

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>13 September 2023</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Update on Greater Manchester Joint Authorities 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) and other Greater Manchester joint authorities following an update to Council in July 2023.
- 1.2 Since the last update there has been four meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

## **2 Greater Manchester Integrated Technical Education City Region**

- 2.1 At the [28<sup>th</sup> July 2023 meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:
- 2.2 That the update be welcomed and that the next steps over the coming months, as set out in paragraph 4, be noted as follow:
- 2.3 Analysis of the stakeholder consultation and public poll responses will be completed and will inform the further development of the technical education/MBacc proposals.
- 2.4 Framing of the seven Employer Boards (one per career gateway) to help employers shape clear pathways for young people into the jobs of the future and understanding the areas of study needed for these pathways. In this way it will create the same clarity around the technical education route as already exists around the university route.

These Employer Boards will sit within the wider governance and accountability landscape linked to the Devolution Deal, including arrangements for implementing the LSIP recommendations. These Boards will be established in the early Autumn.

- 2.5 That it be noted that that developmental work will continue over the summer and further details will follow with the intention to submit proposals for the new governance arrangements to the GMCA in September 2023 for consideration and approval.
- 2.6 That feedback from public polling be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

### **3 Local Area Energy Programme - Strategic Outline Business Case**

- 3.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 3.2 That the report and the proposed approach to delivering the outcomes from the GM Local Area Energy Plan be noted.
- 3.3 That the investigation and development of outline business cases to accelerate inward investment and delivery be noted.
- 3.4 That the development of regional delivery structure, operating model and required capacity be endorsed.
- 3.5 That the need for additional dedicated resource to support development of new commercial and finance solutions, the approach to which will be set out in a further report in relation to further work following agreement to the Strategic Outline Business Case, be endorsed.
- 3.6 That the submission of a circa £5m bid to Innovate UK Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places, to support delivery of the above, with the GMCA to act as the accountable body, be approved.
- 3.7 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader, Green City Region, to finalise the bid, receive and defray funding if successful.

### **4 Domestic Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Project**

- 4.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 4.2 That the forthcoming opportunity presented by the LEAD funding be noted.

- 4.3 That the proposed approach, with the GMCA acting as the accountable body for the LEAD programme, be approved.
- 4.4 That authority be delegated to GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Lead for Green City Region to:
  - 4.4.1 Sign a grant funding agreement with the DESNZ to receive grant funding for a GM LEAD project up to £2.14m.
  - 4.4.2 Expend the awarded grant funds by defrayed agreements via the funding partners i.e., 3 Local Authorities, 2 Social Enterprises, 2 private business and a cooperative.

## **5 Atom Valley Business Plan**

- 5.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 5.2 That the Atom Valley MDZ Business Plan 2023 - 2024 be approved.

## **6 UKSPF - Communities And Place Wigan Council Phase 2**

- 6.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 6.2 That Wigan Council be granted up to £1,958,294 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place Phase 2 proposal by March 2025, taking the Wigan Council Communities and Place UKSPF investment across Phases 1 and 2 to a maximum of £3,008,294.
- 6.3 That the additional impact of the Wigan Council Phase 2 proposal to the collective impact of the currently approved ten Local Authority proposals, in exceeding the majority of outcomes and outputs for the Communities and Place Investment Priority as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, be noted.

## **7 Proposal for the Commissioning Of Support For The Social Economy**

- 7.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 7.2 That the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board on the strategic fit and deliverability of the UKSPF proposal for the creation of an Inclusive Ownership Platform and associated business support activity be approved.

- 7.3 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Economy, Business and International and Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment, to approve the procurement method and subsequent award of contract(s) worth £825,000 across the following indicative allocations:
- 7.4 £460,000 for specialist support activities which address gaps or weaknesses in the current support available to inclusively owned businesses: and
- 7.5 £365,000 for the creation and management of the GM Inclusive Ownership Platform, delivering the UKSPF outputs and outcomes described in this report.

## **8 GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 1 2023/24**

- 8.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 8.2 That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £500k funded from Mayoral reserves towards the cost of additional extended rough sleeper provision provided through Manchester City Council be approved.
- 8.3 That an increase to the revenue grant to Transport for Greater Manchester of £7.8m funded from the Capital Programme Reserve to fund capital financing costs that are unable to be met from Metrolink revenues be approved.
- 8.4 That the intention to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding previously awarded by Department for Transport to support bus services, with £7.5m of this re-allocation to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25 be noted.

