

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on
Friday 24th November 2023 at Bolton Town Hall**

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
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Ged Cooney
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Bolton	Councillor Nadim Muslim
Co-Chair of GM Disabled People's Panel	Melvyn Bradley

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
GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny	Julie Connor
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall

Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	John Searle
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

GMCA 202/23 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received from Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Tom Stannard (Salford) and Caroline Simpson (Stockport).

GMCA 203/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, advised all present that 24th November marked ‘White Ribbon Day’ and that the region would continue its strong support for the campaign, making it clear that any forms of violence against women and girls would not be tolerated. The Gender Based Violence Board and the ‘#IsThisOK’ campaign would also continue to spread this message throughout the region.

The GMCA was updated on the announcements arising from the Government’s Autumn Statement on Wednesday 22nd November. This had included some good news for the region, including the publication of the draft Memorandum of Understanding for the single settlement, opening the doors to the new funding model for the region. There had also been an announcement on the future expansion of Investment Zones, which provided opportunities for growth in key areas such as advanced materials.

There were however urgent concerns arising from the Autumn Statement as well. Firstly, there had been no mention at all of local authority funding. Many councils were on a ‘knife edge’ in terms of finances and the settlement would arrive even later than usual this year. There had also been no reference to the Household Support Fund

which was relied upon to help alleviate the cost-of-living crisis being faced by many residents across the city region. In Manchester alone this equated to £12m of support – and it was vital to directly voice these pressing concerns to Government.

The meeting was also advised that the Mayor of Greater Manchester would be attending the Government Covid Inquiry on 27 November 2023, alongside the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to give evidence. He would be advising that a devolved approach to Greater Manchester's emergency structure would have delivered a faster response to the pandemic.

An update was provided on the continuing embedding of Tranche 1 of the Bee Network. Overall, the data showed that Bee Network services within this Tranche 1 area were performing better than the previous service. Issues did remain with some particular services and work was underway to ensure that these were brought in line with the standards expected. There had also been an increase in patronage of around 8% since the introduction of the Bee Network and this was now being reflected in the farebox, however, it was important to keep pushing out the message about the need for strong patronage.

RESOLVED /-

1. That White Ribbon Day be acknowledged and that the GMCA reaffirms its continued strong support.
2. That the update on the news arising from the Autumn Statement on the Greater Manchester funding model for devolution be received.
3. That the update on Greater Manchester Investment Zone expansion arising from the Autumn Statement be received.
4. That the concerns arising from the lack of updates within the Autumn Statement on local authority funding and the household support fund be acknowledged and that these concerns be voiced directly to the Government.
5. That it be advised that Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester will be attending the Government Covid Inquiry, alongside the GMCA Solicitor and

Monitoring Officer, to give evidence, noting that he would be advising that a devolved approach to Greater Manchester's emergency structure would have delivered a faster response to the pandemic.

6. That the update on the successes arising from Tranche 1 of the Bee Network and the identified areas for improvements be received.

GMCA 204/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

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

**GMCA 205/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 27 OCTOBER
2023**

RESOLVED /-

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

**GMCA 206/23 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER BEE NETWORK
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 26 October 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 207/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

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

**GMCA 208/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

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

**GMCA 209/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 15 November 2023 be noted.

GMCA 210/23 BAIRD REVIEW UPDATE

Kate Green, Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire) was invited to provide an update on the latest developments in the Baird Review of custody suites.

In addition to the three women who had previously featured in the Sky News investigation in August 2023, Dame Vera had now talked to a further 12 people of which 9 were female and 3 males. As well as considering reports supplied by others who had come forward anonymously. Whilst the Inquiry had retained its focus on the treatment of women and girls, it was felt important to also consider any male complainants that had come forward to the Inquiry with similar experiences. This will also enable assessment of whether there were any differences between the treatment of men and women in police custody.

Dame Vera had also held a focus group with women's organisations in Greater Manchester, met independent custody visitors and visited Pendleton and Ashton Custody suites. The Inquiry had continued to explore the experiences of people who were arrested and taken into police custody, with a focus on women and girls in respect of maximising their rights, safety, and dignity. This had included examining wider practice, standards, and the culture of custody in Greater Manchester.

