

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE: Friday, 27th May, 2022

TIME: 10.30 am

VENUE: Council Chamber, Stockport Town Hall

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

2. **Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business**

3. **Declarations of Interest** 1 - 4

To receive declarations of interest in any item for discussion at the meeting. A blank form for declaring interests has been circulated with the agenda; please ensure that this is returned to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

4. **Appointments to Greater Manchester Bodies - To Follow**

Report of Liz Treacy, GMCA Monitoring Officer.

5. **Minutes of the GMCA meeting - 25 March 2022** 5 - 30

To consider the approval of the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 25 March 2022.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

- 6. Minutes of the GM Waste and Recycling Committee - 23 March 2022** 31 - 40
- To note the minutes of the GM Waste and Recycling Committee held on the 23 March 2022.
- 7. Minutes of the GM Transport Committee - 24 March 2022** 41 - 52
- To note the minutes of the GM Transport Committee held 24 March 2022.
- 8. Minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee - 22 April 2022** 53 - 66
- To note the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held 22 April 2022.
- 9. Mayors Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund** 67 - 78
- Report of Andy Burnham, GM Mayor.
- 10. Monthly Economic Update** 79 - 96
- Report of Andy Burnham, GM Mayor.
- 11. Greater Manchester Land Commission Commencement Update** 97 - 104
- Report of Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure.
- 12. Homelessness Budget** 105 - 128
- Report of Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure.
- 13. Greater Manchester Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan 2022/23** 129 - 204
- Report of Cllr Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work

and Apprenticeships.

**14. Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund - 205 - 210
Investment Approval Recommendations**

Report of Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure.

**15. Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional 211 - 222
Project Approval**

Report of Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources.

16. 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.

PART B

**17. Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans 223 - 226
Fund - Investment Approval Recommendation**

Report of Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure.

**18. GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project 227 - 244
Approval**

Report of Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources.

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Alternatively, contact the following

Governance & Scrutiny Officer: Governance and Scrutiny

✉ sylvia.welsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

This merged agenda pack was issued on 25 May 2022 on behalf of Julie Connor,
Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford
Street, Manchester M1 6EU

Declaration of Councillors' Interests in Items Appearing on the Agenda

Name and Date of Committee.....>

Agenda Item Number	Type of Interest - PERSONAL AND NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest	NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest Type of Interest – PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest	Type of Interest – DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST Reason for declaration of interest
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Please see overleaf for a quick guide to declaring interests at GMCA meetings.

Quick Guide to Declaring Interests at GMCA Meetings

Please Note: should you have a personal interest that is prejudicial in an item on the agenda, you should leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and the voting thereon.

This is a summary of the rules around declaring interests at meetings. It does not replace the Member's Code of Conduct, the full description can be found in the GMCA's constitution Part 7A.

Your personal interests must be registered on the GMCA's Annual Register within 28 days of your appointment onto a GMCA committee and any changes to these interests must notified within 28 days. Personal interests that should be on the register include:

1. Bodies to which you have been appointed by the GMCA
2. Your membership of bodies exercising functions of a public nature, including charities, societies, political parties or trade unions.

You are also legally bound to disclose the following information called Disclosable Personal Interests which includes:

1. You, and your partner's business interests (eg employment, trade, profession, contracts, or any company with which you are associated).
2. You and your partner's wider financial interests (eg trust funds, investments, and assets including land and property).
3. Any sponsorship you receive.

Failure to disclose this information is a criminal offence

Step One: Establish whether you have an interest in the business of the agenda

1. If the answer to that question is 'No' then that is the end of the matter.
2. If the answer is 'Yes' or Very Likely' then you must go on to consider if that personal interest can be construed as being a prejudicial interest.

Step Two: Determining if your interest is prejudicial

A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest:

1. where the wellbeing, or financial position of you, your partner, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association (people who are more than just an acquaintance) are likely to be affected by the business of the meeting more than it would affect most people in the area.
2. the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

For a non-prejudicial interest, you must:

1. Notify the governance officer for the meeting as soon as you realise you have an interest.
2. Inform the meeting that you have a personal interest and the nature of the interest.
3. Fill in the declarations of interest form.

To note:

1. You may remain in the room and speak and vote on the matter

2. If your interest relates to a body to which the GMCA has appointed you to, you only have to inform the meeting of that interest if you speak on the matter.

For prejudicial interests, you must:

1. Notify the governance officer for the meeting as soon as you realise you have a prejudicial interest (before or during the meeting).
2. Inform the meeting that you have a prejudicial interest and the nature of the interest.
3. Fill in the declarations of interest form.
4. Leave the meeting while that item of business is discussed.
5. Make sure the interest is recorded on your annual register of interests form if it relates to you or your partner's business or financial affairs. If it is not on the Register update it within 28 days of the interest becoming apparent.

You must not:

Participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting participate further in any discussion of the business,
participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

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Agenda Item 5

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON 25 MARCH 2022 AT BOLTON TOWN HALL,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BOLTON**

PRESENT:

Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett (In the Chair)
Deputy Mayor for Police & Fire	Beverley Hughes
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Amanda Chadderton
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Risdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA 40/22 APOLOGIES**RESOLVED/-**

That apologies be received and noted from GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Cllr Arooj Shah (Cllr Amanda Chadderton attending), Geoff Little (Lynne Risdale attending), Tony Oakman (Sue Johnson attending) and Steve Rumbelow.

GMCA 41/22 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**The war in Ukraine**

The GMCA had released a statement on 11 March, which had expressed solidarity with Ukraine and its people. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees had reported that 3.6 million Ukrainians had fled the country, and 6.5 million Ukrainians had been displaced within Ukraine, leaving behind their homes, livelihoods and loved ones to escape the unprovoked invasion by Russia. Greater Manchester would offer help and support to Ukrainian people who were seeking safety in the United Kingdom.

Greater Manchester had recently welcomed and supported refugees from Afghanistan, but many were still being housed in hotels across the city region and across the country. Many had not yet been awarded work permits and the GMCA called on Government to create capacity within the immigration system to expedite the process. It was also emphasised that each council across the country should play a role in ongoing humanitarian efforts and mandate equitable dispersal.

Thanks were expressed to all residents, community groups, voluntary and faith-based organisations for their ongoing humanitarian support, including those officers of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service who were currently part of a convoy taking humanitarian aid to families in the Ukraine.

Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, had written to the Prime Minister on 3 March to set out Greater Manchester's position in relation to the Clean Air Zone but a response had not yet been received. The plan aimed to achieve compliance with legal air quality limits in Greater Manchester by 2026, whilst protecting jobs and livelihoods across the city region. The current preferred option was to implement a non-charging Category B zone across Greater Manchester. As a Category B zone, light goods vehicles would be excluded, which would address the concerns of many residents who relied on light goods vehicles for business and recreational use. The non-charging element would mean that there was no charge to travel in the zone but that funding avenues would be opened to support residents to upgrade their vehicles. It had been concerning that there had been no response from Government to date as the new plans would require significant financial support for residents, who needed certainty about the future of Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone amidst a time of significant cost of living increases.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the GMCA issued a statement on the 11 March regarding the war in Ukraine and that Greater Manchester remained in solidarity with all who have been impacted by the invasion from Russia.
2. That the GMCA urge for an end to the hostilities in Ukraine, in the meantime, efforts to provide humanitarian aid would continue and those seeking asylum would be welcomed.
3. That the GMCA request Central Government review the immigration system to create greater capacity and ensure that nationally all Local Authorities play their role in the humanitarian effort through a mandated equitable dispersal arrangement.
4. That it be noted that the GM Mayor had written to the Prime Minister on the 3 March outlining Greater Manchester's position and aspirations for moving forward with a non-charging Category B Clean Air Zone, however, to date there had been no reply from Government, resulting in a lack of certainty for residents.
5. That the GMCA express their thanks and support to those officers of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service who were currently supporting a humanitarian aid convoy to Ukraine.

GMCA 42/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interest received in relation to any item on the agenda.

GMCA 43/22 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2022

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 11 February 2022 be approved.

**GMCA 44/22 MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11
FEBRUARY 2022**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 11 February 2022 be noted.

**GMCA 45/22 MINUTES OF THE GMCA HOUSING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 8 March 2022 be noted.

GMCA 46/22 GMCA APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Cllr Luthfur Rahman (Manchester), as the substitute member to the GMCA, be noted.
2. That the appointment of Cllr Elaine Taylor (Oldham) to the Corporate Issues Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved.

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital City Region, introduced a report which updated Members on the closure and performance of Greater Manchester's devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) during the 2020/2021 academic year. Over the course of the year, 52,000 adults across Greater Manchester had accessed courses under the AEB. The AEB had engaged numerous providers and the courses that had been delivered had helped to address the need for skilled employees across the city region.

An update was also provided on the plans and progress of the National Skills Fund Adult level 3 offer for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. In the coming months, National Skills Fund bootcamps and the Multiply scheme would continue to contribute to the education and upskilling of residents. Local Authority grant funding would also continue to play a key role in reaching some of the most deprived residents and would support them to gain the education and training that they required to join the workforce and progress in their roles.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the closure and performance of the 2020/2021 academic year, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be noted.
2. That the planned approach for the commissioning of the extension and increase to National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 offer for GM for April/Mary 2022 through July 2023 be noted.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeship, to take forward the commissioning of the National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 offer, including contract awards, as set out in Section 3 of the report.
4. That the following be approved:

- An increase of the GMCA management fee from 1.5% to 1.8% for 2022/2023 onwards.
 - The proposed indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded further education institutions and contract for services skills providers.
 - To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to agree any minor changes that arise during discussions between each institution and the GMCA.
5. That the list of proposed indicative allocations including the current 2021/22 allocation by provider and the indicative allocation for 2022/2023, excluding funds applicable for continuing learners, as set out in Section 4 & Annex 1 of the report, be noted.
6. That the proposed approach for taking forward the new Multiply Scheme for the 2022/2023 academic year onwards be noted and that authority delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital to agree relevant grant conditions, commissioning route and award of individual grants/contracts, as set out in Section 6 & Annex 3 & 4 of the report.
7. That the proposed approaches to allocating funding to key initiatives from April 2022 onwards, to increase participation in adult skills across GM, as set out in Section 7 of the report, be approved.
8. That the GM Mayor be recommended to:
- Approve the proposed 2022/2023 indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded local authorities and to grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to approve any minor changes that arise in the course of discussions between each local authority and GMCA, as set out in Section 4 & Annex 2 of the report.
 - Approve the continued £1/5m allocation to Local Authorities for the AEB LA Grant Programme supporting alleviating barriers to adult education, improving digital inclusion through skills, and continue the support of the GM ESOL Advice Service for 2022/2023, as set out in Section 5.

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Young People, took the GMCA through a report which provided an update on the #BeeWell Survey and its findings from Autumn 2021. #BeeWell had been the largest survey of its kind in the country and had surveyed nearly 40,000 Year 8 and Year 10 pupils in Greater Manchester on their wellbeing. It had been co-created with young people and had been administered in schools in each local authority. The results of the survey had been made available at a neighbourhood level and would be a valuable resource for local authorities for the duration of the research project. The data captured by the survey would support the creation and delivery of initiatives that young people found important in terms of their wellbeing, education, and future opportunities in Greater Manchester. The Chair recognised the significant level of participation in this survey and urged all Local Authorities to make best use of its findings when considering the development of services for young people.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the key findings of the #BeeWell survey be noted.
2. That a system-wide response to the findings be encouraged, to ensure that young people's voices were leading the response to the survey findings.
3. That the existing good practice and strengths of Greater Manchester communities be celebrated during the launch of the survey findings.

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a report which sought agreement for an approach for utilisation of surpluses from the GM Housing Loans Fund to support growth and levelling up across GM as part of the GM Housing Strategy. This would create longer-term certainty over financial availability for local authorities across the city region. Previously, surpluses had been used to support the delivery team and had contributed towards progress with Greater Manchester's Good Landlord scheme.

There were several allocations of funding that had been proposed within the report. Financial support would be given to the Growth Locations across the city region to support development activity on housing schemes. Additionally, graduate trainee programmes and apprenticeship positions would be created to provide opportunities for people within Greater Manchester. The professionals in these roles would work closely with local authorities to support housing activities. Work around modern methods of construction would continue and this would contribute to the target of building 30,000 net-zero carbon social rented homes over the period of the Places for Everyone plan. Partnership working had been successful with Homes England and funding would support partnerships that had been established to accelerate the delivery of targeted outcomes in several areas. Finally, work had been progressing on the development of a Good Landlord Charter and an allocation had been proposed to support this activity.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of £4m from the GM Housing Investment Loan Fund Surpluses to fund the activity identified in the report, be approved.
2. That the proposal for the costs of Greater Manchester Delivery Team to be included with the Core Investment Team budget, be approved.

GMCA 50/22 DELIVERING 30,000 NET ZERO CARBON SOCIAL RENTED HOMES: INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (KEY DECISION)

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, introduced a report which sought approval for an initial implementation plan for the delivery of 30,000 net-zero carbon social rented homes by 2038. The report also sought approval for a further period of engagement and co-production with partners and stakeholders, including registered housing providers and local authorities as the primary developers of social housing in GM on a more detailed partnership implementation plan which would embody the 'whole system challenge' approach agreed by GMCA in December 2021. This approach would focus on skills, work, and business development in the city region to capitalise on the opportunities that would be created.

The proposed implementation plan had proposed greater engagement with Government to address some of the key challenges in terms of funding as the criteria for the Government's

Affordable Homes programme had excluded five local authorities in Greater Manchester and did not cover the additional costs of making affordable homes net-zero carbon. The plan also proposed substantial joint working between local authorities, housing providers, the private sector, and central Government to deliver the green industrial revolution that had been a key policy aim over previous years. It was highlighted that the plan would contribute to the green recovery from COVID-19 and kickstart economic growth within the city region.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the initial implementation plan, as detailed in the report, be endorsed.
2. That the proposal for work with partners to be commissioned to co-produce a more detailed partnership implementation plan for approval at a future meeting be approved.
3. That the proposal that engagement with Government be a key element of the partnership required to achieve substantial and sustained progress, be approved.

GMCA 51/22 GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DASHBOARD AND ECONOMY PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, took the GMCA through the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and provided an overview of activity related to the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and the Economy portfolio.

The invasion of Ukraine had created a significant degree of global uncertainty, which had placed additional upward pressure on prices, particularly in respect of energy and grain costs. It was expected that supply chains in some sectors would experience significant disruption, which had created an additional degree of concern for businesses. The latest figures for inflation had depicted a rise of just over 5% but forecasts had warned that this figure could double. The domestic energy price cap would rise by 54% in April and further rises had been anticipated for October 2022. Transport had also been affected by global events and there had been a 43% rise in the cost of oil compared to the beginning of 2022.

The reported cost increases contained within the report would have a huge impact on residents and represented a serious economic situation. The number of people in receipt of unemployment benefits had remained higher than pre-pandemic levels and it was noted that businesses had been struggling to maintain their workforces. Although the measures within the Chancellor's Spring Statement would help some residents, they would not go far enough to fully support low- and middle-income residents, who were facing unprecedented pressures on their finances. Each local authority had been working with businesses and voluntary organisations to create packages of support in their area, however the severity of the situation was clear, with an additional 600,000 people anticipated to be forced into poverty as a result of the Government's latest budget announcements.

Despite recent challenges, the real living wage campaign had accelerated in recent months. There had been over 60 new accreditations since November 2021, which had taken the total number of employers in receipt of the accreditation to nearly 450. The Good Employment Charter had also seen an increase in engagement. Around 800 employers had engaged with the Charter, which covered nearly 300,000 employees.

The GM Industrial Strategy had recently launched and signalled to the international community that Greater Manchester was open for business. A trade mission to Ireland and Northern Ireland had been planned for later in the month. Greater Manchester representatives would join representatives from Liverpool to explore and promote trade in each city region. This would be the largest trade mission of its kind to leave Greater Manchester and would be supported by the Economy and Business portfolio, as well as the Department for International Trade.

Greater Manchester had been awarded £100 million funding under the Government's innovation accelerator, jointly with the West Midlands and Glasgow city region, which would support local businesses to reap the benefits of the research and development expertise of GM's universities and further accelerate growth.

RESOLVED /-

That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision be noted.

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, introduced a report which set out the background on the national requirement for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) which would be implemented in November 2023, the ambition to maximise the opportunities from BNG within Greater Manchester, and the key issues and solutions associated with this.

All new developments post this date would be required to improve biodiversity which would result in a net gain for biodiversity. Where that would not be possible, developers would need to offset biodiversity losses elsewhere. It was noted that BNG would play an important role in delivering Greater Manchester's five-year environment plan and would enhance the natural environment across the city region. GM would work closely with partners to create a flexible and robust market for biodiversity offsetting with the majority of benefits being directly located within the city region.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for the GMCA to be named as the provisional responsible authority for developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Manchester, be approved.
2. That the work that has been delivered by GMCA to date to ensure Greater Manchester is prepared for mandatory BNG, be noted.
3. That the delivery of the Greater Manchester BNG 'Need and Supply Assessment' by GM Ecology Unit be supported.
4. That the pursuit of a range of offsetting options for Greater Manchester be supported and that GMCA works with key stakeholders, including landowners and developers to continue to develop this understanding.
5. That the development of a Greater Manchester market for BNG Units including the work that is being delivered by the GM Environment Fund be supported.

6. That the development of a policy position on biodiversity offsetting as part of the scope of the forthcoming Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy be supported.
7. That authority be delegated to the Portfolio Lead Chief Executive, Green City Region, to prepare a submit a response to the Government BNG consultation in line with the ambitions/issues raised in this paper.

**GMCA 53/22 THE EDINBURGH DECLARATION ON BIODIVERSITY AND
DECLARING A BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY (KEY DECISION)**

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, took Members through a report which sought approval to add the Mayor of Greater Manchester's signature to the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity and declare a biodiversity emergency. Numerous cities and city regions across the world had signed the declaration and it was emphasised that the Mayor's signature to the Declaration would reaffirm GM's commitment to biodiversity.

By declaring a biodiversity emergency, GM would acknowledge the severity of the crisis that nature had been facing, the importance of tackling biodiversity decline as part of tackling the climate emergency, and the intention to tackle biodiversity loss alongside partners in the city region. Annex 1 of the report was brought to Members' attention. In particular, it was highlighted that key bird species, which were considered to be an indicator of the health of wildlife, had declined by between 25-40% over the last 40 years in Greater Manchester.

It was noted that the GMCA had declared a climate emergency in 2019. It had since become apparent that addressing the steady decline in biodiversity was an integral part of the work that needed to be done to address the wider climate emergency.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the signature of the GM Mayor to the Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity, on behalf of the GMCA, be approved.
2. That the declaration of a biodiversity emergency be approved.

GMCA 54/22 THE GREATER MANCHESTER GREEN SPACES FUND

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, introduced a report which set out proposals for the delivery of the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund, a key commitment to improving green spaces, and access to them, across the city region. The report set out the need for investment in the city region's green spaces, the proposed aims of the fund, the types of projects to be supported, how community participation and action would be enabled and arrangements for the fund's delivery. The fund would allow local communities to apply for funding to create new green spaces or enhance existing areas and funding would be targeted to areas where green space was most needed. The report contained proposals for community enablers, who would work with communities to develop project proposals. It was noted that this programme would empower residents to take action on the climate and biodiversity emergencies and to improve their local areas.

The £2.6 million investment into the Green Spaces Fund was welcomed as Members reflected on previous challenges in securing funding for green spaces. Salford had been supported by Lottery funding and the addition of the Green Spaces Fund would help the city region as a whole to further invest in its green spaces for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

RESOLVED /-

That the report and the proposals for the Greater Manchester Green Spaces Fund be noted.

GMCA 55/22 DRIVING SOCIAL VALUE IN GM PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital City Region, took the GMCA through a report which sought the agreement of set of principles and supporting actions to accelerate the work already occurring in Greater Manchester on leveraging social value from public sector spending. Greater Manchester had held long-standing ambitions to support local businesses and create local jobs. Whilst there was an abundance of good practice across the city region, it had been important to standardise the approach to social value to simplify the process for businesses competing for opportunities within Greater Manchester's public procurement mechanisms.

The City of Manchester was provided as an example. Manchester had worked on social value for over a decade and by utilising 60% of its public sector spending on work with local businesses, it had been able to re-generate over £150 million back into the city's economy.

This method of public sector spending had also created 2300 new jobs, 630 apprenticeships and 14,000 hours of volunteering.

It was noted that a further report would be provided to the GMCA, which would contain basic principles for public procurement and a series of clear actions for delivery. Local authorities, the Combined Authority, and relevant partners would be considered as part of this work as they would all have a role to play in meeting the new principles. It was emphasised that public procurement could be used to improve standards for residents by containing requirements related to the real living wage and the Good Employment Charter, as well as additional factors such as the environment.

The role of partner organisations was noted by Members, particularly in relation to Greater Manchester Police who were keen to adopt a framework for their social value approach to procurement. The sharing of expertise in this area was welcomed and consideration of the police was requested. Further attention from Members was given to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who had often experienced barriers within public procurement processes. Building on good practice across the city region would help these businesses to take advantage of the available opportunities.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Councillor Bev Craig (Manchester) and Senior Responsible Officer, to be confirmed, be designated to act as sponsors to work with each of the Greater Manchester Local Authorities to identify how working at Greater Manchester level can add value to the shared objectives and declared Greater Manchester Strategy priorities; and to garner wider participation across Greater Manchester anchor institutions including Transport for Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Police and the Health system.
2. That the successful progress in this policy area would require significant investment be acknowledged and that a further report would be submitted to the GMCA setting out the resourcing challenge and quantified options.
3. That the decision to revise the GMCA Sustainability Decision Tool for use upstream as part of business case development (for potential adoption by others) be approved.

4. That the exploration of options for developing a Greater Manchester 'Brokerage' platform, with the ability to provide a live environment matching supplier offers with 'system' asks, be approved.
5. That the adoption of the following principles be approved and that this report be commended for approval and adoption by all Greater Manchester Councils in order to build on existing good work on social value and to significantly increase the collective Greater Manchester approach to social value, with the potential to make a real step change in the role of public procurement in supporting the delivery of GMC priorities:
 - Restate a strong presumption that social value forms part of the evaluation on all procurement over threshold.
 - Building on the Greater Manchester Social Value Framework, develop an approach which can be aggregated at a GM level for capturing bid offers as contractual commitments, providing contract management performance data and common standards for city region scale reporting.
 - Adopt definitions to allow development of plans for capturing consistent metrics (See Appendix 1) for a set of key Greater Manchester Priorities:
 1. Real Living Wage
 2. Principles of Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter
 3. Carbon Reduction – net zero by 2038 (Greater Manchester) / 2050 (UK)
 4. Tackling Inequality (protected characteristics)
 5. Economic Diversity (Small Medium Enterprise and Voluntary Community Social Enterprise)
 6. Local Spend (Greater Manchester based businesses)
 - Adopt a policy for all procurements over the regulated threshold (unless evidenced as legally and commercially unviable):
 - a. By 2023 we will only contract with organisations who agree, themselves and for their 1st line sub-contractors, to pay Real Living Wage at date of contract or within 1 year of contracting.
 - b. By 2023 we will only contract with organisations who have signed up to be supporters of the Good Employment Charter (or equivalent indicators) at date of contract or within 1 year of contracting.

c. By 2023 we will only contract with organisations who have a credible plan to become carbon neutral by 2050 in place at date of contract or within 1 year of contracting.

- Agree that the policy goal should be to increase our supplier diversity by:
 - a. Reserving relevant 'below threshold' contracts for Voluntary Community Social Enterprise sector organisations or Greater Manchester based Small Medium Enterprises (unless the requirement cannot be fulfilled by these markets).
 - b. Increasing the proportion of spend (with primary contractors and 1st line subcontractors) from Greater Manchester public procurement that is spent within Greater Manchester.
 - c. Make plans to monitor and report on the diversity of the ownership of leadership of the organisations we work with.
6. That it be noted that small and medium enterprises would need to be supported to facilitate opportunities to bid for public service contracts.

GMCA 56/22 GREATER MANCHESTER NIGHT TIME ECONOMY STRATEGY

Alison McKenzie-Folan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Culture, introduced a report which outlined the draft GM Night Time Economy Strategy, which had been developed by the Mayor of GM's Night Time Economy Adviser, Sacha Lord, supported by the GMCA Culture and Night Time Economy team. The Strategy outlined the proposed focus of the Night Time Economy Adviser and the Night Time Economy Panel's work for the next three years across seven priorities: safety, diversity, workers, transport, national and international partnerships and campaigns, regeneration, and business and sector support.

The Strategy celebrated the unique night time economy of each of the ten local authorities in GM. It had been based on conversations with stakeholders across Greater Manchester and reflected the issues that were important to the night time economy, including the impact of COVID-19. The implementation plan would be updated annually based upon the most up-to-date information as the sector began to recover from the pandemic. Manchester city centre had a long-standing night time economy and the Strategy had sought to emulate the best practice found in Manchester across other areas within the city region, where the night time economy offer had been developing. A significant amount of work was already underway and

it had been anticipated that the Strategy would strengthen the partnerships across the conurbation.

Members welcomed the report and reflected on the impact that it would have for the 464,000 people who were working in jobs and businesses with significant activity at night, which represented 33% of the workforce in Greater Manchester. The delivery of the Strategy would add value in several areas, including regeneration, culture, creativity and leisure.

RESOLVED /-

That the Night Time Economy Strategy be noted, and the Implementation Plan be reviewed on an annual basis.

GMCA 57/22 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE – MANCHESTER) BILL, AUTHORISATION FOR GMCA TO OPPOSE THE BILL AT PARLIAMENT (KEY DECISION)

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, took Members through a report which sought to gain the GMCA's authorisation to participate in the Hybrid Bill process, which required the GMCA to resolve that it was expedient to oppose the Bill, in accordance with s239 of the Local Government Act 1972. The resolution would require a majority of Members to vote in favour. If approved, the GMCA would work with TfGM to create a petition against the Bill, which was the only mechanism to oppose the Bill since it had already been laid at Parliament.

The proposals contained within the Bill were severely sub-optimal for Greater Manchester. There were significant concerns around several proposals, including the proposed overground rail line serving Piccadilly, the severance of the Ashton Metrolink line, and connections to Manchester Airport across the city region. A petition would need to be submitted which outlined in detail the areas of concern ahead of the Select Committee process.

It was emphasised that HS2 presented a once in a generation opportunity, for which Greater Manchester was grateful. However, the delivery of HS2 would have to meet the current and anticipated future needs of the region in order to deliver the best return on investment for the Government and ensure that the network reached its full potential. Members agreed that the current proposals were inadequate for Greater Manchester's needs and alternative options

needed to be explored to ensure that an investment of this scale was done right and prepared for future growth ambitions.

In response, it was confirmed that work would be carried out to understand the short-, medium- and long-term implications for compatible services. Greater Manchester would also continue to call on Government to better integrate the plans for HS2 with other projects, like Northern Powerhouse Rail, to provide the best possible connectivity in the city region.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the recommendation to oppose elements of the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill, being satisfied that it is expedient to do so, pursuant to section 239(1), (2) and (4A) of the Local Government Act 1972, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to take all such steps as may be incidental, necessary, or expedient in connection with GMCA's opposition to the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill, including all steps required for a petition to be submitted, maintained and if considered appropriate modified or withdrawn (in whole or in part) in the event that any petition points have been resolved satisfactorily with HS2 Ltd and/or DfT in respect of the Bill, and to negotiate and/or seek assurances, undertakings and/or agreements to the Bill as well as to appear at any Select Committee considering the Bill.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to agree the final terms of any agreements and enter into and complete any necessary legal documentation.

GMCA 58/22 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE – MANCHESTER) BILL, AUTHORISATION FOR TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER TO OPPOSE THE BILL AT PARLIAMENT (KEY DECISION)

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester which sought approval from the GMCA to oppose the Bill, in accordance with section 10(1)(xxix) of the Transport Act 1968. The report set out the proposal by TfGM to oppose elements of the Bill. In accordance with the GMCA's Constitution, TfGM's request for approval to oppose the Bill had been referred to the Greater

Manchester Transport Committee, whose recommendations were reported to the GMCA for their consideration in determining whether to grant approval.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that at its meeting on the 24 March the GM Transport Committee considered the proposal by TfGM to oppose elements of the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill and the reasons for that proposal and resolved to recommend to the GMCA the approval is granted for TfGM to oppose elements of the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill, pursuant to s10(1)(xxix) of the Transport Act 1968.
2. That approval be granted for TfGM to oppose elements of the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill, pursuant to s10(1)(xxix) of the Transport Act 1968.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to take all such steps as may be incidental, necessary or expedient in connection with TfGM’s opposition to the High Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill, including all steps required for a petition to be submitted, maintained and if considered appropriate modified or withdrawn (in whole or in part) in the event that any petition points have been resolved satisfactorily with HS2 Ltd and/or DfT in respect of the Bill, and to negotiate and/or seek assurances, undertakings and/or agreements to the Bill as well as to appear at any Select Committee considering the Bill.
4. That TfGM and the GMCA would continue to work through addressing the wider impacts of proposals on individual Local Authority transport networks, recognising the significant impact on broader connectivity across the network and the economy of Greater Manchester.

**GMCA 59/22 MAYORS CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND (MCF)
(KEY DECISION)**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, took the GMCA through a report which sought approval of the development and delivery funding requirements for seven Mayor’s Challenge Fund (MCF) Cycling and Walking Schemes, which included increases to previously approved budget values for a number of Salford City Council schemes. The

infrastructure built under the MCF would contribute to the Bee Network, which would transform Greater Manchester's transport system. 82 cycling and walking schemes had now been identified and would form the longest, integrated, planned network in the country, covering 1,800 miles.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the release of up to £0.594 million of additional development cost funding for the 3 Salford City Council MCF schemes set out in section 2 of this report be approved.
2. That the release of up to £5.45 million of MCF funding for the Bury and Salford schemes, as set out in section 3 of this report, be approved, in order to secure full approval and enable continued scheme delivery through the signing of the necessary legal agreements, and in the case of Trafford Road, the drafting and signature of a legal deed of variation.

GMCA 60/22 CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT DRAFT PROGRAMME CASE INTERIM AWARD B (CRST) (KEY DECISION)

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which updated Members on the process to secure a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement for Greater Manchester. The report also requested delegation of the agreement and release of the interim CRSTS Programme Case award to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor.

In September 2021, the GMCA had approved the submission of a prospectus based on an upper bound guideline for £1.19bn for Government consideration as part of the 2021 Spending Review process. In November 2021, the Secretary of State had written to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and reported that the GMCA had been allocated an indicative £1.07bn of capital funding conditional on the submission of a programme business cases, which was submitted to the Government by the GMCA on 31 January 2022. It was unclear when funds would be awarded but it was anticipated that the GMCA may receive an interim award, which would be allocated across three programmes identified in the report.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that GMCA, as requested by Government on 20 July 2021, prepared and submitted to the Government's City Region Sustainable Transport Fund in early September, as part of the process to secure up to £1.19 billion of capital funding for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.
2. That it be noted that on 22 November 2021, the Secretary of State wrote to the Mayor of Greater Manchester advising that GMCA had been awarded an indicative allocation of £1.07 billion of capital funding conditional on the submission of a programme business case by the end of January 2022.
3. That it be noted that GMCA subsequently submitted the draft CRSTS Programme Case to Government on 31st January 2022.
4. That it be noted that GMCA have been informed by the Department for Transport that they intend to grant at least an interim award of CRSTS funding to GMCA in March 2022, in advance of finalising the full award.
5. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the agreement and allocation of an interim award to ensure that those elements of the CRSTS programme that require funding from April 2022 were able to draw down funds.
6. That it be noted that the outcome of this process will be submitted to GMCA.

GMCA 61/22 GREATER MANCHESTER ONE NETWORK PROCUREMENT (KEY DECISION)

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital City Region, took Members through a report which set out the process for a joint procurement of ICT Wide Area Network services across several councils, GMCA including GMFRS, and Transport for Greater Manchester under the title of GM One Network. There had been an ambition to have over 1600 connected sites arising from the work that had been done with the Digital Blueprint and the GM Local Full Fibre Network. The project was scalable and there would be future opportunities for the GM One Network.

RESOLVED /-

1. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Greater Manchester Digital Portfolio Lead Chief Executive to enter into contract between GMCA and Cisco International for Greater Manchester One Network Integrator Services on behalf of the GMCA including GM Fire & Rescue and TfGM, and Bury, Stockport, Oldham, and Rochdale Councils as described in the report.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Greater Manchester Digital Portfolio Lead Chief Executive to procure and enter into contracts to deliver BT Openreach Exchange Services and for ServiceNow capabilities as described in this report.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Monitoring Officer for GMCA to enter into the Greater Manchester One Network Collaboration Agreement with TfGM and Bury, Stockport, Oldham, and Rochdale Councils and to review and complete all necessary legal documentation and commend to those organisations that they sign their respective Collaboration Agreements.
4. That £5.67m of expenditure over 10 years against existing and planned GMCA Wide Area Networking budgets for GMCA(FRS) connectivity via Greater Manchester One Network be approved.
5. That an investment of £9.546m for Wide Area Networking services, implementation and operation for GMCA/TfGM Urban Traffic Controls Signals and TfGM sites via Greater Manchester One Network to be funded from existing TfGM revenue budget of £4.890m and additional capital and revenue investment of £4.656m in line with the decision made by GMCA in January 2020, be approved.
6. That it be noted that this collaborative procurement had secured substantial value for money and social value commitments and creates a platform for future connectivity requirements.
7. That the progress towards completion of the Greater Manchester Local Full Network Programme and the efforts of officers and commercial partners in its delivery be noted.

**GMCA 62/22 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK –
REQUEST FOR DELEGATION**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, introduced a report which sought the GMCA's approval to delegate authority to the Combined Authority Chief Executive in consultation with the Combined Authority Treasurer and the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding previously approved by the Combined Authority, for the period 26 March 2022 to 26 May 2022, in view of the prolonged timeframe between the GMCA's meetings during that period. It was noted that any recommendations approved under the delegation would be reported to the next available meeting of the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED /-

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 26 March 2022 to 26 May 2022.
2. That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meetings of the GMCA.

GMCA 63/22 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took the GMCA through a report which sought the Combined Authority's approval to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund ('GMHILF') loans detailed in the report, and approval for up to £20m of the loan for the Three60 development to be met from GMCA's Growing Places Fund if required as a result of a proposed £100m cap on GMHILF lending to Renaker city-centre developments, as detailed in the report. The report also contained details of decisions recently taken by the Chief Executive acting in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure under the delegation in the GMCA Constitution Part 3 Section F paragraph 3.17 to approve increases of less than 10% in the GM Housing Fund loans previously approved by the GMCA.

RESOLVED /-

Clerk's Note: This item has been made exempt from call in: [Exemption from Call-In](#)

1. That the Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund loans detailed in the table below, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report be approved:

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
GJS (Circle) Developments Limited	Three60	Manchester	£62.300m
Kellen Homes (GM) Ltd	Vernon Gardens	Oldham	£4.163m

2. That the proposal for up to £20m of the loan for the Three60 scheme to be met from GMCA's Growing Places Fund, if required as a result of a proposed £100m cap on GMHILF lending to Renaker city-centre developments, as detailed further in this report, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.
4. That the decisions recently taken under delegation in respect of GMHILF loans previously approved by the GMCA be noted.
5. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 26 March 2022 to 26 May 2022.
6. That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be submitted to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, introduced a report which updated the GMCA on the Greater Manchester EV charging tariff, and sought a delegation to determine the electric vehicle charging tariff to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor of Manchester. The report also provided an update on the On-Street Residential Charging Scheme Fund bid.

In December 2019, Transport for Greater Manchester entered into a 7-year contract with Amey MAP Services to operate and maintain Greater Manchester's EV charging network. EV tariffs, which had begun in October 2021, had been set on the basis of electricity costs of 14p per kilowatt hour. Since January 2021, the wholesale costs of electricity had risen by around 250% and TfGM had incurred net costs of around £8000 per month. The tariffs would need to be reviewed and amended in April 2022 and any new tariff would be set at a level to ensure the sustainability of the scheme.

Following a detailed review of the operational costs and financial case of the On-Street Residential Charging Scheme, it had been proposed that GMCA and TfGM did not continue with a bid to the On-Street Residential Charging Scheme Fund. Instead, a study would be commissioned to examine the future of Greater Manchester's EVs and how the public sector could best optimise the rollout of EV charging.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the impact of electricity prices on the financial viability of the current Electric Vehicle charging tariff be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, to determine the electric vehicle charging tariff.
3. That the update on the On-Street Residential Charging Scheme Fund bid and that TfGM would be commission a study into the future of Greater Manchester and Electric vehicles to establish how the public sector could best influence the rollout of Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure.

