

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2022 AT LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE, WIGAN**

**PRESENT:**

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Bolton	Councillor Hilary Fairclough
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	Councillor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMFRS	Dave Russel
GMP	Wasim Chaudhury
Bolton	Bernie Brown
Bury	Paul Lakin
Manchester	Carol Culley
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Debbie Brown
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Saleh
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan

Office of the GM Mayor  
GMCA  
GMCA  
GMCA  
TfGM

Kevin Lee  
Julie Connor  
Nicola Ward  
James Killan  
Steve Warrener

**GMCA 246/21      APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED/-**

That apologies be received and noted from Deputy Mayor Bev Hughes, Councillor Martyn Cox (Hilary Fairclough attending), Councillor David Molyneux (Councillor Nadia Rehman attending), Joanne Roney (Carol Culley attending), Tom Stannard (Debbie Brown attending), and Tony Oakman (Bernie Brown attending).

**GMCA 247/21      CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham reflected on recent events held across Greater Manchester to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, particularly a service held at the GMCA Office led by Rabi Walker, where it had been a privilege to hear the experience of a Manchester-based holocaust survivor.

An update was provided on the Clean Air Zone for Greater Manchester, the CA were reminded that the legal direction was given to Local Authorities in March 2020 to implement a clean air zone in order to address long-term annual standards for harmful nitrogen dioxide air pollution. During 2021 TfGM gathered evidence to express to Government concerns that the current scheme may not be successful in achieving compliance by 2024, but in fact would cause real hardship to many businesses in Greater Manchester as a result of recent changes to the supply chain and cost inflation. This information prompted the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee to request the Government to suspend the funding for phase two and fundamentally review the situation. Following this, the GM Mayor had met with the Secretary of State this week, at which he was asked to consider all options in particular to lift the Government's legal direction on all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to provide more time to achieve compliance.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That Members of the GMCA welcomed the opportunity to take part in events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2022 and that it be a further reminder that there will never be room for racism, hate or discrimination in Greater Manchester.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor met with the Secretary of State on the 26 January 2022 as only he can enable a review, variation or withdrawal of the Clean Air Scheme. The Secretary of State had been requested to consider all options, in particular to lift the Government's legal direction on all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to provide more time for compliance to be achieved.
3. That it be noted that Members of the GMCA were committed to improving air quality and the health of residents but also recognised that major changes were needed to the current scheme. The request made to the Secretary of State followed previous articulations regarding the fear that the current scheme may not be successful in achieving compliance by 2024 but would cause real hardship to many businesses in Greater Manchester as a result of recent changes to the supply chain and cost of inflation.
4. That it be noted that there would be further engagement regarding the proposed Clean Air Zone in 7-10 days' time and an update provided at the next meeting of the GMCA.

## **GMCA 248/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **RESOLVED /-**

There were no declarations of interest received in relation to any item on the agenda.

## **GMCA 249/21      MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2021**

### **RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 17 December 2021 be approved.

**GMCA 250/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17  
DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 17 December 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 251/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 17  
DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Standards Committee meeting held on 17 December 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 252/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21  
JANUARY 2022**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 21 January 2022 be noted.

**GMCA 253/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES –  
JANUARY 2022**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 11 January 2022, and the minutes of the GMCA Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 14 January 2022 be noted.

## **GMCA 254/21      MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET & PRECEPT PROPOSALS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which set out the proposal for the Mayoral General Budget and precept for 2022-23 for consideration by the members of the GMCA. The proposed precept increase would equate to £7 per year for a Band D property for the Mayoral General Budget and £5 per year for the Fire Service element, resulting in an increase of less than £10 a year for the majority of Greater Manchester residents.

The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) had been through a transition period following the Programme for Change and had made improvements in recent years. It had responded well to significant incidents and the proposals sought to maintain a minimum level of cover that the GMCA found acceptable, whereby 50 pumps should remain in operation across the city region, with five firefighters per pump at a single-pump fire station and four firefighters per pump at a double-pump fire station.

An additional potential funding pressure had been identified in relation to marauding terrorist attack (MTA) training. Many firefighters had not been trained to respond to MTAs when they began their careers. A proposal to train all firefighters had been agreed in principle with the Fire Brigade Union but was still subject to ballot, which was expected to conclude in February 2022. It had been proposed that firefighters who underwent the training would receive additional pay to reflect the responsibility of undertaking the training and being available to respond to an MTA.

