

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025 AT GUARDSMAN TONY
DOWNES HOUSE, DROYLSDEN**

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
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Elaine Taylor
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Andrew McClaren
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

GM Active Travel Commissioner	Dame Sarah Storey
Greater Manchester Police	DCC Terry Woods
Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue	CFO Dave Russel
MP for Leigh & Atherton	Jo Platt

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Group Chief Executive Officer, GMCA, GMFRS & TfGM	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
Bolton	Sue Johnston
Bury	Paul Lakin

Manchester	Tom Stannard
Oldham	Mike Barker
Rochdale	Julie Murphy
Salford	Miranda Cannon
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Harry Catherall
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

GMCA 62/25 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Arooj Shah (Oldham), Councillor Eleanor Wills (Tameside), Lynne Ridsdale (Bury), Shelley Kipling (Oldham), James Binks (Rochdale) & Melissa Caslake (Salford).

GMCA 63/25 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, opened the meeting by warmly welcoming Councillor Mark Roberts to his first meeting as the new leader of Stockport Borough Council.

RESOLVED /-

That Councillor Mark Roberts be welcomed to his first meeting of the GCMA as the Leader of Stockport Council.

GMCA 64/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were none.

GMCA 65/25

MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2025

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 28 March 2025 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 66/25

**MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEES HELD
ON 7 FEBRUARY & 28 MARCH 2025**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committees held on 7 February & 28 March 2025 be noted.

GMCA 67/25

**MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEES HELD ON 26 MARCH & 9 APRIL 2025**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committees held on 26 March & 9 April 2025 be noted.

GMCA 68/25

**GMCA BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE MINUTES – 27 MARCH
2025**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Bee Network Committee held on 27 March 2025 be noted.

GMCA 69/25

GM APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Councillor Mark Roberts (Stockport) to the GMCA be noted.
2. That the Mayor of Greater Manchester be appointed to the Transport for the North Board, the Rail North Committee and the General Purposes Committee.
3. That Councillor Eamonn O'Brien be appointed as the substitute member to the Transport for the North Board, the Rail North Committee and the General Purposes Committee
4. That the appointment of Mr Paul Stone and Mrs Jackie Njoroge as Independent Members of the GMCA Audit Committee be approved, subject to the completion of required pre-employment checks, with immediate effect.

**GMCA 70/25 GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE PLAN 2025-2029:
PARTICIPATION APPROACH & OUTCOMES**

Kate Green, Deputy Mayor for Safer and Strong Communities was invited to present the Greater Manchester Fire Plan for 2025-2029 which outlined the strategic direction, priorities, and commitments of GMFRS over the next four years. The Fire Plan was part of the Service's Community Risk Management Plan and was designed to improve safety outcomes, enhance emergency response capabilities, and align with broader city-region objectives such as the Greater Manchester Strategy, Live Well, and Housing First.

It was advised that the Plan had been subject to a wide ranging consultation with both partners, the public and staff at GMFRS. All recommendations received had been considered in full and subsequent changes had been made to the original draft to recognise the comments and feedback received.

In reference to specific areas of the Plan – there had been an alarming rise in the number of water related emergencies seen in recent years, and a significant education programme had been built into the Plan. Housing First and Live Well ambitions were

also fully captured within the Plan – and a specific pillar had been put into the Plan on continuing work around culture.

The Mayor strongly welcomed the Plan, stating that the significant improvements seen at GMFRS over the past four years were now clearly evident for all to see. The built environment in GM was changing at a rapid pace and this Fire Plan was a document which truly captured the challenges that lay ahead.

Chief Fire Officer Dave Russel stated that there was an incredible amount of ambition at GMFRS and the Plan would allow the service to move to the next level. The statutory core function sat at the heart of the Plan, but there was clear real value in the contribution to the Greater Manchester Strategy framed around collaboration and contribution. The Plan would aid in delivering improved outcomes for people – it was rooted in public consultation and there was pride in how the service had reacted to feedback.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report and GMFRS Fire Plan 2025-2029, found at Appendix A be noted.
2. That the GMFRS Fire Plan 2025-2029 and the formal launch and publication activities be endorsed.

