

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	17 January 2024
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 four meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

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

- 2.1 At the [29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:
- 2.2 That the update and proposed next steps be noted and endorsed.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.

- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 That all individual districts be requested to engage with their local businesses to encourage involvement with the new ESW governance arrangements.

3 Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Switchover

- 3.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 3.2 That the report and progress towards supporting PSTN switchover in GM be noted.
- 3.3 That support be given to advocating that the Government should play a stronger and more active role in the PSTN switchover.
- 3.4 That the need to ensure that public sector organisations and their partners were undertaking appropriate steps to upgrade or mitigate be endorsed.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 That the establishment of a GM PSTN Switchover working group to coordinate activity and communication, in partnership with ISPs and Local Authorities be endorsed.

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

- 4.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 4.2 That the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024 (Annex A) be approved.
- 4.3 That the budget request this financial year (£207,758) to operationalize the plan (paragraph 3.5) be approved.
- 4.4 That the request to create new fixed terms posted funded through retained business rates (paragraph 3.2) be approved.

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 That the comments raised by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
- 4.7 That it be noted that an Integrated Water Management session would be held during the GM Green Summit on Monday 2nd October.

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

- 5.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 5.2 That the procedural changes for depot acquisitions for Tranches 2 and 3, in order to streamline the acquisition and leasing of depots, be approved.
- 5.3 That the changes to the decisions and delegations from the September 2022 GMCA meeting, set out in the Appendix, be noted.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.

6 Annual Treasury Outturn Report

- 6.1 At the 29th September 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed that the report be approved.

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 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.
- 8.4 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.

9 Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

- 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 re-allocation 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:
- Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund capital funding of £0.7m, as outlined in section 3.4.3. of the report.
 - Transport Local Growth Deal 1 Major Schemes of £1.7m, as outlined in as outlined at section 3.11 of the report.
 - 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

Andy Burnham declared an interest in the report and vacated the Chair and left the room for the discussion. Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, GMCA Deputy Mayor, took the Chair for this item of business.

- 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 Tranche 3 Bus Procurement

- 19.1 At the 27th October 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed that the recommendations within the report be approved.

20 Greater Manchester Response to 2022 Big Disability Survey

- 20.1 At the [24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:
- 20.2 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.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 That the comments contributed by Melvin Bradley, Co-Chair of the Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel, be received.
- 20.5 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.

21 Greater Manchester Children & Young People Programme Update

- 21.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 21.2 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.

- 21.3 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.
- 21.4 That the Greater Manchester level response to the challenge of how to increase the number of foster carers across the city-region be noted.
- 21.5 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.
- 21.6 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.

22 Greater Than Violence: A Ten-Year Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Strategy (key decision)

- 22.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 22.2 That the contents of the report and the accompanying Violence Reduction Strategy be noted.
- 22.3 That approval and commitment be given to a ten-year strategic plan to reduce violence across Greater Manchester.
- 22.4 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.
- 22.5 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.
- 22.6 That the comments made by Councillor Nadim Muslim, on behalf of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be received.
- 22.7 That it be noted that the Deputy Mayor will lead on the development of a detailed action plan over the coming months.

23 Innovation Greater Manchester

- 23.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:

- 23.2 That the update on the work of Innovation Greater Manchester Partnership be noted.
- 23.3 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.
- 23.4 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.
- 23.5 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.

24 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3C Opportunity (key decision)

- 24.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 24.2 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.
- 24.3 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).
- 24.4 That it be noted that the impact assessment revealed a positive impact for both environment and economy outcomes.
- 24.5 That a top slice from any capital grant awarded, to underpin the GMCA's cost of coordinating and project managing the scheme, be approved.
- 24.6 That the scale of the top slice will be confirmed on receipt of the grant.

25 Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme (key decision)

- 25.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 25.2 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.
- 25.3 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.

26 Greater Manchester Housing Delivery Plan

- 26.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 26.2 That the contents of the paper be noted.
- 26.3 That intention to progress with development of the Housing Delivery Plan, in line with the timeframe, be approved.

27 Mid-Year Treasury Review

- 27.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 27.2 That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2023/24 be approved.

28 Greater Manchester Investment Recommendations (key decision)

- 28.1 At the 24th November 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 28.2 That an equity investment of up to £350k to Wi-Q Limited be approved.
- 28.3 That an equity investment of up to £1m to SMIDSY Ltd (trading as "Beryl") be approved.
- 28.4 That a loan novation of up to £12.95m to Chancerygate (Erdington) Ltd be approved.
- 28.5 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.