RESOLVED /-

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 66/22 ONE NETWORK PREFERRED SUPPLIER CONTRACT AWARD

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 61/22 above refers)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 67/22 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 63/22 above refers)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair:

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE
HELD ON 23 MARCH 2022**

PRESENT:

Bury Council	Councillor Alan Quinn
Manchester CC	Councillor Tracey Rawlins
Manchester CC	Councillor Shaukat Ali
Oldham Council	Councillor Peter Davis
Oldham Council	Councillor Mohammed Alyas
Salford CC	Councillor David Lancaster
Tameside MBC	Councillor Allison Gwynne (In the Chair)
Trafford Council	Councillor Stephen Adshead
Trafford Council	Councillor Dylan Butt

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA Deputy Monitoring Officer	Gwynne Williams
GMCA Waste & Resources	David Taylor
GMCA Waste & Resources	Justin Lomax
GMCA Finance	Lindsey Keech
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michael Kelly
GMCA Waste & Resources	Paul Morgan
GMCA Waste & Resources	Michelle Whitfield
GMCA Environment	Sarah Mellor
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Kerry Bond
GMCA Governance & Scrutiny	Connell Hopkins-Tonge
Bury Council	Daniela Dixon
Trafford Council	Helen Ashcroft

WRC 51/21 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED/-

That apologies be received and noted from Councillors Nadim Muslim, Robin Garrido and Roy Driver, Eamonn Boylan and Steve Wilson.

WRC 52/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no chairs announcements or items of urgent business.

WRC 53/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

**WRC 54/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER
2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2021 be approved.

**WRC 55/21 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL
DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

RESOLVED /-

That Members noted their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and to complete an annual declaration of interest form and that the completed form would be published on the GMCA website be also noted.

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services and Paul Morgan, Head of Commercial Services, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report providing an overview of performance of the Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) and the Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

It was reported that the data used was verified for quarter 3 (April to December) of the financial year 2021/22 (contract year 3), for the two contracts held by Suez and compared with the same period of 2020/21.

Highlights from the report included:

- The year-on-year comparison of total waste arising has increased by c.3%.
- A recycling rate of c.47% was achieved during April to December 2021, resulting in a rate of c.99% of material being diverted away from landfill disposal.
- Rejection levels at the Materials Recovery Facility from kerbside recycling has reduced to c.13%.
- The tonnage of collected loads rejected at the reception points has reduced by c.75%, around 5kt lower than the previous year.
- Since the last committee report, there has been 1 further RIDDOR incident, in quarter 2 of contract year 3. The last incident involved an operative scald injury following a vehicle overheating. The incident was investigated and was discounted as a RIDDOR incident due to a pre-disposed medical condition that affected the length of absence following the incident.
- The overall data shows that Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) visitor numbers have stayed below levels seen pre-covid with c.4.25m visits in quarter 1-3 of 2021/22, 10% less than the previous year.
- Tonnage levels continue to fall against pre-covid levels with over 20% less material than in 2019/20 being received at the HWRCs.

- Van Permit Scheme applications are around 700 per week with a 57% approval level.
- In an attempt to circumvent the van permit application process a number of vehicles adapted to have the carrying capacity of a van were identified. Numbers of van visits since the scheme was introduced have reduced substantially.
- Suez have proposed a trial from 1 May 2022 to 1 September 2022, to direct high sided vehicles to deliver household waste to one of the 18 HWRC identified, rather than using transfer loading stations, findings from this trial will be assessed and reported back to the October meeting of this committee with the potential to make this a long-term policy change.

Officers confirmed that campaigns are in place to target contamination rate issues and that work is underway to identify where the contamination originates.

Members were advised that a benchmarking exercise would take place at the end of the year, looking at best practice, the need to increase recycling levels, and comparison with other waste and combined authorities.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the matters set out in the report.
2. To approve the commencement of a trial, from 1 May 2022 to 1 September 2022, to allow high-sided vehicles to deliver household waste to identified Household Waste Recycling Centres rather than requiring them to use transfer loading stations.

WRC 57/21

BUDGET AND LEVY 2021/22 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2024/25

Lindsey Keech, Head of GMCA Finance Capital & Treasury Management presented a report updating Members on the budget and levy for 2021/22 and on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2024/25, delivered by a total levy requirement for 2022/23 and the MTFP proposed levy charges in 2024/25.

The table at section 2.4 of the report should read that the variance in paper and card is 3,156 and not 3,16.

The medium term financial plan forecast for future years indicated an increase of 3.4% in 2023/24 and 2.5% in 2024/25.

At the GMCA meeting in February 2022, Members agreed to return a minimum of £10m from reserves to districts, consideration to refund further amounts will be taken throughout the year.

It was confirmed that the decrease in paper and card recycling in March 2020 at section 2.3 and the resulting cost increase at section 2.4 of the report, is due to covid and the resulting increase in demand for old cardboard for use in home deliveries.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the forecast outturn for 2021/22.
2. To note the proposed 2023/24 trade waste rate of £118.30 to allow forward planning by districts.
3. To note the capital programme for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix A.
4. To note the budget and levy for 2022/23 of £164.8m (1.5% increase).
5. To note the risk position set out in the balances strategy and reserves.

WRC 58/21 ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Michael Kelly, Head of Engineering and Asset Management, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided an update and presentation on the implementation of the Asset Management Plan and key engineering projects, including:

Reliance Street Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility: a new mechanical treatment and reception facility that is fully operational and is running at higher than expected daily tonnages, provisional options on an ongoing snagging defect on the

odour control system is being tested and reviewed, the situation is being monitored by the GMCA and Suez to minimise disruption to the facility.

Chichester Street Transfer Loading Station - Floor Replacement: the project was successful, options are being reviewed to replicate the solution at the Bredbury site.

Longley Lane Mechanical Treatment and Reception Facility: Following review of the mechanical biological treatment facilities in 2016/17, the Longley Lane facility is being replaced with a new simplified mechanical treatment and reception facility, site works to modify the plant began in October 2021 with completion scheduled for the end of May 2022.

Dunkirk Farm: In October 2021 a bid for the site was accepted resulting in a completed sale of the site in November 2021.

Members were advised that GMCA are undertaking a strategy review to look at options for a Materials Recovery Facility to potentially enable plastic tubs/pots/trays to be recycled in the future.

Officers confirmed that waste electrical items received at sites are split into two categories: white goods are assessed and will be re-used via the re-use hubs if suitable, if not, they are dismantled and precious metals and other materials are recovered for recycling as with all small electric items. Other options are being considered for possible kerbside collection of electrical goods.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the implementation of the asset management plan and key engineering projects update and presentation.

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, GMCA Environment Team provided an overview of the 5 year Environment Plan and the theme of sustainable consumption and production that sits within the plan.

Members received an update on the four key priority areas of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Plan and the key components that underpin those priority areas, including:

- Circular economy principles: focussing on three key areas – sustainable product design; resource efficiency and sustainable procurement.
- Managing waste as sustainably as possible: key components within the plan - promoting the waste hierarchy, ensuring that as little waste is sent to landfill as possible; undertaking analysis of the implications to Greater Manchester in implementing England's Resource and Waste Strategy; and using innovation to tackle difficult waste streams which currently have limited sustainable end markets.
- Reducing food waste: working with public sector bodies; exploring a Good Food Charter to incorporate within the social value framework; working through Good Food GM; with stakeholders on the delivery on the Good Food Vision and R4GM and stakeholders on food waste campaigns.
- Moving to sustainable lifestyles: development of the [Green Cities](#) website; delivery of the communications plan to educate, raise awareness and develop campaigns engaging with GM citizens to encourage them to make more sustainable choices.

An example of a circular economy principle is the Northern Roots Project creating the UK's largest urban farm and country-park in Oldham, developed for and with local communities to create sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits for those communities.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the update report and presentation.
2. To agree that an update report on the Sustainable Consumption and Production Implementation Plan be brought to the next meeting setting out progress against the Plan and how it is being delivered in Districts.
3. To agree that an update report on the 5-year Environment Plan Local Levers be brought to the next meeting.

WRC 60/21 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team introduced a report updating Members on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Behavioural Change Delivery Plan for 2021/22 and the joint SUEZ/Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) Communications and Engagement Plan.

Highlights from the report included:

- The R4GM home composting campaign, running since August 2021, offering 10% discounted composting products from [Get Composting](#).
- Promotion of the Renew shops across the web and social media channels to generate stock for the three shops, including electrical goods.
- The refit of the Longley Lane Education Centre was completed in September, delivery of educational sessions at the Material Recovery Facility continue to take place in person.
- National campaigns to reduce contamination and improve the quality of recycling.
- The van and trailer permit scheme was rolled out to residents on 1 December 2021, along with the launch of a new web page where residents can apply for their household recycling centre permit which has currently received c.94,000 visits.

- Joint Suez and R4GM Communications Engagement Plan.
- Key priorities of the Communications Plan for 2022/23.

The Chair commended the Communications and Behavioural Change Team on the Recycling Paper and Card Campaign in Tameside, which won an award for the strength of the campaign and reduced contamination by c.90%

It was confirmed that officers will be liaising with schools to discuss how participation at the education centre can be increased.

Members suggested that during Ramadan consideration should be given to food waste and recycling communication/promotion at mosques across the conurbation.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the progress against the communications and behavioural change plan.
2. To note the progress on the joint SUEZ and R4GM communications and engagement plan.
3. To note the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Behavioural Change Delivery Plan 2022/23 attached at Appendix A of the report.

WRC 61/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED /-

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.

RESOLVED /-

1. To note the contract updates and key risks set out in the report.
2. To delegate the decision on the performance framework for 2021/22 of both the Waste and Resources and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts to David Taylor, GMCA Executive Director, Waste and Resource in consultation with the Chair of the Waste and Recycling Committee as set out in section 3.0 of the report.

Signed by the Chair:

Date:

**MINUTES OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2022 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mark Aldred (in the Chair)	Wigan Council
Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Bolton Council
Councillor Jackie Harris	Bury Council
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester City Council
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham Council
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale Council
Councillor Shah Wazir	Rochdale Council
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside MBC
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside MBC
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford Council
Councillor Angie Clark	Stockport MBC
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport MBC
Councillor Steve Adshead	Trafford Council
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council
Councillor Paul Prescott	Wigan Council

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Bob Morris	TfGM
Kate Brown	TfGM
Simon Warburton	TfGM
Kevin Hargreaves	TfGM
Ian Inglis	TfGM
Lucy Kennon	TfGM
Kate Green	TfGM
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Nicola Ward	Senior Governance Officer, GMCA
Chief Inspector Ronnie Nielson	Greater Manchester Police

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Tony Clarke
Melissa Farnworth
Chris Jackson
Guillaume Chanussot

Diamond/Rotala
TransPennine Express
Northern
KAM Metrolink

GMTC 01/22 APOLOGIES

Resolved /-

That apologies be received and noted from Councillors Stuart Haslam, Kevin Peel, Joanne Marshall, Andrew Western, Roger Jones, Emma Taylor, David Meller and Howard Sykes.

GMTC 02/22 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Resolved /-

There were no chairs announcements or urgent business.

GMTC 03/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Resolved /-

That it be noted that Cllr Phil Burke declared a personal interest in relation to item 8 -Transport Network Performance.

GMTC 04/22 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 15 OCTOBER 2021

Resolved /-

That the minutes of the GM Transport Committee meeting held 15 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

GMTC 05/22 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Resolved /-

That the minutes of the sub committee meetings held in March 2022 be noted –

- Metrolink & Rail Sub Committee – 11 March 2022
- Bus Services Sub Committee – 18 March 2022

GMTC 06/22 OPERATION AND PERFORMANCE OF GREATER MANCHESTER ROAD ACTIVITY PERMIT SCHEME (GMRAPS)

Kevin Hargreaves, Highways Key Route Network Manager, TfGM took the Committee through a report which provided an overview of GMRAPS and identified areas where improvements could be made to ensure compliance with permit conditions, consistent reporting of road work activities and enhancement of information provided to transport operators to ensure minimal disruption to the GM highway network.

Members were pleased with the progress of the scheme to date and were informed that the Collaborative Service Centre had reviewed 150 permits in the last year to ensure that all the relevant checks had been made and provide challenge at a central level. It was envisaged that as the scheme developed the scope of the Centre would be widened to generate a greater joined up approach, continuing to prioritise the flow of traffic along bus corridors.

Resolved /-

1. That the development of GMRAPS be supported to ensure a successful Lane Rental scheme can be developed and introduced
2. That the interventions and commitments detailed in section three of this report be noted.
3. That future Network Performance Reports detail exceptional GMRAPS schemes and that a link to the GM Roadworks website ([Greater Manchester Road Works On-line \(gmroadworks.org\)](http://Greater Manchester Road Works On-line (gmroadworks.org))) be shared with the Committee.

GMTC 07/22 UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF THE BEE NETWORK

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of the GMCA & TfGM introduced a report which updated the Committee on a number of important developments in relation to delivery of the Bee Network. The recently positive outcome of the Judicial Review regarding bus franchising was welcomed, as despite one request to the Court of Appeal, work to prepare for franchising could continue

at pace. The next stage was now able to commence and invitations to negotiate would be issued shortly to prospective providers of bus services in Bolton and Wigan, as well as in parts of Salford and west Manchester. By Autumn 2023 the first franchises would be in place and by the end of 2024 all three tranches were expected to be delivered. Members recognised that this was an ambitious timescale and asked whether the Court of Appeal could add any further delay to the process. It was confirmed that despite this legal action, progress was being made on the current tranche, however re-phasing may have to be considered if necessary.

At an event on the 14 March the GM Mayor announced the revised timetable for delivery of bus franchising, along with a fixed cost for single adult fares of £2 and single child fares of £1. Members were supportive of this announcement but questioned as to when full integrated ticketing was planned to be delivered. Officers confirmed that work was already underway regarding Metrolink and Bus and there remained a clear ambition for rail to be integrated, however this would be subject to future regulation changes.

Clarity on Greater Manchester's allocation of BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Programme) and CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement) funding was still awaited, plus the final amount of covid recovery funding for the period of April – October 2022. Members were concerned of the impact to the public transport system development if the required recovery funding was not made available. Officers confirmed that there were ongoing conversations with DfT as to how the funding could be used to ensure that the network was viable post October 2022.

The GM Mayor had recently appointed two new Commissioners for transport, subject to agreement by the GMCA Resources Committee on 25 March. Vernon Everitt had been appointed as the Transport Commissioner and Dame Sarah Storey had been appointed as the Active Travel Commissioner.

Resolved /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Committee receive further updates on integrated ticketing as appropriate.
3. That the Committee receive a further report on plans for the bus network post October

2022, as the recovery funding ceases.

GMTC 08/22 TRANSPORT NETWORK PERFORMANCE

Bob Morris, Chief Operating Officer, TfGM highlighted the key contents of the latest Transport Network Performance Report, including a downturn in performance across all modes in February as a result of a series of storms across GM. Although performance had recovered during March, the impact of covid on driver availability was still being seen as staff sickness remained at significantly high levels. This was evidenced within the scorecard on page 46 of the report, which showed six areas of red across the network. Operators were asked to provide some narrative regarding the determining factors to these scores.

Northern confirmed that colleague absence remained high due to a series of factors including the omicron covid variant and recent industrial relations, which were reported as now resolved.

Transpennine Express reported that sickness levels were c. 17-18% which was bringing about resource challenge, this had been furthered by ongoing industrial relations regarding rest day working. There had already been six Sunday services affected by strike days and a further series were planned across the forthcoming bank holidays. The current timetables remained that of the reduced service in January 2022 to assist with resourcing planning as the challenges regarding staff sickness remained.

Officers also reported on the status of the highways, which had seen traffic flows return to normal levels, and in some cases exceeded levels of 2019. As a result of large-scale events and an increased level of roadworks there had been some impact to the network, predominately affecting bus service punctuality. Within the report, Members noticed a recent reduction in car trips and questioned whether this could be directly attributed to the rising cost in fuel. Although this level of detail was not available, officers assured the Committee that this was being monitored closely.

Members were concerned that there was no long-term sustainable funding source for any of the modes within the public transport network, and with reduced patronage levels it would be difficult to plan for future users of the network. Officers reported that they were working hard to predict patronage levels as the recovery from the pandemic unfolded, and further campaigns were planned to encourage people back to the public transport network in due course.

The Committee reflected on the recent Government's Budget Statement which had indicated a rise in inflation costs and the potential link to further industrial action. Train operators in attendance commented that they remain open to conversations with unions to avoid industrial action where possible, however they were also acutely aware of the need to modernise the service to meet the new needs of the traveller, recognising that although peak travel remained weaker than pre-covid, there had been a strong return to the leisure market that demanded an adequate level of service.

Members asked whether the operators in attendance had a current covid absence policy that required staff to attend work even when they were testing as covid positive. It was reported by those present that there was no requirement for staff to attend work if they were covid positive, and there was a strong adherence to this approach, actively encouraged by senior management as there was no incentive to come into work.

Resolved /-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the Committee be cited on campaign work to encourage passengers back to the public transport network.
3. That it be noted that Northern Trains Limited offered to update the Committee on further industrial relations conversations as they arise.

GMTC 09/22 TRAVELSAFE: 2021 END OF YEAR REVIEW

Lucy Kennon, Head of Resilience & Business Continuity, TfGM took the Committee through the end of year report for TravelSafe which gave an overview of trends and compared data against that of 2019, pre-pandemic. Throughout 2020/21 there had been an increase in youth anti-social behaviour, 35% on bus and 45% on Metrolink. Many cases of ASB were complex and difficult to prosecute against, and figure 5 in the report gave an example of a case study of a prolific offender whose case demonstrated the complexities that have to be addressed. There had also been an increase in the use of missiles throughout 2021 and this concerningly was still growing. Due to the sporadic nature of the crime this also proved

difficult to prosecute against as many cases were undertaken by hooded youths, outside of the realms of any CCTV operation. However, TravelSafe had seen some proactive and positive results in this space including an increase in collaboration to identify emerging trends through prompt reporting from pro-active operators. This has led to some arrests and a wider array of interventions. Further joint work was planned with Northern to address the use of missiles on the railway.

The report also highlighted some of the key achievements for TravelSafe throughout 2021, including a strong forward action plan of weekly specialist operations across the network to tackle local issues but also increase visibility and provide reassurance to the travelling public. There had been a series of communications campaigns including one to support the launch of Greater Manchester Police's live chat, providing passengers with real time live but discreet communication directly with the police. In relation to the live chat facility, Members reported that some residents had felt it was a complex process and whether a text service had been considered. Officers confirmed that a host of options were looked at during the project development, however in order to directly link to the police triage service it was felt that the live chat was the best solution to communicate directly with the control room. It was suggested that Members may welcome a visit to the Communications Centre at GMP to provide them a greater understanding as to how this service operates. The QR (quick response) codes on the network had also proved the best way of directing people to the service, however Members were concerned that scanning them could prove indiscreet and therefore further consideration as to their permanent placement should be given.

The Combined Authority had made a joint bid with the TravelSafe Partnership to the Safer Streets Fund for £1.5m to enable a pilot project aimed to increase the perception of safety for women and girls on the Oldham Metrolink line. Initial feedback had been positive, with passenger insights already showing signs of increased feelings of safety. Members requested a report back to the Committee once the data from the pilot had been collated and analysed.

Members praised the work of TravelSafe over the past year as outlined in the report but highlighted that there continued to be large congregations of youth on the Metrolink line between Victoria and Abraham Moss, alleged to be dealing drugs. Officers were aware of regular gatherings of young people but urged Members to report criminal activity as and when it occurs so that a clear picture of the issues could be built up.

Paragraph 2.9 of the report detailed the work undertaken to address criminal activity and ASB on the Rochdale line and although there had been a marked improvement, Members noted some recurrent issues. Officers reported a number of reassurance interventions already taking place in Rochdale including work with the Street Pastors, and further works planned as a result of a confirmed extension of the Safer Streets pilot to Rochdale Town Centre from April 2022.

With regards to the prolific offender case, Members asked whether the perpetrator was still adhering to their restrictions. It was confirmed that officers (in conjunction with Rochdale's Youth and ASB teams) were still keeping a close eye on any subsequent incidents associated with the individual, but that the behaviour order put in place had had a positive impact from a transport perspective.

Members reported the concern raised from residents regarding smashed bus and Metrolink shelters and queried as to whether there was scope to replace these with corrugated iron. It was confirmed that through the TravelSafe partnership there was work underway to 'design out crime' from stops that were susceptible to such activities. It was further recognised that this would need to be done alongside educational and behavioural change activities in order to yield the best results.

The Committee noted the success of planned TravelSafe operations on the Metrolink network but urged for additional resources across the bus network, especially covert operations to tackle ASB and criminal activity. Officers confirmed that the current deployment of staff was alongside tactical priorities, however there were four operations currently being planned for the coming months which included three on the bus network. It was important to also note that special operations were only one part of the toolkit and deployments across the network were a daily occurrence, for example staff had been deployed to the Leigh Guided Busway today.

Members acknowledged the importance of the wide partnership offered through TravelSafe, as there were many complex issues contributing to crime on the network which required intervention from other departments such as Community Safety and Youth Offending, especially in relation to restorative and preventative interventions. It was recognised that there were times when police intervention was required, but also times when it was not the

best approach. The work in Stockport to address ASB at the bus station was commended, and the working relationships forged through this piece of work would be used to collaborate successfully on projects in the future. It was reported that incidents had also occurred at Stockport mainline train station and British Transport Police were asked to consider whether there could be pop-up offices at some mainline stations such as these to enable a different presence to be provided.

Action / -

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That thanks be recorded to all partners within the TravelSafe Partnership for their collaboration and efforts to support operations.
3. That all Councillors continue to enforce the importance of reporting incidents to GMP and the TravelSafe team.
4. That all outcomes of the TravelSafe Partnership and GMP's Transport Unit's interventions on the public transport network, including convictions, be reported to the Committee through the next Chair's GMTC Transport Update.
5. That a visit to the communications team at GMP be arranged for the forthcoming year to provide the Committee with further insight as to how the live chat facility for reporting enables passengers to converse directly with a GMP call handler.
6. That a report on the outcomes of the Safer Streets pilot on the Oldham Metrolink line be shared with the Committee in due course.

GMTC 10/22 INTERIM REPORT ON THE GM E-SCOOTER RENTAL TRIALS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GM SHARED MOBILITY STRATEGY

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director TfGM introduced an interim report on the GM e-scooter trials (as part of DfT's e-scooter trial programme) and provided an update on work to develop a shared mobility strategy for Greater Manchester. In preparation for the increased presence of new mobility modes, the pilots in Salford and Rochdale had been commissioned in order to provide data on the potential benefit on the availability of this type

of modal travel. Ian Inglis, Senior Project Manager at TfGM added that since the pilots began in October 2020 (Salford) and April 2021 (Rochdale) there had been 204,000 trips made and learning from this activity alongside international best practice would contribute to the creation of a GM policy position on e-scooters ahead of any Government legislation in the future.

Members noted the research undertaken by Salford University in relation to the pilot programme, however felt that if they were to be legalised that tight controls and policing would be required to ensure they were not ridden in locations which could prove dangerous to the public. Officers noted this point of concern, however assured the Committee that the required technology was in place to ensure that they could only be ridden on the carriageway at a maximum speed of 12.5 km/h.

Members were also concerned about the potential for accidents and incidents when e-scooters were driven in public spaces such as shopping centres and school grounds. The trial in the Isle of White was referenced, as within its first year there was 1004 complaints, predominantly in relation to ASB, underage riding and misuse. Members recognised that numbers in a more densely populated area such as Greater Manchester would likely be much higher. Officers reported that the geo-fencing technology had prevented any of the scooters from the trial being used within shopping centres and other public spaces, however there had been one slight injury and some reports of them being taken outside of the designated area.

The Committee felt that more trials were needed before Government could even begin to reflect on their position regarding the use of e-scooters, as not only were there issues regarding mis-use, but also illegal hire to those under 18 years old and without a provisional licence or insurance. It was clear that more guidance and advice was needed for potential users, as well as those who could sell the units to ensure that they were used in the safest manner. Illegal e-scooters were even more concerning as they did not need to adhere to any national standards and therefore their outputs could not be checked, nor the safety of their batteries. There was strong concern that as the infrastructure was not built for e-scooters there could be tragic consequences for the potential of their unregulated use.

In relation to the impact to the environment, Members questioned whether there had been any modelling undertaken with regards to the carbon footprint created by the use of e-

scooters, including the production of all their component parts. Officers responded that there was some ongoing academic research by the University of Salford regarding their carbon impact, but that a further request to review the heavy metal components would be put forward to assist GM in taking its position ahead of any potential change to legislation.

Action / -

1. That the contents of the report be noted, specifically the:
 - a) Interim results of the Greater Manchester e-scooter trials.
 - b) Emerging policy position in respect of e-scooters.
 - c) The development of the Shared Mobility Strategy.
2. That TfGM look into the concerns raised in relation to the Rochdale pilot, specifically to non-provisional license holders being able to hire scooters and the use of the scooters outside of the designated area.
3. That TfGM suggest that the University of Salford evaluation into the Salford pilot give consideration to measuring the environmental impact of the scheme, including the battery and heavy metal waste.

GMTC 11/22 HIGH SPEED RAIL (CREWE - MANCHESTER) BILL

Simon Warburton, Transport Strategy Director TfGM explained how HS2 would be the single largest change for the transport system in Greater Manchester within the next twenty years and therefore it was imperative that it is done in a way which supports regeneration potential around stations and ensures that the rail network is integrated with the wider public transport network. The Hybrid Bill had been laid in Parliament, detailing the final plans for phase 2b of the scheme from Crewe to Manchester, however there were several key issues within the proposals that the GMCA would like to make representations on with the support of the GM Transport Committee. These included –

- The benefits of an underground through station rather than surface level platforms 15 and 16 at Manchester Piccadilly to enable services to move effectively across the North of England.
- The concerns regarding the planned severance of the Ashton Metrolink line during

the construction phase.

- The unbalanced carparking provision at Manchester Piccadilly, where currently 2000 spaces were proposed, preventing best use of the land to the east of the station.
- The significant amount of materials required to build the proposed tunnel at Manchester Airport and the potential impact of its construction.
- The detail of the Manchester Ship Canal crossing for the Golbourne Link.
- The short platform at Wigan and potential oversight for the future of services to and from this station.

It was noted that as officers continue to work through the 34,000 pages they may come across additional concerns.

Members were in support of the recommendations on the report, however had varied views regarding the amount of carparking needed at Manchester Piccadilly to actively encourage public transport use in and out of the city.

Action /-

1. That the proposal by TfGM to oppose elements of the High-Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill and the reasons for that proposal be noted.
2. That approval be granted by the Committee to TfGM to oppose elements of the High-Speed Rail (Crewe – Manchester) Bill, pursuant to s.10(1)(xxix) of the Transport Act 1968.

GMTC 12/22 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

That it be noted that future meeting dates would be confirmed once appointments to the Committee for 2022/23 were confirmed.

**MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
AUDIT COMMITTEE, HELD ON FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022
AT THE GMCA OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, MANCHESTER**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mary Whitby	Bury Council
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham MBC
Councillor Sarah Russell	Manchester CC (Chair)
Councillor Chris Boyes	Trafford Council
Gwyn Griffiths	Independent Member
Catherine Scivier	Independent Member
Susan Webster	Independent Member
Grenville Page	Independent Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport Council and Deputy GMCA Portfolio Lead Member for Resources and Investment
Mark Dalton	Mazars

OFFICERS:

Andrew Lightfoot	GMCA Deputy Chief Executive
Steve Wilson	GMCA Treasurer
Rachel Rosewell	GMCA Deputy Treasurer
Sarah Horseman	GMCA Head of Audit and Assurance
Damian Jarvis	GMCA Internal Audit Manager
Nicola Ward	GMCA Senior Governance and Scrutiny Officer
Paul Wilkinson	GMCA Digital Solutions Manager

AC/89/21 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

Apologies were received from Daniel Watson (Mazars).

AC/90/21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or urgent business.

AC/91/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no interests declared in relation to any item on the agenda, by any Member of the Committee.

**AC/92/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21
JANUARY 2022**

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 21 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**AC/93/21 MINUTES OF THE JOINT AUDIT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 28
JANUARY 2022**

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Audit Panel held on the 28 January 2022 be noted.

AC/94/21 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA provided an update on progress against the Internal Audit Plan since the last report to committee and three

executive summaries of the internal audit completed within this period in relation to Accounts Receivable, ICT Cyber Security and GMFRS Central Stores.

In relation to the Accounts Receivable audit, there had been a limited assurance given as there were potential areas for an increased risk in fraud that required tighter controls. Members questioned as to how the segregation of duties had arisen and been permitted. Officers responded that this had happened overtime as roles had changed and access rights had been increased. This had been highlighted as one of the key findings of the audit and as a result there was a planned specific audit next year regarding the allocation of access rights on financial systems. The new resourcing structure would also now ensure that the risk of this is mitigated.

The ICT Cyber Security audit received reasonable assurance, however there had been an agreed set of actions to follow up.

The GMFRS Central Stores audit had also received limited assurance as there had not been a review of the function since 2019 and again there were a set of actions to follow up the audit's findings. In relation to this, Members asked that further assurance be brought back to the Committee following the stock take. Members also asked whether it was clear what had been procured and what was included within a current contract within the stores. It was felt that this area needed some further investigation, but officers were confident that this would be more effectively managed under the control of the new GMCA Head of Commercial . It was suggested that the totality of GMFRS spend be subject to internal audit at the end of this financial year, including procurement arrangements to ensure that they actively support the GMCA's aspirations regarding real living wage and supporting contract arrangements with SMEs.

Members sought some perspective on the fact that of those reasonable assurance audits, many were close to being limited and whether there was a reason for a more significant number of limited assurance audits within this period. Officers acknowledged this but assured the Committee that all audit actions would be re-visited before the Audit Opinion is given, to ensure there had been time to address these.

Officers also confirmed that the Behavioural Policy Review was currently being considered by management and would be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee along with the Fixed Asset Data Migration report.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress report be noted.
2. That the changes to the Audit Plan be approved.
3. That further assurance be brought to the Committee following the stock take at the GMFRS stores.
4. That Internal Audit consider a review of GMFRS spend at the end of this financial year.
5. That the Behavioural Policy Internal Audit report would be brought to the next meeting.

AC/95/21 INTERNAL AUDIT ACTION TRACKING

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA introduced a report which advised the Audit Committee of the progress made to date in implementing the agreed actions from internal audit assignments. Current implementation rates were 80% which was an increase on the last quarter and positive in relation to the internal target of 85%. Section four of the report provided a status update against all actions and an explanation on each outstanding action. There had been a couple of extensions provided to both the Fleet Management and Loan Approval internal audit actions due to other factors, however it was agreed to bring an update to the Committee on both areas in September 2022.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an update on the Fleet Management and Loan Approval internal audit actions at the meeting of the Committee in September 2022.

AC/96/21 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA provided a report which informed Members of the Audit Committee of the risk management activities undertaken since the last meeting. As a result of improved processes there had been an increase in escalated risks and a change to the overall risk profile of the organisation. A maturity assessment had been completed which showed that the GMCA was now scoring 3.57 (conforming) compared to its original score of 2.64 (emerging). The report also contained a risk action plan for the next municipal year which focussed on areas to address.

Members were encouraged to see the development of risk management across the organisation in which a real sense of change could be sensed. Officers agreed that this was due to both behavioural change and more proactive work to highlight risks at a departmental level and through regular reports to the Chief Executives Management Team meetings.

It was suggested that the risks should always be assigned to the role rather than named individual to ensure that this was clear to the Committee and members of the public. Furthermore, that all abbreviations should be expanded for full transparency.

In relation to the current global inflation issues, members questioned as to why this did not feature specifically within the risk register. It was confirmed that there was an ongoing dialogue regarding the potential risk to the GMCA as a result of the increased inflation rate, however at present the organisation was less exposed than a Local Authority and so it had not been highlighted as a separate risk from those already on the risk register to which it influences, this would, however, be kept under review.

Members questioned by what process were new risks identified for the risk register, such as the current global supply chain issues. Officers reported that GMFRS had a strong process in place to identify growing risks and that widening this process across the GMCA would be considered.

In relation to the risk surrounding transport recovery funding, Members asked whether there had been any further announcements regarding this. Officers confirmed that a Light Rail Recovery Grant for the first six months of 2022/23 had been confirmed for Metrolink,

which would allow for some more longer-term sustainable planning and modelling against current levels of patronage and anticipated growth. However, in relation to bus services, although the quantum of the Bus Recovery Grant had been agreed, the details of the provision to Greater Manchester was still to be determined, which had some associated risks.

Members felt that the legal challenge risk detailed within the report was too hypothetical and further detail was needed to ensure that it was more substantiated.

With regards to the imminent governance changes across the integrated care system, Members urged that the register contained some reference to the risk for not taking the opportunities for effective joint working. It was confirmed that Greater Manchester had just appointed their Chief Executive Designate who was due to start in July 2022, however had already been invited to join in conversations regarding the devolution trailblazer for Greater Manchester to ensure that health continue to be an essential partner in the devolution agenda. Officers agreed that missed opportunities for more effective joint systems was the most significant risk, whether this be regarding joint procurement, public health commissioning or the wider pursuit of public service reform.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That in future reports, risks be assigned to a role rather than an individual and all abbreviations expanded.
3. That consideration would be given to the widening of the GMFRS process for identifying new and growing risks across the whole of the GMCA.
4. That further detail would be added to the legal challenge risk to ensure that it was more substantiated and not phrased hypothetically.

AC/97/21 REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced a report which set out the assessment for 2021/22 and actions proposed to ensure ongoing effectiveness and quality of the GMCA Internal Audit service. Assurance was confirmed, in addition to the evidential

growth of the function across the organisation, significant added value and respect for the positive influence of Internal Audit activity was also recognised.

Members echoed this assessment in relation to the significant strides made by the Internal Audit function and remarked on their tremendous journey to date and clear gained respect. However, in recognition of the £2b of funding that comes through the GMCA, further questions were raised as to whether the function was able to extend comfortably across the breadth of complex dynamics of the GMCA. Officers remarked that the current balance felt about right to provide full assurance at the end of this municipal year and was comparable to other Combined Authorities across the North of England, however further resources would always enable an increased level of audit activity to be undertaken. The Treasurer added that with the most substantial changes for the GMCA have been completed, there were more subtle changes ahead, however through further devolution it was anticipated that the role of audit may be strengthened.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

AC/98/21 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2022/23

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA shared with Members of the Audit Committee the three-year internal audit plan and the operational internal audit plan for 2022/23.

Members queried as to why the report did not provide a figure for the number of total audit days required as per previous reports. Officers confirmed that as numbers fluctuate it was felt that any benchmarking against individual audits may be inaccurate, however there had been some averaging undertaken and the total number of days would be available to share with the Committee.

There were some concerns from Members that the GMCA Scrutiny Committees had been inquorate on several occasions, and it was suggested that an internal audit on the determining factors could assist with this evidential challenge. It was reported that

there was currently an externally led scrutiny review underway which will be making its recommendations to the GMCA in due course. It was suggested that it may be useful for the Audit Committee to look at the outcomes of this review and seek assurance that there are no further areas to review.

In relation to the planned deep dive into the Capital Programme, Members asked how the sample would be chosen. It was confirmed that officers planned to look at the complexity and materiality of the programmes and seek to review those where the GMCA is both a partner organisation and those where it has oversight and control. The Committee welcomed this approach, and further questioned whether in every case there was clarity as to the level of control required by the GMCA and how robust the established processes were. Officers confirmed that this deep dive would highlight whether there was a consistent approach to this, or whether there was a case for an assurance map of the whole organisation to be developed to ensure there were no gaps.

The Committee asked whether the level of detail within the Internal Audit Plan was sufficient enough to provide a record of assurance across each sub section of the organisation. Officers reported that this level of detail had been deemed to be too complex for the formal documentation to Committee however the engagement was taking place and the assurance was being provided to the Head of Audit and Assurance. Further to this, it was suggested that a second line of assurance could be considered by Directors for functions under their control which were not due for a full internal audit inspection to provide them with the assurances needed to self-certify. This would be considered in more detail and picked up as the GMCA reaches the required level of maturity.

In relation to the Mayoral Priorities, Members urged that an internal review on these took place more frequently than every five years as these represented the priorities of the electorate. Although the mayoral budget was relatively small in monetary terms, it was recognised that the reputational risk of these areas of work was significant and therefore the elements would be listed out and audited on a more frequent basis.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the total number of audit days required to deliver the Audit Plan for 2022/23 be shared with the Committee.
3. That the outcomes of the GMCA Scrutiny review be share with the Audit Committee prior to approval.
4. That the option for self-certification by Directors and a second line of assurance be considered by the GMCA for those areas not currently subject to internal audit.
5. That the elements of the Mayoral Priorities be listed out and scoped for more frequent internal audit activity.

AC/99/21 INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Sarah Horseman, Head of Audit and Assurance, GMCA introduced the Internal Audit Charter which establishes the framework within which the Internal Audit Service operates to best serve the independent assurance requirements of the GMCA Audit Committee and also to meet its professional obligations under applicable professional standards.

RESOLVED/-

That the Internal Audit Charter be approved.

