

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON
FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 2023 AT STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Amanda Chadderton
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Gerald Cooney
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Exec Director, Policy & Strategy	Simon Nokes
Bolton	Sue Johnson

Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
GMCA	Elaine Mottershead

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair of GMCA Overview & Scrutiny	Cllr John Walsh
The Growth Company	Mark Hughes

GMCA 01/23 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

GMCA 02/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The GM Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor Tom Ross as the new Leader of Trafford Council following Councillor Andrew Western's appointment as MP for Stretford and Urmston.

A welcome was also extended to Kate Green as the new Deputy Mayor.

The GM Mayor reminded the meeting that it was Holocaust Memorial Day and extended his thanks to all who had helped in marking the day's event which had included a moving and powerful statement from a holocaust survivor. The event had demonstrated a strong commitment from Greater Manchester and the Jewish community to come together.

Councillor Bev Craig provide the meeting with an update on the recent Convention of the North, with thanks extended to the GMCA Policy & Strategy Team for their work which had contributed to the success of the event. The event had exceeded expectations, particularly in this period of disruption and challenges, and had demonstrated the commitment and resilience of the region. There were conversations around the Trailblazer deal and funding was announced for uplifting housing standards.

The GM Mayor announced that Stockport had been accredited under the Good Employment Charter. Councillor Mark Hunter was presented with the award and the Combined Authority congratulated them on their achievement.

RESOLVED /-

1. That Councillor Tom Ross be welcomed to his first meeting of the GMCA as the Leader of Trafford Council.
2. That Kate Green be welcomed to her first meeting of the GMCA as Deputy Mayor.
3. That the GMCA extend its thanks to Greater Manchester's Jewish Community for arranging the annual memorial event for Holocaust Memorial Day.
4. That the update from Councillor Bev Craig on a successful Convention of the North be noted.
5. That the Mayor's update on Trailblazer devolution plans be noted.
6. That Stockport Metropolitan Council be congratulated on their accreditation under the Good Employment Charter.

GMCA 03/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

GMCA 04/23 GMCA MARCH 2023 MEETING DATE

RESOLVED /-

That the March meeting of the GMCA be held on 24 March 2023 and not 31st March as previously agreed.

GMCA 05/23 GMCA - MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 13 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 06/23 GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE- MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on Friday 16 December 2022 be approved.

GMCA 07/23 GMCA WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE - MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee on Wednesday 18 January 2023 be noted.

GMCA 08/23 GM BUSINESS (GM LEP) BOARD - MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Business Board held on Wednesday 18 January 2023 be noted.

GMCA 09/23 GM APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Councillor Tom Ross, Trafford, to the GMCA be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor will review portfolio lead arrangements and report back as appropriate.
3. That the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien to the Air Quality Administration Committee be approved.
4. That the appointment of Councillor Amanda Chadderton to the GMCA Resources Committee be approved.
5. That the appointment of Councillor Ged Cooney to the Growth Company Board be approved.
6. That the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien as the GMCA Substitute Member on Transport for the North.
7. That the appointment of Councillor Christine Roberts, Wigan, as a Substitute Member on the GM Transport Committee be approved.
8. That the extension of the appointments of Grenville Page and Susan Webster as independent Members to the GMCA Audit, for a further term of office of three years, be approved.

GMCA 10/23 PROPOSED SLAVERY MEMORIAL DAY

City Mayor, Paul Dennett, was invited to speak as this motion was passed by Salford City Council on 16 December 2023. It was noted that the purpose of the motion was to highlight the need for a better understanding of the history of slavery and its relevance to modern-day slavery. City Mayor Dennett highlighted that 49.6 million people were affected and a quarter of those were children. Members were requested to support a Slavery Memorial Day, alongside the recommendation that slavery be taught as a compulsory element of the curriculum in schools.

Members endorsed the motion and suggested that, following its success, a further look be given to support it by consideration of the supply chains and Councils' Standing Orders for equitable practices.

The GM Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, stated that modern-day slavery was a priority for Greater Manchester Police and operations had been carried out in Cheetham Hill to tackle activities linked to organised crime.

The GM Mayor stated that the introduction of a Slavery Memorial Day would ensure an annual period of reflection and a focus for future work.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GMCA support the motion presented by Salford City Council to call on the Government to declare a national Slavery Memorial Day and to consider making slavery a compulsory national curriculum schools' subject.
2. That a formal letter be sent from the GMCA to Government with this request.

GMCA 11/23 GM ACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

The GM Mayor stated that he had received a letter from GM Active which had requested support in asking the Government for them to be recognised as a vulnerable sector with rising energy costs. The importance of swimming pools and leisure centres as warm hubs was highlighted, particularly at a time when priorities for Greater Manchester's residents included health and social well-being. The GM Mayor requested approval to make this representation on behalf of the GMCA Committee.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the verbal report given by GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, be noted.
2. That the GM Mayor will write a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer ahead of the March budget highlighting the concerns raised by GM Active about the vulnerability of the public sport and leisure facility sector.

GMCA 12/23 COST OF LIVING AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Councillor Bev Craig and Councillor Amanda Chadderton were invited to speak on this regular update for the Committee. Councillor Craig reported on the concerns that

were commonplace in the business sector and the discussions that had taken place to consider how different sectors could be best supported as they face this crisis. The Greater Manchester Business Board had made plans to have some sector specific information collated to help businesses further. There was still some room for optimism as many businesses had not made redundancies or had to wind-up, but it was acknowledged that there would be further challenges from April onwards. Councillor Craig acknowledged that the Growth Company had done some excellent work to assist. She further noted that the region's local authorities were at the front line and had responsibilities to set budgets and balance uncertainties from short-term Government settlements but still needed to make plans to grow the economy and provide protection for the most vulnerable.

Councillor Chadderton reported that the latest GM Residents Survey had highlighted that the cost-of-living crisis was here to stay for some time. Some statistics from the survey showed that 8 out of 10 residents had said that their cost of living had risen just over the last month; and 7 out of 10 residents reported that they had concerns about their cost-of-living. The next conversation needed to be around what could be done as a region, particularly for families with children under five years' old and for people with disabilities.

The Warm Homes Scheme had seen an increase in one month of 72% more families who had received their support. For the first time, the Cost-of-Living Dashboard had included information from Trussell Trust with 60,000 food parcels distributed across GM between April and September 2022 which was the highest recorded number. The Brick-by-Brick project had its soft launch in Wigan in December and Amazon had donated 30,000 goods to the project with a further 8,000 donated from other organisations. The survey had also highlighted concerns around the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, many of whom had struggled to meet the increase in the Living Wage along with rising energy bills, some of which had increased by 300% over 12 months.

The GM Mayor reported that he had recently met with energy providers and had discussed issues such as making sure vulnerable people are on the priority register as

well as the forced installation of pre-paid meters. A further meeting was scheduled to take place soon.

Thanks were extended to all ten districts for their efforts in this important work. A recent story in the media was referenced as it highlighted that the public message of rising costs needed to be balanced so that people were not over-cautious in trying to reduce their bills, at risk to their health. There had also been an upsurge in domestic fires due to people's attempts at heating their homes in more economical ways.

Councillor Hunter asked about the Brick-by-Brick project and the partnership with Amazon and queried how this related to the Good Employment Charter given some of the concerns about Amazon's alleged working practices. The GM Mayor advised that it was not a commercial relationship with Amazon and was based around donated goods. It had been recognised, however, that there could be an opportunity through this arrangement to discuss the employment charter with Amazon. It was noted that a more detailed update on the Brick-by-Brick project would be brought to a future meeting.

The GM Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, suggested that there could be more funding available for VCSE organisations who provided targeted support to victims of crime.

RESOLVED /-

That the latest assessment and emerging response be received and noted that the Deputy Mayor will consider the provision of further support funding from the Deputy Mayor Budget for VCSE organisations to providing targeted support to victims of crime.

3. That a detailed update on the Brick-by-Brick Project in collaboration with Amazon would be submitted to a future meeting to gauge members' appetite to extending the pilot across the sub- region.

GMCA 13/23 MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET & PRECEPT PROPOSALS

The GM Mayor introduced a report which set out the proposals for the Mayoral General Budget and precept for 2023-24.

The GM Mayor provided an overview of the proposals including A Bed Every Night, which was one of the primary beneficiaries and had supported over 600 people in the region each night. Our Pass had been instrumental in providing some financial relief to families with teenagers and it had given young people access to opportunities for work, leisure and study and had been extended to care leavers up to the age of 21 in recognition of the GMCA's commitment as Corporate Parents. Bus Reform and capped fares also formed part of the overall offer to make transport more affordable. The Good Landlord Charter was helping to relieve pressure by making improvements in people's homes which in turn had helped with energy costs.

Councillor Amanda Chadderton supported the age threshold extension to the Our Pass and requested that the next stage consider the aspiration to raise this to 25 for young people leaving care.

The position around the Fire Service budget element was explained. Whilst the financial pressures for residents were acknowledged, there could be greater demands on emergency services in the future, so there was a need to plan accordingly for continuity. There had previously been a programme for change in the Fire Service some years ago which had resulted in efficiencies. The potential for further efficiencies were explored, notwithstanding that the meeting was reminded that the GM Mayor had taken the firm decision that Greater Manchester would never go below 50 pumps, with the current crewing levels, at single and double pump stations. There were pressures around NI contributions plus the pay for a firefighter, compared to a decade ago, was less in real terms.