It was previously stated that the Dame Vera would publish her findings this Autumn but due to the number of people that had come forward and the time needed to thoroughly review their cases, it was now expected to be published in February 2024.

RESOLVED /-

That the statement from the Deputy Mayor updating on the progress of the Baird Review be received.

**GMCA 211/23 GREATER MANCHESTER BUSINESS BOARD MEMBERSHIP
REVIEW**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth, introduced a report seeking GMCA endorsement of the recommendations regarding the future private sector membership until 2025.

It was advised that the Greater Manchester Business Board terms of reference required that the Business Board's private sector membership was reviewed every two years. This bi-annual review ensured that the board continued to meet its strategic remit and remained fit for purpose going forward.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the renewal of the seven existing private sector members' terms of office for another two-year term (Lou Cordwell, Lorna Fitzsimons, Vimla Appadoo; Marilyn Comrie; Steve Connor; Chris Oglesby and Justin Kelly) be endorsed.

2. That the recommendation that to two existing Board members continue as ex-officio members, representing the Growth Company and Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (Mike Blackburn and Clive Memmott), be endorsed.
3. That the appointment of the five new private sector members invited to join the Business Board (Devrim Celal; Laura Percy; Mike Wilton; Steve Rothberg; and James Byrne) be endorsed.

**GMCA 212/23 GREATER MANCHESTER REPONSE TO 2022 BIG
DISABILITY SURVEY**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities & Communities, introduced a report presenting an overview of progress made towards a whole-system response to the Big Disability Survey carried out by the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel in the summer of 2022. The update was one year on from the survey publication and described progress made as well as outlining key issues emerging from the work so far.

The survey had highlighted in very stark terms the continuing impact the pandemic and the subsequent cost-of-living crisis continued to have upon the lives of many disabled people in the region. Also noted was the concern that attitudes of the public towards disabled people had also worsened.

The planned reforms announced in the autumn statement that would force many people currently on incapacity benefits to find work had also raised many concerns, particularly in regard to the availability of suitable jobs available locally.

Actions taken since the receipt of the 2022 Big Disability Survey had included improvements to public transport; ensuring that the accessible home standard was written into the Places for Everyone plans; and the addressing of negative language and terminology in mental health services.

The unique nature of the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel was highlighted. It was noted that it was the only Panel of its type that currently existed in the country, and within that position had played a key role in influence consultations that directly impacted upon disabled people. Not least the recent consultation on the

proposed closure of rail ticket offices in England – the decision went on to be reversed and it was felt that the GM Disabled People’s Panel’s input into this had played a key role in this.

The Co-Chair of the Greater Manchester Disabled People’s Panel, Melvin Bradley, was invited to comment on the report. The ongoing support of the GMCA was welcomed, and the Panel would be meeting in the following week to fully consider the GMCA response to the survey. Comments were raised regarding the capacity to act, it was recognised that there were many complexities involved in this work and that progress would not always be as expedited as hoped. It was important for the Panel to be involved at the earliest possible stage for their input to be fully incorporated - disabled people needed strong allies in place in every Greater Manchester district. The Panel were pleased that the survey had been referenced on the floor of the House of Commons and this really demonstrated that the work of the Panel was getting politicians to ‘sit up and take notice’. A number of recent successes, including resolving voter ID issues, were then highlighted.

The Chair made reference to the point raised regarding the variability of levels of support for the Panel across the ten Greater Manchester districts – emphasising the importance of clear consistent arrangements throughout the region, suggesting that it might be helpful for each district to have a nominated officer in place for direct liaison with the Panel.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress made with the response to the 2022 Big Disability Survey and the issues which have been identified relating to its delivery be noted.
2. That the importance of its constituent organisations achieving a co-ordinated, multi-stakeholder, and effectively resourced Greater Manchester wide response, aimed at improving the lives of disabled people be actively endorsed.
3. That the comments contributed by Melvin Bradley, Co-Chair of the Greater Manchester Disabled People’s Panel, be received.

4. That the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities be requested to ensure that there were clear consistent arrangements in place to respond to the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel.

**GMCA 213/23 GREATER MANCHESTER CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Councillor Mark Hunter, Portfolio Lead for Children & Young People, presented a report that provided an update on three important pieces of work as part of the Greater Manchester Children & Young People's programme, namely the GM Pledge; Project Skyline and the Greater Manchester Fostering Programme.