## **9 GMCA Capital Update Quarter 1 2023/24**

- 9.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 9.2 That the current 2023/24 forecast of £681.3m compared to the 2023/24 budget of £591.8m be noted and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
- 9.3 That an increase in the Transport capital budget, approved by GMCA in June 2023 as part of the Transport Capital Programme report for the City Region Sustainable Transport schemes of £41.4m, as outlined in section 2.9, be noted. That the inclusion within this figure of Greater Manchester's (GM's) share of the national Additional Maintenance (Pothole) Funding of £6.2m within the 2023/24 forecast, as outlined in section 2.9.4 of this report, also be noted.

- 9.4 That other increases in capital budget over £500k be approved as follows:
- 9.4.1 Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) capital funding of £3.6m
  - 9.4.2 Access for All of £2.8m
  - 9.4.3 GM One Network of £1.8m
  - 9.4.4 Regional Growth Fund Loans of £3.9m
  - 9.4.5 Growing Places of £9.3m
  - 9.4.6 Housing Investment Loans Fund of £9.6m
  - 9.4.7 Brownfield Land Fund of £16.4m
  - 9.4.8 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding of £1.8m
  - 9.4.9 UK Share Prosperity Fund carry forward of £1m unspent approvals from 2022/23
  - 9.4.10 Social Housing Decarbonisation funding of £26.7m
  - 9.4.11 Social Housing Quality Fund of £15.0m
  - 9.4.12 Homeless Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme of £2.1m outlined at section 3.13 and Fire and Rescue Services of £4.0m

## **10 Greater Manchester Investment Framework - Request For Delegation**

- 10.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 10.2 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and approve urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 29 July 2023 to 28th September 2023
- 10.3 That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

## **11 Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans/ City Deal Receipts / Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme**

- 11.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 11.2 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve projects for GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.
- 11.3 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve

further allocations of brownfield funding, that has been devolved to GMCA, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.

- 11.4 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.
- 11.5 That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the Combined Authority.

## **12 Delivering The Bee Network: Fares And Products**

- 12.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 12.2 That the proposed range of fares and products that will be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24th September 2023 be approved.
- 12.3 That the recommendations and feedback from the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bee Network Committee be noted.

## **13 Greater Manchester Bus Strategy: Better Buses for the Bee Network**

- 13.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 13.2 That the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy be approved.
- 13.3 That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
- 13.4 That the principle of the replication of the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to better control and coordinate the deployment of Bus Services be endorsed.

## **14 Metrolink Contract Extension**

- 14.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 14.2 That the contents of the report be noted.
- 14.3 That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
- 14.4 That the proposed terms of an extension to the MOMA with KAM from 21 July 2024 to 25 July 2027 be approved.

- 14.5 That it be noted that a large-scale review of the vision for Metrolink will be undertaken late 2024/ 2025, noting the review will include any potential Metrolink network expansion and the current financial compensatory arrangements in place for those authorities who do not currently have a Metrolink service.

## **15 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Update**

### **15.1 EV taxi and PHV charging points soft launch**

- 15.2 Across Greater Manchester, TfGM is introducing 60 rapid charging points dedicated for EV private hire vehicles (PHV) and hackney vehicles licensed by one of the ten GM local authorities. On 29 August, the first seven charging points went live in Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford and Stockport, with the remainder to come online over the next few months.

### **15.3 Less than one month to go - Bee Network**

- 15.4 With less than one month to go before Greater Manchester brings buses under local control, the Mayor of Greater Manchester joined the Transport Commissioner, Vernon Everitt, and Local Authority leaders to make a number of announcements. These announcements set out the benefits of the Bee Network for passengers and include:

- 15.4.1 Service improvements
- 15.4.2 New TravelSafe Officers and Enforcement Officers
- 15.4.3 Bee Network App and website
- 15.4.4 GM Customer Commitments and Rate Your Journey
- 15.4.5 Further details of zero-emission bus roll-out

- 15.5 Following the introduction of franchised bus services on 24 September, improvements are planned in Bolton, Wigan and parts of Bury, Salford and Manchester – the first to be brought under local control – that will see them run earlier and later, better integrating them with first and last train and tram services. This includes:

- 15.5.1 Enhancements to the 471 Bolton-Bury-Rochdale service and 362 Standish to Wigan buses and will be reflected in other areas of Greater Manchester as franchised services roll out across the region;
- 15.5.2 Increased daytime services on the V1 and V2 services on the Leigh Guided Busway, with eight buses in each direction every hour.
- 15.5.3 In addition, V2 services from Atherton to Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) will be reinstated as soon as possible.

### **15.6 New TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers**

- 15.7 To provide passengers with reassurance and help tackle anti-social-behaviour, 30 new TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers (TSEOs) will be patrolling franchised bus services, interchanges and bus stations from 24 September.
- 15.8 While TSEOs will focus on customer support and providing a reassuring presence, they will also carry out ticket inspections on buses. Money generated from ticket sales is reinvested back into public transport services for the benefit of all passengers, and the new TSEOs are being introduced as part of a broader strategy to tackle fare evasion across all modes of public transport in Greater Manchester, with financial penalties – known as the Standard Fare – set to increase from £100 to £120 in the Autumn for anyone found travelling without a ticket on Metrolink or Bee Network bus services. The team will expand their operations as the Bee Network rolls out and will be patrolling all bus services, stations and interchanges by 2025.
- 15.9 Bee Network App and website
- 15.10 To help customers plan their journey, buy tickets and give feedback on an operator’s performance, a new Bee Network app and website will launch from 18 September. Through the Bee Network app (available via the Google Play Store and the Apple App store) customers will be able to:
- 15.10.1 Get live departure times for nearby bus, tram and train stops and stations.
  - 15.10.2 Buy Metrolink tickets.
  - 15.10.3 Buy Bee AnyBus and Bee AnyBus + Tram tickets from 24 September 2023.
  - 15.10.4 Access the new Rate Your Journey survey.
- 15.11 From 24 September, customers will also be able to use the app to buy a range of Bee AnyBus tickets, including the recently announced Bee AnyBus + Tram tickets which will make combined bus and tram travel around 20 percent cheaper when compared to buying products separately. Capped daily bus fares have also been extended for another year to September 2024. In time we will roll out additional features, including journey planning and disruption information, making the Bee Network app the one-stop shop for public transport in Greater Manchester. Meanwhile, A new look Bee Network website – [beenetwork.com](http://beenetwork.com) – will enable customers to:
- 15.12 Easily find the bus or tram ticket for them on the Bee Network website
  - 15.13 Check travel alerts and see any affected bus and tram journeys
  - 15.14 Use the site more easily, with a fresh Bee Network look



- 15.15 Find timetables and live departure times for Bee Network and all Greater Manchester buses
- 15.16 Report any lost property on a Bee Network bus
- 15.17 **Further details of zero-emission bus roll-out**
- 15.18 To mark the one-month-to-go milestone, the first fleet of 50 new, Zero Emission, Bee Network-branded buses for Greater Manchester was unveiled by Mayor Andy Burnham and Transport Commissioner Vernon Everitt during a visit to the depot in Wigan where they are being stored.
- 15.19 Additional electric buses, along with a range of new Euro VI buses, will start to be delivered within six months of 24 September. The zero-emission electric buses are fully accessible and offer a range of customer improvements including two bays for wheelchair-users, hearing induction loops, audio and visual announcement systems and anti-slip flooring.
- 15.20 Fifty more ZEBs will be delivered in March 2024. This is to support the ongoing roll-out of bus franchising, with services in Bury, Rochdale and Oldham and parts of Manchester, Salford and Tameside coming under local control from 24 March 2024. While a further 170 electric buses – jointly funded by Stagecoach and local and national government through the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area scheme – have also been ordered. Greater Manchester aims to have an all zero-emission bus fleet by 2032.
- 15.21 Alongside the unveiling of the Zero Emission Buses (ZEB), two stakeholder events also took place today (24 August) at Bolton Interchange, giving equality groups – who helped inform the ZEB designs – local leaders and businesses the opportunity to explore a ZEB and engage in a Bee Network app demonstration. Invites were shared with LA leaders, Transport Executive Members, the Bee Network Committee and Tranche 1 MPs and business leaders. Transport Commissioner, Vernon Everitt, was present at both events to show some of the new on-board features and respond to questions.
- 15.22 **GM Green Summit 2023**
- 15.23 Residents, businesses, policy makers and community groups are being invited to take part in the Greater Manchester Green Summit, which takes place on Monday 2 October at The Lowry, Salford Quays.
- 15.24 The summit will provide a first look at the ambitions and challenges included within the upcoming Five-Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester 2024 – 2029, with an additional focus on understanding the behaviours and motivations of people living and working across the

city-region to help partners support and drive positive change for the environment.

