

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

DATE: Friday, 10th February, 2023

TIME: 10.30 am

VENUE: Council Chamber, Salford City Council, Salford Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton, Salford, M27 5AW

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 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

4. **Minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 27 January 2023** 5 - 22

To consider the approval of the minute of the meeting held on 27 January 2023.

5. **Minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 25 January 2023** 23 - 34

To note the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 25 January 2023.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

6. Minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 25 January 2023 35 - 48

To note the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 25 January 2023.

7. Minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 27 January 2023 49 - 52

To note the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 27 January 2023.

8. Budget Reports

8.A GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2023/4 Overview 53 - 62

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

8.B Mayoral General Budget & Precept Proposals 2023/24 63 - 90

Report of the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham.

8.C GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24 91 - 114

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

8.D GMCA Revenue General Budget 2023/24 115 - 138

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

8.E GM Waste Budget and Resources - Budget and Levy 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2022/23 - 2025/26 139 - 150

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

8.F GMCA Capital Programme -2022/23 - 2025/6 151 - 174

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

9. GMCA Revenue Update - Quarter 3 2022/23 175 - 188

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

10. Skills Bootcamps: Priorities & Approach for 2023-25 189 - 200

Report of Cllr Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships.

11. City Deal Receipts - Investment Approval Recommendations 201 - 206

Report of Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure.

12. GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval 207 - 212

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

13. GMCA Culture Investment 2023-2026 213 - 224

Report of Cllr Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture.

14. 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

15. GM Culture Investment Approach - Proposed Spirit 3 225 - 232

and Sustain Portfolio

Report of Cllr Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture.

16. GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project 3 233 - 238 Approval

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

17. City Deal Receipts - Investment Approval 3 239 - 242 Recommendations

Report of Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure.

Name	Organisation	Political Party
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Gerald Cooney	Tameside Council	Labour
Councillor Neil Emmott	Rochdale	Labour
Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Bury Council	Labour
GM Mayor Andy Burnham	GMCA	Labour
Asst. Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes	GMCA	
City Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford City Council	Labour
Councillor David Molyneux	Wigan Council	Labour
Councillor Bev Craig	Manchester CC	Labour
Councillor Martyn Cox	Bolton	Conservative
Councillor Amanda Chadderton	Oldham Council	Labour

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 agenda was issued on Date Not Specified on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street,

Manchester M1 6EU

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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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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON
FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 2023 AT STOCKPORT TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Amanda Chadderton
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Gerald Cooney
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Exec Director, Policy & Strategy	Simon Nokes
Bolton	Sue Johnson

Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
GMCA	Elaine Mottershead

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair of GMCA Overview & Scrutiny	Cllr John Walsh
The Growth Company	Mark Hughes

GMCA 01/23 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

GMCA 02/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The GM Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor Tom Ross as the new Leader of Trafford Council following Councillor Andrew Western's appointment as MP for Stretford and Urmston.

A welcome was also extended to Kate Green as the new Deputy Mayor.

The GM Mayor reminded the meeting that it was Holocaust Memorial Day and extended his thanks to all who had helped in marking the day's event which had included a moving and powerful statement from a holocaust survivor. The event had demonstrated a strong commitment from Greater Manchester and the Jewish community to come together.

Councillor Bev Craig provide the meeting with an update on the recent Convention of the North, with thanks extended to the GMCA Policy & Strategy Team for their work which had contributed to the success of the event. The event had exceeded expectations, particularly in this period of disruption and challenges, and had demonstrated the commitment and resilience of the region. There were conversations around the Trailblazer deal and funding was announced for uplifting housing standards.

The GM Mayor announced that Stockport had been accredited under the Good Employment Charter. Councillor Mark Hunter was presented with the award and the Combined Authority congratulated them on their achievement.

RESOLVED /-

1. That Councillor Tom Ross be welcomed to his first meeting of the GMCA as the Leader of Trafford Council.
2. That Kate Green be welcomed to her first meeting of the GMCA as Deputy Mayor.
3. That the GMCA extend its thanks to Greater Manchester's Jewish Community for arranging the annual memorial event for Holocaust Memorial Day.
4. That the update from Councillor Bev Craig on a successful Convention of the North be noted.
5. That the Mayor's update on Trailblazer devolution plans be noted.
6. That Stockport Metropolitan Council be congratulated on their accreditation under the Good Employment Charter.

GMCA 03/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

GMCA 04/23 GMCA MARCH 2023 MEETING DATE

RESOLVED /-

That the March meeting of the GMCA be held on 24 March 2023 and not 31st March as previously agreed.

GMCA 05/23 GMCA - MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 13 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 06/23 GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE- MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on Friday 16 December 2022 be approved.

GMCA 07/23 GMCA WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE - MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee on Wednesday 18 January 2023 be noted.

GMCA 08/23 GM BUSINESS (GM LEP) BOARD - MINUTES

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Business Board held on Wednesday 18 January 2023 be noted.

GMCA 09/23 GM APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Councillor Tom Ross, Trafford, to the GMCA be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor will review portfolio lead arrangements and report back as appropriate.
3. That the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien to the Air Quality Administration Committee be approved.
4. That the appointment of Councillor Amanda Chadderton to the GMCA Resources Committee be approved.
5. That the appointment of Councillor Ged Cooney to the Growth Company Board be approved.
6. That the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien as the GMCA Substitute Member on Transport for the North.
7. That the appointment of Councillor Christine Roberts, Wigan, as a Substitute Member on the GM Transport Committee be approved.
8. That the extension of the appointments of Grenville Page and Susan Webster as independent Members to the GMCA Audit, for a further term of office of three years, be approved.

GMCA 10/23 PROPOSED SLAVERY MEMORIAL DAY

City Mayor, Paul Dennett, was invited to speak as this motion was passed by Salford City Council on 16 December 2023. It was noted that the purpose of the motion was to highlight the need for a better understanding of the history of slavery and its relevance to modern-day slavery. City Mayor Dennett highlighted that 49.6 million people were affected and a quarter of those were children. Members were requested to support a Slavery Memorial Day, alongside the recommendation that slavery be taught as a compulsory element of the curriculum in schools.

Members endorsed the motion and suggested that, following its success, a further look be given to support it by consideration of the supply chains and Councils' Standing Orders for equitable practices.

The GM Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, stated that modern-day slavery was a priority for Greater Manchester Police and operations had been carried out in Cheetham Hill to tackle activities linked to organised crime.

The GM Mayor stated that the introduction of a Slavery Memorial Day would ensure an annual period of reflection and a focus for future work.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GMCA support the motion presented by Salford City Council to call on the Government to declare a national Slavery Memorial Day and to consider making slavery a compulsory national curriculum schools' subject.
2. That a formal letter be sent from the GMCA to Government with this request.

GMCA 11/23 GM ACTIVE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

The GM Mayor stated that he had received a letter from GM Active which had requested support in asking the Government for them to be recognised as a vulnerable sector with rising energy costs. The importance of swimming pools and leisure centres as warm hubs was highlighted, particularly at a time when priorities for Greater Manchester's residents included health and social well-being. The GM Mayor requested approval to make this representation on behalf of the GMCA Committee.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the verbal report given by GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, be noted.
2. That the GM Mayor will write a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer ahead of the March budget highlighting the concerns raised by GM Active about the vulnerability of the public sport and leisure facility sector.

GMCA 12/23 COST OF LIVING AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Councillor Bev Craig and Councillor Amanda Chadderton were invited to speak on this regular update for the Committee. Councillor Craig reported on the concerns that

were commonplace in the business sector and the discussions that had taken place to consider how different sectors could be best supported as they face this crisis. The Greater Manchester Business Board had made plans to have some sector specific information collated to help businesses further. There was still some room for optimism as many businesses had not made redundancies or had to wind-up, but it was acknowledged that there would be further challenges from April onwards. Councillor Craig acknowledged that the Growth Company had done some excellent work to assist. She further noted that the region's local authorities were at the front line and had responsibilities to set budgets and balance uncertainties from short-term Government settlements but still needed to make plans to grow the economy and provide protection for the most vulnerable.

Councillor Chadderton reported that the latest GM Residents Survey had highlighted that the cost-of-living crisis was here to stay for some time. Some statistics from the survey showed that 8 out of 10 residents had said that their cost of living had risen just over the last month; and 7 out of 10 residents reported that they had concerns about their cost-of-living. The next conversation needed to be around what could be done as a region, particularly for families with children under five years' old and for people with disabilities.

The Warm Homes Scheme had seen an increase in one month of 72% more families who had received their support. For the first time, the Cost-of-Living Dashboard had included information from Trussell Trust with 60,000 food parcels distributed across GM between April and September 2022 which was the highest recorded number. The Brick-by-Brick project had its soft launch in Wigan in December and Amazon had donated 30,000 goods to the project with a further 8,000 donated from other organisations. The survey had also highlighted concerns around the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, many of whom had struggled to meet the increase in the Living Wage along with rising energy bills, some of which had increased by 300% over 12 months.

The GM Mayor reported that he had recently met with energy providers and had discussed issues such as making sure vulnerable people are on the priority register as

well as the forced installation of pre-paid meters. A further meeting was scheduled to take place soon.

Thanks were extended to all ten districts for their efforts in this important work. A recent story in the media was referenced as it highlighted that the public message of rising costs needed to be balanced so that people were not over-cautious in trying to reduce their bills, at risk to their health. There had also been an upsurge in domestic fires due to people's attempts at heating their homes in more economical ways.

Councillor Hunter asked about the Brick-by-Brick project and the partnership with Amazon and queried how this related to the Good Employment Charter given some of the concerns about Amazon's alleged working practices. The GM Mayor advised that it was not a commercial relationship with Amazon and was based around donated goods. It had been recognised, however, that there could be an opportunity through this arrangement to discuss the employment charter with Amazon. It was noted that a more detailed update on the Brick-by-Brick project would be brought to a future meeting.

The GM Deputy Mayor, Kate Green, suggested that there could be more funding available for VCSE organisations who provided targeted support to victims of crime.

RESOLVED /-

That the latest assessment and emerging response be received and noted that the Deputy Mayor will consider the provision of further support funding from the Deputy Mayor Budget for VCSE organisations to providing targeted support to victims of crime.

3. That a detailed update on the Brick-by-Brick Project in collaboration with Amazon would be submitted to a future meeting to gauge members' appetite to extending the pilot across the sub- region.

GMCA 13/23 MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET & PRECEPT PROPOSALS

The GM Mayor introduced a report which set out the proposals for the Mayoral General Budget and precept for 2023-24.

The GM Mayor provided an overview of the proposals including A Bed Every Night, which was one of the primary beneficiaries and had supported over 600 people in the region each night. Our Pass had been instrumental in providing some financial relief to families with teenagers and it had given young people access to opportunities for work, leisure and study and had been extended to care leavers up to the age of 21 in recognition of the GMCA's commitment as Corporate Parents. Bus Reform and capped fares also formed part of the overall offer to make transport more affordable. The Good Landlord Charter was helping to relieve pressure by making improvements in people's homes which in turn had helped with energy costs.

Councillor Amanda Chadderton supported the age threshold extension to the Our Pass and requested that the next stage consider the aspiration to raise this to 25 for young people leaving care.

The position around the Fire Service budget element was explained. Whilst the financial pressures for residents were acknowledged, there could be greater demands on emergency services in the future, so there was a need to plan accordingly for continuity. There had previously been a programme for change in the Fire Service some years ago which had resulted in efficiencies. The potential for further efficiencies were explored, notwithstanding that the meeting was reminded that the GM Mayor had taken the firm decision that Greater Manchester would never go below 50 pumps, with the current crewing levels, at single and double pump stations. There were pressures around NI contributions plus the pay for a firefighter, compared to a decade ago, was less in real terms.

It was noted that the ballot for the current pay dispute was due to close on Monday 30 January.

The decision had been taken to manage all these pressures from the precept, along with some support from reserves, as the necessary minimum action to support the service.

Deputy GM Mayor, Kate Green, supported the GM Mayor's decision and referenced some unavoidable pressures such as energy costs, fuel costs, and pay and pension

contributions. Likewise, the need to protect staff facilities and health and well-being services was essential.

In response to questions regarding pay negotiations and the limitations of the GMCA's ability to influence national agreements. The GM Mayor advised that the Fire Service was different to other public services, for example, the NHS. The Fire Service had local accountability and whilst there was a national negotiating Committee, it was made up of local area representatives. The Government had made it clear there would be no national pay agreement.

Members were invited to make further submissions on the budget proposals by the dates outlined in the report.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor John Walsh, informed the GMCA that the Scrutiny Committee had endorsed the principles as set out in the report and noted that the budget was predicated on Mayoral priorities including Our Pass, which was crucial. There had been a question on the use of reserves and the sustainability of that approach. The Treasurer had agreed to a request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit a further report.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept by £5 to £107.95 (for a Band D property), comprising of: i) Functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority - precept of £76.20 (£5 increase); ii) Other Mayoral General functions - precept of £31.75 (no increase), be approved.
2. That the following be noted:
 - i) the overall budget proposed for the Fire and Rescue Service,
 - ii) the use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2024 are adequate,
 - iii) the proposed Fire Service capital programme and proposals for funding
 - iv) the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service covered by the Mayoral precept
3. That the detailed budget proposals for other Mayoral functions be noted.

4. That the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
5. That members submit any written comments to the Mayor in line with the legal process and timetable described in this report.
6. That it be noted that at its meeting on 10 February 2023, there will be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final baseline funding settlement.
7. That the aspiration to raise Our Pass threshold to 25 years old for young people leaving care be noted.
8. That the GM Mayor keep all Leaders informed on developments in the Fire Service payment dispute.
9. That the GM Mayor bring a mid-year review to the GMCA in March following the introduction of capped fares on buses.
10. That the points raised by the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

GMCA 14/23 MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, introduced a report which set out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review.