GMCA 71/25 SAFER TRANSPORT REVIEW

Kate Green, Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities, presented a report which provided an overview of the proposed recommendations for a new integrated approach to policing the transport network with the ambition of enhancing public safety and passenger perceptions of personal safety on the Bee Network.

The report reflected upon a great body of work that had been taking place through partnership working across Transport for Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Police and other partners. It represented a transformation of the approach being taken

to travel safety and the use of resources. Surveys had shown that concerns about safety on the network had been the number one reason when many residents chose not to use public transport in the region, particularly amongst women and girls. This had resulted in a renewed focus on the issue, resulting in the proposals put before the GMCA.

Work had been taking place over a number of years to begin improving the perceptions of public safety on the transport network – with 78% now stating that they felt very safe on the network. There was a very low level of antisocial behaviour on the network, with only 48 incidents recorded for every million journeys taken. It was vital however to fully address feelings of vulnerability from safety on the network – and the work currently being undertaken by the GM O&S Task & Finish Group on the safety of Women & Girls on the network was very welcomed, learnings from which would immediately be taken on board. It was also known that young people in particular had highlighted anxieties around their safety on the network.

A number of measures had already been put in place including increased CCTV, better lighting at tram stops, transparent bus stops and a much more visible presence of travel safe officers and partners on the network. The next step was a fully integrated approach across partners on the network. This was taking place as a phased approach, with the first phase seeing the introduction of the TravelSafe live chat function. If the region can achieve its plans – it will be the most integrated approach to public transport safety seen in the country.

DCC Terry Woods emphasised the opportunity here to take advantage of the Greater Manchester system to create a truly safe network for all. The momentum of recent partnership work such as Operation Vulcan had allowed for a lot of learning to be taken and applied to the transport network. This would bring real clear leadership, and most importantly, full accountability across the system.

Dame Sarah Storey welcomed the plans and emphasised how this tied into the wider Vision Zero plans – and that a good example of this embedded partnership working would be seen at the Vision Zero Conference due to take place on 25th June.

Mayor Burnham advised that a charter had been signed with food delivery companies operation in Greater Manchester with respect to basic minimum standards that should

be adhered to – emphasising the importance of safety on the region’s pavements and roads as well.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the initial review findings be noted.
2. That the recommended 3 phased approach to implementing an integrated 11th District to police the transport network be supported.
3. That the programme for phase 1, including a dedicated TravelSafe LiveChat facility be noted, with further consideration of funding requirements to be considered as part of the programme.
4. That the signing of the safety charter for food delivery courier companies be noted.
5. That it be noted that the Vision Zero Conference would be taking place on 25th June 2025.
6. That all GM Local Authorities be requested to disseminate information around TravelSafe LiveChat as it moves towards full mobilisation.

GMCA 72/25 GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED PIPELINE

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report that provided an overview of the vision and purpose for the emerging Greater Manchester Integrated Pipeline, as a fundamental part of GM’s 10-year Delivery Plan.

This was a timely plan ahead of the forthcoming spending review, with big announcements due to be taking place in the coming months around plans across the city region. This was an ambitious integrated ten-year plan that allowed for public and private sector partners to work together at the right moment to secure the investment

needed for regeneration of key sites. The plan also tied into other important work in the region around skills and the GM development forum.

RESOLVED -/

1. That GM's ambitious plans for growth and the work underway to develop an Integrated Pipeline as a key tool for supporting delivery and investment be noted.
2. That the progress being made to scale up delivery across GM, including the plans being progressed for the GM Development Forum, GM Skills Academy and GM Delivery Vehicles to accelerate development be noted.
3. That the launch of the initial version of GM's Integrated Pipeline through the MappingGM platform, providing residents and business with key information about plans for growth be noted.
4. That the further development of the Integrated Pipeline to support GM's growth ambitions and meet the objectives and purpose, as set out in this report, be approved.
5. That it be noted that GM Development Forum insight sessions, considering a number of development topics, such as affordable housing and net zero, will be planned in across the year.

