

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	13 November 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

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 2024.

As agreed by Council, the report also now includes an update on a specific area of work, this months focus is the work of the Greater Manchester Health Scrutiny Committee.

This month's focus – GM Health Scrutiny Committee

As Chair of the Bury Health Scrutiny Committee I also attend the GM wide Health Scrutiny Committee. This is a long established forum reviewing potential NHS Service reconfiguration that affects all parts of Greater Manchester. This meeting had become even more important since the establishment of NHS Greater Manchester as a single NHS commissioning organization in July 2022 replacing 10 CCGs.

The GM Health Scrutiny Committee are sighted on a number of different types of consultation and engagement processes commenced by NHS GM.

At one level there are listening and engagement events – where NHS GM is interesting to understand the lived experience of patients and carers in order to inform future service planning. An example of this is an engagement process just underway on the experience of children and young people with ADHD.

A second type of consultation is the need for NHS GM to begin to standardize service access and thresholds across Greater Manchester which may have developed when there were 10 different commissioning organizations. This leads to inconsistent and unwarranted differential access. An example of this relates to consideration of the access to NHS funded IVF, where there are currently across GM different thresholds of either 1,2 or 3 cycles.

A third type of formal consultation relates to NHS proposals to reconfigure access to services, for example in relation to which hospitals provide which services, or in relation to new pathways that govern access to NHS services. For example NHS GM is currently consulting on the pathway for access to adult ADHD services,

The Bury Health Scrutiny Committee is sighted on all NHS GM listening, consultation, and engagement processes and invite relevant officers from NHS GM and other NHS partners to present proposals and be challenged.

For the benefit of all Cllrs, the NHS GM website under “have your say” has information on all live consultations and leadership events. <https://gmintegratedcare.org.uk/have-your-say/>

Councillor E FitzGerald

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Update

A great deal of work is ongoing across the transport network including:

School Streets and Crossings, development and implementation of a series of School Streets and Crossings as part of a School Travel Programme.

Draft School Travel Strategy – A Vision for School Travel in Greater Manchester.

Transport Infrastructure Pipeline -The report updates on progress delivering a pipeline of transport infrastructure improvements to support the operation of the Bee Network.

Including:

Bury: Radcliffe Town Centre Development Phase 1 (Spring Lane Junction Improvements): £2.89m and Full Business Case);

Night Time Bus Pilot Update:

Since the nighttime bus pilot launched on 1 September, around 7000 trips have been made within the first month of the pilot (1 – 28 September). Running on a trial basis, the services on the V1 and 36 routes connecting Manchester with Leigh and Bolton via Salford run at least every hour both ways, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These journeys account for 14% of overnight trips on both routes, with Friday and Saturday nights proving the most popular among passengers. The scheme is also having a positive impact on the number of people using later-running services, with a total of 53,413 travelling on both new and existing night buses between 10pm and 7am.

New darker nights campaign - On Monday 14 October, Safer Roads Greater Manchester launched a new campaign called Invisible? *I'm Visible?*. The campaign encourages drivers across Greater Manchester to take extra care and look out for pedestrians and other road users over the winter months as darker nights make for more danger on our roads. Alongside other campaign toolkits, a partner toolkit for the Invisible? I'm Visible? Campaign is available on our [dedicated](#) webpage. We would be grateful for any amplification you can provide by sharing the messaging across your network, platforms and channels. The campaign will run until 10 November.

Media summary – GM and wider transport headlines –

There has been widespread local coverage after TfGM announced the launch of the first new bus route on the Bee Network. The new 615 service will connect Wigan

and Middlebrook retail park, according to reports in Manchester World, Manchester Evening News (MEN), Wigan Evening Post, Messenger and BBC Online. Previous links between the two areas were cancelled four years ago. The 132 service between Wigan and the Trafford Centre will also be doubled, running every 30 minutes instead of hourly.

The Manchester Evening News and the Telegraph have reported on calls on the government to simplify ticketing fares after a number of cases of people being threatened for underpaying for rail fares made national headlines. Sam Williamson, from Glossop, gained widespread attention on social media after using a railcard at the wrong time on a Northern service last month, with the operator threatening him with legal action before notifying him that they will be taking no further action. Sam and others, including Andy Burnham on last week's Hot Seat, have described the threat of fines for minor mistakes as "disproportionate".

