

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2023**

**AT SALFORD TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Hilary Fairclough
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Elaine Taylor
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
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Geoff Little

Manchester	James Binks
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	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
TfGM	Steve Warrener

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair of GMCA Overview & Scrutiny	Cllr John Walsh
Rochdale	Cllr Janet Emsley

**GMCA 21/23      APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED /-**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillors Martyn Cox (Bolton) and Amanda Chadderton (Oldham) and Joanne Roney (Manchester).

- a) The GM Mayor advised that this was to be the last meeting of the Chief Executive of Bury Council Geoff Little before his retirement. His achievements during his time in Greater Manchester were highlighted, not least of which was his contribution in driving forward health devolution, and he was wished all the best for the future.
  
- b) The Mayor advised Members of the latest developments on clean air zone proposals. GM had previously approached Government with a proposal for an investment led, non-charging clean air zone – an approach that it was believed could ensure Greater Manchester reaches compliant levels whilst also minimising financial hardship. A meeting had taken place with the former responsible Minister and an initial renegotiation of the legal direction had been agreed.

The submission for this proposal had taken place in July 2022 and there had been disappointment that the Government had not responded to this. The Mayor subsequently met with the current responsible Minister in January 2023. It was then that it was advised that the Government still sought for GM to model the proposals against a charging zone focussed purely upon the city centre, with a particular focus upon the inner relief road – it had been asked that the approach requested be provided to the Mayor in writing, and a letter was subsequently received to this effect.

The Government had also highlighted that they required evidence that emissions on the A58 (Bury New Road) could be reduced to compliant levels – it was advised that this could be evidenced and that a report would be taken to the Air Quality Administration Committee at the end of the February. New zero emission buses would be a significant contributor to this.

To undertake the new Government request – the modelling tools previously used would need to be updated and this would take a number of months – and would be concluded by the end of June 2023.

The Mayor would be making it clear to the minister that whilst required to undertake modelling on a charging zone, an investment led non-charging zone was still the preference for the whole region including the city centre and that the steps being taken through the Bee Network made this increasingly credible.

However, it could be concluded from the Government's request that it was highly unlikely that any form of charging zone would now be required in Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford or Wigan – with only the city centre areas of Manchester and Salford currently subject to further modelling.

Lobbying would continue with Government to open up funding to help people transition towards emission compliant vehicles in any case.

Further details on this would be included within a report that would also be submitted to the next meeting of the Air Quality Administration Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Comments were raised around DEFRA's reluctance to look at the national strategic highway network in regard to clean air – which included Regent Road in Salford.

Comments were also raised about the signage remaining in place advising that a clean air zone was still potentially going ahead. When could these be removed and who would be providing the funding to do so. It was advised that the signage would need to remain in place until explicit instructions were received from the Government that these could be removed. It was confirmed that the signs were paid for by the Government and it would be their responsibility on any decision in relation to them. It was advised that the Air Quality Administration Committee would look to gather a clearer view around the position on this.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMCA wishes Geoff Little all the best for the future following his retirement as the Chief Executive of Bury Council as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

2. That the latest update on the progress of the GM proposal and the Governments response to GM Non charging clean air zone be received.
3. That it be noted that the Air Quality Administration Committee will consider the issues raised on the latest clean air zone developments at its meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**GMCA 23/23            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

That it be noted that both Mayor Paul Dennett (Salford) and Councillor Hilary Fairclough (Bolton) declared an interest in item 16 (GM Culture Investment Approach – Proposed Spirit and Sustain Portfolio).

**GMCA 24/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 27 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 25/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 January 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 26/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 25 January 2023 be approved.

**GMCA 27/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD  
ON 27 JANUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 27 January 2023 be approved.

**GMCA 28/23            BUDGET REPORTS**

**A. GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2023/4 Overview**

Councillor David Molyneux (Portfolio Lead for Resources) was invited to introduce the overarching paper on the GMCA budget proposals for 2023/24. The paper summarised the position on the Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals, The GMCA General Budget, GMCA Transport budgets including Transport Levy and Statutory Charge and the GM Waste Services Levy. It also set out the implications of the proposed budgets and the resultant charges on districts and the Mayoral Precept.

Thanks were expressed to GMCA Treasurer Steve Wilson and the GMCA finance team for the significant work put into pulling the budget papers together.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the contents of the summary report be noted.