The increase to the Mayoral General Budget element of the proposal had been minimised as much as possible as the cost of living pressures on residents across Greater Manchester were recognised. However, the proposed increase would ensure that schemes like Our Pass and A Bed Every Night would be sustained and could continue to provide support to vulnerable residents in the city region. The increase would also contribute to Greater Manchester's bus franchising scheme, which would enable the transformation of the bus

system across the conurbation. National funding for bus services through the Bus Back Better strategy and Bus Service Improvement Plan had recently been scaled back and plans within Greater Manchester had been adapted to ensure that the bus franchising scheme could proceed.

Members generally agreed with the proposals and reiterated the need to provide a minimum level of cover at fire stations, as well as the need to reward firefighters appropriately if they undertook the MTA training. GMFRS was praised, particularly in relation to its work on the High Rise and Building Safety Taskforce, which had addressed fire safety in high rise buildings across the city region following the tragic Grenfell tower fire in 2017.

It was noted that Government had committed to an extension of the 100% business rate retention pilot within Greater Manchester for one year and Members called on Government to extend the scheme for a longer period so that Local Authorities could engage in medium to long-term financial planning. It was also reiterated that a local government fair funding review was still urgently needed.

In summary, although it was clear that the proposed precept increases were essential to ensure the delivery of local services, Members were clear that this approach resulted in regressive forms of taxation that could be avoided if Government were to properly finance their ambition to level up all areas of the UK.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GM Mayor's proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept to £102.95 (Band D) comprising of £71.20 for functions previous covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions be considered.
2. That it be noted that the proposal for the Mayoral General Precept for 2022/23 is part of a multi-year strategy for setting the Mayoral precept baseline which will be adjusted in future years as further Mayoral functions are covered by the funding raised.
3. That the following be noted:
  - i. the overall budget proposed for the Fire and Rescue Service,

- ii. the use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2021 are adequate,
  - iii. the proposed Fire Service capital programme and proposals for funding,
  - iv. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service covered by the Mayoral precept.
4. That the detailed budget proposals for other Mayoral functions be noted.
5. That the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
6. That Members of the GMCE be asked to consider whether they would wish to submit any written comments to the Mayor in line with the legal process and timetable described in this report.
7. That it be noted that at its meeting on 11 February 2022 there will be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final Revenue Support Grant settlement.

## **GMCA 255/21      GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE & CRIME PLAN**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, updated Members on the refresh of the pPolice and Crime Plan, Standing Together for Greater Manchester (2022-2025). The report set out the approach that had been taken to refresh the plan and included the key issues that had arisen from consultation and engagement with community safety partnerships, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), wider partners, and the public.

The refreshed Plan had retained the three key pillars from the previous plan: keeping people safe, reducing harm and offending, and strengthening communities and places. These pillars had resonated with the public and would remain the top priorities for GMP. Two additional themes had been added, which sought to address and strengthen the response to the report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, particularly around support for victims and tackling inequalities. Community safety partnerships would be supported at Local Authority level so that locally led initiatives could be created and maintained.

GMP would be recruiting 325 additional police officers, which represented a total increase of 1000 officers since 2017. It was noted that this represented half of the officers lost between 2010 and 2017 but was nevertheless good progress.

An update was provided on the #IsThisOK campaign video that had been released in December 2021, which focused upon the daily abuse, harassment, and discrimination that women and girls experienced. The video had received over 5 million views which reflected the importance of the campaign. Women and girls' safety would remain a priority within Greater Manchester and the refreshed Plan would help to support ongoing work around gender-based violence.

Assistant Chief Constable, Wasim Chaudhury, emphasised the progress that GMP had made in the previous year. There had been improvements in crime recording, crime investigation, and contact management. District Commanders had taken the opportunity to connect with local communities and there had been increased accountability within the force as a result. GMP had improved the 101 service and would continue to develop its contact services for the public's benefit. Work had been underway at a regional and national level to address serious organised crime, including county line drugs offences and terrorism. Neighbourhood policing had been prioritised, with a focus on making public spaces and transport networks safer for all. GMP was keen to engage with the GMCA and the public on an ongoing basis, with regular police accountability meetings due to take place throughout the year.

Members welcomed the Plan and praised its focus on victims and accountability. GMP's Operation AVRO had already been impactful, and it would continue to be rolled out throughout the conurbation. The 101 service was highlighted as a particular area for improvement and Members welcomed the plans to further improve the service.