There has been widespread national and regional coverage of reports that the government is reconsidering the decision to partially reverse the decision to scrap the northern leg of HS2, with several pieces and interviews airing on LBC, with the Independent, Mail Online, Business Live and others also covering the story. However, this was later followed by a rebuttal from government sources as reported by Reuters and also covered by i news. Meanwhile the Financial Times reports that the government is exploring proposals for a Birmingham to Manchester railway line as an alternative to the axed northern leg of HS2. However, trains on the proposed line would not run as fast as those on the HS2 high-speed rail network, according to people familiar with the plans.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority Meeting (September)

A link to the papers is available here:

<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=5554>

Approved Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2025	Approved next steps for Rail Integration and Reform Programme: Emerging Rail Reform Policy Position & Next Steps
Approved Bee Network Fares and Ticketing, including	Approve Working Well: Work and Health Programme direct award and contract extension of the Individual Placement and Support in Primary Care
Agreed A Housing First Unit Greater Manchester	Q1 Capital Update 2024- 2025
Approved Temporary Accommodation: Value for Money in Greater Manchester Plan	Q1 Revenue Update 2024-2025
Approved the Greater Manchester Brownfield Housing Fund Reallocation	Note the Annual Treasury Management Review 2023/24
Approved Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone Business Plan 2024/25	Agreed Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund - Investment Variation Recommendation
Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval	

Greater Manchester Combined Authority Meeting (October)

A link to the papers are available here:

<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=136&MIId=5555>

Items considered and agreed included:

GM One Network Connectivity Partner Procurement	Bus Franchising Fleet
GM Investment Framework	GM Local Nature Reserves Recovery Strategy
Draft School Travel Strategy	

Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM)

Pots, tubs and trays

To mark Recycle Week 2024, we announced a substantial change to kerbside collections for residents across Greater Manchester. From 14th October, residents in Bury can recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays in their blue mixed recycling bin. This is a welcome change for many residents, who previously could only recycle plastic bottles in their mixed recycling bin at home – alongside items like aluminium cans, glass jars and aerosols. The change is possible due to upgrades in the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) announced as part of the new contract signed between GMCA and SUEZ.

Communicating this change to residents was a substantial task and required us to fully audit all our existing communication materials such as the R4GM website, leaflets and education tour at the MRF. As part of this process, we also audited Bury Council's website to ensure information on recycling was up to date and shared a list of FAQs so the Council could plan their own activity.

As well as this, we created advertising to help communicate the change. This featured examples of commonly used pots, tubs and trays. We shared those adverts in The Bury Times, MEN and Asian Leaders newspapers. The change has been positively received since the announcement. Within a week of the announcement, over 85,000 residents have seen R4GM's social media content on the change. We're now working on additional communications materials to help residents recycle pots, tubs and trays such as a radio advert and targeted Christmas messaging.

CottonOn

In August this year, we launched our latest campaign called #CottonOn. This campaign encouraged residents to recycle clothing that was unwearable. Many residents know how to get rid of clothing that's in good condition - whether it's donating to charity, selling it online or giving it to family and friends. But many residents don't know that clothing that's ripped, stained or worn-out can be recycled, and precious fibres can be reused.

#CottonOn encouraged residents to take unwearable clothing, shoes and accessories to clothing banks across Greater Manchester. In Bury these can be found at Cemetery Road and Every Street recycling centres and also supermarkets and within some large shops. From there, clothing is collected and sorted within Greater Manchester and either resold or turned into new products such as car seats and animal bedding.

In October, we did a shopping centre takeover at Merseyway in Stockport. This featured an eye-catching washing line made up of visibly damaged clothing. It was a high-impact piece of marketing that got lots of attention throughout the district, linking residents to find their nearest clothing bank. We're currently in discussions to take the washing line to Mill Gate shopping centre in Bury.

Recycling Centre Rates

Site	June (%)	Year to date
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	66%	66%
Every St, Fernhill	67%	65%

2. Recommendation

2.1. 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.

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