


Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	12 th November
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 July 2025.

The council has agreed a specific area of focus for each update; this update will cover the ongoing Manchester Clean Air Charging Zone development.

2. Clean Air Zone UPDATE

ANPR Consultation

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were originally installed across Greater Manchester for a proposed charging Clean Air Zone, which is now not going ahead.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is now seeking views on a proposal to transfer ownership of these ANPR cameras to Greater Manchester Police (GMP), changing their primary use.

Currently, GMP can access data from these cameras but must request permission, which can delay investigations and reduce effectiveness. Under the proposal, the cameras would be integrated into GMP's existing ANPR network, enabling real-time responses to help keep communities safe. Key benefits of the proposal include:

- Expanding GMP's ANPR coverage to match that of other major metropolitan police forces.
- Disrupting travelling criminals, organised crime groups, and terrorist activity.
- Preventing serious, neighbourhood, and vehicle-enabled crime.
- Improving investigative outcomes and supporting victims.
- Enhancing public protection across Greater Manchester.

ANPR cameras are not speed enforcement devices and do not use biometric or facial recognition technology. They capture vehicle registration numbers and check them against national databases of vehicles linked to crime or terrorism. GMP already uses ANPR to prevent, detect, and investigate serious offences such as murder, violent crime, sexual offences, robbery, and burglary, as well as to locate vulnerable missing persons. They are not used to issue speeding fines.

Data from these cameras will continue to support the government-approved investment-led Clean Air Plan and inform transport planning by monitoring vehicle types on local roads.

This proposal aims to maximise the value of existing infrastructure to enhance safety across Greater Manchester. Feedback will help shape the final recommendation, ensuring GM remains a safe place to live, work, and travel.

The consultation runs until 7 November and supporting information can be [found here](#).

Transport for Greater Manchester Update

Industrial Action

- Industrial Action by Unison and Unite members of TfGM staff took place on Thursday 30 October, further dates are planned for Wednesday 5 November and Friday 7 November. Discussions continue to take place to resolve the dispute. It is not expected that these strikes will impact services, interchanges will be open but some facilities, such as Travelshops and toilets, may be closed.
- Earlier industrial action, undertaken by bus drivers working for First, Metrolink and Stagecoach, has now ended following the conclusion of pay negotiations. Operator First were able to reach a resolution earlier than the other two unions, meaning their services (including those serving Bury) were not impacted by the final round of strikes.

Local Transport Plan update

Greater Manchester is refreshing our Local Transport Plan (LTP). This is a statutory requirement of the Local Transport Act 2008, with TfGM responsible for producing the document and keeping it up to date on behalf of GMCA, the Local Authorities and the GM Mayor.

It sets out our long-term goals and ambitions for transport and has two key components:

- Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050
- Greater Manchester Transport Strategy Delivery Plan
- These documents set the strategic direction for transport in GM and outline the policies that are needed to help get us there, which helps to guide planning, funding and decision-making for transport investment.

This refresh has been a collaborative process, with opportunities for a wide variety of groups (including elected members) to engage throughout the process. Following initial engagement in late 2024, we're inviting elected members to further engagement sessions in November to feed in their views and ask questions ahead of the launch of a 12-week public consultation later in 2025.

These upcoming engagement sessions will provide an opportunity for members to learn about the LTP, ask questions and provide feedback to officers. Find out more and sign to receive a Microsoft Teams invite by completing the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/thdhGuS9Mm> or emailing **Public.Affairs@tfgm.com**.

Improving the Bee Network

- A new and enhanced 24/7 TravelSafe LiveChat allowing passengers to discreetly report criminal or antisocial behaviour on public transport [has been launched](#) as part of ongoing efforts to make passengers safe, and feel safe, while travelling on the Bee Network. Building on the existing LiveChat managed by Greater Manchester Police, people can now report issues via the Bee

Network app, connecting them to police call handlers. When someone uses the new service, they will be connected to a real person who can provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- The next phase of the concessionary bus travel trial will go live in November, to help Transport for Greater Manchester to further assess the impact of lifting the 9.30am restriction for those with a TfGM-issued concessionary travel pass (approximately 400,000 older and disabled people in Greater Manchester). This phase of the trial takes place in what is traditionally the busiest month on the network, and follows [an earlier phase](#) in August. At the conclusion of the trial, the evidence gathered during it, including passenger feedback, patronage and pass usage, will be assessed before a decision is made on whether the move can be made permanent.
- Two new hourly night buses services have been launched in September. The **135 (Manchester – Prestwich – Bury)** and the 17/17a (Manchester – Middleton – Rochdale) connects Bury and Rochdale town centres with Manchester city centre on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.
- From 1 September, around 150,000 18–21-year-olds in Greater Manchester are [able to apply for](#) a half-price 28-day bus travelcard (priced at £40, half the price of the equivalent adult fare).

Wider local updates

- **Bury Interchange** – The planning application to create a new southern access to Metrolink (including a footbridge, lift and stairs) was approved by Bury Council on 22 July, with associated applications for a temporary northern access and temporary construction compound approved in September. Detailed design for this first phase of works is well underway. Outline design for the main interchange and potential residential development is complete with submission in November for approval to progress to the next stage of design development.
- As part of the ongoing programme of maintenance and renewal works across the Metrolink network there has been work on the **Bury line** to replace beams in the Whitefield Tunnel. This work was delayed due to the discovery of bats in the tunnel, but was completed between Saturday 25 and Thursday 30 October.
- Following the completion of work to address overhanging trees on Moor Lane in Salford, Bee Network bus services 93 and 95 have returned to their normal route along Kersal Road.

Network Patronage and Performance

Patronage is reported annually. The table below shows the annual growth of patronage across all modes, comparing September 2024 with September 2025.

Service Area (Patronage)		Last year (Sept 24)	Now (Sept 25)	Commentary
Bus	Patronage (rolling 12 months, millions)	167.0m	174.1m	Patronage continues to grow. T1 patronage is 10% up year on year. T2 patronage from Apr to Sep 25 is 10% higher than the equivalent period 12 months ago. Industrial action affected service delivery and passenger numbers during September.
Metrolink	Patronage (rolling 12 months, millions)	44.5m	46.3m	Passenger numbers recovered following major track renewals in the City Centre. The latest 12-month rolling passenger journey figure is the highest on record, 46.3 million.
Rail	Patronage (rolling 12 months, millions)	55.9m	54.8m	N/A

Highways	Highway journeys (rolling 12 months, millions)	1818m	1840m	N/A
Active travel	Cycling trips (rolling 12 months, millions)	45.8m	54.1m	Starling Bank bike hire trips are up 22% year on year. There were 62,476 rides during Sep 25. This is the highest monthly total in the scheme's history, beating the previous record of 61,353 set in May 25.
	Cycle Hire (rolling 12 months, thousands)	459	561	

Performance is reported monthly. The table below shows the monthly change in performance (punctuality and reliability) across Bus, Metrolink, Rail, and Highways. More information about bus punctuality data is available [here](#).

Service Area (Performance)			Last month (August 2025)	Now (September 2025)	Commentary
Bus	Punctuality		84.6%	78.2%	Punctuality was below target (80%) at 78.2%. The T1 area was above target at 84.3%, T2 and T3 were below target at 74.7% and 76.7% respectively. Congestion, road works and adverse weather were the main causes of delays during this period.
	Zero-emission bus fleet (% of total bus fleet)		19.0%	19.7%	
Metrolink	Punctuality (trams departing less than 2 mins late)		89% (P5)**	92% (P6)**	Tram punctuality was above target (90%) at 92% and operated mileage narrowly missed the challenging target of 99.4% at 99.2%.
	Reliability: Operated mileage (number of tram vehicle miles operated compared with the number of scheduled miles)		97.7% (P5)	99.2% (P6)	
Rail	Northern (NTL)	PPM*	81% (P5)	81.6% (P6)	Crew availability continues to be a challenge on the rail network. Industrial action at Cross Country also continues with strike action planned for 1 November. Northern are continuing a short-term plan on Sundays, which sees around 200 GM services removed from the timetable.
		Cancellations	3.9% (P5)	5% (P6)	
	TransPennine Trains (TPT)	PPM*	83.3% (P5)	86.4% (P6)	
		Cancellations	5.2% (P5)	3.6% (P6)	
Highways	Journey time reliability (measures the % of journeys completed within the typical journey)		95.6% (August)	93.7%	Operational and Travel Demand Management plans have been developed for the busy Christmas Market period. A range of

	time, plus a tolerance of 25%).			interventions will be used to manage the network including traffic signal strategies and traffic regulation orders at known pinch points, targeted customer information and travel advice.
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*Public Performance Measure (PPM), measures % of services arriving at destination, having called at all scheduled stops, within 5 minutes of the planned arrival time.

** P5 = Period 5 and P6 = Period 6, both defined as a four-week reporting period instead of a monthly one.

Recycle for Greater Manchester Update

Renew Community Fund

We recently announced the 20 projects that are being funded in the 2025 Renew Community Fund. This includes four projects working directly within Bury. Previously called the Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund, it was rebranded this year to better reflect where the funding comes from, namely our three Renew shops at recycling centres plus the online store.

The funded groups operating in Bury are:

Brightmet Community Group: This project redistributes pre-loved school uniforms and essentials to families in need through their Community Locker and teaches repair and reuse skills in free sewing classes, reducing household textile waste and promoting sustainable living across Bury.

BYachad Youth Project: This woodwork programme is an innovative project designed to engage 100 Jewish teenagers in Bury and Salford in the art of woodwork, emphasising the principles of repair, reuse, and sustainability. Through hands-on workshops, participants will learn to repair and upcycle wooden items, transforming discarded furniture and materials into functional pieces.

Stepping Stone Projects: Home to Home empowers SSP customers to turn housing into homes through access to pre-loved homeware in a welcoming, shop-style hub. The project strengthens sustainable resettlement by promoting dignity, autonomy, and community collaboration—reducing waste, fostering social value, and supporting personalised transitions out of homelessness with care and purpose.

Your Music NW CIC: This project intends to recycle musical instruments and hire them out at a very low rate, or free, depending on circumstances. They'll also teach people simple repairs at home, such as replacing guitar strings or drum skins.

Renew Hub Event

In September, we celebrated four years of Renew Greater Manchester with a celebration event at the Renew Hub in Trafford Park. Attending on the day were community groups who had previously benefitted from the Community Fund, as well as key staff from GMCA, SUEZ and councillors who have helped develop and support the fund.

As part of the day, we were delighted that Bury's own Cllr Alan Quinn took a key role in proceedings. As Chair of Waste Committee, he helped welcome attendees, making a speech about the impact of Renew. He spoke about the benefits of wasting less and how buying preloved items, instead of new, has positive benefits for the environment as well as local communities in Greater Manchester.

As well as Renew, the event was an opportunity to highlight some of the other social benefits to councils across Greater Manchester as part of the waste contract with SUEZ. Please see the image below which shows the impact of the social value led approach to waste management in the Bury area in the 2024-25 financial year:



Bury Hospice

Bury Hospice provides end of life care to patients and their families. SUEZ support the charity by volunteering at the centre, and the charity now also collects furniture and other household items from the Renew Hub that can be sold in their charity shops to raise funds for the charity.

Recycling Centre Rates

Site	Sept 25	Year to date
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	61%	63%
Every St, Fernhill	65%	64%

<https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/>

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GMCA meetings:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority Meeting (September)

A link to the papers are available here:

[Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Friday 26th September 2025](#)

Items considered and decisions included:

English Devolution and Communities Empowerment Bill	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the verbal update provided by Mayor Andy Burnham be received. 2. That the intention of the GMCA to put forward amendments in relation to taxi licensing and local accountability of housing providers be noted.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. That it be noted that the options around local accountability of housing providers will be given to leaders for consideration ahead of any next steps. 4. That it be noted that the bill also includes a right-to-request mechanism. 5. That it be noted that three areas have been identified for consideration as part of the right-to-request mechanism in the first instance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tourist Levies · Devolution of Skills · Employment Support
Mayoral Development Corporation for the Old Trafford Regeneration Mayoral Development Corporation - Consultation Results & Approval to Designate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the results of the consultation exercise in respect of the designation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for the Old Trafford Regeneration area be noted. 2. That the Mayor's response to the consultation be noted. 3. That it be noted that support for designation of the 'Old Trafford Regeneration' MDC was approved by the Leader of Trafford Council through a delegated decision. 4. That the Leader of Trafford Council confirmed consent to the designation of the proposed MDC. 5. That due consideration was given to the proposal by the Mayor to designate an area, identified on the plan at Appendix 3, as a Mayoral Development Area and notify the Mayor within the consideration period if it proposes to reject the proposal 6. That it be noted that subject to the GMCA not rejecting the proposal as set out at recommendation 4 above, the Mayor shall publicise the designation, notify the Secretary of State of the designation and the name to be given to the Mayoral Development Corporation, as follows: "Old Trafford Regeneration Mayoral Development Corporation".
Stockport Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation Expansion: Consultation Outcomes & Final Approval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the outcome and responses to the consultation undertaken by the GM Mayor on the proposed expansion of the Stockport Mayoral development area and creation of a new Mayoral Development Corporation to cover this expanded area be noted. 2. That it be noted that Stockport Council Cabinet agreed its support for the proposal set out above at its meeting on 16th September 2025 3. That the Deputy Leader of Stockport Council, on behalf of the Leader of

	<p>Stockport Council, confirmed consent to the designation of the proposed MDC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That due consideration be given to the proposal by the GM Mayor to designate this expanded area as a Mayoral Development Area (see map at Appendix One) and notify the GM Mayor within the consideration period if it proposes to reject the proposal. That it be noted that following the expiration of the consideration period, if the GMCA has not rejected the proposal, the GM Mayor intends to take the necessary steps to designate the expanded area as a Mayoral Development Area and to secure the establishment of the new MDC (to be named "Stockport Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation") and the dissolution of the existing MDC including any necessary transfer of rights and liabilities.
Creation of Greater Manchester Regeneration Skills Academy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That approval be given for the creation of the Greater Manchester Regeneration Skills Academy ("GMRSA"). That it be noted that the November meeting of the GMCA will contain proposals for the first round of funding under the 10 year investment pipeline.
Prevention Demonstrator, Live Well and NHS 10 Year Plan/Integrated Care Board Reforms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the contents of the report and any implications be noted. That the feedback from the GM Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received. That consideration will be given to a direct councillor referral route to Live Well.
Greater Manchester's Commitment to Gender Equity in Sport, Physical Activity, and Movement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the GMCA confirms its commitment to leadership on gender inequality in active lives, and lead in their place to support movement, physical activity and sport for all women and girls. That a commitment to the Brighton Helsinki Declaration on Women and Girls be signed.
Adopting Frontier Sector Development Plans	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the frontier sector plans be adopted. That the proposed next steps with the intention for these plans to inform the Local Growth Plan Government has asked the GMCA to produce and for the plans to be refreshed annually be noted.
Greater Manchester Culture Fund Process 2026 - 2026	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the impact of GM Cultural Investment 2023-26 be noted. That the GM Culture Investment Approach 2026-2029 be agreed. That the outlined process for the GM Culture Investment 2026-29 be agreed.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. That agreement be given in principle to an indicative investment period of three years subject to annual review and approval of the Culture Fund as part of the GMCA annual budget setting process. 5. That the timeline for the GMCA Culture Fund to open for bids in preparation for the new investment approach starting from April 2026 be agreed. 6. That agreement be given to the establishment of a new sector-led body for culture in Greater Manchester, recognising the need for strong sector leadership. 7. That the decision of the impact tool, and that the proposed approach will support equality inclusion, health outcomes and the economy in Greater Manchester be noted.
Greater Manchester Civic Universities Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the refreshed approach by GM's universities embodied in the Greater Manchester Civic University Agreement (CUA) be noted and endorsed. 2. It be noted that the CUA is a living document and can be revisited in light of developments to the Greater Manchester Strategy. 3. That it be noted that following the endorsement of the GMCA at recommendation 1, a public announcement will follow in October 2025 at the CUA Citizens' Panel.
Revenue Budget Update - Quarter 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the forecast position at 30th June 2025 be noted.
Capital Budget Update - Quarter 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the current 2025/26 forecast of £652.9m compared to the 2025/26 budget of £598.3m be noted.

3. Recommendation(s)

- 3.1. 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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