The Greater Manchester Pledge was an agreement between the ten Greater Manchester districts to reduce reliance over time on agency workers, and the cost of such agency resources was rising due to competition for limited resources. The GMCA would be advised on updates on progress made.

Project Skyline was a strong example of how critical it was to ensure joint working between partners. This was vital as investment could not be made in a new set of children's homes to support young people with complex mental health issues, without a clear clinical mental health offer for those homes.

The Greater Manchester Fostering Programme was related the priority objective to increase availability of fostering places in the region. Greater Manchester had been selected as a national pathfinder to pilot reforms proposed following an independent review of children's social care.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the commitment of all Greater Manchester Local Authorities to tackle the high costs and reliance on agency social workers, by signing up to the 'Greater Manchester Pledge', be noted.

2. That the progress to date on 'Project Skyline' and the intention to launch the procurement exercise for the proposed children's homes in the final quarter of 2023/24 be noted.
3. That the Greater Manchester level response to the challenge of how to increase the number of foster carers across the city-region be noted.
4. That the lobbying of Government for fair and sustainable funding for children's services continues, including an acceleration of the regulation and statutory guidance required to tackle the rising costs of placements for Looked After Children and the high cost associated with agency social workers, be supported.
5. That Greater Manchester Local Authorities be encouraged to identify areas of particular interest, within the Greater Manchester Children's programme, for the next thematic update from the Greater Manchester Children's Board to GMCA.

**GMCA 214/23 GREATER THAN VIOLENCE: A TEN-YEAR GREATER
MANCHESTER VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Kate Green, Deputy Mayor, Police, Fire & Crime, presented the final draft of the ten year "Greater Than Violence" strategy, which was the first of its kind for Greater Manchester, and set out clear, long-term ambitions for how GMCA and its partners would tackle violence, through effective prevention and response and by dealing with the root causes of violence.

The report set out how the strategy was developed, including details on the comprehensive consultation process that had informed the work. The purpose of the report was to gauge the views of the GMCA on content and strategic intent of the draft strategy in advance of its intended launch on 12th December 2023.

The Strategy built upon the achievements of the GM Violence Reduction Unit and its partners since its establishment by the Mayor of Greater Manchester in 2019. Progress had been made in the reduction of violence in those four year since, with the last year having seen a 16% reduction in knife crime; a 29% reduction in hospital

admissions related to a knife/sharp instrument; and a 29% reduction in homicide related in knives and other offensive weapons.

The key elements of the Strategy included building upon the learning experiences of the previous four years; work being community led; Greater Manchester Family partnership working including the key role of VCSE sector partners; timely & early interventions; and youth work.

The consultation process had highlighted the need to emphasise equality and equity. Violence was not experienced equally across the city region by different communities and groups and it was vital to be led by the equality act.

The Chair advised that the Prince of Wales had made a recent visit to the youth project 'The Hideaway' in Moss Side. As part of that visit, through the Royal Foundation, an agreement had been made to work on a pilot to ensure that young people who were at risk of, or had been involved with violence, had referral pathways to provide them with the opportunities needed for a more constructive future.

Councillor Nadim Muslim was invited to feedback on comments raised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee following recent consideration of the Strategy.

The Committee welcomed the move towards considering the Strategy as a public health issue, and that the contributions of young people to the Strategy should be at the forefront. It was vital to support young people who had suffered trauma related to violence and those at high risk of vulnerability.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the report and the accompanying Violence Reduction Strategy be noted.
2. That approval and commitment be given to a ten-year strategic plan to reduce violence across Greater Manchester.
3. That a commitment be given to work with the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and its partners to implement the commitments set out in the strategy.

4. That the update from the Mayor of Greater Manchester, on plans to work to work with the Royal Foundation on pathways for vulnerable young people be received.
5. That the comments made by Councillor Nadim Muslim, on behalf of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be received.
6. That it be noted that the Deputy Mayor will lead on the development of a detailed action plan over the coming months.