- 15.25 First established in 2018 by Mayor Andy Burnham, the Green Summit offers a great opportunity to meet and network with people who are determined to drive change and help the city-region meet its ambitious goals for the environment. The Green Summit will feature, talks, exhibition stands and interactive sessions based around key themes including the nature recovery, transport, low carbon energy and buildings, and sustainable production and lifestyles, with speakers, exhibitors and delegates coming together to consider how we can all better collaborate on innovative solutions.

## **16 Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM)**

### **16.1 In Community Fund**

- 16.2 The Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund recently announced the successful applicants in this year's round of funding. Four groups were funded for programmes of work taking place in Bury. Two are projects operating exclusively in Bury:

- 16.3 Fair Futures CIC are running a project called Reuse, Re-read, Re-wear. This project will collect and reuse unwanted books and textiles, to sell, redistribute to local families in need and repurpose for educational and social support activities. The project will also create training and volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and develop education on waste reduction.

- 16.4 Bury College have been awarded funding to run a student community recycling project. This work will promote positive behaviour change in individuals across Bury by promoting recycling and reducing household waste. This will be achieved through delivery of training and education activities in partnership with Wheeldon Brothers and carrying out community litter picks across Bury in partnership with Bury Litter Picking/Clean Teams.

- 16.5 Two additional projects received funding for activities across Greater Manchester, including Bury. So the City will be creating opportunities for local plastic recycling within communities and Humans MCR will be rolling out their Community Grocers On-Wheels, using food destined for waste to provide clients in Greater Manchester with a full weekly shop of their choice.

- 16.6 The R4GM Community Fund comes from money that is raised via the Renew Shops and online store. Every year, £220,000 is available for community and voluntary projects.

- 16.7 **#BeBatteryAware**

- 16.8 In August, Recycle for Greater Manchester launched our #BeBatteryAware campaign to tackle the growing issue of battery fires in bins and at Household Waste Recycling Centres. This campaign was created jointly with our colleagues at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS).
- 16.9 From April 1 to June 30, GMCA's waste management contractor; SUEZ reported 37 fire-related incidents due to lithium batteries alone. The campaign reminds residents that batteries should never be disposed of in bins as they can cause fires, putting staff and residents in danger.
- 16.10 #BeBatteryAware focuses on three different types of batteries; traditional batteries, hidden batteries in items such as laptops, phones, Bluetooth devices, gaming consoles etc. as well as vapes and electronic cigarettes.
- 16.11 The campaign launched in early August with content across social media on R4GM, GMFRS and partner channels. We created a dedicated webpage, featuring safety messages and offering alternative methods for residents to dispose of their batteries. There was also advertising in local newspapers across Greater Manchester, including The Bury Times.
- 16.12 The next phase of the campaign will target areas that have seen incidents of battery fires through bespoke digital advertising. We're currently working with waste colleagues in Bury to establish key target areas for this stage of the campaign.
- 16.13 As well as this campaign, we've also been sharing Recycle Your Electricals messaging to recycle batteries correctly in order to protect the precious materials contained within them and a helpful link for residents to find their nearest recycling point.
- 16.14 **Suez Communities Fund**
- 16.15 The next deadline for the SUEZ Communities Fund 2023 is approaching. This fund is separate from the R4GM Community Fund and is part of the landfill tax, providing grants of up to £50,000 to not-for-profit organisations for capital infrastructure improvements.
- 16.16 Greater Manchester is one of the active funding zones. Applications for capital projects, i.e. those that focus on physical improvement at an identified site, will be considered. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase of materials and equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work.
- 16.17 Two projects in Bury were funded as part as part of the most recent application period. These were Tottington St John's Cricket Club who received £27,200 and Creating Future Lives CIC received £50,000 in April.
- 16.18 There are four application deadlines each year, with the next one on 13th September.

## 16.19 Recycling Centre Rates - June 2023

Site	Month (%)	Year to date
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	60	58
Every St, Fernhill	60	57

## 17 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

### Contact Details:-

**James Mulvaney**  
**Executive Policy and Research Advisor**  
[j.mulvaney@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.mulvaney@bury.gov.uk)  
**0161 253 5105**