GMCA 73/25 GREATER MANCHESTER AI DEMONSTRATOR CITY REGION

Councillor Nick Peel, Portfolio Lead for Digital City Region presented a report setting out the GM AI Demonstrator city-region proposal and route forwards.

Work in this area was accelerating at a unprecedented scale with an impact on UK GDP of up to £50bn by 2035. The UK had the most advanced tech sector in Europe, and within this GM was positioned particularly well being the most AI ready region in the country – this resulted in potentially 25,000 jobs in the sector in the region by

2035. To harness the possibilities around this, a roundtable of GM AI leaders had recommended that the region becomes the first AI Demonstrator City Region.

A budget of £500,000 was recommended to create a GM AI Data and Innovation Office to make the Demonstrator City Region a reality.

Members welcomed the report and highlighted the importance of capitalising upon the crosscutting impact AI would have on all portfolios and industries in the future.

Significant funding was already coming into the region and there were huge opportunities to become more embedded in this agenda. There were opportunities here for inclusive growth and the tackling of poverty and it was vital to grasp these.

The Mayor referenced the MBacc and the Festival of Technical Education being arranged for the summer, and the forthcoming launch with the Raspberry Pi Foundation of an online course linked to cutting edge industry standard skills.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the overall vision of a GM AI Demonstrator region be approved, in principle.
2. That the contribution of a range of stakeholders in shaping this report be acknowledged and it be noted that further consultation and co-design with partners and interested parties will take place over the coming weeks and months.
3. That the creation of a GM AI Data and Innovation Office (ADIO), to be supported by £500,000 from GMCA reserves led by GMCA Digital in 2025/26, be approved.
4. That members note the importance of capturing the wider public significance of AI developments.
5. That the development of opportunities to create educational and vocational courses via the Raspberry Pi Foundation MBacc partnership be noted.

Deputy Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing First, & Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region presented a report which provided an overview of the second IWMP Annual Business Plan and its priorities for 2025/26.

The Mayor opened by stated that the Integrated Water Management plan needed to be considered in the context of issues happening within Greater Manchester, to ensure that there was true integration, that the voices of residents were truly being captured, and crucially that lessons really were being learnt – as it appears events that had happened previously, particularly the flooding in Leigh & Atherton, had been allowed to happen again.

GM had over 77,000 properties at risk of river flooding and over 220,000 properties at risk of surface water flooding. The plan for the next year highlighted four key priority areas: enabling sustainable growth through Integrated Water Management; creating an integrated catchment model for GM; addressing flood risks from all sources and developing a pipeline of surface management projects; and also improving water quality including the delivery of investment programmes.

Jo Platt, MP for Leigh & Atherton was invited to reference the response to the new year flooding incidents at Platt Bridge and Hindley. Concerns were raised about the inadequate alert systems, which had meant that residents were not receiving alerts to phones. The lack of knowledge around who were the primary contacts for leading responses – which meant that local councillors often had to take the lead on evacuating residents where needed. All agencies had previously been around the table after the 2015, in which assurances had been given around future response, this had included the forming of an executive body – however it was clear that the previous failings had remained. A clear focus and the urgent need for transparent plans with clear lines of responsibility and accountability that would result from the Integrated Water Management plan was welcomed.

Concerns were raised about aging crumbling infrastructure and a reluctance around overall responsibility and accountability – rather than a constructive collaborative approach it often resulted in the public purse having to pick up extra costs. Given that climate change would see major flooding events becoming more commonplace, it was

vital that the Integrated Water Management Plan addressed this lack of joined up thinking as quickly as possible.

