

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 27th MARCH 2026 AT JR CLYNES BUILDING,
OLDHAM**

PRESENT

GMCA Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
GMCA	Deputy Mayor Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Eleanor Wills
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair of GM Overview & Scrutiny	Councillor John Walsh
GM=EqAI	Jules Palfreyman
Citizens UK	Ian Rutherford Franky
GMAPF	Edna Robinson
Caribbean & African Health Network	Charles Kwaku-Odoi
Voluntary Sector NW	Anna Cooper
Voluntary Sector NW	Warren Escadale

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Group Chief Executive Officer	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gill Duckworth
Group Chief Finance Officer	Steve Wilson

Group Secretary	Sarah Horsman
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Tom Stannard
Oldham	Shelley Kipling
Rochdale	Julie Murphy
Salford	Stephen Young
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Emma Alexander
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
TfGM	Steve Warrener
TfGM	Martin Lax
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

GMCA 24/26 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received and noted from City Mayor Paul Dennett (Salford) & Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan).

GMCA 25/26 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, opened by thanking Oldham Council for hosting the meeting and congratulated Oldham in being nominated as the GM Town of Culture for 2026.

An update was provided following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcements of a 'future road map' for future fiscal devolution, including the first step towards an overnight visitor levy.

It was advised that Health Secretary Wes Streeting had responded favourably to requests to restore and enhance health devolution including the establishment of a Deputy Mayor for Health role accountable to the GMCA.

The Mayor advised that the Integrated Care Partnership meeting following the GMCA meeting would see the launch of the first phase of the NHS's No Space for Racism campaign. There were unacceptable levels of discrimination and racism extant in care settings in the region and across the wider country, and this campaign would work towards stamping this out and showing how appreciated all staff in the NHS and care setting were.

It was noted that King Charles III had visited the Renew Hub in Trafford for the launch of Circularity in Practice and had welcomed the social value benefits that the hub clearly provided.

The Mayor noted the sad passing of Cllr David Lancaster of Salford Council and Phil Woolas, the Former MP for Oldham East & Saddleworth with the GMCA noting condolences to their family, friends and former colleagues.

It was noted that adult care services in Wigan had been awarded an 'outstanding' rating by the CQC, with a score of 95/100 – the highest in the country.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Safer & Strong Communities led the congratulations to GMFRS Chief Fire Officer Dave Russel following the outstanding rating received by GMFRS in its latest HMICFRS inspection.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the announcement of Oldham as the GM Town of Culture for 2026 be noted
2. That the update following the Government's publication of the Northern Growth Strategy be received.
3. That the announcement on health commissioners and the potential creation of a 'Deputy Mayor for Health' be noted.
4. That it be noted that the Integrated Care Partnership meeting following the GMCA meeting would see the launch of the first phase of the NHS's No Space for Racism campaign.
5. That the King's visit to the Renew Hub in Trafford to launch Circularity in Practice be noted.
6. That the sad passing of Councillor David Lancaster, a Salford Councillor for over 60 years be noted and that the GMCA expressed its condolences to his family, friends and colleagues at Salford City Council.

7. That the sad passing of Phil Woolas, the former MP for Oldham East & Saddleworth be noted and the GMCA expressed its condolences to his family, friends and former colleagues.
8. That the news that adult care services in Wigan have been awarded an 'outstanding' rating by the CQC, scoring 95/100 – the highest in the country be welcomed.
9. That the results of the latest HMICFRS inspection of GMFRS be welcomed, noting that this was the first ever time the service had been given an 'outstanding' rating.
10. That GMFRS be thanked for their response to the recent building collapse in Oldham Town Centre.

GMCA 26/26 URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED /-

There was none.

GMCA 27/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

That Deputy Mayor Kate Green declared an interest in item 10c and 14b by virtue of being a director of Manchester Camerata.

GMCA 28/26 GMCA MINUTES 13 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA held on 13 February 2026 be approved.

GMCA 29/26 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

COMMITTEES – 11 & 25 FEBRUARY 2026

RESOLVED /-

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committees held on 11 & 25 February 2026 be noted.

**GMCA 30/26 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS
HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY & 9 MARCH 2026**

RESOLVED /-

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 December 2025 be noted.

**GMCA 31/26 MINUTES OF THE GMCA WASTE & RECYCLING MEETING
HELD ON 11 MARCH 2026**

RESOLVED /-

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee meeting held on 11 March 2026 be noted.

GMCA CONSTITUTION

**GMCA 32/26 UPDATE ON PROCEDURAL RULES TO CLARIFY AND
REFLECT CURRENT PRACTICE**

A report of Gillian Duckworth, Group Solicitor & Monitoring Officer advising of the first part of the Monitoring Officer's review of the GMCA's Constitution and recommend amendments.

RESOLVED /-

That the revised Part 5 of the Constitution accompanying the report as Part 5 of the Constitution of the GMCA be adopted.

GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD GROWTH FUND

GMCA 33/26 GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD GROWTH FUND: MARCH ALLOCATIONS

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth presented a report setting out the next phase of investment through the Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund (GGF), building on the initial £400m allocation approved in November 2025. It explained how the Fund would continue to accelerate delivery across the Integrated Pipeline unlocking strategic housing, employment space, and transport-led regeneration while applying the agreed investment principles to maximise value for money, recycle funding wherever possible, and limit grant to cases where it was essential.

Comments and Questions

Members welcomed the report, noting the degree of maturity and collaboration in ensuring an appropriate balance between regional economic development and local priorities – and that this provided a moment in which it could truly be said that devolution benefitted all residents throughout the region.

In discussing the North West of the region, the Mayor confirmed that he had asked the Group Chief Executive working with GMP, GMFRS and TfGM to submit a bid for the 2035 Ryder Cup, paired with the Solheim Cup by Mid-April. It was acknowledged that this would require an acceleration of infrastructure funding within the region to support the delivery of the Cups if successful in bidding.

Members welcomed the emphasis on advanced manufacturing within the plans, stating that this was embedded into the history of the region and in addition to

financial benefits, brought about a sense of local civic pride in the delivery of tangible products.

It was noted that town centre regeneration was vital as it not only provided much needed housing but also supported local shops and suppliers.

Members welcomed infrastructural developments and how these equally emphasised active travel ambitions to ensure that residents were able to safely make use of a mix of all modes of transport and travel.

The Mayor confirmed his support for the Oldham Sports Town vision. Stating that this development would bring about further life and pride to the region and the support of all sporting endeavours.

The Mayor announced that Lord Gavin Barwell would be the next Chair of Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation and would bring a wealth of central government experience to the role.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress made in developing the GM Good Growth Fund (GGF) since the GGF allocations in November 2025 be noted.
2. That the prioritisation methodologies used to appraise the funding allocations recommended in this report, as set out in Appendix 1, be noted.
3. That the indicative allocation of £84.8m to the recommended strategic housing projects, supporting delivery of 920 new homes, as set out within the report, be approved.
4. That the new partnership approach with Registered Providers to support social and affordable housing delivery be noted.
5. That the indicative allocation of £314.1m to the recommended Transport projects which will unlock six transformational growth projects across GM, as set out within the report, be approved.
6. That the £10m pilot for capital grants to support social and affordable housing schemes, as set out within this report be approved, noting that awards from this pilot will be approved under existing delegations.

7. That the £15m indicative allocation into the Sustainable Materials and Manufacturing Centre (SMMC) in Rochdale, as set out in the report, be approved.
8. That the terms of the loans into Ashton Town Centre schemes and Graylaw House and the guarantee for the Salford Carpet Shop scheme, as set out within the report, be approved, with further detail set out in the accompanying Part B report.
9. That the change in terms of the loan for the Farnworth Green scheme, as set out in the report be, approved, with further detail set out in the accompanying Part B report.
10. That it be noted that the opening of the subsidised loan call for housing and employment sites with first allocations to be submitted to the May 2026 GMCA meeting.
11. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive Officer, and the Group Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Lead, to approve the terms of funding for projects in the period 27 March 2026 to 29 May 2026. Any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.
12. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer to approve minor amendments to investment and grant terms.
13. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer and Group Solicitor & 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 investment, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of these.

**GMCA 34/26 GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD GROWTH FUND
INVESTMENT DECISIONS THROUGH THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF A GREATER MANCHESTER SOCIAL
VALUE CONTRACT**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth, presented a report setting out how Social Value will be embedded within Good Growth Fund investment decisions through the implementation of a GM Social Value contract, and the potential to establish a legacy fund to reinvest into communities, The Good Futures Fund.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the intention to require commitments from recipients accessing the GM Good Growth Fund in relation to social value, the 'GM Social Contract' be noted.
2. That the plans for a GM Good Futures Fund, incorporating voluntary donations from GM Good Growth Fund recipients and partners, be noted and endorsed, and that the next steps, as outlined in the report, be approved.

INVESTMENT & RESOURCES

GMCA 35/26 GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 3 2025/26

Councillor Nazia Rehman, deputising for the Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report informing members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority financial position at the end of December 2025 (Quarter 3) and forecast revenue outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year.

RESOLVED /-

That the forecast position at 31st December 2025 be noted.

GMCA 36/26 2026/27 GMCA CAPITAL STRATEGY

Councillor Nazia Rehman, deputising for the Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report setting out the over-arching principles and processes

by which the capital and investment decisions set out in the Capital Programme will be prioritised against the key aims of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS).

RESOLVED /-

That the Capital Strategy for 2026/27 be approved.

**GMCA 37/26 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT,
MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY STATEMENT AND
ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2026/27**

Councillor Nazia Rehman, deputising for the Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report setting out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2026/27 to 2028/29 for the Authority. The strategy reflected the 2025-2029 capital programme for Transport, Economic Development, Fire and Rescue, Waste and Police.

RESOLVED /-

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2026/27 be approved.

**GMCA 38/26 GREATER MANCHESTER'S SUPPORT FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

Steve Wilson, Group Chief Finance Officer, presented a report informing GMCA members on work undertaken to review options for supporting GM authorities facing significant financial challenges.

The paper built on the work undertaken through the setting of GMCA's 2026/27 budgets and proposed further steps to support GM authorities who were operating under the government's exceptional financial support regime.

Comments and Questions

Councillor John Walsh was invited to provide feedback on behalf of the GM Overview & Scrutiny Committee. It was welcomed that the principle was in place for a call-in procedure to exist when any such loans were made.

The difficulties faced by some authorities in terms of financial support packages were highlighted, and the impact that a local lending facility could have in helping to reduce interest based issues that only exacerbated funding gaps.

The Mayor stated that he would continue to lobby the national government on the need for appropriate levels of local government funding.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the work undertaken to support local authority finances in GM be noted.
2. That providing interest free loans to GM Local Authorities, if and when they become subject to Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) capitalisation directions, as set out in the paper, be approved, in principle.
3. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Financial Officer to agree the final terms of any interest free loan that meets these principles.
4. That it be noted that other options will continue to be considered for future support to GM Local Authorities and any new proposals will be submitted to the GMCA for further consideration in due course.

EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES

GMCA 39/26 APPROVAL OF THE VCFSE ACCORD REFRESH

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities & Communities, presented the updated Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord 2026-2035 for approval, and background information including the development process and the plans for Accord implementation.

Councillor Shah thanked VCFSE representatives present at the meeting for their support on the refresh. Comments from those present were welcomed and it was highlighted that the group was seen nationally as a pioneering body in terms of partnership, particularly in terms of work around health and social care.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Accord background information be noted.
2. That the contributions of those present for the item be noted.
3. That the Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord 2026-2035 be approved for signing.

A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

GMCA 40/26 ECONOMY, BUSINESS & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES & PROJECTS 2026/27

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth, presented a report that set out in more detail the proposed programmes and projects under the Economy, Business and International portfolio to be funded and delivered in the 2026/27 financial year.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposed economic and business programmes and projects and their respective provisional budget allocations as set out in the report for the 2026/27 Financial Year, be approved.
2. That it be noted that programmes and projects will be managed through existing delegations, as contained within the Constitution.

GMCA 41/26 YEAR ONE PRIORITISATION OF CREATIVE PLACES GROWTH FUNDING TO SUPPORT DELIVERY OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report setting out the purpose and rationale for Year One prioritisation of Creative Places Growth funding to support delivery of the Greater Manchester Creative Industries Sector Development Plan, focusing investment where it could accelerate growth, strengthen infrastructure and unlock private and public co-investment.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the approach to Year 1 delivery of Greater Manchester Creative Industries Sector Development Plan via Creative Places Growth Funding, including delivery of Greater Manchester Production Fund, Screen Office and associated development funds be approved.

2. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the GMCA Portfolio Leader and Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth, to approve: the final allocation of funds to individual programmes and projects (including the GM Production Fund); the appropriate 'route to market', and the award of contracts and/or grant funding to providers/recipients.

GMCA 42/26 GREATER MANCHESTER CULTURE FUND AWARDS 2026-29

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture, presented a report seeking approval on the GM Culture Investment approach 2026-29, including organisations to be funded under the Spirit and Sustain strands of investment.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the three-year budget of £5.05m p/a from April 2026 (subject to annual review) to support the new GMCA Cultural Investment Approach, Annual budget to be made up of £3.3m District Contributions and £1.75m Retained Business Rates, be approved.
2. That between April 2026 and March 2029 this budget will be spent in the following ways:
3. That in regards to the above recommendation, it be clarified that the Ongoing Social Impact Commitment (£460,000 p/a) will support organisations include Greater Manchester Moving (£175,000 p/a), Voluntary Sector North West (not 10GM as noted within the report) (£228,400 p/a for delivery of the VCFSE Accord), The Water Adventure Centre (£41,050 p/a) and The Proud Trust (£14,924 p/a). A 5% increase will be applied to these figures to bring them in line with Culture Awards and Fair Funding Commitment.
4. That the list of Spirit & Sustain organisations, detailed within the Part B item of the report, be supported using Greater Manchester Cultural investment and the report made public within one month of this meeting.
5. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Chief Executive and Portfolio Leader for Culture, to

enter into grant funding agreements with the organisations, and for the amounts, listed in Part B of this report.

**GMCA 43/26 PROPOSED OLDHAM TOWN CENTRE MAYORAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDC): APPROVAL TO
CONSULT**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth presented a report seeking approval to consult on the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) in Oldham, enabling it to become the delivery vehicle for regeneration of the area.

The Mayor invited Cllr Arooj Shah to comment on the importance of the developments for the communities of Oldham and the lasting benefits that the MDC would bring about.

Concerns were raised around ensuring proper oversight and scrutiny of MDCs at the GMCA level, and work would be taking place on how best to incorporate this into future Overview & Scrutiny work programmes.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for the Mayor undertaking a consultation exercise in respect of the designation of an MDC for Oldham be endorsed.
2. That the indicative timeline, next steps, and the requirement for a further report detailing the outcome of the consultation and detailed delivery plan following consultation be noted.

**GMCA 44/26 PROPOSED ASHTON & STAYLYBRIDGE MAYORAL
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDC)**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth presented a report seeking approval from the GMCA to consult on the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) in Ashton and Stalybridge. Enabling it to become the delivery vehicle for regeneration of the area and to realise the ambition to create the country's first exemplar of transport-led regeneration.

The Mayor invited Councillor Eleanor Wills to comment. She stated that this would bring forward real ambitious growth plans with a pioneering approach that would set a solid foundation for generations to come.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for the Mayor undertaking a consultation exercise in respect of the designation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for Ashton and Stalybridge be endorsed.
2. That the indicative timeline, next steps and the requirement for a further report to the GMCA detailing the outcome of the consultation and detailed delivery plan following consultation be noted.

**GMCA 45/26 MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR
MIDDLETON - CONSULTATION**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report seeking approval to consult on the establishment of a Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) covering Middleton, enabling it to become the delivery vehicle for regeneration of the area.

The Mayor invited Councillor Neil Emmott to comment, who referenced that a newly redefined boundary that included Mills Hill Train Station.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for the Mayor undertaking a consultation exercise in respect of the designation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for Middleton be endorsed.
2. That the indicative timeline, next steps and the requirement for a further report to the GMCA detailing the outcome of the consultation and detailed delivery plan following consultation be noted.

**GMCA 46/26 IN PRINCIPLE APPROVAL OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
LEIGH MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report seeking approval in principle to the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) in Leigh.

The Mayor invited Councillor Nazia Rehman to comment on behalf of Wigan Council. She stated that a mayoral development zone would have broad long lasting impacts on improving employment opportunities within Leigh, and improvements to connectivity which was currently a significant issue in the locality.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone in Leigh be approved, in principle.
2. That GMCA officers explore with Wigan Council detailed options for a Mayoral Development Zone to be established in Leigh, with these matters to be decided upon by GMCA and the Council in due course.

HEALTHY HOMES FOR ALL

**GMCA 47/26 APPROVAL OF PROPOSED ALLOCATION AND
ADMINISTRATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR GMCA'S
HOMELESSNESS AND MIGRATION BUDGET FOR 2026-2029**

Andrew Lightfoot, Deputy Group Chief Executive presented a report seeking approval for the proposed allocation and administration arrangements for GMCA's Homelessness and Migration budget for 2026-2029, as a key enabler of our commitments to a healthy home for all, enshrined in the Greater Manchester Strategy.

It was confirmed that this would see an uplift in the number of 'a bed every night' places up to 650. The Mayor also advised that as part of commitments made around

the Armed Forces Covenant, he wished to see a formal GMCA policy brought forward committing places to all ex armed forces personnel.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposed funding allocations and administration arrangements, as set out in the report, be approved for the following programmes:
 - Temporary Accommodation New Supply Programme
 - Temporary Accommodation Homelessness Prevention Programme
 - Young Persons Homelessness Prevention Service
 - Refugee Welcome Programme: Work and Skills
 - Refugee Welcome Programme: Homelessness Prevention
 - Housing First and Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programmes (RSAP)
 - Refugee Welcome Programme: Accommodation solutions
 - Restricted Eligibility Support Service (RESS)
 - A Bed Every Night
 - Homelessness Inclusion Health Service
 - Rough Sleeping Test and Learn Pilots
 - Rough Sleeping Infrastructure
2. That the current position in relation to the GM Community Accommodation Tier 3 programme be noted.

EVERYDAY SUPPORT IN EVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD

GMCA 48/26 KEY FINDINGS OF THE 2025 #BEEWELL SURVEY RESULTS

Councillor Mark Roberts, Portfolio Lead for Children & Young People, presented a report outlining the key findings of the 2025 survey results, ahead of publication in late March 2026, and providing an overview of next steps.

It was advised that 57,000 students had taken part with the co-operation of 161 schools across the region. The findings in the surveys were vital as they would directly support the ambitions within the Greater Manchester Strategy.

There were some encouraging signs in the survey around the proportion of Year 10 pupils reporting better wellbeing, however, there were still notable wellbeing gaps in terms of location within the region.

Deputy Mayor Kate Green was invited to report back on recent figures showing a drop in reporting knife crimes amongst young people. It was stated that this was testament to the strong work of the Violence Reduction Unit in providing education and engagement with young people as well as ensuring that support services such as the Navigator Project were in place at all times.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the key findings of the 2025 #BeeWell survey results, that the proposal to engage with young people in developing plans for response be noted.
2. That the GMCA will act on what the data was telling us and support the #BeeWell mission to make young people's wellbeing everybody's business and deliver our central aim within the GMS for all children & young people to thrive.
3. That the commitment to improving young people's wellbeing be celebrated, sharing stories of impact and influence with beewell@manchester.ac.uk to ensure information can be shared with young people completing the survey.

DIGITALLY CONNECTED PLACES & YOUNG PEOPLE

**GMCA 49/26 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE AMBITION TO POSITION
GREATER MANCHESTER AS AN AI DEMONSTRATOR CITY
REGION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GM DATA UNIT**

Councillor Nicholas Peel, Portfolio Lead for Digital, presented a report providing an update on progress to realise the ambition to position Greater Manchester as an AI Demonstrator city region to enable a more preventative approach to public service delivery.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the principle of a Greater Manchester Data Unit to provide system leadership on joining up data and complement the work of the Joint Data Collaborative, be endorsed.
2. That it be noted that the GMCA will receive a future detailed proposition and delivery model for a GM Data Unit.
3. That progress and ongoing development of AI.GM and intention to secure system leadership to enable future development be noted.

GMCA 50/26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**GMCA 51/26 GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD GROWTH FUND
ALLOCATIONS**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Leader for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, provided further information on the terms of funding for Ashton Town Centre schemes, Graylaw House, Salford Carpet Shop, and Farnworth Green.

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the report be noted.

GMCA 52/26 GMCA CULTURE FUND AWARDS 2026-2029

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Leader for Culture, seeking GMCA approval on organisations to be funded from the new GMCA Culture Fund 2026-2029, which will

support delivery of the Greater Manchester Culture Strategy and Greater Manchester Strategy.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appraisal and balancing process undertaken to arrive at the proposed portfolio be noted.
2. That the organisations to be funded and annual amounts to be awarded 2026-29 be approved.