

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>21 September 2022</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Update on Greater Manchester Combined Authority Activity</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Non key decision</b>
<b>Ward(s) to which the report relates:</b>	All
<b>Summary:</b>	This report provides an update on the activity of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) following an update to Council in July 2022.
- 1.2 Since the last update there has been one meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

## **2 Overview of Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission: One Year On Review**

- 2.1 At the [29<sup>th</sup> July meeting of GMCA](#), members decided:
- 2.2 That the activities described in the report which are now taking place, and the comprehensive and integrated approach Greater Manchester has adopted to tackling inequality centred around the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy and monitoring through the 6 monthly GMS Performance Process be noted.
- 2.3 That the Commissioners' reflections in respect of the 'good work' and 'some progress on process' being made and the need for Greater Manchester to go further and faster, deeper and wider in tackling inequalities be noted.
- 2.4 That approval be given to the proposal that going forward:
  - 2.4.1 The GMS and GMS progress reporting will be the vehicles to steer a systemwide approach to addressing inequalities

- 2.4.2 The Tackling Inequalities Board will provide the necessary leadership and governance to continue to hold the system to account on our equalities commitments
- 2.4.3 The ongoing coordination work between existing governance boards around this agenda will further enable the embedding of responding to the inequalities into 'everybody's business' and will ensure that the right system ownership and leadership is in place to drive actions in response to the issues presented

### **3 Greater Manchester Strategy Progress Report**

- 3.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 3.2 That the progress report, the systemic issues identified and possible GM responses and further dialogue with Government in support of the attainment of the Greater Manchester Strategy shared outcomes and commitments be received.
- 3.3 That all recipients of the progress report, stakeholder groups, partnerships and agencies, have given due consideration and reflection to the issues identified in the report, that will drive the change and actions required in all parts of the system if the GMS is to be delivered.
- 3.4 That it be noted that a review of the progress reporting process will be undertaken to refine and develop for future iterations.
- 3.5 That the GMCA welcomes the clarity provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that it will use the Greater Manchester Strategy as a guide for its work holding the Authority to account going forward.
- 3.6 That a report be submitted to the September 2022 meeting of the GMCA providing an update on Trailblazer negotiations.
- 3.7 That a report on the Integrated Care System aligning priorities, and related opportunities be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.
- 3.8 That the Greater Manchester Strategy be reviewed to ensure it sufficiently captures the cost-of-living issues within the 'here and now' and that the dashboard being designed to analyse key indicators and measures be used to inform this.

### **4 Retained Business Rates Update**

- 4.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 4.2 That a planning assumption for 25% of the 2021/22 retained business rates income to be invested in GM wide initiatives be noted.
- 4.3 That the proposed schemes set out in the table at paragraph 5.5 totalling £17.4m be approved.

- 4.4 It be noted that this was funded in full from a 25% share of the confirmed 2021/22 income of £16.3m and £1.1m of slippage against previously agreed schemes.
- 4.5 That the issues concerning the potential future of the scheme and the potential further Greater Manchester wide commitments be noted.
- 4.6 That urgent clarity on the future of the 100% business rate retention pilot be sought from Government to allow authorities to undertake accurate financial planning.

## **5 GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 1 - 2022/23**

- 5.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 5.2 That the 2022/23 forecast outturn position for the GMCA budgets at the end of June 2022 (quarter 1) be noted.
- 5.3 That the changes to the GMCA General budget following the confirmation of additional funding since the budget was approved in February 2022, as set out in section 2.1, be approved.
- 5.4 That £10m of 2021/22 Waste reserves to be returned to the nine Greater Manchester local authorities be approved and that authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the basis of distribution with local authority Treasurers.

## **6 Capital Budget - Quarterly Financial Update**

- 6.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 6.2 That the 2022/23 forecast of £630.6m compared to the 2022.23 budget of £421.5m be noted and that changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
- 6.3 That the addition to the Capital Programme of the currently forecast expenditure in 2022/23 of £105.7m, funded from the GM allocation from the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), as outlined in section 3.19.4 of the report, be approved.
- 6.4 That the addition to the Capital Programme of currently forecast expenditure in 2022/23 of £1m funded from Active Travel Fund (ATF3) grant funding from DfT, as outlined in 3.14.1 of the report, be approved.
- 6.5 That the allocations of Minor Works/ Road Safety and Highways Maintenance, the agreed split allocated to Local Authorities as shown in section 3.19.6 of the report, be noted.

## **7 UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Greater Manchester Investment Plan**

- 7.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:

- 7.2 That the Greater Manchester UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, set out within the report, be approved.
- 7.3 That the submission of the Greater Manchester UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to Government by 1 August 2022 be agreed.
- 7.4 That the next steps on implementation be noted.
- 7.5 That the Greater Manchester UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan be submitted to the October 2022 meeting of the GMCA for agreement.
- 7.6 That it be noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had requested to review Implementation Plan at its September 2022 meeting in advance of consideration by the GMCA in October 2022.

## **8 Mitigating The Impact Of Digital Telephone Switch Over In Greater Manchester**

- 8.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 8.2 That the timeline for the switchover be noted and it be ensured that all public sector organisations were undertaking appropriate steps to upgrade or mitigate.
- 8.3 That a review to evaluate the risks and impacts (financial and operational) to Greater Manchester public sector organisations and business community be supported.
- 8.4 That an industry led conference to increase awareness of the digital telephone switchover to businesses, public sector and residents in Greater Manchester be encouraged.
- 8.5 That Government be pressed to undertake a national campaign working with industry to highlight the change for UK residents and SMEs.
- 8.6 That the implications of the change for the digitally excluded be highlighted to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport by Councillor Eamonn O'Brien and it be ensured that action is taken by the Government working with industry to support vulnerable people most impacted by the change.
- 8.7 That an update on progress be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

## **9 GM Adult Education Budget: Single Pot Approach To Level 3 Funding For GM.**

- 9.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 9.2 That the plan to distribute devolved Adult Education Budget and national funds for a Single Pot Level 3 Offer for Greater Manchester resident and employers for 2022/23 onwards be approved.

- 9.3 That the authority be delegated to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and execute all the necessary agreements to distribute devolved Adult Education Budget and national funds for a Single Pot Level 3 Offer for Greater Manchester residents and employers for 2022/23 onwards.

## **10 Greater Manchester Active Travel Programme**

- 10.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 10.2 That the release of £2,118,033 of Mayor's Cycling & Walking Fund funding for Phase 2 of the Greater Manchester Bee Network Crossings scheme, as set out in section 2 of the report, in order to secure full approval and enable continued scheme delivery through the signing of the necessary supporting legal agreement, be approved.
- 10.3 That the planned governance and approvals approach regarding management of the £13.07 million Active Travel Fund (Tranche 3) programme for GM, following its addition to the 2022/23 Capital Programme at the May 27 GMCA meeting, be noted.
- 10.4 That Dame Sarah Storey be requested to attend the GMCA in the autumn to discuss what 'refreshing the mission' would look like and how best to work with Leaders on the Active Travel programmes.

## **11 Extension Of The Our Pass Pilot Scheme**

- 11.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 11.2 That it be noted that the budget provision for the extension of the 'Our Pass' Pilot for a further one year was included in the Mayoral budget for 2022/23, which was approved by GMCA on 11 February 2022.
- 11.3 That the proposal to extend the Our Pass Pilot for a further year, to 31 August 2023 be approved.
- 11.4 That it be noted that the work to evaluate the impact of the Pilot was ongoing and that the extension of the scheme will enable this to be completed. The evaluation was currently scheduled to be completed in Autumn 2022 for submission to the GMCA
- 11.5 That it be noted that any further extension to the Pilot beyond 31 August 2023 will require approval as part of the budget setting process in February 2023.
- 11.6 That consideration be given to the feasibility of extending the remit of the pass to care leavers up to the age of 25 years old.
- 11.7 That it be noted that the GM Mayor and Councillor Mark Hunter would work together to raise awareness of the opportunities for cultural and sporting facilities available via Our Pass and that further sponsorship by cultural and sporting facilities be progressed.