CFO Dave Russel was invited to comment on the response of GMFRS to the new year flooding incidents particularly in Wigan and Stockport. It was stated that it was vital to take learnings from these floodings as the frequency and ferocity of the incidents was only likely to increase. The learnings from the on the night response had been picked up and would be channelled through local resilience forums. There had been some missed opportunities during these events, and those gaps needed to be closed quickly.

The Mayor advised that a round table event had been arranged to take place in early July. The Environment Agency, the Met Office, United Utilities and all local partners would be invited to this important event.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Annual Business Plan (2025-26) and strategic priorities for the Integrated Water Management Plan (Annex A) be approved.
2. That the headline investments from United Utilities, including their approach to the Advanced Water Industry National Environment Programme (AWINEP) (Annex B), be noted.
3. That the lessons learnt from the integrated response implemented following flooding at Platt Bridge and Hindley, Wigan, on New Year's Day and applicability to other areas at risk of flooding be noted.
4. That the review of early warning systems for flood incidents be noted.
5. That the strategic asks of Government (Annexes C and D) be noted.
6. That the importance of integration across all partner agencies in preparing for, and responding to, flooding issues be highlighted, particularly the need for transparent plans with clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

7. That the update from the MP for Leigh & Atherton on work taking place in the locality to continually push for an adequate response to address flooding incidents at Platt Bridge and Hindley be noted.
8. That the GMCA record its thanks to the MP for Leigh & Atherton and all residents across GM impacted by the New Year flooding incidents for their work with partners to hold the relevant bodies to account.
9. That the reflections of GMFRS on the response to the New Year flooding incidents across GM be received.
10. That it be noted that a round table event was being scheduled for early July to which all national and local partners agencies would be invited.

GMCA 75/25 GREATER MANCHESTER POST-16 SUFFICIENCY FUND

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Technical Education, Skills & Work presented a report seeking approval for the proposed use of a £10m capital grant from the Department for Education to create additional education and training places for 16–19-year-olds in Greater Manchester that would help move towards ensuring there are sufficient places available for this growing cohort.

Thanks were expressed to the government for the £10m of funding following the case made to them on behalf of the colleges in the region.

Members expressed the importance of colleges being able to provide the courses that will help develop the technical education offer in the region and give clear line of sight for young people that the technical education pathway to high quality jobs was a real opportunity.

RESOLVED /-

1. That option 6, as the preferred methodology for use of a £10m grant from the Department for Education (“DfE”), to enable Local Authorities to ensure sufficient and appropriate education and training places are available for 16–19-year-olds in Greater Manchester be approved.

2. That the approach to using £10M of recycled Local Growth Fund (LGF) as additionality to the DfE funding as part of a strategic approach to ensuring sufficient education and training places are available to young people be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer to make the final allocations and grant awards in consultation with the Portfolio Lead and Lead Chief Executive.
4. That the GMCA record its thanks to the Department of Education for the £10m grant funding.

GMCA 76/25 COMMUNITY ACCOMODATION SERVICE (TIER 3) BUDGET

Deputy Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing First, presented a report seeking approval for the distribution of grant allocations to Local Authorities for to deliver the Community Accommodation Service (Tier 3) programme from 2025-2027.

The paper detailed that GM was one of five pilot areas in the country, building upon a memorandum of understanding signed with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in 2019. This service clearly integrates with work taking place on homelessness prevention work in the region.

As a consequence of being the best performing pilot area in the country, the MoJ was now providing further funding for the expansion of the pilot. In terms of next steps, the capacity of the programme would now be increased by 40 beds, following a 25% uplift in funding from 1st April 2025.

Deputy Mayor Kate Green echoed the enthusiasm for the scheme which was vital in providing housing and stable support for former offenders being rehabilitated within the community. This project clearly resulted in reduced reoffending, and in turn improving safety for all residents of GM.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of £14,866,624 to all ten Greater Manchester local authorities, as set out in section 3 of the report, for the purposes of delivering the Community Accommodation Service (Tier 3) programme, be approved.
2. That, subject to the approval of the proposed grant allocations, as outlined in section 3 of the report, it be noted that the Group Chief Finance Officer has the necessary delegations to facilitate the entering into of the required grant agreements with Local Authorities.

