

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT THE BANQUETING  
SUITE, LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE**

**PRESENT**

Mayor of Greater Manchester	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire)	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Ged Cooney
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bolton	Councillor Nadim Muslim
Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
Salford	Councillor John Merry

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Exec Director of Policy & Strategy	Simon Nokes
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny	Julie Connor
GMFRS Chief Fire Officer	Dave Russel

GMFRS Deputy Chief Fire Officer	Ben Norman
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
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	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
NHS	Claire Norman

### **GMCA 160/23      APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received and noted from City Mayor Paul Dennett (Salford), Councillor Mark Hunter (Stockport) & Joanne Roney (Manchester).

### **GMCA 161/23      CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, provided an update following the launch of Tranche 1 of the Bee Network on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September. The launch had been successful, with an enormous programme of work having taken place at the depots on the Saturday night to transfer over the IT systems, radios, and branding. Tribute was paid to the Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) officers who had worked on the changeover led by Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM Eamonn Boylan. Thanks were also given to Diamond and Go North West who had worked closely with TfGM during the transition. It was also advised that the new app and

ticketing options were now available, effectively introducing 20% savings across the entire region.

Members welcomed the scope that would now be opened up to allow residents to work with their councillors to suggest and propose bus routes that worked best for them through their local respective Bee Network structures.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, provided an update on the current issues around the potential cancellation of the Manchester-Birmingham arm of High Speed 2 (HS2). The loss of HS2 to Manchester would be hugely detrimental to the region, not only impacting strong north to south connectivity, but also the viability of strong west to east lines across the north. The Mayor , together with Cllr Bev Craig, have written to the Prime Minister asking for an audience with him during the Conservative Conference in Manchester to seek further clarity on the decision being taken and the reasons for it.

Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, was invited to provide an update on the ongoing Baird Review. The review had been commissioned over the summer following the reporting by Sky News of a number of serious allegations made by three women whilst in Greater Manchester Police (GMP) custody suites. Dame Vera Baird was in the process of investigating the circumstances of the cases and the way in which wider lessons needed to be learned about the treatment of women and girls , when in police custody. It was advised that prior to the review an improvement programme had already commenced across the estate of GMP custody suites following recommendations made by a HM Chief Inspectors report earlier in the year. It was expected that a follow up visit would be made towards the end of 2023.

Dame Baird had met with a number of people who had sought to share their experiences of GM custody, including some of the women who had shared their stories in the media, and remained on track to produce her report towards the end of the year. However, there was still a window of opportunity for anyone who wished to share their experiences of custody to come forward, and it was asked that they do so within the next two weeks.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the update following the introduction of Tranche 1 of the Bee Network on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be received.
2. That the update on the current issues around HS2 be received.
3. That it be noted that the Mayor was seeking an audience with the Prime Minister to gain further clarity on the HS2 line to Manchester proposals.
4. That the Deputy Mayor's update on the ongoing Baird Review be noted.
5. That it be requested that any persons who wished to engage with the Baird Review and had not already done so, to make contact within the next two weeks.

#### **GMCA 162/23      GMFRS FIRE COVER REVIEW**

Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, together with Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Dave Russel and Deputy CFO Ben Norman were to provide the outcomes of the recent Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service (GMFRS) Fire Cover Review.

The review had taken place as required by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) every four years, to ensure that the fire resources currently in place were as best matched to the requirements of the city region as possible. Ensuring that the right equipment was in the right place at the right time, with a recognition that the areas of most demand did shift over time.

The public and staff consultation process had commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> June for a period of 11 weeks, and it had been made clear from the outset that this was a truly engaged process that sought to listen to the voices of colleagues and local communities. In excess of 830 responses had been received throughout the process, and the wider engagement process had also involved attendance at local scrutiny meetings, sessions with local MPs and councillors, and in-person local events held in the areas

at most risk of day crewing systems being introduced. The headline outcomes following the consultation exercise were detailed as follows:

- Introduce additional wholetime fire engine at Manchester Central Community Fire Station – taking the total fleet from 50 to 51 pumps.
- Invest an additional £340k in Prevention and Protection activities – targeting more resources to keeping people safe from emergencies before they happen.
- Implement Enhanced Rescue Station proposals at Leigh and Ashton Community Fire Stations – strengthening the ability to respond to increasing numbers of complex emergencies.
- Implement all proposals from the Strategic Review of Special Appliances – Implementing new technologies and ensuring specialist technical equipment is best located for where it is most needed across the city-region.
- Crews will continue to be based on station 24/7 and day crewing arrangements will not be progressed at Sale and Offerton fire stations.

Chief Fire Officer, Dave Russel, stated that the results of the review represented a very positive outcome for GMFRS and the communities it served. The Service will be stronger and more resilient as a result of these changes.

Thanks were expressed to CFO Dave Russel, DCFO, Ben Norman, and all staff at GMFRS who had been involved in the review and brought it to a successful conclusion.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMCA notes that the GMFRS Fire Cover Review outcomes constitute a Mayoral Decision.
2. That the verbal update on outcomes of the GMFRS Fire Cover Review be received and noted. With the proposals highlighted as follows:
  - Introduce additional wholetime fire engine at Manchester Central Community Fire Station – taking the total fleet from 50 to 51 pumps.

- Invest an additional £340k in Prevention and Protection activities – targeting more resources to keeping people safe from emergencies before they happen.
- Implement Enhanced Rescue Station proposals at Leigh and Ashton Community Fire Stations – strengthening the ability to respond to increasing numbers of complex emergencies.
- Implement all proposals from the Strategic Review of Special Appliances – Implementing new technologies and ensuring specialist technical equipment is best located for where it is most needed across the city-region.
- Crews will continue to be based on station 24/7 and day crewing arrangements will not be progressed at Sale and Offerton fire stations.

**GMCA 163/23      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

That there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any item on the agenda.

**GMCA 164/23      MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 28 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 165/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 28 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 166/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 20 September 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 167/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 26 JULY & 16 AUGUST  
2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 26 July & 16 August 2023 be noted.
2. That it be noted that as part of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, parallel scrutiny arrangements with members of parliament were being finalised, and that work would take place to ensure that these arrangements compliment the work of the existing GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**GMCA 168/23            MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER BUSINESS  
BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON 19 JULY & 19 SEPTEMBER  
2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Business Board meetings held on 19 July & 19 September 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 169/23            MINUTES OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 27  
JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 27 July 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 170/23            APPOINTMENTS TO GREATER MANCHESTER BODIES**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of Councillor Imran Rizvi (Bury) as a member of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Nathan Boroda (Bury) and Councillor Mohammed Iqbal (Bolton) as substitute members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved.
3. That the appointment of Councillor Elliot Moss (Bury) to the GM Joint Clean Air Scrutiny Committee be noted.

**GMCA 171/23            COST OF LIVING AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, and Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities & Communities, were invited to provide an update on the cost-of-living pressures faced by residents and businesses in Greater Manchester, and some of the measures being put in place by the GMCA and partners to respond to this as another winter period approached.

In terms of the business community, uncertainty remained high. Whilst improvements were gradually being seen in inflation, this had yet to transfer over in terms borrowing or elements such as energy and staffing costs. However, there was positivity that the worst-case scenarios posited last year in terms of redundancies and bankruptcies had largely been averted. Thanks were recorded to the Growth Company for the work they had been undertaking with businesses in the region throughout this period. There were concerns that businesses were having to expand mental health support for staff and adapting food offers during shifts due to the inability of staff to access good quality food elsewhere.

Headlines from the latest residents' survey and the cost-of-living dashboard were detailed. The survey had found that seven in every ten residents were still suffering significantly from the cost-of-living crisis. ONS data had also shown that Greater Manchester residents were suffering the impacts of the crisis more acutely than other areas of the country with 1 in 3 feeling acute financial pressure compared to 1 in 4 across the country as a whole.

The importance of costs coming down was emphasised. Stopping inflation rising would not solve the crisis, as people were already well past the point where everyday goods and services were affordable, and wages were not rising in line with these increased costs.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

That the latest assessment and emerging response be noted.

#### **GMCA 172/23      GREATER MANCHESTER EQUALITY PANELS ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities & Communities, presented a report that summarised the activity and impact of the Greater Manchester Equality Panels through their individual Annual Reports 2022-23.

The great work of the Panels and how they positively impacted dialogue was highlighted. It was noted, however, that as these Panels were non-statutory and advisory without direct decision-making powers, the vital role of portfolio leads

continued to interact with these Panels in a genuine way to ensure that their advice was meaningfully implemented.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Annual Reports provided by the Disabled People's Panel, Youth Combined Authority, Women and Girls Equality Panel, Race Equality Panel, Faith and Belief Panel Advisory Panel, Older Peoples Equality Panel and LGBTQ+ Equality Panel be noted.
2. That the commitment of all Portfolios to proactively engage with Equality Panels (individually or collectively) on issues that impact communities-of-identity be endorsed.

## **GMCA 173/23      TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED TECHNICAL EDUCATION, SKILLS AND WORK CITY-REGION**

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Technical Education, Skills and Work, presented a report setting out the ambition of a Technical Education, Skills & Work (ESW) city region within the wider proposed Governance structure to take forward the whole ESW agenda and devolution trailblazer.

The vision for the ESW was to give residents in the city region (particularly younger people) clarity, quality and equality of choice as they proceeded through the education system. The current system was clearly weighted towards the academic route through education, and the ESW sought to lift the value of technical education routes into work and see it placed on a level footing.

It was emphasised that this was not about discouraging young people from entering university, but instead about ensuring choice and the broadening of opportunities available to as wide a set of people as possible. This would initially be enabled through the Manchester Baccalaureate which would provide a clearly defined pathway for a post-16 technical route.

The delivery of this system would require appropriate governance, and the report outlined how the existing governance would be stepped down and replaced by an employer led governance system rooted in the needs of the Greater Manchester economy. It was requested that all districts encourage local businesses to engage with the boards being inaugurated to ensure that the governance was as meaningful and impactful as possible. There would also be a series of thematic boards looking at what truly embodied good skills and fair & accessible employment. Standing at the top of the governance system would be a Joint Oversight Board, this would be the Board through which the GMCA would partner with relevant government partners to deliver the necessary change.

Recent polling had shown 60% support for the Manchester Baccalaureate plans amongst the Greater Manchester public, which was a huge indication of the willingness to embrace this new approach.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the update and proposed next steps be noted and endorsed.
2. That the proposals for new governance arrangements for GMCA's Education, Skills and Work portfolio, including the development of the Joint Oversight Board (JOB) with central government, in line with the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, and the proposed operation of a 'shadow' JOB ahead of full implementation in early 2024, be approved.
3. That the standing down of current Employment Skills and Work (ESW) governance be approved – primarily the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP), with thanks for members' contributions to date.
4. That the establishment of a GMCA ESW Executive Member portfolio leads' forum, comprising the ten portfolio leads (e.g. Work & Skills or equivalent) be approved, with Leaders invited to nominate their relevant Executive Member portfolio lead.

5. That the progress of the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) application and delegate initial sign off for the submission to the Portfolio Leader for Technical Education, Skills & Work be noted.
6. That all individual districts be requested to engage with their local businesses to encourage involvement with the new ESW governance arrangements.

**GMCA 174/23      PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK (PSTN)  
SWITCHOVER**

Councillor Nick Peel, Portfolio Lead for Digital, presented a report that highlighted changes in the UK telecoms infrastructure that would impact a significant number of people and organisations across the city region.

The network was due to be switched off and an internet connection would be needed to run any landline telephone number. This would inversely affect older people in the region and there was significant concern that the impact of this changeover was not yet being appropriately disseminated through communications and media channels., therefore furthering the risk of isolation and being 'left behind'.

An issue with the communications element, was that the government had asked that this be an industry led switchover, and whilst people were receiving calls offering them a free switchover, many people were understandably believing these to be scam callers.

The report recommended that the government be requested to take more of a coordinating role, particularly in terms of awareness and public relations, and that they also help housing providers with the capital they will need to provide new equipment. A working group would be established within Greater Manchester to help with locally led interventions.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report and progress towards supporting PSTN switchover in GM be noted.

2. That support be given to advocating that the Government should play a stronger and more active role in the PSTN switchover.
3. That the need to ensure that public sector organisations and their partners were undertaking appropriate steps to upgrade or mitigate be endorsed.
4. That the work between local authorities and industry to identify vulnerable households and the request that no-one is disconnected by industry until a suitable alternative connection is available be supported.
5. That the establishment of a GM PSTN Switchover working group to coordinate activity and communication, in partnership with ISPs and Local Authorities be endorsed.

**GMCA 175/23      BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE INTEGRATED WATER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN TO 31 MARCH 2024**

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, presented a report seeking approval for the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) to 31 March 2024 and the resources required to enable the plan to be progressed and delivered.

The Plan had been agreed at the June 2023 meeting of the GMCA, and since then a Round Table had taken place on the delivery of the Plan. The resource request, which would match the commitment of the Environment Agency and United Utilities, was for a Project Lead, an Analyst, Support Officer and a Graduate position.

Councillor Nadim Muslim, the Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee, was invited to provide feedback following the Committee's receipt of a further update on the Integrated Water Management Business Plan, and had made the following highlighted recommendations:

- That the GMCA and all its constituent councils and TfGM use every opportunity to increase awareness through consistent messaging to residents about the

need for behavioural change to prepare for the increased levels of water predicted, and that there are strong communication campaigns aligned with national announcements, such as the latest surface water data expected to be published in 2024

- That although the issue crosses multiple portfolio areas, the need for a political lead is evident in order to keep the momentum, alongside further developed governance arrangements
- That the current measures of success be considered by the Partnership as part of the Greater Manchester Strategy Refresh next year, to determine whether we are in fact measuring the right metrics
- That each of our Local Authorities continue to look for ways to engage effectively with this Plan in order to influence changes to development planning processes and aid the introduction of Schedule 3 where consideration regarding sustainable urban drainage become mandatory for every infrastructure development

It was advised that a session of the Integrated Water Management Plan would be taking place during the Green Summit on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024 (Annex A) be approved.
2. That the budget request this financial year (£207,758) to operationalize the plan (paragraph 3.5) be approved.
3. That the request to create new fixed terms posted funded through retained business rates (paragraph 3.2) be approved.
4. That the allocation of a minimum of £250k is allocated to the Integrated Water Management Plan from FY 24/25 retained business rates (Paragraph 3.6) be approved.

5. That the comments raised by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
6. That it be noted that an Integrated Water Management session would be held during the GM Green Summit on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

**GMCA 176/23      DELIVERING THE BEE NETWORK: ACQUISITION OF BUS DEPOTS TO SUPPORT BUS FRANCHISING**

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, provided an update on the acquisition of Bus Depots to support Bus Franchising and sought authorisation for procedural changes in the acquisition of the bus depots required to support Tranches 2 and 3 of the GM Bus Franchising Scheme.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the procedural changes for depot acquisitions for Tranches 2 and 3, in order to streamline the acquisition and leasing of depots, be approved.
2. That the changes to the decisions and delegations from the September 2022 GMCA meeting, set out in the Appendix, be noted.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, TfGM and GMCA, to agree the final terms of leases of bus depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements to existing operators and the franchise depot leases to be granted to the franchise bus operators for Tranches 2 and 3.
4. That authority be delegated to TfGM to manage, maintain and insure all of the bus depots on behalf of GMCA in accordance with the terms of an agreed Protocol between GMCA and TfGM referred to in earlier reports to the GMCA.
5. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the terms of any agreement between the GMCA and TfGM to bring Tranche 1 leases in line with Tranches 2 and 3.

## **GMCA 177/23      ANNUAL TREASURY OUTTURN REPORT**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources, presented the Annual Treasury Outturn Report 2022/23 as required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003.

### **RESOLVED /-**

That the report be approved.

## **GMCA 178/23      GREATER MANCHESTER BROWNFIELD PROGRAMME**

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report setting out details of further allocations of funding from the Greater Manchester Brownfield programme which were approved during August and September under the delegation agreed by the Combined Authority in July.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the allocation of up to £14.9m of the Brownfield Housing Fund programme funding devolved to GMCA to the 7 projects identified at Appendix 1, be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing and the Lead Member of the relevant district to approve increases of up to 10% on brownfield funding allocations previously approved by the Combined Authority and other variations to funding conditions in the period up to 31 March 2024.

## **GMCA 179/23      GREATER MANCHESTER CITY DEAL RECEIPTS – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION**

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report seeking approval to the investment of City Deal Receipts into two social impact funds to aid in delivering the GM Housing objectives.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the following investments of City Deal Receipts in two Social Impact Funds, be approved as follows:

FUND	DISTRICT	CDR INVESTMENT
National Homelessness Property Fund 2	GM Wide	£6.5m
Resonance Supported Homes Fund	GM Wide	£2.5m

2. That the City Deal Receipts, which form part of the £119.8m GMCA was lending to Renaker's Bankside and Trinity D2 developments being increased from £20m to £21m, with the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund ("GMHILF") element of the loan reduced accordingly, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loan, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loan, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

**GMCA 180/23      GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK  
CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report seeking approval for a loan to ClearCycle Ltd and advised that an investment into LoveRaw Limited had been approved under delegation and was being reported to the GMCA for information.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the loan facility of up to £950,000 to ClearCycle be approved.

2. That the investment into LoveRaw Limited (“LoveRaw”) of £500,000, approved under delegated authority be noted.
  
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loan, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loan, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

**GMCA 181/23      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 182/23      GREATER MANCHESTER 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 180/23)

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report be noted.