AC/100/21 ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced a report which requested approval by the Audit Committee of the accounting policies and critical accounting judgements that the Authority proposed to adopt in the preparation of the Annual Statement of Accounts 2021/22. There had been no significant changes to accounting policies throughout the year, and although the delay to the IFRS16 had been confirmed until the 2024 accounts, preparations were already underway. There had been no changes to judgements from previous years.

Members asked whether those companies excluded due to the lack of financial materiality could not be included based on their potential political or reputational risk to

the organisation. The Treasurer confirmed that exclusions were not solely based on materiality and were also subject to external audit as to any potential exclusions, that would be published within the accounts. Further to this, Members asked why subsidiaries were automatically excluded. It was confirmed that this was not automatic, but based on a number of factors including materiality, the benefit to the account reader and the required resource to include them within the group accounts.

A Member asked which group accounts included the North West Fire Control Centre, Mazars External Auditors agreed to confirm this direct to Gwyn Griffiths.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Mazars would confirm to Gwyn Griffiths which group accounts included the North West Fire Control Centre.

AC/101/21 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced a report which contained updated Treasury Management Practices to reflect service structure changes from 1 April 2022 and to reflect the latest CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) expectations. As a significant element relates to investment decisions, advice was sought from external advisors, however the majority of the service was undertaken in house which allowed for more direct control.

Members asked whether there were an internal set of KPIs (key performance indicators) to provide assurance that the treasury management practices meet requirements. Officers confirmed that there were a number of internal KPIs set out in the Treasury Management Strategy monitored for assurance, however there were further plans to look at additional monitoring, for example target returns from deposits. Further to this, the Committee questioned whether there had been any mapping undertaken regarding the covenants on loans etc. It was confirmed that there were not the same level of covenants as a housing association for example, and that the majority of borrowing was through the Public Loans Board and therefore monitored against their external targets.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Treasury Management Practices for the financial year of 2022/23 be noted.
2. That a future training session on Treasury Management will be organised in due course.

AC/102/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT STRATEGY MEMORANDUM

Mark Dalton, Mazars presented the key elements of the Audit Strategy Memorandum which set out the responsibilities of the External Auditors, the planned audit approach, timeline and proposed testing strategy to address the audit risks against the financial statements and value for money statement. It also set out that the year-end audit activity was planned for September/October, reporting to the Audit Committee in November and planned a full sign off by the statutory deadline of 30 November 2022.

Common risks had been identified in relation to the financial statements and a new enhanced risk regarding the new asset register (implemented by the GMCA in 2021/22) had been highlighted. The response to these risks would be reported to the Committee in November alongside the audit completion report.

In relation to value for money (VFM), the work for 2021 was yet to be finalised and then work could begin on the 2022 value for money statement to pick up any actions from this year. The Committee were asked to note that there had been a further extended deadline from NAO (National Audit Office), whereby the VFM commentary was not required until three months following the publication of the opinion on the financial statements resulting in the 2021 VFM potentially being published in early 2023.

Section 6 of the report detailed the planned audit fees for 2021/22, which were consistent of those from the previous year and supported by funding from Government in recognition of the required additional audit activity, of which the GMCA received £37,085.

Members sought clarification whether there were any outstanding actions from last year's audited accounts, it was confirmed that there were two outstanding elements including the VFM commentary and the submission to the Whole of Governments Accounts as further clarity on their request was still awaited. It was concerning to the Committee that this clarity had still not been received and as a result last year's accounts could not be formally closed despite having been signed off by the External Auditors.

Mazars confirmed that the VFM commentary was nearing completion and would be presented to the Committee at their next meeting.

In reflecting the maturity of the organisation, Members of the Committee anticipated that there would be no delay to the 2022/23 accounts. External Audit confirmed that it would be highly likely that the GMCA would meet their end of July deadline, however delays could potentially arise due to the capacity of external audit. Officers added that the GMCA met their submission for the 2021/22 accounts, however the challenge came about through an elongated audit process this year.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Audit Strategy Memorandum be noted.
2. That it be noted that the VFM money commentary would be presented to the Committee by Mazars at their next meeting.

AC/103/21 GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER

The Chair presented the Audit Committee Action Tracker for consideration, it was agreed to include the Work Programme under this item at the next meeting.

The Committee raised some concerns regarding the oversight of the Police and Crime budget and relationship with the Police Audit Panel. It was suggested that further clarity be given to this through the current Constitution review.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the action tracker be noted.
2. That the Work Programme would also be included in this item on the next agenda.
3. That further consideration be given as to how best bring together the work of the GMCA and GMP Audit Committees to provide robust assurances.

AC/104/21 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

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.

AC/105/21 ANNUAL WHISTLEBLOWING AND FRAUD REPORT

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27th May 2022

Subject: The Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF)

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Portfolio Lead for Transport and Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM.

Purpose of Report

To seek approval of the delivery funding requirements for the Rochdale Castleton Corridor Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) Cycling and Walking Scheme, and the addition of Central Government funding to GM's cycling and walking capital and revenue programmes.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the release of £1,975,140 of MCF funding, and £2,200,000 of Active Travel (Tranche 3) funding for the Rochdale Castleton Phase 1 scheme, as set out in section 2 of this report, in order to secure full approval and enable continued scheme delivery through the signing of the necessary legal agreement; and
2. Note the award of £13.07 million for the Active Travel (Tranche 3) Capital Grant and approve the addition to the 2022/2023 GMCA Capital Programme as outlined in section 3 of this report; and
3. Note the award of £0.18 million of funding from Department for Transport with respect to the Mini Holland Feasibility grant and the Active Travel Social Prescribing Feasibility grant for financial year 2022-23, and approve the inclusion of this funding and associated costs in the 2022/23 GMCA Transport Revenue Budget as outlined in section 4 of this report; and

- Note the updated position regarding the GM Capability Fund, and approve the inclusion of this expenditure and funding in the 2022/23 GMCA Transport Revenue Budget, as set out in section 5 of this report.

Contact Officers

Steve Warrener	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Steve.Warrener@TfGM.com
Richard Nickson	Cycling and Walking Programme Director	Richard.Nickson@TfGM.com

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	
Health	G	The MCF schemes proposed for full approval will provide the infrastructure required to support and enable Active, healthy travel - supporting both both physical and mental health improvements.
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity	G	
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
Further Assessment(s):	Carbon Assessment	
		
Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		 Negative impacts overall.

Equalities Implications:

The schemes, which are developed and delivered through the Mayor's Challenge Fund for Walking and Cycling, are subject to detailed local engagement and consultation to ensure that the needs of all users are considered in producing designs which provide equity of access. All scheme proposals also undergo a detailed design assurance process which takes into account national design guidance as well as Greater Manchester's own interim cycling and walking design guidance, which itself has been the subject of discussion with TfGM's Disability Design Reference Group.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –

The Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund programme has been designed to support and expedite delivery of a network which is designed to facilitate a switch from a mechanised mode to walking or cycling, which will see a reduction in both local pollutants and greenhouse gases. By 2040 130,000 daily trips are expected to switch to cycling and walking from private car and taxi use. This equates to around 735,000 less vehicle kilometres being driven per day, with the resultant environmental benefits.

Carbon Assessment				
Overall Score				
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential	N/A			
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A			
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A			
Transport				
Active travel and public transport				
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	Full approval of the MCF schemes set out in this report will enable both the design and delivery of active travel routes as part of the Bee Active Network - including the creation of new and the extension and improvement of existing.		
Access to amenities				
Vehicle procurement	N/A	Full approval of the MCF schemes set out in this paper will enable both the design and delivery of active travel routes as part of the Bee Network - including the creation of new and the extension and improvement of existing.		
Land Use				
Land use				
No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Risk Management

The recommendations of this report will directly support MCF scheme delivery and enable prioritised infrastructure spend. This will directly assist in mitigating the programme risk of not fully expending the available budget. A programme risk register is maintained and updated by the TfGM MCF programme team.

Legal Considerations

Legal Delivery Agreements and legal side-letters will be produced and implemented for full scheme and development cost approvals as appropriate.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Revenue consequences are set out in sections 4 and 5 of this report.

Financial Consequences – Capital

Financial consequences are set out in sections 2 and 3 of this report.

Number of attachments to the report: No attachments

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

- 29 January 2021 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 12 February 2021 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 26 March 2021 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 28 May 2021 – Governance and Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 25 June 2021 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 10 September 2021 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 24 September 2021 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 26 November 2021 – Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 11 February 2022 – GMCA Revenue and Capital Programme Budget 2022/23
- 11 February 2022 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals
- 25 March 2022 - Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Financial Approvals

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

Yes

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

N/A

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 29 March 2018, GMCA agreed to allocate £160 million of Greater Manchester's £243 million Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) to develop a Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF). The fund had an initial four-year timeframe, running until the end of 2021/22.
- 1.2 The fund is being used to deliver the first phase of the Bee Active Network, which is the walking and cycling element of the wider Bee Network, which will transform Greater Manchester's transport system. The Bee Active Network, once complete, will cover circa 1,800 miles and be the longest, integrated, planned network in the country connecting every neighbourhood of Greater Manchester. The initial network plan was contained in Greater Manchester's cycling and walking infrastructure proposal (adopted by GMCA in June 2018), as part of a GM Streets for All highways improvement programme.
- 1.3 On 29 June, 28 September, 14 December 2018 and 29 March, 28 June, 29 November 2019, GMCA sequentially approved Tranches 1 to 6 of the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, granting schemes Programme Entry. In total this comprised 82 cycling and walking schemes with a forecast MCF funding requirement of £358.5 million, and a forecast overall value of £492.7 million, including local contributions. This figure excludes Programme Management costs.
- 1.4 Following the over-programming of the MCF and the creation of an infrastructure pipeline, on the 5 May 2020 GMCA approved the first phase of Bee Network delivery, based on identified District priorities. This phase has a forecast value of £216.5 million.
- 1.5 The additional c£66.5 million of funding required to deliver the overprogrammed element of the first phase of the Bee Network delivery is being sought from additional funding sources, including the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, with future pipeline funding planned from the national Active Travel Fund pot (managed by the Department for Transport, supported by Active Travel England).
- 1.6 In addition, and in accordance with Local Transport Note 1/20, all future Highway schemes will be required to provide for active travel, including in particular the Streets programme within GM's proposed City Region Sustainable Transport

Settlement programme, and notably the delivery of bus priority routes and multi-modal corridors.

- 1.7 This report recommends delivery funding approvals associated with the ongoing implementation of the Bee Network through the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund, and the addition of further central government cycling and walking funding to support regional delivery. This is a monthly funding approval paper in support of cycling and walking programme delivery.

2. MCF/ATF3 FULL SCHEME APPROVAL

- 2.1 Following Programme Entry, Local Authority partners can proceed with the development of their schemes, including progressing the necessary powers and consents, prior to obtaining either Conditional Approval and/or Full Approval of their scheme Business Cases.

Rochdale Castleton Corridor Phase 1

- 2.2 Having previously received MCF Programme Entry, the Rochdale Castleton Corridor Phase 1 scheme is now recommended for Full Approval and subsequent delivery, requiring a total MCF contribution of £1,975,140, against a total scheme cost of £4,175,140. The scheme is forecast to return a low value for money, however this is a function of appraising the impact of providing the desired priority to cyclists and pedestrians at junctions. Full Approval will enable the release of delivery funding via a legal delivery agreement.
- 2.3 The scheme was subject to a full business case review, undertaken by the MCF Programme Team, which concluded that it fulfilled the required five-case criteria (Strategic, Economic, Management, Financial and Commercial). This recommendation was endorsed by the Cycling and Walking Programme Board on the 5th May 2022, and subsequently reported to the GM Cycling and Walking Board via written procedures.
- 2.4 As set out in Section 3 of this report, the Rochdale Castleton Phase 1 scheme featured in GM's successful Active Travel Tranche 3 (ATF3) settlement, with an allocation of £2,200,000. The ATF3 contribution, combined with the MCF funding ask, equates to the total scheme value of £4,175,140.

- 2.5 The Castleton Corridor Phase 1 scheme will improve the quality of infrastructure for walking and cycling through Castleton town centre, from Castleton railway station to the Royal Toby.
- 2.6 The scheme will construct new segregated cycle lanes, alongside improved pedestrian facilities, public realm improvements and new junctions – including 2 new CYCLOPS (Cycle Optimised Protected Signal) junctions. The Castleton Rochdale Town Centre Phase 2 scheme, which will link Rochdale town centre to the Phase 1 scheme, is currently in development and will be subject to a separate full business case submission in due course.
- 2.7 Full Approval of the funding required for this scheme would result in a total of 38 MCF work packages having secured full funding approval, with an associated total full approval commitment of £87,696,348 of MCF funding.

3. ACTIVE TRAVEL (TRANCHE 3) CAPITAL

- 3.1 On 25th March 2022, the Department of Transport (DfT) announced the regional allocations for the latest round (Tranche 3) of the Active Travel Capital grant. £13.07 million has been awarded for Greater Manchester, and the detail of the approved schemes is shown in the table below.

Local Authority	Scheme	Award Value (£s)
Manchester	Alan Turing Way	3,200,000
Manchester	Traffic Free City Centre Streets	750,000
Rochdale	Castleton Corridor, Phase 1	2,200,000
Salford	Oldfield Road Corridor	3,820,000
Tameside	A57 Crown Point, Phase 1	1,950,000
Salford	Salford City Centre Bee Network - Irwell Street	1,000,000
TfGM	Programme Management and Assurance	145,439
	Total	13,065,439

- 3.2 The schemes are to be delivered and designs approved in consultation with the Department of Transport's executive agency – Active Travel England (ATE). The successful schemes listed above were reviewed by Active Travel England and are felt to achieve the high design quality that is required of all nationally funded active travel schemes, and in accordance with government guidance note, LTN1/20.

Funding must, wherever possible, be committed by the end of the 2022/23 financial year, and schemes delivered as soon as reasonably possible thereafter.

4. MINI-HOLLAND AND SOCIAL PRESCRIBING FEASIBILITY

4.1 In July 2021, the GMCA approved an expression of interest (EOI) for Mini-Hollands and a GP Prescribing (social prescribing) pilot project, for submission to the DfT.

4.2 Further to the EOI submission, in February 2022, the DfT announced an allocation for GM of £0.1m for a more detailed Social Prescribing Feasibility study. At this stage Local Authorities were requested to express their interest in becoming a Social Prescribing pilot area - responses were received and duly reviewed by a panel comprising representatives from TfGM, Greater Sport and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership.

4.3 Oldham has been selected as the preferred location for the study. It is anticipated that the study will complete in 2022/2023. The feasibility study will look to integrate health and travel teams and other stakeholders, in developing pilot scheme initiatives, and incorporate shared learning with other national Local Authorities.

4.4 In March 2022, the DfT announced a funding allocation for GM of £0.08m to support the development of a single feasibility study exploring the potential for a Mini-Holland scheme within Greater Manchester. At EOI stage, GM submitted 5 Mini-Holland proposals, and so a shortlisting exercise will now be undertaken to identify a preferred location. The short-listing will be based on the Mini-Holland criteria set out by the DfT as part of the EOI process. Once a preferred location is selected, the funding is to be committed by the end of March 2023.

4.5 It is recommended to approve the addition to the 2022/23 Transport Revenue Budget of £0.18 million from the Mini Holland and Active Travel Social Prescribing feasibility grants.

5. GM CAPABILITY FUND

5.1 In May 2021, the GMCA approved the submission of a £2.88 million bid for Active Travel Revenue Capability Grant Funding. Prior to the bid, GM were advised that £2.88 million was GM's regional allocation, subject to a bid submission.

- 5.2 Confirmation of the £2.88 million GM allocation was announced in September 2021, for the development of active travel capital schemes and studies. A breakdown of the funding is shown in Appendix A.
- 5.3 The funding will be used to progress a mix of proposals, including: the development of capital infrastructure proposals; the progression of a GM active travel monitoring network, and activation programmes including cycle parking for businesses and School Streets initiatives.
- 5.4 £0.27 million of the £2.88 million programme was spent in 2021/22. It is recommended to approve the addition to the 2022/23 Transport Revenue Budget of the remaining £2.61 million of Active Travel Capability Funding.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendations are set out at the front of the report.

Eamonn Boylan

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM

APPENDIX A – GM CAPABILITY FUND PROGRAMME

Scheme	£000's
Local Authority led scheme development	1780
Bee Network (Cycling and Walking) Audit	150
GM monitoring network	300
Sub-total - Development	2,230
Access to bikes	147
Support for Schools	250
Support for businesses	250
Sub-total - Activation	647
Overall GM Allocation	2,877

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27 May 2021

Subject: Greater Manchester Economic Dashboard and Economy Portfolio Update

Report of: Mayor Andy Burnham and Joanne Roney, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Economy & Business

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide GMCA with the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard. And an overview of activity related to the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and the Economy portfolio.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the GMCA note and comment on the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Simon Nokes, Executive Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA
Simon.nokes@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	N/A	
Resilience and Adaptation	N/A	
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the Greater Manchester Carbon Neutral 2038 target.		

No direct impacts arising from this report.

Risk Management:

None

Legal Considerations:

None

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

None

Financial Consequences – Capital:

None

Number of attachments to the report:1

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

The author of the report must include list of those documents on the subject matter which:

- Disclose any facts or matter on which the report or an important part of the report is based;
- Which have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?	No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN	
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?	
GM Transport Committee	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report sets out the latest indicators for the Greater Manchester economy, captured in the GM Economic Resilience Dashboard, to understand how the C-19 pandemic, EU-exit, rising cost-of-living and other factors are affecting the trajectory and resilience of the city-region's economy. It also summarises the latest responses to those insights, as the GMCA, Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) and other partners across the public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors continue to drive the recovery from C-19, as well as the longer term ambitions set out in the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision.
- 1.2 The rising costs of living and doing business, has emerged as a key issue for the GM economy and the economy research team is working to provide greater intelligence through the Economic Resilience Dashboard. In addition, the wider research team has begun production on a cost-of-living dashboard, designed to specifically track the cost-of-living in GM in comparison to England and the North West. This dashboard will support leaders and other decision makers in GM in responding to the rising cost-of-living.
- 1.3 Furthermore, the research team have been working closely with Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) on their poverty monitor. The poverty monitor has been created to highlight the scale and nature of poverty in GM and includes 60 indicators across child poverty, educational attainment, fuel poverty, food poverty and the poverty premium, health, housing, social security and the labour market.
- 1.4 Relevant measures from this work will be incorporated into an updated dashboard in this report next month and will continue to evolve.
- 1.5 The Economic Resilience Dashboard aims to provide up to date intelligence on the conditions in the Greater Manchester economy, recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and other emerging issues.

The data is divided into six sections:

- Labour Market and Household Finances provides leading indicators on employment, pay and personal finance.
- Business Outlook provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- Business Lending and Credit Risk provides information on coronavirus support measures and SME Lending.
- Behavioural Insights provides information on the movement of people across GM.
- International Trade provides the most up to date information available on exports at different geographies.
- National Indicators provides leading indicators on the state of the economy nationally.
- International Trade provides the most up to date information available on exports at different geographies.

- 1.6 The latest version of the dashboard can be viewed live at this link (and is attached as a PDF report):

https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/t/GMCA/views/GMEconomicResilienceDashboard/About/jack.james@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/4f3be3e5-759e-47ee-85f9-6c1538fc265c?:display_count=n&:showVizHome=n&:origin=viz_share_link&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y

2. HEADLINE DASHBOARD MEASURES

- 2.1 Inflation rose again in the most recent figures for April, reaching 9% on the widely used CPI measure of inflation, an increase of 0.8 percentage points on the previous month. Inflation was 6.2% when housing costs were also considered. The rise in inflation was largely driven by increases in the costs of goods however, there is growing evidence of upward pressure on services prices too. The Bank of England now expects CPI inflation to peak at 10% in Q4 of 2022 – this would be the highest rate of inflation since 1982.
- 2.2 Energy bills increased for many households in April as the energy price cap was increased. The average increase was £693 for around 18 million households on standard tariffs and £708 for around 4.5 million prepayment customers. Latest forecasts of energy markets suggest that if prices remain around their current levels until the end of July, the domestic energy price cap would rise by around a further 40% in October.
- 2.3 Inflationary pressures formed part of supporting rationale for the Bank of England's decision to raise the base rate of interest by 0.25% to 1%, encouraging households and businesses to save and raising the cost of borrowing. The Bank warned that future rate rises were likely. As a result of rising prices, the Bank now expects the UK economy to contract by 0.25% in 2023 and predicts that unemployment could reach 5% by 2024.
- 2.4 New analysis of 308 local authorities by the Centre for Progressive Policy has found that the North of England will be particularly hard hit by rising living costs. The research analysed vulnerability of each to increases in poverty due to the cost of living crisis, with many northern areas faring poorly across all indicators (fuel poverty, food insecurity, child poverty, claimant count, economic inactivity, low paying jobs). 3 out of 10 districts in GM were in the top 20 most vulnerable local authorities. The February 2022 edition of the GM Residents Survey found that almost a quarter (24%) of respondents have cut the size of their meals or eaten less than they wanted because there wasn't enough money for food. A smaller proportion (17%) said they were hungry but did not eat for the same reason. Parents of children in early years, respondents reporting health issues or disabilities, minority ethnic groups, and younger respondents (16-24) all reported particular issues.
- 2.5 The percentage of GM's businesses showing elevated levels of credit risk rose to 16% in the most recent data from RedFlag, a four percentage point increase on the previous month's data. The Bank of England reported that firms that have been

unable to pass on much of their increase in costs may now have profit margins that are unsustainably low.

- 2.6 The UK Consumer Confidence Index decreased by seven points to -38 in April 2022. Consumer confidence is now at its lowest level since July 2008.
- 2.7 The number of unemployment benefit claimants in GM fell by 3.5% between March and April, a fall that was marginally below the UK average (3.7%). Job vacancies have also been rising again. However, economic inactivity (people neither working nor looking for work) returned to the highest level seen during the pandemic in the NW. In the three months to March 2022 the working age inactivity rate was 23.5% (1,051,220 people). This compared with a national inactivity rate of 21.4%. The number of people receiving Universal Credit in GM rose in April 2022 to almost 308,300 as Covid-related dependency on the benefits system continues. Claimants rose in all districts. Just under 40% of UC claimants are in work in GM.

3. RECENT ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

INNOVATION GREATER MANCHESTER

- 3.1 **Innovation GM.** The recent Levelling up White Paper trailed an Innovation accelerator for Greater Manchester with up to £100m of funding attached. Officers are currently working with the Innovation GM Board on the preferred process and will launch a call for 'ideas' to go out to key stakeholders in the coming weeks.

GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

- 3.2 **Good Employment Charter.** Over 850 employers are engaged with the Charter Unit, with c.400 Supporters and 8 employers recommended for full membership status at the last Charter Board meeting in May. A series of themes are being progressed, including: partnership working with Timewise to deliver a Flexible work masterclass; the Race Equality panel to help deliver an employment and ethnicity event at the People's History Museum; and engagement with Breakthrough UK / ACAS and CIPD on a joint campaign on disability in the workplace.

GREATER MANCHESTER LEADERSHIP HIVE & 'OPEN SME' PROGRAMME

- 3.3 **Leadership Hive and OPEN SME.** The new programme of leadership and management support for small businesses, developed with the business schools at GM's universities and the Growth Company, has been launched. This is delivering on one of the priority areas identified by the Independent Prosperity Review and was included as an action in the Local Industrial Strategy.
- 3.4 Greater Manchester Leadership Hive has been launched as a free, easy-to-use resource for leaders of small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that brings the best

leadership and management development on offer in the region together in one place. It is delivered by GC Business Growth Hub and the world-class business schools at the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, the University of Salford, and the University of Bolton. The Leadership Hive signposts SME leaders to the broad range of local and national support on offer, from executive development programmes and mentoring schemes to advice on sustainability and inclusivity.

- 3.5 The Hive includes OPEN SME, which offers free, short-course online learning focused on priorities which small businesses have identified – such as profitability, sustainability, and increasing business growth.

GROWTH COMPANY BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

- 3.6 **Enterprising You (EY).** To the end of April 2022, the programme has seen 5,770 enquiries and 2125 starts (61% female and 39% male). 82% of completers reporting an increase of turnover at a value of £5.5m; 87% reported a profitability increase equating to £2.56m; and of the 616 completers that were claiming benefit at the start of the programme – 16% are no longer claiming any benefit. The overall reduction in benefit claim - either from ceasing claiming or reduction of claim - is £1.92m.
- 3.7 **The Social Value Support.** Following the first cohorts of ‘Growing Inclusive’ and ‘Developing Your Social Enterprise’, a second series launches in May and July 2022. Delivery now includes bespoke support for ethnic-minority led and female-led enterprises, as well as support on and bid development and impact reporting.

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Economic Resilience Dashboard



Tracking the Greater Manchester Economy

The Economic Resilience Dashboard aims to provide up to date intelligence on the conditions in the Greater Manchester (GM) economy, recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and other emerging issues.

The data is divided into six sections:

- **Labour Market and Household Finances** provides leading indicators on employment, pay and personal finance.
- **Business Outlook** provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- **Business Lending and Credit Risk** provides information on coronavirus support measures and SME Lending.
- **Behavioural Insights** provides information on the movement of people across GM.
- **National Indicators** provides leading indicators on the state of the economy nationally.
- **International Trade** provides the most up to date information available on exports at different geographies.

The economic data in response to Covid-19 and other events is changing rapidly with new datasets becoming available and others being withdrawn on a regular basis. The dashboard will be updated with the best available data each month with the resultant analysis described in the Analysis tab.

We would welcome feedback on alternative measures to be included in the dashboard or insights on the data provided. If you have any feedback please email jack.james@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

Analysis



101,440

GM residents were in receipt of unemployment benefits in March, an increase of 0.5% since February



11,562

4-week average of online job postings in week ending 30th April 2022. This is 23% higher than the 4 weeks to 2nd April.



6.2%

UK Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (including Housing costs) was 6.2% in the 12 months to March '22. This was a 0.7 percentage points increase on the February figure of 5.5%.

Inflation rose again in the most recent figures for March, reaching 7% on the widely used CPI measure of inflation, an increase of 0.8 percentage points on the previous month. Inflation was 6.2% when housing costs were also considered. The rise in inflation was largely driven by increases in the costs of goods however, there is growing evidence of upward pressure on services prices too. The Bank of England now expects CPI inflation to peak at 10% in Q4 of 2022 – this would be the highest rate of inflation since 1982.

Energy bills increased for many households in April as the energy price cap was increased. The average increase was £693 for around 18 million households on standard tariffs and £708 for around 4.5 million prepayment customers. Latest forecasts of energy markets suggest that if prices remain around their current levels until the end of July, the domestic energy price cap would rise by around a further 40% in October.

Inflationary pressures formed part of supporting rationale for the Bank of England's decision to raise the base rate of interest by 0.25% to 1%, encouraging households and businesses to save and raising the cost of borrowing. The Bank warned that future rate rises were likely. As a result of rising prices, the Bank now expects the UK economy to contract by 0.25% in 2023 and predicts that unemployment could reach 5% by 2024.

New analysis of 308 local authorities by the Centre for Progressive Policy has found that the North of England will be particularly hard hit by rising living costs. The research analysed vulnerability of each to increases in poverty due to the cost of living crisis, with many northern areas faring poorly across all indicators (fuel poverty, food insecurity, child poverty, claimant count, economic inactivity, low paying jobs). 3 out of 10 districts in GM were in the top 20 most vulnerable local authorities. The February 2022 edition of the GM Residents Survey found that almost a quarter (24%) of respondents have cut the size of their meals or eaten less than they wanted because there wasn't enough money for food. A smaller proportion (17%) said they were hungry but did not eat for the same reason. Parents of children in early years, respondents reporting health issues or disabilities, minority ethnic groups, and younger respondents (16-24) all reported particular issues.

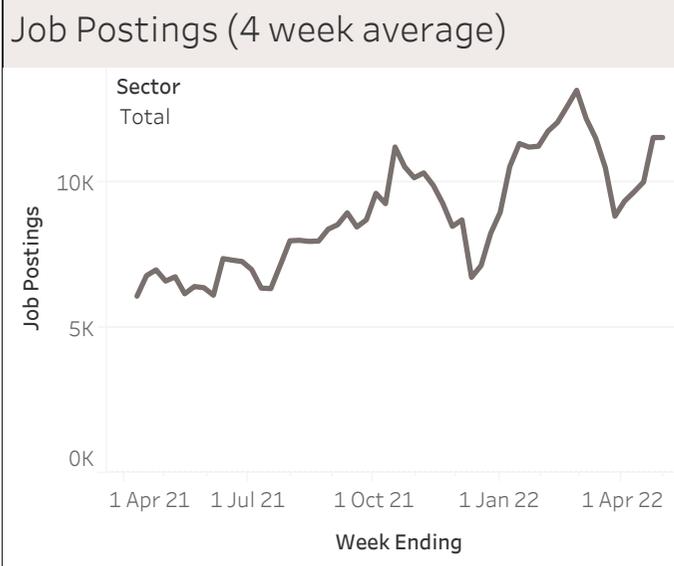
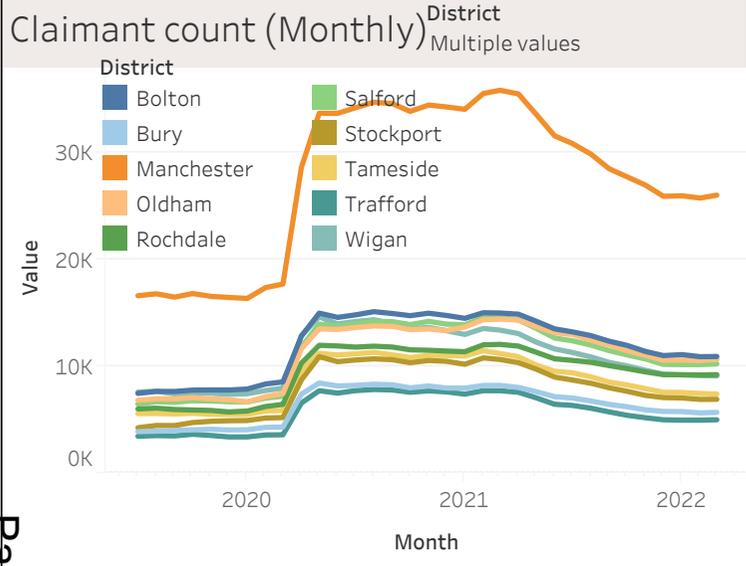
The percentage of GM's businesses showing elevated levels of credit risk rose to 16% in the most recent data from RedFlag, a four percentage point increase on the previous month's data. The Bank of England reported that firms that have been unable to pass on much of their increase in costs may now have profit margins that are unsustainably low.

The UK Consumer Confidence Index decreased by seven points to -38 in April 2022. Consumer confidence is now at its lowest level since July 2008.

The number of unemployment benefit claimants in GM increased marginally by 0.5% to 101,440 between February and March with rises in 8 out of 10 districts. The rise went against the national trend where the UK average declined by -1.3%. Data for the North West also shows a rise in the number of people economically inactive (+0.4 percentage points to 23.3%) which continues to be above the national rate of 21.4%.

The number of online job postings increased to a weekly average of 11,562 for the four weeks to 30th April. This is 23% higher than the 4 weeks to 2nd April.

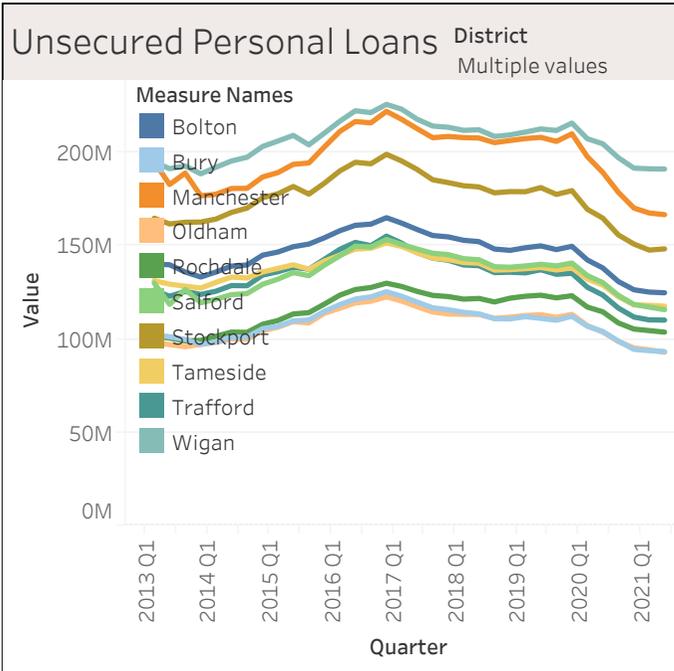
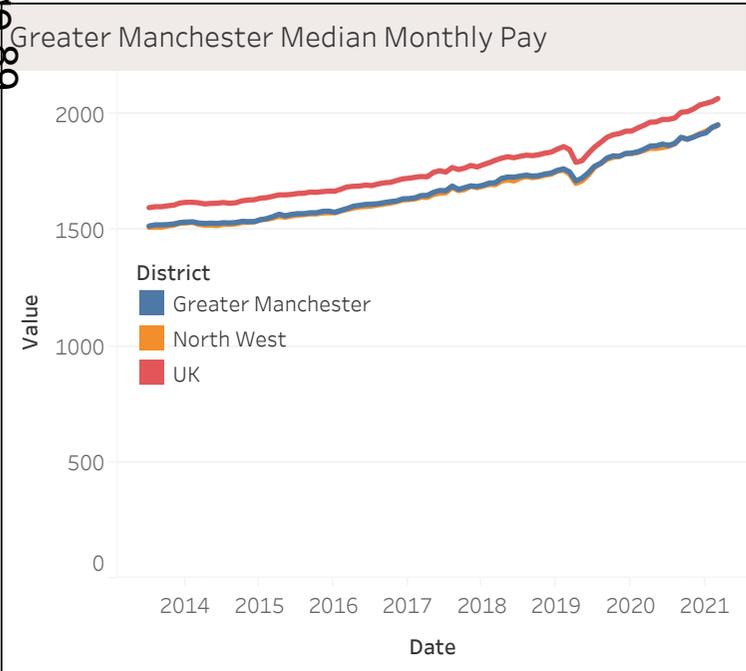
Labour Market and Household Finances



Key Facts

The number of claimants increased by 0.5% to 101,440 between February and March. The rise in GM was more than the UK average which declined by -1.3%. Between March 2021 and March 2022, claimants have fallen by 29% in GM.

The 4-weekly average of online job postings increased to 11,562 on 30th April 2022. This is 23% higher than the 4 weeks to 2nd April.

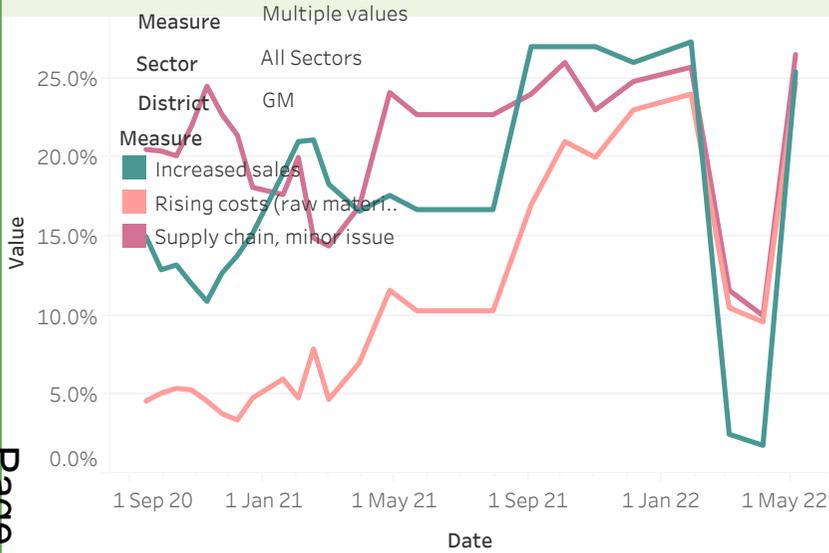


Median monthly pay in Greater Manchester was £1,954 in March 2022 compared to £2,067 for the UK, according to PAYE RTI data. Median monthly pay in GM has increased 5.7% since March 2021 following a sharp decline at the beginning of the pandemic. Compared to 5.9% for the UK as a whole.