29 Cost of Living & Economic Resilience

- 29.1 At the [15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:
- 29.2 That the renewal of the latest assessment and emerging response and views given on the next steps in that response be noted.
- 29.3 That the signing of a letter drafted on behalf of all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to Government to extend the existing Household Support Fund offer for those most in need be agreed.

30 Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan Renewing Our Vision

- 30.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 30.2 That the development of a Greater Manchester's transport vision as part of a refreshed Local Transport Plan be noted.
- 30.3 That the 'Renewing Our Vision' stakeholder engagement document be approved.
- 30.4 That the comments raised by Councillor Nadim Muslim on behalf of the Greater Manchester Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
- 30.5 That Greater Manchester reaffirms its commitment to lobbying Government for devolved funding to allow the region to implement schemes improving disability access at rail stations.
- 30.6 That it be advised that the Rapid Transport Strategy due for publication in the new year would set out plans around potential Metrolink extensions, and that comments raised through the forthcoming round table with Stockport business leaders would aid in informing the approach.

31 GMCA Statement of Intent for Delivery of GMCA Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation Schemes

- 31.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 31.2 That the progress made to date in delivering ECO4, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, and the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Project in Greater Manchester be noted.
- 31.3 That the centralised management of ECO4 and GBIS Flex by the GMCA for the whole of Greater Manchester be approved.

- 31.4 That the GMCA ECO4 and GBIS Flex Statement of Intent V5 (Annex 1) be approved.
- 31.5 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to sign the Statement of Intent on behalf of the GMCA.
- 31.6 That the numerous long term significant positive impacts on health and wellbeing, jobs and skills, and carbon reduction, through an increase in home energy efficiency and a reduction in fuel poverty, identified in the Sustainability Assessment, be noted.

32 UKSPF Proposal for Local Business Intervention E23 – Key Decision

- 32.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 32.2 That the proposal for the £0.5m experimental programme of business support to directly tackle inequalities be noted.
- 32.3 That it be agreed that the proposal was a strategic fit with the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and was deliverable, as set out in this report.
- 32.4 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy and Inclusive Growth and Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment, to agree the procurement method and subsequent award of contract(s) worth up to £0.5m.

33 Greater Manchester Investment Framework Request for Delegation

- 33.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 33.2 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 agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 16th December 2023 to 25th January 2024.
- 33.3 That it be noted that any recommendations approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

34 Investment in New Mechanical Sorting Infrastructure – Key Decision

- 34.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:

- 34.2 That the options appraisal be noted and the recommended approach for the future investment in recycle sorting infrastructure be approved.

35 Provision of Future Waste Disposal Services

- 35.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 35.2 That the contents of the report be noted.
- 35.3 That approval be given for the initiation of discussions with the current contractor to extend the WRMS and HWRCMS contracts in accordance with contract clauses.
- 35.4 That the comments raised by Councillor Nadim Muslim on behalf of the Greater Manchester Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

36 Provision of Future Waste Disposal Services

- 36.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed that the contents of the report be noted.

37 Land Acquisition – Manchester – Exempt from Call-In

- 37.1 At the 15th December 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed that the recommendations in the report be approved.

38 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Update

38.1 Mayor's New Year Message

- 38.2 The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham issued a new year message on 2 January which discussed plans for transport in 2024, as well as housing and education. The message referenced the public consultation on the Golborne railway station proposals and the approach of the second tranche of bus franchising in Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, and North Manchester on 24 March 2024.

- 38.3 This will mean by the spring, 50% of bus services in Greater Manchester will be under public control, with the remaining bus services in the south of the city-region set to come under franchising from 5 January 2025. The Mayor's new year message emphasised his commitment to keeping the £2 cap on single bus fares for at least the whole of 2024, and how any proceeds from increased passenger numbers can be used to keep fares low under a franchised system.

38.4 Extended Metrolink services

38.5 More frequent and extended tram services are being introduced from this week, in addition to the continued running of late-night trams, as part of a revamped Metrolink timetable to meet demand in the new year. A new six-minute service between Etihad Campus and Manchester city centre will run from 7am until the end of service, which has been made possible by extending the Altrincham – Piccadilly services to the Etihad Campus at the following times:

- After the termination of MediaCityUK-Etihad Campus peak service (After 8pm, Monday to Friday and after 6.30pm on Saturdays) until the end of service
- All-day on Sundays

38.6 There will also be an uplift in the number of trams operating on the Altrincham and Bury lines.

38.7 Double trams will operate between the newly extended Altrincham – Etihad Campus service as well as Bury – Piccadilly services. Between Monday and Saturday double trams will operate from the start of service on the Bury – Piccadilly and Altrincham – Piccadilly lines, with doubles introduced on Altrincham – Etihad Campus services after 6:30pm.

