

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	17th March 2021
SUBJECT:	Update on Combined Authority activity
REPORT FROM:	Leader of the Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Chief Executive
TYPE OF DECISION:	Non key decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	This report provides an update on the activity of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That Council notes the report and agrees that further updates on the Combined Authority are provided to future Council meetings
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no specific financial implications arising from the update report. Any financial implications arising from proposals involving the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are considered as and when decisions are needed to be made at an individual district council level.
Equality/Diversity implications:	Equality Impact considerations included on the individual Combined Authority reports.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	
Wards Affected:	All Wards.

Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny
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1 Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority following an update to Council in September 2020.
- 1.2 Since the last update there have been four meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the minutes of which can be found through the following link <https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CIId=136&Year=0>

2 Bus Reform

- 2.1 In June 2019 TfGM completed its assessment of a proposed bus franchising scheme on behalf of the GMCA ('the Assessment'). The Assessment was subsequently audited by an independent audit organisation and then consulted upon. The consultation ended on 8 January 2020.
- 2.2 Following consultation on the Proposed Franchising Scheme, the Transport Act 2000 requires the GMCA to publish a report setting out both the GMCA's response to the consultation and the decision on whether or not to make the proposed bus franchising scheme.
- 2.3 Before the outbreak of Covid-19 it was intended that the above report would be published by the GMCA and considered in spring 2020. TfGM completed its report on the findings of the consultation which included consideration of the issues and themes raised by consultees and TfGM's response to those matters and members were asked to note the contents of the Consultation Report at their meeting on 26 June 2020.
- 2.4 Members were also asked to note that TfGM would prepare a further report which would consider the potential impact and effects of Covid19 on the bus market in Greater Manchester and make recommendations about appropriate next steps.
- 2.5 TfGM has now completed its Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising Report and this was taken to the GMCA meeting on 27 November 2020.
- 2.6 The GMCA considered the potential impact and effects of Covid-19 on the bus market in Greater Manchester and how Covid-19 may impact on the recommendations made in the consultation report that franchising would be the best option for reforming the bus market in Greater Manchester.
- 2.7 The GMCA agreed to proceed with the Proposed Franchising Scheme by undertaking a public consultation, which would commence on 2 December 2020 and end on 29 January 2021.

[The full report can be found here.](#)

3 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

- 3.1 The GMCA meeting of 27 November 2020 noted the opportunity presented by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Greater Manchester’s ambition to seek substantial funding from the scheme for public building retrofit projects across the conurbation. GMCA sought the opportunity to bid for circa £40- 60m funding from Salix, a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), to undertake low carbon retrofit projects on approximately 156 public buildings across Greater Manchester.
- 3.2 Bury Council have submitted an application for £8.5million to support and deliver the decarbonisation of 16 of our corporate buildings. The buildings were chosen because they either needed new heating systems and/or are potentially appropriate for solar panels. If the GMCA bid is successful Bury Council would be installing 10 Air Source Heat Pumps, 1 Ground Source Heat Pump, 14 Solar PV systems, and a whole range of other supporting insulation measures. The measures have been estimated to deliver £265,160 of energy cost revenue savings per year and reduce our carbon footprint by 1033 tonnes per year.

4 Homelessness Update

- 4.1 On 27 November 2020 GMCA agreed that the GMCA commit to meeting the funding gap for the existing A Bed Every Night provision (20/21) with £300,000 of Mayoral Precept, and to expand ‘A Bed Every Night’ Covid-safe emergency accommodation capacity for people sleeping rough using £300,000 of Mayoral Precept.
- 4.2 The following spending was also agreed:

Scheme	Lead Provider(s)	Units	Capital funding
Acquisition and improvement (higher value)	One Manchester (5), Great Places (5)	10	£1,006,875
Acquisition and improvement (lower value)	Rochdale Borough Wide Housing (1), Other(s) (4)*	5	£187,500
Re-purposing	Irwell Valley Housing Association (4), Other (1)**	5	£135,000
Acquisition and lease	Resonance and Ethical Lettings Agency	30	£1,335,000
Lease	Ethical Lettings Agency	10	£100,000
Totals:		60	£2,764,375

- 4.3 Approval was also given to release £663,000 from the Reform Investment Fund in order to launch a Young Person’s Homelessness Prevention Pathfinder in response to the additional support needs created by Covid-19.

5 Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme

- 5.1 It was agreed at GMCA on 18 December 2020 that GM Local Authorities should collectively bid for £5-6m of Green Homes Grant, to extend the existing green homes grant funded programme from March 21 to September 21.
- 5.2 This will build on the existing funding of £4.7m already awarded to GMCA (on behalf of the 10 GM Authorities) in October 2020 from Phase 1 of the same fund. As with Phase 1, the funding will be used to upgrade the energy

performance of homes and to install renewable energy heating in more of those homes with poor energy performance that are occupied by people on low income.

- 5.3 This will help to alleviate fuel poverty (in accordance with our Draft Housing Strategy) improving the health and wellbeing of our vulnerable residents whilst also reducing carbon emissions and progressing towards our carbon neutral target.

6 Places For Everyone: A Proposed Joint Development Plan Document Of Nine GM Districts

- 6.1 Following Stockport Council's decision on 3 December 2020 to reject the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, the remaining nine Greater Manchester Councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan) sought to prepare an updated plan.

- 6.2 At the AGMA Executive Board on 11 December 2020 the making of an agreement with the other nine Greater Manchester councils to prepare a joint development plan document to cover strategic policies including housing and employment land requirements and, as appropriate, strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments and associated infrastructure across the nine districts was approved.

7 Budget

- 7.1 At the 12 February 2021 GMCA meeting, annual reports were brought forward to set the budget for the coming years.
- 7.2 The proposal to freeze the Mayoral General Precept at £90.95 (Band D) comprising of £66.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £24.75 for other Mayoral General functions was approved.

8 Young Persons Guarantee

- 8.1 The Young Person's Guarantee, headed up by Diane Modahl, is a commitment to improving the lives and experiences of young people from across Greater Manchester. It focuses not only on the impact that COVID-19 has had on the city-region, but also on the issues and challenges that young people have said they feel most concerned about particularly pertaining to their future life chances.
- 8.2 The initial shape of the Young Person's Guarantee was based on what young people told us about the issues and barriers they were experiencing through a series of consultation events and surveys.
- 8.3 This work has highlighted that tackling some issues will require more than already stretched partners are currently able to give. The Task Force explored

what could enhance – and in some cases transform – the support available to young people, making recommendations for further action to achieve this.

- 8.4 More work will need to follow with all partners involved to set out what is within the gift of GM and what requires greater leverage externally.
- 8.5 The GMCA meeting on 18 December 2020 agreed the extension of the Our Pass Pilot for further year, from 1 September 2021.

9 Greater Manchester - A City-Region that supports the 'Right to Food'

- 9.1 The Right to Food seeks to promote the position that household food insecurity is used as a measure of the success or failure of social policy. It would give vulnerable people and their advocates the ability to call on local authorities, public institutions and government to take action on factors affecting their ability to access food.
- 9.2 Linking the Right to Food Campaign with the new Bury Food Strategy could further promote local activity and partners, helping to reach those most in need.
- 9.3 Food insecurity has consistently been raised by partners as a key concern for Bury. This campaign would underline this concern, placing it on agendas locally and nationally.
- 9.4 With the launch of The Bury Food Strategy in January 2021, bringing together over 70 partners from across the food system, Bury is actively engaged on the topic of healthy and sustainable food for all. Good food can bring our communities together and should be celebrated. This has been highlighted throughout the pandemic.

10 Biowaste Management Strategy

- 10.1 On 12 February 2021 GMCA was brought a report setting out the steps required to develop a strategy to manage kerbside collected biowaste from across the conurbation in light of potential service changes arising from the implementation of the English Resources and Waste Strategy.
- 10.2 The commencement of the procurement process for biowaste treatment contracts for the period June 2022 to May 2026 was approved.

11 The Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund

- 11.1 On the 18 December 2020 meeting GMCA approved £6.3 million MCF funding for three named schemes to be approved (Greater Manchester Bee Network Crossings, Tameside Active Neighbourhoods (Phase 1), and Salford RHS Links); the release of up to £2.12 million of development cost funding for the 4 MCF schemes (Salford Barton Aqueduct, Salford Oldfield Road, Bolton Road

Westhoughton, and Bolton Astley Bridge and Crompton schemes); the release of up to £2.12 million of development cost funding for the 4 MCF schemes; and the addition of the £3.2 million to the GMCA Transport Revenue Budget, funded from the £3.2 million revenue grant that forms part of the £15.9 million of Active Travel (Tranche 2) funding.

- 11.2 On the 12 February 2021 meeting GMCA approved funding requirements to ensure the continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for Walking and Cycling, including the release of up to £0.7 million of development cost funding for the 2 MCF schemes and the release of up to £0.51 million MCF funding for Salford's Liverpool Street scheme (Phase 1), in order to secure full approval and enable the signing of a delivery agreement.
- 11.3 In Radcliffe proposals are being developed to improve a route from Milltown Street to Radcliffe Station, including a new/replacement river bridge. At Elton proposals are being developed to improve a route from the potential development site to Bury Town Centre via the canal and Baron Street. At Fishpool and Pimhole, the intention is to develop detailed proposals in consultation with the local community, but the aim is to improve walking and cycling routes into Bury town centre, to local schools and to the Pilsworth employment area, particularly by managing traffic in the area.

12 Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, Our Five-Year Delivery Plan and Local Implementation Plans

- 12.1 First published in February 2017, the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (hereafter referred to as the '2040 Transport Strategy') is our city-region's statutory local transport plan.
- 12.2 On the 29 January 2021 meeting of GMCA the revised Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 was approved for adoption and publication. The Transport Strategy has undergone a 'light touch' refresh to bring it up to date with policy and delivery developments since it was originally published in 2017. It also summarises the purpose and content of the GM Five Year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-2026).
- 12.3 The refreshed 2040 Transport Strategy includes details of our 'Right Mix' ambition for at least 50% of all journeys to be made by active travel and public transport by 2040; an overview of the GM Mayor's 'Our Network' plan to develop a world class integrated transport network; an increased emphasis on the importance of cycling and walking; and highlights the renewed focus on tackling climate change and achieving clean air commitments.
- 12.4 Bury is actively involved in the matter and heavily engaged with TfGM on preparing the documentation.

13 Prioritisation of Second Tranche of Transforming Cities Funding

- 13.1 In September 2018, government announced ten cities that had been awarded a share of £1.7bn from the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Tranche 1. Of the £1.7bn, Greater Manchester was awarded £243m which was used to further GMCA's active travel agenda through the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund and further development of Our Network with the purchase of new tram vehicles for the Metrolink network plus supporting infrastructure.
- 13.2 Government announced a second allocation from the TCF ie TCF Tranche 2 in January 2019, with Greater Manchester being awarded £69.5m. In 2020/21, £7m was top sliced from TCF2 to fund development of the 2040 transport pipeline as part of the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme.
- 13.3 From Our Five-Year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-2026) an over programmed list of schemes for potential TCF2 funding has been identified which seek to progress the 2040 transport pipeline under four of the areas outlined below:
- **Our Rail:** Up to £27.8m for Our Rail Network, including (subject to scheme development of approvals): £15m for a new rail station at Golborne as the best performing option in the New Station Study; £2.5m to fund further rail and Metrolink station scheme development; £3.3m for the next priority stations under the Access for All programme; and £7m reserved as a contribution to the Network Rail project at Greek Street Bridge in Stockport.
 - **Our Bus:** Up to £22m for Our Bus Network, including (subject to scheme development of approvals): £10m for a countywide Bus Pinchpoint Fund; £10m for 'Quality Bus Transit' schemes as part of the northern and eastern orbitals; and £2m for a Travel Hub (including Park and Ride provision) at Tyldesley.
 - **Our Integrated Network:** Up to £10m for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure as a local contribution to a joint package of funding subject to successful agreement with central government.
 - **Development Funding:** Up to £15m for further GMIP development funding for 2021/22 and 2022/23 to ensure development continues across the full 2040 transport pipeline.
- 13.3.1 On 29 January 2021 GMCA meeting the following was approved:
- Prioritisation of the Transforming Cities Funding Tranche 2 (TCF2) funds
 - the TCF2 programme to be governed by the Single Pot Assurance Framework and, as such, the existing Growth Deal governance procedures be used for scheme development and approval.
 - the TCF2 programme is included in the transport capital programme from 2021/22.

14 Waste and Resources

- 14.1 The Household Waste Recycling Centres have remained open during the latest lockdown and be operating normal opening hours (8am to 6pm, 7 days a week). We are encouraging residents to wear a face covering while on site to help reduce the spread of COVID-19;
- 14.2 Recycle for Greater Manchester Community fund will open for applications from 1st April. Funds are available for projects that helps to reduce household waste.
- 14.3 The education team are running Live Facebook Q & A events so residents can ask questions about recycling; a session will be run in Bury in the coming months.

15 Recommendation

- 15.1 That Council note the updates from the Combined Authority, with further updates to be presented to future Council meetings

List of Background Papers:-

None identified

Contact Details:-

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Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer