

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	22 March 2023
Title of report:	Update on Greater Manchester Joint Authorities Activity
Report by:	Leader of the Council
Decision type:	Non key decision
Ward(s) to which the report relates:	All
Summary:	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) and other Greater Manchester joint authorities following an update to Council in January 2023.
- 1.2 Since the last update there has been two meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

2 Communities and Place Local Authority Investment Proposals to Deliver UKSPF Intervention E22

- 2.1 At the [January meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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

3 Action to Improve GM's Rented Housing

- 3.1 At the January meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 That the intention 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 approved.
- 3.5 That the proposals to fund the 10 GM districts to deliver the GM Good Landlord scheme be approved.
- 3.6 That the proposal for GMCA to collaborate with other GM housing providers and private rental sector to create a Good Landlord Charter be approved.
- 3.7 That information on £15 million of further support for affordable homes will be shared as it becomes available.

4 Transport Items

- 4.1 At the January meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
 - 4.1.1 That it be noted that Mayor Burnham has agreed to chair the Rail North Committee.
 - 4.1.2 That Mayor Burnham's update on performance issues at Trans Pennine Express be noted
- 4.2 Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Franchising, Fares and Local Bus Strategy
 - 4.2.1 That the update on the implementation of bus franchising and a weekly bus fare cap be noted.
 - 4.2.2 That the proposals to develop the Greater Manchester Bus Plan, a local bus strategy for the city region be noted.
- 4.3 Transport Capital Programme
 - 4.3.1 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.

- 4.3.2 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.
- 4.3.3 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.
- 4.3.4 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.
- 4.3.5 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.
- 4.4 Our Pass Evidence Review
 - 4.4.1 That the findings of the Our Pass pilot evaluation be noted.
 - 4.4.2 That the funding of Our Pass on a continuing basis be approved.
 - 4.4.3 That the scheme should be subject to an annual review of its performance, to be completed at the end of each academic year.
 - 4.4.4 That the range of Our Pass “Exclusives” that are made available to cardholders continue to be developed.
 - 4.4.5 That the comments received from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee pertaining to Our Pass be received.
- 4.5 GM Active Travel Programme
 - 4.5.1 That the release of up to £2.15 million of MCF delivery funding for the Oldham Town Centre West Street/Cheapside scheme be approved.
 - 4.5.2 That the release of up to £1.3 million of MCF delivery funding for the Wigan to Standish Phase 1 scheme be approved.

5 Budget Reports

- 5.1 At the [February meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:
- 5.2 GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2023/4 Overview
 - 5.2.1 That the contents of the summary paper be noted.
- 5.3 Mayoral General Budget & Precept Proposals 2023/24
 - 5.3.1 That the Mayor’s General budget for 2023/24 set out in this report together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

- 5.3.2 That the Mayoral General Precept to £107.95 (Band D) comprising of £76.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions be approved.
- 5.3.3 That the following be approved: i. the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2023/24 covered by the Mayoral precept. iii. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5.3.4 That approval be given to the use of reserves as set out in section 3 of the report and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2023 are adequate.
- 5.3.5 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.
- 5.3.6 That the feedback from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
- 5.4 GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24
- 5.4.1 That the risks and issues which are affecting the 2023/24 transport budgets as detailed in the report be noted.
- 5.4.2 That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in this report for 2023/24 be approved.
- 5.4.3 That a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2023/24 of £113.472m, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020 be approved.
- 5.4.4 That a Statutory Charge of £86.7m to District Councils in 2023/24 as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020 be approved.
- 5.4.5 That the proposal to increase fees and charges where applicable, in line with inflation and to approve the increases proposed to Bus stop closure charges, as set out in paragraphs 4.32 and 4.33 be approved.
- 5.4.6 That the use of Transport reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in section 5 be approved.
- 5.5 GMCA Revenue General Budget 2023/24
- 5.5.1 That the budget relating to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority functions excluding transport and waste in 2023/24 as set out in section 2 of this report be approved.
- 5.5.2 That District contributions of £8.603 million as set out in section 5 of this report be approved.
- 5.5.3 That the use of reserves as set out in section 6 of the report be approved.

- 5.6 GM Waste Budget and Resources - Budget and Levy 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2022/23 - 2025/26
 - 5.6.1 That the forecast outturn for 2022/23 be noted.
 - 5.6.2 That the proposed 2024/25 Trade Waste rate of £134.14 to allow forward planning by Districts be approved.
 - 5.6.3 That the budget and levy for 2023/24 of £169m (2.5% increase) be approved.
 - 5.6.4 That approval be given to a one-off reduction of £27m to the levy in 2023/24 funded from reserves reducing the 2023/24 requirement to £142m and authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the basis of distribution with local authority Treasurers.
 - 5.6.5 That the risk position set out in the balances and reserves strategy be noted.
- 5.7 GMCA Capital Programme -2022/23 - 2025/6
 - 5.7.1 That the current 2022/23 forecast of £462.1m compared to the 2022/23 previous forecast of £565.6m and approve changes to the capital programme as set out in the report be noted.
 - 5.7.2 That the capital programme budget for 2023/24 and the forward plan as detailed in the report and in Appendix A be approved.
 - 5.7.3 That funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) grant as set out in Section 3.10 of this report be approved.
 - 5.7.4 That a further update on the Capital Budget be submitted to the May 2023 meeting of the GMCA

6 Skills Bootcamp: Priorities and Approaches for 2023-25

- 6.1 At the February meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 6.2 That comments on the proposed approach to Skills Bootcamp delivery until March 2025 be noted.
- 6.3 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital to agree the commissioning route and award of individual contracts including any subsequent contract extensions.

7 City Deal Receipts – Investment Approval Recommendations

- 7.1 At the February meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 7.2 That the following investments of City Deal Receipts, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report be approved

FUND	SCHEME	DISTRICT	INVESTMENT
National Homelessness Property Fund 2	Homelessness Fund	GM wide	£2.5m
Resonance Supported Homes Fund LP	Supported Homes Fund	GM Wide	£2.5m

7.3

7.4 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

8 GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

8.1 At the February meeting of GMCA, members agreed:

8.2 That an investment into My First Five Years Ltd (investment of up to £150k) be approved.

8.3 That authority be delegated to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above investments, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the investments, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investments noted above.

9 GMCA CULTURE INVESTMENT 2023-2026

9.1 At the February meeting of GMCA, members agreed:

9.2 That approval be given to a three-year budget of £4,425,000 p/a from April 2023 (subject to annual review) to support the new GMCA Cultural Investment Approach. Annual budget to be made up of £3.3m District Contributions and £1.25m Retained Business Rates.

9.3 That approval be given to the proposal that, between April 2023 and March 2026 this budget will be spent in the following ways: o £3,965,000 p/a to support delivery and project management of the five strands of the new GM Culture Investment approach (recommended Spirit and Sustain organisations and recommended levels of investment detailed within the Part B item of this report) ♣ Inspire (£100,000 p/a) ♣ Spirit (See Part B) ♣ Sustain (See Part B) ♣ Collaborate (£120,000 p/a) ♣ Strategic (£150,000 p/a) ♣ Project Management (£70,000 p/a) o £460,000 p/a to support the ongoing social impact commitment

9.4 That it be noted that the list of organisations proposed to be funded by the GMCA Culture Fund are detailed in a separate report to be considered in Part B of this agenda, to be made public within one month of this meeting.

9.5 That the outlined approach to GM Town of Culture 2023, with a view to revising the application process in 2024 be approved.

10 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Update

10.1 Bee Network Virtual Drop-In Sessions for GM Cabinet Members and LA officers

- 10.1.1 The first phase of bus franchising is set to go live in September 2023 and will be delivered over three phases between September and January 2025. Although bringing buses under local control provides an exciting opportunity to deliver transformational changes to the way services are planned and delivered, it's also one of the biggest changes to GM's public transport network in nearly 40 years.
- 10.1.2 During this transition period, TfGM is determined to do as much as we can to keep GM Cabinet Members and LA officers informed about progress and key milestones, as well as providing opportunities for you to raise questions and ask for more information.
- 10.1.3 As part of this ongoing dialogue, TfGM are establishing a monthly, virtual drop-in session where you can receive updates about the latest status of the franchising programme and wider Bee Network delivery and ask questions directly to TfGM officers.
- 10.1.4 The first of these drop-in sessions will take place on Monday 6 March at 6pm and is open to Cabinet Members and Officers from all Greater Manchester LA areas. If you are interested in attending this session, please RSVP by completing this form – where you can also pre-submit any questions you may already have about the roll-out of franchising and what it means for your communities.
- 10.1.5 This invitation has been shared with Cabinet Members with a direct interest in franchising, whether this be from a transport, climate, economy or community perspective, however, please feel free to share this information with other Cabinet Members and LA officers who you think may be interested in attending.
- 10.1.6 Moving forward, these sessions will alternate each month between a daytime and evening slot and will be opened to an all-councillor attendance.

10.2 Better Than That Campaign

- 10.2.1 TfGM has launched the next phase of their youth-facing antisocial behaviour (ASB) campaign, to support ongoing efforts by the TravelSafe Partnership (TSP) to help all passengers feel safe whilst travelling on public transport.
- 10.2.2 ASB takes many forms, with the most dangerous relating to public transport being buses, trains or trams being hit by objects such as bricks. This can result in services being diverted or withdrawn from certain routes, as well as posing a risk to the safety of drivers and passengers.
- 10.2.3 However, many young people may be unaware that the way they act by themselves or in a group at bus or tram stops and stations, such as being

noisy or abusive in groups, can also cause distress to other people, including peers and transport staff.