## **12 Atom Valley, Mayoral Development Zone**

- 12.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 12.2 That the designation of a Mayoral Development Zone known as Atom Valley be approved.
- 12.3 That the proposed area of the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone, as indicated in Plan 1 attached at Appendix 1, be approved.
- 12.4 That the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone Board be approved and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to agree appropriate representation on the Board, in consultation with Bury, Rochdale and Oldham Councils.
- 12.5 That the principles of the business case and development strategy for the Mayoral Development Zone, as set out in paragraphs 5.3-5.8 of the report, which the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone Board will refine into the development of a business case in overseeing the delivery of the growth sites, be approved.
- 12.6 That regular updates on the progress of the delivery of the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone be submitted to the GMCA.
- 12.7 That the renaming of the North-East Growth Location as the Atom Valley Growth Location be approved.
- 12.8 That it be noted that the authorities requested above will also be sought by the requisite Council Executives of Bury, Rochdale and Oldham Councils.
- 12.9 That the recent confirmation of City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement funding to undertake a business case for a tram/trainline spur to Middleton be noted.

## **13 Delivering The Bee Network: Bus Fares, Zero Emission Buses, Bus Depots and CRSTS**

- 13.1 At the 29th July meeting of GMCA, members decided:
- 13.2 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to allocate Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding to reduce bus fares to a maximum of £2 single fares (£1 for children), with a maximum £5 day ticket (£2.50 for children), from 1 September 2022, subject to agreement with Government and bus operators.
- 13.3 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Chief Executive of Stockport MBC, to allocate the GMCA ZEBRA fund of £35.7m alongside match funds from Stagecoach Group Plc (Stagecoach) of £37.2m and a GMCA contribution of £12.5m to enable Stagecoach to procure 170 Zero Emission

Buses and the associated electrification works for deployment on routes operating to and from Stockport Town Centre by 2024.

- 13.4 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor to procure a further, 50 Zero Emission Buses initially, for deployment within Tranche 1 of bus franchising using the Crown Commercial Services national framework RM6060, to be funded from GMCA's City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement. Further detail on the proposed method of procurement, the preferred supplier and estimated cost is included in a report in Part B of this agenda.
- 13.5 That it be noted that subsequent proposals for the deployment of additional City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement funded zero emission buses will be submitted to the GMCA Authority in a subsequent report.
- 13.6 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to negotiate and approve the acquisition of bus depots to support bus franchising, within previously approved capital and revenue budgets for bus franchising. Further details are provided in a report in Part B of this agenda.
- 13.7 That the update to be submitted to the September 2022 meeting of the GMCA provide as much accuracy as possible on the likely commencements of Tranches 2 & 3 of bus franchising.

## **14 Update from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)**

### **14.1 Rotala Judicial Review Appeal judgement update**

- 14.1.1 In March 2022, the High Court made a judgment that the Mayor of Greater Manchester's decision to implement a bus franchising scheme across Greater Manchester was lawfully carried out; as were all other aspects of the franchising process. This judgment was appealed by Rotala Plc and today, the Court of Appeal unanimously rejected the appeal by Rotala and upheld the original decision of the High Court in March. In response, Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester issued [this statement](#). Throughout the appeal process, GMCA continued efforts to work to deliver bus franchising across Greater Manchester.

### **14.2 Get On Board Campaign Update**

- 14.2.1 The Mayor of Greater Manchester launched the new Get On Board low bus fares campaign at the end of August. From Sunday 4 September, simple and clear low bus fares will be available in Greater Manchester, making it easier for people to get around the city-region. Adults will pay no more than £2 for a single bus journey, while a £5 one-day AnyBus Adult travelcard will cover unlimited bus travel within the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester until 03:59am the following day.

### **14.3 Metrolink renewal and improvement works update - Bury Line Update**

- 14.3.1 From Saturday 13 until Friday 19 August, TfGM and KAM temporarily closed Metrolink's Bury line in two stages to undertake essential track renewals between Bury and Radcliffe tram stops and install under-track crossing and retaining walls to facilitate the construction of a new power substation near to Heaton Park.
- 14.3.2 Several TfGM and KAM works were programmed to take place at the same time during the closure to minimise the need for future disruption to customers of Metrolink's Bury line. The works were completed successfully and on-schedule. The construction of the power substation will continue off-track and once complete provide additional power to improve the capacity of the Metrolink network.

#### 14.4 Engage Driving Scheme Reminder

- 14.4.1 Driving instructors across Greater Manchester are being encouraged to sign up to a new training course designed to help learners become safer and smarter drivers. The Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership (SRGM) is supporting the Engage Driving scheme as part of ongoing efforts to reduce the number of people being killed or seriously injured on local roads.
- 14.4.2 Engage, which is already supported by road safety groups in Cheshire and Merseyside, provides approved driving instructors (ADIs) with an array of exclusive learning resources designed to enhance their own knowledge as well as improving the quality of the lessons they provide. For more information on the Engage Driving scheme, visit <https://engagedriving.co.uk>.

#### 14.5 National Active Travel Update

- 14.5.1 On 22 August, the Department of Transport, Department for Health and Social Care, and Active Travel England jointly announced that walking, cycling, and wheeling will be offered on prescription in eleven local authority areas as part of a nationwide trial.
- 14.5.2 GPs will offer social prescriptions which aim to improve mental and physical health and reduce health and social inequalities across the country. £12.7 million in funding will go towards pilot projects which will include adult cycle training, free bike loans, and walking groups. The projects are designed to help people overcome potential barriers to physical activities and are expected to be delivered alongside improved infrastructure to help participants feel safe to cycle, walk, and wheel.
- 14.5.3 The pilot forms part of the government's Gear Change plan which will seek to evaluate the links between active travel and health. The need for GP appointments and reliance on medication will be measured as part of the trial. The eleven local authority areas chosen to trial the scheme are: Bath and North East Somerset, Bradford, Cornwall, Cumbria, Doncaster, Gateshead, Leeds, Nottingham, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Staffordshire.



## 14.6 **Dogs on Trams Pilot Scheme - request**

- 14.6.1 The three-month pilot allowing up to two well-behaved pet dogs per passenger on trams, launched on 1 August and all passengers have been encouraged to complete the live online survey available on the dedicated Dog on Trams webpage before the pilot ends on 31 October. TfGM have received a positive number of responses to the survey so far and are keen to provide as many people as possible with the opportunity to share their views.

## 14.7 **Bee Active campaign**

- 14.7.1 In November 2021, TfGM, working in partnership with Manchester City Council, Salford City Council and Trafford Council, launched GM's first publicly operated, self-service, 24/7 cycle hire scheme. Since then, bikes have been available from multiple stations across Oxford Road, the University of Salford and MediaCity, making cycling a real option for commuters, cross city journeys and students. The scheme is expanding with more bikes and stands rolling out across key locations in Manchester, Salford and Trafford.
- 14.7.2 TfGM has now launched the #BeeActive campaign to promote active travel and highlight the exciting initiatives, infrastructure, resources, and tools available to help people across Greater Manchester get out walking, cycling, and wheeling. As part of the campaign, TfGM have updated our Bee Active webpage and are looking to promote a 15 minute walking and cycling map and cycle training in skills and bike maintenance courses.

## 14.8 **GM Clean Air Plan update**

- 14.8.1 Further to the Air Quality Administration Committee on Wednesday 17 August, Greater Manchester has submitted its case for a new GM Clean Air Plan to government. A response is expected from government after the new Prime Minister is in place.
- 14.8.2 While GM waits for feedback from government, participatory policy development is taking place with key stakeholders to develop and shape the new Clean Air Plan Policy, including proposals for funding support, in line with the investment-led, non-charging approach. A public consultation on the new Clean Air Plan proposals will then take place in early 2023.

## 14.9 **Helping Hand Cost of Living Assistance**

- 14.9.1 To help address the cost-of-living crisis, GMCA, TfGM, and GM local authorities have launched a new initiative called Helping Hand to support people across the region who are struggling. GMCA will soon be launching a webpage which offers tools and advice to lend residents a helping hand, and a TfGM webpage is also in place that summarises the wide range of support TfGM offer to reduce unnecessary costs when travelling on public transport.

- 14.9.2 These include free bus travel for older people who qualify for a state pension, with the option of adding tram and train travel for an additional £10 a year, free and low-cost travel for people with disabilities, free bus travel for children under the age of five, discounted fares and travel passes including igo cards and Our Pass for school-aged children and young people, and free travel for young people aged 18 to 21 who were previously in care. The full range of tickets, including concessions and discounted travel, can be found on TfGM's ticket and pass finder.
- 14.9.3 Metrolink also offers a one-day family Metrolink travelcard providing unlimited off-peak travel for one to three children accompanied by one or two adults, contactless travel ensuring you will never pay more than the daily cap when you touch-in and touch-out, and an early bird bonus is also available to save customers money. For passengers who travel regularly but not every day, other ticket options are available including smart cards and clipper tickets, offering more flexibility and cost savings.

## **15 Greater Manchester Waste Authority (Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM)) Update**

### **15.1 Paper and card contamination**

- 15.1.1 At the last update, R4GM were just starting work on a paper and card campaign in Whitefield and Radcliffe. R4GM recycling officers have been out checking bins for contamination. Stats for this period include:

- 15.1.1.1 Number of bins checked over two sessions: 2115
- 15.1.1.2 Number of contaminated bins: 546
- 15.1.1.3 Number of amber tags given out: 430
- 15.1.1.4 Number of red tags given out: 20

- 15.1.2 Amber tags act as a warning to residents who are putting the wrong things in their bin. The bin crew will collect it this time but if contamination persists, their bin will not be collected. Only 20 households didn't show a positive change after receiving a red tag. These households will now receive a visit from our recycling team who will explain the importance of recycling properly and the issues caused by contamination.

### **15.2 Supporting events**

- 15.2.1 R4GM have been out supporting at events in Bury throughout July and August. R4GM worked with Bury Council colleagues at the Six Town housing community events over the summer, including Chesham Fold, Topping Fold, Charles Street, Whitefield and the Chapelfield estate. R4GM also created a drop-in session at Radcliffe Library. This was primarily to talk to residents about our paper and card campaign, but were able to answer residents' questions on all aspects of recycling.

15.2.2 R4GM have also attended Bury's Love Food Hate Waste event in July. They spoke to residents about preventing food waste, giving them tips and hacks to store food properly so it lasts longer. They gave away recipe cards to encourage people to make the most of their leftovers as well as caddy liners to capture their food waste.

### 15.3 Now collecting rigid plastics

15.3.1 R4GM have recently added new containers at our recycling centres. 18 of their sites will now have containers to collect 'hard plastics' including Every Street and Cemetery Road in Bury. Hard plastics are rigid items like garden furniture, buckets and toys. Residents can look out for the garden chair symbol when at a recycling centre or ask the Suez team on site. Staff will be continuing to hand-sort rigid plastics to ensure we're maximising collections.

### 15.4 Fly-Tipping Training

15.4.1 R4GM have recently hosted a fly-tipping training session for all 9 districts that make up Greater Manchester's Waste Disposal Authority. This is with the view of creating a joint comms campaign to tackle the huge issue many councils are facing with dumped waste on streets and at beauty spots. The training session was run by colleagues from Keep Britain Tidy, based on their report 'Beyond the tipping point'. Using insight gathered on the day, a small working group, including a representative from Bury, has been put together to help shape the comms campaign.

## 25 Recommendation

25.1 That Council note the updates from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Transport for Greater Manchester, and Recycle for Greater Manchester, with further updates to be presented to future Council meetings.

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### List of Background Papers:-

None identified

### Contact Details:-

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