**B. Mayoral General Budget & Precept Proposals 2023/24**

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, GMCA Deputy Mayor, took the Chair for this item of business.

The report sought approval for the Mayoral General Precept for 2023/24 and recommended the setting of the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 as required under section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (updated in the Localism Act

2011) and the precepts and relevant levels of Council Tax required under sections 40, 42B and 47 of the Act.

Cllr John Walsh, Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee was invited to report back on the Committee's discussion of the budget and proposals. He advised that the Committee's most significant concerns related to Transport as the area containing the most financial risk at the present time, and had been keen to reaffirm that they wished, on a regular basis, to receive demonstration of how income and expenditure related to changes in public transport patronage and the impact on the fare box and revenue levels. There was also concern around the risks relating to fuel costs and other non-controllable items which would impact on the budget. In terms of the general revenue budget, there had been some concerns about adequate provisions to deal with inflation and related factors. Members also expressed concern about the National Waste Strategy and the potential impact upon medium term budgets.

The GMCA Treasurer was invited to comment on the budget and proposals. He advised that further updates were being scheduled with the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to help in assuaging their concerns referenced above.

The meeting was advised that a named vote was required to approve the proposals for The GM Mayoral General Budget. Members voted on the recommendations as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>GMCA Member</b>	
Bolton	Cllr Hilary Fairclough	<b>Agreed</b>
Bury	Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	<b>Agreed</b>
Manchester	Cllr Bev Craig	<b>Agreed</b>
Oldham	Cllr Elaine Taylor	<b>Agreed</b>
Rochdale	Cllr Neil Emmott	<b>Agreed</b>
Salford	Mayor Paul Dennett	<b>Agreed</b>
Stockport	Cllr Mark Hunter	<b>Agreed</b>

Tameside	Cllr Ged Cooney	<b>Agreed</b>
Trafford	Cllr Tom Ross	<b>Agreed</b>
Wigan	Cllr David Molyneux	<b>Agreed</b>

**RESOLVED /-**

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.
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.
3. That the following be approved:
  - i. the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2023/24 covered by the Mayoral precept.
  - ii. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service.
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. 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.
6. That the feedback from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

Andy Burnham retook the Chair from this point in the meeting.

**C. GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24**

There were a number of challenges set against the transport revenue budget, as 2023/24 was set to be a year of significant transition and ambition for the network as



the roll out of the Bee Network commenced – in the shadow of existing issues around the increasing of patronage and inflationary pressures.

Despite these pressures, a balanced budget had been proposed, that would, for the first time in a number of years, require an increase in the Transport Levy amounting to 4% - which would be made up from a 3% recurrent increase and a 1% one-off non-recurrent increase.

Conversations remained on-going with government in terms of support grants to help in mitigating risk, and the GMCA would be kept updated of any developments on this front.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the risks and issues which are affecting the 2023/24 transport budgets as detailed in the report be noted.
2. That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in this report for 2023/24 be approved.
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.
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. 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.
6. That the use of Transport reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in section 5 be approved.

#### **D. GMCA Revenue General Budget 2023/24**

The Levy to councils would remain unchanged. This was a budget area that exemplified the complexities around Government grant funding, but it had been

agreed that inflationary pressures would be absorbed within the GMCA and not passed onto local authorities.

**RESOLVED /-**

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.
2. That District contributions of £8.603 million as set out in section 5 of this report be approved.
3. That the use of reserves as set out in section 6 of the report be approved.

**E. GM Waste Budget and Resources - Budget and Levy 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2022/23 - 2025/26**

There were a number of contracts within these areas linked to CPI and RPI and therefore large increases were being seen. Work had taken place to mitigate this as much as possible to ensure the Levy was increased by as small an amount as feasible, which amounted to an average of 2.5% though this did vary based upon local tonnage collections within each authority.

The longer-term issues around the National Waste Strategy were noted and there would be a need to keep reserves aside to be able to deal with that.

A one-off reduction in the Levy in 2023/24 of £27m was referenced as per the recommendations.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the forecast outturn for 2022/23 be noted.
2. That the proposed 2024/25 Trade Waste rate of £134.14 to allow forward planning by Districts be approved.
3. That the budget and levy for 2023/24 of £169m (2.5% increase) be approved.
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. That the risk position set out in the balances and reserves strategy be noted.