RESOLVED /-

That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report for the first half of 2022/23 and the projected outturn position, revised Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt and the revised Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) be noted.

**GMCA 15/23 COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LOCAL AUTHORITY
INVESTMENT PROPOSALS TO DELIVER UKSPF
INTERVENTION E22**

Councillor David Molyneaux, Portfolio Lead for Resources, introduced a report seeking the GMCA's approval to allocate the £15m UKSPF Intervention E22 funding as per the proposals set out in the report.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of grant funding to the ten projects, subject to due diligence work being undertaken, as per the proposals set out within this report, be approved.
2. That the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, GMCA Monitoring Officer and Treasurer to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete the necessary related documentation in relation to those projects set out in section 3 that have scored above the quality threshold be approved.
3. That the delegation of authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, GMCA Monitoring Officer and Treasurer to review the further due diligence information for the remaining two projects and subject to their satisfactory assessment in line with the approach detailed in section 3, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete the necessary related documentation, be approved

GMCA 16/23 ACTION TO IMPROVE GM'S RENTED HOUSING

Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Place Based Regeneration and Housing & Infrastructure, introduced a report which set out recent developments in GMCA-led activity currently to improve the private rented sector, the award of new funding from Government to GM and seeks agreement for spending to deliver a local enforcement pathfinder.

The GM Mayor reported that there was a funding announcement at the Convention of the North, of an additional £15 million to support improvements in housing standards. The details of this were to be shared with Members when available.

Steve Rumbelow explained that there were three main strands to consider: 1) the Local Enforcement Pathfinder Programme; 2) the Good Landlord Scheme; and 3) the Good Landlord Charter. It was emphasised that this work was not an attack on all landlords as there were some responsible operators but there was clearly a need to separate those who did not act responsibly. A member noted that the Government had talked about a Private Landlords' Database and good data and evidence would be welcomed in this sector.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of this report, including the positive impacts on equality and inclusion, health and other key indicators which can be secured if the standards of our rented homes can be improved, be noted.
2. That the award of £2.12 million to GMCA by DLUHC for a local enforcement pathfinder and the delivery obligations placed on GMCA be noted.
3. That the intention of the GMCA to enter into grant agreements with the 10 GM authorities in relation to the delivery of the local enforcement pathfinder in line with the approach outlined be noted.
4. That the proposals for the GMCA to fund the 10 GM districts to deliver the GM Good Landlord scheme be noted.
5. That the proposal for GMCA to collaborate with other GM housing providers and private rental sector to create a Good Landlord Charter be noted.
6. That information on £15 million of further support for affordable homes will be shared as it becomes available.

GMCA 17/23 TRANSPORT ITEMS

The GM Mayor informed the meeting that there were several transport reports included on the agenda for consideration.

A number of the issues had been discussed at the recent Convention for the North including The Bee Network and the bus recovery programme, and the poor performance of Trans Pennine Express. Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) had undertaken a survey which demonstrated that over 18,000 journeys had been cancelled over the last 12 month period, with over one third of those cancellations undertaken on the expected day of travel. This was simply unacceptable, and the Northern Mayors had unanimously agreed to come together to hold them to account.

The GM Mayor informed the GMCA that he had accepted an offer to Chair the Rail North Committee.

The first Bus Franchise contracts had been awarded and Go North West was the successful operator for the larger contracts in Wigan and Bolton. Other, smaller, contracts had been awarded to Diamond (Rotala) but, since the award, they had taken the decision to de-register several services in Bolton, Rochdale and Bury. There was some reluctant acceptance that they could remodel their business in this way despite the effects on services for residents. Officers were now working on plans to minimise the loss of services. Further updates on this and work planned for school services would be scheduled for consideration at a future meeting of the GMCA.

Councillor John Walsh, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, was invited to comment on the Our Pass Evidence Review. It was confirmed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had some concerns about the data and whether it was robust. The Committee had noted that there were marked differences in uptake but recognised that further marketing campaigns could address this. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the proposals subject to further evidence of the baseline being

presented, not least because it was a £60 million scheme and that the need to increase patronage and usage was crucial to the equation.

The GM Mayor confirmed some of the data already gathered from the review, which included that a number of students had advised that they had been able to attend the college of their choice because of the free travel; Trafford and Oldham had the least take-up of the Our Pass; and the opportunity element of the scheme (discounts and offers) was not very well used or understood and an app was being developed to assist.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that Mayor Burnham has agreed to chair the Rail North Committee.
2. That Mayor Burnham's update on performance issues at Trans Pennine Express be noted

B. Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Franchising, Fares and Local Bus Strategy

1. That the update on the implementation of bus franchising and a weekly bus fare cap be noted.
2. That the proposals to develop the Greater Manchester Bus Plan, a local bus strategy for the city region be noted.

C. Transport Capital Programme

1. That it be approved to draw down £5.147 million of CRSTS funding to develop and deliver the initial phase of minor works interventions as part of the Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme, noting that further updates and associated funding draw down requests will be brought to the GMCA in due course.

2. That the consolidation of £3.3 million of previously approved TCF2 funding into the CRSTS programme to support the development and delivery of the Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme be noted.
3. That it be approved to draw-down of £0.3 million of CRSTS funding to enable Bolton Council to develop the Topp Way / Higher Bridge scheme to Outline / Full Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the GMCA in due course.
4. That it be approved to draw-down £4.5 million of CRSTS funding to enable Oldham Council to deliver the Manchester Street Viaduct refurbishment scheme.
5. That the release of £0.34 million of previously approved TCF2 funding to develop the Golborne Station scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the GMCA in due course, be approved.

D. Our Pass Evidence Review

1. That the findings of the Our Pass pilot evaluation be noted.
2. That the funding of Our Pass on a continuing basis be approved.
3. That the scheme should be subject to an annual review of its performance, to be completed at the end of each academic year, be agreed.
4. That the range of Our Pass “Exclusives” that are made available to cardholders continue to be developed.
5. That the comments received from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee pertaining to Our Pass be received.

E GM Active Travel Programme

1. That the release of up to £2.15 million of MCF delivery funding for the Oldham Town Centre West Street/Cheapside scheme be approved.
2. That the release of up to £1.3 million of MCF delivery funding for the Wigan to Standish Phase 1 scheme be approved.

GMCA 18/23 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND / GM CITY DEAL RECEIPTS - INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive, for Place Based Regeneration, Housing and Infrastructure, introduced a report seeking approval to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (“GMHILF” or “the Fund”) loans detailed in the recommendation below. This report also seeks the Combined Authority’s approval to substitute up to £20m of the proposed GMHILF lending with City Deal Receipts, subject to Homes England approval.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GMHILF loans detailed in the table below, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report be approved.

<i>BORROWER</i>	<i>SCHEME</i>	<i>DISTRICT</i>	<i>LOAN</i>
<i>Renaker</i>	<i>Bankside, Greengate</i>	<i>Salford</i>	<i>£54.143m</i>
<i>Renaker</i>	<i>Tower D2, Trinity Island</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>£65.646m</i>

2. That it be approved for up to £20m of the GMHILF lending for the Bankside and Tower D2 schemes being substituted with City Deal Receipts, noting that this is subject to Homes England approval, and to delegate authority to the GMCA

Treasurer to agree the exact composition of the lending between GMHILF and City Deal Receipts following further discussions with Homes England.

3. That the delegation of authority to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements be approved.

GMCA/19/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

**GMCA 20/23 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND / GM CITY DEAL
RECEIPTS - INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 18/23)

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the report be noted.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023 AT
THE GMCA OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

PRESENT:

Bolton	John Walsh (Chair)
Bolton	Hamid Khurram
Bolton	Champak Mistry
Bury	Nathan Boroda
Bury	Mary Whitby
Manchester	Greg Stanton
Manchester	Mandie Shilton Godwin
Manchester	John Leech
Oldham	Colin McLaren
Salford	Alex Warren
Salford	John Mullen
Salford	Jim King
Stockport	Mike Hurleston
Stockport	Elise Wilson
Stockport	Amanda Peers
Trafford	Barry Brotherton
Wigan	Joanne Marshall

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA	Steve Wilson
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA
TfGM

Ninoshka Martins
Steve Warrener

O&SC 48/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tom Besford (Labour, Rochdale), Naila Sharif (Labour, Tameside), Umar Nasheen (Labour, Oldham) and Amanda Peers (Labour, Stockport).

O&SC 49/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair provided a summary of the feedback provided at the GMCA meeting held on 16th December 2022 regarding Delivering the Bee Network – Weekly Fare Cap.

O&SC 50/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Elise Wilson declared a personal interest in item 6 – Good Employment Charter.

**O&SC 51/23 THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23
NOVEMBER 2022**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

O&SC 52/23

WORK PROGRAMME & FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming months be noted.
2. That an informal briefing on the Community Wealth Hub would be arranged for members – date tbc.

O&SC 53/23

GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

Ian MacArthur, Director, Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter, introduced the item and provided an overview of the progress made on the delivery of the Charter since its launch in January 2022.

The report also provided an overview of the challenges of the changing nature of work and the growth of the good employment movement in the current socio-economic climate. The Charter aims continue to create a good employment 'movement' in Greater Manchester, by expanding its reach generally, and by focusing on engagement with sectors that require the most support and development to improve employment practice.

Further work was underway, with partners to develop innovative approaches to good employment practice and to continually evolve and develop new solutions. As part of the initiative to increase awareness of good employment standards, a number of initiatives focused on employees had been launched which included an online questionnaire to determine the quality of an individual's employment standard, good employment week (hosted from 19th – 24th June) etc.

Members welcomed the update and thanked officers for the work done to develop an inclusive economy by raising the profile of good employment standards.

A member queried whether there was any data available to understand the number of individuals living below the poverty line and whether there was any uplift in poverty as a result of being in receipt of the real living wage. It was noted that the Charter was still in its early years to be able to successfully measure the impact on the lives of employees. Officers advised that efforts were to be targeted at the foundational economy where poor employment standards continue to remain an issue and the real living wage was being used as an incentive to engage with employers who were interested in the broader agenda of good employment.

Concerning the profile of the organisations engaged, members were advised that a profile breakdown by sector would be shared with members after the meeting.

In response to a member's query on whether the Charter touched on fire and rehire practices, it was explained that the Charter was built on good practice and not engaging in fire and rehire was one of the seven elements of the membership agreement, if found in breach, employers would have their membership revoked.

It was noted that some of the most exploited workers were non-English speakers, therefore, to maximise reach through increased awareness of good employment standards through the questionnaire during good employment week, the materials would be made accessible for all and would be available in 7 popular ethnic minority languages. Members were advised that the information gathered would not be published but would be utilised to inform other pieces of work.

With regards to hard-to-reach employers such as SMEs and microbusiness, it was explained that by highlighting the benefits and utilising sectoral champions as examples it would help to attract new membership. Members were advised that the intention was to advocate for equal and truly inclusive working conditions across all sectors in GM irrespective of the business size.

It was highlighted that many businesses were conscious of their socio-economic impact but lack the guidance to adopt suitable policies therefore it would be useful to highlight these aspects when canvassing for membership to the Charter.

In terms of support to employees, it was highlighted that many organisations did have a number of employee welfare policies in place, but these were not being implemented. Members recognised the scale of the challenge, however welcomed that on signing up to the Charter, employers needed to meet the requirement for Employee Engagement & Voice thus, ensuring that the voices of employees were heard either through employee forum surveys or through representation with or without trade unions.

RESOLVED /-

That the report and its contents be noted.

That members would be provided with a sectoral breakdown of chartered supported organisations.

O&SC 54/23

OUR PASS EVALUATION

Steve Warrener, Managing Director TfGM introduced the report and provided members with the findings of the Our Pass evidence review that had been carried out against the original strategic key objectives for the initial Our Pass Pilot.

Officers advised on the take up of the scheme and use so far. It was reported that since Our Pass went live in September 2019, there has been strong take-up with over 30 million journeys. In 2019 there were c.40,000 active cards, 2020 c.46,000, 2021 c.48,000 and as of 23 December 2022, there were c. 48,817 active Our Pass cards in circulation out of an eligible cohort population of c.69,000. The first year was a double year and then each year following brings on a new cohort so as one group drops off another takes its place.

Our Pass was originally introduced to give young people greater access to educational, leisure, social and cultural activities, providing free bus travel,

discounted Metrolink travel and access to a host of opportunities (now referred to as 'Exclusives'), to all 16 – 18-year-olds across Greater Manchester (GM). It was therefore recommended that the Our Pass scheme be made permanent and to ensure continuous improvement, the scheme should be subject to an annual review of its performance going forward, to be completed at the end of each academic year.

Officers advised that following feedback from Local Authorities, schools, and young people, it was agreed to open the applications portal in early May 2022 rather than July (as had been the case in previous years) to encourage more applications and to give young people the opportunity to obtain support with applications through schools and colleges.

With regards to the data captured in terms of number of journeys and take up of the pass, officers advised that the baseline set of data was captured since the launch of the pass in 2019 and data about young people's trips prior to the introduction of Our Pass were based on other sources the assumption increase in bus usage was found to be of a minimum of a 13% increase in trips.

A member queried whether a breakdown of the data was available to understand any inequalities in terms of ethnicity, disability and gender and whether there was a direct correlation to the bus network coverage. Officers advised that a detailed demographic information had been captured and members were assured that this would be brought back as part of the ongoing review of the scheme.

Members queried whether this pass was available to those with disabilities. Officers assured members that that cohort were able to avail of the scheme in addition to the other concessions available to them through TfGM and Local Authorities.

It was noted that there were a few areas for improvement for the Our Pass scheme. Members were assured that work was underway with local authorities and education facilities to develop a set of targeted interventions that would increase take up of the scheme.

It was suggested that the conclusion at paragraph 9.1 in the report should be reworded to state that the pass would be made permanent for the remainder of the year subject to an annual review of its performance, recognising that the scheme needed to remain agile.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the findings of the Our Pass pilot evaluation be noted.
2. That the proposal to fund Our Pass on a continuing basis be noted
3. That the proposal for the scheme to be subject to an annual review of its performance, to be completed at the end of each academic year be noted.
4. That the proposal that a newly established Opportunities Board would have the responsibility for setting the terms and the scope of the review activity including whether any elements of dedicated evaluation activity should be commissioned externally be noted.

O&SC 55/23

**MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET & PRECEPT
PROPOSALS**

The Mayor, Andy Burnham introduced the item and provided an overview of the proposals for the Mayoral General Budget and precept for 2023-24. The proposals being made were to include a significant element for the Fire Service (which had previously fallen to the GM Fire and Rescue Authority) along with the details of a supporting proposed precept for the Mayoral General Budget.

It was proposed that there would be an increase to the Mayoral General Precept (fire) for the financial year 2023/24. If the proposal was accepted, the Mayoral Precept would increase by £3.33 totalling to £71.96 for a Band A property split between £50.80 for the fire service and £21.16 for other Mayoral-funded services there would be an increase of £5.00 to £107.95 for a Band D property, with the fire service

accounting for £76.20 and £31.75 for non-fire. It was noted that this increase was not to fund additional services but to limit the disruption to existing essential services amid the cost-of-living crisis and to ensure services were maintained for residents.

In response to a member's query around what the term 'adequate reserves' encompassed, it was clarified that it referred to the of operating costs which would be c.10%, that would be sufficient to cover any unexpected circumstances during the year, this figure was based on the professional judgement of the treasurer.

Members queried where the £12m reserves to support the budget would be taken from. It was explained that the reserves were built up from earn back funding and yearly back flow from reformed services. This would be clearly explained in the February report on the overarching budget.

It was explained that that the percentage of properties in bands A, B and C in GM amounted to 82%, and the breakdown of additional charges would be clearly explained to residents to ensure that there wasn't any ambiguity around the precept levels.

In terms of the corporate recharge, outlined within the report, it was clarified that this referred to the contribution that the Mayor's budget makes to the running costs of the Combined Authority which include and is not limited to the contribution towards corporate functions.

Members highlighted the need to continue assisting Local Authorities to support residents especially in the current financial climate. The Mayor therefore highlighted to members the essential services that were to be funded through the Mayoral General and GMFRS element of the budget. This included the following:

- Continuation of the A Bed Every Night (ABEN) programme, which over the last 5 years has contributed to a reduction in rough sleeping in Greater Manchester. Alongside other funding streams, this contribution is part of a three-year plan to enable greater investment in other areas of homelessness

response and prevention and reduce the overall requirement by end of the 2024/25.

- The Our Pass scheme provided free bus travel within Greater Manchester for 16–18-year-olds and direct access to other opportunities in the region. The Our Pass scheme was funded from a combination of Precept, reserves, and other income. A budget of £16.9m was proposed for 2023/24 with a risk reserve held by TfGM if costs increase during the year, in line with the original funding strategy for the scheme as agreed by the GMCA.
- An essential priority was to bring bus services under local control through a franchising scheme to deliver passenger benefits including simpler fare and ticketing and joined-up planning between bus and tram journeys. The Mayoral precept and earn back funding would fund the procurement and implementation of local service contracts in three ‘Tranches’ with the Tranche 1 to commence operation in September 2023 and for Tranche 3 to commence operation in January 2025.
- Funding would be allocated to the Care Leavers concessionary pass to providing a free bus travel in Greater Manchester for young people 18-21 years old that have been in care.
- The work of the equality panels would also be facilitated by appropriate voluntary organisations, enabling investment in organisations which work in partnership with public services and the wider community, contributing to tackling the inequalities agenda.
- In addition to the above the budget would also fund the work of the Good Landlord Scheme to ensure tenants and landlords have access to information and advice, strengthened enforcement to target the poorest 15 quality and worst managed properties in the sector and capacity to enable landlords to better support tenants.

The Committee noted that there was evidence of increased pressure all across the system. However, the proposed mayoral precept would ensure continued delivery of services for residents in GM.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GM Mayor's proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept by £5 to £107.95 (for a Band D property), be noted as comprising of:
 - i) Functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority - precept of £76.20 (£5 increase);
 - ii) Other Mayoral General functions - precept of £31.75 (no increase).
2. That the following proposals be noted:
 - i) the overall budget proposed for the Fire and Rescue Service,
 - ii) the use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as of March 2024 are adequate,
 - iii). the proposed Fire Service capital programme and proposals for funding,
 - iv). the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service covered by the Mayoral precept
3. That the details of the budget proposals for other Mayoral functions be noted.
4. That the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
5. That it be noted that at the GMCA meeting on 10 February 2023 there would be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final baseline funding settlement.

RESOLVED /-

That the following dates for the rest of the municipal year be noted:

- Wednesday 8 February
- Wednesday 22 March

Signed by the Chair: (to be printed off and signed by the Chair at the next meeting)

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Agenda Item 6

**MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
AUDIT COMMITTEE, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY 2023 AT THE GMCA
OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, MANCHESTER M1 6EU**

PRESENT:

Councillor Sarah Russell	Manchester City Council (Chair)
Councillor John Walsh	Bolton Council
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport Council (substitute Member)
Councillor Mary Whitby	Bury Council
Gwyn Griffiths	Independent Member
Grenville Page	Independent Member
Susan Webster	Independent Member

OFFICERS:

Gillian Duckworth	GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Andrew Lightfoot	GMCA Deputy Chief Executive
Steve Wilson	GMCA Treasurer
Sarah Horseman	GMCA Deputy Director, Audit and Assurance
Laura Blakey	GMCA Investment Director
Damian Jarvis	GMCA Internal Audit Manager
Paul Harris	GMCA Senior Governance and Scrutiny Officer

AC/42/22 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair extended a welcome to all those present.

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Catherine Scivier (Independent Member); Councillor Christine Roberts, Wigan Council (Substitute Member)

Mark Dalton, Mazars and Daniel Watson, Mazars.

AC/43/22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair explained that in respect of the Audit Action Tracking item, Members would like to have a discussion in respect of the ICT actions and it was likely that as this discussion will include sensitive information, then that discussion will be held in Part B of the agenda.

AC/44/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

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

AC/45/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the previous Audit Committee meeting, held on 19th October 2022, were submitted.

A Member highlighted that there was a discussion in respect of the remuneration of Audit Committee, noting that the review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that scrutiny members be remunerated. The discussion also noted that Independent members of this Audit Committee were remunerated. Concerns were raised that this disparity may potentially lead to problems in attracting members to the Audit Committee.

It was noted that the Chair was to step down as a Member at the end of the municipal year and the requests for remuneration of Council appointed members of this Committee and therefore has no personal interest in this matter, but is concerned that the matter will impact on the efficacy of the Audit Committee.

The member also highlighted that given that they were retiring as a member of the committee, there was no personal interest in making this request.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Audit committee, held on 19th October 2022, be agreed as a correct record.
2. That the discussion in respect of remuneration of committee members, as set out above, be noted.

AC/46/22 UPDATE FROM THE JOINT AUDIT PANEL

Members received the minutes of the Joint Audit Panel meeting on 28th November 2022 which provided an update on the work of the Panel.

In noting the update, a Member highlighted that how the Metropolitan Police was under scrutiny for particular failings and there was a need to understand how the scrutiny of similar issues in Greater Manchester Police, should they occur, would be reported through the Joint Audit Panel.

RESOLVED/-

That the update from the Joint Audit Panel be noted.

AC/47/22 AUDIT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Gillian Duckworth, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, GMCA, introduced report which provided Members with a further update on Audit Committee responsibilities, following the report to the Audit Committee on 19 October 2022, particularly in respect of the Committee's relationship with the Joint Audit Panel.

The report explained that consultations with the Chair of the Joint Audit Panel have taken place and that the Chair of the Panel is agreeable to the following:

- To provide a brief written summary of each Joint Audit Panel meeting capturing the key issues discussed, the outcomes of the discussions and any issues that the Panel would like to bring to the attention of the audit committee.
- That the minutes of the meeting are appended to the summary.
- The Audit Committee is able to ask for further information or assurances when they receive the report.
- The Joint Audit Panel Chair will produce an annual report and attend the Audit Committee to present the report and answer questions.
- The Committee and the Panel consider periodic (suggested once a year) joint sessions between the two bodies.

A Member noted that don't want a committee to replicate what is happening elsewhere. The Committee is to ensure that there is correct governance and accountability within the system to address concerns. It was suggested that the recommended approach as set out in the report be trialled for a year and then be reviewed.

A Member commented that clear distinctions between the role and functions of the Independent Panel and this Committee were imperative. The Panel must be free to set its own agenda and work programme. A process of constant review is important.

The role of this Committee is to be assured that the Joint Audit panel is doing the right things. The provision of an Annual Report and minutes of the Joint Audit Panel was helpful. It was suggested that as part of the minute's summary, a level of assurance on those activities and policies undertaken be also included, which may provide a focus for the Committee to explore further.

In line with CIPFA guidance annual effectiveness reviews of the Panel are undertaken.. A summary on this assurance will be provided to the Committee.

A Member suggested that a forward look of potential areas of Joint Audit Panel focus be included within the Annual Report.

Following a suggestion that the Committee has the ability to call-in areas of concern where significant issues have arisen within GMP, the role of the Deputy Mayor, the

existing Police and Crime scrutiny arrangements and Joint Audit Panel responsibilities were highlighted. It is fundamental to the process that the Joint Audit Panel is the accountable. The role of the Audit committee will be to probe and question.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Committee recommends to GMCA to adopt an amendment to the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference as follows:
 - Receive the annual report of the Chair of the Joint Audit Panel – Police and Crime, written summaries of and the minutes of meetings of the Panel as, amongst other things, a means of providing assurance with regard to GMP's internal control environment and risk management framework for the management of operational risk.
3. That the Chair of the Joint Audit Panel be invited to the Committee to present the Joint Audit Panel Annual Report.
4. That an assurance-based summary be introduced and will accompany the Joint Audit Panel minutes.
5. That a review of the procedures be undertaken after 12 months.

AC/48/22 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Sarah Horseman, Deputy Director, Audit and Assurance, GMCA informing Members of the changes in the GMCA Strategic and key operational risks and to provide an update on the risk management activities undertaken since the last meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that one notable change to this version of the risk register is that it has been reformatted to organise the Strategic Risks around GMCA's Corporate Objectives, as defined in the GMCA Corporate Plan 2022-25.

In welcoming the report, a Member suggested that the Committee should also see those risks that have high inherent scores but that are mitigated to a lower level to have sight of those high inherent risks and to understand what measures are in place to mitigate those risks. A separation on the risk register of these risks and their residual scores should be included for future reports.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That following a request by Members, a section in the Risk Register Update report will provide details of risks with high inherent scores but that are mitigated to a score of <16, be included for future reports.

AC/49/22 RISK DEEP DIVE - GRANTS

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer and Laura Blakely, GMCA Investment Director, introduced a presentation which provided Members with an opportunity to review the work done to improve processes associated with grant management with the Authority and address risks raised by external and internal auditors.

The presentation updated members on 2021/22 External Audit Feedback, Background to issues, Grants Checklist Introduction, Grants Register and the Latest Grant List.

Laura Blakely, GMCA, took members through case studies which included Housing Investment Loan Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund and Stockport Interchange.

Members noted that Grants make up 60% of the total annual income of GMCA (£1.1b in 20/21) and are often for one year rather than multi-year settlements, preventing long term planning and increasing risks to the CA.

In response to external audit recommendations, the Grant Register Procedure has been reviewed, to provide more meaningful information. Previously the Grant register was

produced at year-end and there was no clear process for recognising and recording grant awards received in year.

Grant income and expenditure should form part of the quarterly monitoring process as it will inform our forecast position for the year and flag up any potential funding shortfall or the need to move the unspent grant to Reserves or Receipts in Advance

Procedures are in place to ensure the grant conditions are fully understood by all involved including any required to commit and/or spend funds by a year-end or risk having to return the funding.

Following an enquiry from a Member regarding grant checklists, officers clarified how capital and revenue grants are treated.

In terms of avoiding miscoding matters, it was noted that a capital budget is established as part of the grant agreement and spend is monitored against this specific budget code. Work is taking place to review and improve general ledger coding processes.

A Member enquired if consultancy and staffing costs can be capitalised to particular capital programmes. In response it was noted that there is some ambiguity on what can be capitalised, particularly in respect of scheme developments that do not become capital schemes.

A Member noted that in terms of revenue grants, typically, these grants were generally quite small in comparison to capital grants. A more coordinated approach to the funding of Combined Authorities would avoid the need for so many revenue grants.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers confirmed that conditions attached to grant funding are to be understood before any acceptance of the grant is confirmed. The purpose of having a completed grant checklist to capture any challenges was noted. Monitoring arrangements and programme managing processes were outlined. It was also noted that quarterly updates are provided to GMCA.

Clarification on how joint funding arrangements to deal with overspend and underspend arrangements was provided. The importance of understanding the grant conditions was noted.

RESOLVED/-

That the presentation on Grants be received with thanks and noted.

AC/50/22 AUDIT COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY PROPOSAL

Sarah Horseman, Deputy Director, Audit and Assurance, GMCA introduced a report which set out a proposed process for undertaking an Effectiveness Review of the Audit Committee, based on guidance issued by CIPFA in the recently published “The Audit Committee Member in a Local Authority” guidance.

It was noted that as part of the guidance, CIPFA provided a suggested self-assessment questionnaire for Audit Committee members to complete. The survey covers the key principles of the guidance. A copy of the questionnaire was appended to the report.

The report proposed that prior to the next Audit Committee meeting, Audit Committee Members be invited to complete an on-line self-assessment questionnaire which will be based upon the CIPFA suggested tool.

Results will be compiled and shared for review and consideration at the next Audit Committee meeting. From this any areas for further development of the Committee can be identified and actions agreed. The survey can then be used annually to undertake an effectiveness review of the Committee.

A Member suggested that feedback from officers and GMCA members should also be invited to contribute to the survey.

A member highlighted that there needed to be a distinction between the role of GMCA Scrutiny and GMCA Audit committees.

RESOLVED/-

That the approach to and timing of the Audit Committee effectiveness survey, as set out in the report, subject to the inclusion of officers and GMCA members in the framework, be supported.

AC/51/22 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND AUDIT ACTION TRACKING

Sarah Horseman, Deputy Director, Audit and Assurance, GMCA introduced a report which informed Members of the progress made on the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan for Q3 2022/23. It is also used as a mechanism to approve and provide a record of changes to the internal audit plan.

The Chair also asked for the Audit Action tracking item to be considered with the Audit progress report which, advised members of the progress made to date in implementing the agreed actions from internal audit assignments.

Members noted that since the last report to the Audit Committee in October 2022, the following audit reports had been produced and three grants has been certified. The Executive summaries from the published audits were appended to the report:-

- **Budgetary Control: Reasonable Assurance opinion** on the overall budgetary control process operating within GMCA.
- **Treasury Management - Reasonable Assurance opinion** over the Authority's arrangements for Treasury Management following the establishment of the in-house function from 1 April 2022.
- **Maintenance and Testing of Operational Equipment (GMFRS): Limited Assurance opinion** over controls in place for the maintenance and testing of operational equipment. This opinion was substantially driven by difficulty in linking individual physical assets to corresponding maintenance records to evidence compliance.

- **Performance Management and Reporting: Reasonable Assurance opinion** over the policy, procedure and processes which underpins the GMCA Performance Management and Reporting Framework.

Grant Certifications – Three grants were certified during the period with a further one ongoing: -

- **Green Homes Grant Phase 1b 31/5336.** A written certification was issued in November 2022.
- **Green Homes Grant Phase 2 20/21 31/5337.** A written certification was issued in December 2022.
- **Local Transport Capital Block Funding (City Deals Fund) £22.3m 31/5675.** A written certification of compliance was issued to DfT in December 2022.

Changes to the Internal Audit Plan were set out in section 4 to the report and members noted that other than rescheduling the timing of planned work, no major changes to the plan were proposed.

In response to an enquiry from a Member, officers confirmed that where a limited assurance action plan is not met, respective officers would be invited to comment on why progress had not been made.

In terms of outstanding actions on the action tracker it was suggested that officers be invited to the next meeting to explain outstanding HR and cyber security actions.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted and the changes to the Audit Plan as detailed in Section 4 to the report, be approved.

2. That the progress of the implementation of Internal Audit actions.
3. That officers be invited to the next meeting to explain outstanding HR and cyber security actions.

AC/52/22 MID-YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer presented a report which set out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' to review and scrutinise the 2022/23 Treasury Management Mid-Year Review report, prior to its presentation to the GMCA on 27 January 2023

The report also provided an overview of Economics and Interest Rates, Interest Rate Forecasts, Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update, The Authority's Capital Position, Borrowing, Debt Rescheduling, Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits and Annual Investment Strategy.

Member suggested that for future reports, a more up to date context be included.

A Member noted that GMCA has deposits with other local authorities, with the potential risk for default and enquired if these authorities were credit scored. Officers noted that all authorities were credit scored at the same level. Officers also clarified that where authorities were facing Section 141 challenges, there is specific assurance from Government that loaned monies were underwritten.

A Member asked what assessments were in place to understand the risk of defaulting and the government not underwriting any loans. In response, it was noted that there is a process in place to monthly review in place and would not make loan agreements where the review identified risk.

In respect of the Capital Programme, a Member highlighted the significant increase in capital programme borrowing for 2022/23. In response, it was noted that grant settlement funding had been received which had impacted the estimated funding. The capital programme is monitored by GMCA.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review, as set out in the report, be noted.
2. That the Committee recommends the treasury management activity for the first half of 2022/23 and the projected outturn position, revised Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt and the revised Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) to the GMCA, to be considered for approval.

AC/53/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

In their absence, the report of the External Auditor was taken as read.

The Treasurer, GMCA provided an update on the work taking place to finalise the financial statements and it was anticipated that these financial statements will be considered at the meeting of the Committee in March 2023.

In light of the delays in receiving the financial statements for 2022, a Member enquired if there are any issues that may delay the final submission of the 2023 financial statements. In response, it was noted that timeline issues were to be considered with the external Auditor and it is anticipated that there may be a delay in considering the final accounts for 2023. A review of the process was needed.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report of the External Auditor and update on Financial Statements be noted.
2. That an update be provided to an appropriate meeting of the Committee which will identify the process to enable the GMCA Financial Statements to be considered in a timely manner.

AC/54/22 FORWARD PLANNING - AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Committee Work Programme of proposed items, for the remainder of the year.

A Member suggested that future meeting should include items for Deep Dive discussions. A suggestion was made that "Inflation" would be a suitable topic for a deep Dive item.

A Member suggested that time be set aside for Committee visits to be undertaken. It was noted that as there will be changes to the Committee, the decision on timetabling committee visits will be made by the incoming Chair.

In response to an enquiry, officers noted that the re-appointment of independent members was to be considered by GMCA at the upcoming meeting.

RESOLVED/-

That the committee work programme be noted.

AC/55/22 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED/-

That the next meeting of the GMCA Audit Committee will take place on Wednesday 15th March 2023, commencing at 10:00 am, be noted.

AC/56/22 EXCLUSION OF 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 on the grounds that discussions on elements of the report are likely to disclose of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), as set out in paragraph 3 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/57/22 AUDIT ACTION TRACKING

Members discussed matters arising from the audit action tracker in respect of cyber security and ICT matters.

RESOLVED/-

That an update on ICT and cyber security matters, including information on backup and data recovery processes, be shared with Members ahead of the next meeting of the Committee.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2023

PRESENT:

Andy Burnham (In the Chair)	Mayor of Greater Manchester
Councillor Martyn Cox	Bolton
Councillor Bev Craig	Manchester
City Mayor, Paul Dennett	Salford
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport
Councillor David Molyneux	Wigan

ALSO PRESENT:

Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM
Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Chief Executive, GMCA
Gill Duckworth	Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Kevin Lee	GM Mayor's Office
Julie Connor	Director, Governance, Scrutiny & Business Support, GMCA
Steve Wilson	Treasurer, GMCA
Andrew McIntosh	Director of Place, GMCA
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

RC/01/23 APOLOGIES

The Chair advised that Cllr Western had now departed the Resources Committee and it was expected that Cllr Chadderton would be agreed as his replacement during the GMCA Appointments item at the GMCA later that day.

RC/02/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED/-

There were no declarations of interest.

RC/03/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 DECEMBER 2022

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

RC/04/23 ESTABLISHMENT OF ICP / GMHP TRIPARTITE DIRECTOR ROLE

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, introduced a report seeking approval seeking approval from the Committee on the establishment of a GM Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) / Greater Manchester Housing Providers (GMHP) Tripartite Director role.

It was explained that this role was critical to the effective management of the Tripartite Agreement (TPA). The postholder would be accountable to the leads within GMCA, GM ICP and the Chair of GMHP and would be responsible for the delivery of the objectives and work programmes set out in the TPA. The TPA was a critical tool to support the delivery of the housing and health objectives as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy. A full work programme would be established with clear outcomes annually with the key leads based on the TPA. The role had existed for three years and currently fell under the employment of Bolton at Home, but going forward the employment would fall within the CA – and constitutionally would need the authorisation of the Resources Committee due to the seniority of the role.

Members spoke in full support of the appointment. The role within the current context of ensuring quality homes locally and nationally was more important than ever.

Members noted that a review would take place after six months – but sought confirmation of how the review would take place, and whether the results would be brought back before the Resources Committee. It was advised that a tripartite review would take place led jointly by GMCA, GMHP and the ICP and that the results would be brought back to the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That authority be given to the GMCA Chief Executive to progress the establishment of an ICP / GMHP Tripartite Director role for a period of two years.
2. That approval be given to the level of remuneration for the role of circa £85,000, subject to full job evaluation.
3. That the results of the review of the role after six months be brought back to the Resources Committee for their consideration.

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GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10 February 2023

Subject: A. GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2023/24 Overview

Report of: Cllr David Molineux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and
Steve Wilson, Treasurer to GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents an overview of the proposed GMCA budgets for 2023/24. It summarises the position on the Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals, The GMCA General Budget, GMCA Transport budgets including Transport Levy and Statutory Charge and the GM Waste Services Levy.

It sets out the implications of the proposed budgets and the resultant charges on districts and the Mayoral Precept.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations on the specific budget areas are contained in the accompanying papers. In relation to this paper, members are asked to note the contents of this summary paper.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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Name: Steve Warrener, Finance and Corporate Services Director TfGM
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Name: Rachel Rosewell, Deputy Treasurer to GMCA
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Equalities Implications: N/A

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures:

Risk Management – An assessment of major budget risks faced by the authority are carried out quarterly as part of the reporting process – at the present time a significant proportion of the capital budget is funded through grant. In order to mitigate the risk of monetary claw back the full programme is carefully monitored against the grant conditions and further action would be taken as necessary.

Legal Considerations – There are no specific legal implications contained within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue – The report sets out a summary of the proposed revenue budgets for 2023/24 and medium term financial planning for 2023/24 – 2025/26.

Financial Consequences – Capital – The report sets out a summary of the proposed capital programme for 2022/23 – 2025/26.

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: 'GMCA Budget Reports' 11th February 2022

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

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 8th February 2023

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report presents an overview of the proposed Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) budgets for 2023/24. It summarises the position on the Mayoral General Budget and Precept, GMCA General Revenue Budget, GMCA Transport Revenue budget including Transport Levy and Statutory Charge, the GM Waste Service Levy and the Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26.
- 1.2 The report and the attached papers set out the implications of the proposed budgets and the resultant charges on districts and the Mayoral Precept.

2. Principles Underlying development of the Mayoral and GMCA budgets

- 2.1 The budgets presented to the Combined Authority for approval focus on the delivery of the priorities set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS).
- 2.2 Delivery of the GMS priorities will require the GMCA, Districts, businesses and the voluntary and community sector and other stakeholders to work in partnership. The Mayoral precept and GMCA budgets will support key areas of delivery for the strategy and its implementation plan, particularly in areas where the investments made in Districts can be supported by the GMCA.

3. Overview of GMCA Budgets

- 3.1 The overall GMCA budgets are made up of a variety of both historic budgets and new budgets relating to the functions provided by the Mayor and the GMCA as a whole.
- 3.2 The various orders under which these functions are provided, determine how such costs are funded such that:
 - **Mayoral General Budget** – Funded from the Mayoral precept and statutory charge/contributions from the districts (excluding the transport

levy). Fire funding is part of the Mayoral precept but also receives a revenue support grant, business rates income and a top up grant.

- **GMCA Transport Revenue Budget** – This is funded from a contribution from the mayoral budget for statutory mayoral functions including Bus services and from a levy on district budgets for non-mayoral functions in relation to public transport and a contribution to Metrolink financing costs agreed previously as part of the establishment of the Greater Manchester Transport Fund. The budget also includes a number of other grants received in relation to specific activities.
- **GMCA General Revenue Budget** – This includes corporate, devolved and programme funded activities of the Combined Authority. The budget is made up of a number of specific Government grants, including the Adult Education Budget, retained business rates, District contributions, earmarked reserves, internal recharges to other GMCA budgets and external income.
- **Greater Manchester Waste and Resources – Budget and Levy 2023/24 and Medium Term and Financial Plan** – This is funded through a levy to the nine GM districts who participate in the GM waste service (Wigan are not part of the waste contract). The contributions are on the basis of an agreed funding mechanism (LAMA).
- **GMCA Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26** – The required capital programme to support the delivery of Transport, Fire and Rescue, Waste and Resources and Economic Development and Regeneration projects. The report sets out the capital funding statement funded from a variety of sources including grant and external borrowing.

3.3 This paper does not present the budget proposals for GM Police or the Police and Crime function. At the meeting on the 26th January 2023, it was noted by the Police, Fire and Crime Panel that the Mayor had considered his proposed increase

to the police precept in light of the responses by members of the public to the proposals set out in the consultation which concluded on the 25th January 2023. The Panel approved the Mayor's proposal for a precept increase of £15 per year for a band D property. This will take the Band D police precept to £243.30 per year.

3.4 The key elements of each budget area are summarised below:

i) Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals

The report sets out the Mayor's proposals for the Mayoral General Budget (including Fire and Rescue) and seeks approval for the Mayoral General Precept for 2023/24. The purpose of this report and recommendation are:

- To approve the Mayor's General budget for 2023/24 together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates;
- To approve the Mayoral General Precept to £107.95 (Band D) comprising of £76.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept which is an increase of £5 and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions which will be frozen;
- To approve the overall budget covered by the Mayoral precept and the medium term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service;
- To approve the use of reserves and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2023 are adequate;
- To note that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes will record the names of those Members voting for or against the Mayor's budget and precept proposals.

ii) GMCA Transport Revenue Budget

This report sets out the proposed GMCA 2023/24 Transport revenue budget for 2023/24 of £304.649m. The proposed Transport Levy to be approved for 2023/24 is included within the report together with the consequential allocations to the District Councils of Greater Manchester. The GMCA is recommended to:

- Note the significant risks and issues which are affecting the 2023/24 transport budgets and the ongoing discussions with the Department for Transport as detailed in the report;
- Approve the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in this report for 2023/24;
- Approve a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2023/24 of £113.472m which, together with the Statutory Charge is an overall increase of 4% (3% of which will be recurrent with a 1% one off increase in 2023/24) apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020;
- Approve a Statutory Charge of £86.7m to District Councils in 2023/24 as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020;
- Approve the proposal to increase fees and charges where applicable, in line with inflation and to approve the increases proposed to Bus stop closure charges;
- Approve the use of Transport reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in the report.

iii) GMCA Revenue General Budget

This report sets out the proposed GMCA General Revenue Budget for 2023/24 of £245.584m. The proposed District contributions to be approved for 2023/24 of £8.603m are included within the report together with the consequential allocations to the individual Councils which is unchanged from 2022/23. The GMCA is recommended to:

- Approve the budget relating to the GMCA Corporate Services and devolved programme related functions ;
- Approve District contributions of £8.603 million;
- Approve the use of GMCA General reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in the report.

iv) GM Waste Disposal Budget

The purpose of the report is to seek comment on the Waste and Resources budget and levy for 2023/24 and on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2025/26. The report sets out:

- A total levy requirement for 2023/24 of £169m, which represents a 2.5% average increase over 2022/23. At a District level the levy changes range from 1.8% to 3.2%;
- The MTFP proposes levy charges of £177.4m in 2024/25 and £185.5m in 2025/26;
- Approval for the proposed 2024/25 Trade Waste rate of £134.14 to allow forward planning by Districts;
- Approval for the budget and levy for 2023/24 of £169m (2.5% increase);
- Approval of a one-off reduction of £27m to the levy in 2023/24 funded from reserves reducing the 2023/24 requirement to £142m and delegate approval to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the basis of distribution with local authority Treasurers and
- Note the risk position set out in the balances and reserves strategy.

v) GM Capital Programme

This report is the GMCA 2022/23 to 2025/26 capital expenditure programme. The GMCA is requested to:

- Note the current 2022/23 forecast of £462.1m compared to the 2022/23 previous forecast of £565.6m and approve changes to the capital programme;
- Approve the capital programme budget for 2023/24 of £591.8m and the forward plan as detailed in the report;
- Approve funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) grant in the capital programme.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The attached reports set out the detailed proposals for each budget area including:

- The Mayor's final proposal for Mayoral General Budget, with the proposed precept and the detailed budget and statutory calculations following receipt of final information from District Councils.
- Contributions from District Councils in relation to the Transport Levy, Waste Levy and GMCA costs
- The planned capital programme for GMCA across both Mayoral and non-Mayoral functions.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Recommendations are presented at the front of the paper.



GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10th February 2023

Subject: B. Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals 2023/24

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report sets out the Mayor's proposals for the Mayoral General Budget (including Fire and Rescue) and seeks approval for the Mayoral General Precept for 2023/24.

The report recommends the setting of the Revenue Budget for 2023/24 as required under Section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (updated in the Localism Act 2011) and the precepts and relevant levels of Council Tax required under sections 40, 42B and 47 of the Act.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is recommended to:

1. Approve the Mayor's General budget for 2023/24 set out in this report together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates set out in Appendix 2.
2. Approve the Mayoral General Precept to £107.95 (Band D) comprising of £76.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions.

3. Approve:
 - i. the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2023/24 covered by the Mayoral precept
 - iii. the medium term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service

4. Approve the use of reserves as set out in section 3 of the report and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2023 are adequate.

5. Note that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes will record the names of those Members voting for or against the Mayor's budget and precept proposals.

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Equalities Implications: N/A

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures: N/A

Risk Management – An assessment of the potential budget risks faced by the authority are carried out quarterly as part of the monitoring process. Specific risks and considerations for the budget 2023/24 insofar as they relate to the Fire Service are detailed in Appendix 2.

Legal Considerations – See Appendix 1 of the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue – The report sets out the planned budget strategy for 2023/24 and future years.

Financial Consequences – Capital – Proposals for Fire and Rescue Services capital spend are set out within Part 2 of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

GMCA – Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals 2022/23 – 11 February 2022

GMCA - Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals 2023/24 – 27 January 2023

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? N/A

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 8th February 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) the Mayor's budget for 2023/24, to meet the costs of Mayoral general functions. The functions of the GMCA which are currently Mayoral General functions are:

- Fire and Rescue
- Compulsory Purchase of Land
- Mayoral development corporations
- Development of transport policies
- Preparation, alteration and replacement of the Local Transport Plan
- Grants to bus service operators
- Grants to constituent councils
- Decisions to make, vary or revoke bus franchising schemes

1.2 The sources of funding for Mayoral costs, to the extent that they are not funded from other sources, are a precept or statutory contributions (not Fire). A precept can be issued by the Mayor to District Councils as billing authorities. The precept is apportioned between Districts on the basis of Council Tax bases and must be issued before 1st March.

1.3 At the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 27th January 2023, the Mayor's proposed budget was considered and a number of recommendations were made in respect of the budget strategy. Based upon these recommendations being acceptable, this report sets out the necessary resolutions and statements required to be approved in order to set the budget and precept for 2023/24. The legal process (Appendix 1) specifies that the GMCA should notify the Mayor before 8th February, if they intend to issue a report on this proposal for the budget and precept and/or propose an alternative. At the time of writing no such report has been received.

1.4 The Mayoral General Precept is part of the overall council tax paid by Greater Manchester residents and used to fund Greater Manchester wide services for which the Mayor is responsible.

1.5 The Mayoral General Precept for the financial year 2023/24 will increase to £71.96 for a Band A property split between £50.80 for the fire service and £21.16 for other Mayoral-funded services (£107.95 for a Band D property, with the fire service accounting for £76.20 and £31.75 for non-fire). The Mayoral General Budget 2023/24 is set out in two parts:

1.5.1 Part 1 - Mayoral General Budget 2023/24 (excluding Fire and Rescue).

There is no increase to the Mayoral General precept for 2023/24, the existing precept of £31.75 will continue to support:

- The 'A Bed Every Night' emergency response scheme to reduce rough sleeping in Greater Manchester and continue to support local schemes and homelessness partnerships to end rough sleeping. This scheme is supplemented by financial support from the Greater Manchester Integrated Health and Care Partnership, Probation Service and other partners across Greater Manchester.
- The 'Our Pass' scheme free bus travel within Greater Manchester for 16-18 year olds.
- Care Leavers concessionary pass providing free bus travel in Greater Manchester for young people 18-21 years old who have been in care.
- Bus Reform implementation as a key step toward development of The Bee Network – an integrated 'London-style' transport system which will join together buses, trams, cycling and walking and other shared mobility services. The Mayoral precept and Earnback funding will fund the procurement and implementation of local bus service contracts (bus franchising) in three 'Tranches'. Tranche 1 will commence operation in

September 2023 covering Wigan, Bolton and parts of Salford and Bury, extending to the whole city region in Tranche 3 by January 2025.

- Good Landlord Scheme to ensure tenants and landlords have access to information and advice, strengthened enforcement to target the poorest quality and worst managed properties in the sector and capacity to enable landlords to better support tenants.
- Equality panels facilitated by appropriate voluntary organisations, enabling investment in organisations which work in partnership with public services and the wider community, contributing to tackling the inequalities agenda.

1.5.2 Part 2 - Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2025/26. The precept increase in relation to GMFRS is required to ensure, given the significant increase in inflationary pressures on both pay and non-pay budgets, fire cover is maintained. The Mayor has committed to continuing with at least 50 fire engines throughout 2023/24 with crewing at the current level of five firefighters at one pump stations and four firefighters on each engine at two pump stations.

2. CHANGES SINCE THE LAST REPORT

2.1 At the time of writing the report considered by GMCA on the 27th January, the position on District Council tax bases and the Collection Funds together with the position on the authority's share of business rates was not finalised, as the deadline for providing this information was 31 January. The figures have now been received, with the exception of incomplete information from two Councils, for which, prior year values have been used for business rates income and Section 31 relief grant income in 2023/24. The confirmed figures, together with the estimates stated are showing a change from that previously reported as set out in the following paragraphs.

2.2 The tax base is used in the calculation of how much money will be received from the precept levied. Each Council is required by regulations published under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to calculate a Council Tax Base. The tax base for each Council is shown in Appendix 2 and no changes have been reported to the point of writing this report. Each Council is required to calculate its estimated position for council tax and business rates in the form of a surplus or a deficit on the collection fund. This is the account that records all council tax and business rates receipts. The share for the Mayoral General budget (including Fire and Rescue) is calculated as part of this process. In addition to this, Fire and Rescue receives 1% of share business rates income.

3. MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET 2023/24

3.1 The Mayoral General Budget is set out in two parts:

3.2 Part 1 - Mayoral General Budget 2023/24 (excluding Fire and Rescue). Although it is required to set a precept specifying the Band D Charge, by far the majority of properties, 82.1%, in Greater Manchester will be required to pay less than this amount. The following table outlines the amounts to be paid by each band and the proportion of properties which fall into each band.

2023/24	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Costs for Band £	21.16	24.69	28.22	31.75	38.80	45.86	52.91	63.50
Proportion of Properties	44.7%	19.8%	17.6%	9.5%	4.9%	2.1%	1.3%	0.2%

3.3 Part 2 - budget in relation to the revenue budget for the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFP). Appendix 2 sets out the amounts of Council Tax for each band, including the Fire element of the precept.

- 3.4 In addition, income from Business Rates, both a share of the income collected by District Councils and a ‘top up’ grant, is received. As the GMCA is part of the 100% Business Rates Pilot, the previous receipt of Revenue Support Grant has been replaced by equivalent baseline funding through an increased Business Rates top up.
- 3.5 The council tax and business rates income is based on the information presented by the District Councils as at the statutory deadline of 31st January and the estimate of the Business Rates ‘top up’ grant will be confirmed in the final settlement.
- 3.6 In relation to non-Fire functions, in addition to precept income, there are funds relating to the Government ‘Mayoral Capacity’ funding, the position on Council Tax collection identified by District Councils as relating to the Mayoral Precept, Bus Services Operators Grant, Transport Statutory Charges and External Income.
- 3.7 Following the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) order being laid in April 2019, the Mayor was given further powers for transport functions and an £86.7m statutory charge to District Councils (with a corresponding reduction in the Transport Levy). A full breakdown by District Council is shown in paragraph 5.5. The order also states that this amount (£86.7 million) can only be varied with the unanimous agreement of the members of the GMCA.
- 3.8 The table below shows the summary of gross and net budget for Mayoral General Budget including GMFRS budget for 2023/24:

Budget Summary 2023/24	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Estimate
	£000	£000	£000
Fire Service Budget	129,251	3,814	125,437
Other Mayoral General Budget	139,738	15,000	124,738
Capital Financing Charges	2,082	0	2,082
Contribution from balances/reserves	2,637	12,608	-9,971
Budget Requirement	273,708	31,422	242,286

Localised Business Rates		10,650	-10,650
Business Rate Baseline		43,275	-43,275
Services Grant		1,244	-1,244
Section 31 Grant - Business Rates		7,567	-7,567
Section 31 Grant - pensions		5,605	-5,605
Transport - Statutory Charge		86,700	-86,700
Collection Fund surplus/-deficit	0	1,590	-1,590
Precept requirement	273,708	188,053	85,655

3.9 The full calculation of aggregate amounts under Section 42A (2) and (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as updated in the Localism Act 2011 is shown at Appendix 2.

3.10 Taking account of the budget proposals outlined in this paper, the reserves for both Mayoral and GMFRS for 2023/24 are as follows:

Mayoral and GMFRS Reserves	Closing Balances 31 March 2022 £000	Transfer out/(in) 2022/23 £000	Projected Balance March 2023 £000	Transfer out/(in) 2023/24 £000	Projected Balance March 2024 £000
General Reserve	-12,093		-12,093		-12,093
Bus Services Operators Grant	-2,384	671	-1,713	0	-1,713
Our Pass Reserve	-3,942	1,010	-2,932	741	-2,191
A Bed Every Night	-2,611	2,611	0		0
Capital Reserve	-9,615	-5,245	-14,860	-2,637	-17,497
Capital Grants Unapplied	-299	0	-299		-299
Earmarked Budgets Reserve	-2,636	146	-2,490	122	-2,368
Revenue Grants Unapplied	-6,228	3,257	-2,971	700	-2,271
Insurance Reserve	-2,849		-2,849		-2,849
Business Rates Reserve	-1,414		-1,414		-1,414
Restructuring Reserve	-418		-418		-418
Innovation and Partnership CYP	-127		-127		-127
Transformation Fund	-3,604		-3,604		-3,604
Total Reserves	-48,220	2,450	-45,770	-1,074	-46,844

3.11 The current General Fund Reserve balance stands at £12.093m, this is considered an appropriate level and there is no planned use of this reserve.

4. LEGAL ISSUES

- 4.1 In coming to decisions in relation to the revenue budget, I have various legal and fiduciary duties. The amount of the precept must be sufficient to meet my legal and financial commitments, ensure the proper discharge of my statutory duties and lead to a balanced budget.
- 4.2 In exercising my fiduciary duty, I should be satisfied that the proposals put forward are a prudent use of my resources in both the short and long term and that they are acting in good faith for the benefit of the community whilst complying with all statutory duties.
- 4.3 Given that I intend to make firm proposals relating to the Fire Service budget at the February meeting, there will be a need to reassess the overall prudence of the budget, but at this stage, there are sufficient reserves available to ensure a balanced budget is set.

Duties of the Treasurer (Chief Finance Officer)

- 4.4 The Local Government Finance Act 2003 requires the Chief Finance Officer to report to me on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. I have a statutory duty to have regard to the CFO's report when making decisions about the calculations.
- 4.5 Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Mayor to monitor during the financial year the expenditure and income against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, I must take such action as I consider necessary to deal with the situation. This might include, for instance, action to reduce spending in the rest of the year, or to increase income, or to finance the shortfall from reserves.

- 4.6 Under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, where it appears to the Chief Finance Officer that the expenditure of the Mayoral General budget incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure, the Chief Finance Officer has a duty to make a report to me.
- 4.7 The report must be sent to the GMCA's External Auditor and I/the GMCA must consider the report within 21 days at a meeting where we must decide whether we agree or disagree with the views contained in the report and what action (if any) we proposes to take in consequence of it. In the intervening period between the sending of the report and the meeting which considers it, the GMCA is prohibited from entering into any new agreement which may involve the incurring of expenditure (at any time) by the GMCA, except in certain limited circumstances where expenditure can be authorised by the Chief Finance Officer. Failure to take appropriate action in response to such a report may lead to the intervention of the External Auditor.

Reasonableness

- 4.8 I have a duty to act reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and not considering anything which is irrelevant. This Report sets out the proposals from which members can consider the risks and the arrangements for mitigation set out below.

Risks and Mitigation

- 4.9 The Treasurer has examined the major assumptions used within the budget calculations and considers that they are prudent, based on the best information currently available. A risk assessment of the main budget headings has been undertaken and the level of reserves is adequate to cover these.

**5. PART 1 - PROPOSED MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET 2023/24
(EXCLUDING FIRE & RESCUE)**

5.1 This section provides the proposed Mayoral General Budget (excluding Fire & Rescue) for 2023/24. The Mayoral General Budget funds the Mayor's Office and Mayoral functions including Transport. The budget for 2023/24 is a proposed £139.738m to be funded from Precept income, Transport Statutory Charge, reserves, grants and external income.

5.2 The table below sets out the 2022/23 budget and 2023/24 proposed budget:

Mayoral Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget
	£000	£000
Employee Related	501	496
Supplies and Services	15	15
Travel Related	15	15
Corporate Recharge	794	826
Mayoral Priorities		
A Bed Every Night	2,400	2,400
Care Leavers	550	550
Equality Panels	350	350
Good landlord scheme	300	300
Total Mayoral Priorities	3,600	3,600
Mayoral Transport		
Bus Reform	15,895	15,895
Our Pass	16,200	16,891
Bus Service Operators Grant	11,750	11,750
TfGM Revenue Grant	90,250	90,250
Total Mayoral Transport	134,095	134,786
Gross Expenditure	139,020	139,738
Funded by:		
Mayoral Precept	-24,720	-25,193
Collection Fund Surplus /- Deficit	-1,445	-1,059
Collection Fund Compensation	-107	0
BSOG grant	-13,150	-13,150
Mayoral Capacity grant	-1,000	-1,000
Statutory charge	-86,700	-86,700
Use of Reserves	-11,048	-11,786
External Income	-850	-850
Gross Income	-139,020	-139,738

5.3 In relation to the level of the precept to be levied for Mayoral functions it is proposed that this is frozen at £21.16 for a Band A property and £31.75 for a Band D property which will be used to support Mayoral priorities as set out below.

5.3.1 Continuation of the A Bed Every Night (ABEN) programme, which over the last 5 years has contributed to a reduction in rough sleeping in Greater Manchester. Alongside other funding streams, this contribution will be committed to over a three-year plan to enable greater investment in other areas of homelessness response and prevention and reduce the overall requirement by the end of 2024/25.

5.3.2 The Our Pass scheme which provides free bus travel within Greater Manchester for 16-18 year olds and direct access to other opportunities in the region. The Our Pass scheme is funded from a combination of Precept, reserves and other income. A budget of £16.9m is proposed for 2023/24 with a risk reserve held by TfGM if costs increase during the year, in line with the original funding strategy for the scheme agreed by the GMCA.

5.3.3 Bringing bus services under local control through a franchising scheme to deliver passenger benefits including simpler fare and ticketing and joined up planning between bus and tram journeys. The Mayoral precept and Earnback funding will fund the procurement and implementation of local service contracts in three 'Tranches' with Tranche 1 to commence operation in September 2023.

5.3.4 Other Mayoral priorities:

- Care Leavers concessionary pass providing free bus travel in Greater Manchester for young people 18-21 years old that have been in care.
- Equality panels facilitated by appropriate voluntary organisations, enabling investment in organisations which work in partnership with public services and the wider community, contributing to tackling the inequalities agenda.
- Good Landlord Scheme to ensure tenants and landlords have access to information and advice, strengthened enforcement to target the

poorest quality and worst managed properties in the sector and capacity to enable landlords to better support tenants.

Statutory Transport Charge

5.4 The Mayoral Transport includes TfGM Revenue Grant budget met from the statutory transport charge of £86.7m and the Bus Service Operators Grant. Following the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) order being laid in April 2019, the Mayor was given further powers for transport functions and a £86.7 million statutory charge to District Councils (with a corresponding reduction in the Transport Levy). The order also states that this amount (£86.7 million) can only be varied with the unanimous agreement of the members of the GMCA.

5.5 The full breakdown by District Council is shown below:

Local Authority	Population Mid 2020		2023/24 Statutory Charge £000
Bolton	288,248	10.1%	8,774
Bury	190,708	6.7%	5,805
Manchester	555,741	19.5%	16,916
Oldham	237,628	8.3%	7,233
Rochdale	223,659	7.9%	6,808
Salford	262,697	9.2%	7,996
Stockport	294,197	10.3%	8,955
Tameside	227,117	8.0%	6,913
Trafford	237,579	8.3%	7,232
Wigan	330,712	11.6%	10,067
Total	2,848,286	100.0%	86,700

Use of Reserves

5.5.1 The 2023/24 mayoral budget requires the use of £11.786m of reserves, this is predominantly (£11.045m) the use of Earnback revenue reserve to fund the work on Bus Reform as part of the agreed business case.

6. PART 2 - PROPOSED GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2023/24

6.1 The following information provides details supporting the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Revenue and Capital Budgets.

6.2 The Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to 2025/26 has been updated, based on the 2022/23 baseline updated for pay and price inflation, known cost pressures and agreed savings.

6.3 The Chancellor announced the Spending Review in December 2022 which presented a one-year settlement as part of the three-year government Spending Review. In relation to Fire and Rescue Services, the announcements covered the following:

- Fire & Rescue services receiving a 7.4% increase in core spending power
- Flexibility on council tax precept for stand-alone Fire Services of £5 for a one-year period.

6.4 The Provisional Local Government Settlement was published in December 2022 and the MTFP has been updated based on this. Final confirmation of the funding position is to be confirmed in the Local Government Final Settlement expected in February.

6.5 The table below presents the budget requirements incorporating pressures and savings from 2022/23 to 2025/26:

Medium Term Financial Plan	Original 2022/23	Revised 2022/23	Proposed 2023/24	Planned 2024/25	Planned 2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fire Service	107,956	107,956	115,365	125,437	129,382
Pay and price inflation	2,625	5,385	5,955	4,080	2,031
Savings	-788	-788	-712	0	0
Cost pressures and variations	2,812	2,812	4,828	-135	-426
Cost of service	112,605	115,365	125,437	129,382	130,987
Capital Financing Charges	1,692	1,692	2,082	3,096	3,755
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	5,245	5,245	2,637	0	0
Net Service Budget	119,542	122,302	130,156	132,478	134,742
Funded by:					
Localised Business Rates	9,368	9,521	10,649	10,649	10,649
Baseline funding	40,922	40,922	43,275	43,275	43,275
SFA - Services Grant	2,209	2,209	1,244	1,244	0
Section 31 - Business rates related	5,452	5,300	7,567	7,567	7,567
Section 31 - Pension related	5,605	5,605	5,605	5,605	5,605
Precept income (at £76.20 Band D)	55,429	55,429	60,463	60,463	60,463
Collection Fund surplus/deficit	-2,637	-2,637	531	0	0
	116,348	116,349	129,334	128,803	127,559
Shortfall	3,194	5,953	822	3,676	7,183
Shortfall Funded by:					
Earmarked Reserves	3,194	3,194	822	426	0
General Reserves/Precept Increase	0	2,759	0	3,250	7,183
Use of Earmarked & General Reserves/Precept	3,194	5,953	822	3,676	7,183

REVENUE BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Funding

- 6.6 Funding is based on the details from the Provisional Settlement, released in December. The baseline funding from Revenue Support grant and Top-up grant has increased by £2.353m from the 2022/23 position with a reduction in Services Grant of £0.964m. This represents an increase in total Government funding for the service of just over 3%. Whilst this is higher than in previous years, it falls some way short of the pay and non-pay inflation pressures faced by the service. Localised business rates have been confirmed by the majority of the Districts, for those whereby this is not yet available, prior year income has been assumed.
- 6.7 From 2019/20 the Home Office confirmed a Section 31 pension grant of £5.605m million towards estimated costs for GMFRS of £6.1m. Payment of this grant up to 2022/23 was made on a flat cash basis, and in 2023/24 indications suggest that the grant will again be paid on a flat cash basis.
- 6.8 Precept income has been included at the increased rate of £50.80 per Band A property, equivalent to 98 pence per week (£76.20 per household at Band D equivalent, or £1.47 per week) which ensures frontline fire cover is maintained. The estimated taxbase for 2023/24, i.e. the number of households paying council tax, has seen an increase when compared to levels assumed in 2022/23.
- 6.9 Collection Fund surplus/deficits have also been confirmed by the majority of the Districts, for those not yet confirmed, the latest estimates reported have been assumed. Information received shows a surplus following recovery from the pandemic. The values currently provided in the Medium-Term Financial Plan are the deficits from 2020/21 which have been spread over three financial years from 2021/22 and the recoverable amounts from the Tax Income Guarantee funding from Government.

Pay and Pensions

- 6.10 The original pay inflation in respect of 2022/23 included 2% for both uniformed and non-uniformed staff. An employers offer of 5% was put forward in respect of uniformed staff which was rejected, therefore, additional provision has been made in the budget for an increase, however, at this stage it is not clear what the final outcome of the ongoing negotiations will be. In relation to non-uniformed staff, pay award was agreed at £1,925.
- 6.11 Changes by the Treasury in 2019/20 concerning the discount rate for unfunded public sector pension schemes, have had the effect of increasing employers' contributions, equating to £115 million for English Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). For 2019/20 the Home Office confirmed a Section 31 grant of £5.605m, towards estimated costs for GMFRS of £6.1m. Payment of this grant up to 2022/23 was made on a flat cash basis, which is expected again in 2023/24.

Savings

- 6.12 The GMFRS Programme for Change has undertaken a whole service review and developed and implemented a new operating model which affected the revenue budget from 2019/20 to 2021/22. The programme has been completed, however, the service continually ensures that it is delivered efficiently and effectively. As such, a savings target of £1.5m has been put forward across two financial years. £0.788m of the target has been identified as deliverable in 2022/23 following a line-by-line review and Business Rates payable review, with a further £0.712m to be delivered in 2023/24.

Pressures

- 6.13 Budget pressures have been identified as set out below:
- Pay Award – As noted at paragraph 6.10, budget pressures have arisen due to pay awards for 2022/23 and 2023/24. Uniformed staff 2022/23 pay award is under negotiation, an employers offer of 5% has been rejected, therefore,

additional provision has been made in the budget for a further increase for both 2022/23 and 2023/24. Non-uniformed pay award for 2022/23 of £1,925 per full-time equivalent (FTE) has been agreed equating to a budget pressure of £0.442m with a further increase in 2023/24 based on up to 4%.

- National Insurance – Government announced an increase of National Insurance contributions which increased employers' contribution rate from 13.8% to 15.05%. This decision has been reversed and the benefit of this has formed part of the employee budget requirement calculations. Conversely, the Services Grant that was used to fund the NI increase in 2022/23 has been reduced to reflect the benefit. The allocation of Services Grant for GMFRS, as per the provisional settlement is £1.244m, a reduction from the previous year of £0.964m. The net value is a pressure of £0.320m.
- Price Inflation - energy costs inflation has been identified with an estimated budget increase requirement of £1.542m. Fuel costs have increased by 40% equating to an estimated £0.266m pressure. General inflation has been factored in at 2% which equates to an estimated £0.426m pressure.
- Corporate Services support from the wider GMCA will see a cost increase, mainly in relation to pay award. This has been estimated at £0.806m.

Transfer to Earmarked Reserves

- 6.14 The transfer to Earmarked Reserves represents the planned use of revenue funding to be transferred to the Capital Fund reserve. This is to support the cost of future capital investment and reduce reliance on borrowing.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 6.15 GMFRS have reviewed capital investment requirements for the Fire estates, Fire ICT schemes and operational vehicles and equipment, and the proposed capital programme requirements are set out below.

Revised Capital Programme	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Future Years to 2027/28	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Estates	5,661	12,186	24,644	15,576	58,066
Transport	1,662	7,720	1,585	7,273	18,240
ICT	2,617	400	150	450	3,617
Equipment	2,140	274	305	2,078	4,798
Sustainability	484	75	75	225	859
Health & Safety	83	522	0	0	605
Waking Watch	728	2,000	0	0	2,728
Total	13,375	23,177	26,759	25,602	88,913

6.16 A long-term estates strategy has been formulated, the approved phase 1 of the scheme with plans for new builds, extensions, refurbishments, and carbon reduction schemes is underway with expected completion by 2027/28. Alongside this is the Bury Training and Safety Centre which is also underway and due to complete within 2022/23.

6.17 Alongside the estates strategy is a programme of work to replace and update fitness equipment on fire stations. A review of requirements has been completed under the Health, Safety & Fitness team which has been incorporated into the capital programme.

6.18 Transport and Equipment replacement programme budgets are profiled in accordance with expected need and delivery profiles allowing for lead times where supply chains require orders to be placed up to 18 months prior to goods being delivered.

6.19 Following the successful roll out of the Waking Watch Relief Fund, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has requested further support from GMFRS to assist with the delivery of the Waking

Watch Replacement Fund. The project is due to start in quarter 4 of 2022/23 and will continue into 2023/24. The funding for the replacement fund equates to £2.429m

BUDGET RISKS

6.20 Future budget risks are set out below:

- Future government funding within the current Spending Review period beyond 2023/24 has not been confirmed.
- Pay claims for firefighters and local government employees in excess of the assumptions set out in the report.
- McCloud/Sargeant Remedy – the judgement refers to the Court of Appeal’s ruling that Government’s 2015 public sector pension reforms unlawfully treated existing public sectors differently based upon members’ age. The implications of the remedy are being determined but are likely to be significant in future years.
- Delivery of sufficient savings to meet the requirements of the medium term financial strategy, and dependent on availability resources to deliver a change programme.
- Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP) – a national project to procure and replace the emergency services network.
- Any changes required following the Manchester Arena Public Inquiry, Grenfell Inquiry and , Fire Safety Act 2021, and the Building Safety bill not already factored into the budget.
- Any business continuity arrangements that require funding which are not part of the base budget.

- As no capital grants are available to FRSs, future schemes in the capital programme will be funded by a combination of revenue underspends and borrowing. The costs associated with additional borrowing will have to be met from the revenue budget.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Detailed recommendations appear at the front of this report.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS, MAYORAL PRECEPT – GENERAL COMPONENT

- 1.1 The Finance Order sets out the process and the timetable for determining the general component of the precept.

Stage 1

- 1.2 The Mayor must before 1st February notify the GMCA of the Mayor's draft budget in relation to the following financial year.
- 1.3 The draft budget must set out the Mayor's spending and how the Mayor intends to meet the costs of the Mayor's general functions, and must include "the relevant amounts and calculations".
- 1.4 "The relevant amounts and calculations" mean:
- (a) estimates of the amounts to be aggregated in making a calculation under sections 42A, 42B, 47 and 48;
 - (b) estimates of other amounts to be used for the purposes of such a calculations;
 - (c) estimates of such a calculation; or
 - (d) amounts required to be stated in a precept.

Stage 2

- 1.5 The GMCA must review the draft budget and may make a report to the Mayor on the draft.
- 1.6 Any report:
- (a) must set out whether or not the GMCA would approve the draft budget in its current form; and

- (b) may include recommendations, including recommendations as to the relevant amounts and calculations that should be used for the financial year

1.7 The Mayor's draft budget shall be deemed to be approved by the GMCA unless the

Combined Authority makes a report to the Mayor before 8th February.

Stage 3

1.8 Where the GMCA makes a report under 1.5, it must specify a period of at least 5 working days within which the Mayor may:

- (a) decide whether or not to make any revisions to the draft budget; and
- (b) notify the GMCA of the reasons for that decision and, where revisions are made, the revised draft budget

Stage 4

1.9 When any period specified by GMCA under 1.8 has expired, the GMCA must determine whether to:

- (a) approve the Mayor's draft budget (or revised draft budget, as the case may be), including the statutory calculations; or
- (b) veto the draft budget (or revised draft budget) and approve the Mayor's draft Budget incorporating GMCA's recommendations contained in the report to the Mayor in 1.5 (including recommendations as to the statutory calculations).

1.10 The Mayor's draft budget (or revised draft budget) shall be deemed to be approved unless vetoed within 5 working days beginning with the day after the date on which the period specified in 1.8 expires.

- 1.11 Any decision to veto the Mayor's budget and approve the draft budget incorporating the GMCA's recommendations contained in the report to the Mayor in 1.5 must be decided by a two-thirds majority of the members (or substitute members acting in their place) of the GMCA present and voting on the question at a meeting of the authority (excluding the Mayor).

- 1.12 Immediately after any vote is taken at a meeting to consider a question under 1.9, there must be recorded in the minutes the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting.

Appendix 2

CALCULATION OF AGGREGATE AMOUNTS UNDER SECTION 42A (2) AND (3) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 UPDATED IN THE LOCALISM ACT 2011)

BUDGET SUMMARY 2023/24

Budget Summary 2023/24	Gross Expenditure £000	Gross Income £000	Net Estimate £000
Fire Service Budget	129,251	3,814	125,437
Other Mayoral General Budget	139,738	15,000	124,738
Capital Financing Charges	2,082	0	2,082
Contribution from balances/reserves	2,637	12,608	-9,971
Budget Requirement	273,708	31,422	242,286
Localised Business Rates		10,650	-10,650
Business Rate Baseline		43,275	-43,275
Services Grant		1,244	-1,244
Section 31 Grant - Business Rates		7,567	-7,567
Section 31 Grant - pensions		5,605	-5,605
Transport - Statutory Charge		86,700	-86,700
Collection Fund surplus/-deficit	0	1,590	-1,590
Precept requirement	273,708	188,053	85,655

CALCULATION OF TAX BASE

The Tax Base is the aggregate of the Tax Bases calculated by the District Councils in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992. These are currently estimated as:

<u>District</u>	Council Tax Base
Bolton	78,820.0
Bury	57,096.0
Manchester	131,615.1
Oldham	58,500.0
Rochdale	57,552.0
Salford	73,859.0
Stockport	97,533.3
Tameside	63,532.5
Trafford	78,464.0
Wigan	96,500.0
Total	793,471.9

AMOUNTS OF COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH BAND

2023/24	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Costs for Band £	71.96	83.96	95.95	107.95	131.93	155.92	179.91	215.90

CALCULATION OF BAND D EQUIVALENT TAX RATE

	£
NET EXPENDITURE UNDER SN 42A (4)	273,708,126
LESS:- Funding (Including S31 grant)	186,462,244
	87,245,882

ADJUSTED FOR SURPLUS (-) / DEFICIT ON DISTRICT COLLECTION FUNDS

BOLTON	-389,056
BURY	-93,920
MANCHESTER	-478,950
OLDHAM	-43,627
ROCHDALE	-74,374
SALFORD	-92,194
STOCKPORT	-95,670
TAMESIDE	-55,305
TRAFFORD	-366,473
WIGAN	98,978
Total	-1,590,591

NET BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT TO BE MET BY COUNCIL TAX	85,655,291
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<u>NET BUDGETARY REQUIREMENT</u>	85,655,291
AGGREGATE TAX BASE	793,471.9

BASIC TAX AMOUNT AT BAND 'D'	107.95
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GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10 February 2023

Subject: C. GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24

Report of: Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and
Steve Wilson, Treasurer to GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report sets out the transport related Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) budget for 2023/24. The proposed Transport Levy to be approved for 2023/24 is included within the report together with the consequential allocations to the District Councils of Greater Manchester.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is recommended to:

1. Note the risks and issues which are affecting the 2023/24 transport budgets as detailed in the report.
2. Approve the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in this report for 2023/24.

3. Approve a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2023/24 of £113.472m, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020.
4. Approve a Statutory Charge of £86.7m to District Councils in 2023/24 as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020.
5. Approve the proposal to increase fees and charges where applicable, in line with inflation and to approve the increases proposed to Bus stop closure charges. as set out in paragraphs 4.32 and 4.33.
6. Approve the use of Transport reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in section 5.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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Name: Steve Warrener, Finance and Corporate Services Director,
Transport for Greater Manchester
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Equalities Implications: N/A

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures: N/A

Risk Management – The risks and issues which are affecting the 2023/24 transport budgets are detailed in the report.

Legal Considerations – There are no specific legal implications with regards to the 2023/24 budget update, however, please refer to section 6 of the report for budget setting considerations.

Financial Consequences – Revenue – The report sets out the proposed budget for 2023/24.

Financial Consequences – Capital – There are no specific capital considerations contained within the report, however the revenue budget contains resources to meet the capital costs of the authority. Changes in the capital programme can affect the budget to meet these costs.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2022/23 – 11 February 2022

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Revenue Update 2022/23 – 28th October 2022

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

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 8th February 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report provides details of the proposed budget, including Mayoral funded functions as they relate to Transport for 2023/24.
- 1.2 The allocation to District Councils in relation to the Transport Levy and Transport Statutory Charge is set out in Section 3 of the report. Part 4 of the Transport Order laid before Parliament in April 2019 provides that some £86.7m of funding will be provided to the Mayor by way of a Statutory Charge, in respect of costs that were previously met from the levy.
- 1.3 The Authority's legal obligations and the responsibility of the Treasurer to the Combined Authority are also set out in more detail later in the report.

2. TRANSPORT REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24

- 2.1 The proposed Transport budget for 2023/24 is £304.649m, this is an increase of £35.296m compared to 2022/23. The proposed funding to TfGM is £225.428m, an increase of £36.373m compared to 2022/23, with £79.221m to be retained by GMCA predominantly to meet capital financing costs.
- 2.2 The major changes to the proposed 2023/24 Transport Revenue Budget are as follows:
 - Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant of £13m to fund the cap on bus fares introduced in September 2022 (singles and dailies) and January 2023 (weeklies) for the period to August 2023. These proposals were introduced on an initial one year basis, from September 2022 to August 2023, with a commitment to review the delivery by summer 2023;
 - Bus support grants of £6m to support the continuation of bus services which have been deregistered by bus operators;

- District Transport Levy increase of £7.7m which, together with the Statutory Charge is an overall increase of 4% (3% of which will be recurrent with a 1% one off increase in 2023/24);
- Scheme Development cost increase of £6.2m funded from the Business Rates Top-Up reserve which provides flexibility on use of revenue funding to support capital schemes.

2.3 The table below summarises the proposed 2023/24 Transport Revenue Budget compared to original budget for 2022/23. Section 4 below provides detail on the TfGM budget strategy for 2023/24 and the proposed TfGM revenue budget.

Transport Revenue Budget	Approved Budget 2022/23	Proposed Budget 2023/24	Change
	£000	£000	£000
Mayoral Transport Budget	134,095	134,786	691
Mayoral Priorities - Care Leavers	550	550	0
District Levy	105,773	113,472	7,699
Earnback Revenue Grant	12,475	12,592	117
Bus Services Improvement Grant	0	13,000	13,000
Use of Reserves	16,460	22,149	5,689
Other Grants	0	8,100	8,100
Total Resources	269,353	304,649	35,296
Resources Available:			
Calls on Resources:			
<u>Funding to TfGM</u>			
Gross Grant to TfGM	138,322	146,021	7,699
TfGM Funded Finance Costs	(13,419)	(12,836)	583
Revenue grant to TfGM	124,903	133,185	8,282
Other Grants	11,785	19,985	8,200
Bus Services Improvement Grant for capped fares	0	13,000	13,000
Scheme Development Costs	15,900	22,100	6,200
Our Pass Concession	16,200	16,891	691
Care Leavers Concession	550	550	0
Bus Reform	15,895	15,895	0
GMCA Traffic Signals	3,822	3,822	0
Total TfGM	189,055	225,428	36,373
<u>Funding retained by GMCA</u>			
GMCA Corporate	1,024	1,024	0
Capital Financing Costs			

- Levy Funded	52,904	52,904	0
- GMCA Funded	12,951	12,457	(494)
- Metrolink related financing costs	13,419	12,836	(583)
	80,298	79,221	(1,077)
Total Call on Resources	269,353	304,649	35,296

3. PROPOSED GMCA TRANSPORT LEVY AND MAYORAL STATUTORY CHARGE 2023/24

Proposed GMCA Transport Levy and Statutory Charge 2023/24 per District

3.1 The table below details both the Transport Levy and the Statutory Charge per district.

District	Population Mid 2020		2022/23	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	Change	
			Total Charge £000	Transport Levy £000	Statutory Charge £000	Total Charge £000	£000	%
Bolton	288,248	10.12%	19,478	11,483	8,774	20,258	779	4.00%
Bury	190,708	6.70%	12,887	7,598	5,805	13,403	515	4.00%
Manchester	555,741	19.51%	37,554	22,140	16,916	39,056	1,502	4.00%
Oldham	237,628	8.34%	16,058	9,467	7,233	16,700	642	4.00%
Rochdale	223,659	7.85%	15,114	8,910	6,808	15,718	605	4.00%
Salford	262,697	9.22%	17,752	10,466	7,996	18,462	710	4.00%
Stockport	294,197	10.33%	19,880	11,720	8,955	20,676	795	4.00%
Tameside	227,117	7.97%	15,347	9,048	6,913	15,961	614	4.00%
Trafford	237,579	8.34%	16,054	9,465	7,232	16,697	642	4.00%
Wigan	330,712	11.61%	22,348	13,175	10,067	23,242	894	4.00%
Total	2,848,286	100.00%	192,473	113,472	86,700	200,172	7,699	4.00%

4. TfGM BUDGET STRATEGY 2023/24

The Bee Network

4.1 Over the next four years, significant investment in Greater Manchester will dramatically improve the public transport offer. GM's move to bus franchising is a key enabler for delivering this transformational change. This all builds towards delivering the Bee

Network, an integrated 'London-style' transport system, which will transform the way people travel across the city region.

- 4.2 By designing and delivering public transport, active travel and shared mobility services as one system with local accountability and aligned to national and local priorities, the Bee Network will transform the travelling experience and make sustainable, low carbon transport an attractive option for all. The ability to better plan the network will drive revenue by encouraging more people to switch from car journeys to public transport (and active travel) and is therefore key to getting to the 'right mix' of 50% (car):50% (sustainable travel) from the current 60:40 mix.
- 4.3 Accessible, affordable, integrated, inclusive and easy to use, with a daily fare cap and Greater Manchester-wide multi-modal fares, the Bee Network will support seamless end-to-end journeys within Greater Manchester.
- 4.4 On 30 March 2021, the Mayor made the Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021 ("the Franchising Scheme") and the GMCA published its response to the consultation together with the Mayor's decision, as required by section 123G of the Transport Act 2000 and (on behalf of the Mayor) the Franchising Scheme itself.
- 4.5 Greater Manchester is the first place in the UK outside of London to introduce bus franchising, bringing bus services under local control in the biggest change to public transport in the city region in over 30 years.
- 4.6 As previously reported to GMCA, implementation of the Bus Franchising Programme is now well under way, with Tranche 1, covering Wigan and Bolton, due to become operational on 24th September 2023. Contract awards for Tranche 1 took place on 23 December 2023 with Go Ahead and Diamond Bus North West notified as being the successful bidders.

