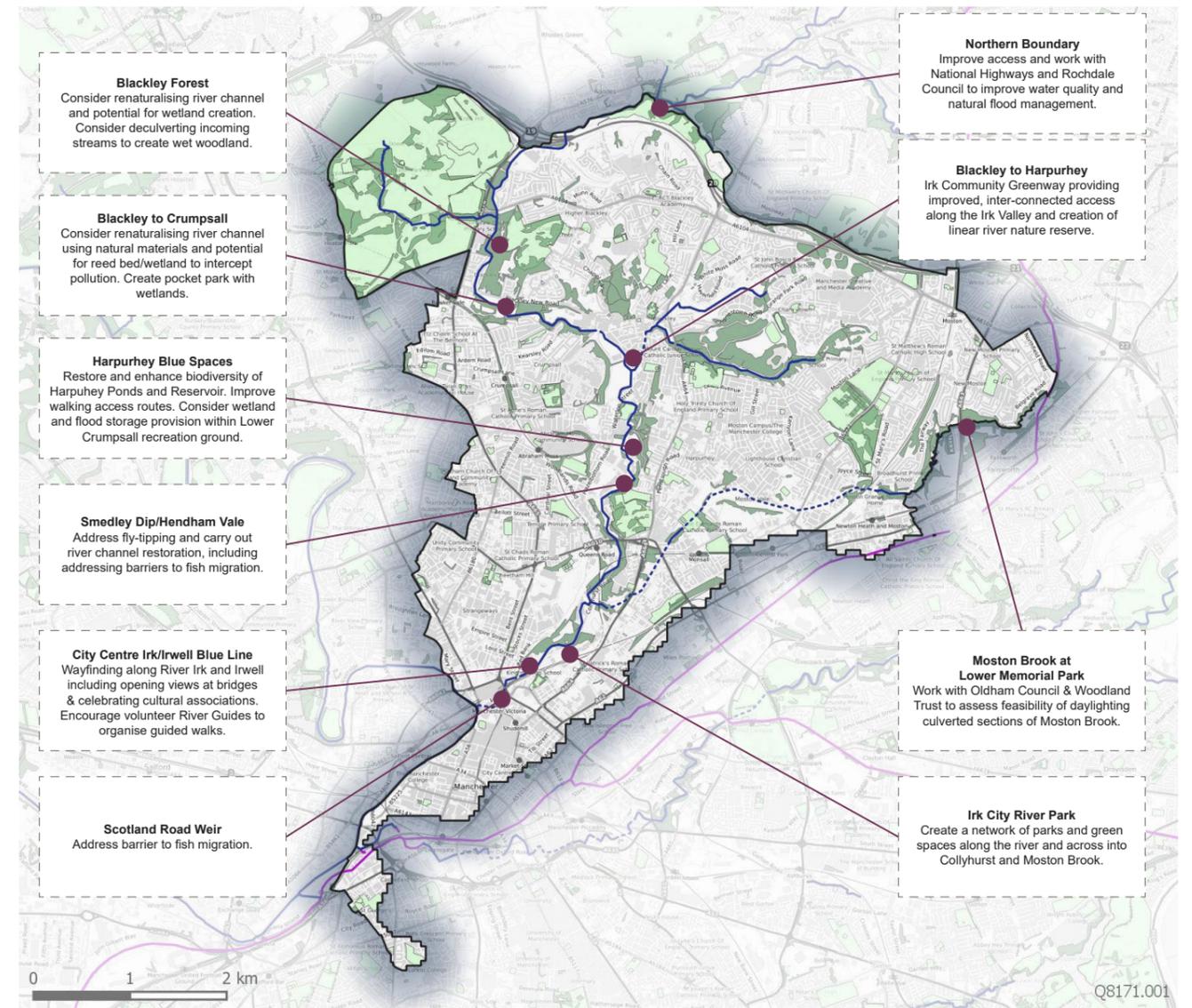
Timetable

Delivery of these actions will span the decade from 2021 to 2030. Many of the actions will take some time to fully deliver as we need to put enabling actions in place first, carry out detailed feasibility studies, detailed design and securing the necessary funding. We will work with our local communities to co-design and co-deliver the actions, alongside a wide range of partners.

