

Open Letter – Candidates and political parties in Greater Manchester

The forthcoming Greater Manchester Mayoral Election on Thursday 6 May takes place at a crucial time, as we emerge from the pandemic and need to deliver economic growth that is socially inclusive and compatible with net zero.

ACE members in Greater Manchester are the engineering consultancies large and small who design and engineer every piece of social and economic infrastructure: housing, schools, hospitals, commercial buildings and transport schemes, to name but a few. Throughout this pandemic, ACE members in Greater Manchester and the wider construction industry have helped keep the economy moving.

Whoever is elected on Thursday we want to work with the next administration to make sure that our built environment is fit for purpose: resilient to existing climate change, ready for net zero and adding value and a sense of place to our communities. In particular we would urge the next administration to:

- Level up communities and invest in transport that connects northern cities and London.
- Acknowledge and utilise the construction sector's role in delivering high quality social infrastructure, including hospitals and healthcare facilities in a quicker way.
- Recognise the role of the construction industry in keeping the economy moving during the pandemic.
- Encourage modern methods of construction, including the possibility of designating off site construction manufacturing zones.
- Improving our housing stock in terms of low carbon heating; better energy efficiency and ensuring our homes are attractive and healthy places to live.
- Ensure that there is a visible pipeline of specific projects coming to market to enable the wider infrastructure sector to invest in skills and capabilities, particularly for young people.

The coming decade will be decisive in addressing these challenges, in particular net zero. We look forward to working with the next administration to ensure we can meet these challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sean Keyes'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Keyes
ACE North West Chair
& Managing Director, Sutcliffe.