#### **F. GMCA Capital Programme -2022/23 - 2025/6**

These figures now included the full confirmation of the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme settlement with Government.

The paper highlighted pressures on capital budgets on both a national and global scale in terms of supply chain issues and inflationary problems – and a further update would be submitted to the May meeting of the GMCA to further detail this.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

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.
2. That the capital programme budget for 2023/24 and the forward plan as detailed in the report and in Appendix A be approved.
3. That funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) grant as set out in Section 3.10 of this report be approved.
4. That a further update on the Capital Budget be submitted to the May 2023 meeting of the GMCA

#### **GMCA 29/23            GMCA REVENUE UPDATE – QUARTER 3 2022/23**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, presented a report informing the GMCA of the 2022/23 financial position at the end of December 2022 (quarter 3) and the forecast revenue outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the 2022/23 forecast outturn position for the GMCA budgets at the end of December 2022 (quarter 3) be noted.

2. That the changes to the GMCA General and Transport budgets following the confirmation of additional funding and planned expenditure during quarter 3 shown in sections 2 and 6 of the report be approved.

**GMCA 30/23                    SKILLS BOOTCAMP: PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES FOR  
2023-25**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships, introduced a report which provided an update on Skills Bootcamps, particularly the opportunities to access devolved funds to support retraining and upskilling until March 2025. The report outlined a delivery proposal for skills bootcamps including sector focus and set out the approach for working with stakeholders to commission provision, before setting out key recommendations to ensure that the ambitious programme could be delivered on time, with full draw down of funding and maximum benefit for GM residents.

The Deputy Mayor was then invited to provide an update on the GMFRS Fire Apprenticeship Scheme – the programme had recently been subject to an OFSTED inspection where a number of parts had received an 'outstanding' rating.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That comments on the proposed approach to Skills Bootcamp delivery until March 2025 be noted.
2. 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.

**GMCA 31/23                    CITY DEAL RECEIPTS – INVESTMENT APPROVAL  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure, introduced a report seeking the GMCA's approval to the investment of

City Deal Receipts in two social impact funds focussed on the delivery of housing for vulnerable people.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. 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

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

**GMCA 32/23            GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, introduced a report seeking approval for an investment into My First Five Years Limited (“MFFY”). The investments would be made from recycled funds.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That an investment into My First Five Years Ltd (investment of up to £150k) be approved.
2. 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.

### **GMCA 33/23            GMCA CULTURE INVESTMENT 2023-2026**

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture, introduced a report seeking GMCA approval on levels of investment to the GM Culture Investment approach 2023-26, including organisations to be funded under the new Spirit and Sustain strands of investment.

Further details were included as a more detailed report, considered in the confidential part of the agenda (**GMCA 36/23**) due to the information relating to the potential investments by GMCA subject to GMCA approval.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. 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.
2. That approval be given to the proposal that, between April 2023 and March 2026 this budget will be spent in the following ways:
  - £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)
  - £460,000 p/a to support the ongoing social impact commitment
3. 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.
  4. That the outlined approach to GM Town of Culture 2023, with a view to revising the application process in 2024 be approved.

### **GMCA 34/23            URGENT BUSINESS**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, advised the meeting a request had been received from the Mayor of Kyiv to work with the GM on a knowledge exchange and a potential peer review of their recovery plan. No financial investment would be required. All agreed to offer the support requested.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

That the request received from the Mayor of Kyiv seeking support in rebuilding city resilience be received.

### **GMCA 35/23            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 36/23            GM CULTURE INVESTMENT APPROACH – PROPOSED  
SPIRIT AND SUSTAIN PORTFOLIO**

*Following on from Declarations of Interests (GMCA 23/23) received from Mayor Paul Dennett and Councillor Hilary Fairclough and they left the meeting during discussion on the item.*

**RESOLVED /-**

1.        That the list of organisations and amounts to be awarded, funded from the GMCA Culture Fund 2023 – 26, as detailed in Appendix A be approved.
  
2.        That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Culture Portfolio Leader and Chief Executive, to enter into grant funding agreements with the organisations.
  
3.        That the proposal for the report to be made public within one month of this meeting be approved.

**GMCA 37/23            GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT  
APPROVAL**

**Clerk’s Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 32/23 refers)

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report be noted.



**GMCA 38/23**

**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 31/23 refers)

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report be noted.