GMCA 215/23 INNOVATION GREATER MANCHESTER

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report which provided an update on the ongoing work of Innovation Greater Manchester (IGM), and to present the recommendations made at the IGM Board meeting of 12th October 2023 that formalised the ongoing functions and form of this triple helix entity at the centre of Greater Manchester's innovation ecosystem.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the update on the work of Innovation Greater Manchester Partnership be noted.
2. That it be noted that the Innovation Greater Manchester Board approved a series of recommendations at its Board meeting of 12 October 2023, approving the creation of a triple helix Partnership arrangement, as set out in the report submitted.
3. That approval be given to the GMCA entering into such a Partnership Agreement and move to appoint a new Chair for Innovation Greater Manchester Partnership, and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Economic Portfolio Lead and the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to agree the terms of the Partnership Agreement, in accordance with the terms set out in the report submitted.

4. That approval be given to the use of already committed resources to support the development of Innovation Greater Manchester in its new form in 2023/24 and to consider 2024/25 resources as part of the Retained Business Rates process.

**GMCA 216/23 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME 3C
OPPORTUNITY**

Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, presented a report outlining the funding opportunity to support further Greater Manchester (GM) public building retrofit activity, through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c (PSDS Ph3c via Salix Finance).

To date over £100m of PSDS funding had been awarded and delivered, with local match funding having supported over 230 buildings with retrofit measures. The latest round of national funding would deliver £1.4bn between 2024 and 2026 – this funding would be released in phases in line with how the funding had been delivered to date. The GMCA Low Carbon Team had worked with all ten districts on appetite and readiness – resulting in an initial consortium bid of £9m.

The outcome would be known in January 2024 and if successful GMCA would continue to support the development of a pipeline and the management of the overall programme.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the GMCA has proceeded with a consortium bid for circ. £9m from Salix (NPBD) under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c.
2. That that the receipt and defrayment of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c funding be advocated, with authority delegated to the GMCA

Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to sign all necessary legal agreements (subject to successful award).

3. That it be noted that the impact assessment revealed a positive impact for both environment and economy outcomes.
4. That a top slice from any capital grant awarded, to underpin the GMCA's cost of coordinating and project managing the scheme, be approved.
5. That the scale of the top slice will be confirmed on receipt of the grant.

GMCA 217/23 GREATER MANCHESTER BROWNFIELD PROGRAMME

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report seeking approval for the allocation of a further £11.905m from the GM Brownfield programme.

It was advised that a further two sites had been added to the scheme and were detailed within the report.

RESOLVED /-

1. That approval be given to the allocation of up to £11.905m from the GM Brownfield programme funding devolved to GMCA, in line with the details contained at Appendix 1.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, acting in consultation with the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to effect the necessary legal agreements for the individual grants between the GMCA and grant recipients.

GMCA 218/23 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING DELIVERY PLAN

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report setting out the intentions to develop a Greater Manchester Housing Delivery Plan.

The requirement for a single plan was reflective of the range of different programmes and delivery mechanisms currently being employed to upscale affordable homes in Greater Manchester, including the housing growth elements of the Devolution Deal. A

key element of the plan was that it would underpin the truly affordable net zero target of 30,000 homes by 2028.

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the paper be noted.

GMCA 219/23 MID-YEAR TREASURY REVIEW

Councillor Nazia Rehman, Deputy Leader of Wigan Council, presented the mid-year treasury review written in accordance with the requirements of CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management.

The report highlighted the ongoing uncertainties in the current economic landscape and the fluctuation in interest rates. The capital programme and borrowing remained under constant review to achieve optimum value and risk exposure into the medium and long term.

RESOLVED /-

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2023/24 be approved.

**GMCA 220/23 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Councillor Nazia Rehman, Deputy Leader of Wigan Council, presented a report seeking approval for investments into Wi-Q Limited and SMIDSY Ltd (trading as "Beryl") and novation of a loan from Evergreen 1 to the Core Investment Fund in relation to the Broadway Green development. The investments would be made from recycled funds.

RESOLVED /-

1. That an equity investment of up to £350k to Wi-Q Limited be approved.

2. That an equity investment of up to £1m to SMIDSY Ltd (trading as “Beryl”) be approved.
3. That a loan novation of up to £12.95m to Chancerygate (Erdington) Ltd be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor and 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 221/23 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 222/23 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Clerk’s Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 220/23)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.