

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES,
HELD ON FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2017
AT STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham
Deputy Mayor (Police and Crime)	Baroness Beverley Hughes
Bury Council	Councillor Rishi Shori, (Deputy Mayor)
Manchester CC	Councillor Richard Leese (Deputy Mayor)
Oldham Council	Councillor Jean Stretton
Rochdale BC	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
Tameside MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
Trafford Council	Councillor Sean Anstee
Wigan Council	Councillor Peter Smith

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Fire Committee, Chair	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA, Chair	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGM, Chair,	Councillor Andrew Fender
Bolton Council	Councillor Linda Thomas
Bury Council	Councillor Jane Black
Bury Council	Councillor Andrea Simpson
Manchester CC	Councillor Angelicki Stogia
Stockport MBC	Councillor Wendy Wild
Tameside MBC	Councillor Lynn Travis
Tameside MBC	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford Council	Councillor Dylan Butt
Trafford Council	Councillor Laura Evans
Wigan Council	Councillor Jennifer Bullen

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA – Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – Treasurer	Richard Paver
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee

Bolton Council	Margaret Asquith
Bury MBC	Pat Jones Greenhalgh
Manchester CC	Joanne Roney
Oldham Council	Maggie Kufeldt
Rochdale BC	Steve Rumbelow
Salford CC	Jim Taylor
Stockport MBC	Pam Smith
Tameside MBC	Kathy Roe
Trafford Council	Theresa Grant
Wigan Council	Alison McKenzie-Folan
TfGM	Simon Warbuton
GMFRS	Dave Keelan
Manchester Growth Co	Mark Hughes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Emma Stonier
GMCA	Lindsay Dunn

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCVO	Alex Whinnom
	Patsy Hodson

12/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillor Richard Farnell (Rochdale Council, Councillor Allen Brett attending), Councillor Cliff Morris (Bolton Council – Councillor Linda Thomas attending) Chief Executives – Donna Hall (Wigan Council – Alison McKenzie-Folan attending), Ian Hopkins (GMP), Jon Lamonte (TfGM – Simon Warbuton attending), Jon Rouse (GMHSCP), Steven Pleasant (Tameside Council – Kathy Roe attending) and Carolyn Wilkins (Oldham Council – Maggie Kufeldt attending).

13/17 CHAIRS’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Manchester Arena Attack – Re-imbursement of Costs

The GM Mayor updated members on the announcement received from the Prime Minister with regard to the reimbursement of costs relating to the attack at Manchester Arena. It was noted that the Government had offered to pay ‘reasonable costs’ incurred in the wake of the atrocity.

It was reported that the letter received had offered no commitment to pay the policing costs of £9.8m. On behalf of the Board, the GM Mayor proposed to respond to the letter immediately seeking reassurance that all costs as opposed to reasonable costs would be reimbursed swiftly. It was agreed that a copy of the letter from the Prime Minister would be circulated to Leaders and Chief Executives once the meeting had concluded for consideration.

Deputy Mayor, Beverley Hughes described the response as disappointing and worrying given that the costs submitted for policing were £9.8m and the letter received from the Prime Minister made reference to an application for £8.9m. It was confirmed that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had acknowledged that a mistake had been made and the wrong figure had been quoted.

In support, Councillor Kieran Quinn, described the manner in which the GM Mayor and Councillor Richard Leese had handled the issue as exemplary and demonstrated an understanding of the impact of the atrocity for the families and the community. He added to this that the citizens of Greater Manchester would offer encouragement to the GM Mayor to further pursue the issue and reflect their views on the lack of commitment offered in respect of the reimbursement of costs.

Councillor Cliff Morris

The GM Mayor announced that next month's meeting would be held in Bolton and highlighted that it would be an opportunity for the GMCA to express appreciation to Councillor Cliff Morris, Leader Bolton MBC, who would be stepping down from his role as Leader and a Bolton Councillor on 31 December 2017. His vast contribution to the development of devolution in GM was acknowledged and appreciation was offered for this and the great service that he has provided to Bolton.

14/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member in relation to any item on the agenda.

15/17 MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2017

The minutes AGMA Executive Board meeting held on 27 October 2017 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board meeting held on 27 October 2017 be approved as a correct record, subject to a notice of correction regarding the start of the consultation which was 9 August, not 30 August as recorded in para 2.1 of the AGMA Section 48 Scheme report.

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Leader for Investment, Finance, Community, Voluntary and Co-operatives, introduced a report which provided an update on the operation of the Business Rates Pilot which covers the 10 GM District Councils plus Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester.

Members were notified of the outcome of the Business Rates Growth Pilot for 2016/17, the prospects of the 100% Business Rates pilot in 2017/18 and proposals as to the shares of any revenues to be retained by individual authorities.

In welcoming the reporting, Councillor Richard Leese reminded the meeting that the District Councils will determine the apportionment of the Business Rates Growth Pilot to be passed on to AGMA, whilst recognising the important role of AGMA in developing the Pilot, confirming the shared benefits. The comments regarding the language in the report, in confirming the process outlined were acknowledged by Councillor Kieran Quinn.

The GM Mayor confirmed that the discussions implied that Business Rates Resources would be considered as part of the budget setting process, with a view to maximising contributions from the Business Rates Growth Pilot to District Councils at a minimum of 50%.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the outcome of the Business Rates pool and Growth pilot for 2016/17 be noted.
2. That it be noted, that all GM District Councils, together with Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester, have indicated that they were prepared to remain in the Business Rates Pool for 2018/19 and that authority be delegated to the GMCA & AGMA Treasurer, in consultation with Portfolio Leader for Investment, Finance, to make the final decision on the continuation of the pool, to be taken at the time of the RSG provisional settlement.
3. That it be agreed that any business rates retained under the:
 - a. Growth pilot for 16/17 be shared on the basis of 42% to individual districts and 58% retained centrally, subject to any unutilised centrally retained monies being considered for reallocation to all districts once AGMA/GMCA budgets have been agreed by the District Council Leaders.
 - b. 100% pilot be shared with a minimum of 50% of any benefit being retained by districts with any balance to be retained by GMCA/AGMA being subject to annual review as part of the budget setting process and agreement by District Leaders.