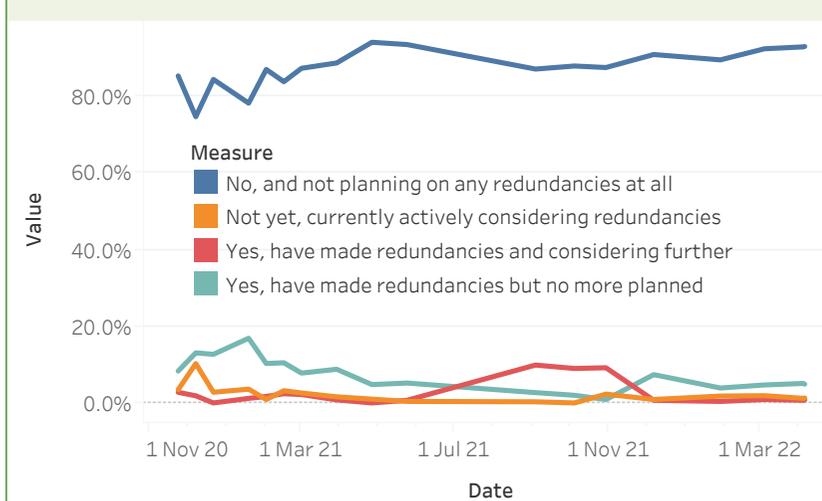
The value of Unsecured Personal Loans across Greater Manchester decreased by 0.4% from £1.27 billion in Q2 2021 to £1.26 billion in Q3 2021.

Business Outlook

Business Growth Hub Survey on COVID Impacts



Business Growth Hub Survey: Business planning to make redundancies



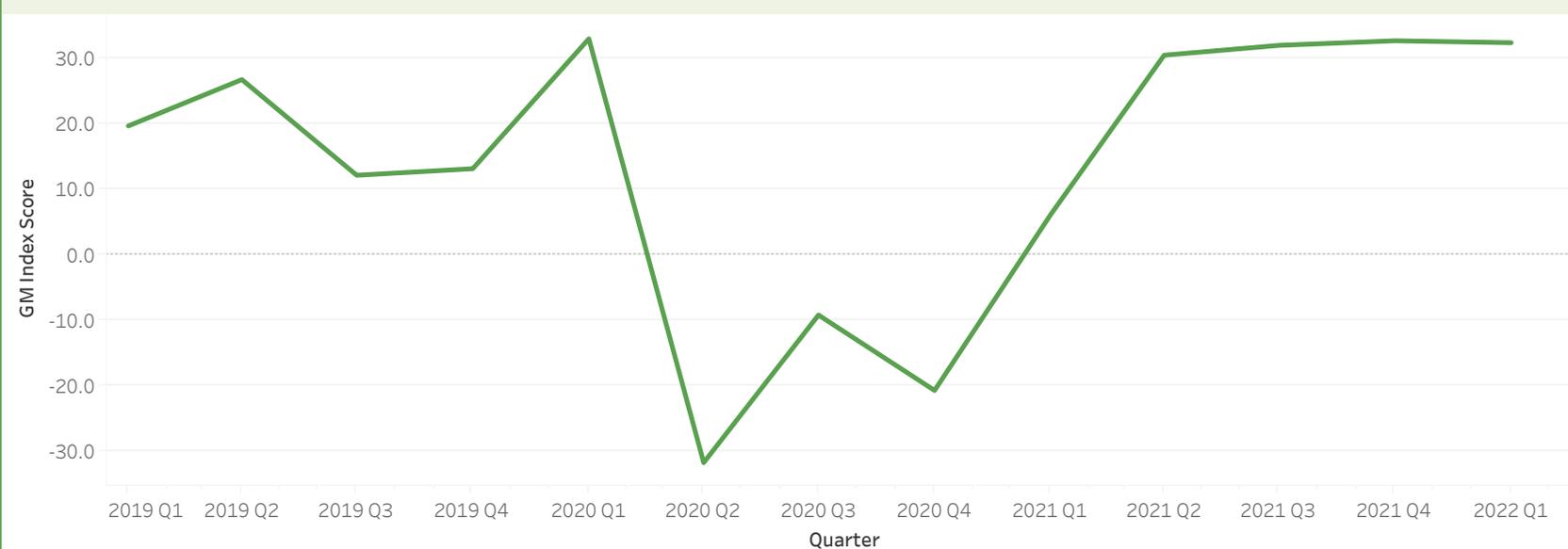
Key Facts

The most widely reported impact from the COVID crisis amongst businesses in the 12 weeks to the 4th May was minor issues in their supply chain. 26.5% of businesses reported minor issues in their supply chain. Previously, 10.0% of firms reported minor issues in their supply chain in the 12 weeks to 4th April.

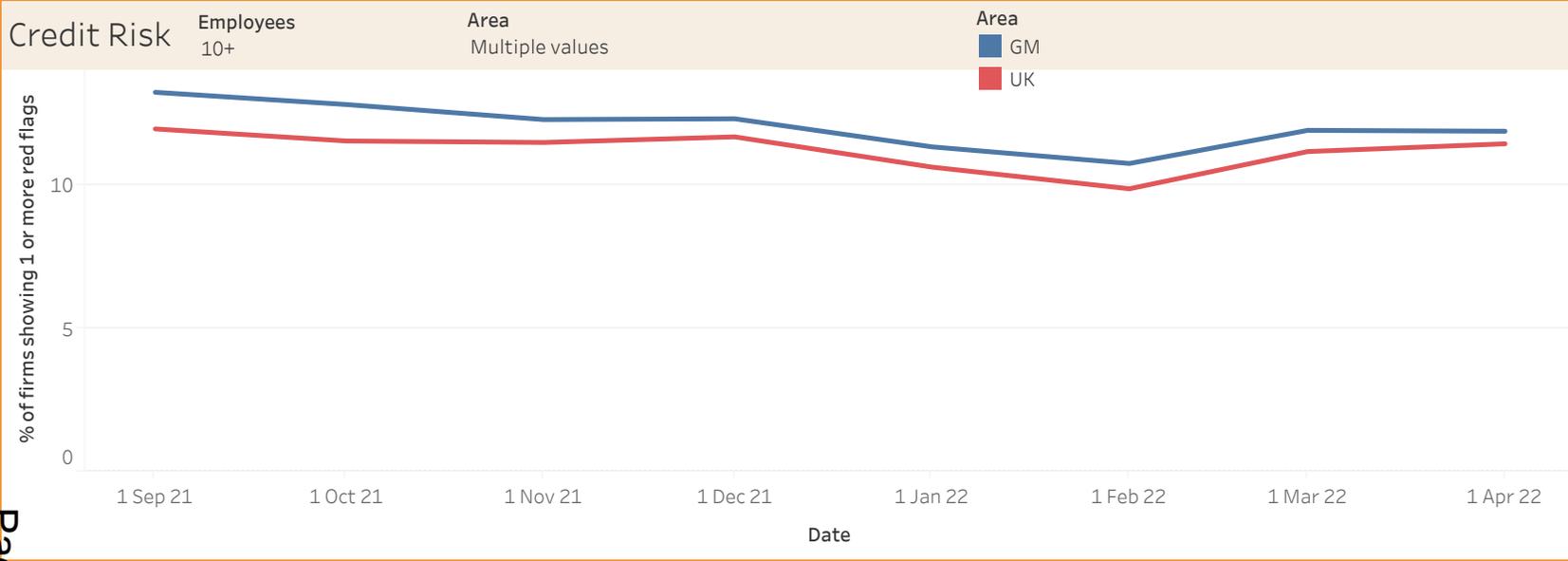
The number of firms that said they were considering making redundancies was 2.1% in the 12 weeks up to 4th May. 5.7% of firms said they had already made redundancies.

GM Chamber's GM Index decreased from 32.6 in Q4 2021 to 32.3 in Q1 2022. This is the fifth consecutive positive score since Q1 2021.

GM Index (Quarterly)



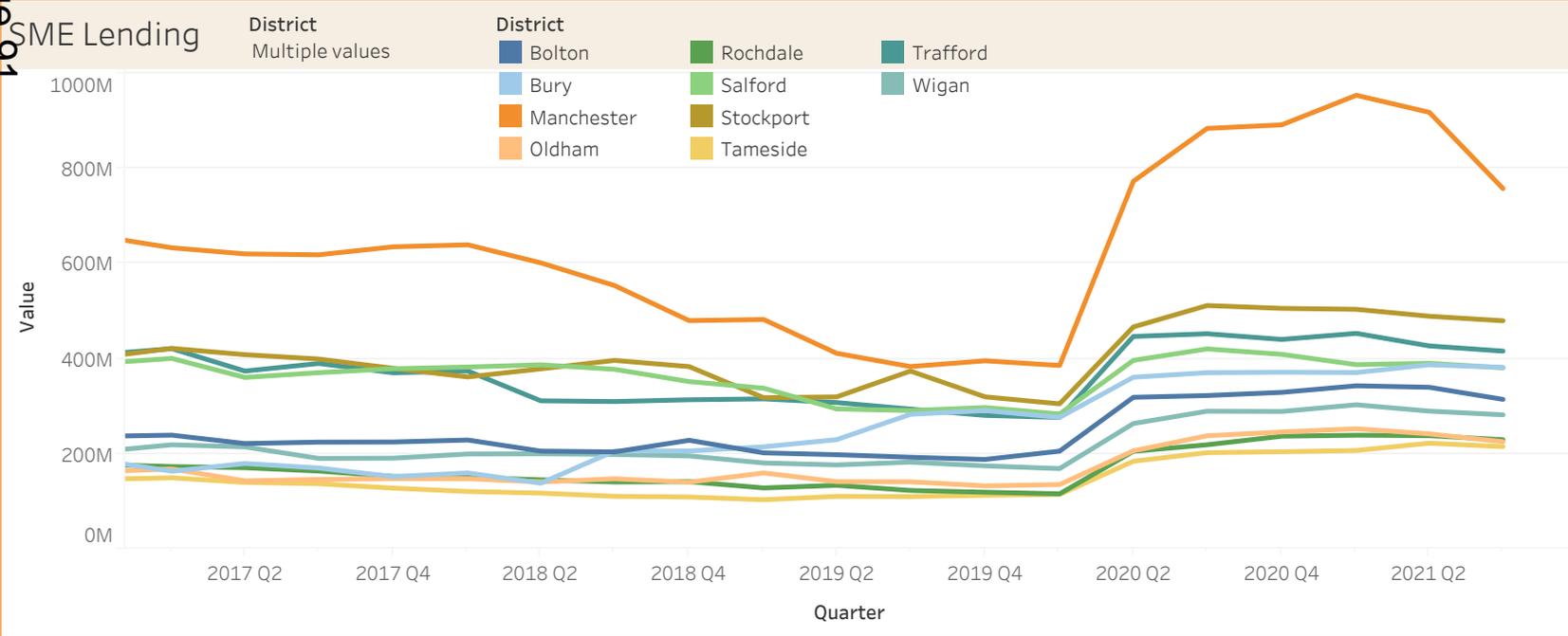
Business Lending and Credit Risk



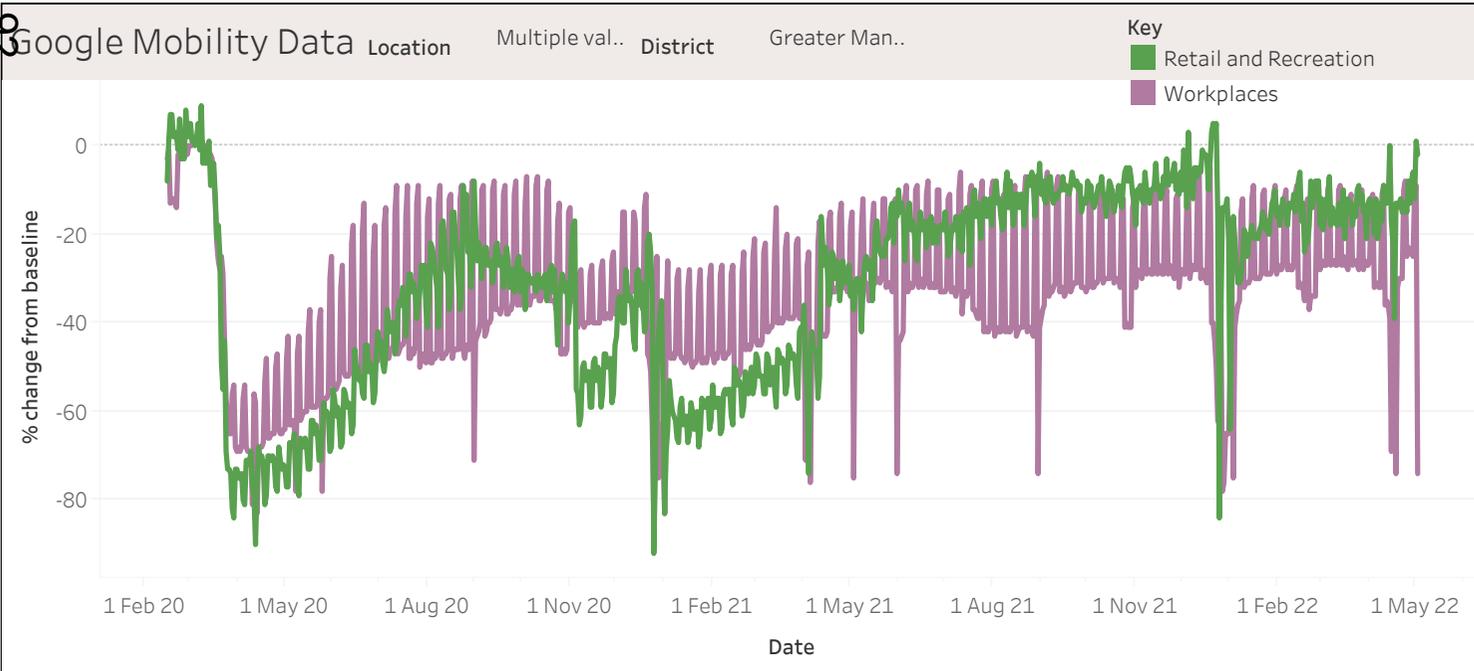
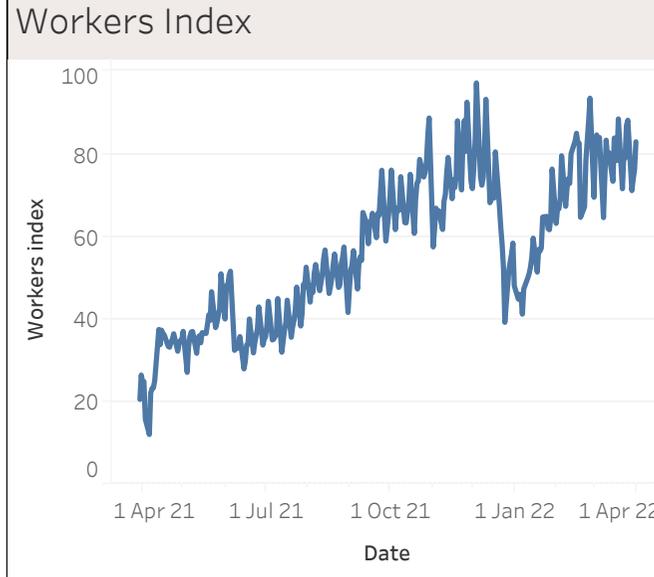
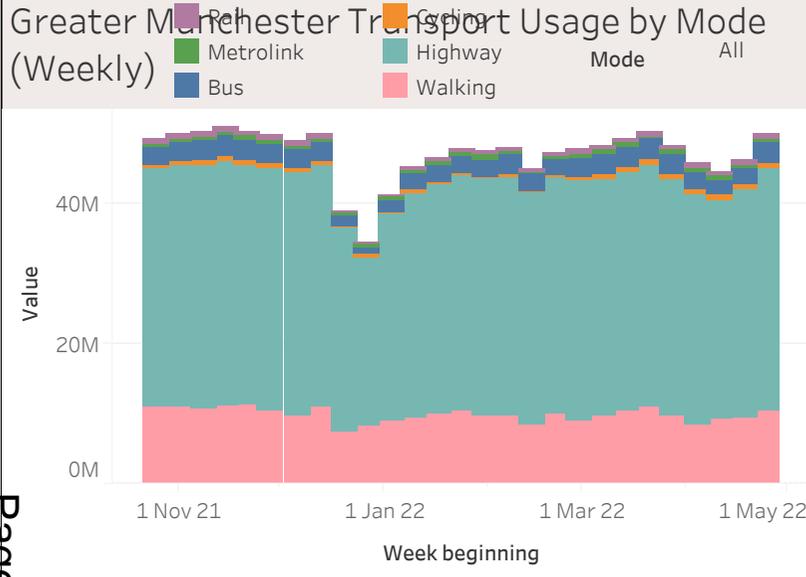
Key Facts

11.9% of all firms with 10 or more employees in GM had 1 or more red flags in the month to 1st April 2022, compared to 10.9% for the North West and 11.5% for the UK as a whole. Previously, 11.9% of firms in GM had 1 more red flags in the month to 1st March.

The value of loans to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) decreased slightly from £3.94 billion in Q2 2021 to £3.68 billion in Q3 2021. This data includes loans issued under the CBILS and BBLIS schemes.



Behavioural Insights



Key Facts

There were 50.1 million passenger journeys across all modes of transport in Greater Manchester in week commencing 25th April 2022. Total passenger journeys are now roughly equal to pre-crisis levels.

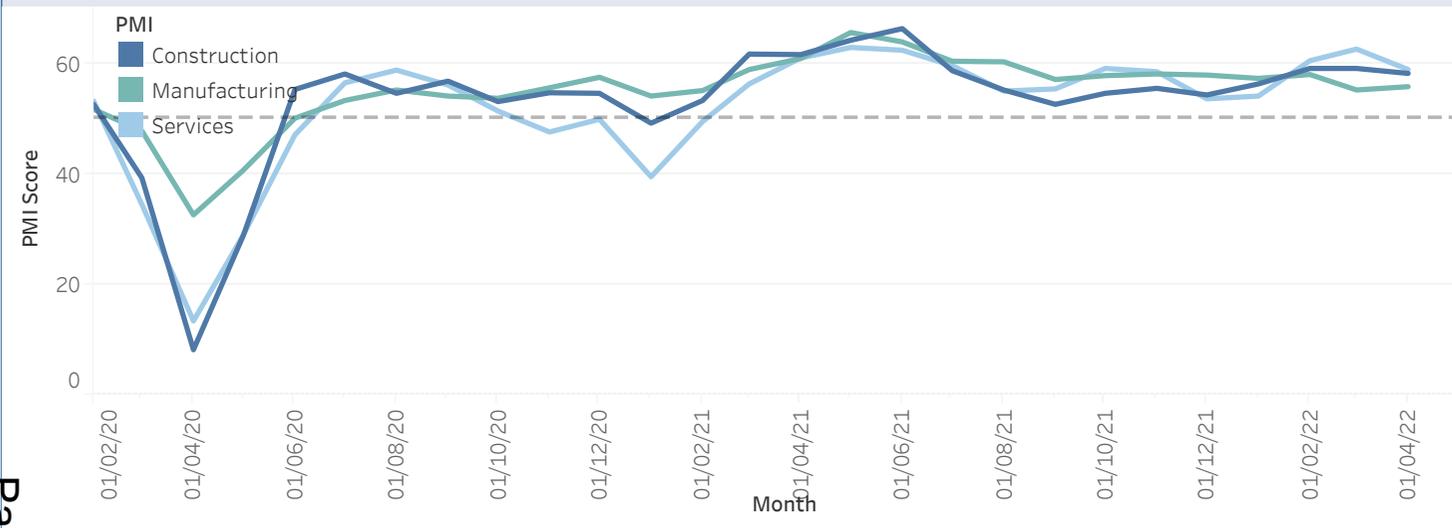
The Centre for Cities Workers index which looks at workers in the city centre in the daytime on weekdays was 82.9 on 31st March 2022. The pre-lockdown baseline is 100.

Google Mobility data for GM shows that the number of people moving through workplaces was 24% below the baseline and retail and recreation was 13% below the baseline on Wednesday 27th April 2022.



National Indicators

UK purchasing managers index (Monthly)



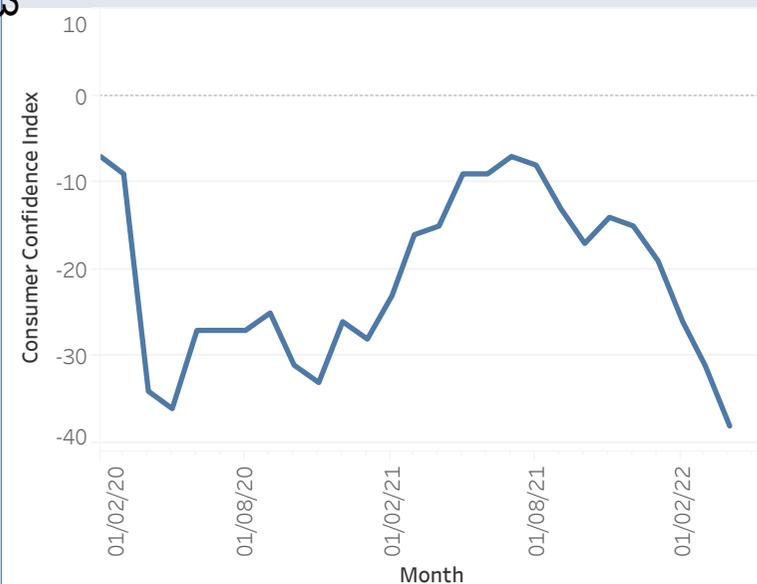
Key Facts

All three PMI's are above the 50.0 threshold that indicates growth. In March 2022, Manufacturing PMI increased from 55.2 to 55.8, Services PMI decreased from 62.6 to 58.9 and Construction PMI decreased from 59.1 to 58.2.

The UK Consumer Confidence Index decreased seven points to -38 in April 2022. Consumer confidence is 31 points below its February 2020 level, following a previous low of -36 in May 2020.

UK inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (Including Housing Costs) was 6.2% in the 12 months to March 2022. This was a 0.7 percentage points increase from the February figure of 5.5%.

UK consumer confidence (Monthly)



UK Inflation



International Trade

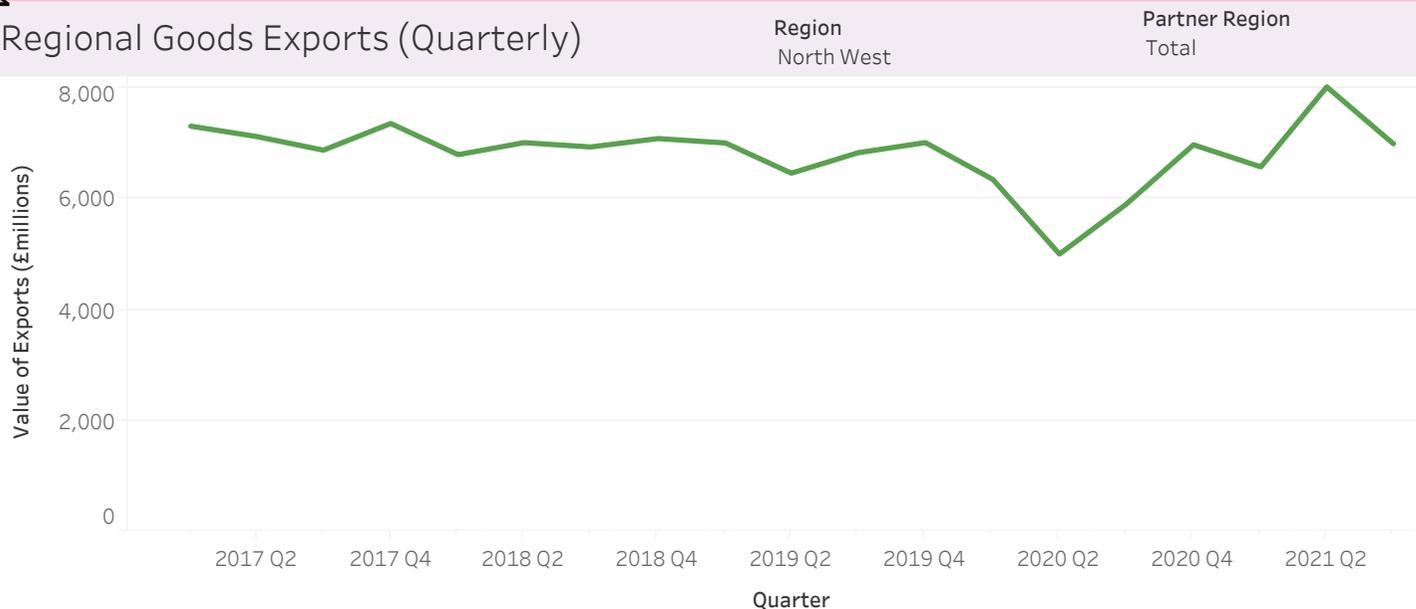
Export Documents (Monthly)



Key Facts

Export documents processed by the GM Chamber of Commerce increased by 8.4% in March, from 1,891 to 2,049. The total number of export documents is down 22.7% since March 2021.

Regional Goods Exports (Quarterly)



The total value of goods exports from the North West was £7.0 billion in Q3 2021, 18% more than Q3 2020. The total value of UK exports was £75.7 billion in Q3 2021, 5% less than Q3 2020.

Definitions

Labour Market and Household Finances

Claimant Count - This data is taken from a **monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics**. Alternative Claimant Count experimental statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began) with the broader span of people this covers.

Job Postings - Job postings data is **taken from Burning Glass and updated on a weekly basis**. This measure indicates new job vacancies posted in that week for GM as a whole. New job postings are averaged over 3 weeks.

Median Monthly Pay - Taken from the ONS's **monthly experimental release using PAYE data**. Median monthly pay shows what a person in the **middle of all employees would earn each month**. The median pay is generally considered to be a more accurate reflection of the "average wage" because it discounts the extremes at either end of the scale.

Unsecured Personal Loans - This is taken from UK Finance's **quarterly statistical release and shows statistics on the geographic distribution of personal loans by certain UK lenders (Barclays, CYBG, Lloyds Banking Group, HSBC, Nationwide Building Society, Royal Bank of Scotland and Santander UK in Great Britain; Bank of Ireland, Danske Bank, First Trust Bank, Nationwide Building Society and Ulster Bank in Northern Ireland)**.

Business Outlook

Growth Company Business Survey - Figures relating to the impact of COVID-19 on business are **taken from the Growth Company's monthly business survey**. The survey covers all businesses that are Growth Company Clients, this means that some businesses outside of GM that access Growth Company services may be included in the dataset.

GM Index - The Greater Manchester Index is a **quarterly composite indicator taken from seven measures in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey**. Those seven indicators are Domestic Sales, Advance UK Orders, Export Sales, Advance Overseas Orders, Capacity Utilisation, Turnover Confidence, Profitability Confidence.

Business Support and Lending

Credit Risk - This data is **provided on a monthly basis by RedFlag**, a provider of real-time business intelligence. The data shows businesses that have 1 or more 'red flags', this means that they are at risk of potential insolvency.

SME Lending - This is taken from UK Finance's **quarterly statistical release**. Trends covering member lending to UK small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Data is shown for loans and overdrafts across postcode sectors. This data includes loans made under CBILS and BBLs.

Behavioural Insights

Google Mobility Data - This data is from **Community Mobility Reports published by Google**. The reports chart movement trends over time by geography, across different categories of places such as retail and recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces, and residential.

Greater Manchester Transport Usage by Mode - This data is provided by Transport for Greater Manchester and measures the number of passenger journeys on each mode of transport (Car, Bus, Rail, Cycling, Metrolink).

Workers Index - This data is taken from the **Centre for Cities Workers Index released on a monthly basis**. The index looks at city-centre workers in the city centre in the daytime on weekdays, compared to a pre-lockdown baseline of 100. The index uses anonymised mobile phone data from Locomizer.

National Indicators

Purchasing Manager's Index - The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing, service and construction sectors. It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting. **The Index is published on a monthly basis by IHS Markit Economics**. The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.

Consumer Confidence - In the United Kingdom, the consumer confidence survey measures the level of optimism that consumers have about the performance of the economy in the next 12 months. **Published on a monthly basis by GfK**. The GfK Consumer Confidence is derived from the survey of about 2,000 consumers which are asked to rate the relative level of past and future economic conditions including personal financial situation, climate for major purchases, overall economic situation and savings level.

Inflation - This data is taken from a **monthly release by the Office for National Statistics**. The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) is the most comprehensive measure of inflation. It extends the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to include a measure of the costs associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home, known as owner occupiers' housing costs (OOH), along with council tax.

International Trade

Export Documents - This is a **monthly count of the number of export documents processed for GM businesses**, as reported to GMCA by the **GM Chamber of Commerce**. It gives an indication of the level of international trade happening in GM in the month.

Regional International Trade - This data is published by HMRC on a **quarterly basis**. The data combines EU and Non - EU trade for all regions of the UK.

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27 May 2022

Subject Greater Manchester Land Commission Commencement Update

Report of: Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the intent to establish the Greater Manchester Land Commission (GMLC) whose key role will be to ensure public sector land holders are engaged with local delivery plans and visions and commit to unlocking its value to support housing, economic growth, community development and sustainability in line with the locally agreed vision for areas. The first meeting of the GMLC will be used to formally approve the objectives of the GMLC and gain member agreement to work with the Local Authorities and GMCA to deliver local ambitions. The role of the Commission will be developed recognising existing arrangements already in place such as those of the Strategic Infrastructure Board and the Strategic Estates Groups.

This report seeks to agree the objectives of the proposed GMLC, confirm the partnership participation of predominantly public sector partner attendees and to recommend commencement of the GMLC.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the establishment, purpose, and commencement of the GMLC.
2. Approve the proposal that the GMCA Governance Team will determine the meeting schedule.
3. Note the proposed partner memberships of the GMLC.

Contact Officers

Andrew McIntosh: andrew.mcintosh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk Director of Place, Strategy and Policy

Murray Carr: murray.carr@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk Director of Land and Property, Strategy and Policy

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion			
Health			
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Better use of the public estate through the GMLC by better allocation of resource as well as increased connectivity of GM could help recover from disruption. Greater provision of green and blue infrastructure could be implemented through GMLC due to having close partnerships with GMP, NWAS, etc.	
Housing	G	Provision of houses for homelessness could be included within the GMLC through the use of the public estate. More affordable homes could be built in conjunction with partners throughout GM by optimising the public estate. The GMLC could have a major part in the reallocation of derelict, redundant and underused buildings due to the connectivity of partners within the commission as well as having a direct link to the public estate. The GMLC could facilitate the construction of new build residential buildings across GM. The GMLC could facilitate maintenance and improvement of existing buildings if within the public estate or with close conjunction with partners. The GMLC will not impact building standards.	
Economy	G	The GMLC aims to contribute to the GM economy by using the public estate to provide homes and jobs throughout GM. Jobs will be created from projects that the GMLC and partners will create. A wide variety of jobs could be created. For example apprentice and construction jobs for when a project such as hospital needs to be built. Then once that hospital is built jobs within the hospital such as doctors, nurses etc. With the use of the public estate economic assets could be maximised to their potential through the use of improving transport links. Innovation, R&D and knowledge economy all could be utilised within the GMLC by using the various partners with the public estate through the use of greater communication and connectivity to enable information, knowledge and skill sharing. Yes. The GMLC could deliver housing and economic growth which in turn would provide inward investment in GM. With the creation of jobs from housing delivery and economic growth job, education, skills opportunities will increase. The GMLC could facilitate the re-purposing of buildings for non-residential purposes if it is beneficial to GM as well as being within national and local policy objectives.	
Mobility and Connectivity	G	The GMLC could improve the infrastructure for digital connectivity. The GMLC could be used to implement digital and future smart systems. The GMLC could facilitate new infrastructure links. The GMLC could improve road congestion by enhancing roads or improving transport links through the use of the public estate in conjunction with partners. GMLC could improve transport connectivity through the use of partners such as TFGM, National Highways etc. Availability and or access could be improve. Roads or parking could be created by GMLC.	
Carbon, Nature and Environment		More greenspace could be created through the GMLC.	
Consumption and Production	G	GMLC could improve recycling through reforming public services.	
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The GMLC aims to meet national and local policy objectives, which include Manchester Carbon neutral 2038. The proposal aims to achieve this by working closely with advice from partners to use the public estate for increasingly sustainable means, for instance ensuring all new builds have renewable and sustainable energy and heat sources, such as solar panels and ground	
Further Assessment(s):	Carbon Assessment		
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	 Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score				
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential				
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance		Not yet known. Currently have no evidence to support the standard of the proposed building fabric.		
New Build Commercial/Industrial		Not yet known. Not yet known.		
Transport				
Active travel and public transport	N/A			
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access				
Access to amenities		Currently too early to determine. Currently too early to determine.		
Vehicle procurement	N/A	Not yet known. Not yet known.		
Land Use				
Land use				
No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Risk Management

Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue/Capital

There are no financial consequences attached to the GMLC due to using already available resources. There is also no impact on revenues or capital.

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

No background papers to be included in the report.

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

GM Transport Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

1.1. There is a reasonable proportion of developable land across Greater Manchester that is owned by various public sector bodies. With the progression of Places for Everyone and development by Local Authorities of local delivery plans for specific areas there is a need to ensure that public assets are utilised, where possible, to support these visions. While the One Public Estate programme brings together multiple public sector landowners this does not cover all public sector bodies and there is an ambition to get senior level commitment across the public sector to support the delivery of Local Authority visions and objectives. It is therefore proposed to establish a Greater Manchester Land Commission (GMLC) to bring all public sector parties together to commit to working collaboratively with the Local Authorities across Greater Manchester. By being a mechanism for dialogue the GMLC will align Her Majesty's Government Ministerial Departments (HMG) and specifically the Government Property Agency (GPA), One Public Estate, GMCA, public partners and private partners such as the Church of England and utility companies.

1.2. This coordination will ensure the successful delivery of land and property programmes across the conurbation as well as providing better communication, integrating the various organisations together. In addition, the GMLC will continue and enhance the ethos of the OPE, which is to progress a placed-based approach to collaboratively overcome issues faced within the public estate. The GMLC will be supported by the existing governance mechanisms already in place around Growth Locations and GM Land and Property Panel (GMLPP).

2. Role of Land Commission

2.1. The vision of the GMLC once established by the GMCA and GM Mayor is to enhance the visibility of development plans and gain commitment to support the delivery of GM and Local Authority objects from the public sector partners and ensure buy in to utilising all public sector assets to deliver the visions for each of the different areas of Greater Manchester. This will improve and enhance the effective use of the public estate by unlocking:

- Green, sustainability and community benefits
- Housing delivery
- Economic growth
- Reform of public services across the conurbation

2.2. The Greater Manchester Strategy sets out GMs wider ambition. Each Local Authority will set out its vision for the different areas within its boundary and the outcomes that are trying to be delivered. There will be a need for the public sector bodies to agree to new models of assessing Value for Money when considering the way in which their assets are used or disposed in order to support the delivery of these ambitions with this new way of working being applicable to all projects across Greater Manchester.

2.3. The purpose of the GMLC will be to provide a strategic link between Greater Manchester and HMG Departments / Non-Departmental Public Bodies to facilitate better use of public sector estate to help meet national and local policy objectives. The GMLC will have a focus on Government land rather than Local Authority land. For example, the GMLC would aim to get agreement from public partners to maximise the GM public estate green objectives for the benefit of the local communities, and community development opportunities.

2.4. The GMCA will host the meetings including providing governance support. Local authorities will be able to make particular representations to the members where there are specific public sector land challenges identified. Furthermore, the GMLC will be chaired by the GM Mayor, with the Deputy Mayor employing a deputy role in his capacity as the Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure. The Land Commission will monitor the implementation of identified programmes and the delivery of outputs to ensure any barriers created by public sector land holders can be highlighted and addressed. The frequency of the meetings is proposed to be at quarterly intervals.

2.5. Membership of the GMLC currently includes:

GMLC Membership:
Government Property Agency
Network Rail
NHS Improvement
GM Integrated Care Service
Department for Transport
Homes England

LGA (Local Government Association)
Cabinet Office
Department for Work and Pensions
Ministry of Justice
TfGM (Transport for Greater Manchester)
GMFRS (Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service)
GMP (Greater Manchester Police)
Environment Agency
National Highways (Formerly Highways England)
Coal Authority
Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities
National Grid*
United Utilities*
Church of England*

(Non-Public Sector invited partners*)

2.6. The initial stage for the GMLC work will be to focus on the following priorities:

- **To Provide Partners with a clear overview of the GM programmes that will benefit from the use of assets across GM.**
- Support GM local authorities in discussions with public sector partners to unlock barriers or resolve estates issues impacting on the successful delivery of Local Authority programmes; and
- Provide a mechanism to support delivery of estate disposal programmes with locally led housing, economic growth, and public service reform initiatives.
- The alignment of estates investment strategies through the development of a GM Land Programme which will support the Local Authorities deliver housing, economic growth, community development and green sustainability.