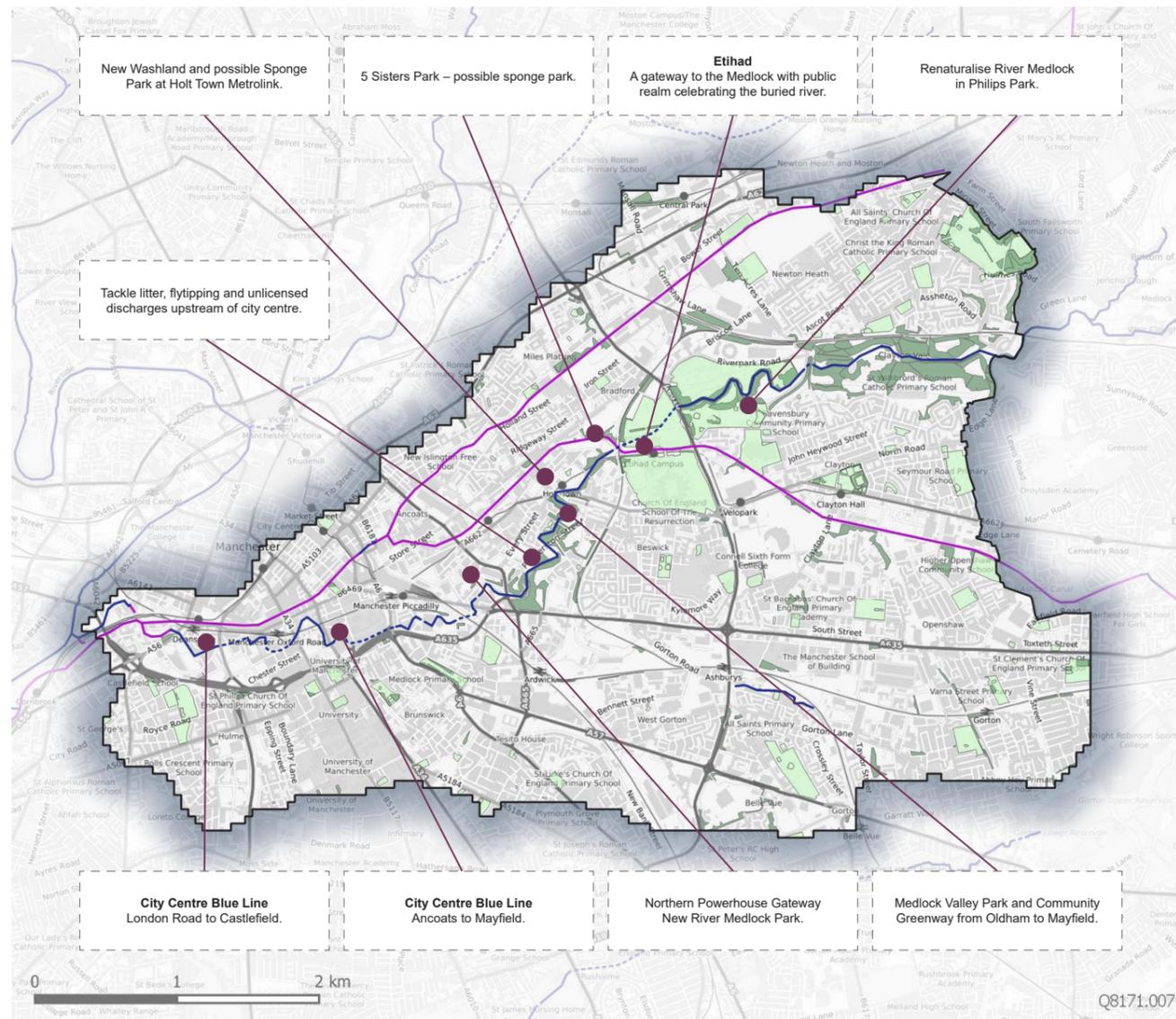
Getting Involved

For further information or to get involved with co-design and co-delivery activities, please contact the City Council, the Irwell Catchment Partnership or the Upper Mersey Catchment Partnership.

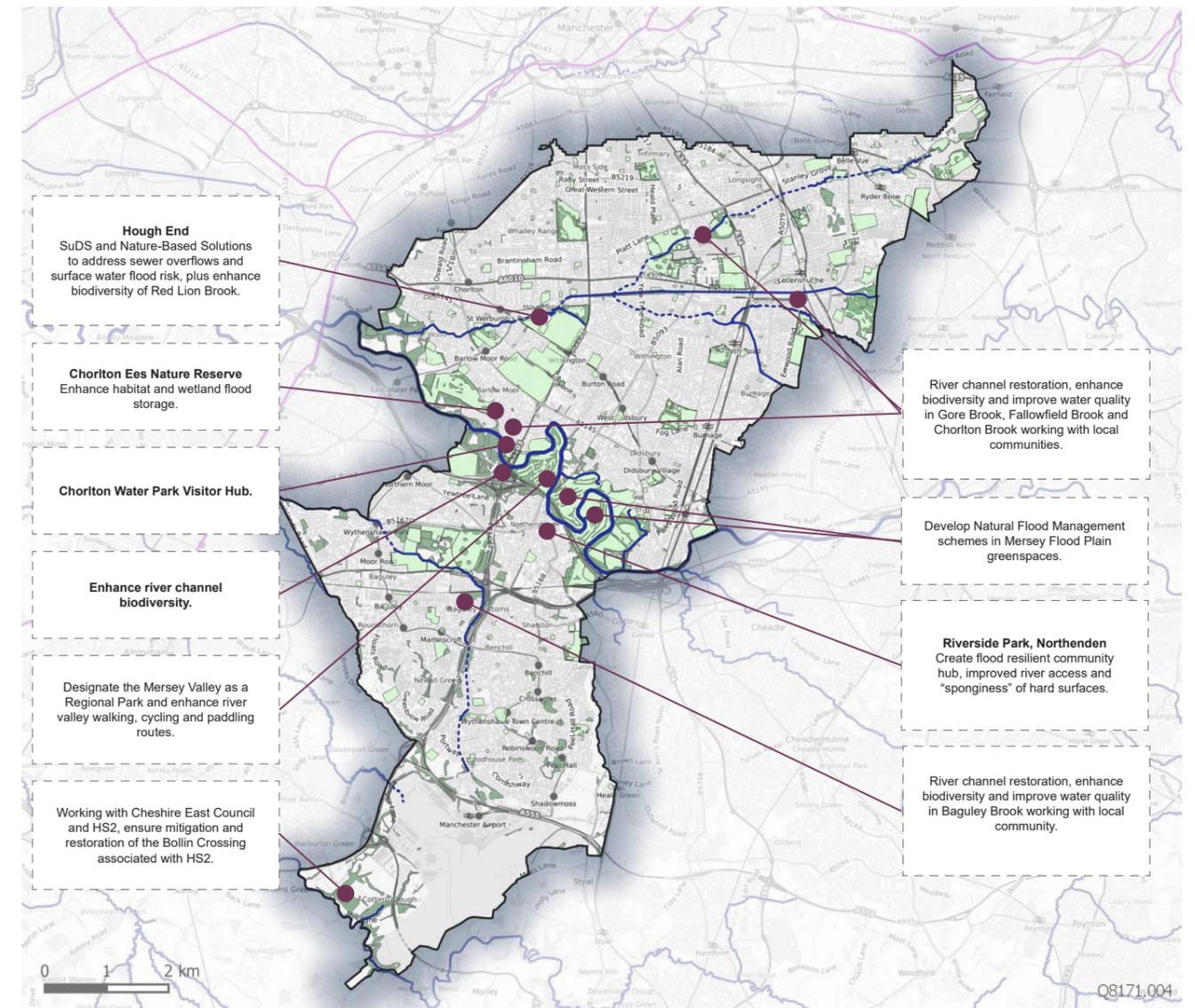
Irk River Valley Summary of Place-Based Actions



Medlock River Valley Summary of Place-Based Actions



Mersey Valley and Tributaries Summary of Place-Based Actions



OUR RIVERS OUR CITY



Prepared in 2021 for Grow Green and Manchester City Council by TEP, Groundwork Greater Manchester and the Mersey Rivers Trust



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 730283