- 10.2.4 Better Than That uses the first-hand experiences of young people who have been involved in ASB, or who have been affected by it, and asks them to put themselves in the shoes of others before they behave in a way that may be seen as intimidating or threatening. As part of the Better Than That campaign, Foundation 92 have been speaking to young people at their Little Hulton community hub about their own experiences of ASB.
- 10.2.5 A campaign toolkit is available and TfGM would be grateful for any support your organisation may be able to provide in sharing across your platforms, channels and networks.

10.3 **Cycle storage upgrades**

- 10.3.1 New cycle storage facilities will be installed along Metrolink's Bury line, including Radcliffe, Besses o' the' Barn, Prestwich, Heaton Park, Bowker Vale, Crumpsall, Abraham Moss and Queens Road Metrolink stops. The £1.2m scheme is being funded through the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) which is supporting the delivery of cycling, walking and wheeling infrastructure within the Bee Network, Greater Manchester's vision for an integrated public transport and active travel system.
- 10.3.2 The new high quality cycle parking will include covered Sheffield stands with lighting and CCTV in highly visible and accessible locations, will be installed across the eight stops - making it easier and safer for people to scoot or cycle to and from their local tram stop.
- 10.3.3 The stops have been prioritised as they are among the oldest on the Metrolink network. The work will take place during the day with measures in place to reduce noise levels and minimise disturbance, and there will be no impact on Metrolink services. Work has already started at Radcliffe, with all sites expected to be fully upgraded by mid-May 2023.

10.4 **Bee Network Delivery Update: Bus Franchising and Customer Experience**

- 10.4.1 TfGM provided an update on the delivery of the Bee Network, GM's vision of an integrated, 'London-style' transport system bringing together public transport and active travel. The update explained the benefits of bus franchising, provided timelines and maps for the introduction of franchised services across Greater Manchester, and highlighted the roles and responsibilities of TfGM/GMCA and bus operators under the franchised system compared to the deregulated system.
- 10.4.2 The update also covered the importance of the highways system in supporting the bus network, improvements to the bus fleet, and looked ahead to the Bee Network app and Customer Charter. The full report for this item can be found [here](#).

10.5 **Be Tram Aware campaign**

- 10.5.1 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is urging motorists to “be tram aware” when driving near Metrolink by releasing footage of recent road traffic collisions on the network. Between April and December 2022 there were 91 car collisions with trams, with most incidents caused by driver error on the motorist’s side.
- 10.5.2 Drivers are being asked to be more aware of their surroundings when sharing road space with trams, particularly at junctions and level crossings. The footage of each of the three collisions released by TfGM shows drivers of cars and heavy goods vehicles pulling ahead of oncoming trams before the tram driver can react. These poor driving habits can put the driver, tram driver and passengers at risk of serious injury, and can have a wider impact on the Metrolink network and adversely affect the travelling public.
- 10.5.3 Collisions also cause a significant financial impact to both Metrolink and motorists. Metrolink incurred repair costs of £1.4 million between April and December 2022, which is mostly being recovered through motorists’ insurance.

10.6 **Whitefield Tunnel Temporary Beam Support Installation**

- 10.6.1 KeolisAmey Metrolink are planning to carry out repairs to Whitefield Metrolink Tunnel in summer 2023, following the previous discovery of a defective beam during a scheduled inspection of Metrolink assets. In preparation for the eventual tunnel repair work, KeolisAmey Metrolink’s contractor, USL Ekspan, will be installing temporary beam support at the tunnel.
- 10.6.2 The temporary beam support installation is planned to take place from approximately 1.30am on the morning of Saturday 18 February and continue until approximately 4.40am on the morning of Monday 20 February. To allow the work to take place safely and minimise the overall duration of the impact, the work will require:
- A partial closure of the Bury Metrolink line between Bury tram stop and Crumpsall tram stop during the course of the temporary beam support installation
 - Continuous working throughout this period which may be noisy at times
 - A lane closure of the left turn from Church Lane onto Bury New Road
 - The closure of a section of road at the bottom of Bank Street
- 10.6.3 To mitigate the impact on residents, local businesses and highway users, alternative access to Bank Street will remain open from the top of the street, signed diversions will be in place, noisier work is scheduled to take place during the daytime, and noise control measures such as acoustic blankets will be employed. Residents and local businesses will be notified of the works in advance via letter and local ward councillors via email.

10.6.4 To mitigate the impact on Metrolink customers, a Metrolink replacement bus service will be in operation for impacted stops and customer information will be available through on-stop passenger announcements, passenger information displays, posters, and customer service representatives, as well as customer social media posts and webpage updates.

10.6.5 The full Bury Metrolink line and the impacted local highways are planned to re-open from 04:40am on the morning of Monday 20 February following the completion of the works.

10.7 **School streets – Bury**

10.7.1 As part of a joint initiative between the Guardian Angels Primary School, Bury Council, Living Streets and Transport for Greater Manchester, Bury's first 'School Street' has opened.

10.7.2 School Street schemes close the road to certain vehicles for short periods during peak drop-off and pick-up times (i.e., 8.00am-8.45am and 2.15pm-3.30pm) to create a traffic free environment and help keep pupils safe and encourage them to walk or cycle to school. Marshals put out signs, cones and barriers to stop nonresidents driving through the area, while residents and businesses on the street can continue to use the road if they drive at a walking pace and they show a valid permit.

10.7.3 A second Bury school, Chesham Primary, has also agreed to implement a 'School Street' at a date to be confirmed later this year.

11 **Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Update**

11.1 **Paper and Card**

11.2 The paper and card campaign aimed at tackling the level of high contamination in the paper and card bins in Whitefield and Radcliffe has now completed. 272 households from 2 collection rounds have been identified, who despite several interventions, persistently contaminate the paper and card recycling bin. Four distinct behaviour patterns have been identified. These are:

- residents who use their paper and card bin as a second general waste bin
- residents who try to do the right thing but don't separate the cardboard from the other packaging (e.g., not removing the inner plastic bag from a cardboard cereal box)
- residents who mistakenly think they can recycle paper tissues and kitchen roll.
- residents who place takeaway containers in the paper and card bin that still have food and plastic packaging in them.

11.3 The team are continuing to work with colleagues in Bury Council to tackle these distinct issues across the borough through a mixture of communications and engagement activities.

11.4 **Food Waste Action Week 2023**

- 11.5 We supported WRAP's third annual Food Waste Action Week, which took place between 6th-12th March. This year's theme was 'Win. Don't bin.', encouraging residents to save money and the planet by making the most of their leftovers. As well as promoting the official WRAP graphics, bespoke adverts have also been created that link food waste to the cost-of-living crisis and provide guidance to residents on how to maximise the value of food by buying, storing and cooking it properly. Throughout the week the adverts appeared on digital advertising, out of home advertising and in the Metro newspaper. The R4GM team took part in several engagement activities throughout the week, including a stall at Bury Market on Friday 10th March, where the team talked to residents about how to make the most of their food, reduce waste and save money.
- 11.6 **Additional Campaign Activity**
- 11.7 Compost Week UK runs from March 13th-19th. During this week, residents will be reminded of the benefits of home composting as well as the home compost bin offer available via the Get Composting website. Greater Manchester residents can get £10 off a bin plus free postage and packaging. A social media toolkit has been provided to districts communications officers and the offer is being promoted on the Recycle for Greater Manchester website and social media channels.
- 11.8 Following Compost Week is the first Greater Manchester Repair Week (20th to 26th March). This is based on London Repair Week, which our colleagues at ReLondon have run since 2021. As well as bespoke Repair Week events at our Renew Hub in Trafford Park, we'll be sharing tips and hints on our website and social media channels which encourage residents across Greater Manchester to consider repair as an option before binning items which could be fixed.
- 11.9 **Community Fund**
- 11.10 Recycle for Greater Manchester's Community Fund is back for 2023. Local groups from across Greater Manchester can apply for up to £10,000 to support projects which prevent, reuse, or recycle household waste, and promote the sustainable use of waste and resources. The project is funded by our three Renew shops and eBay store which have allowed us to support 46 projects since the fund's launch in 2021.
- 11.11 Projects that have been funded in previous years include those tackling issues of food poverty, electrical recycling and reusing textiles. The fund is open to community groups, schools, charities, voluntary and faith organisations and launches on Monday 3rd April.
- 11.12 3 groups from Bury have been funded so far, they include the Big Fandango project which runs workshops twice a week to combat loneliness and isolation through upcycling, craft and upholstery classes.
- 11.13 Community Buds is helping to create a community space through people's waste. They are focussed on bringing members of the community out of

isolation and helping them to overcome mental health barriers through workshops teaching new skills and developing a community garden. The Sunnywood project also received funding of £10,000 to engage families and disadvantaged young people in wellbeing conservation workshops. They are a non-profit arts and nature education provider and outdoor events organiser.

11.14 **Recycling Centre Rates**

11.15 **December 2022**

Site	Month (%)	Year to date
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	42%	52%
Every St, Fernhill	44%	52%

11.16

12 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.

List of Background Papers:-

None identified

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