

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	16 th September 2026
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 2026.

2. GMCA Forward Plan

The GMCA has published its forward plan for the coming months, 1st September – 31st December 2026

The register outlines the key decisions which are due to be undertaken by the GMCA, Mayor, GMCA and AGMA Executive Board, TFGM Committee, GMCA Resources Committee, GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee and the statutory officers of the GMCA

A summation of the key upcoming decisions can be found below, and the full list can be accessed at: [https://democracy.greatermanchesterca.gov.uk/Extranet/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=136&RD=0&bcr=1&\\$LO\\$=1](https://democracy.greatermanchesterca.gov.uk/Extranet/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=136&RD=0&bcr=1&LO=1)

Green City Region

1. Appointment of technical advisers to the Waste & Resources Team – *September 2026*
2. Appointment of suppliers for GM Warm Homes: Local Grant delivery – *September 2026*
3. Greater Manchester Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan – *25 Sep 2026*

Transport

1. Bus Franchising (contracts, services, assets) – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 2. Bus Depot Acquisitions – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 3. Bus Depot Leases (Tranche 2 and 3) – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 4. Bus Depot Acquisitions Treasurer Decision (Tranches 1, 2 & 3) – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 5. Subsidised Services – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 6. Integrated Settlement Funding – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 7. Active Travel Programme – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 8. Local Growth Deal (1, 2 and 3) six-monthly progress update – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 9. Transport Network Planning and Review Process – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 10. Bee Network Fares and Ticketing Products – *Between 30 Jul and 31 Dec 2026*
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Resources and Investment

1. Greater Manchester Business Funds – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 2. GM Investment Funds / GM Brownfield Funding Programme / GM Good Growth Fund – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 3. Revenue and capital budget updates – *Between 1 Aug 2026 and 28 Feb 2027*
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Housing First

1. GM City Deal Receipts - Investment Approval Recommendations – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 2. Greater Manchester Housing Funds – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 3. Agreement to using further Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 4. Greater Manchester Property Funds – *Between 1 Aug and 31 Oct 2026*
 5. Women In Safe Homes (WISH) – *Between 1 Jun 2026 and 31 May 2029*
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Economy, Innovation, Culture & International

1. Atom Valley Northern Gateway Mayoral Development Corporation Business Plan Approval – *September 2026*
 2. Bolton Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Consultation Outcomes and Final Approval – *Between 1 Sep and 25 Sep 2026*
 3. Made Smarter Adoption: Supplementary Funding for 2026-27 – *Between 28 Aug and 25 Sep 2026*
 4. Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Consultation Outcomes and Final Approval – *Between 1 Sep and 25 Sep 2026*
 5. Middleton Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Consultation Outcomes and Final Approval – *Between 1 Sep and 25 Sep 2026*
 6. Ashton and Stalybridge Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) Consultation Outcomes and Final Approval – *Between 1 Sep and 25 Sep 2026*
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Technical Education & Skills

1. Future Employment Support – *September 2026*
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Safer and Stronger Communities

1. Severe Weather Early Warning and Informing – *September 2026*
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Digitally Connected Places and People

Everyday Support in Every Neighbourhood

Equalities and Communities

3. RFGM Update

New food waste campaign

In July, we launched our new food waste campaign. This was designed to encourage residents in Bury and across Greater Manchester to use their food waste service.

Using insight from Greater Manchester residents, we developed the campaign to tackle three main barriers for residents who don't recycle food waste:

- Believing they don't have any food waste
- Finding the food waste recycling process unpleasant — the “yuck factor”
- Not having the right bins or caddies to recycle food waste

The campaign was led by Crumbs the kitchen caddy, a character we developed who mimics pet behaviour such as begging for food waste. We wanted to equate food waste with other materials, such as cardboard or cans, that most residents are already recycling at home. We created an animation and supporting graphics that explain the difference between food waste and wasting food and remind residents to use their food recycling service that's provided for them by Bury Council. As well as this, the campaign shares practical tips on keeping their kitchen caddy fresh and clean and directs them to order a kitchen caddy if they've not got one at home.

The campaign launched with three weeks of out-of-home advertising in key locations, including digital screens at bus stops and outside supermarkets. These included Tesco in Woodfields Retail Park in Bury. We also ran advertising in The Bury Times throughout July and August, featuring key campaign artwork. A social media toolkit was shared with colleagues at Bury Council for them to share directly with residents and extend the campaign's reach.



Library education sessions

Recycle for Greater Manchester's Education team delivered three outreach sessions to libraries in Bury during the summer holidays. These were advertised by the libraries as a bespoke session on recycling as part of their summer programme. The sessions involved the 'Right Stuff, Right Bin' card-sorting activity, which is an engaging way of highlighting items that are often missed by residents recycling at home like aerosols, and items that are often incorrectly recycled at home like takeaway coffee cups. As part of the session, we also delivered a craft activity, making a gift bag out of unused wallpaper.

The sessions were delivered at Prestwich Library, Bury Library and Ramsbottom Library. They were well-received by attendees, with 15 adults and 23 children in attendance on one of the hottest days of the summer.

Recycling Centre Rates

June 2026

HWRC	Month	YTD
Every St, Fernhill	63%	61%
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	64%	62%

Contact us

<https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/>

Email: recycle4gm@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Michelle Whitfield

Head of Communications & Behavioural Change

Michelle.whitfield@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

4. TFGM Update

August/September 2026

Bee Network updates

Bus Network Development update

Extra night buses, new routes and more frequent services have been rolled out across the Bee Network at the end of August and in early September.

Almost two thirds of the service enhancements announced in March 2026 have now launched, the most significant upgrade to the Bee Network since bus franchising was completed last year. The remaining improvements will be delivered from 31st January 2027.

Outlined below are the changes to services in Bury:

Services	Intervention	Implementation date
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95	Improvements to the timetable at weekends and evenings, supporting improved connections between Salford and Bury, linking communities in the south of the borough.	30 August
135 Night Bus	Continuation of night services between Manchester, Whitefield and Bury on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.	30 August
471	Performance enhancements and evening and Sunday timetable improvements to the key orbital route linking Bury, Bolton and Rochdale, supporting connections to shopping, health services and employment.	30 August
507/511	Extra morning trips with earlier starts to improve connections with service 20 enabling shift workers to meet early start times at Logistics North	30 August
472/474	Improved evening services on two key routes to Ramsbottom and the north of the borough, supporting the nighttime economy and onward connections to Metrolink and other bus services.	Early 2027

Further information about these changes, along with dedicated social media assets to help promote them, is available via the following stakeholder webpage: <https://tfgm.com/better-buses-stakeholders>

Mayor reveals plans to launch free bus travel for 11-16 year olds

In August, the newly elected Mayor of Greater Manchester, Bev Craig, announced plans to give 11 to 16-year-olds free bus travel on the Bee Network from January 2027. The initiative is expected to benefit almost 200,000 young people and could save families up to £500 per child each year. Applications will open later in 2026 so families can apply for their pass in advance and benefit from day one.

Previously-agreed plans to give free travel to school on Bee Network buses to children in temporary accommodation also went live on 1 September. The free school pass will be available to primary and secondary school aged children living in temporary accommodation that is located more than two miles from their school, or if they live within two miles but the route is not considered safe to walk. Parents or carers of eligible children under 12 will also be provided with a linked pass, allowing them to take their children to school and collect them at the end of the day.

Mayor confirms Vernon Everitt and Dame Sarah Storey to continue as Greater Manchester commissioners

Following the election of a new Mayor, it has been confirmed that Vernon Everitt CBE will remain as Transport Commissioner and Dame Sarah Storey will continue as Active Travel Commissioner.

Both have held their roles since 2022 and have played a key role in delivering the Bee Network, Greater Manchester's integrated public transport and active travel system. The commissioners will support the next phase of the Bee Network, including the continued integration of buses, trams, cycling, walking and local rail services.

New £60 million Pothole Fund for Greater Manchester

On 2 September, the Mayor announced the creation of a new £60 million Pothole Fund to repair more of the city region's roads and pavements.

The fund will be used to help keep our highways network safe and reliable, enabling transport teams to repair hotspots where surfaces are in poor condition, as well as resurface roads and pavements to prevent them from deteriorating in the first place.

The amount each GM local authority will receive is based on an agreed funding formula – with Bury's allocation standing at c£4,374,000.

The £60 million is more than the annual budget Greater Manchester councils get collectively from central government each year to maintain their roads and pavements, with the extra funding coming from the city region's transport budget - with leaders agreeing to reallocate funding towards highways maintenance.

Our Pass launches in Apple Wallet

The Bee Network is introducing an easy, secure and private way for young people to use Our Pass on their iPhone or Apple Watch.

Members of Our Pass – which offers 16 to 18-year-olds who live in Greater Manchester free bus travel across the region as well as selected half-price tram tickets – can now add their Our Pass to Apple Wallet and use their iPhone or Apple Watch to travel across Greater Manchester. Our Pass holders with Express Mode enabled can simply tap their iPhone or Apple Watch to a reader when travelling - with no need to wake or unlock their iPhone or Apple Watch, or even open an app. This makes Our Pass the first dedicated travel card to be integrated into Apple Wallet in the UK.

Wider local updates

Bury Interchange Redevelopment

Design work for Phase 1 (Metrolink) is now substantially complete and TfGM is currently progressing the final documentation for contract award with Willmott Dixon to deliver this first phase of works, which will create a new southern access to Metrolink (including a footbridge, lift and stairs) plus platform improvements.

Outline design for the main interchange has been completed, with the next stage of design development due to commence in September. Procurement to appoint a funding partner for the residential development is now underway; final submissions are due mid-September and will be evaluated by TfGM, GMCA and Bury Council.

Public engagement on the second phase of the work will take place throughout September with an online survey, and public drop-in sessions taking place at the following times:

- Friday 11 September: Mill Gate Shopping Centre, 10.00am to 2.00pm
- Wednesday 16 September: Bury Interchange, 7.00am to 11.00am / 1.00pm to 5.00pm
- Saturday 26 September: Bury Interchange, 9.30am to 1.30pm

Elton Reservoir New Metrolink Stop and Travel Hub/Park and Ride

TfGM are continuing development work on proposals for a new Metrolink stop, Travel Hub, and Park and Ride, to be delivered as part of the strategic housing allocation identified in Places for Everyone.

TfGM will continue to work with Bury Council and wider stakeholders to develop these proposals as part of the wider masterplan for the site.

Metrolink Stop Improvements

Heaton Park: Work is currently taking place at Heaton Park Stop to replace the lift on the Bury bound platform and is scheduled to be completed by early October. Further improvements at this stop are planned, such as replacing the shelters and making further access improvements.

Further Metrolink Stop Improvements:

The wider development of the Metrolink Stop Improvements Programme continues to progress. Following on from Heaton Park Stop Improvements, TfGM is developing proposals for the next prioritised tranche, which includes Radcliffe, Prestwich and Bowker Vale on the Bury Line.

Subject to funding confirmation, TfGM intends to follow a similar procurement approach to that used for Heaton Park to appoint a contractor and deliver these improvements. Development and prioritisation of future tranches, including the remaining stops on the Bury Line, will continue as part of the wider programme.

Network Patronage and Performance

Transport network summary

Patronage is reported annually. The table below shows the change in patronage across all modes, comparing June 2025 with June 2026.

Service Area (Patronage)		Last year June 25	Now June 26
Bus	Patronage	172.8m	178.7m
Metrolink	Patronage	45.7m	46.2m
Rail	Patronage	55.4m	55.0m
Highways	Highway journeys	1811.7m	1853.6m
Active travel	Cycling trips	50.6m	50.9m

Performance is reported annually. The table below shows the annual change in performance (punctuality and reliability) across bus, Metrolink, rail, and highways. Weekly bus punctuality reports are [available here](#).

Service Area (Performance)			Last year June 25	Now June 26
Bus	Punctuality		81.32%	82.7%
	Reliability: Bus km operated		98.8%	98.9%
	Zero-emission bus fleet (% of total bus fleet)		19% *	33% **
Metrolink	Punctuality (trams departing less than 2 mins late)		88%	92%
	Reliability: Operated mileage (number of tram vehicle miles operated compared with the number of scheduled miles)		97.81%	96.2%
Rail	Northern (NTL)	PPM*	83.1%	79.2%

		Cancellations	3.7%	3.4%
	TransPennine Trains (TPT)	PPM***	87.9%	86.3%
		Cancellations	5.1%	3.7%
Highways	Journey time reliability (measures the % of journeys completed within the typical journey time, plus a tolerance of 25%).		94.7%	93.4%

*Percentage of ZEBs of total fleet

**Percentage of ZEBs of large franchise fleet

***Public Performance Measure (PPM), measures % of services arriving at destination, having called at all scheduled stops, within 5 minutes of the planned arrival time

GMCA meetings:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority Meeting (June)

A link to the papers is available here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)

Items considered and decisions included	Decisions
Chairs Announcements	1. That it be noted there were no Chair's announcements.
Urgent Business	1. That it be noted there was no urgent business.
Appointment of Chair 2026/27	1. That it be noted that the Mayor of Greater Manchester is Chair of the GMCA (ex-officio).
Appointment of Vice-Chairs 2026/27	1. Paul Dennett appointed Vice-Chair. 2. Mark Roberts appointed Vice-Chair.
GMCA Constitution	1. Creation of Investment Sub-Committee approved. 2. Revised Constitution adopted.
Appointments to Greater Manchester Bodies	1. Appointments to GMCA and associated committees and bodies for 2026/27 approved/noted as detailed in the minutes.
GMCA Minutes - 27 March 2026	1. Minutes approved as a correct record.
GMCA Resources Committee Minutes - 27 March 2026	1. Proceedings approved as a correct record.
GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes - 25 March 2026	1. Proceedings noted.
GMCA Bee Network Committee Minutes - 26 March 2026	1. Proceedings noted.
Delegated Decisions Taken During May-June 2026	1. Delegated decisions taken during May-June 2026 noted. 29/05/2026 Paul Dennett (Mayoral Decision) Decisions Appointments to Atom Valley Northern Gateway Board 29/05/2026 Group Chief Finance Officer (Mayoral Decision) Allocation of supported housing funding to Manchester City Council (80%) and to other LA schemes from remaining 20%

	29/05/2026 Group Chief Executive Future shape of GM Adult Skills – GM Local Skills Improvement Plan 29/05/2026 Group Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund – May 2026 Allocations 01/06/2026 Group Chief Finance Officer (Mayoral Decision) Future shape of GM Adult Skills - funding and contract approvals for AY2026/27
Workforce Retention Review	1) That the recommendations of the review be noted: 2) Recognise early education and childcare as social and economic infrastructure enabler and its impact on prevention. 3) Make early education and childcare a desired career choice. 4) Increase data insight without additional burden. 5) Champion the real living wage for all early education and childcare staff. 6) Invest in career progression, continued professional development and training. 7) Promote integrated models and social purpose businesses. 8) Pursue market reform and national policy influence. 9) Strengthen partnership working to create spaces for sector voice. 10) That the final review be endorsed 11) That it be noted that the final review will be shared with partners.
Greater Manchester Race Equity Framework	1) That the collective progress in implementing the Race Equity Framework be noted. 2) That the collective key deliverables for the next 12 months be agreed. 3) That all will continue to lead, support and challenge implementation of the Race Equity Framework within their organisations and Portfolios, particularly the pursuit of evidence of impact in tackling racial inequalities. 4) That all will champion racial equity and proactively lead commitment to anti racism at every opportunity.
Prevention Demonstrator - Moving to Delivery	1) That the GMCA supports the approach to mobilise the Prevention Demonstrator. 2) That endorsement be given to the participation of all ten areas through the spread of Live Well and the contribution of Manchester, Rochdale, Stockport and Wigan to the detailed blueprinting and evaluation activities. 3) That the alignment of resources across the key preventative programmes be maximised. 4) That the outputs of the evaluation will be connected into medium term financial planning and devolution negotiations with government.
Private Hire Vehicle Support Fund	1) That approval be given to the revision to the previously approved Private Hire Vehicle Support Fund by removing the loan element and moving to a grant only model, including provision for retrospective grant funding where applicants have already purchased a compliant

	replacement vehicle and meet the eligibility criteria, as set out in the report. 2) That the eligibility criteria for the revised fund be approved, including retrospective eligibility, as set out at paragraph 3.2. of the report. 3) That it be noted that the revised grant-only scheme will provide a grant of £2,500 per eligible vehicle, being half the previously proposed loan amount, and is estimated to cost up to a maximum of £1.98m in total, as set out in the report. 4) That a delegation be agreed to the Group Chief Executive, GMCA, GMFRS and TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor and GM Clean Air Lead, to finalise the implementation of the Private Hire Vehicle Support Fund prior to launch in September 2026.
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5. Recommendation(s)

- 5.1. 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
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List of Background Papers:-

Minutes of GMCA meetings linked.

Contact Details:-

Alexander Burchell
Leaders Policy Officer
a.burchell@bury.gov.uk