38.8 On Sundays there will be a mixture of single and double trams, with the majority being doubles, between Altrincham-Etihad Campus and Bury-Piccadilly. Late-night tram services, which have proven popular since their reintroduction in September, will continue to run until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays. This will include several doubles operating between Altrincham-Etihad Campus, Bury-Piccadilly and to East Didsbury.

38.9 **Reminder: Metrolink improvement works**

38.10 Until summer 2024: Construction work at the Heaton Park traction substation, opposite the junction of Russell Street and Earl Street, is taking place and is currently scheduled to continue until summer 2024. The new substation will help to provide the additional power required to enable operation of additional trams on Metrolink’s Bury line. Most general site works are currently planned to take place within the hours of 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, during this period and any out of hours works will be notified in advance once confirmed.

39 **Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM)**

39.1 **Festive Campaign**

39.2 The festive period is a really busy time for the waste sector, with recycling centres and kerbside collections busier than at any other time of the year.

It's a useful opportunity to encourage residents to reduce their waste and maximise recycling.

- 39.3 This year we ran a bigger festive campaign than ever before. We created a microsite of Christmas recycling information on the Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) website, tying together all of our key content and messages. We also produced lots of social media content, including videos for our TikTok and Instagram channels. We advertised our key messages widely across Bury, including on Hits Radio, through targeted digital advertising, throughout the tram network, and in The Bury Times newspaper.
- 39.4 Some of our key messages included:
- Recycling your paper and card including delivery boxes and wrapping paper
 - Reminding residents about the festive opening hours of their local recycling centre
 - Not disposing of batteries or hidden batteries in any of their bins at home
 - Shopping sustainably through the R4GM Renew shops and online store
 - Recycle your Christmas tree: we've worked closely with JustHelping, a charitable organisation who collect Christmas trees throughout Bury
- 39.5 As well as Christmas messages, we also shared lots of Hanukkah content including a guide on how to ensure you don't waste food over Hanukkah, recipes from leftovers as well as sustainable Hanukkah gifts.
- 39.6 **#BeBatteryAware**
- 39.7 In October, the BBC filmed at Cemetery Road Recycling Centre and at the Fire Service Training Centre in Bury for a film to raise awareness about the growing issue of battery fires in bins and at Household Waste Recycling Centres. The BBC approached us after seeing the Be Battery Aware campaign which was created with our colleagues at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS). The completed film was shown as part of the BBC's Morning Live programme on BBC1 on November 14th. Since the film was shown, we've been able to incorporate into our campaign, sharing widely on our social media channels. The film can be viewed on the R4GM YouTube platform.
- 39.8 In November, colleagues from GMCA and district partners, including Bury, visited the SAICA paper mill, where paper and card from all across the city-region is collected, sorted and recycled into paper and cardboard. As part of the visit, we saw the volume of vapes that are being incorrectly binned in the paper and card recycling bin. These are particularly hazardous in the paper and card waste stream as the materials are so flammable. In order to understand resident behaviours around vapes, we've been running an internal survey to establish how people are disposing of them. This finishes in January with a view to then sharing the survey externally and subsequently creating a communications campaign targeting adults who vape.

39.9 Million Pound Milestone

39.10 In December, it was announced that Recycle for Greater Manchester's Renew scheme has raised more than £1million for local good causes since launching in 2021. Renew is made up of three shops across Greater Manchester, an eBay store and a newly launched online shop, so residents can purchase affordable items from home. Bury residents have been central to Renew's success, having donated many tonnes of items that would otherwise have gone to waste at Cemetery Road and Every Street recycling centres.

39.11 As well as selling affordable items like furniture, bikes and white goods, Renew also raises money for sustainable projects across Greater Manchester. The R4GM Community Fund has funded many projects in Bury since its inception three years ago. Projects working in Bury are currently being funded at Bury College, Fair Futures CIC, Sow the City and Humans MCR. This year's Community Fund will open in Spring 2024.

39.12 Recycling Centre Rates - October 2023

Site	Month (%)	Year to date
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	57	57
Every St, Fernhill	59	57

40 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:-

Minutes of GMCA meetings linked throughout.

Contact Details:-

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