It was noted that the ballot for the current pay dispute was due to close on Monday 30 January.

The decision had been taken to manage all these pressures from the precept, along with some support from reserves, as the necessary minimum action to support the service.

Deputy GM Mayor, Kate Green, supported the GM Mayor's decision and referenced some unavoidable pressures such as energy costs, fuel costs, and pay and pension

contributions. Likewise, the need to protect staff facilities and health and well-being services was essential.

In response to questions regarding pay negotiations and the limitations of the GMCA's ability to influence national agreements. The GM Mayor advised that the Fire Service was different to other public services, for example, the NHS. The Fire Service had local accountability and whilst there was a national negotiating Committee, it was made up of local area representatives. The Government had made it clear there would be no national pay agreement.

Members were invited to make further submissions on the budget proposals by the dates outlined in the report.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor John Walsh, informed the GMCA that the Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the principles as set out in the report and noted that the budget was predicated on Mayoral priorities including Our Pass, which was crucial. There had been a question on the use of reserves and the sustainability of that approach. The Treasurer had agreed to a request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit a further report.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept by £5 to £107.95 (for a Band D property), comprising of: i) Functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority - precept of £76.20 (£5 increase); ii) Other Mayoral General functions - precept of £31.75 (no increase), be approved.

2. 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 2024 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

3. That the detailed budget proposals for other Mayoral functions be noted.

4. That the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
5. That members submit any written comments to the Mayor in line with the legal process and timetable described in this report.
6. That it be noted that at its meeting on 10 February 2023, there will be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final baseline funding settlement.
7. That the aspiration to raise Our Pass threshold to 25 years old for young people leaving care be noted.
8. That the GM Mayor keep all Leaders informed on developments in the Fire Service payment dispute.
9. That the GM Mayor bring a mid-year review to the GMCA in March following the introduction of capped fares on buses.
10. That the points raised by the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

GMCA 14/23 MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, introduced a report which set out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review.

RESOLVED /-

That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report for the first half of 2022/23 and the projected outturn position, revised Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt and the revised Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) be noted.

**GMCA 15/23 COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LOCAL AUTHORITY
INVESTMENT PROPOSALS TO DELIVER UKSPF
INTERVENTION E22**

Councillor David Molyneaux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, introduced a report seeking the GMCA's approval to allocate the £15m UKSPF Intervention E22 funding as per the proposals set out in the report.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of grant funding to the ten projects, subject to due diligence work being undertaken, as per the proposals set out within this report, be approved.
2. That the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, GMCA Monitoring Officer and Treasurer to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete the necessary related documentation in relation to those projects set out in section 3 that have scored above the quality threshold be approved.
3. That the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, GMCA Monitoring Officer and Treasurer to review the further due diligence information for the remaining two projects and subject to their satisfactory assessment in line with the approach detailed in section 3, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete the necessary related documentation, be approved

GMCA 16/23 ACTION TO IMPROVE GM'S RENTED HOUSING

Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Place Based Regeneration and Housing & Infrastructure, introduced a report which set out recent developments in GMCA-led activity currently to improve the private rented sector, the award of new funding from Government to GM and seeks agreement for spending to deliver a local enforcement pathfinder.

The GM Mayor reported that there was a funding announcement at the Convention of the North, of an additional £15 million to support improvements in housing standards. The details of this were to be shared with Members when available.

Steve Rumbelow explained that there were three main strands to consider: 1) the Local Enforcement Pathfinder Programme; 2) the Good Landlord Scheme; and 3) the Good Landlord Charter. It was emphasised that this work was not an attack on all landlords as there were some responsible operators but there was clearly a need to separate those who did not act responsibly. A member noted that the Government had talked about a Private Landlords' Database and good data and evidence would be welcomed in this sector.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of this report, including the positive impacts on equality and inclusion, health and other key indicators which can be secured if the standards of our rented homes can be improved, be noted.
2. That the award of £2.12 million to GMCA by DLUHC for a local enforcement pathfinder and the delivery obligations placed on GMCA be noted.
3. That the intention of the GMCA to enter into grant agreements with the 10 GM authorities in relation to the delivery of the local enforcement pathfinder in line with the approach outlined be noted.
4. That the proposals for the GMCA to fund the 10 GM districts to deliver the GM Good Landlord scheme be noted.
5. That the proposal for GMCA to collaborate with other GM housing providers and private rental sector to create a Good Landlord Charter be noted.
6. That information on £15 million of further support for affordable homes will be shared as it becomes available.

GMCA 17/23 TRANSPORT ITEMS

The GM Mayor informed the meeting that there were several transport reports included on the agenda for consideration.