GMCA 77/25 GREATER MANCHESTER SCHOOL TRAVEL STRATEGY

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester presented a report seeking approval of the final draft of Greater Manchester's School Travel Strategy, a sub-strategy of the 2040 Transport Strategy. It summarised the Strategy's development and provided an overview of the consultation and engagement sessions that were conducted and how they had informed the final draft.

Dame Sarah Storey was invited to comment on the Strategy. Every day 460,000 students travelled to 1200 schools across GM and it was essential they arrived safely, reliably and ready to learn. The plans for 100 school streets by 2028 continued to accelerate with a successful School Streets Conference having taken place on 1st May, and the Strategy also set out many more ways for students to travel more actively in future.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the final School Travel Strategy and the adoption of the vision of wanting more young people to choose to walk, wheel, scoot, cycle and use public transport to travel to school and access further education be approved.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, presented a report providing an update on progress in procuring the next round of bus franchise agreements that would support the Bee Network, and to request endorsement of a proposed change to the Franchising Scheme, to reduce the mobilisation period.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposed approach to the re-procurement of the Small Franchise Agreements and extensions to the School Franchise Agreements be noted.
2. That the completion of the consultation process on the proposed variation to the Franchising Scheme be noted.
3. That the report “*Bus Franchising – Report on Mobilisation Period Consultation*”, attached as Appendix 2, and conclusions be endorsed.
4. That the Mayor be recommended to vary the Franchising Scheme in the manner proposed and as attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted.
5. That when the Mayor has decided whether or not to vary the Franchising Scheme, that the following be agreed:
 - to adopt and publish this report and its appendices as its response to the consultation, together with the Mayor’s decision, as the report to be published by the GMCA under section 123(M)(8) of the Act;
 - to give notice of this report to the traffic commissioner in accordance with section 123G(2) of the Act; and
 - to give notice of the decision to the traffic commissioner in accordance under section 123(M)(2) of the Act.
6. That the links into the GM Good Employment Charter be noted.

GMCA 79/25**MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR
MIDDLETON TOWN CENTRE – IN PRINCIPLE DECISION**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report seeking endorsement in principle to the creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) for Middleton Town Centre, with further details and decisions to follow as set out in the paper.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the creation of an MDC for Middleton Town Centre be approved, in principle.
2. That GMCA officers be requested to explore with Rochdale Council, detailed options for an MDC to be created for Middleton Town Centre, with a view to a further report being submitted to the GMCA in due course.

GMCA 80/25**GM BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND REALLOCATIONS:
APPROVALS MADE UNDER DELEGATION**

Deputy Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing First, presented a report asking the GMCA to note approvals made under delegation by the GMCA Treasurer acting in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for housing for the period between 31st January 2025 to 31st March 2025.

The purpose of the delegation was to approve new projects for funding, urgent variations to existing funding from the Brownfield Housing Fund (BHF) and to switch funding sources from other funds to the Brownfield Housing Fund, if required, to manage the year end programme position.

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the report be noted.

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report seeking approval of a £750,000 investment to Black Bull Biochar Ltd, as well as an amendment to the previous loan provided to HM Pasties Ltd.

RESOLVED /-

1. That an investment of up to £750,000 to Black Bull Biochar Ltd be approved.
2. That an amendment to a loan provided to HM Pasties Ltd be approved.
3. That the approval of a loan of £500,000 to Heyside Plastics Limited, an investment of £250,000 to PhovIR Technologies Limited and an investment of £250,000 to CAGE Technologies Ltd, provided under the delegated authority process be noted.
4. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer and Group 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 these.

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 83/25

GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.