

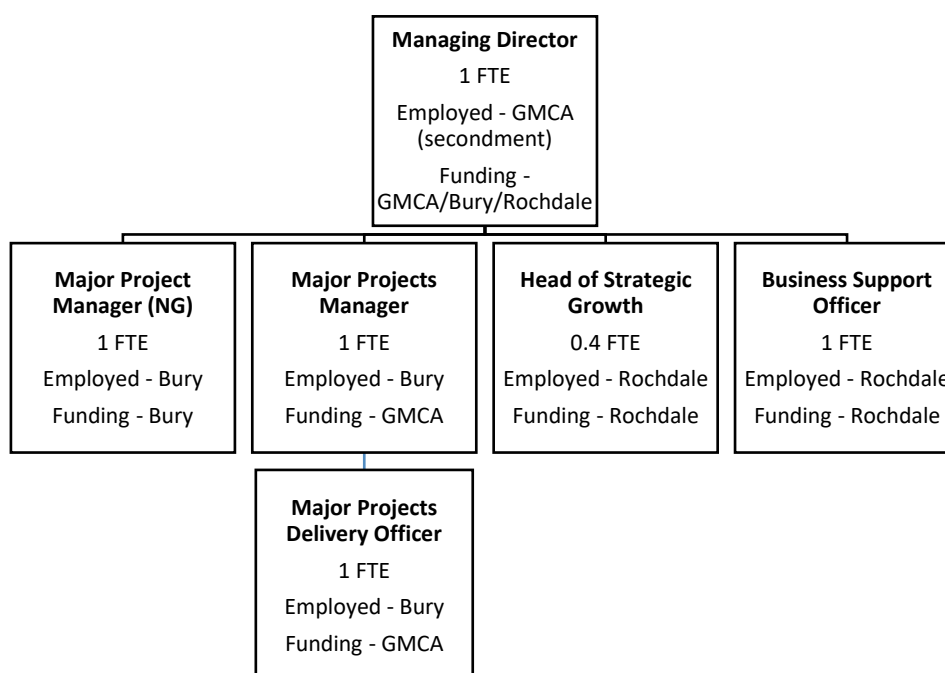
Appendix 2 (PART A)

Atom Valley Northern Gateway Mayoral Development Corporation Operational Arrangements and Costs – July 2026

1. MDC Core Team & Hosting Operational Arrangements

- 1.1 The MDC 'Core Team' consists of existing Bury Council, Rochdale Council, and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) staff. Their roles within the Core Team do not change their formal employment arrangements or terms and conditions.
- 1.2 Current Core Team composition, including employment and funding arrangements, is set out at Figure 1.
- 1.3 Any new posts are assumed to be created as part of the Rochdale Council establishment, as MDC host authority, unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise, e.g. externally funded where another organisation is the accountable body.

Figure 1



- 1.4 Rochdale Council will provide corporate services support to the MDC. This includes finance, HR, procurement, legal, communications, and democratic services. The MDC will generally abide by Rochdale Council processes, procedures, and policies.

- 1.5 Operational arrangements between the Councils and the MDC will be reflected in appropriate binding legal agreements, to be entered into in due course, and monitored regularly between the partners.
- 1.6 The MDC Board, which includes elected members from Bury and Rochdale Councils, will be accountable for the day-to-day conduct of MDC business and delivery of the MDC Business Plan. The MDC Business Plan will be approved annually by Bury and Rochdale Councils, GMCA, and GM Mayor.
- 1.7 Northern Gateway benefits from existing programme governance arrangements that include senior officers from Bury and Rochdale Councils. This is largely to be incorporated into the MDC, ensuring continued visibility of operational matters to both Councils and ongoing strategic input to the MDC, to ensure alignment with partners' priorities.
- 1.8 Formal oversight and scrutiny of the MDC is the responsibility of the GM Mayor and GMCA, as required by Mayoral Development Corporation legislation and guidance.

2. MDC Operating costs

- 2.1 The principal operating costs of the MDC will be made up of:
 - Staff costs;
 - Governance/Board costs;
 - Host corporate services costs; and
 - Costs associated with commissioning of expert advice to support programme development.
- 2.2 Figure 2 sets out an indicative cost breakdown between these elements for 2026/27 – 2029/30 financial years.

Figure 2

	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	Total (£000)
Staff costs	483	525	541	454	2,003
Governance/Board costs	76	55	55	55	241
Total host corporate services costs	73	76	78	80	307
Commissioning costs	161	200	200	200	761
Total MDC Costs	793	856	873	789	3,312

3. Costs shared and funded between MDC partners

- 3.1 The principal assumption underpinning MDC cost sharing is that the net costs of MDC programme delivery are equally shared between Bury Council and Rochdale Council. This reflects the principles for MDCs in Greater Manchester agreed in January 2019 of as part of the establishment of the Stockport MDC

that “there is a commitment from the host local authority to underwrite running costs”. Note in this context ‘host local authority’ means both Bury and Rochdale.

- 3.2 A general assumption is that Rochdale will bear new MDC costs in the first instance, which will then be subject to equalising transfers from Bury that will also account for the value of existing costs carried by each Council (e.g. MDC core team staff employment costs).
- 3.3 Some costs associated with the MDC are supported by contributions from other stakeholders, including GMCA, TfGM, and the Northern Gateway Development Vehicle LLP. This partially mitigates the total costs borne by Bury and Rochdale Councils. As Northern Gateway is built out these arrangements can also be extended to other landowners/developers. These contributions are identified as “Third Party Contributions” in Figure 3, and include £300,000 per year of GMCA Flagship Projects funding from 2026/27 to 2028/29.
- 3.4 The MDC will seek future opportunities to secure funding from alternative sources. These tend to require match funding so will not eliminate the need for MDC funding but could allow either reduced financial contributions from the Councils or allow a wider scope of activity by the MDC.
- 3.5 Figure 3 takes the total MDC costs for 2026/27 – 2029/30 financial years set out at Figure 2 and subtracts existing secured third-party contributions to MDC costs. This leaves the indicative net cost of the MDC budget.
- 3.6 It then sets out the equal split of those net costs between Bury and Rochdale Councils and how, taking account of costs incurred by each Council, that balance would be achieved through the transfer of funds between the Councils.

Figure 3

	2026/27 (£000)	2027/28 (£000)	2028/29 (£000)	2029/30 (£000)	Total (£000)
Total MDC Costs	793	856	873	789	3,312
Third party contributions	557	501	449	51	1,558
Net MDC costs	236	355	424	738	1,753
50% of Net MDC costs	118	177	212	369	877
Bury existing costs	106	164	198	204	672
Bury transfer to Rochdale	13	13	14	165	205
Total Bury costs	118	177	212	369	877
Total Rochdale costs	118	177	212	369	877