A number of the issues had been discussed at the recent Convention for the North including The Bee Network and the bus recovery programme, and the poor performance of Trans Pennine Express. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) had undertaken a survey which demonstrated that over 18,000 journeys had been cancelled over the last 12 month period, with over one third of those cancellations undertaken on the expected day of travel. This was simply unacceptable, and the Northern Mayors had unanimously agreed to come together to hold them to account.

The GM Mayor informed the GMCA that he had accepted an offer to Chair the Rail North Committee.

The first Bus Franchise contracts had been awarded and Go North West was the successful operator for the larger contracts in Wigan and Bolton. Other, smaller, contracts had been awarded to Diamond (Rotala) but, since the award, they had taken the decision to de-register several services in Bolton, Rochdale and Bury. There was some reluctant acceptance that they could remodel their business in this way despite the effects on services for residents. Officers were now working on plans to minimise the loss of services. Further updates on this and work planned for school services would be scheduled for consideration at a future meeting of the GMCA.

Councillor John Walsh, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to comment on the Our Pass Evidence Review. It was confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had some concerns about the data and whether it was robust. The Committee had noted that there were marked differences in uptake but recognised that further marketing campaigns could address this. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the proposals subject to further evidence of the baseline being

presented, not least because it was a £60 million scheme and that the need to increase patronage and usage was crucial to the equation.

The GM Mayor confirmed some of the data already gathered from the review, which included that a number of students had advised that they had been able to attend the college of their choice because of the free travel; Trafford and Oldham had the least take-up of the Our Pass; and the opportunity element of the scheme (discounts and offers) was not very well used or understood and an app was being developed to assist.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that Mayor Burnham has agreed to chair the Rail North Committee.
2. That Mayor Burnham's update on performance issues at Trans Pennine Express be noted

B. Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Franchising, Fares and Local Bus Strategy

1. That the update on the implementation of bus franchising and a weekly bus fare cap be noted.
2. That the proposals to develop the Greater Manchester Bus Plan, a local bus strategy for the city region be noted.

C. Transport Capital Programme

1. That it be approved to draw down £5.147 million of CRSTS funding to develop and deliver the initial phase of minor works interventions as part of the Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme, noting that further updates and associated funding draw down requests will be brought to the GMCA in due course.

2. That the consolidation of £3.3 million of previously approved TCF2 funding into the CRSTS programme to support the development and delivery of the Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme be noted.
3. That it be approved to draw-down of £0.3 million of CRSTS funding to enable Bolton Council to develop the Topp Way / Higher Bridge scheme to Outline / Full Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the GMCA in due course.
4. That it be approved to draw-down £4.5 million of CRSTS funding to enable Oldham Council to deliver the Manchester Street Viaduct refurbishment scheme.
5. That the release of £0.34 million of previously approved TCF2 funding to develop the Golborne Station scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the GMCA in due course, be approved.

D. Our Pass Evidence Review

1. That the findings of the Our Pass pilot evaluation be noted.
2. That the funding of Our Pass on a continuing basis be approved.
3. That the scheme should be subject to an annual review of its performance, to be completed at the end of each academic year, be agreed.
4. That the range of Our Pass “Exclusives” that are made available to cardholders continue to be developed.
5. That the comments received from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee pertaining to Our Pass be received.

E GM Active Travel Programme

1. That the release of up to £2.15 million of MCF delivery funding for the Oldham Town Centre West Street/Cheapside scheme be approved.
2. That the release of up to £1.3 million of MCF delivery funding for the Wigan to Standish Phase 1 scheme be approved.

GMCA 18/23 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND / GM CITY DEAL RECEIPTS - INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive, for Place Based Regeneration, Housing and Infrastructure, introduced a report seeking approval to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (“GMHILF” or “the Fund”) loans detailed in the recommendation below. This report also seeks the Combined Authority’s approval to substitute up to £20m of the proposed GMHILF lending with City Deal Receipts, subject to Homes England approval.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GMHILF loans detailed in the table below, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report be approved.

<i>BORROWER</i>	<i>SCHEME</i>	<i>DISTRICT</i>	<i>LOAN</i>
<i>Renaker</i>	<i>Bankside, Greengate</i>	<i>Salford</i>	<i>£54.143m</i>
<i>Renaker</i>	<i>Tower D2, Trinity Island</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>£65.646m</i>

2. That it be approved for up to £20m of the GMHILF lending for the Bankside and Tower D2 schemes being substituted with City Deal Receipts, noting that this is subject to Homes England approval, and to delegate authority to the GMCA

Treasurer to agree the exact composition of the lending between GMHILF and City Deal Receipts following further discussions with Homes England.

3. That the delegation of authority to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements be approved.

GMCA/19/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 20/23 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND / GM CITY DEAL
RECEIPTS - INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 18/23)

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the report be noted.