The GM Police and Crime Panel at their meeting on the 30 January would be asked to approve the proposed precept increase of £10 a year per Band D property. This proposal reflected confidence in the senior leadership of GMP to deliver the objectives set out in the Plan, with GMP strongly held to account on the delivery of the commitments, including significant improvement to the 101 service.

In summary, the GM Mayor reflected that there had been clear progress within GMP over the past few months, with further considerable steps to be taken throughout 2022 to ensure that the Police Force was positioned to meet the needs of local residents.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the draft Standing Together plan be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GM Police & Crime Panel would be given the opportunity to review and sign off the Plan at their meeting on the 31 January 2022.

#### **GMCA 256/21      GREATER MANCHESTER RETROFIT ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, introduced a report which sought approval of the Greater Manchester Retrofit Action Plan, which had been produced by the Mayoral Retrofit Task Force.

The report highlighted that Greater Manchester would need to significantly prioritise the decarbonisation of heat if it were to achieve its carbon neutrality target of 2038. There would be a need to move towards zero-emissions heating solutions in place of fossil fuels, however zero-emissions solutions required homes to be well-insulated to operate effectively. Many homes were not sufficiently insulated to make the most of new heating technologies, although could be retrofitted to make the necessary improvements. Financial support was required to enable people to achieve this, especially the most vulnerable, noting the concerning data that showed that 15% of Greater Manchester residents were currently living in fuel poverty.

The Greater Manchester Retrofit Task Force had been established to examine retrofitting and it had identified three main challenges: insufficiently skilled operatives, a lack of innovative funding models and solutions to support residents willing to retrofit, and a lack of local information for residents about retrofit. The Retrofit Action Plan identified actions that could be taken with partners over the next three years to accelerate the renovation of properties. The culmination of the Plan would be the deployment of an integrated delivery proposition that evidenced that there would be a requirement of £3-5b investment to enable 20% of homes in Greater Manchester to become carbon neutral.

Members highlighted the global energy crisis and noted that retrofit would be a key mechanism for addressing energy supply and demand in the future, enabling the delivery of low carbon affordable homes and further supporting Greater Manchester in its ambition to be a leading green city region.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Greater Manchester Retrofit Action Plan and its contents be noted.
2. That the Greater Manchester Retrofit Action Plan be approved for design & publication (attached at Annex 1 to the report).

**GMCA 257/21      GREATER MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY 2022 TO 2025**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy, took members through a report which provided an overview of the draft Greater Manchester International Strategy and the process that had been taken to refresh the Strategy. The report also contained details about the approach taken for the development of the Delivery Plan.

The International Strategy had been launched in 2017 and had been refreshed for one year in 2020 to account for uncertainties that had arisen from the pandemic. The new refreshed strategy would last for three years from 2022 to 2025 and had been based upon an extensive update of the evidence base, international priorities, and impacts on various sectors in the city region. The process had involved significant consultation with a wide group of stakeholders. The strategy would build upon the Greater Manchester Strategy and reflected the vision of becoming a leading city region in the UK and globally, with particular influence in the green and digital sectors. Internationalisation could further support the Local Industrial Strategy and the Greater Manchester Economic Vision through increased trade, investment, and research and development. Greater Manchester had a transformational role in supporting Government to deliver on its global Britain priorities. The new Strategy had adopted the same strategic framework as the 2020 Refreshed Strategy and it would strengthen the work that

was already underway across partner organisations in the city region to improve its international links.

Members reflected on the role of city regional diplomacy and the importance of global collaboration, as well as international trade. Greater Manchester's role in giving back to international communities was also highlighted, with particular reference to the waste management support that had been given to Sylhet in Bangladesh following an earlier delegation to the area.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the new Greater Manchester International Strategy be approved.
2. That the approach to developing the Greater Manchester International Strategy Delivery Plan be noted.

## **GMCA 258/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INFORMATION STRATEGY AND GMA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive of Wigan Council, introduced a report containing the Greater Manchester Information Strategy for comment and approval, and to agree a Combined Authority Member and Chief Executive to lead and oversee its implementation.

28 January 2022 was Data Protection Day and the importance of promoting privacy and data protection was emphasised. The strategy had been developed by the Greater Manchester Information Board which had many partners across the city region. It had taken a whole system approach to data and would enable collaborative working whilst protecting the rights of data subjects. During the Covid-19 pandemic, effective data sharing had played a key part in helping the city region to tackle the challenges that it had faced. The Strategy focused on public trust and helping residents to find accurate and reliable information when they needed it. It also addressed the use of algorithms, which had faced criticism in the GCSE and A Level awarding processes during the pandemic. The strategy would further assist organisations to work better collectively and develop consistency across shared priorities, continuing to enable Greater Manchester's strong track record of work in this area

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Greater Manchester Information Strategy be approved.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA Member (Cllr Martyn Cox) and Chief Executive (Alison McKenzie-Folan) would lead and oversee implementation of the Greater Manchester Information Strategy.

## **GMCA 259/21 CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT DRAFT PROGRAMME CASE**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which updated Members on the process to secure a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for Greater Manchester, and requested delegation of the consideration, approval and submission to Government of the draft CRSTS Programme Case to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM in consultation with the GM Mayor.

Greater Manchester had been given £1.07bn from Government for Greater Manchester's sustainable transport settlement. However, it had since been instructed to reprioritise the funding under the assumption that it would receive no further capital funding within the Bus Service Improvement Plan process. A process of reprogramming had been conducted which had taken Local Authorities priorities into account and the constrictions of other funding opportunities.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That it be noted that the GMCA, as requested by Government on 20 July 2021, had prepared and submitted to the Government's City Region Sustainable Transport Fund in early September, as part of the process to secure up to £1.19 billion of capital funding for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.
2. That it be noted that on 22 November 2021, the Secretary of State wrote to the Greater Manchester Mayor to say that GMCA had been awarded an indicative

allocation of £1.07 billion of capital funding conditional on the submission of a programme business case by the end of January 2022.

3. That the key planning assumptions that the draft Programme Case was based upon as set out in section 3 of the report be noted.
4. That the approval of the draft Programme Case be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor and for submission to Government.
5. That it be noted that, following further review by Government and the announcement of the final award from Government, the final Programme Case would come to GMCA for approval.

**GMCA 260/21      BID TO THE ZERO EMISSION BUS REGIONAL AREAS (ZEBRA)  
FUND**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which sought approval for the submission of the GMCA ZEBRA fund bid. A proposal had been developed with Stockport and Stagecoach Group Plc (Stagecoach) to bid for funding that would provide zero emission buses. The funding would help to meet the city region's ambition to decarbonise and improve public transport. It would also contribute to Stockport's ambitions within the Mayoral Development Corporation.

Members emphasised the significance of the funding and the improvements that it would make to the bus fleet and bus depot in Stockport.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That approval be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor and the Chief Executive of Stockport MBC, to approve the GMCA ZEBRA fund bid that had been produced in combination with Stockport MBC and Stagecoach Group Plc (Stagecoach). The bid seeks DfT funds of £36.9m alongside Stagecoach investment of approx. £37.2m and a GMCA

contribution of £12.5m to support the introduction of 170 Zero Emission Buses in the south of Greater Manchester by 2024.

2. That the conditions and details for this submission as set out in section 1 of the report be noted.
3. That the GMCA final contribution of £12.5m be provisionally approved, that will be financed by prudential borrowings, noting that the borrowings will be repaid to GMCA over the lifetime of the assets through a subsidy control clawback mechanism; and that it be further noted that in the event that the submission is successful, final approval will be sought once costs have been confirmed.
4. That it be noted that any assets created through this fund would be available for the future franchised Greater Manchester bus network.

## **GMCA 261/21      GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DASHBOARD AND ECONOMY PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy and Business, updated Members on the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and an overview of activity related to the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and Economy portfolio.

Consumer Price Inflation had reached its highest rate in ten years, at 4.8% in December 2021 and was expected to rise to 6% by Spring 2022. The Resolution Foundation's latest labour market outlook had indicated that the cost of living crisis would significantly affect households due to the increase in National Insurance contributions, the freeze on the income tax threshold and rising energy prices. The UK Consumer Confidence Index had decreased in December 2021 which reflected concerns about the cost of living.

The Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter had welcomed new members since the last meeting of the GMCA. There were also now 422 accredited real living wage employers which represented a significant step towards Greater Manchester becoming a real living wage city region.

Members reflected on the importance of Local Authorities becoming Good Employment Charter members so that they could lead by example as one of the biggest employers in each Local Authority. It was recognised that by becoming a real living wage city region with high levels of Good Employment Charter membership, Greater Manchester would demonstrate its position as a good place to live and work.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response be noted, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision.
2. That the Leader of Bury Council, Eamonn O'Brien, expressed his gratitude for the recent Good Employment Charter accreditation and urged other Greater Manchester Authorities to lead by example and make the pledge.

Signed by the Chair: