

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
Tameside	Councillor Leanne Feeley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA - Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Donna Ball
Manchester	Fiona Leddon
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Claire Norman
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA 17/21 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

1. That apologies be received and noted from Geoff Little (Bury), Pam Smith (Stockport Council) and Joanne Roney (Manchester City Council).
2. That it be noted that Steve Rumbelow (Rochdale Council) was unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties.

GMCA 18/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED /-

That the new Chief Executive of Salford Council, Tom Stannard be welcomed to his first meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

GMCA 19/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

City Mayor Paul Dennett and Councillor Richard Leese declared personal prejudicial interests in relation to item 17 (GM Investment Framework: Conditional Project Approval).

GMCA 20/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD 29 JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 29 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 21/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN FEBRUARY 2021

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 5 February 2021 be noted.
2. That the minutes of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 4 February 2021 be noted.

GMCA 22/21 BUDGET REPORTS: GMCA REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2021/22 OVERVIEW

The GM Mayor introduced a suite of budget reports that began with an overview of the GMCA revenue and capital budgets for 2021/22. Thanks were expressed to officers of the GMCA in preparing these reports for consideration.

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

Councillor Richard Leese, Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

The GM Mayor was invited to take Members of the GMCA through the budget proposals. He affirmed that setting a budget within the current environment had been additionally challenging as there had to be a balance between managing short term pressures and getting to a position of recovery. It was further recognised that many residents across GM were also facing financial hardship and tens of thousands of people were still excluded from any financial support from Government. The Mayor commented that awareness of this difficult time for many was at the forefront of his mind when determining these budget proposals, as too were the financial pressures that had increased significantly across Local Authorities.

It was clearly important to maintain essential services, but the momentum of working towards GM priorities, including the rebuild of systems to aid with recovery, also needed to be maintained. Much of this added financial pressure could be attributed to the gradual loss of Government support and austerity across public services. However, further savings had to be found to create financial stability for the GMCA and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) to ensure that they were in a position of strength to move forward into recovery. In relation to the GMFRS, these proposals would allow for 50 pumps to be maintained across GM as a minimum whilst delivering on other priorities such as the High-Rise Task Force's review of cladded buildings.

Other GM wide initiatives including work to address homelessness and rough sleeping would also receive the necessary funding through these budget proposals, as further support would be needed post pandemic in light of the A Bed Every Night programme already being at capacity. At last count there were 70 people sleeping rough across Greater Manchester and it remained a key priority to ensure there was a place offered to everyone initially throughout the winter period, and further longer-term housing options also being made available.

Members of the Combined Authority expressed their support for these budget proposals, especially in relation to the proposed freeze on the mayoral precept element. However, concerns remained regarding the significant financial pressures on Local Authorities as a result of not only the financial impact of Covid, that was not reimbursed as promised, but continuing austerity for public services. Frustrations were shared as to how Local Authorities had particularly stepped up to support residents through the pandemic but were now facing deeper budget cuts and employment uncertainties for staff. Members expressed how there had been £15bn reportedly cut from Local Authority grants since 2010 and that the recent applications for Section 114 notices from 12 Local Authorities across the UK was just the 'tip of the iceberg' in relation to the precarious position of many LA budgets. As a result, many were having to look to increase their council tax, which ultimately was a regressive form of taxation direct to the resident and felt to be irresponsible of Government, especially in the midst of a global pandemic.

Members added that Government's description of the latest Local Authority settlement was not reflective of the current serious position, and that there also remained too much uncertainty regarding future funding to allow Local Authorities to undertake any significant creative or innovative planning. The impact of funding the covid response had been

significant across all Greater Manchester and only further deepened the budget challenges for the forthcoming year and Members of the GMCA called upon Government to take a greater interest in the situation currently faced within Local Authorities in order for any sense of 'levelling up' to be achieved.

Members further urged the Government, as a priority, to look to address the increasing demand and financial pressures upon the Adult Social Care and Children's budgets as these were proving the most challenging areas for Local Authorities under such significant budget reductions and were a serious cause for concern.

It was further emphasised that Westminster had little understanding of the role, governance and delivery taking place in Local Authorities and that their approach to funding needed a fundamental shift in order to ensure residents had access to essential services into the future. The necessity of support had been seen even more significantly through the pandemic and would be seen for many years to come, furthermore Members recognised the inequality as to which communities had been worst affected and that were not afforded equal access to support. Members reiterated the extraordinary way that Local Authorities had stood up throughout the pandemic and that it was now time for the Government to deliver on their promises of support.

It was felt that the demand on Local Authorities to re-shape, re-design and re-structure services to meet a balanced budget became more difficult every year, with reports of annual savings to be found in the range of £30m which had seen the impact on residents spiralling further each year. Adding further taxation to residents was not a sustainable way of addressing the issues and caused significant concerns for all Members of the GMCA.

With respect to the digital reform programme 'Unified Architecture', Members requested further clarity as to its purpose, delivery and governance arrangements.

The GM Mayor thanked Members of the Combined Authority for their support and strong contributions and added his recognition as to the need for more financial support from Government to ensure the efficient delivery of Local Authority functions and a strong foundation upon which to level up.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Mayor's General budget for 2021/22, together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates, set out in Appendix 4, be approved.
2. That a Mayoral General Precept for 2021/22, frozen 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, be approved.
3. That the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2021/22 covered by the Mayoral precept and the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service be approved.
4. That the funding included in the budget for Bus Reform be approved and that it be noted that a further update on expenditure and funding would be provided following a Mayoral decision on Bus Reform.
5. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 4 of the report, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2022 were adequate, be approved.

6. That it be noted that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes will record the names of those Members voting for or against the Mayor's budget and precept proposals.
7. That it be noted that discussions were continuing on the governance and delivery of Unified Architecture Digital Reform.

GMCA 24/21 GMCA TRANSPORT REVENUE BUDGET 2021/22

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which set out the transport related GMCA budget for 2021/22. The proposed Transport Levy to be approved for 2021/22 was also included within the report together with the consequent allocations to the District Councils of Greater Manchester.

Steve Wilson, Treasurer to the GMCA added that conversations were ongoing with Government as to funding for light rail post March 2021.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the issues which were affecting the 2021/22 transport budgets, as detailed in the report, be noted.
2. That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the levy, as set out in this report for 2021/22, be approved.
3. That a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2021/22 of £105.773 million, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2019, be approved.
4. That a Statutory Charge of £86.7 million to District Councils in 2021/22, as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2019, be approved.
5. That the use of reserves in 2020/21 and 2021/22, as detailed in section 5 of the report, be approved.
6. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in conjunction with the TfGM Finance and Corporate Services Director, to make the necessary adjustments between capital funding and revenue reserves to ensure the correct accounting treatment for the planned revenue spend on the following schemes:
 - GMIP development costs of up to £7 million from the second tranche of the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF2);
 - Mayors Challenge Fund programme costs of up to £1.5 million; and
 - Clean Air Plan Delivery costs of up to £2.2 million
7. That it be noted that the funding position on Bus Reform remains as set out in the report to GMCA on 27 November 2020.
8. That the proposal to increase fares by Retail Price Index (RPI) where applicable be endorsed and the increases proposed to Bus Stop closure charges be further endorsed.

GMCA 25/21 GMCA REVENUE GENERAL BUDGET 2021/22

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which set out the GMCA General budget for 2021/22. The proposed District Council contributions to be approved for 2021/22 of £8.603m were also included within the report together with the consequent allocations to the District Councils which detailed a reduction of £437k on the contribution for 2020/21.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the budget relating to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority functions excluding transport and waste in 2021/22, as set out in section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That the District Contributions of £8.603 million, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.
3. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.

GMCA 26/21 GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE BUDGET AND LEVY 2021/22 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2024/25

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which sought comment on the budget and levy for 2021/22 and on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the three year period to 2024/25.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the proposed revised budget and levy for 2021/22 be noted.
2. That the Trade Waste of £102.30 in 2021/22 and £114.83 in 2022/23 be approved to allow forward planning for the Districts.
3. That the transfer, to earmarked reserves, of any unspent budget in relation to potential areas of underspend to support activity in 2021/22, as set out in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.5 of the report, be approved.

GMCA 27/21 GMCA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020/21-2023/24

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources presented an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority capital expenditure programme for Transport and Economic and Regeneration functions.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the revisions to the 2020/21 capital forecast, as set out in Appendix A and detailed within the report be approved.
2. That the capital programme budget for 2021/22 and the forward commitments, as

detailed in the report and in Appendix A, be approved.

3. That it be noted that the capital programme was financed from a combination of grants, external contributions and long term borrowings.
4. That it be noted that provision has been made in the revenue budget for the associated financing costs of borrowing.
5. That the addition to the capital programme of the second Transforming Cities Fund (TCF2) as per the prioritised programme be approved and it be noted that the prioritised TCF 2 programme budgeted capital expenditure for 2021/22 is £2.6 million, as set out in section 6 of the report.
6. That the addition to the capital programme of the 'OZEV EV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles Electric Vehicle) Taxi project' (as part of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Programme) be approved, with a current forecast expenditure of £0.1 million in 2020/21 and £2.0 million budgeted expenditure for 2021/22, as set out in section 9 of the report.
7. That the addition to the capital programme of the Access for All programme (part of the Department for Transport's Access for All programme for rail stations) be approved, with a current forecast expenditure of £0.1 million in 2020/21 and £1.1 million budgeted expenditure for 2021/22, as set out in section 10 of the report.
8. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, where necessary, to vary individual scheme allocations for the Growth Deal programmes, in order to optimise Growth Deal grant expenditure by 31 March 2021.
9. That it be noted that the capital programme would continue to be reviewed, with any new schemes which have not yet received specific approval being the subject of future reports.

GMCA 28/21 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2021/22

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which set out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2021/22 to 2023/24 for the GMCA. The strategy reflected the 2020-2024 Capital Programme for GMCA Transport, Economic Development, Fire and Rescue and Waste reported separately on this agenda and the previously approved Police Capital Programme for 2020-2023.

RESOLVED/-

That the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy, to apply from the 1 April 2021 be approved, in particular:

- a) The Treasury and Prudential Indicators listed in Section 5 of the report.
- b) The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy outlined in Appendix
- c) The Treasury Management Policy Statement at Appendix B
- d) The Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation at Appendix C.
- e) The Borrowing Strategy outlined in Section 7 of the report
- f) The Annual Investment Strategy detailed in Section 8 of the report.

- g) Delegation to the Treasurer to step outside of the investment limits to safeguard the GMCA's position as outlined in section 8.18 of the report.

GMCA 29/21 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021/22

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which set out the Capital Strategy providing the medium to long term context in which capital investment decisions were made and the governance for those decisions. It also offered a summary of the GMCA approach to investments and the Treasury Management Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22.

RESOLVED/-

That the Capital Strategy for 2021/22 be approved.

GMCA 30/21 GMCA REVENUE UPDATE 2020/21

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which informed the GMCA of the 2020/21 forecast revenue outturn position as at the end of Quarter 3, 31st December 2020.

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be noted that the Mayoral General revenue outturn position for 2020/21 showed an underspend of £5.5m and that the proposed transfer to Mayoral reserve, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That the GMCA General Budget revenue outturn position for 2020/21 which showed a breakeven position, be noted.
3. That an increase in 2020/21 budget for the GM Delivery Team of £30k funded from revenue grant from Homes England be approved, and that it be spent before 31st March 2021 as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report.
4. That it be noted that the Mayoral General – GM Fire & Rescue revenue outturn position for 2020/21 showed an underspend position of £1.641 million and that the proposed transfer to general reserve, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be approved.
5. That the Waste outturn position of breakeven for 2020/21, after proposals agreed with GMCA on 31st July and 25th September, and the agreement, in principle, to refund the Districts for the levy adjustment that will be paid to GMCA as a result of increased tonnages, be noted.
6. That it be noted that the TfGM revenue position for 2020/21 was in line with budget.
7. That the use of reserves of £2.1 million to fund the costs of voluntary severance incurred in 2020/21, the costs of which will be replenished from savings in future years, as set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report, be approved.
8. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in conjunction with the TfGM Finance and Corporate Services Director, to make the necessary adjustments

between capital funding and revenue reserves to ensure the correct accounting treatment for the planned revenue spend on the following schemes as set out in paragraphs 6.8 and 6.9 of the report:

- Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme (GMIP) development costs of up to £6.3m from Transforming Cities 2
- Mayors Challenge Fund delivery costs of up to £1.5 million
Clean Air Plan Delivery costs of up to £4.3 million

GMCA 31/21 GREATER MANCHESTER - A CITY-REGION THAT SUPPORTS THE 'RIGHT TO FOOD'

The GM Mayor introduced a report which outlined the 'Right to Food' campaign, a lobbying effort calling on Government to make access to food a legal right in the UK as part of the National Food Strategy. This report sought agreement of Greater Manchester Combined Authority to show Greater Manchester wide support to the Right to Food pledge, recognising the far-reaching opportunities and benefits this would have for all residents. It was considered critical territory as recovery from the pandemic began, to ensure that all residents still had access to basic necessities and that this ongoing support for families was supported by UK law.

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy reported that many inequalities had been exasperated by the covid pandemic, and that basic food provision had been underfunded for many years resulting in increasing examples of food poverty across the UK. With thanks to recent public campaigns, Government was beginning to recognise this issue and ensure provision was available. This was often being delivered through proactive voluntary and community groups but remained the responsibility of all public bodies to sign up to a collaborative approach. However, this could also be further strengthened by ensuring that access to food was a legal right in the UK as a holistic approach would further be able to address some of the wider determinants to the inequalities that cause food poverty and create a fairer and more equal society.

Members felt that Greater Manchester had excelled in providing access to food throughout the pandemic with thanks to an amazing network of local delivery organisations, however it was imperative that there was strong Government support to drive this agenda forward and ensure that every person was afforded access to basic provision.

The GM Mayor added that the support of the foodbanks movement had been monumental in creating traction for this agenda, and further support from the National Food Commission would also be welcomed in highlighting the issue. Locally in Greater Manchester, the GM Poverty Action work had been successful in broadening this work to signpost people to support services and gain a greater understanding as to the determinants to their poor access to food provision.

Members further recognised this and had seen examples within their own local foodbanks of people who were experiencing a range of connecting issues such as debt and fuel poverty, so the interaction at foodbanks was proving crucial in the first step to addressing these additional needs. There were strong examples of where projects had begun as foodbanks and had broadened to support wider issues, such as the Bury Community Support Network. It was important that Local Authorities were given the opportunity to see what initiatives

were already being delivered across GM, to learn from their ideas and potentially expand their current local offer.

It was disappointing to Members of the GMCA that as one of the richest countries in the world, a discussion on food poverty was necessary and urged that focus on a broader prevention agenda was also prioritised at a Central Government level to address the failing system that causes such symptoms. Specific drivers of inequality included, unaffordable housing, rising rents, high property prices, zero-hour contracts, part time working, no living wage, welfare reform, austerity on LA finances and no support for increasing personal debt.

Members further expressed concern that more people were falling into food poverty, even when they were working. However, this initiative would offer a further opportunity to begin to address the wider issues that sit closely alongside the inequalities agenda to help build a fairer society.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the call for the 'Right to Food' to be incorporated into the 'National Food Strategy' and in time enshrined in legislation, recognising that such a national reassurance could address wider issues in the welfare system and enable us to focus local efforts on upstream poverty prevention, be endorsed.
2. That a unified message be co-signed from Greater Manchester in the form of a letter to the Independent Lead of the National Food Strategy commission to highlight this request.
3. That the intention to develop the Greater Manchester 'No Child Should Go Hungry' campaign into a broader GM-wide ambition around tackling the root causes of poverty with an appropriate balance of targeted work and early intervention & prevention be noted.
4. That the work of the Bury Community Support Network be noted and considered as a potential blueprint for similar networks across Greater Manchester.
5. That the role of the GM Good Employment Charter be recognised as key to sustainable and fair employment and that this should be sought through all public procurement exercises to enable it to have the greatest possible impact.
6. That it be noted that the GMCA is the first Combined Authority in England to endorse the right to food for all.

GMCA 32/21 ECONOMIC RECOVERY DASHBOARD

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy took Members through the latest Economic Recovery Dashboard which had shown an increase in people claiming unemployment benefits since December that had now plateaued. However, data still indicated that the North West had a higher proportion of inactive residents than the UK average.

Passenger journeys were still lower than pre-covid levels, however, were significantly higher than during the first lockdown.

Trading was now taking place under the new EU regulations which had created some issues specifically in relation to import and export activity that would take some time to address. It was anticipated that the size of impact may be masked by the current covid situation and once the UK begins to function inline with pre-covid levels, the impact (especially in relation to the service sector) would become more apparent.

Members reported some initial conversations with large GM companies regarding their potential relocation to Europe as a result of the restriction of the new regulations which potentially indicated a concerning trend and urged for the GMCA to monitor this position.

RESOLVED/-

That the Economic Recovery Dashboard be noted.

GMCA 33/21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY - 6 MONTH UPDATE

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region took Members through an update on the climate emergency declared by the GMCA at their meeting in July 2019. With regards to the 5 Year Environment Plan, all governance actions had been completed and all operational actions had commenced. As a result of the impact of Covid, some progress had slowed, however there was a planned approach set out as to how each action would be taken forward. Significant traction had been made in relation to the improved energy efficiency of domestic and public buildings with over £10m of Green Homes Grants having been awarded and over £80m of funds secured to retrofit public buildings in GM. Further progress was expected throughout 2021, with an additional £15m of grants anticipated to be at the approval stage before the next meeting of the CA.

Members suggested that the Climate Change Conference scheduled to take place in Glasgow this November would be an ideal venue to showcase the work of GM on this agenda to date.

In relation to social value, Members questioned as to whether the grants had been awarded to schemes which offered local employment. It was confirmed that this element would be built into the contracting process as it was recognised that such schemes were unique opportunities to offer re-training and create new jobs.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the paper and the progress against the GMCA Climate Emergency declaration be noted.
2. That the GM Green City Region briefing on delivery against the GM 5 Year Environment Plan for September-December 2021 be noted and disseminated to elected members.
3. That further information on the social value of local jobs created through this work be shared with Councillor Greenhalgh.

GMCA 34/21 BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cllr Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region took Members through a report which set 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. Part A of the report detailed the implications for Greater Manchester if the proposed weekly separate food waste collection were to be introduced and the accompanying Part B report set out the gap in terms of interim provision.

Members were informed that the current contractual position (with Suez) was due to expire in May 2022, which equated to 80,000 tonnes of waste, 136,300 of which was classified as biowaste. Officers were also addressing the non-Suez biowaste contracts and developing a strategy to further understand the potential implications of the Governments national strategy on GM.

There was concern from Members of the GMCA that residents would not be in favour of another recycling collection and the potential additional costs to Local Authorities to set up and maintain such a collection. The rationale for these proposed changes was also unclear, as current systems were working well and biowaste was already collected successfully. Government had promised that any additional cost would be met, however there was some scepticism regarding this statement as not all costs had yet been fully understood. Officers would be robustly setting out the additional costs as part of the consultation feedback.

Members urged that Government should be focussing on some of the broader conversations regarding how additional products could be made recyclable and how to support large manufacturers in their recycling efforts.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the commencement of the procurement process for biowaste treatment contracts for the period June 2022 to May 2026 be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the GMCA Treasurer and the Portfolio Lead for Green Cities to approve the award of contracts under the biowaste framework.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to complete all necessary legal agreements for the Biowaste treatment contracts.

GMCA 35/21 THE MAYOR'S CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND

The GM Mayor took Members through the latest update on the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, which sought approval for two development cost approvals and one full cost approval.

The City Mayor of Salford, Paul Dennett thanked the GMCA for the specific support to the schemes in Salford which would improve connectivity and encourage more active travel across the borough.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the agreed MCF delivery priorities across GM and the prioritised first phase for the programme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

2. That the release of up to £0.7 million of development cost funding for the 2 MCF schemes set out in section 2 of the report be approved.
3. That 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, as set out in section 3 of the report be approved.

**GMCA 36/21 GMCA RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON TIMETABLE
OPTIONS TO IMPROVE RAIL PERFORMANCE IN THE NORTH OF
ENGLAND**

The GM Mayor introduced a report which set out the proposed approach in response to the consultation into the Timetable Options to Improve Rail Performance in the North of England and recommend next steps. Members of the GMCA were aware that the congestion experienced in this area of the network was as a result of the lack of infrastructure development over the past few years, which now prevented the system from being able to cope with the level of demand.

These proposals were for a temporary solution to enable greater reliability of services, however the GMCA recognised that removing services was not a long term or sustainable solution.

Network Rail had provided three potential options, however, each one had negative impacts on one or more GM communities, and therefore TfGM had been asked to look at a revised option that would have no disproportionate impact to any GM borough.

Members of the GMCA supported this working principle and urged that services remain regular, well connected and provided employment/education links as their first priority. However, there were fundamental system changes that also needed to be addressed to ensure that the rail network could support Government to reach its climate change ambitions and was fit for purpose including electrification of lines, access for all, the re-opening of lost stations and confirmed long-term funding arrangements.

Many GM Local Authorities reported that they would be responding on their own behalf to the consultation, but that their response would also be in-line with a collaborative GM response.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the content of this report be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to approve and submit a response to the consultation on behalf of GMCA.
3. That consideration would be given to Members' concerns in relation to the inclusion of a half hourly service to Greenfield, a more frequent service along the Atherton line and the retention of a link between Eccles and the Airport as part of GM's response to the consultation.

4. That it be noted that TfGM were working up an alternative proposal and that the draft consultation response would be shared with GM Leaders before its final submission.

GMCA 37/21 GM BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND - ADDITIONAL AWARD OF FUNDING FROM MHCLG

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure introduced a report which sought the approval for the allocation of Brownfield Housing Fund monies to Local Authority projects. Over £81m had been awarded to Greater Manchester to support such schemes over the next five years, of which £37.2m had already been allocated to projects in tranche one. Further to this, GM had been successful in an additional grant of £15.8m of the remaining national funding for tranche one. All of these schemes would support Government's ambition for 1043 additional homes to be built in Greater Manchester and demonstrates the GMCAs commitment to brownfield land development.

Members of the GMCA welcomed this scheme as a demonstration to the 'brownfield land first' approach and recognised that it was a key determining factor to ensuring the availability of housing could be improved. For example, Bury reported an additional 120 units as a result of tranche 1 funding, providing much needed affordable and low carbon homes.

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett thanked Members for their support and reported that the awaited outcomes of the Green Book revision could potentially enable further levelling up, however there were significant challenges to get schemes off the ground that needed further Government support to address.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of £18.2m of Brownfield Housing Fund monies to fund Local Authority priority projects that were submitted to MHCLG as part of the Brownfield Housing Fund bidding process be approved in principle, subject to satisfactory due diligence being undertaken to confirm the deliverability of the projects.
2. That the allocation of £16.01m of funding to those projects set out in Annex 1 of the report where satisfactory due diligence has already been undertaken be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to agree the final terms of all the necessary agreements.

GMCA 38/21 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which requested the GMCA to note the Chief Executive Decision Notice for the approval of loans to Manchester Science Partnerships Limited and to IRAF UK Vantage 3 Limited. In view of the prolonged timeframe between the Combined Authority's meetings in February and March 2021, the report further sought approval to delegate authority to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Combined Authority Treasurer and the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree

urgent variations to the terms of funding previously approved by the Combined Authority, for the period 13 February 2021 to 25 March 2021.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM Decision Notice for the approval of loans to Manchester Science Partnerships Limited (“MSP”) and to IRAF UK Vantage 3 Limited (“Vantage”) be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 13 February 2021 to 25 March 2021. Any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

GMCA 39/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED /-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

GMCA 40/21 BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

CLERK’S NOTE: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 34/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 41/21 DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED /-

That it be noted that the GMCA will next meet on Friday 26 March, as agreed at the Annual Meeting.

1.