2.7. The GMLC is a strategic advisory body made up of senior GMCA and public sector partners and representatives. It does not have formal decision-making powers. The GMLC will identify Terms of Reference that will avoid the Commission taking on new activities that lie outside the core purpose.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Recommendations are set out at the beginning of this report.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27th May 2022

Subject: GMCA Homelessness Budget 2022 - 2027

Report of: Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure and Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes, Portfolio Lead for Safe and Strong Communities

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek approval to administer a range of Government grants for 2022/23 and beyond.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note funding allocations for the following programmes:
 1. GM Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 - 2022/23-2026/27
 2. GM Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme 2022/23-2024/25 Support Specification
 3. GM Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022/23-2024/25 (following final funding confirmation)
 4. GM Housing First Pilot extension 2022/23-2023/24
1. Approve delegation to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Greater Manchester Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, to:

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

1. Administer the grants through onward grant allocations and contract awards under standard procurement rules.
2. Revise the 2022/23 GMCA revenue budget and medium term financial plan for future years budget plans.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Jane Forrest, Director of Public Service Reform, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Equalities Impact Assessment Results:

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	<p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, which impacts disproportionately on those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, which impacts disproportionately on those who are economically disadvantaged.</p> <p>The funding will resource services and interventions that will enhance the accessibility of Public Services for the cohort.</p>
Health	G	<p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, with direct and indirect opportunities to impact on improving physical health for this cohort.</p> <p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, with direct and indirect opportunities to impact on improving mental health and wellbeing for this cohort.</p> <p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, with direct and indirect opportunities to impact on reducing social isolation for this cohort.</p>
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	<p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, including ending instances of rough sleeping.</p> <p>The funding will resource services and interventions that prevent and relieve homelessness, with direct impact on the availability and accessibility of tenancies.</p>

Economy	G	The funding will resource services and interventions that help prevent and relieve homelessness, with consideration of employment and skills opportunities as a key supporting intervention and outcome. The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme in particular has potential for match funding and mixed social investment models- drawing additional investment opportunities into GM. The funding will resource services and interventions that help prevent and relieve homelessness, with consideration of education and training opportunities as a key supporting intervention and outcome.					
Mobility and Connectivity							
Carbon, Nature and Environment							
Consumption and Production							
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Consideration is given throughout the grant and commissioning functions of GMCA to impact positively or neutrally on carbon output and contribute to GM targets.					
Further Assessment(s): Equalities Impact Assessment							
	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.		Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.		Mostly negative , with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.		Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management:

N/A

Legal Considerations:

Legal advice has been taken on onward grant agreements, procurement and information governance considerations where required.

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

Revenue spend will be within the grant allocation and managed through ongoing contract and grant assurance processes, as required.

Financial Consequences – Capital:

Capital spend will be within the grant allocation and managed through ongoing contract assurance processes, as required.

Number of attachments to the report:

Appendix 1 – Funding Overview Proforma

Appendix 2 – GM RSI Bid Contents 2022-25

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

TRACKING/ PROCESS

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

No

EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

1. BACKGROUND

This paper seeks approval to administer nationally granted funding for a wide range of interventions and activities that will support the ongoing aims to end rough sleeping and prevent homelessness in Greater Manchester.

The funds that are referenced provide the backbone of national funding on this agenda, as attributed to key programmes via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The GMCA and all key stakeholders seek to ensure that resource is allocated with consideration of how we best achieve our shared missions, and mobilise funding flexibly and accordingly.

Ongoing governance of oversight of the activity is held at the Greater Manchester Homelessness Programme Board, with Local Authority strategic and operational oversight held at Greater Manchester Housing Needs Group, and associated task groups.

All fund allocations that require procurement are subject to co-production with Local Authorities, people with lived experience, and relevant stakeholders in their specification design, tendering, evaluation, award, and ongoing assurance.

The following sections detail the project summary, funding profile, benefit to Greater Manchester, governance and grant conditions (where possible). In addition to the Tables in this document, a Funding Overview Proforma is provided at Appendix 1, which provides further grant information.

<i>Grant</i>	<i>2022/23</i>	<i>2023/2024</i>	<i>2024/25</i>	<i>2025/26 – 2026/7</i>
GM Community Accommodation Programme Tier 3	£10,971,120			£5,708,990
GM Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme	£3,874,125			/
GM Rough Sleeper Initiative*	£2,088,963	£2,008,293	£5,092,478	/

GM Housing First Pilot Extension	£3,651,290	£3,739,085	/	/
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Table 1: All grants overview. Those marked * are still to be confirmed by DLUHC (expected imminently).

2. GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME TIER 3

In 2021 the Ministry of Justice announced its £70m new accommodation investment programme for people leaving custody to help reduce reoffending, creating a new three tier Community Accommodation Service (CAS).

Greater Manchester was identified as one of regional five pilot areas. Building on MoJ’s ambitions for the programme and in line with Justice Devolution, Greater Manchester negotiated a devolved approach to allow us to align the opportunities within the existing and developing system to address this, with particular consideration of the Integrated Re-settlement Service, joint assessment via the Duty to Refer and A Bed Every Night. This also enabled a higher level of support to be specified and use of existing Local Authority delivery models for initial mobilisation.

Greater Manchester CAS-3 is for people leaving custody who are ‘actually homeless’ but not under an interim duty of accommodation with their Local Authority (‘priority need’). GM CAS-3 offers temporary accommodation for up to 12 weeks and support to maintain the accommodation, and seek a longer term housing solution.

This accommodation and support is commissioned by Local Authorities, with regional service co-ordination managed by the GM Homelessness Prevention Team (GM Probation Service).

This service model has proved highly successful in the pilot year. With clear comparison to non-devolved regional mobilisation GM has been able to:

1. ensure quality provision and considered use of trusted providers
2. maximise funding to enhance the support element of the specification as a priority to achieve positive outcomes

3. align and integrate CAS-3 with wider system building to reduce offending and improve lives in Greater Manchester, including Integrated Re-settlement Service and A Bed Every Night

Benefit to Greater Manchester’s strategic missions (Greater Manchester Strategy Commitments 3 and 13) have been demonstrated in the pilot year and will continue to be built upon.

1. Total GM CAS-3 bed spaces (supported) mobilised: 132
2. People referred into GM CAS-3 with no safe accommodation upon release: 366 of which 338 were placed
1. Contributed to total people accommodated upon night of release from custody reaching 93.2% in March 2022

Table 2: Greater Manchester CAS-3 Phase 2 and 3 funding profile. See Appendix 1 for Local Authority onward grant funding breakdown.

Building on this initial success, Greater Manchester Combined Authority has secured funding for a further two phases. This is to continue to develop and deliver the service in Greater Manchester at the same capacity (160 units of accommodation, with funding for 90% ongoing capacity).

	Phase 2 2022/23 – 2024/25	Phase 3 2025/26 – 2026/27
<i>Expected bed nights</i>	157,248	82,446
Accommodation	£7,862,400	£4,122,300
Support	£2,358,720	£1,236,690
Innovation	£300,000	
Infrastructure	£450,000	£150,000
Close down		£200,000
Total	£10,971,120	£5,708,990

The grant conditions will be captured as an Addendum to the ongoing Memorandum of Understanding between GMCA and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. This was also the case for Phase 1 and requires updating.

Given the certainty given through the 5 year period of funding, MoJ have reduced per night funding by 10%, expecting this to be achievable within the market on a value for money basis. This presents a risk to some Councils and therefore GMCA will manage funding allocations to Local Authorities flexibly to ensure that delivery is feasible and not incurring additional local cost. This may impact on the feasibility to deliver at full scale, and this will be negotiated with MoJ once market conditions are established.

Ongoing governance oversight for the service delivery is held within an existing robust structure. The Justice and Rehabilitation Executive has strategic responsibility, with a monthly MOJ Steering Group Meeting ensuring National oversight, and operational management via the multi-agency GM Criminal Justice Homelessness Prevention Taskforce.

This paper seeks delegated powers for the GMCA Treasurer for the administration of the grant, which will include allocations to Local Authorities for local commissioning and any other necessary suppliers.

2. GREATER MANCHESTER ROUGH SLEEPER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP), formerly the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, was launched in May 2020 with the objective to 'provide move on homes, available as long term assets, and accompanying support services to people rough sleeping or with a history of rough sleeping'.

The programme was initially designed in response to the move on challenges made visible through the Everyone In response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through a collaborative effort between Greater Manchester Local Authorities, Housing Providers, and investment partners, the region has been successful in securing a high level of funding to date (£14,648,834), exceeding other regions outside of London.

Schemes have been co-ordinated and delivered at both a local and regional level. 181 units were approved in 2020/21, and 285 in 2021/22. This report seeks permission to allocate funding from the GMCA 2021/22 scheme.

GMCA RSAP 2021/22 SCHEME	
Capital	£2,796,000
Revenue (maximum) Subject to actual spend evidence	£1,078,125
Total	£3,874,125

Table 3: GMCA RSAP 2021/22 Scheme funding profile.

This scheme will deliver 60 units of accommodation and an associated support contract, with accommodation acquired by Resonance and leased to Let Us (GM Ethical Letting Agency) for a period of 30 years.

GMCA has existing partnerships with Resonance through investments in their Supported Homes Fund and National Homelessness Prevention 2 Fund and through GMCA RSAP 2020/21.

The public procurement process for the support contract has been initiated and approval will allow for this to be awarded.

The benefit to Greater Manchester through the delivery of additional genuinely affordable and supported tenancies for a cohort of people with experiences of rough sleeping and exclusion is clear, and the allocation of funding to this by national Government should be welcomed.

Maximising delivery under this fund is supportive of our efforts to reduce the need for emergency accommodation and end rough sleeping.

Oversight of this programme is held under the Greater Manchester Homelessness Programme Board and Housing Needs Group.

Delegated power is sought to enable the allocation of revenue and capital funding by the GMCA Treasurer.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING FIRST PILOT EXTENSION

The GM Housing First Pilot has been in place since 2019, as one of three national pilots testing high fidelity Housing First at scale.

The pilot has been highly successful and to date has supported over 325 tenancies for people with an entrenched experience of homelessness and rough sleeping. The 85% retention rate across the 3 years is favourable to other regional pilots and the international standard.

In recognition of the continued need for support for people on the programme, DLUHC is providing an extension grant for 2022/23 – 2023/24, with a further potential year allocation via the Rough Sleeper Initiative (see below 5).

The funding award from DLUHC has been made under embargo been made but is expected imminently. As such the following funding profile represents our bid amounts only and is to change.

	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Submission	£3,651,290	£3,739,085	£7,390,376

Table 4: GM Housing First Pilot Extension funding profile (to be confirmed or amended upon public award).

In recognition of the delayed full funding decision, £912,000 of funding has already been confirmed which will contribute to 2022/23 quarter 1 costs in the first instance.

The service is currently being re-tendered owing to procurement requirements. This procurement has been subject to market tender with Local Authority involvement at design and evaluation.

The Housing First service and the approach it engenders across the wider system is critical to our ambitions to end rough sleeping and prevent homelessness systematically, and holds lessons for wider systems change to enable person centred public services.

The ongoing impact of the funding will be overseen by the Greater Manchester Homelessness Programme Board.

Delegated powers are sought for the GMCA Treasurer to allocate funding, which will include contract awards under standard procurement rules.

4. GREATER MANCHESTER ROUGH SLEEPER INITIATIVE

The Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) programme has operated since 2018 as 12 month funding to Local Authorities and Combined Authorities to support activity to reduce rough sleeping.

Since 2019 there has been an allocation to Greater Manchester Combined Authority, in addition to Local Authority allocations, that provides for joint activity and system capacity building.

In 2021/22 the GMCA allocation from RSI was £2.1million, with £1.7m of this granted to Local Authorities.

Six of the ten Local Authorities receive their rough sleeper outreach team funding via GMCA, based on precedent set in 2020/21.

The RSI funding is now aligned to the Comprehensive Review period 2022/23 – 2024/25, and whilst the national prospectus is broad ranging and flexible the funding envelope tapers off over the course of the period.

	Y1	Y2	Y3	Total potential
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Proposed 2022/23-2024/25 budget	£2,088,963	£2,008,293	£1,989,838	£8,116,128
Housing First	£0 (Separate funding route)	£0 (Separate funding route)	£3,102,640	£3,102,640
Total	£2,088,963	£2,008,293	£5,092,478	£9,189,734

The grant award is expected imminently but has not yet been made and therefore the funding profile is that of the bid submission and subject to change.

Table 5: GMCA RSI funding profile (to be confirmed or amended upon grant award)

This funding will enable a range of activities as broken down in Appendix 2, covering the following key themes:

1. The rough sleeper outreach workforce
2. Data driven responses to ending rough sleeping
3. Specialist dual diagnosis health service

This activity will increase capacity, capability and collaboration in GM towards ending rough sleeping. This will build on existing interventions and work streams and introduce some new activity. Notably, the continuation of the Housing First Pilot Extension in 2023/24 is contained within this.

The dual diagnosis health service will continue to build on from existing provision, with opportunity for GM wide commissioning and shared standards of care. The service tender is current out for public procurement.

The Greater Manchester Homelessness Programme Board and Greater Manchester Housing Needs Group appraised the overall bid and will have a continued role in strategic and operational oversight.

GMCA is familiar with the grant conditions which require ongoing reporting to DLUHC and re-profiling of any underspend throughout the course of the funding term to maximise impact.

Delegated power is sought to enable the allocation of this funding by the GMCA Treasurer. This will include onward grant allocations as well as contract awards under standard procurement rules.

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FUNDING OVERVIEW PROFORMA – CAS 3

Revenue Grant Profile			
Grant Name	GM Community Accommodation Service Tier 3		
Awarding Body	Ministry of Justice		
Date of grant award letter	Memorandum Addendum to be updated and signed		
Value £	£16,680,110		
Financial year of award	2022/23		
Estimated date for receipt of cash	Annually		
Period to Cover	2022/23 - 2026/27		
Recurrent / One-off	TBC		
Ringfenced Yes/No	Yes		
Grant Conditions			
Spend deadline	July 2026/28		
Specific purpose	Addendum Memorandum of Understanding for Tier 3 Community Accommodation Services (CAS3) The Secretary of State for Justice has determined under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 that a total grant of for Greater Manchester CAS-3 across 45,576 bed nights per year should be paid to Greater Manchester Combined Authority via Greater Manchester Probation Service.		
Grant Conditions - Condensed Summary	Contained within GMCA / HMPPS Memorandum of Understanding, as a Addendum. 2022/23 (£3,657,040), 2023/24 (£3,657,040), 2024/25 (£3,657,040), 2025/26 (£3,657,040), 2026/27 (£2,201,950)		
Section 31 Grant	Y	Repay unspent grant?	N
Audit certification required	N/A		
Submission/claims process	Invoice		
Monitoring			
Lead Directorate:	Public Service Reform	Lead Service:	Homelessness

Named project lead:	Molly Bishop	Named Finance Lead	William Doyle
Cost centre	2804	Project Code	N/A
Grant documentation saved	Filepath: >Secure Folders>Finance>Grants - ED + R>		
Approvals			
Key decision (GMCA approval)	Y		
Other approvals	N/A		
Grant register updated date	Y	Completed by	William Doyle

Funding Profile				Modelled Units
	Phase 2 2022/3-2024/5	Phase 3 2025/26-2026/27	Detail	Phase 2
Bolton	£958,230		Accommodation and Support	15
Bury	£638,820		Accommodation and Support	10
Manchester	£2,746,926		Accommodation and Support	43
Oldham	£702,702		Accommodation and Support	11
Rochdale	£1,277,640		Accommodation and Support	20
Salford	£1,085,994		Accommodation and Support	17
Stockport	£447,174		Accommodation and Support	7
Tameside	£511,056		Accommodation and Support	8
Trafford	£447,174		Accommodation and Support	7
Wigan	£958,230		Accommodation and Support	15
Additional service delivery (flexible)	£447,174	£5,358,990	Accommodation and Support	7
Innovation	£300,000	£200,000	Open to pilot testing / un-expected costs	
Infrastructure	£450,000	£150,000	Grant and service assurance (LAs and GMCA)	
Total	£10,971,120	£5,708,990		160

FUNDING OVERVIEW PROFORMA – RSAP

Revenue Grant Profile	
Grant Name	Greater Manchester Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme
Awarding Body	Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Date of grant award letter	01/08/2021
Value £	£2796000 (Capital), £1,078,125 (Max. Revenue)
Financial year of award	2021/22
Estimated date for receipt of cash	2021/22 (Capital only, Revenue to be received in quarterly installments upon delivery start)
Period to Cover	2021/22 - 2024/25 (delivery to start 2022/23)
Recurrent / One-off	One off
Ringfenced Yes/No	Yes
Grant Conditions	
Spend deadline	31/03/2024
Specific purpose	To enable the delivery fo 60 units of move on accommodation and related support.
Grant Conditions - Condensed Summary	<p>See MOU a. The parties agree that the grant should be used only for the purposes of the scheme(s) outlined in Annex A. The following principles must be adhered to at all times when using the grant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Accommodation/Scheme type: Social Investment o Cohort focus: The ‘Eligible Cohort’ are rough sleepers, or those with a history of rough sleeping currently in emergency accommodation (or, where there is no further need from this group due to reductions in rough sleeping, those at risk of rough sleeping and homelessness). <p>b. The scheme(s) that the Grant Recipient has been awarded funding for as part of its successful bid(s) should be delivered according to the Delivery Plan submitted and have an impact on delivery of 60 homes as set out in the Delivery Plan.</p>

	c. Grant Recipients will need to capture and share evidence of delivery of the scheme(s) as proposed by the milestones. The parties agree that evidence demonstrating delivered milestones should be submitted by the Grant Recipient as soon as evidence is available.		
Section 31 Grant	Y (Capital)	Repay unspent grant?	Revenue grant will be allocated based on ongoing actual spend reporting
Audit certification required	N/A		
Submission/claims process	N/A		
Monitoring			
Lead Directorate:	Public Service Reform	Lead Service:	Homelessness
Named project lead:	Molly Bishop	Named Finance Lead	William Doyle
Cost centre	6254 (Capital) 2622 (Revenue)	Project Code	N/A
Grant documentation saved	Filepath: >Secure Folders>Finance>Grants - ED + R>		
Approvals			
Key decision (GMCA approval)	Y		
Other approvals	N/A		
Grant register updated date	Y	Completed by	William Doyle

Funding Profile	
Funding type	2022/23 - 2024/25
Capital	£2,796,000
Revenue (maximum) Subject to actual spend evidence	£1,078,125
Total	£3,874,125

FUNDING OVERVIEW PROFORMA – RSI

Revenue Grant Profile			
Grant Name	Greater Manchester Rough Sleeper Accommodation Service		
Awarding Body	Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities		
Date of grant award letter	To be awarded		
Value £	Expected £9,189,734		
Financial year of award	2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25		
Estimated date for receipt of cash	TBC		
Period to Cover	2022/23 - 2024/25		
Recurrent / One-off	Yes		
Ringfenced Yes/No	Yes		
Grant Conditions			
Spend deadline	31/03/2024		
Specific purpose	For the delivery of stated interventions to support the reduction of rough sleeping in Greater Manchester.		
Grant Conditions - Condensed Summary	N/A		
Section 31 Grant	Y	Repay unspent grant?	N/A
Audit certification required	Y		
Submission/claims process	Ongoing assurance with DLUHC advisors leading to grant release (annual or quarterly).		
Monitoring			
Lead Directorate:	Public Service Reform	Lead Service:	Homelessness

Named project lead:	Molly Bishop	Named Finance Lead	William Doyle
Cost centre	2610	Project Code	N/A
Grant documentation saved	-		
Approvals			
Key decision (GMCA approval)	Y		
Other approvals	N/A		
Grant register updated date		Completed by	

Funding Profile				
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Total potential
Proposed 2022/23-2024/25 budget	£2,088,963	£2,008,293	£1,989,838	£8,116,128
Housing First	£0 (Separate funding route)	£0 (Separate funding route)	£3,102,640	£3,102,640
Total	£2,088,963	£2,008,293	£5,092,478	£9,189,734

FUNDING OVERVIEW PROFORMA – HOUSING FIRST

Revenue Grant Profile			
Grant Name	Greater Manchester Housing First Pilot Extension		
Awarding Body	Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities		
Date of grant award letter	To be received		
Value £	To be confirmed		
Financial year of award	2022/23		
Estimated date for receipt of cash	To be confirmed		
Period to Cover	2022/23-2023/24		
Recurrent / One-off	Yes		
Ringfenced Yes/No	Yes		
Grant Conditions			
Spend deadline	31/03/2024		
Specific purpose	To deliver Housing First interventions to people on the pilot programme and participate in the ongoing National Evaluation		
Grant Conditions - Condensed Summary	To be received		
Section 31 Grant	Y	Repay unspent grant?	N/A
Audit certification required	N/A		
Submission/claims process	N/A		
Monitoring			
Lead Directorate:	Public Service Reform	Lead Service:	Homelessness

Named project lead:	Molly Bishop	Named Finance Lead	William Doyle
Cost centre	2541	Project Code	N/A
Grant documentation saved	Filepath: >Secure Folders>Finance>Grants - ED + R>		
Approvals			
Key decision (GMCA approval)	Y		
Other approvals	N/A		
Grant register updated date		Completed by	

Funding Profile (to be confirmed)			
	2022/23	2023/24	Total
Submission	£3,651,290	£3,739,085.80	£7,390,376
<i>Received to date</i>	<i>£912,000</i>		

Title	New/Existing	Priority	Details	Y1 Costs	Y2 Costs	Y3 Costs
GMCA Coordination Resource	Existing	Core Service	GMCA posts to co-ordinate RSI, A Bed Every Night and other programmes.	£95,000.00	£97,850.00	£100,785.50
Critical workforce training	Existing	Core Service	Specialist training for all RSI teams - Domestic Abuse, NRPF, Psychologically Informed Support (as minimum)	£6,000.00	£6,000.00	£6,000.00
Navigator Network and Co-Production	Existing	Core Service	Communities of Practise for outreach workers across organisations and sectors. Costs cover facilitation, paid lived experience input (including GROW Trainee), identified training and resource needs.	£12,000.00	£12,000.00	£12,000.00
Outreach Workers	Existing	Core Service	Rough Sleeper Outreach service in Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Trafford.	£343,362.69	£355,548.83	£363,975.48
Navigator Service	Existing	Core Service	Rough Sleeping Navigator service in Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Bury and Trafford.	£270,861.60	£284,430.63	£297,391.77
Dual Diagnosis (GMMH)	Existing	Core Service	Provision of Dual Diagnosis Workers, Clinical Psychologists and specialist mental health and personalisation support across Rochdale, Oldham, Stockport, Trafford, Bolton and Bury. Our bid contains an ambition to expand this into a whole Greater Manchester service over time.	£362,906.00	£374,895.00	£387,299.00
A Bed Every Night - Manchester and Salford	Existing	Core Service	Contribution towards the overall budget for A Bed Every Night.	£750,000.00	£500,000.00	£400,000.00
GM Housing First	Existing	Core Service	Continued Funding of GM Housing First beyond the 2 year extension	£0.00	£0.00	£3,102,640.00
NRPF Floating Support Service	New	Medium	Additional funding to meet prevailing demand - DLUHC confirmed this is eligible and desirable.	£50,543.00	£52,059.29	£53,621.07
Cash Transfers Pilot	New	Low	Opportunity to scale Cash Transfers pilot currently underway, co-ordinated by Centre for Homelessness Impact.	£105,700.00	£0.00	£0.00
ETE Support Service	New	Low	Seed Funding to commission a bespoke ETE programme aimed at people experiencing rough sleeping, following a number of conversations around the ETE offer for people facing multiple disadvantage.	£0.00	£0.00	£100,000.00
Partnership Infrastructure	New	High	Resource to support match-funding for Co-ordinator role within Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network.	£0.00	£40,000.00	£40,000.00

Title	New/Existing	Priority	Details	Y1 Costs	Y2 Costs	Y3 Costs
Co-production Infrastructure	New	Medium	<p>Supporting the development of Lived Experience Role/s to support systems change and embedding co-production as routine part of contract management across programmes e.g. through Peer Audit:</p> <p>We propose to deliver the following roles to work with Outreach teams and ABEN staff across GM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Community Coordinator (NRPF): Working specifically with people with experience of the immigration system and/or having NRPF to review our approach to support and accommodation for people with restricted eligibility and ensuring a co-ordinated approach to prevention and community reintegration •Lived Experience Worker (Systems Change): Working within GMCA to oversee and embed co-production across GMCA's RSI-funded programmes, with a particular focus on changes that will enhance our ability to support our Target Priority Group 	£0.00	£106,739.60	£110,881.20
Data Infrastructure	Existing	High	<p>Continuation of ABEN EPD Plus Data Projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource to support the development of a Single Assessment Tool, building on Data Discovery Work and created in partnership with lived experience groups. - Developing Multi-agency approach to Needs Assessment 	£92,590.33	£178,770.34	£117,884.75
Total				£2,088,963.62	£2,008,293.69	£5,092,478.77

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27 May 2022

Subject: Greater Manchester Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan 2022/23

Report of: Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills & Work and
Tom Stannard, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Education, Skills & Work

Purpose of Report

To share for information Greater Manchester's Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan 2022/23 (LSR). The LSR, published by the Greater Manchester Employment and Skills Advisory Panel, sets out key skills and employment priorities for the city-region and is a refresh of the report published in March 2021.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to review and note the report.

Contact Officers

Mat Ainsworth, Acting Director – Education, Work and Skills

Matthew.ainsworth@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk, Tel: 07973 876799

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	Contains skills and employment measures to support older workers, remove barriers for disproportionately underrepresented groups, support people with physical/mental health conditions and/or disabilities, and to promote workforce diversification in relation to gender and ethnicity in sector pilots. Plan will support individuals to access education / training opportunities and employment support, including those facing labour market barriers, inequalities and disadvantage. Includes measures to help people access publicly funded education/training, employment support and related services	
Health	G	With good work being good for health and well-being more broadly, one of the core priorities within the plan is to provide access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't. Participation in education, training and employment can support social engagement and wellbeing.	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Elements of the plan harness learning from Covid recovery & renewal and contains measures to help individuals and businesses become more agile/resilient	
Housing			
Economy	G	Core ambition is to support inclusive growth, economic development by supporting the creation of good jobs and the skills to match Will increase opportunity and support business growth by ensuring a skills/talent pipeline for employers and encouraging investment in workforce development Will support people to move towards/into the labour market and to progress in careers/pay, and on helping employers tackle skills gaps and mismatches Strong focus on GM's priority sectors, key assets, and foundation economy. Also includes a strong emphasis on the wider social value of skills and employment activity and those who deliver/benefit from it Key elements include digital, STEM and increasing higher level skills needed for innovation, R&D, etc, as well as the supporting skills required to enable commercialisation Includes reference to GM growth locations and sector specialisms that will help attract investment and create jobs/opportunities Fundamental purpose of the plan is to increase opportunities for/access to education and training of all kinds	
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment			
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		As well as skills and employment activity to support low carbon infrastructure (including retrofit), this plan draws on the industry skills & labour market intelligence deep dive into the 'green economy', which explores elements of a number of sectors that have the potential to contribute to GM's carbon neutrality, and the skills development and changes to business processes / practices that will be needed to support that shift.	
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment		
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	 Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this report. Any areas of risk associated with specific programmes/services referenced within the plan have been dealt with in line with the relevant risk management arrangements for those individual activities.

Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations arising from this report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report. Any financial considerations associated with specific programmes/services referenced within the LSR have been dealt with in line with the relevant commissioning and governance arrangements for those activities.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital funding consequences arising from this report.

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Greater Manchester Local Skills Report & Labour Market Plan, 2022/23

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Considered and noted by the Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2022.

Background Papers

This publication can be read in conjunction with the [Local Skills Report & Labour Market Plan 2021/22](#) and [Data Annexes](#) (March 2021).

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 March 2022

1. Introduction/Background

1.1. Skills Advisory Panels

1. Since 2018, Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) have been established in every Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) and Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area at the direction of the Department for Education (DfE) to bring together employers, skills providers and key local stakeholders to better understand and address skills issues at a local level. One of the key mechanisms for this activity is the production of annual Local Skills Reports (LSRs) by each SAP, high-quality analysis of local labour markets, setting out local skills strengths/needs and how the SAP proposes its area addresses its key priorities.
2. In Greater Manchester, the decision was taken at the SAP's inception to expand its remit to encompass employment support, reflecting our integrated approach to the labour market, underpinned by Greater Manchester's unique range of devolved functions across skills, employment support and health & social care. Chaired by GMCA's portfolio lead for Education, Skills and Work, Greater Manchester's Employment and Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP) shapes strategic planning, acts as a two-way conduit between policy makers and vital networks, and is a key forum for challenge and governance in this policy area, bringing together core partners/stakeholders to consider the place-based labour market system in its entirety, rather than skills in isolation.

1.2. Local Skills Reports

3. Although the LSR is owned by ESAP, its structure, broad content and core data indicators are mandated by DfE in order to provide consistency and comparability across England. However, in line with GM's integrated approach, and mindful of the fact that the previous three-year Greater Manchester Skills and Work Strategy had expired¹, the Panel's first [LSR](#) (March 2021) balanced the DfE guidance with a comprehensive overview of the GM labour market landscape, strategic priorities, actions planned to address those priorities, and a review of progress and achievements to date. It also set out a number of cross-cutting themes which are important to Greater Manchester.

¹ The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic in Spring 2020 and the nature, scale and immediacy of its impact on the labour market meant that the planned multi-year update underway to the Greater Manchester Skills and Work Strategy was paused.

4. For the 2022 update, DfE required LSRs to focus more explicitly on a range of strategic skills priorities and less on the broader labour market landscape. This narrowing of focus means that there are elements of the LSR that are non-exhaustive, or in which the emphasis/balance differs slightly to GM's usual approach in order to stay true to the integrated ambition while having regard to DfE's requirements. Therefore, while the refresh focuses in particular on the [industry skills intelligence reports](#) that have been completed since the first LSR and the ongoing work of the GM Skills Observatory, it also considers the wider picture, albeit in less detail, including the recommendations from GM's Independent Inequalities Commission and initial reflections on the government's Levelling Up White Paper, which was published shortly before the LSR was completed.

1.3. LSR content and scope

5. The LSR contains the following:

- Foreword from Cllr Bev Craig as ESAP Chair and GMCA's Portfolio Lead, setting out high level local themes and highlighting key updates from the 2021 report
- Introduction setting out the background to SAPs/LSRs, and the membership and remit of GM's ESAP
- Skills strengths and needs: a broad overview of the GM labour market context and economic trends in GM, including the impact of the pandemic, factors such as levels of qualifications, employment, deprivation, etc in GM, labour market assets, skills strengths and needs, GM's growth locations, and the importance of an employer-led response
- Skills strategy: narrowing the focus from the previous section and considering cross-cutting skills priorities, skills priorities supporting recovery from the pandemic, and sector-specific priorities (including the GM picture in relation to a number of national priority sectors)
- Skills action plan, setting out actions pursuant to delivering on the labour market priorities identified, marshalled under the four core elements of the overarching ambition (see 2.1 below). To note, this is not an exhaustive action plan with the totality of GM's education, skills and work actions for the year ahead, but a selection of those actions that fall within the parameters/requirements set by DfE
- Assessment of progress and achievements to date, including reflections on the role of ESAP and the LSR in taking a local leadership role, enhancing local

knowledge/intelligence, supporting Covid recovery and renewal plans, and having an impact on local skills and employment support provision

- Case studies of employers and providers working together and examples of innovation/responsiveness to employers' skills needs
- Forward look, including ESAP's direction of travel and plans to work with employer representative bodies in the future.

2. GM LSR – Key Messages

6. The main [Greater Manchester Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan 2022/23](#) is appended to this report. Both the full report and the [accompanying Annex](#) (containing sector overviews, data annexes and references) are hosted on [the Work and Skills page of GMCA's website](#).

2.1 Core Ambition

7. The LSR is built around the same four core strategic priorities from the 2021 plan, namely, driving an integrated education, skills and work system that will help all of our residents to get on in life and in work, and enable our businesses and our place to thrive:

- Young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market, with a balance of academic, technical and 'life ready' skills
- Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly skilled careers and retraining
- Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work, driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices
- Residents are supported by a welfare system, under Universal Credit, that provides access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't.

2.2 Key themes

8. Pursuant to those ambitions, a number of overarching skills strengths, needs and issues have been identified, to which the strategy and action plan within the LSR respond:

- Greater Manchester’s goal is to deliver ambitious improvements in skills and employment for the 2.8 million people living in the city-region. Central to this is developing a **responsive, integrated labour market system** that enables all residents to achieve their full potential, that helps to tackle long-standing inequalities of opportunity, and which provides the talent that our businesses need to thrive and grow, now and in the future.
- Those **inequalities have been brought into sharper focus by the uneven impact of the Covid-19 pandemic**. Most recently, recovery in national employment rates has not been mirrored in Greater Manchester, where both unemployment and economic inactivity have risen. At the same time, vacancies are at unprecedentedly high levels, although many are for jobs in mid- to low-skills/low pay brackets.
- The city-region is economically diverse, with no particular dependence on any single sector or occupational group for its economic well-being. GM has some **labour market assets of national and international significance**, which are driving demand for a pipeline of higher level technical skills. However, **40% of GM employment is in the foundation and service sectors**, where roles are often low paid and opportunities for productivity gains and in-work progression are limited.
- We are maintaining a focus on those priority sectors highlighted in GM’s Local Industrial Strategy, many of which also reflect national priorities:
 - Four **‘frontier sectors’** – those industries seen as fundamental to our future economic well-being: **Health Innovation, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Digital, Creative & Media**, and **‘Clean Growth’**
 - The **foundational economy** – those sectors with significant employment volumes but not necessarily productivity-transformative potential: **Retail, Social Care**, and **Hospitality & Tourism**.
- A series of [industry intelligence deep-dives](#) are being conducted to identify occupationally-specific skills issues in these industries and in specific sub-sectors, with action plans developing for each sector/occupational area. (See annex for sector overviews of **Health & Social Care, Construction, Low Carbon Buildings (Retrofit), Green Economy, Digital & Tech, Logistics and Manufacturing.**)

- A number of **Growth Locations** have also been identified across GM which have potential to drive inclusive employment growth and inward investment, focused on clusters of existing and new industries in each place linked to those priority sectors.
- Against that backdrop, one of the overarching skills challenges is that Greater Manchester's population is lower skilled than the national average, especially in respect of the **higher proportion of people with no/low qualifications** and the **lower proportion of residents with level 4+** qualifications. These longstanding issues must be addressed if our residents are to contribute to and benefit from inclusive growth.

3. Next Steps: Local Skills Improvement Plans

9. This second iteration of the LSR comes at a time when DfE is piloting new Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) in eight areas of the country. Developed by Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs) such as Chambers of Commerce, LSIPs are part of a suite of reforms set out in DfE's [Skills for Jobs](#) White Paper that aim to put employers more firmly at the heart of the skills system, and they have been placed on a statutory footing, via the Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022 (which received Royal Assent on 28 April).
10. ERBs will be required to work with Mayoral Combined Authorities in developing LSIPs, and the Skills Minister has written to Mayors to confirm that, where an MCA exists, the LSIP must follow the MCA footprint. Whilst the detail of MCAs' role is awaited in the statutory guidance that will accompany the Act, it is vital that the LSIP docks in with the existing local strategic framework to ensure that it is truly part of the holistic labour market landscape in a place, rather than a stand-alone plan. Colleges will also have a new statutory responsibility to ensure their offer meets local needs as set out in the relevant LSIP.
11. The [eight Trailblazer LSIPs](#) were published in March, and evaluation will inform the national roll out of the programme in 2022/23. A prospectus was launched at the start of May for expressions of interest from ERBs for the next wave of LSIPs and, whilst MCAs are excluded from leading a bid, GMCA will work closely with ERBs that might do so. In the meantime, it is DfE's intention that Skills Advisory Panels and their LSRs should continue to influence the behaviour of local partners and feed intelligence to central government, including to sectoral focussed skills teams and the national-level [Skills and Productivity Board](#) (SPB).

12. Against that backdrop, this LSR represents a strong transition to the employer-led approach LSIPs require, harnessing a wealth of industry intelligence about current and future skills needs and setting those findings in the wider context of an education, skills and work landscape for Greater Manchester that supports inclusive growth, positive outcomes and improved productivity. It will be part of the strategic framework that helps to deliver the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy, the golden thread running through the shared commitments and many of the Levelling Up missions, driving the shift towards a system characterised not by its individual parts or where one policy or funding stream stops and another kicks in, but by evidence-led approaches and by the fairer distribution of and access to labour market opportunities.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

13. As above.

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Local Skills Report & Labour Market Plan

Greater Manchester Employment & Skills Advisory Panel

Version 2 - March 2022



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See accompanying Data Annex document for:

- Sector Overview summaries
- Annex A – Core indicators
- Annex B1 – Additional Analysis
- Annex B2 – Data Sources / References

1 Foreword

Cllr Bev Craig, Chair

Greater Manchester Employment & Skills Advisory Panel



In introducing Greater Manchester’s first Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan in March 2021, my predecessor wrote that in Greater Manchester, our people are our greatest asset. I share that view and believe it remains the perfect way to open this updated report: the strengths and needs of our people, our communities, our businesses and our place continue to drive all that we do.

As I write, Covid-19 remains part of our day-to-day lives, although we are learning to adapt in order to live with it. As was the case throughout the worst of the pandemic, its impact has been felt unevenly by different individuals, communities, and parts of the economy. Taken together with other labour market factors – such as changes to the supply of labour following the UK’s exit from the EU and the rising cost of living – our people, our place and our businesses still face challenges.

This is why skills and jobs are at the heart of the respective recovery and growth plans set out by central government and Greater Manchester, and why ‘human capital’ featured as one of the six key drivers identified in the recent Levelling Up White Paper. Skills and good work can support fulfilling, healthy and productive lives, helping people enter or return to the labour market, retrain, up-skill and progress. They can also help businesses to thrive and grow, ensuring they are in a position to compete in a national and global marketplace, offer fair wages and working practices, and to plan for the future in terms of business resilience and workforce development.

Against that backdrop, the fundamental issues facing Greater Manchester have not changed substantially since this Panel published its first report, nor have the core priorities and actions identified in response. This report does not, therefore, replace that one or rehearse those matters again in detail.

However, progress has been made in a number of areas in terms of how we identify and address those issues. Whilst the first Greater Manchester Local Skills Report & Labour Market Plan set out a comprehensive overview of priorities, actions and achievements across this agenda, this second report narrows the focus and concentrates on two elements in particular that will shape our work in the year ahead.

First, the employer intelligence that is shaping the Panel's work has taken huge steps forward. It is driving our strategic planning and commissioning, and providing a key source of up-to-date intelligence to support providers in their curriculum planning. Deep-dive reports and associated recommendations/action plans now cover many of our priority occupational areas in both Greater Manchester's frontier sectors and foundational economy, and the Greater Manchester Skills Observatory is providing unprecedented levels of insight into employers' skills and labour market needs and behaviours. This report therefore brings together the key insights from that activity to date, acting as a transition to the employer-led Local Skills Improvement Plans that will be introduced in the future under the *Skills for Jobs* White Paper.

The second element I wish to highlight is the report and recommendations from the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission. In her foreword to the report, Kate Pickett, the Commission's Chair, wrote that sustainable wellbeing should be the real wealth of the city-region: *"This must be a time of great hope. A time for change, a time of recognition that we all want to build back better, and that we cannot let the shadows of the past dim the bright promise of a fairer future."*

Along with the drive for recovery and growth, that promise of a fairer future is at the heart of this Panel's ambitions for Greater Manchester's education, skills and work system.

However, skills alone are not a silver bullet. For individuals, deep-seated inequalities of opportunity face some of our residents, creating barriers that skills programmes and employment interventions alone cannot address. And for employers, skills gaps and labour shortages are often conflated, with wider labour market conditions and demand-side issues being overlooked.

Skills improvements must go hand-in-hand with employer investment in both the current workforce and the talent pipeline if we are to make sure people have the skills and

knowledge to do the jobs that are available now and to prepare for the jobs of the future. Employment support must go hand-in-hand with shifts in business processes, employment practices and job quality if we are to make sure that the labour market is resilient, adaptable and diverse, and that that pay recognises the value rather than the cost of all work – not just through economic returns but the wider benefits. Local responsiveness must go hand-in-hand with the flexibilities, trust and resources from central government that will empower local solutions to local challenges, designed with and for the people, employers and places they are intended to serve.

And one of the biggest challenges of all, is that all of this must happen in an economic environment in which not just the cost of doing business but the cost of living is rising rapidly.

Over the last two years we have seen some incredible work from a host of public services, education and training providers, employment support organisations, and businesses, coming together to meet challenges we never previously imagined facing, not only in the public health response but to ensure that Greater Manchester's residents could continue studying, training and working as safely and effectively as possible. The positive impact of devolved functions and local mobilisation across health, skills and employment support is an important part of the story of localism and this story will continue to unfold as we work with government to implement the Levelling Up White Paper.

This is a wide-reaching agenda, with many challenges to overcome. We cannot do it alone, nor can we do it overnight. But by focusing in the months ahead on the issues and steps set out in this report, I believe we can take real steps forward, towards a fairer, greener and more prosperous Greater Manchester.



Cllr Bev Craig

Chair, Greater Manchester Employment & Skills Advisory Panel and GMCA Lead for Education, Skills & Work, and Digital

2 Introduction: Skills Advisory Panels

Skills Advisory Panels: the national context

Since 2018, Skills Advisory Panels (SAPs) have been bringing together employers, skills providers and key local stakeholders to better understand and resolve skills mismatches at a local level. SAPs are part of Mayoral Combined Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships and there are 36 in total across England. The Department for Education (DfE) has supported SAPs with grant funding primarily to produce high-quality analysis of local labour markets and publish Local Skills Reports, which set out the local skills strengths and needs and how the SAP proposes its area addresses its key priorities.

This second iteration of SAPs' Local Skills Reports comes at a time when DfE is Trailblazing new Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs), in eight areas of the country. Developed by Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs), LSIPs are part of a suite of reforms launched in DfE's [Skills for Jobs](#) White Paper that aim to put employers more firmly at the heart of the skills system. An evaluation of the eight Trailblazers will inform the national roll out of the programme. In the meantime, and before LSIPs are rolled out across the country, it is DfE's intention that Skills Advisory Panels and this Local Skills Report should continue to influence the behaviour of local partners and feed intelligence to central government, including to sectoral focussed skills teams and the national-level [Skills and Productivity Board](#) (SPB).

In Greater Manchester, the **Employment and Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP)** reflects our integrated approach to the labour market, underpinned by Greater Manchester's unique range of devolved functions across skills, employment support and health & social care. The GM ESAP brings together core partners/stakeholders from across that full landscape, in order to consider the labour market system in its entirety, rather than skills in isolation. GM ESAP's first [Local Skills Report & Labour Market Plan](#) was published in March 2021.

2.1 Background: Greater Manchester geography and governance

Greater Manchester encompasses the ten districts of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. With over 124,000 businesses, more than 2.8m residents, and a further 7m people living within an hour's commute, a prosperous and productive North of England requires a successful Greater Manchester.

Innovative forms of cooperation between Greater Manchester's private and public sectors, and between local and central government, mean it continues to be an example of effective leadership for the Northern Powerhouse, the UK, and the world.

Greater Manchester is building on a decade of strong investment in businesses, infrastructure, and in new forms of government. Our ten local authorities have worked closely together for decades, and with the formation of the Combined Authority, election of a Mayor, and six devolution deals signed, the city-region now has a unique set of functions, powers and levers across multiple policy areas, influence over billions of pounds of associated spending, and a new relationship with central government:

- Devolved adult skills functions and associated funding
- Devolved employment support through GM Working Well (Work & Health Programme), including a locally-commissioned offer of targeted Working Well intervention and services to supplement the core activity
- Devolved health & social care system under the Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership
- Working flexibly and remaining responsive to the needs of 'place' when using (and augmenting) nationally funded models such as Careers & Enterprise Company activity
- Earned confidence as a testbed for valuable pilot/test & learn programmes, many of which are in partnership with government, including Fast Track Digital Workforce (a forerunner to the bootcamp model being tested under the National Skills Fund), Enterprising You (skills development pilot for self-employed people in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses), and Future Workforce Fund (NEET reduction/prevention programme in partnership with Prince's Trust)

- Trailblazing activity with partners where GM has shown particular leadership and appetite, such as around ageing well and supporting older workers (Greater Manchester was the first place in the UK to be recognised by the WHO as an age-friendly city-region)
- ESF Co-Financing Organisation status, which has enabled local commissioning of skills provision and employment support to meet employers' and residents' needs, including the £40 million Skills for Growth programme.

Against that backdrop, working with government and with local partners, Greater Manchester has begun a shift in the way that adult education and skills are prioritised and funded via the devolved Adult Education Budget, helped tens of thousands of unemployed residents back into work through the nationally-acclaimed GM Working Well suite of support, piloted new ways of working to address skills gaps linked to jobs, and is working to explore and address the recognised interactions between poor physical and/or mental health and productivity.

Greater Manchester's Independent Prosperity Review and Local Industrial Strategy identified that there are barriers to be overcome to improve economic performance. These include population health, education and skills, infrastructure, innovation, and leadership and management.

With those cross-cutting challenges in mind, in recent years Greater Manchester has established a clear vision for an integrated labour market system that brings together education, skills, work and health, recognising that these factors are inextricably linked to strong communities, resilient citizens, and a thriving economy. We recognise, too, that these activities must be aligned in a place in ways that are simply not possible at national level if the policies from different parts of government are to deliver positive outcomes for our residents and businesses on the ground. Clarity, simplicity and responsiveness are vital.

This holistic view to the wider Greater Manchester labour market drives the considerations of the Employment and Skills Advisory Panel.

2.2 Greater Manchester ESAP: role and remit

Whilst Greater Manchester's ESAP is not a decision-making body, it provides vital strategic advice, oversight and recommendations to decision-makers, pools intelligence from across the labour market system, and leverages existing networks and relationships to provide challenge and debate across the labour market landscape.

ESAP members represent networks of partners, rather than solely their own organisation or institution. They act as conduits to wider networks of stakeholders and providers in Greater Manchester's skills and employment ecosystem, bringing their expertise and that of the networks that they represent to bear and providing the crucial link between local and national, and between policy development and implementation.

GM ESAP Membership

Panel members represent wider networks of core stakeholders and partners across Greater Manchester's education, skills, employment support and health landscape as well as a number of national partners. ESAP is chaired by Greater Manchester Combined Authority's portfolio Lead for Education, Skills & Work and Digital.

- Association of Colleges
- Association of Education and Learning Providers (AELP)
- Business Representatives (large & SME)
- Department for Education (national)
- Department for Work & Pensions (national)
- Education & Skills Funding Agency (local)
- Employment Related Services Association (ERSA)
- GMCA: Portfolio Lead and Lead CEx for Education, Skills & Work and Digital
- GM Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO)
- GM Chamber of Commerce
- GM Colleges Group
- GM Education & Employability Board
- GM Executive Lead for Population Health and Commissioning
- GM Higher Education Institutions
- GM Learning Provider Network

- GM Local Enterprise Partnership
- Jobcentre Plus (local)
- Learning & Work Institute, CEx
- Local Authorities
- Regional Schools Commissioner
- The Growth Hub

The Panel:

- Acts as a ‘critical friend’ to GM’s decision-makers, working closely with key stakeholders to focus on the contribution that employment and skills policy and delivery can make to the competitiveness and performance of GM’s economy and to improving the quality of life for our people and communities
- Provides detailed oversight of the whole employment and skills landscape to ensure that policy and delivery changes are aligned to local priorities, making use of a range of data and local intelligence to ensure provision is responding to the needs of learners & businesses across GM’s post-16 landscape
- Brings together representatives of local employers and providers to understand local skills needs and translate them into skills provision and employment support services
- Forms a strong strategic partnership between central Government and Greater Manchester
- Aligns agendas from education, skills, work and health to ensure GM truly benefits from a devolved system.

In delivering these functions, the Panel draws on a range of evidence and intelligence in order to shape Greater Manchester’s labour market response.

Quantitative measures like those set out in the data/core indicators within the analytical Annexes which accompany this report provide only part of that evidence base. The data must be accompanied by local ‘soft’ intelligence, gathered from the Panel and its members’ networks, and from businesses and employer networks/representative bodies at both district and city-regional level.

In particular, the Panel's work is informed by GMCA's research team and Skills for Growth industry intelligence unit, and the GM Skills Observatory (a partnership between GMCA, the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and The Growth Company).

2.3 Greater Manchester ESAP: core ambition

Together, this evidence base is giving us a clearer picture than ever before about Greater Manchester's labour market strengths and needs, and is driving our response under four core strategic priorities, articulated in the Panel's first report:

Young People

- Young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market, with a balance of academic, technical and 'life ready' skills

Adults

- Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly skilled careers and retraining.

Employers

- Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices

Support

- Residents are supported by a welfare system, under Universal Credit, that provides access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't

3 Skills Strengths and Needs

Summary

- Greater Manchester’s goal is to deliver ambitious improvements in skills and employment for the 2.8 million people living in the city-region. Central to this is developing a **responsive, integrated labour market system** that enables all residents to achieve their full potential, that helps to tackle long-standing inequalities of opportunity, and which provides the talent that our businesses need to thrive and grow, now and in the future.
- Those **inequalities have been brought into sharper focus by the uneven impact of the Covid-19 pandemic**. Most recently, recovery in national employment rates has not been mirrored in Greater Manchester, where both unemployment and economic inactivity have risen. At the same time, vacancies are at unprecedentedly high levels, although many are for jobs in mid- to low-skills/low pay brackets.
- The city-region is economically diverse, with no particular dependence on any single sector or occupational group for its economic well-being. GM has some **labour market assets of national and international significance**, which are driving demand for a pipeline of higher level technical skills. However, **40% of GM employment is in the foundation and service sectors**, where roles are often low paid and opportunities for productivity gains and in-work progression are limited.
- We are maintaining a focus on those priority sectors highlighted in GM’s Local Industrial Strategy, many of which also reflect national priorities:
 - Four **‘frontier sectors’** – those industries seen as fundamental to our future economic well-being: **Health Innovation, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Digital, Creative & Media**, and **‘Clean Growth’**
 - The **foundational economy** – those sectors with significant employment volumes but not necessarily productivity-transformative potential: **Retail, Social Care**, and **Hospitality & Tourism**.
- A series of **industry intelligence deep-dives** are being conducted to identify occupationally-specific skills issues in these industries and in specific sub-sectors, with action plans developing for each sector/occupational area. (See accompanying annex for sector overviews of **Health & Social Care, Construction, Low Carbon Buildings (Retrofit), Green Economy, Digital & Tech, Logistics and Manufacturing**.)
- A number of **Growth Locations** have also been identified across GM which have potential to drive inclusive employment growth and inward investment, focused on clusters of existing and new industries in each place linked to those priority sectors.
- Against that backdrop, one of the overarching skills challenges is that Greater Manchester’s population is lower skilled than the national average, especially in respect of the **higher proportion of people with no/low qualifications** and the **lower proportion of residents with level 4+** qualifications. These longstanding issues must be addressed if our residents are to contribute to and benefit from inclusive growth.

3.1 Greater Manchester's Economy and Labour Market

Context

Since 2019, Greater Manchester's labour market activity has been shaped by the comprehensive evidence base developed for [Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy](#) (LIS)¹, from which the Skills Observatory and industry intelligence insights have evolved.

That evidence identified many strengths in Greater Manchester's education and skills system, including a history of partnership working at city regional level between employer organisations and learning providers, rapid improvements in college performance, and a vibrant higher education sector. However, it also highlighted a number of challenges and inequalities, not just around education and employment but across health and other aspects of life. It noted that too many people lack the functional and technical skills, especially digital skills, that employers need to thrive, grow and increase productivity, and that skills inequalities serve to constrain life chances.

Links between disadvantage and low productivity are well-documented. As the 2019 [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (IMD) data shows, over a fifth of the neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester fall into the bottom 10% of most deprived neighbourhoods nationally in respect of employment and income. Meanwhile, in terms of skills deprivation, 13% of Greater Manchester neighbourhoods fall into the bottom 10%, although this masks significant variation between districts (in Oldham, for example, 30% of neighbourhoods are amongst the most deprived on skills). We therefore welcome the ambition set out in the [Levelling Up White Paper](#) (Feb 2022), and look forward to working with government to deliver systemic change within Greater Manchester across the Paper's 12 missions to level up internally as well as relative to other parts of the UK.

¹ The background and key themes were set out in the first [GM LSR](#) (March 2021) so are not being repeated in detail here. They encompass the [GM Independent Prosperity Review](#) and associated technical reports which helped to inform the LIS. Technical papers covered a range of issues around productivity, innovation & global competitiveness, skills & employment, and infrastructure. Skills & employment papers included [Transitions in Employment and Skills](#), [A New Approach to Education, Training and Skills](#), and [The Future of Work and Skills](#) (all available on the [GMIPR webpage](#))

3.2 Impact of Covid-19 on Greater Manchester's Labour Market

These matters, and inequalities more generally, were brought into sharper focus by the Covid-19 pandemic, with Greater Manchester experiencing some of the longest periods of the most severe restrictions in the country.

The state of the labour market in the wake of the pandemic and associated lockdowns remains difficult to read. On the one hand, there is a sense that the most dire predictions – which included ‘downside’ modelling of unemployment reaching 13%² - have failed to materialise. On the other, there is evidence that the shocks caused by the pandemic are being felt unevenly, both at individual/place level and by different sectors of the economy, and are likely to endure for some time.

As shown in the core indicators (data annexes, sections A1.9, B1.3), unemployment trends in Greater Manchester and the North West of England have diverged from national patterns of recovery. At November 2021, unemployment had risen in the NW for four consecutive months to 4.7%, according to the Labour Force Survey. In addition to unemployment, there has been a rise in economic inactivity. In autumn 2021, 23.9% of Greater Manchester's working age residents were inactive – a higher level of inactivity than in both the UK and the North West. This suggests that as people have lost their jobs, many are leaving the labour market completely, either voluntarily or otherwise, rather than returning to/searching for work. The economically inactive are a complex and diverse group; encouraging them back into participation swiftly may be a challenge and is likely to require both bespoke employment support and improved access to retraining opportunities, as well as potentially, greater flexibility and support from employers.

However, there are also some more positive signals that the labour market has also proved surprisingly resilient. It was feared that after the ending of the furlough scheme

² *Fiscal Sustainability Report, July 2020*, Office for Budgetary Responsibility

<https://obr.uk/fsr/fiscal-sustainability-report-july-2020/>

in the autumn of 2021, redundancies would rise. This has not happened, with redundancies in December 2021 significantly lower than in December 2020.

At the same time, numbers of vacancies in the jobs market have repeatedly set new records in Greater Manchester. The extent of these vacancies was largely unforeseen at the height of the pandemic and points to opportunities within the labour market. However, many vacancies were in mid-to-low pay and skills brackets, and pointed to possible limitations on business activity as employers struggled to recruit.

In early 2022, the GM Skills Observatory noted that:

- The GM labour market was improving, but hiring was slowing in what remained a tight labour market and ‘employee-favoured’ in some occupations where demand for skilled workers outstripped supply.
- Labour supply: A snapshot in late January/early February showed the main occupational areas advertising vacancies were ICT, Sales, Teaching, Accounting & Finance, and Engineering. The percentage of roles deemed ‘hard to fill’ had fallen since autumn 2021 but was still over one third of vacancies in GM. Employers have indicated expected vacancies in the months ahead across construction trades, social care, sales, customer service, hospitality, manufacturing, and cross cutting project/ business/office management.
- Skills supply/gaps: highest in IT, construction, and manufacturing and the urgency of filling gaps had increased: 80% need to be resolved within 3 months. Stronger emphasis than previously on ‘soft’ management skillsets and digital.
- Strong demand for sales, social media, digital marketing and business development specialist to support return to pre-pandemic levels of activity and turnover/profit.
- Cost of training remained a limiting factor for many businesses, as inflation and increased liabilities arising from the pandemic impacted business investment.

Indications also suggest that sectors that experienced the combined impact of the pandemic and its restrictions together with other factors, such as wider economic trends, including EU trade conditions/supply chains and a heavy reliance on labour provided by overseas workers who have left the UK, have felt the heaviest impact – including **hospitality, social care, manufacturing and haulage/logistics**.

There are a number of trends highlighted in the evidence:

COVID Impact - Trends	
	<p>Shift to online shopping and away from city centre retail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of logistics sector, importance of drivers and warehousing • Lower high street footfall means fewer jobs in retail • Shifting use of city centre space and changing nature of high streets, with increasing number of hospitality venues as number of shops decline
	<p>Shift to home working and away from office-based roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in commercial property, city centre residential • Impact of decrease in city centre based workers on foundation economy • Rise in suburban centres
	<p>Shift towards local tourism and away from international/inbound travel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport and related industries/roles in turmoil • Some signs of a rise in domestic travel and tourism
Wider Economic Trends	
	<p>Shift towards use of digital technology and away from traditional manual methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing need for digital specialists, software dev, cyber, cloud, AI, machine learning • Increasing use of tech in traditional sectors (manufacturing, construction, hospitality)
	<p>Automation of workplaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software being used to automate certain roles – finance, HR, production processes, etc. • Shift towards the value of human-based roles – sales, management, care, education
	<p>Shift towards insecure/temporary/flexible career pathways and away from “jobs for life”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobseekers more flexible, career-switching options more prevalent • More uncertainty among young people
	<p>Systemic / structural labour market issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to supply of labour, regulatory frameworks, trade, supply chains, etc following Brexit • Capacity within the training and assessment system

3.3 Greater Manchester's labour market strengths & needs

Greater Manchester is maintaining its focus on those priority sectors highlighted in GM's Local Industrial Strategy, many of which also reflect national priorities:

- Four '**frontier sectors**' – those industries seen as fundamental to our future economic well-being: **health innovation, advanced materials and manufacturing, digital, creative and media**, and '**clean growth**'
- The **foundational economy** – those sectors with significant employment volumes but not necessarily productivity-transformative potential: **retail, social care**, and **hospitality & tourism**.

Along with a vibrant visitor economy, the city-region is home to some assets of national and global importance which are helping to drive the skills agenda, including (but not limited to):

- **[Innovation GM \(IGM\)](#)**, which has created the most developed blueprint in the country for levelling up through innovation, and laid foundations for further investment from government as one of three Innovation Accelerators announced in the Levelling Up White Paper. IGM features elements such as:
 - the **Advanced Machinery and Productivity Institute ([AMPI](#))**, a new research centre located in the Rochdale-Bury Gateway North industrial park that will drive innovation among the UK's advanced machinery manufacturers, with multi-region reach across Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire
 - **[Crescent Salford](#)**: the **Salford Innovation Triangle** is a cluster of internationally significant innovation and R&D activity, in partnership between the University of Salford with MediaCityUK and Salford Royal Hospital. New facilities at Crescent include **[Energy House 2.0](#)** - the world's first full-sized, two bedroom, brick built terraced house constructed inside an environmentally controllable chamber to investigate the future of housing - and the **[North of England Robotics Innovation Centre](#)**. This will be supported by the new **Greater Manchester Institute of Advanced Technical Skills**, a partnership between FE, HE and industry, led by the University of Salford which received approval from government in

December 2021 and will begin delivering higher technical skills qualifications from September 2023.

- The [Oxford Road Corridor](#) has:
 - a high value business base with a concentration of **life sciences, professional services and digital** businesses. With its access to a skilled workforce, a modern science park that is one of the UK's most established life science and tech communities, and incentives for new businesses wishing to grow, the area continues to attract investment and compete on a global scale, and requires the talent/skills pipeline to match
 - significant assets within the **culture sector** (Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester Museum, RNCM, Holden Art Gallery, Manchester School of Art, Manchester poetry Library and Manchester Art Gallery) which play an important role in the cultural ecosystem of the city-region, and play an important role in the narrative around Manchester's status as a UNESCO City of Literature and the wider visitor/leisure economy of Greater Manchester
- As the largest cluster of creative industries outside of London and the South East, Greater Manchester's vibrant and diverse **culture and creative sector** is part of a thriving **visitor economy**, encompassing the hospitality & leisure sector and night-time economy, along with sporting and creative assets which range from grass-roots to world-class. Whilst these industries face a period of recovery from the impact of the pandemic, they remain a key asset for Greater Manchester and the UK more generally, and Greater Manchester's ability to create, attract and share creative and cultural content/talent played a vital role during lockdown in supporting residents' health and wellbeing, including:
 - the **United We Stream** platform, developed and launched within just two weeks of the first national lockdown taking effect and going on to reach more than 8 million people across the world. In its first two months the platform hosted more than 300 globally renowned artists and local breakthrough talent (including events curated by Contact Theatre, Manchester Jazz Festival, Night & Day, Manchester Camerata and Brighter Sound), and went on to hold further events such as the Headstock mental health and wellbeing event and a 24 hour Hacienda

House Party on New Year's Eve. United We Stream also raised £400,000 in donations for distribution to more than 100 businesses and individuals working in the GM culture and night time economy.

- As part of the Great Place Project, GMCA and a range of cultural organisations across Greater Manchester developed and distributed 22,000 Creative Care Kits to young people not online who were feeling isolated during lockdown. Two more Creative Care Packs were subsequently developed and distributed across Greater Manchester, one for isolated older residents and one for younger people, to engage them in social action.
- **Digital, Creative & Tech** assets, ranging from a thriving community of innovative start-ups to large-scale industry employers, and well-established sector networks providing a collective voice for the industry in bodies like Manchester Digital and the GM Cyber Advisory Group, which is taking forward targeted strands of work around curriculum, career pathways and best practice in talent development.

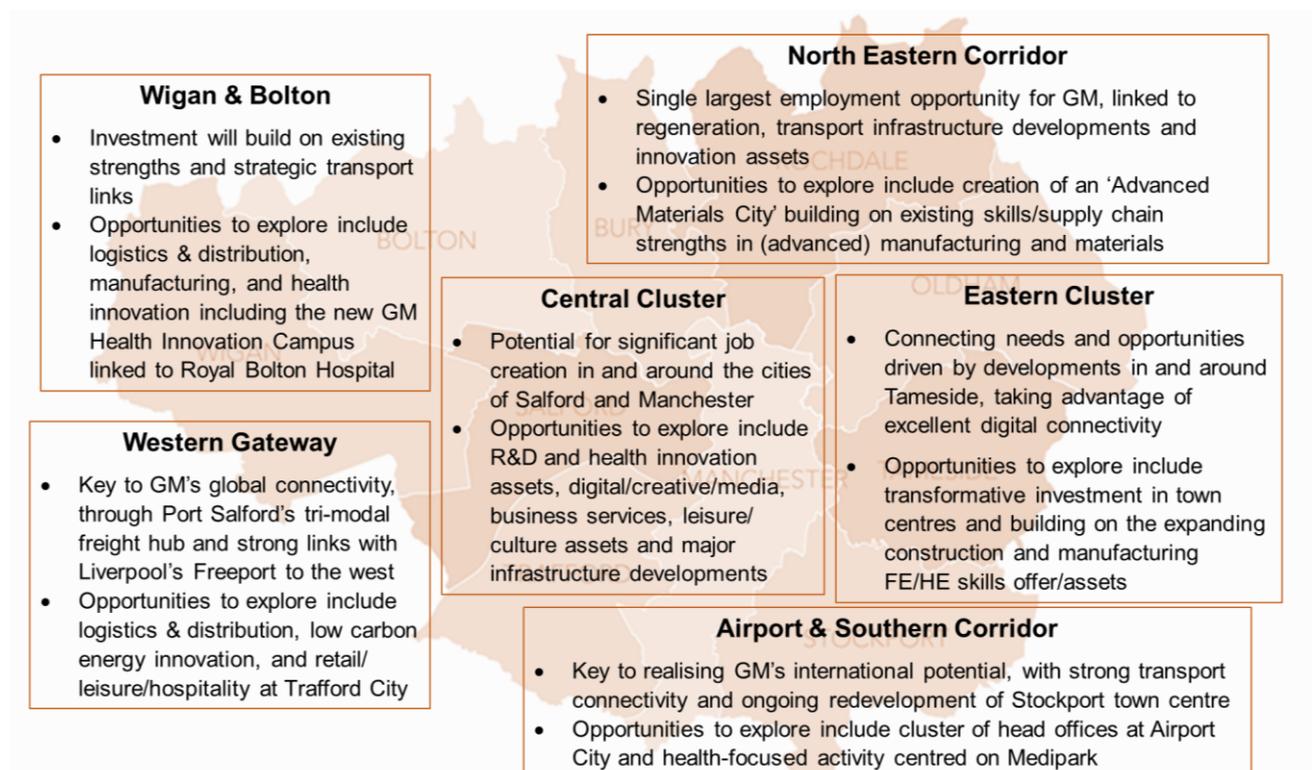
A piece of work is also underway to explore a number of **Growth Locations** across Greater Manchester which have the potential to drive inclusive economic growth, attract inward investment, capitalise on some of the city-region's innovation assets, and create jobs at scale, including in the high value frontier sectors.

Working with district partners and informed by the [Places for Everyone](#) plan and [Stockport Local Plan](#), six of these locations have been identified, presenting opportunities for the whole city-region to bring forward development at a scale that can drive transformational change in GM, including opportunities for communities and places which may not have benefitted previously from economic development and growth. These Growth Locations, with zero carbon ambitions integral to their design and delivery, each present the opportunity to enhance existing sectoral strengths and supply chains, and also set the platform for growth in new areas, such as Advanced Materials.

A key strand to the Growth Locations activity will be to ensure that further education, higher education and training providers are engaged and able to provide the necessary training and development to ensure that residents have the skills required to support

growth in both current industries and the planned future growth in new industries. As this work develops, it will consider the opportunity to create skills/training specialisms in each district linked to the types of growth planned, ensuring provision responds to evolving employer needs and enabling residents in every part of the city-region to contribute to and benefit from inclusive economic growth.

Fig. 1: Greater Manchester Growth Locations:



Skills Strengths, Gaps and Issues

Analysis of skills strengths and needs in a place is not simply a case of looking at skills supply based on residents' skills levels – often, but not always, using qualifications as a proxy for skills. It also requires consideration of the labour market 'skills ecosystem' in its entirety, including the impact of employer behaviour, business models/processes, and demand for skilled workers. For example, despite the number of employers reporting skills gaps, hard to fill vacancies, and workplaces with employees not fully proficient in their roles, more than a third of GM employers provided no training at all in 2019³.

³ [Employer Skills Survey, 2019](#)

Greater Manchester's thriving innovation economy described above highlights the need for an equally thriving skills and talent pipeline, with increased support for technical skills development, especially at level 3, 4 and 5, through apprenticeships and high quality technical/vocational education, providing the clear lines of sight and progression pathways into and within these high value roles and sectors.

At the same time, a large proportion of the GM workforce – at least two in every five jobs – is based in the foundation economy, key-workers delivering those everyday essential goods and services needed for social and economic functioning and wellbeing. Many of these roles tend to be considered low skill, but that might be as much a reflection of the low pay/low economic returns linked to service sectors rather than an accurate reflection of the skills, knowledge and attributes required to do the work.

Addressing functional numeracy, literacy, and digital skills, alongside enhancing essential skills and employability, remains a key challenge. Greater Manchester's population is lower skilled than the national average – especially in respect of the proportions of residents with no/low qualifications and those with level 4+ skills (see core indicators - A2.1).

Despite this skills/qualifications profile, skills shortages do not appear to be a particularly acute economy-wide problem (see A4.1-2). This might be due in part to a long-standing prevalence of low quality jobs and low demand for skilled labour, highlighted in the 2019 GM Independent Prosperity Review⁴ and a decade earlier in the Manchester Independent Economic Review⁵. But that overall picture masks distinct variations, with acute skills gaps in some individual sectors and occupations.

An employer-led response

Since 2019, GMCA's [industry skills and labour market intelligence function, established](#)

⁴ Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review (Feb 2019), <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/economy/greater-manchester-independent-prosperity-review/>

⁵ Manchester Independent Economic Review, *Understanding Labour markets, Skills and Talent*, 2009, p7 <http://manchester-review.org.uk/>

[as part of the Skills for Growth programme](#), has been building our understanding of the skills and employment strengths and needs of Greater Manchester’s **frontier sectors**, **foundation economy** and in the **cross-cutting capabilities/ enablers** which underpin the entire labour market. This employer-driven, evidence-led approach has since been mirrored in the government’s Skills for Jobs reform agenda, and is driving our response to the four core priorities set out in section 2.3 above. At February 2022, sectoral deep dives had been completed in:



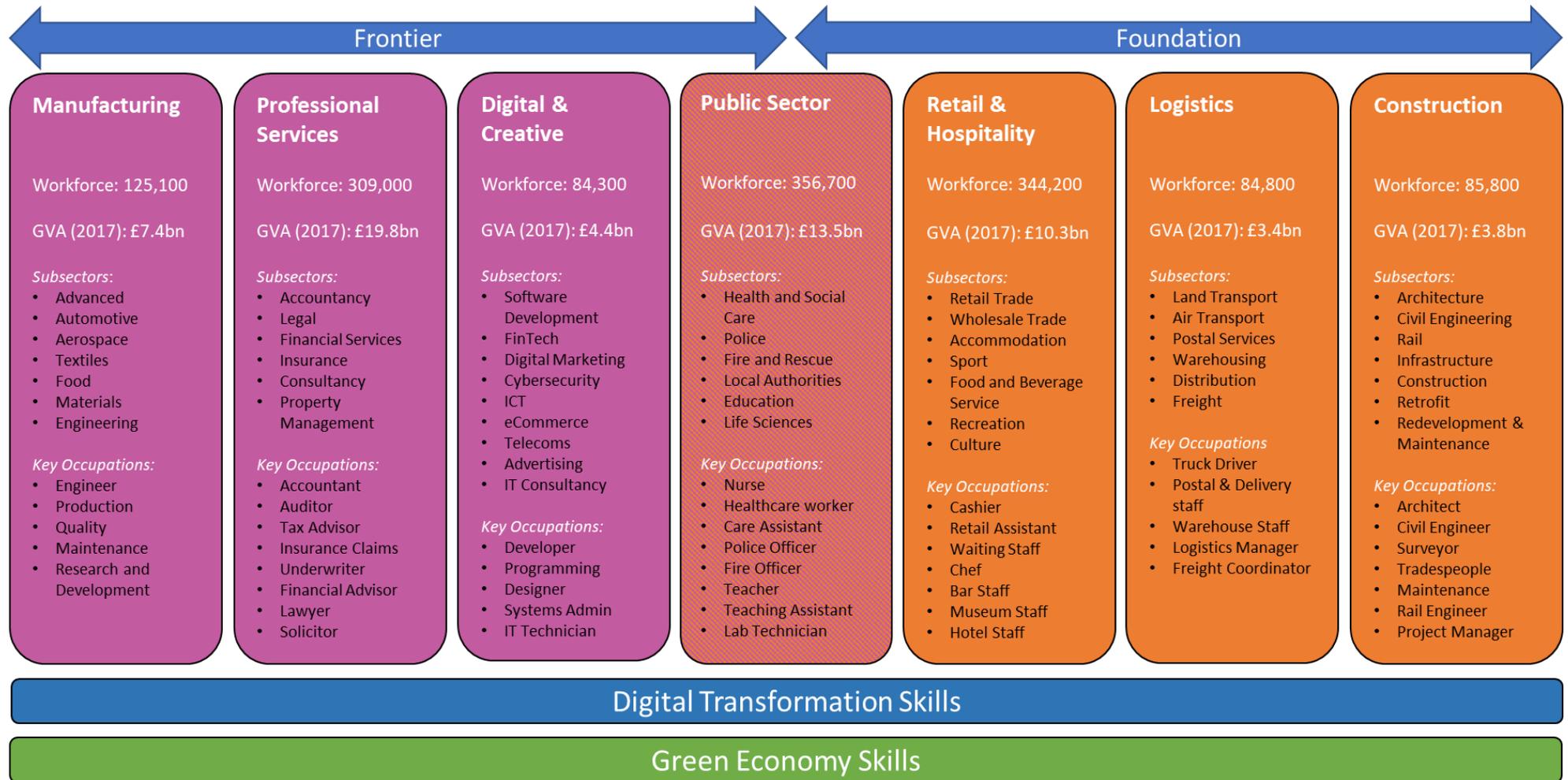
These sectors, together with Haulage & Logistics and consideration of wider contributions of digital transformation and low carbon transition in support of national and local targets around Net Zero, also reflect nationally identified priorities. The full reports are [available here](#) and sector overview summaries are set out at the beginning of the annex document that accompanies this report. The findings are already being addressed through the ESF Skills for Growth programme. Further deep dives are underway, with publication expected on an ongoing basis through Spring/early Summer 2022:



That work has highlighted a number of key in-demand occupations within each sector, summarised in Fig.2 below. However, many of the labour market issues facing these

sectors require a response that goes far beyond skills-based interventions. The next chapter of this report therefore narrows the focus from this broader landscape and drills down into a number of targeted skills priorities that the ESAP seeks to address.

Fig.2 – GM Economy: Sector Breakdown



4 Skills and Labour Market Strategy

4.1 The Strategic Framework

[Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth](#), (January 2021) outlined five areas of FE skills policy reform aimed at building a world-class further and technical education system, many elements of which reflect Greater Manchester's existing strategy for a more flexible, responsive system with our residents' and employers' needs at its heart. The [Levelling Up White Paper](#) (February 2022), published shortly before this report, reaffirmed those commitments and sent a further signal about the way that government policies and investment in education, skills and jobs will be marshalled to spread opportunity more evenly and boost productivity.

Alongside the national policy framework, Greater Manchester's labour market strategy is shaped by, and feeds into, a range of established place-based strategies/blueprints. These are listed in full in the Further Reading section at the end of this report and include the skills, work and economic development strategies at district level in each of our ten local authorities, and the [report from Greater Manchester's Independent Inequalities Commission](#).

4.2 GM Strategic Priorities

Greater Manchester's core ambitions, together with the rationale for each, were set out in detail in the first LSR. Those interdependent education, skills and work priorities (see section 2.3) remain the cornerstones of Greater Manchester's labour market strategy.

They are underpinned by a range of:

- **Cross-cutting priorities**
- **Priorities linked to Covid recovery, and**
- **Sector/occupationally specific priorities.**

4.2.1 Cross-cutting priorities

4.2.1.a Tackling inequalities and levelling up:

We must seize opportunities to dovetail implementation of the Levelling Up White Paper with our response to the recommendations from the GM Independent Inequalities Commission. Skills and employment interventions - via GM's devolved Adult Education Budget and other programmes – will have a vital role to play here, in:

1. Supporting employment and/or progression
2. Re-skilling and upskilling to enable all residents to benefit from opportunities in growth and foundation sectors of the economy
3. Supporting residents to improve their essential/basic skills, including English, maths and digital, including the new Multiply programme that will be delivered under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2022/23
4. Building stronger communities and engaging adult residents to return to education and training.

4.2.1.b Employer engagement:

None of our objectives can be delivered without employer involvement. Yet this has become an increasingly busy arena in which it is difficult for employers, especially SMEs and micro enterprises that make up around 90% of GM's business base, to understand skills/qualifications, the funding and incentives landscape, and to know how and where to engage with the system to greatest effect.

We must move away from a transactional 'ask and offer' approach to a more strategic relationship, which recognises both that the publicly funded skills and employment system can only do so much, and that employers have a much wider and richer role to play in developing the talent pipeline.

4.2.1.c Combatting climate change

Greater Manchester's ambition for carbon neutrality by 2038 and the clean growth

challenge is set out in GM's [Five Year Environment Plan](#)⁶, launched at in March 2019 during the second Greater Manchester Green Summit. This carries multiple skills opportunities and challenges, including (but not limited to) investing in innovation and development of new technologies, new approaches to the design, construction and maintenance of cleaner buildings, transport and other infrastructure, ensuring that the skills are in place to update and retrofit the existing infrastructure, and supporting businesses, communities and residents to develop their 'carbon literacy' and adopt cleaner practices.

These matters are being considered in detail within the sector deep dives, both in relation to Low Carbon Buildings and the Green Economy, and to the wider implications in other sectors, such as Manufacturing, Logistics and Rail.

4.2.1.d Ageing society and older workers:

Whilst employers and funders often prioritise training for young people, demographic change means that by 2041 the over-50 population is forecast to account for 83% of forecasted total population growth. GM has below national average economic activity rates for over-50s, a situation worsened by the pandemic, with older workers more likely to experience long-term unemployment and economic inactivity - in effect, entering unplanned and often involuntary early retirement. As many as 80% of the 'missing million' of individuals who have moved into economic inactivity as a result of the pandemic are aged over 50, and ONS data show that one-third of unemployed people aged over 50 have been out of work for at least a year, while one in five have been out of work for at least two years; this compares with 20% and 8% of those aged under 50 respectively.

With traditional employment support less effective at supporting older workers, there is a need to maintain and update currency of work-relevant knowledge and skills, and to build on the activity in this space that has made Greater Manchester the first place in the UK recognised by the WHO as an first age-friendly city-region.

4.2.1.e STEM skills:

The OECD estimates that around a third of existing jobs will change radically in the next

⁶ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/>

15-20 years as a result of automation/AI, and up to 14% of jobs – ‘sunset roles’ – could disappear completely. As set out in section 3.3 above, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) industries are key to Innovation GM and our LIS frontier sectors, and are powered by skills that can be applied throughout the economy.

Through [Greater Manchester’s STEM Framework](#) (launched in early 2020), we are taking an employer-led approach to identifying and increasing the pipeline for the priority occupations we need now and in the future, creating an agile and diverse STEM workforce, with the skills and flexibility Greater Manchester needs as we enter the fourth industrial revolution.

4.2.1.f Digital inclusion:

The pandemic underlined the importance of ensuring that all our residents have the digital skills and connectivity needed to access vital every-day services, opportunities for learning and work, and even social interactions that are crucial to health and well-being.

Our ambitions to be one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old, and to be recognised as a world-leading digital city-region, cannot be realised unless we focus on getting the foundations right. The ability to get online and to function safely and effectively is vital in an increasingly digital world, and baseline digital skills and proficiency in common software/tools are an entry ticket into the labour market. Greater Manchester has prioritised access to digital skills and an enhanced entitlement within our devolved AEB funding policy that goes beyond the statutory minimum (Level 1), supporting relevant learning which meets the Essential Digital Skills Framework up to and including Level 2.

4.2.1.g Commissioning, evaluation and social value:

Where our labour market and skills strategy is supported by funded activity, it is vital that strong performance/risk management, evaluation and social value principles are applied, managing resources and drawing in investment in ways that tackle inequalities and create lasting benefits to society, the environment and the economy. Smart commissioning strategies and approaches are adopted, and Social Value requirements have operated since 2017. This ensures our residents and employers receive quality services, are enabled to achieve sustainable outcomes, and that all local commissioning delivers the widest possible benefits for Greater Manchester.

4.2.2 Priorities for Covid-19 recovery and renewal

The themes of recovery and renewal are embedded throughout this labour market strategy, in both the sector-specific and cross-cutting priorities, in particular those targeting disadvantage and inequalities. Whilst Greater Manchester's *Living with Covid Resilience Plan* was developed as a 12 month response during the peak of the crisis, the approach it described to recovery, resilience and renewal, with activity focused around three areas, remains an appropriate framework for the ongoing labour market priorities and actions:

- where the impact of Covid has been significant and even devastating
- where the impact has caused challenge, and
- where the impact has driven innovation and accelerated new approaches.

These principles have influenced activity developed directly in response (for example, the Inequalities Commission recommendations and Greater Manchester's Young Person's Guarantee), as well as the shaping the way that GM-commissioned programmes were pivoted in the immediate response phase and continue to support residents and businesses (including AEB flexibilities, GM's Working Well suite of employment support, and the Enterprising You pilot programme testing skills support for low-income self-employed and gig economy workers). It is also a theme running through the industry intelligence reports.

4.2.3 Sector and Occupational Priorities

The industry intelligence work completed to date has identified a series of **sector/occupation-specific priorities**. Not all of those call for a wholly skills-focused response, nor are all within ESAP's gift to lead a direct response, but they illustrate the complex interdependencies of meeting the skills and workforce needs of businesses in some of our key sectors:

Sector and Occupational Strategic Priorities	Short term	Long term
Construction (including Retrofit)		
Skills curriculum/offer should include further reference to future skills like retrofit, sustainable building materials, modular building, and wider modern methods of construction.	x	x
Encourage employers to take ownership of the skills challenge themselves, supporting the future talent pipeline by opening up traineeship, apprenticeship, and other entry level positions for young people to gain occupational competence as well as qualifications	x	x
Respond to appetite from young people to consider environmental and sustainability issues in careers pathways by positioning construction occupations/careers as “Green jobs” where possible.	x	x
Work with government and CITB to review incentive schemes to ensure they are meeting objectives appropriately. Grant eligibility criteria should not disincentivise employers from taking on young people / job seekers who have already completed a relevant qualification.	x	
Local authorities, developers, and main contractors should review social value commitments included as part of procurement and planning permissions, to ensure they are fully meeting the needs of the sector.	x	
Digital		
Digital skills are needed in all sectors due to digital transformation. There is a need for “digital champions” in existing IT and wider non-technical roles to support with digital skills related to data, information governance, digital marketing, and digital finance applications.	x	
Careers: the digital industry offers lots of opportunity, but it is complex and some areas of the industry do not have clear progression pathways. Careers advice should include key messages around real life stories of those who have successfully navigated their route into the sector.	x	x
There needs to be more transition activity supporting individuals from training into employment, preferably by industry experts through mentoring activity which supports individuals with digital portfolio development, interview and CV techniques and navigating the sector.	x	

Inclusivity should be embedded in all skills initiatives with programming designed to remove barriers to engagement and target specific groups who may otherwise miss out.	x	
The wealth of inspiration activity promoting digital skills and careers needs to be joined up for maximum impact, including shared messaging, targeting, and better signposting and transition between them	x	
Education		
Immediate skills gaps include SEN training, careers guidance training (incl. SEN-specific), upskilling to support staff around child development delays due to COVID-19 pandemic; behaviour management; supply teachers training	x	
Staff throughout the education sector are dealing with children and young people with affected by the pandemic – from being less ‘school ready’ in early years settings to emotional / social difficulties across all settings. This cuts across many policy areas but in the short term, training is needed to help staff in better identifying and supporting those affected.	x	
Need for greater flexibility in training delivery models to meet the needs of both employers and employees (eg options for evening and weekend learning)	x	
Careers in the adult education sector need the same parity of esteem as working in schools. Since full teaching qualifications are not needed, there is a huge imbalance in pay.		x
High staff turnover in Early Years, in part due to low pay (often apprenticeship minimum rather than NMW/NLW) and feeling of being undervalued. Use GM Good Employment Charter and other levers to encourage improvements in pay and conditions.		x
Diversification of the workforce, both relating to gender balance and underrepresented groups within the education workforce. Whilst gender imbalance is a national issue, in GM the proportion of male working in the sector is lower than the UK average; male role models, as well as individuals from other underrepresented groups, to advocate for careers in the sector.		x
Green Economy		
Work with central government to understand their policies around preferred technologies and green solutions, so that we can work with employers and providers to build capacity in relevant parts of the system and the employer market can respond by upskilling staff.	x	x

GM to seize opportunities to become a centre of excellence around Retrofit training and technology, electric vehicle infrastructure skills, and electrical engineering skills.	x	
Prioritise reskilling individuals working in so-called “sunset jobs” – roles which will see decline in the shift to Net Zero (eg Gas Heating Engineers, Oil/Gas Extraction & Refinery, Mining, some ‘dirty’ Manufacturing jobs. Similar issues in supply chains: no big auto manufacturers or aerospace businesses in GM, but lots of firms operating in supply chains for components like combustion engines.)	x	x
Careers: enthusiasm from young people leaving schools and colleges for a career in a “Green” role should be harnessed and used to promote key in-demand occupations that aren’t traditionally thought of as Green Jobs, eg elements of construction, logistics, etc. Also need advice and resources in place to advise and support adults in ‘sunset jobs’.	x	x
Improve links between local skills policy, planning authorities, and transport authorities, including around schemes proposed under HS2/Integrated Rail Plan and Places for Everyone strategies, to ensure that skills capacity and development are given due thought in early project stages.	x	x
Work is required to increase basic carbon literacy across the economy: increasing all businesses’ awareness of Net Zero, and their understanding of/strategies for sustainability and carbon reduction in their business processes and practices.	x	x
Health and Social Care		
In addition to core skills, additional training is needed across the sector with topics such as compassionate management, values-based recruitment, sector specific language training and improved digital skills all being required.	x	
Resilience and wider Health & Wellbeing training should be available to all HSC staff, since burnout and stress are often attributed to high turnover and retention issues.	x	
Many staff have indicated a desire for upskilling and to be given additional responsibility within their role. Successful pilot projects should be rolled out further. Linked to this, further operation of multi-disciplinary teams is recommended. For example, pilot schemes involving care workers assuming some district nurse roles and supporting with some designated healthcare tasks have (anecdotally) improved job satisfaction helped recruitment and retention. This type of re-design helps strengthen more integrated career pathways.	x	x
Careers: perception of the sector must be changed, and HSC promoted as a career choice with good prospects and progression, and not just as a short-term role/last resort. This includes building better links with schools and colleges, career	x	x

and employability support organisations and job centres, dispelling myths, highlighting positive role models and key skills / values which make people successful in the role. Also ensuring that there are adequate work experience and placement opportunities		
There are clear issues around pay, terms and conditions particularly around entry level positions. GMCA and the HSCP would like to see more employers from the Sector sign up to the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter and look at how this can immediately be linked to the procurement process.		x
Work should be done around removing barriers into employment. Application processes should be changed to open the sector to a more diverse workforce. Values-based recruitment has been shown to be successful but isn't always understood.		x
Logistics		
Skills and labour shortages across all sub sectors: high numbers of vacancies and an unprecedented labour market shortage of HGV drivers. Highest vacancies are for Delivery Drivers, HGV Drivers, Transport Planners, Logistics Administrators, Transport Managers and Transport Co-ordinators.	x	
Skills gaps exist in the planning, control, and scheduling aspect of the sector, in roles such as planning supervisor and controller, and import/export specialists, as well as in warehousing roles, particularly workers with higher level digital skills.	x	
Work with government/IFATE to address gaps in Apprenticeship standards: Fleet Managers, Logistics Operations Maintenance / Procurement / Warehousing Managers, Supply Chain Managers.	X	x
Urgent demand for skills linked to automation and digital transformation, which are being driven at pace due to need for growth and efficiency.	x	
Soft skills continue to be a common theme for development in the sector, to improve efficiency and cohesion at all organisational levels.	x	
Following Brexit, businesses face challenges around the rules of import and export. Transport Management teams require upskilling around new rules, documentation and associated processes.	x	
Impact of net zero targets: introduction of low-emission schemes and an increase in sustainable technology innovation and development will drive higher costs and the demand for new skills in the sector.	x	x

Wider labour shortages linked to conditions and perceptions of the industry need to be addressed: whilst high recent demand has pushed wages up in some parts of the industry, the age profile of the workforce shows few young people entering the sector, particularly in driving roles.		x
Hospitality		
In addition to occupationally specific skills and labour shortages around chefs and other roles, wider training needs include sales and customer service skills, with a focus on business innovation.	x	
Explore modular approach to training programmes to meet the needs of businesses and emerging hospitality trends.	x	
Skills development needed in Recruitment & Selection to create more diverse talent pipeline, and raising better awareness amongst hospitality employers on the benefits of workforce development (beyond compulsory training) and government initiatives.	x	x
Careers: consider a campaign to invigorate appetite amongst young people and career switchers who may wish to explore a future career in hospitality, and to encourage the return of workers who might have left the sector during the pandemic.	x	
Hospitality associations and employers should consider designing a sector specific health and wellbeing charter in conjunction with staff working in the sector.	x	x
Life Sciences		
Shorter courses and modular alternatives to degree / Master's courses are required. Employers' specific skills needs may be more immediate and not need the full breadth of a longer course.	x	x
Promote/facilitate increased collaboration between SMEs to explore how, by working together, more training courses and apprenticeships become viable. Shared learning and networking also create a stronger ecosystem.	x	x
Careers: more must be done to position health and life sciences careers as rewarding - both financially and emotionally. The chance to make a social impact is a high priority for young people when choosing a career pathway – the sector should use this to encourage young people to take up roles in the sector and make a difference to human health.	x	x

Diversification of the workforce: employers should ensure that that they are working to improve representation in the sector. While this is a long-standing issue, more and better engagement with young people from underrepresented groups and disadvantaged backgrounds would be beneficial.	x	x
Need for greater clarity around Incentive payments from government and a 'funding map' to address confusion across the sector around the support available to support learning and growth.	x	
Manufacturing		
Support employers with the transition to digitalisation and automation – these developments are a great opportunity to develop some staff into subject matter experts within their business, improving job satisfaction and productivity.	x	x
Facilitate and enhance peer-to-peer business networks around skills delivery. Many networks exist but have been hampered by the pandemic.	x	
Progression routes, potential future careers, and occupation pathways should be made clearer and linked to formal qualifications, to improve transparency for existing staff.	x	x
Work with business networks to increase number of STEM Ambassadors across GM.	x	
Build better and more valuable links between local employers and schools to dispel myths and improve reputation of the Manufacturing sector. In particular, role models from technical engineering and production backgrounds should be encouraged to engage.	x	x
Encourage diverse hiring practices within the GM manufacturing sector, targeting under-represented groups and promoting the sector to remove barriers and increase opportunities.	x	x

5 Skills Action Plan

A local strategy alone cannot deliver the nature and scale of activity needed, and skills interventions alone cannot transform the labour market. The challenge of balancing actions needed for recovery, tackling labour market (and other) inequalities, and enabling inclusive growth and productivity gains is a complex one. In both policy and commissioning terms, it requires a combination of actions that can be undertaken at sufficient scale to have impact, together with activities that are suitably tailored, flexible and responsive to employers' and residents' needs on the ground.

As a Panel, we will continue to engage with members' respective networks, including central government departments and their local agencies, to make full use of the Panel's reach to build connections, influence policy and provide system stewardship, working together to integrate national, city-region and local activity in ways that simplify the offer, and deliver the best possible outcomes for individuals and employers.

With commissioned skills and work programmes, this means bringing together a combination of:

- **National:** large-scale universal activity where volumes and resources required can only reasonably be led by central Government, or where a lighter touch approach to support is adequate to achieve a positive outcome for the individual. These national programmes must, nonetheless, work in the local context
- **Co-commissioned:** partnership activity which meets local needs by aligning national policy and resourcing at scale with co-design and/or co-commissioning with local partners in Greater Manchester. This approach has seen successful 'test and learn' activity in which we have piloted activity in partnership with government (such as the successful bootcamp pilots initially funded by DCMS and then expanded by DfE and now being rolled out as the cornerstone of the National Skills Fund), as well as co-commissioned programmes such as GM's activity in partnership with DWP and JCP to deliver GM Working Well (Work and Health Programme). In this way we can help government to view the interaction

and interdependencies of skills, work and health policies and programmes in a place

- **Local:** tailored programmes and interventions designed, commissioned and delivered locally for residents requiring more intensive or bespoke skills/employment support, and enabling greater alignment of programmes/funding streams and reduction in silo working. Examples include our sector-focused skills provision through GM's ESF Skills for Growth programme, flexibilities within devolved AEB funding policy, and the local additionality offered within Working Well, such as Early Help and the Specialist Employment Service for people with a learning disability and/or autism via GM's ten local authorities and Individual Placement and Support for people with a severe mental illness.

Rather than setting out the full range of Greater Manchester's labour market actions across all core priorities (these were set out in detail in the Panel's 2021 report and many are ongoing), the table below focuses on specific actions planned for the next 12 months to address the cross-cutting, sector-focused priorities and inequalities-focused priorities identified in Chapter 4 above.

Action Plan, 2022-23	Partners	Timescale
Young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market, with a balance of academic, technical and 'life ready' skills		
Ensure high quality technical pathways into priority sectors by supporting further T-level roll-out across GM	Colleges Employers/ ERBs	Ongoing collaboration and support ahead of roll-out in September 2022
Work with employers/ERBs to support talent pipeline activity to strengthen links between the worlds of education and employment through generation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T level placements • Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities (all ages) • Employer/workplace encounters and related activity (through Pledge5, Meet Your Future and similar campaigns) 	ESAP LEP Employers/ ERBs	Ongoing
Continue to support education leaders to bring about sustainable change in careers education and embed careers and enterprise in education by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • facilitating links between schools/colleges and employers through the GM Enterprise Adviser Network, including dedicated support for schools/employers around young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) • expansion of the GM Careers Hub to deliver full coverage across GM. 	ESAP GMCA Careers & Enterprise Company Employers/ ERBs LEP Local Authorities	Ongoing Specialist SEND specialist Careers & Enterprise Co-ordinator from Spring 2022
Continue to develop services for young people that help to build and improve life- and work-readiness, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and refresh the Greater Manchester Apprenticeships & Careers Service (GMACS) platform to include: financial literacy/digital inclusion/health & wellbeing support, dedicated pages for employers/post-16 providers/LAs/teachers, Young Person's Guarantee 	GMCA Employers Providers	GMACS refresh: Spring 2022

<p>commitments, GM Curriculum for Life, live opportunities from employers/social capital, young person's blog, social action/citizenship resources, and improved navigation/ease of use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued development and testing of early beta Curriculum for Life, designed by young people Scale up/roll out the #BeeWell programme which focuses on wellbeing as a key factor in tackling inequalities in education attainment and health outcomes, following a successful pathfinder phase in Autumn 2021 that saw almost 40,000 secondary school pupils across GM take part in a survey co-designed by young people and building on GM's previous Life Readiness surveys. 		<p>CfL testing:</p> <p>#BeeWell – ongoing</p>
<p>Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly skilled careers and retraining</p>		
<p>Ensure AEB funded adult skills provision continues to meet needs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English, maths and digital skills (linked to statutory entitlements) to residents without relevant qualifications Working with providers to shift the offer in ways that build progression pathways into priority occupations/sectors, from entry level upwards ongoing delivery, monitoring and review of the Level 3 entitlement (Lifetime Skills Guarantee) including the GM Level 3 offer, which extends eligibility to qualifications in local priority sectors not covered by the national offer. 	<p>AEB funded skills providers (Colleges, Local Authorities, Independent Training Providers, VCSE sector)</p>	<p>Ongoing. AEB funding arrangements extended for AY 2022/23. New qualifications to be added from April 2022</p>
<p>Work with DfE to support development and roll-out of government's UKSPF-funded <i>Multiply numeracy initiative</i>, in partnership with local providers and other relevant organisations to integrate the programme into the GM essential skills and employability offer in ways that avoid duplication, displacement and competition with existing numeracy/maths provision – further details awaited from government.</p>	<p>ESAP, GMCA, DfE, HMT, DWP/JCP Local skills & employment support providers, VCSE sector</p>	<p>Details to be confirmed by DfE – expected launch in Aug 22 (for delivery in AY22/23 to 24/25)</p>

<p>Develop AEB commissioning strategy for 2023/24 onwards, with particular consideration given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stronger links between AEB funded provision and pathways into/within GM’s priority sectors • a more place-based approach, recognising different needs across districts, with reference to Growth Locations • focus on outcomes and progression • improved analysis of learner journeys. 	<p>GMCA ESAP All providers Local Authorities Employers</p>	<p>Autumn 2022</p>
<p>Developing, evaluating and, where appropriate, scaling up targeted test & learn activity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with DWP and Tameside Borough Council to deliver the Tameside In Work Progression Service pilot • Targeted support for the over-50s – including launch of age-friendly employer toolkit • Removing Barriers to Apprenticeship pilots – including scaling up supported apprenticeships model for people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) based on successful Salford Supported Apprenticeships project 	<p>ESAP GMCA DWP/JCP LAs All providers</p>	<p>Ongoing IWPS – from January 2022</p> <p>Launch toolkit: Spring 2022</p> <p>Supported Apps: Spring 2022</p>
<p>GM Works: As set out in the Mayor’s manifesto, we will develop a ‘one stop’ platform for residents to access information and advice on the range of services and provision available to help them move into work, progress in their careers, undertake training and upskill, and move into or progress in self-employment. This will pull together all of the activity outlined above, plus services commissioned/delivered by partners in GM, and will build/develop existing tools to incorporate access to personal coaching, an interactive skills builder and job matching.</p>	<p>GMCA ESAP (and members’ wider networks)</p>	<p>Development: spring/summer 2022. Testing phase: late 2022. Launch: spring/ summer 2023</p>
<p>Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work, driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices</p>		
<p>Subject to confirmation of funding by DfE, expand Bootcamps provision at levels 3-5, funded via the National Skills Fund, to provide intensive training to address employers’ hard-to fill/skills shortage vacancies in priority sectors and support residents with the technical skills needed for roles:</p>	<p>DfE GMCA/ESAP Providers Employers</p>	<p>In-principle approach considered by ESAP in Jan</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission new bootcamp projects across GM's frontier sectors (including Digital & Creative, Advanced Materials/Manufacturing, Green Economy, Life Sciences), supporting 2,500 people into live job vacancies • Explore the potential of the bootcamp model to support foundation economy sectors with labour shortages such as health & social care and hospitality • Building upon the recommendations of the Inequalities Commission, we will target groups of residents underrepresented in key sectors and facing disadvantage in the labour market, learning from successes in overcoming barriers in bespoke, targeted projects within GM's Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund pilot. 		<p>2022 and GMCA in Feb 2022.</p> <p>Develop specifications/ launch commissioning in early Spring 2022 for delivery from May/June onwards</p>
<p>Continue implementation of GM's £42m ESF Skills for Growth programme, supporting up-skilling and progression for 25,000 residents, and support for 3,000 SMEs to September 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing delivery of SME Support (launched October 2021) • Ongoing delivery of provision commissioned to date: Retrofit, Digital (Reskill/Upskill), Digital (Skills for Growth & Productivity), Health & Social Care, Manufacturing (Lean Manufacturing & Management), Manufacturing (Digitalisation), Construction, Hospitality. • Commissioning and launch of new skills provision across Allied Health Professions, Life Sciences, Logistics, and Cross-sector professional skills (Sales, Marketing & Business Development). • Complete remaining industry intelligence reports to build the evidence base and work with industry, employers and providers to implement individual action plans for each sector: Green Economy, Advanced Manufacturing, Finance, Business & Professional Services, FinTech, Rail, Retail, Culture/Creative, Education, Digital (Public Sector Digitalisation). 	<p>GMCA Skills Observatory Employers/ERBs Providers Growth Location partners/LAs</p>	<p>SME Support: from Oct 2021</p> <p>From June 2021</p> <p>Jan-March 2022</p> <p>Complete all reports and associated commissioning by Summer 2022</p>
<p>Work with GM LEP to explore opportunities to champion improved carbon literacy and carbon management within businesses (especially SMEs) across the GM economy, with the expansion/embedding of green skills and low carbon business practices</p>	<p>GM LEP Employers/ERBs</p>	<p>Spring/Summer 2022</p>

Work with Greater Manchester Institute of Technology partners to ahead of launch, including engagement across wider system to ensure pipeline and clear pathways into IoT provision	GMIoT partnership, led by University of Salford (HE / FE / industry) Employers GMCA	Ongoing ahead of formal launch in Sept 2023
Continue to support collective approach to/commissioning of Apprenticeships provision within GM public service employers via Public Sector Apprenticeships network	Public sector employers GMCA	Ongoing
Residents are supported by a welfare system, under Universal Credit, that provides access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't.		
Work with JCP to align locally funded skills provision (including AEB, Sector-based Work Academies, bootcamps) with GM Working Well suite of programmes to support jobseekers into roles within priority sectors, including social care, hospitality, logistics.	GMCA JCP Skills providers	Ongoing
Continue to develop the Elemental social prescribing platform linked to the GM Working Well suite to test innovative approaches to referring residents to a wide menu of integrated support and services, including skills and employability interventions, in order to tackle the link between poor health, low skills and worklessness.	GMCA GMHSCP JCP Ingeus	Ongoing
Work with partners delivering UK Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund projects in 2022 to ensure successful delivery and integration into existing GM/district labour market support landscape.	ESAP/GMCA Providers DLUHC	CRF: to June 2022 LUF: ongoing

6 Assessment of Progress

6.1 Taking a local leadership role

ESAP has focused on providing leadership, both in setting the direction of travel for future activity over which Greater Manchester has direct control and in providing system stewardship to ensure national policy operates effectively in the local context. This will be increasingly important moving forward, in order to ensure that the increasing volume of national policies, interventions and commissioned programmes are implemented in ways that genuinely meet local needs and integrate within the existing landscape, avoiding duplication, displacement and unhelpful competition.

As is reflected throughout this report, ESAP has been developing its role as the primary labour market forum in Greater Manchester, bringing together networks of core stakeholders to consider skills and work priorities and contribute real-time intelligence, to provide challenge, and to shape the way in which the skills and employment ecosystem in Greater Manchester responds to new and existing challenges.

That will continue as we take forward the actions outlined in this report in the context of the Skills for Jobs and the associated funding and accountability reforms and Skills Bill, and the Levelling Up White Paper. We will work with central government to develop and implement new measures in ways that best deliver our shared ambitions. And we will work with local partners, providers and stakeholders – including businesses, sector networks and ERBs – to integrate any new activity into the GM landscape, aligning existing approaches, policies, programmes and investment effectively, and making those vital connections between residents, employers and providers.

6.2 Enhancing local knowledge

We have seen a step-change in Greater Manchester in the way that we are gathering and using intelligence about current and future skills needs. We have stronger links than ever before with industry and a broader range of qualitative and quantitative analysis at our disposal through the GM Skills Observatory partnership, which shares, corroborates and sense-checks the rich array of data and research from across the

partner organisations, and regularly presents its findings and outputs to ESAP in order to help shape the Panel's thinking.

As we look ahead to the roll-out of Local Skills Improvement Plans following evaluation of the trailblazer, we can do so with the confidence of knowing that the foundations of the employer-driven, evidence based approach that is at the heart of the LSIP policy intent is already well-established.

In order to develop this function and enhance our understanding still further, local discussions are underway about how ESAP and its networks will bring together ever-more granular evidence/intelligence, built from the ground up across Greater Manchester's districts and with much deeper reach into Greater Manchester's 100,000+ business base. In particular, we need to improve our understanding of what more needs to be done to link the increasing numbers of unemployed and economically inactive residents with the record levels of job vacancies. We also need to improve the range and coherence of activity on the demand side, supporting businesses in contributing to every part of the talent pipeline, from articulating and sharing intelligence around their current skills needs, to the opportunities they can offer beyond the 'business of doing business'.

6.3 Covid recovery and renewal plans

Over the last year, the Panel has maintained the balance described in the first LSR between, on the one hand, supporting individuals, employers and sectors directly impacted by the pandemic and, on the other, continuing to address existing labour market inequalities. ESAP shaped the skills and employment elements of GM's economic resilience plan and continues to focus on building a fairer, greener and more resilient labour market for the future.

With the recognition that Covid is something that we must learn to live with – as individuals, communities, businesses and policy-makers – comes the recognition that resilience requires sustainable approaches to driving change, rather than short-term initiatives that result in cliff-edges as funding and programmes fall away. This is why the Panel's focus moving forward will be on embedding activity that will support the creation

of good jobs and a skills system to match, and tackling some of those inequalities that made the difference between the pandemic having a catastrophic impact rather than a challenging one for so many.

The value of timely intelligence available locally through ESAP members' respective networks has come to the fore during the pandemic and will continue to be a key element of that sustainable, integrated approach to renewal and inclusive growth.

6.4 Impact on local skills and employment support provision

In partnership with providers, we are beginning to tackle some long standing gaps and mismatches in skills supply and demand through:

- major programmes of skills commissioning, incorporating new elements of devolved AEB (including the new national and GM Level 3 offer), and launching a series of sector-focused skills and capacity-building programmes under the £40m ESF Skills for Growth Programme
- using the flexibilities of devolved AEB funding policy in partnership with Local Authorities to tackle barriers to participation in essential skills provision, including accessing the new digital skills entitlement and scaling up the successful ESOL Support Service which has streamlined the initial assessment approach for ESOL and reduced waiting lists for learners
- testing scalable pilot approaches to meeting skills and employment needs tailored to particular cohorts or occupational areas, such as the bootcamp model that has been rolled out nationally following successful pilots in Greater Manchester and other locations
- continuing to build stronger links between the worlds of education and employment through Greater Manchester's Enterprise Adviser Network, which is approaching full coverage of all eligible schools and colleges in Greater Manchester, expanding the GM Careers Hub to deliver full coverage across the city-region, and in populating GMACS with the most up-to-date labour market information coming out of the industry intelligence work

- aligning skills and employment support in collaboration with JCP and GM Working Well delivery partners, including extension of the devolved Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) programme, implementation of Restart support for the long-term unemployed, stewardship of the Kickstart programme through a local stakeholder board, and delivering a programme of AEB-funded training to support Working Well clients into vacancies in the social care sector.

One of the areas that we were unable to progress as intended has been the establishment of more robust 'steady state' baseline data to inform the next tranche of AEB commissioning, due to the continued disruption arising from the pandemic. With a view to developing the AEB commissioning strategy for 2023/24 and beyond, this will be one of the areas for focus moving forwards, in particular establishing better baseline information about the community learning aspects of AEB provision to ensure that from the earliest stages on a learning journey, the skills, knowledge and attributes being developed set up those clear lines of sight and progression pathways into the occupations and sectors that have been identified as having inclusive growth potential. In parallel we will work with providers, in particular Greater Manchester's FE institutions, to ensure that they have the tools they need, in the context of FE reforms, to realise their full potential as anchor institutions in each place.

Whilst some of our activity is intangible – the influencing, nudging and behavioural change that are the engine room this kind of long-term journey of change, the impact is already making a clear difference to tens of thousands of our residents and businesses. Some non-exhaustive examples of impact to date are highlighted below, linked to Greater Manchester's four core education, skills and work ambitions:

Young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market, with a balance of academic, technical and ‘life ready’ skills	Careers & Enterprise: GM Careers Hub extended to deliver full coverage with Careers Leaders across GM, together with 190 Enterprise Advisers matched to almost every school and college across GM, with all school/college Careers Leaders receiving regular CPD alongside support from their Enterprise Coordinator and Enterprise Adviser
	Wellbeing and Life Readiness: 40,000 secondary school pupils across GM took part in the #BeeWell survey in autumn 2021, co-designed by young people and building on GM’s previous year 10 Life Readiness surveys
	Gatsby Benchmarks: 34 schools/colleges are fully implementing all eight Benchmarks and nearly a quarter are fully implementing seven Benchmarks
	GMACS: Over 100,000 student users of GMACS
	Meet Your Future: campaign reached just under 50,000 young people in 2020/2021, with more opportunities to engage planned in 2022
	Pledge 5: Over 300 employer pledges received for opportunities (eg workplace experiences, apprenticeships, mentoring and traineeships) for c.1,500 young people as part of a Mayoral initiative to engage new GM employers in supporting the talent pipeline
	NEET: £10m ESF NEET and Youth Employment programme commissioned to support 6,000 young people and young adults (15-24yrs) not in education, employment or training
Young Person’s Guarantee: System engagement across GM’s public sector, VCSE sector and corporate partnerships, to join up services/offers and deliver against the YPG priorities identified by young people themselves.	
Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs	Adult Education Budget: Funded almost a quarter of a million adult skills courses for 100,000 residents during the first two years of the devolved Adult Education Budget (c.£96 million/pa).
	Level 3 Lifetime Skills Guarantee: rolled out the new L3 entitlement, supplemented with a GM qualifications list to extend the entitlement to occupational areas in GM not covered by the national offer
	Tackling Barriers: provided targeted funding to support access to AEB provision including a £1.5m Local Authority grants programme to tackle digital exclusion and barriers to accessing AEB and ESOL courses

<p>throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly skilled careers and retraining</p>	<p>ESOL Advice Service: worked with Local Authorities to scale up Manchester City Council's ESOL Advice Service model, which has improved the assessment, referral and enrolment process for residents waiting for English language provision and shortened waiting lists</p>
	<p>Retraining and Upskilling: Supported over 1,200 residents to date through Bootcamp pilots, with more in development, as well as supporting low-income self-employed people and individuals working in the gig economy to upskill through EnterprisingYou</p>
	<p>Covid-19 responsiveness: Introduced flexibilities to respond to changing needs during the pandemic and to fill gaps in national support</p>
	<p>Older Apprentices: 160 over 50s were surveyed to understand their views of undertaking an apprenticeship to further their career or re-train to help develop our skills offer for older workers</p>
<p>Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work, driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices</p>	<p>Skills for Growth SME Support: £7m programme has supported over 1,000 businesses and 1,300 individuals to Jan 2022</p>
	<p>Sector-focused skills provision: Seven specialist skills programmes with total value of £12.5m in place at Jan 2022, delivering higher level modular programmes for upskilling workers across priority sectors, with further specifications in development</p>
	<p>GM Apprenticeship Levy Matchmaking Service: 500 new apprenticeship starts funded by levy transfers within GM since service launch in August 2019, with a total value of £5m</p>
	<p>Removing Barriers to Apprenticeships: 7 small-scale pilot projects funded to tackle and better understand under-representation in our apprentice population. 99 learners engaged across the 7 projects</p>
	<p>Technical skills pipeline: By September 2022, all GM FE colleges will be delivering T levels, across four sectors. All nine FE colleges and three sixth form colleges have worked with Gatsby to prepare for roll-out, with five 'community of practice' networks established for subject specialists to share best practice</p>
	<p>GM Public Sector Network: Continued collaboration / collective commissioning of apprenticeship provision across GM's LAs, blue-light services and health & social care employers</p>
<p>Residents are supported by a welfare system,</p>	<p>Work & Health Programme: Supported 19,200 residents to date through the devolved Working Well (Work & Health Programme), of whom more than 7,500 have entered work</p>

<p>under Universal Credit, that provides access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't</p>	<p>Job Entry Targeted Support: £19.5m programme to support 20,000 newly/recently unemployed. Supported >10,000 residents, achieving 125% of the referral target and more than 200% of the job outcome target</p>
	<p>Elemental: Launched social prescribing platform, enabling referral to a menu of integrated support & services to WW clients in GM</p>
	<p>WW Early Help: £6.5m programme testing early intervention system; supported 3,000 residents who were newly unemployed or at risk of becoming so due to adverse health conditions</p>
	<p>Specialist Employment Support: Launched £4m three-year service that will support 1,200 people with complex health needs and disabilities</p>

7 Positive Impact Stories

Case Study: Greater Manchester ESF Skills for Growth – boosting skills, reducing carbon

Greater Manchester’s £42million ESF Skills for Growth programme will provide sector-focused upskilling and support in-work progression for 25,000 individuals and 3,000 businesses over the three years to September 2023. Since the programme was launched in autumn 2020, over 1,000 SMEs have already benefited from the SME Support element, and commissions have been awarded for skills programmes in Retrofit, Digital Careers Upskilling, Digital Skills for Growth & Productivity, Construction, Health & Social Care, and Lean Manufacturing & Management.

The first of these industry-driven programmes to go live was the **Retrofit Skills Hub**, a £1.1m programme launched in June 2021 to upskill 1,140 individuals, not only in relevant technical skills but working with business leaders and building provider capacity. The programme is being delivered by the North West Skills Academy’s Low Carbon Academy, along with partners The Retrofit Academy, The Manchester College, Oldham College and Fabric.



Safeil Maqbool - Managing Director, Grayson Building Services Ltd

As a quantity surveyor by trade with 10 years’ experience within the construction industry and already qualified as a Retrofit Coordinator, Safeil was keen to give his team the opportunity to upskill and transfer existing skills into a NVQ within the suite of Insulation qualifications, and has several members of his team in training to date.

“As the business owner I thought it was key for me to fully understand every element of the qualifications and the concept to ensure that, firstly, the qualifications were fit for purpose, and to support all my installers in my business. By doing this I have been able

to ensure we are, and will be, PAS2035 compliant and that as a business the team has a 'fabric first' approach.

"The process has been simple from talking initially with Stephanie in the recruitment team to being on programme and working with Tutor/Assessor Phil. Phil has been great with myself and my team - he has been on hand to support throughout, delivering 1-1 sessions, building our knowledge and understanding and coming out to sites."

Michael Wilson - Insulation Manager, Next Energy

Next Energy, a domestic heating and insulation company, work on sites across the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester. They are already PAS 2035 compliant but Michael wanted to futureproof the business by ensuring that the whole insulation workforce has the skills and qualifications required to maintain compliance when specialist staff were not available.

Next Energy originally signed up two members of staff, but after they successfully completed their Insulation qualification, Michael signed up four more members of the team, recognising that, not only will he have a fully trained and qualified workforce, but retention will improve as the investment in their development shows team members that they are valued.

Samuel Riley – CEO, Low Carbon Academy

The Low Carbon Academy is supporting progression/up-skilling within the sector by delivering both full qualifications as part of the Skills for Growth Programme and intensive, short intensive training through Retrofit bootcamps.

As well as CEO of the Low Carbon Academy, Sam is a member of the Mayor of Greater Manchester's Retrofit Taskforce and vice-chair of its Retrofit Skills sub-group, launched in May 2021 to bring together industry, infrastructure and education/skills specialists to look at how infrastructure improvements can take place on a mass scale, while identifying opportunities to boost new skills, create good jobs, and drive investment in low-carbon industries.

"Greater Manchester is making real progress to tackle the skills shortage in Construction and Retrofit. The retrofit bootcamps welcome new entrants into the sector

whilst the ESF Skills for Growth Retrofit and Construction programme focusses on upskilling the workforce to higher levels.

“Alongside these commissions, the Retrofit Taskforce are working hard in a sub group to connect private providers, colleges and universities so we can provide a full end-to-end solution for GM employers and residents. I am proud to be leading on behalf of private retrofit training providers and, together, I believe we can support GM in achieving net zero by 2038.”

Case Study: Working with employers to develop Occupational Traineeships

The UK’s Fashion and Textile industry has flourished in the past five years and forecasts predict continued growth and a positive long-term outlook for fashion and textile manufacturing in line with the rise of the ‘Made in Britain’ marque. Greater Manchester’s Manufacturing industry is one of our priority frontier sectors, with a number of niche strengths, including textiles manufacturing.

However, this resurgence is threatened by an unprecedented skills crisis in the industry. Discussions with employers have highlighted challenges around recruiting staff and developing talent pipelines in this industry, and DfE were keen to develop pilots for occupational traineeships where there are hard to fill vacancies for apprenticeships and other roles. In addition, whilst there are new Apprenticeship standards and pathways at Levels 2,3 and 4, they are not currently being delivered by Greater Manchester colleges or providers, and a gap was identified at entry level to support talent into the sector.

Following discussions with DfE, and in light of the gaps highlighted in the GM Skills for Growth industry intelligence report on Manufacturing skills, GMCA approached UKFT (the Sector Skills Body for the UK fashion & textile industry) to explore an occupational traineeship pilot. Partners across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, including Salford City College, have worked together to develop a UKFT-accredited Occupational Traineeship to encourage young people into the industry.

Initially, 20 of these fully funded occupational traineeships will be available in Spring 2022 with employers across Greater Manchester and Lancashire for candidates aged 16 to 24 years. They will complete a six-week course which includes a minimum of 70-hours work experience, a Level 1 qualification covering the basics in sewing or textiles manufacturing, and a job or apprenticeship interview.

Case Study: Skills Bootcamps - Fast Track Digital Workforce

Skills Bootcamps provide intensive training courses lasting up to 16 weeks, giving people the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast track to an interview with a local employer with vacancies and skills gaps. The key objectives are to support adults to retrain and help employers to fill current skills shortage vacancies. According to Manchester Digital's 2022 [Digital Skills Audit](#), 54% of businesses in the digital industry were unable to fill vacancies in the last year and 59% of businesses said they couldn't find candidates with the desired skills, knowledge or behaviour. However, businesses that recruited from bootcamps or reskilling courses say the skill level, knowledge and behaviours either met or exceeded expectations.

In Greater Manchester we have been delivering bootcamps since 2019 through the **Fast Track Digital Workforce Fund**, initially working with DCMS and Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership, and then with DfE, to test digital skills bootcamps. This multi-year £5.9m pilot which has benefited 1,200 learners to date, the success of which has led to further opportunities to work with Government to develop local approaches to retraining in the region. These pilot projects have involved close collaboration between employers and training providers to co-design and co-deliver courses that best meet employers' skills needs, and we have also encouraged projects that focus on under-represented cohorts and those experiencing disadvantage/labour market inequalities, an approach which has seen real successes, including.

- **Skills City** – Based at HOST at MediaCityUK, Skills City aims to break down barriers faced by those from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds by fast tracking them into careers in technology. Delivering bootcamps in the

most in-demand industry skills including Cloud, Cyber Security and Data Analytics

- **Sharp Futures** – Based at the Sharp Project in Manchester, Sharp Futures is a social enterprise that supports diverse talent into the creative & digital sector in partnership with the likes of BBC & ITV. Through the pilot they ran short courses in production management and content creation helping young people get into the creative industry.
- **Tech Returners** – Tech Returners remove the barriers faced by returners faced by career breaks and empower skilled people back into technology careers in partnership with the likes of Autotrader and AO. Through the pilot they ran software related programmes helping people to return to a tech career and upskill into a better role.

"Before starting this course, I was unemployed and teaching myself to code. I'd been applying for junior developer jobs to no avail.

I saw the opportunity of gaining employment within the cyber industry in Manchester and applied for the course. I'm hoping to learn, grow and gain employment through the course with Raytheon."

Daniel, Raytheon Cyber Academy participant

 FastTrackFund

"I love the program, the technical tutor has years of practical experience and a wealth of knowledge and manages to explain complex networking concepts in a way that everyone can understand.

It is difficult to say what I am enjoying the most, although sharing my journey with my classmates and learning together with a brilliant support system has been invaluable."

Tech Equity Manchester student, Jaime



#FastTrackFund

Case study: Aligning devolved skills and employment support to fill social care vacancies: Northern Care Alliance

The health and social care sector is one of the cornerstones of our foundation economy, accounting for almost 13% of Greater Manchester's labour market. The vital role of social care in particular has never been more apparent, with job vacancies for these key worker roles remaining high throughout the pandemic. With a combination of skills gaps and labour shortages more generally, it is one of the occupational areas experiencing most pressing shortages of suitably skilled and experienced workers.

Greater Manchester's unique range of devolved functions across skills, work and health, and the strong relationship between GMCA and the GM Health & Social Care Partnership, have enabled alignment our devolved adult education provision and employment support through GM Working Well (Work & Health Programme) to address gaps in the social care workforce.

Leaders of the Northern Care Alliance (an NHS Foundation Trust created by bringing together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust), identified a need for additional support with the recruitment and retention of social care workers, particularly those delivering home care services.

Through a partnership between Northern Care Alliance, Salford Employ, Greater Manchester Mental Health, Salford Adult Social Care, the CCG and The Growth Company a package has been developed aimed at unemployed and low-income in-work claimants interested in pursuing a career in Health and Social Care. That package encompasses fully funded, accredited training, work experience to help boost confidence and apply that new learning in practice, and occupationally specific ESOL provision for individuals who need additional support to communicate in a care setting/context. It also includes flexible recruitment practices such as two day working interviews to ensure a good match for both employer and candidate.

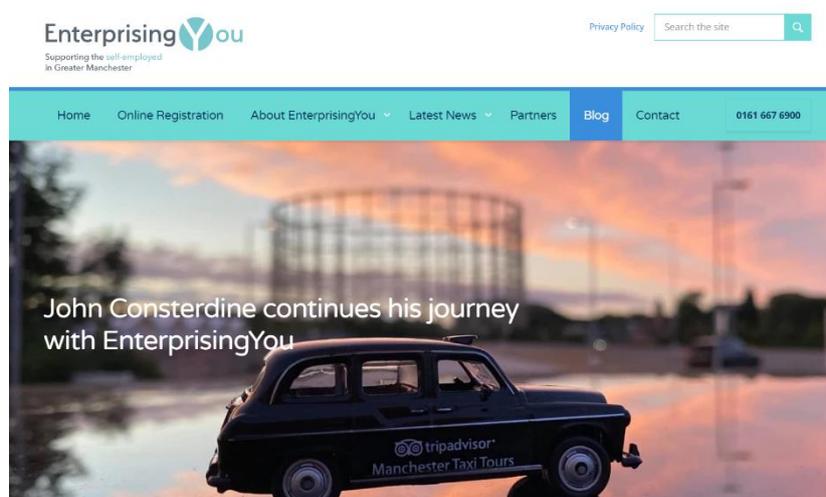
Following an initial pilot phase, the intention is to scale up the approach in 2022, working with additional providers and referral/recruitment pathways, and testing different routes/delivery models.

Case study: Upskilling in self-employment: EnterprisingYou

EnterprisingYou (EY) is a pilot programme designed to test ways to support business growth and individual progression/upskilling for low-income self-employed individuals in Greater Manchester, including those who work in the gig economy and small business owners. These patterns of self-employment and freelance/gig working are particularly prevalent in some of Greater Manchester's priority sectors with in-demand skills, including Digital/Creative and Construction, yet these individuals struggle to access the kind of skills support and CPD activity open to employed workers.

To date, it has supported 1,350 low-income self-employed residents and gig economy workers through the £8m pilot, which is the only programme of its kind in England supporting workers in the gig economy. Two-thirds of participants reported increased business turnover, 54% increased business profitability, 59% improved business stability and longevity, and 71% report having improved skills needed to run their business.

John Consterdine, founder of Manchester Taxi Tours, launched his business in 2011 providing bespoke guided, award-winning tours of the city, including music, sport and Coronation Street themed tours. Manchester's only taxi driver with a tour guide Green Badge and with over 30 years' experience, John was advised to get in touch with EY when the Covid-19 pandemic meant that he was unable to operate tours and the business began to struggle.



Within two days of applying to the programme, John had a business coach, a health and wellbeing mentor and a financial mentor. As well as support from his business coach, John was also able to access some of the training courses on offer through EY

to help adapt his business model. John has since implemented changes to the business

and improvements to his website following a digital marketing course, and has learned how to use social media to promote his tours.

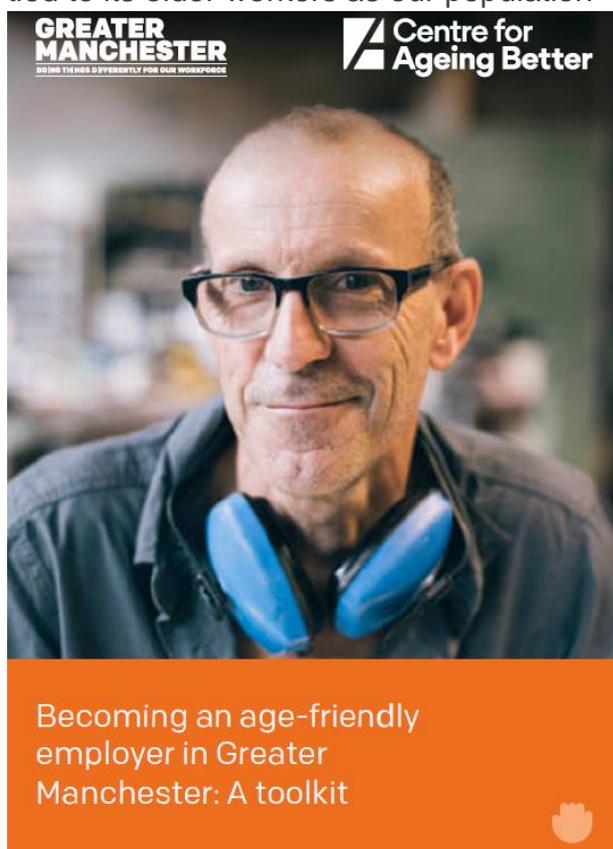
John said: “I’ve been able to bounce ideas off a specialised business coach and explore ways to innovate my business. EnterprisingYou have given me a whole network of experts to discuss my business with and come up with new approaches and solutions to problems.”

Case Study: Older workers – Greater Manchester’s Age-Friendly Employer Toolkit

Greater Manchester is the first UK city-region to launch a [toolkit](#) designed to help and inform employers on the positive impact an age-friendly workplace can bring.

The success of our economy is increasingly tied to its older workers as our population continues to age. Enabling more people to be in fulfilling work for longer is therefore a win-win for everyone. It helps employers retain skilled and experienced workers, it benefits individuals who want to stay in work for longer, and it supports the economic health and prosperity of Greater Manchester.

Research shows that older workers are likely to be a key contributor in boosting an organisation’s performance as a result of their lower job turnover, greater management experience and longer general work experience. Analysis of international data also showed that having a worker over 50 in a team is associated with increased productivity of co-workers around them, particularly younger colleagues.



Yet older workers have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, are more likely than other workers to experience longer periods of unemployment, or even fall into economic inactivity, and are less well-served by the standard employment support offer. GM's ESAP identified this as a particular area of concern in Greater Manchester and, through the partnership between GMCA and the Centre for Ageing Better (CfAB), an employer toolkit has been developed, setting out a number of impactful yet easy-to-implement ideas that will help businesses reap the benefits of a thriving and age-diverse workforce, and signposts to further information.

The toolkit is built around five principles that have been established by CfAB as supporting policy and practice in age-friendly employment:

- be flexible about working flexibly
- hire age-positively
- ensure everyone has the health support they need
- encourage career development at all ages
- create an age-positive culture.

The toolkit contains a range of employer case studies, such as home care provider **Home Instead's** 'UnRetire Yourself' campaign, prompted by a survey which revealed that one in four retirees felt they had given up their career too soon, **Manchester City Council's** flexible working and career development practices which saw almost a quarter of the Council's apprentice cohort in 2018/19 being over 50 years of age, and **Electricity North West's** financial wellbeing support and retirement planning within the employee assistance programme available to their workforce, a third of whom are over 50.

8 Looking Forward

Whilst the immediate crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic has passed, we continue to face uncertainties in the labour market and changes in the world of work. Many of these are external factors (though not unique to Greater Manchester) which will inevitably have an impact on the success of our skills strategy in the short term and the shape of medium- and longer-term planning:

- Ongoing extent of ‘scarring’ for businesses and sectors from Covid, Brexit and wider economic influences – changes to the workforce including redundancies, need for retraining/upskilling of existing workers, reduced employer investment in training & development, changing business models, levels of indebtedness, pauses in trading, delayed or cancelled investment, ongoing disruption and absences, extended low levels of demand, business closures
- Degree of ‘scarring’ for individuals - life chances, unemployment rate and duration, increases in rates of economic inactivity, health impacts, and appetite to engage with the skills and employment interventions – and the jobs – that are available
- Severity and duration of disruptions to international trade, with the associated knock-on impact to supply chains in terms of workforce/skills supply and demand
- Extent of business model change (digitalisation, flexible working, reduction in person-person services)
- Return of confidence: consumer, business, investor (timing and strength)
- Geography of impacts and labour market interdependencies (e.g. the impact on city centres and towns)
- Central policy response and constraints – fiscal and monetary environment
- Extent to which health / public health interventions successful embed our ability to live with Covid.

One of the themes running through this report is that skills alone will not mitigate these factors. Skills interventions and – if our strategy is successful – skills improvements must go hand-in-hand with employer investment in both the current workforce and the

talent pipeline. Employment support must go hand-in-hand with shifts in business processes, employment practices and job quality. Local responsiveness must go hand-in-hand with the flexibilities, trust and resources from central government that will empower local solutions to local challenges, designed with and for the people, employers and places they are intended to serve. This is, after all, the core principal of the Levelling Up White Paper.

If we are to improve the agility, responsiveness and inclusiveness of GM's talent pool in a labour market which has both high numbers of job vacancies and high numbers of unemployed and economically inactive residents, we need to look differently at work and skills: identifying job roles and subsectors most in demand and those that are declining or vulnerable is a good start, as is highlighting 'skills networks' of competencies that have transferability to other (sometimes apparently unrelated) occupations.

But we also need to better understand at a granular level why people and jobs do not currently align, and develop/commission integrated support that links people to jobs. The importance of lifelong learning and retraining has already come to the fore as individuals explore and pursue multiple careers during their working lives. Flexible, bespoke training might come to replace lengthy qualifications in some jobs and occupational pathways, whilst the formal qualification offer will remain appropriate for others. What we mean by 'employability' is also likely to change, which employers looking for different qualities and attributes than they might have in the past.

Many of the actions set out in this report are part of a long-term journey of change on which we will work with government and local partners. As acknowledged previously, this is a wide-reaching agenda and no single part of the system – whether national or local, public sector or private – can bring about the required changes alone. Equally, no stakeholder can sit back and expect change to happen without bringing their own expertise, energy and capacity to the table.

With that in mind, we are starting to have different conversations, both within Greater Manchester and with central government, about the ways in which we can make skills and employment policies work better on the ground.

We are looking ahead to the roll-out of Local Skills Improvement Plans, and having discussions with Employer Representative Bodies within Greater Manchester to consider how best we can capture the voice of industry in ways that go beyond the current reach and membership of those bodies and ensure a truly representative articulation of employers' skills needs.

Those conversations must also prompt self-reflection amongst employers about what businesses and industries themselves are doing to help fill gaps in their workforce (and, in some cases, to diversify it) through innovative recruitment, retention, development and employment practices, and to generate the interest and talent that they will rely on for future success.

Through this approach we've already been able to work with schools, colleges, employers and other partners to bring fresh conversations and ideas to the table, meaningfully and at scale, which were absent before. Partnerships across health, skills, school readiness, the green agenda, transport, culture, justice and other areas now exist where we haven't had that same traction in the past; work and skills are a common thread linking and enabling all of these policy areas.

We have already seen with the devolved Adult Education Budget that we can do things differently when we are given local control. In addition to the pandemic response measures, in the first two years of devolution we were able to introduce a range of flexibilities which will, over time, will help us to better meet the needs of Greater Manchester's residents and employers, as well as joining up complementary services that have previously operated separately from each other and delivering better value for money for the public purse. Many of those changes have been reflected in subsequent government policy.

It is important that we take the opportunity presented by the Levelling Up White Paper, and the invitation from the government to work with them to explore opportunities for 'deeper devolution' and to tell the 'Greater Manchester story', highlighting the earned confidence of our track record of delivery to date and the added value of our integrated approach, especially where the evidence before us and the issues we face, far from Westminster, suggest that there might be a compelling case for doing things differently.

It is apparent throughout this report that Greater Manchester is not going from a standing start. Employers are already at the heart of our labour market strategy, and our integrated approach to skills and employment provision is driven by the needs of our people, our businesses and our place.

In the meantime, we will continue to work in partnership across Greater Manchester to bring cohesion to the system and to use our levers across education, skills, work and health to support inclusive growth, positive outcomes and improved productivity across our place. We will drive the shift towards a system characterised not by its individual parts or where one policy or funding stream stops and another kicks in, but by evidence-led approaches and by the fairer distribution of opportunities. Together, we will ensure that Greater Manchester is a great place to grow up, get on and grow old; a great place to invest, do business, to visit and study: a place with good lives for all.

Further Reading

Greater Manchester: the Strategic Framework

Greater Manchester's labour market strategy is set within a strategic framework which is driven and defined by:

- [Our People, Our Place – the Greater Manchester Strategy](#) (GMS)⁷
- [Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy](#) (LIS), together with the GM [Independent Prosperity Review](#) and associated technical reports
- Greater Manchester's annual Labour Market and Skills Review [dashboards](#)
- [The Next Level: Good Lives for All in Greater Manchester](#) – the report from Greater Manchester's Independent Inequalities Commission
- [Building a Greater Manchester, making a Greater Britain](#) – The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership's economic vision
- [Innovation GM](#), a business-led innovation ecosystem across the city-region that will help level up our communities, generate the solutions we need to achieve net zero, and create the conditions for more businesses in more places to benefit from global exporting and inward investment
- Greater Manchester's [Digital Blueprint](#)
- The [Five Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester](#)
- The work of the GM Ageing Hub, in partnership with the Centre for Ageing Better, including [research on unlocking the 'longevity economy' for Greater Manchester](#)
- Greater Manchester's [Covid response](#), including the *Greater Manchester Living with Covid Resilience Plan*
- Greater Manchester Social Value Framework, 2020 (GMCA, 2020), [Social Value can make Greater Manchester a better place - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

⁷ At the time of writing, a refreshed *Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-2031: Good Lives for All* was being finalised for publication following consideration by GMCA at its meeting in December 2021.

- *Greater Manchester STEM Framework*, (GMCA, 2019), [Greater Manchester STEM Framework - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/work-and-skills/)
- *Greater Manchester Work & Skills Strategy and Priorities*, (GMCA, 2016), <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/work-and-skills/>

Ten distinctive places: One unique Greater Manchester

Each of the ten Greater Manchester districts has its own strategic plans (a number of which were in the process of being reviewed and updated at the time of writing):

- **Bury's** Economic Strategy - undergoing refresh in Spring 2022 as part of the [Let's Do It Bury 2030 Strategy](#)
- **Bolton's** [Economic Strategy to 2030](#) is the long-term strategy developed by [Bolton Vision](#), with an underpinning Skills Strategy and revised Economic Regeneration Plan in development
- **Manchester's** Work and Skills Strategy, undergoing refresh in Spring 2022, is underpinned by an [Adult Education and Skills Plan](#) for 2019-2025
- **Oldham's** [Work and Skills Strategy 2016-2020](#) is being updated, with a new Corporate Plan, Business Growth and Investment Strategy, and Work and Skills Strategy (with a focus on aligning skills, employment and business support services) due for publication in the first quarter of 2022/23
- **Rochdale's** [Inclusive Skills, Work and Health Plan 2021-2023](#) sets out eight priorities and what success looks like, recognising the interdependence between skills, health and employment
- **Salford's** [Employment and Skills Strategy](#) – undergoing refresh in Spring 2022
- Stockport's Economic Plan – in development Spring 2022 to support the [One Stockport Borough Plan](#)
- **Tameside's** [Inclusive Growth Strategy, 2021-26](#) sets out plans for how Tameside can be a place where all residents can start well, live well and age well

- **Trafford's** [Inclusive Economy Recovery Plan](#) sets out ongoing actions pending a refresh of the [Employment, Enterprise and Skills](#) plan in Spring 2022
- **Wigan's** [Employment and Skills Strategy 2020-2030](#) sets out the borough's long-term plans to help residents makes choices and gain skills that will help them contribute to increased local productivity and an inclusive, future-proofed economy.

See accompanying Data Annex document for:

Sector Overviews

Annex A – Core indicators

Annex B1 – Additional Analysis

Annex B2 – Data Sources / References

National Policy and Strategy documents:

[A Plan for Jobs](#) (HMT, 2020)

[Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth](#), (HMT, 2021)

[Skills for Jobs: Lifelong Learning for Opportunity and Growth](#), FE Reform White Paper (DfE, 2021)

[Levelling Up the United Kingdom](#) White Paper (DLUHC, 2022)

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27 May 2022

Subject: GM Housing Investment Loans Fund - Investment Approval
Recommendations

Report of: Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead Leader for Housing,
Homelessness and Infrastructure and Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief
Executive for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure

Purpose of Report

This report seeks the Combined Authority’s approval to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (“GMHILF”) loan detailed in the recommendation below.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loan detailed in the table below, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report;

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
Mick George Homes (O/M) Ltd	Ladhill Lane, Greenfield	Oldham	£0.957m

2. Delegate authority to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

Contact Officers

Bill Enevoldson: bill.enevoldson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Laura Blakey: laura.blakey@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

The Equalities Impact and Carbon & Sustainability Assessment for the Ladhill Lane development is given below:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	Redevelopment of brownfield site. Construction of 5 houses (two semi-detached and a row of three town houses)
Economy	G	The development will support employment within the local construction sector.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment	
	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.
	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	 Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment		
Overall Score		
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential		EPC not known Homes to include gas central heating
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	N/A	
	No associated carbon impacts expected.	 High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.
	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	 Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.
	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.	

Risk Management

The structure and security package proposed for the loan in order to mitigate risk are given in the accompanying Part B report. The loan will be conditional upon a satisfactory outcome to detailed due diligence and ongoing confirmation from a Monitoring Surveyor acting on the Fund's behalf that the scheme is being delivered satisfactorily.

Legal Considerations

A detailed loan facility and other associated legal documentation will be completed ahead of the first loan payment.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The borrower will be required to meet the Fund's legal, due diligence and monitoring costs and there is no requirement for additional revenue expenditure by GMCA in addition to the approved Core Investment Team budget.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The loan will be sourced from the £300m GM Housing Investment Loans Fund, including the recycling of loans repaid to the Fund.

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None.

Background Papers

- Housing Investment Fund (report to GMCA, 27 February 2015)
- GM Housing Investment Loans Fund – Revised Investment Strategy (report to GMCA, 25 October 2019)

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In line with the agreed governance process for the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (“the Fund”), the Combined Authority is asked to approve the loan detailed in section 2, which has been recommended for approval by the Fund’s Credit Committee.
- 1.2 The total value of offers of loans from the Fund approved by the Combined Authority to date is £600.6m and the total value of approved equity investments is £26.3m¹. The loans and equity investments approved by the Combined Authority will deliver 7,960 new homes. If the recommendations set out in this report is agreed, the value of loan offers will increase to £601.6m, with the number of new homes supported rising to 7,965.
- 1.3 Affordable housing and section 106 agreements are dealt with at a local level in line with local policies, national planning legislation and the government’s National Planning Policy Framework. As agreed at the December 2018 meeting of the GMCA, the majority of the surpluses generated from the Fund will be ring fenced to support provision of additional housing affordable to GM residents, supporting the Mayor’s Town Centre Challenge and tackling issues such as rogue landlords, empty homes and improving standards within the Private Rented Sector.
- 1.4 The GM Housing Vision approved by GMCA in January 2019 began to set a new context for housing delivery within GM and paved the way for the co-produced GM Housing Strategy and revised GM Housing Investment Loans Fund Investment Strategy that were approved by GMCA in October 2019. Alongside the work toward the Joint Development Plan Document: Places for Everyone, this development of a shared strategic approach to the delivery of new homes across Greater Manchester sets the objectives and focus of future investments made from the Fund.

2. Loan approvals sought

- 2.1 Mick George Homes (O/M) Ltd is seeking a loan of £0.957m from the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund for the development of 5 new build houses in Oldham. Planning permission was granted in November 2019. The loan will support a SME developer bring forward the redevelopment of a brownfield site. There is no affordable housing provision due to the small scale of the scheme.

¹ These figures exclude loan offers that have not been taken up and are therefore withdrawn.

2.2 Further details of the scheme and proposed terms of the loan are included in the accompanying Part B report, to be treated as confidential on account of the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 27th May 2022

Subject: GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

Report of: Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources and
Eamonn Boylan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Investment

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Greater Manchester Combined Authority (“Combined Authority” and “GMCA”) approval for loans to Citylabs 4.0 Limited (“Citylabs 4”), Vector Homes Limited (“Vector”) and Apadmi Group Limited (“Apadmi”). The investments will be made from recycled funds.

In addition, the GMCA is to note that an investment into Northern Gritstone Ltd and follow-on investment into Bank North Ltd were approved under delegation.

Further details regarding these loans are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

Recommendations

The GMCA is requested to:

1. approve the loan facility of up to £11.1m to Citylabs 4.0 Limited;
2. approve the loan to Vector Homes Limited of £150,000;
3. approve the follow-on loan to Apadmi Group Ltd of up to £2.7m;
4. note the investment into Northern Gritstone Ltd of £1.5m;
5. note the follow-on investment into Bank North Ltd of £500,000 approved under delegation; and
6. delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loans, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loans, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loans noted above.

Contact Officers

Eamonn Boylan: eamonn.boylan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Bill Enevoldson: bill.enevoldson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Laura Blakey: laura.blakey@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment

A) Citylabs 4.0 Limited

Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion			
Health			
Resilience and Adaptation			
Housing			
Economy	G	Supports innovation in the region Significant jobs are expected to be associated with the development. Research and innovation centre to provide good quality jobs in the region. High quality laboratory space to support ongoing research along the Oxford Road Corridor. Potential occupiers may bring significant inward investment to the region.	
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment			
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target	N/A		
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment		
Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	Mostly negative , with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score



Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
-----------	--------	--------------------------

New Build residential	N/A	
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Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	
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New Build Commercial/Industrial		EPC A and solar roof included alongside good cycling amenities.
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Transport

Active travel and public transport	N/A	
------------------------------------	-----	--

Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
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Access to amenities	N/A	
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Vehicle procurement	N/A	
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Land Use

Land use	N/A	
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No associated carbon impacts expected.



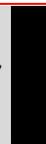
High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.



Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.



Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.



Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

B) Vector Homes Limited

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
------------------	--------	--------------------------

Equality and Inclusion		
------------------------	--	--

Health		
--------	--	--

Resilience and Adaptation		
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Housing	G	Innovation in the sector may provide access to sustainable low cost housing. The development of this sustainable modular housing concept may lead to additional affordable housing being delivered.
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Economy	G	Supports innovation in the region c20 jobs to be created in Manchester Research and innovation centre to provide good quality jobs in the region. Continued fundraising will bring significant inward investment as the company grows.
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Mobility and Connectivity		
---------------------------	--	--

Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	Delivery of sustainable low carbon homes is a key component of the plan to reduce carbon emissions across the region.
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Consumption and Production		
----------------------------	--	--

Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Delivery of sustainable low carbon homes is a key component of the plan to reduce carbon emissions across the region.
---	--	---

Further Assessment(s):

Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment

Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.

Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.

Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.

Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score



Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
-----------	--------	--------------------------

New Build residential		To be confirmed. Demonstrator house to confirm but significant embodied carbon expected.
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Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	
---	-----	--

New Build Commercial/ Industrial	N/A	
----------------------------------	-----	--

Transport

Active travel and public transport	N/A	
------------------------------------	-----	--

Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
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Access to amenities	N/A	
---------------------	-----	--

Vehicle procurement	N/A	
---------------------	-----	--

Land Use

Land use	N/A	
----------	-----	--

No associated carbon impacts expected.



High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.



Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.



Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.



Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

C) Apadmi Group Limited

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
------------------	--------	--------------------------

Equality and Inclusion		
------------------------	--	--

Health		
--------	--	--

Resilience and Adaptation		
---------------------------	--	--

Housing		
---------	--	--

Economy		Acquisition will create growth at the HQ in salford 150 jobs to be created in Salford Strategic app development
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Mobility and Connectivity		
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Carbon, Nature and Environment		
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Consumption and Production		
----------------------------	--	--

Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
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Further Assessment(s): N/A

Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.

Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.

Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.

Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	N/A	

No associated carbon impacts expected.

High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.

Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.

Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.

Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

D) Bank North Limited

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Supports SME's in the region with access to finance and creation of high quality jobs.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		

Further Assessment(s): N/A

Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.

Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.

Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.

Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	N/A	

No associated carbon impacts expected.

High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.

Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.

Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.

Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

E) Northern Gritstone Limited

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Supports University spin-outs in the region with access to finance and creation of high quality jobs.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
Further Assessment(s):	N/A	

Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.

Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.

Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.

Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A	
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use	N/A	

No associated carbon impacts expected.

 High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.

 Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.

 Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.

 Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Risk Management

The loans recommended in this paper will be governed under the existing investment framework which includes several levels of review and ongoing monitoring of performance.

Legal Considerations

The legal agreements will be based upon the existing templates for the GM Investment Fund, amended for the specific requirements of the individual funding arrangements.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no revenue implications.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The proposed loans will be made from recycled funds.

Number of attachments to the report

None.

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None.

Background Papers

None.

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

Yes

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No.

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction/Background

1.1. Background:

- 1.1.1. The Combined Authority maintains and develops a pipeline of projects submitted by applicants seeking funding from the Combined Authority's Core Investment Funds allocation. These projects are assessed against criteria based on the GM Investment Strategy, developed to underpin the economic growth of Greater Manchester. A condition of investment is that the companies sign up as (at a minimum) a supporter of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter.
- 1.1.2. This assessment incorporated:
 - an appraisal by the GM Core Investment Team; and
 - a review by a sub-group of GM Chief Executives.

2. Investments Recommended for Approval in Principle

2.1. Citylabs 4.0 Limited, Manchester

Sector: Commercial Property

- 2.1.1. The business case in respect of a £11.1m development loan facility (inclusive of rolled-up interest) to Citylabs 4.0 Limited has been submitted to, and appraised by the Core Investment Team and is recommended to the Combined Authority for conditional approval.
- 2.1.2. Citylabs 4.0 follows on from the successful delivery by Bruntwood Scitech of high-quality laboratory and office space along the Oxford Road Corridor in Manchester. Citylabs 4.0 will provide up to 123k sq ft of BREEAM Very Good office and lab space in the region.
- 2.1.3. Whilst this investment is above the maximum investment size set out in GMCA's Investment Strategy, this has been considered acceptable in light of the low risk profile of the loan, the strategic outputs to be provided, alignment to supporting the life sciences sector with much-needed laboratory space and the additional capacity that this creates in the North West Evergreen Fund which currently has a very strong pipeline.

2.1.4. Further details regarding the loan are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

2.2. Vector Homes Ltd, Salford

Sector: Low Carbon

2.2.1. The business case in respect of a loan up to £150,000 to Vector has been submitted to, and appraised by, the Core Investment Team and is recommended to the Combined Authority for conditional approval.

2.2.2. Vector is a research and innovation company in the sustainable housing sector, based in Manchester.

2.2.3. The funding will form part of a seed investment round to support the delivery of a demonstrator house which is to be used to both demonstrate the sustainable credentials and provide mortgage and insurability certifications.

2.2.4. The use of recycled materials for the majority of the demonstrator house's components gives the Vector Home a low initial embodied carbon score, something which will then be improved upon through further iterations. In addition, the lightweight nature of the components also reduces transport and assembly emissions.

2.2.5. Further details regarding the loan are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

2.3. Apadmi Group Ltd – Phase 3, Salford

Sector: Digital & Creative

2.3.1. The business case in respect of a loan up to £2.7m to Apadmi has been submitted to, and appraised by, the Core Investment Team and is recommended to the Combined Authority for conditional approval.

2.3.2. Apadmi is an end-to-end mobile application (“app”) developer and strategic partner to both large and small businesses, based in Salford. The Company have previously received loans from the GMCA totalling £850k in 2015, which have been repaid in full.

2.3.3. The new loan will provide funding for a strategic acquisition for the Company. Apadmi currently employs circa 170 people in Salford, this is forecast to double over the next three years.

2.3.4. Further details regarding the loan are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

3. Investment approved under delegation

3.1. Bank North Limited – Phase 2, Manchester

Sector: Financial Services

3.1.1. The business case in respect of a £500k investment into Bank North has been submitted to, and appraised by, the Core Investment Team and was approved under delegation.

3.1.2. Bank North is a challenger bank headquartered in Greater Manchester. The Bank is currently Authorised with Restrictions by the Prudential Regulation Authority and is continuing its regulatory journey towards full authorisation later in 2022.

3.1.3. GMCA has previously invested £1.5m into prior funding rounds of Bank North to support its growth plans and this forms part of a further fundraise to support additional SME lending in the North West region.

3.1.4. Bank North currently employs 53 people in the region and this is expected to grow to over 100 following Full Authorisation.

3.1.5. Further details regarding the investment are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

3.2. Northern Gritstone Limited

3.2.1. Northern Gritstone is an investment vehicle for accelerating spin-outs from the universities of Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield. These spin-outs are often high-risk/high reward and therefore require dedicated financial resource to support the commercialisation of university research.

- 3.2.2. GMCA is recommended to invest up to £1,500,000 as part of a £120m first close of the investment fund. The Fund is expected to deliver strong inward investment to the North West region and provide much-needed access to finance for the underserved early-stage spin-out sector helping to drive innovation in the life sciences, low carbon and advanced materials sectors.
- 3.2.3. Northern Gritstone is expected to launch in June 2022 with a strong pipeline of potential investments across the three universities.
- 3.2.4. Further details regarding the investment are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

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