

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	22nd November 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 September 2023.
- 1.2 Since the last update there has been two meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

2 Greater Manchester Equality Panels Annual Report

- 2.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 That the commitment of all Portfolios to proactively engage with Equality Panels (individually or collectively) on issues that impact communities-of-identity be endorsed.

3 Towards an Integrated Technical Education, Skills and Work City-Region

- 3.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 3.2 That the update and proposed next steps be noted and endorsed.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 That all individual districts be requested to engage with their local businesses to encourage involvement with the new ESW governance arrangements.

4 Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Switchover

- 4.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 4.2 That the report and progress towards supporting PSTN switchover in GM be noted.
- 4.3 That support be given to advocating that the Government should play a stronger and more active role in the PSTN switchover.
- 4.4 That the need to ensure that public sector organisations and their partners were undertaking appropriate steps to upgrade or mitigate be endorsed.
- 4.5 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.

- 4.6 That the establishment of a GM PSTN Switchover working group to coordinate activity and communication, in partnership with ISPs and Local Authorities be endorsed.

5 Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024

- 5.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 5.2 That the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024 (Annex A) be approved.
- 5.3 That the budget request this financial year (£207,758) to operationalize the plan (paragraph 3.5) be approved.
- 5.4 That the request to create new fixed terms posted funded through retained business rates (paragraph 3.2) be approved.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 That the comments raised by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted
- 5.7 That it be noted that an Integrated Water Management session would be held during the GM Green Summit on Monday 2nd October.

6 Delivering the Bee Network: Acquisition of Bus Depots to Support Bus Franchising

- 6.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 6.2 That the procedural changes for depot acquisitions for Tranches 2 and 3, in order to streamline the acquisition and leasing of depots, be approved.
- 6.3 That the changes to the decisions and delegations from the September 2022 GMCA meeting, set out in the Appendix, be noted.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.

- 6.6 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.

7 Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme

- 7.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.

8 Greater Manchester City Deal Receipts – Investment Approval Recommendation

- 8.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 8.2 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

- 8.3
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 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.

9 Greater Manchester Investment Framework

- 9.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 9.2 That the loan facility of up to £950,000 to ClearCycle be approved.
- 9.3 That the investment into LoveRaw Limited ("LoveRaw") of £500,000, approved under delegated authority be noted.
- 9.4 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.

10 Greater Manchester Equality Strategy

- 10.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 10.2 That the contents of the report be noted.
- 10.3 That it be noted that the GMCA would consider its role in supporting delivery of the themes and actions within the proposed framework and development of a Race Equality Strategy
- 10.4 That the key themes and actions, as set out in the report, including the appointment of a political and organisational lead from each local authority to drive forward individual action and collective development of a Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy be endorsed.
- 10.5 That the points raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
- 10.6 That the comments made by The Chair of the GM Race Equality Panel be received and noted.
- 10.7 That the GMCA record it thanks to Elizabeth Cameron for chairing the first year of the GM Race Equality Panel.

11 Implementation of Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Accord and a Fair Funding Protocol

- 11.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 11.2 That the progress update be noted.
- 11.3 That the Fair Funding Protocol for activities and services that the VCFSE sector carries out across Greater Manchester, which were funded directly from the GMCA's budget, be approved.

12 Homelessness Update 2023

- 12.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 12.2 That the current and forthcoming pressures on Rough Sleeping and Statutory homelessness services, and the activity undertaken to mitigate these, be noted.
- 12.3 That the funding risk and uncertainty for all homelessness programmes beyond 31 March 2025 be noted.
- 12.4 That the ongoing work to define a vision for homelessness beyond 2025 be noted.
- 12.5 That a request be made to the Home Office for further support to be made available and that a stable alternative to the temporary Home Office Refugee Transitions Outcome Fund (RTOF), which was due to end in March 2024, be developed.

13 Greater Manchester Strategy Progress Report – Autumn 2023

- 13.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 13.2 That the draft progress report, noting the development in the approach to progress reporting, with a greater emphasis on whole system metrics and actions, be approved.
- 13.3 That the whole system actions included in the report and the next steps from progressing these actions through a round of thematic, sectoral and place-based engagement on the findings be approved.
- 13.4 That the impact assessment summary noted, and that it also be noted that the process adopted for the development of this progress report, has not gathered sufficient detail to assess specific impacts arising from delivery of programmes and policies supporting the GMS ambitions.

- 13.5 That it be noted that the assessment completed takes an overview approach, considering the strategic intent of the GMS and collective ability to, over time, achieve that strategic intent.
- 13.6 That the comments raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the five key areas within the GMS be received and noted.

14 GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 2 2023/24

- 14.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 14.2 That the forecast position at 30th September 2023 be noted.
- 14.3 That the proposed areas for the enhanced Business Rates sites in Greater Manchester be noted. Also noted that confirmation and approval of final sites will be reported to a later meeting of the GMCA, following formal feedback from government and that the final details for the operation of enhanced Business Rates sites will be included in the Investment Plan.
- 14.4 That the updates to the GMCA general budget, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.
- 14.5 That the intention, subject to formal approval by the Department for Transport (DfT), to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding, previously awarded by DfT to support bus services, be noted, and that it also be noted that £7.5m of this reallocation was to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25.
- 14.6 That the Mayor's first monthly progress update following the commencement of the Bee Network franchise be received.

15 GMCA Capital Update Quarter 2 2023/24

- 15.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 15.2 That the current 2023/24 forecast of £623.6m, compared to the previous forecast of £681.3m, be noted, and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
- 15.3 That other increases in capital budget over £0.5m be approved as follows:
 - 15.3.1 Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund capital funding of £0.7m, as outlined in section 3.4.3. of the report.

- 15.3.2 Transport Local Growth Deal 1 Major Schemes of £1.7m, as outlined in as outlined at section 3.11 of the report.
- 15.3.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £7.7m, as outlined in section 4.10, of the report.

16 UKSPF – E22 SME Workspace – Project Change

- 16.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 16.2 That the UKSPF E22 investment in SME workspace in Oldham town centre, to support the creation of SME workspace in the Flexible Workspace project in the Spindles Centre and not the Prudential Building, be approved.
- 16.3 That the proposition for any UKSPF E22 underspend, under the £15m total allocated be reassigned to E22 projects that had to reduce grant ask in 2023, up to the maximum E22 total of £15m agreed by GMCA in January 2023, be approved.
- 16.4 That it be noted that the overall UKSPF investment to the end of March 2025 remains the same overall at £1.462m but is to be split into £1m capital investment and £0.462m revenue investment.
- 16.5 That the revised outputs and outcomes proposed and the positive contribution they will make to achieving those set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan be noted.

17 Ashton Growth Corridor: Proposed Mayoral Development Zone

- 17.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 17.2 That the designation of a Mayoral Development Zone known as Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (AMDZ) be approved.
- 17.3 That the proposed area of the AMDZ, as indicated in the appendix to the report, be approved.
- 17.4 That the establishment of the AMDZ Board be approved and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM to agree appropriate representation on the Board, in consultation with Tameside Council.
- 17.5 That it be noted that the projects within the proposed AMDZ will aim to deliver sustainable forms of development that reflect and deliver the GM Strategy.

- 17.6 That the principles of the business case and development strategy for the MDZ, as set out in the report, be approved, noting that the AMDZ Board will refine these into the development of a business case, for the AMDZ in overseeing the delivery of the growth sites, for submission to a future meeting of the GMCA for approval.
- 17.7 That it be noted that the current funding resource will be from Tameside Council's unallocated Levelling Up Capacity Grant with GMCA providing support with officer time.
- 17.8 That that future updates on delivery progress at AMDZ be submitted to the GMCA.

18 Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff

- 18.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 18.2 That the establishment of a floor and a ceiling price cap of 30% above the below the current EV tariff, as, set out in the report, be approved.
- 18.3 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM to approve tariff charges within those limits.

19 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) update

19.1 GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- 19.2 The latest GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting took place on Wednesday 25 October.
- 19.3 The agenda for the meeting can be found here. At the meeting Richard Nickson, TfGM's Programme Director for Cycling and Walking, introduced the Bee Network Cycle Hire Recovery Plan report and shared the following updates with the committee:
 - 19.3.1 Since the report was submitted to the committee the number of available bikes has increased to over 600 as of last week. Missing bikes have been recovered, usage remains high and user feedback is positive.
 - 19.3.2 While vandalism remains high it is under control, with Beryl increasing on-street and depot teams and GMP continuing to support.
 - 19.3.3 Around 95% of all repair jobs relate to criminal damage.
 - 19.3.4 Work is ongoing as to how the cycle hire scheme can support GM's night-time economy strategy and people working in sector-relevant jobs.

- 19.4 Following the update The Mayor praised TfGM, Beryl, GMP and the TravelSafe Partnership for supporting the scheme and helping to recover bikes and described the scheme as a success story despite hitting difficulties.
- 19.5 The Mayor added that as the Bee Network is built, cycle hire has to be integrated into it as part of a multi-modal approach – including having a touch in/touch out arrangement across modes.
- 19.6 **Bee Network Committee**
- 19.7 The latest Bee Network Committee meeting took place on Thursday 26 October. Items included:
- 19.8 Chair’s Announcements and Urgent Business:
- 19.8.1 A motion setting out the committee’s support of a public inquiry into the cancellation of the northern leg of HS2 was proposed by the Chair and supported by most of the committee.
- 19.8.2 A second motion setting out the committee’s support of the protection of land along routes 2a and 2b of HS2, including the immediate stoppage of any sales currently in progress until a review takes place, was unanimously passed.
- 19.9 Local Transport Plan Process: Report by Martin Lax, TfGM’s Transport Strategy Director and Jonathan Marsh TfGM’s TfGM’s Head of Strategic Planning & Innovation. This report provided an overview of the proposed process for refreshing GM’s statutory Local Transport Plan (GM Transport Strategy 2040). The report was endorsed without questions/comments from the committee.
- 19.10 Mayoral Update – Bus Franchising Tranche 1 Performance Update: Before providing an update on performance of Tranche 1 Bee Network services, Andy Burnham provided a verbal update on the cancellation of the northern leg of HS2. The Mayor and Steve Rotheram, the Mayor for the Liverpool City Region, are exploring how east-west rail connections between the two regions can be improved using the £12bn allocated. The Mayors have also been supported by the Conservative Mayor for the West Midlands, Andy Street, regarding their stance on the sale of land allocated for the northern leg of HS2.
- 19.11 On the performance of Tranche 1 Bee Network services update included:
- 19.11.1 Overall punctuality in the franchised areas continues to improve and increased from 70.70% to 74.4% in last few weeks, with Bee Network

services performing better than the non-franchised services they replaced during the period.

- 19.11.2 Through the launch of Tranche 1 there has been a new and improved approach towards implementing roadworks given their impact on bus performance. TfGM and local authorities are working closely to provide better planning around bus routes and to provide capacity during major events.
- 19.11.3 Stephen Rhodes, TfGM's Director of Bus, outlined the significant uplift in customer feedback following franchise launch – including through the app – which has provided a good source of information on how services can be further improved.
- 19.11.4 The V1 service on the Leigh Guided Busway has consistently been outperforming pre-franchise service levels when compared with on time data for the same period last year. Both the V1 and V2 (which has been restored to a full timetable) are offering more services in both directions.
- 19.11.5 Patronage has grown steadily since Tranche 1 began with an average of almost 100,000 passengers a day being carried by Tranche 1. In the first three weeks of franchising the farebox has also outperformed assumptions made as part of budget planning.
- 19.12 Following the update, discussion points from the meeting included:
Council Briefing
 - 19.12.1 Further updates to the app, including route planning
 - 19.12.2 Driver familiarisation
 - 19.12.3 Ongoing work with T2 and T3 operators to manage network performance
 - 19.12.4 Further updates on performance data to follow at future committee meetings.
- 19.13 **Electric Vehicle Charing Tarriff:** Report by Megan Black, Head of Logistics and Environment, TfGM. This report informed the committee of the proposal for a more agile approach to setting the Electric Vehicle charging tariff to remain competitive within the market. The report was endorsed by the committee. Discussion points on this item included:
 - 19.13.1 There is funding available through the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles and TfGM is working with local authorities to move the case for financial support forward.

- 19.13.2 TfGM are also exploring “overstay charges” to help prevent vehicles from staying at a charging point longer than they need to.
- 19.13.3 A comparison between GM’s charging structure and other areas in the UK will be circulated.
- 19.14 **Transport Capital Programme:** Report by Chris Barnes, Infrastructure Pipeline Programme Director, TfGM. This report asked the Bee Network Committee to note the current position on the Greater Manchester Transport Capital Programme and consider a number of CRSTS (city-region sustainable transport settlement), Active Travel, and Growth Deal funding draw-down requests in order to support the continued development and delivery of the programme. Salford Mayor Paul Dennett welcomed the investment outlined in the report but expressed frustration at wider rail infrastructure issues. Mayor Dennett also welcomed the move to introduce later running trams across the Metrolink network, as well as improved peak services between MediaCityUK and Etihad Campus. The report was endorsed by the committee.

20 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
0161 253 5105