- 4.7 The Expression of Interest for Tranche 2 was issued in September and the second tranche will be operational at the end of March 2024. The third tranche will be contracted by the end of March 2024 and be operational by January 2025.

Financial Context

- 4.8 The Bee Network is being delivered against an exceptional set of financial challenges driven by patronage and revenue remaining below pre-pandemic levels combined with exceptional inflationary pressures on the cost base of the transport network (e.g. increasing electricity, fuel and labour costs). These challenges have impacted both the Metrolink and Bus networks, alongside other risks as described below.

Metrolink

- 4.9 Metrolink has suffered a significant reduction in patronage and farebox revenues since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. After falling to as low as 5% of pre-COVID-19 levels during the first lockdown, patronage has gradually recovered, but farebox revenues remain at c.85% of pre-pandemic levels. The operating costs of the system have also increased significantly due to the unprecedented increases in energy prices and the impact of increase in general inflation. To help address these financial challenges, a package of light rail recovery funding support was provided by central Government throughout the pandemic. That light rail recovery funding subsequently expired in October 2022.

Bus

- 4.10 Bus patronage and revenue also fell significantly at the start of the pandemic but has recovered to approximately 90% of pre-pandemic levels. Notwithstanding this strong recovery, bus operators are still facing a challenging trading environment, with lower farebox revenues combining with the negative impact of high levels of cost inflation (e.g., higher fuel, labour costs etc). This has resulted in some operators making commercial service changes across Greater Manchester, including service withdrawals and reductions in frequency. To ensure the stability of the network, TfGM has replaced

most of these withdrawn services at current frequencies to ensure there has been no material impact on network coverage. These interventions will also protect revenue and enable the network to be optimised through better planning, post franchising. The cost of restoring these services has, to-date, been mitigated by Government bus recovery funding and by maintaining local funding of concession payments to bus operators at pre Covid-19 levels. These same funding sources have also, to date, helped to prevent wider-reaching service withdrawals. That bus recovery funding is currently due to expire at the end of March 2023.

- 4.11 Whilst patronage is now recovering strongly, reflecting the region's population growth and our marketing campaigns to offer affordable alternatives to car travel, the lasting impacts of the pandemic and the subsequent exceptional inflationary pressures means that the public transport network will continue to face financial challenges in 2023/24 and beyond.
- 4.12 As previously reported, TfGM have been in discussions with DfT officials with a view to securing a continuation of financial support for the Metrolink and Bus networks for the next two financial years (2023/24 and 2024/25).
- 4.13 TfGM has put forward a clear rationale for the level of requested financial support setting out the unique circumstances faced by Greater Manchester and a constructive initial meeting has taken place with the Secretary of State for Transport (SoS). Following that meeting, the SoS was content for TfGM to continue to work through the detail with DfT officials with a view to bringing the discussions to a successful conclusion as soon as possible.
- 4.14 In addition, TfGM will continue to consider options, for subsequent consideration by GMCA, for longer term financial sustainability beyond the next two financial years

Additional Risks

- 4.15 In addition to the risks relating to public transport patronage and revenues; and cost inflation, several other budget pressures and risks exist, including:

- Inflation is also impacting TfGM's core operating costs (e.g. energy costs, salary costs and other support costs)
- Long term revenue and capital funding will be required to support the work to consider the options and potential for future Rail Reform, including service delivery and the development of major infrastructure schemes, including High Speed 2.
- Costs of operating and maintaining an expanding network of traffic signals, largely with no additional funding for operational costs. The increasing cost of energy has impacted the cost of operation; and the network which needs to be supported continues to expand due to the delivery of new highways schemes, in particular with respect to Active Travel interventions.;
- Continuing costs to support the ongoing development of modal and integrated ticketing initiatives.

2023/24 Budget Strategy

4.16 As set out above TfGM have been in discussions with DfT officials with a view to securing a continuation of financial support for the Metrolink and Bus networks for the next two financial years (2023/24 and 2024/25).

4.17 In parallel to, and as part of the discussions with DfT, TfGM has committed to a Financial Sustainability Plan (FSP) which sets out a set of initiatives that, alongside continuing central government financial support, will ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the transport network and provide the foundation for the continued delivery of the Bee Network. The various initiatives underpinning the FSP are summarised below:

- **Market renewal:** A set of initiatives to increase patronage and revenues across all modes, including continued innovation around the marketing of transport services, proposals to reduce fare evasion and to increase commercial and other income.

- **Network review:** Continuous network review to scope potential efficiencies on the transport network, including initiatives to reduce energy costs and to further optimise service delivery.
- **Internal efficiencies:** A programme to reduce the core operating costs of TfGM, including by reducing staff costs (TfGM has already initiated a voluntary severance process), reductions in external expenditure, optimising the use of TfGM's office space and increasing commercial income from the existing TfGM asset base.
- **Additional local funding:** The proposed 4% (£7.7m) increase in the Transport Levy in 2023/24 will be ringfenced in full to contribute towards funding the budgeted Metrolink net deficit and the budgeted costs of stabilising the Bus network as it transitions to franchising.
- TfGM will continue to consider options, for subsequent consideration by GMCA, for longer term financial sustainability beyond the next two financial years, as part of the longer-term shared funding model envisaged in the Greater Manchester 'trailblazer' proposition.

4.18 The 2023/24 budget proposal is therefore that:

- The Transport levy is increased from £105.773m in 2022/23 to £113.472m in 2023/24, an increase of 7.7m, together with a flat Statutory Charge of £86.7m. This is an overall increase of 4% (3% of which will be recurrent with a 1% one off increase in 2023/24).
- A further drawdown of £1.8 million is made from the Integrated Ticketing Reserve to continue the development of modal and integrated ticketing initiatives as part of the work to transition to Greater Manchester-wide multi-modal fares and ticketing.
- TfGM fares and departure charges increase in line with rates up to inflation at varying points in 2023/24 as set out in sections 4.31 of the report.
- Bus Stop Closure Charges increase as set out in section 4.32 of the report.

TfGM Proposed Budget 2023/24

4.19 Based on the proposals above the TfGM budget for 2023/24 would be as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24	
	Budget £000	Budget £000	Change £000
Resources			
Funding from GMCA (incl Levy increase of £7.7m)	189,055	225,428	36,373
Metrolink related financing costs	13,419	12,836	(583)
DfT Rail grant	1,900	1,900	-
Other grants	2,700	-	(2,700)
	<u>207,074</u>	<u>240,164</u>	<u>33,090</u>
Expenditure			
Concessionary Reimbursement	75,600	76,254	(654)
Bus Network Support Costs	36,000	63,000	(27,000)
Capped Fares Scheme	-	13,000	(13,000)
Payment of Devolved BSOG	11,750	11,750	-
Accessible Transport	3,700	3,700	-
Operational Costs	37,697	45,697	(8,000)
Traffic Signals Costs	3,822	3,822	-
Clean Air Plan Costs	400	2,100	(1,700)
Scheme Pipeline development Costs	15,900	19,800	(3,900)
Bus Franchising costs	15,895	15,895	-
Metrolink net loss	-	38,836	(38,836)
Financing costs	6,310	6,310	-
Total Expenditure	<u>207,074</u>	<u>300,164</u>	<u>(93,090)</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) before financial mitigations	<u>-</u>	<u>(60,000)</u>	<u>(60,000)</u>

4.21 The net deficit before financial mitigations (but including the 4% / £7.7 million Levy increase) of £60 million in the table above is proposed to be offset by the various initiatives underpinning the FSP, including securing a continuation of financial support for the Metrolink and Bus networks for the next two financial years (2023/24 and 2024/25) which, as described above, is subject to ongoing work and discussions.

		£'000
Net deficit requiring funding <i>after</i> additional Levy funding of £7.7m		(60,000)
Additional Local Financial Mitigations		
Internal Efficiencies	8,000	
Network Efficiencies	7,500	
Market Renewal	5,500	
		21,000
Continuing financial support from central Government (<i>subject to ongoing work and discussions</i>)		39,000
Surplus/(Deficit) after financial mitigations		0

Expenditure

- 4.22 The Concessionary Reimbursement budget includes the cost of the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) and the local Concessionary scheme, including the 16-18 (Our Pass) concessionary travel scheme.
- 4.23 Since the first lockdown TfGM has, as encouraged by DfT, continued to reimburse operators for concessionary reimbursement based on pre-pandemic levels of patronage. DfT has issued guidance for reimbursement beyond March 2023 which allows for this basis of reimbursement to continue, in particular in the context of continuing to support the recovery of the bus network.

- 4.24 The 2023/24 Concessionary Reimbursement budget has been prepared based on the continuation of the current basis of reimbursement, which is at pre COVID-19 levels of patronage, with an adjustment where mileage operated has been reduced.
- 4.25 The Our Pass scheme provides free bus travel within Greater Manchester for 16-18 year olds and direct access to other opportunities in the region. The scheme was proposed to run for a pilot period of two years from August 2019, which subsequently became impacted by the Covid pandemic. The scheme was extended in September 2021 and again for the period to August 2023 in order for it to be evaluated. The Combined Authority agreed, at its meeting on 27 January 2023, to fund Our Pass on a continuing basis and that the scheme should be subject to an annual review of its performance, to be completed at the end of each academic year. The Our Pass scheme is funded from a combination of Mayoral precept, reserves and other income. A budget of £16.9m is proposed for 2023/24 with a risk reserve held by TfGM if costs exceed this level, in line with the original funding for the scheme agreed by GMCA.
- 4.26 The supported bus network budget has come under further pressure in the current financial year as operators have withdrawn services. TfGM has replaced the majority of these services from autumn 2022, with funding from a combination of in year government funding and reserves. The budgeted cost of the additional pressures on the supported services budget in 2023/24 is £27 million which is partly mitigated by government bus support funding of £6 million.
- 4.27 Capped bus fares were introduced in September 2022 (singles and daily fares) and January 2023 (weekly fares). The budgeted costs are an estimate of the costs to the end of 'year one' of the scheme which runs to 31 August 2023. In the report to GMCA in June 2022 on the implementation of the singles and daily fares scheme, it was proposed that these proposals were introduced on an initial one year basis, from September 2022 to August 2023, with a commitment to review the delivery by summer 2023. The costs will be refined and updated during the quarterly reforecasts as more data becomes available. The single and daily fares caps are being funded from BSIP grant income (of £68m in total, in the period to March 2025) from DfT. To the extent the

£68 million of BSIP funding cannot also accommodate the costs of the capped weekly fares, in the period to March 2025, the extension could, subject to the agreed annual review, and the agreement of GMCA, be funded from a combination of Reserves that are specifically allocated for Bus, including the Concessionary Fares Reserve.

- 4.28 The budgeted grant payable to GMATL, for the provision of Ring and Ride services, of up to £3.7 million is in line with the 2022/23 outturn.
- 4.29 Net operational costs include the costs of operating and maintaining the TfGM owned bus stations, travel shops and other infrastructure, and the costs of support functions. These costs are forecast to increase by c£8 million from the budgeted costs in 2022/23, largely due to inflationary pressures. That will, as described above, require a saving of c. £8 million in core costs to be delivered. The savings of £8 million will be delivered in a number of areas including by reducing staff costs (TfGM has already initiated a voluntary severance process), reductions in external expenditure, optimising the use of TfGM's office space and increasing commercial income from the existing TfGM asset base.
- 4.30 Expenditure on scheme development costs is budgeted to increase in 2023/24, due to higher levels of activity on the development of Business Cases and schemes which are part of the programme of works funded through City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS). As reported in the GMCA Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26 report on the agenda for this meeting, the progression of a number of schemes and their associated expenditure profiles has been impacted by global pressures on construction materials availability, associated pricing and inflationary pressures. TfGM and Local Authority Delivery Partners are continuing to work with their respective supply chains to mitigate the impacts of the above matters; albeit due to more recent ongoing global events and trends this continues to be an increasing challenge across the capital programme. It is anticipated that these impacts will continue in respect of expenditure within 2022/23, 2023/24 and beyond. Officers are progressing work to formulate a strategy to address these and related issues. A report detailing the outcome of this work and associated recommendations will be submitted to the GMCA in May 2023.

4.31 Expenditure on Bus Franchising is budgeted to be at a similar level to 2022/23 of c.£15.9m. The key activities in the year are set out below. The outputs of this planned expenditure for 2023/24 include, in particular:

- Continuation of the procurement of local service contracts required for the implementation and operation of the franchising scheme;
- Procurement of on-bus equipment, other equipment, and systems and associated services which are necessary for the implementation and operation of the franchising scheme;
- Depot and land acquisition financing costs aligned to the depot strategy, as set out in the Assessment;
- Work to establish, operate and manage the Residual Value mechanism, as set out in the Assessment; and
- A quantified risk allowance, in line with the allowance in the Assessment, and as considered appropriate for this stage of development and implementation.

4.32 In line with recent years, it is proposed that the fares and charges on certain products or services that TfGM provide, including certain bus fares (on schools, DRT and Ring Ride services) and Departure Charges, will be subject to increases in line with inflation, at various dates between April 2023 and September 2023. The additional income will be used to partly offset the increasing bus network support costs.

4.33 The budget includes an assumption that Bus Station Departure Charges will also increase in line with inflation, from April 2023. The additional income will be used to partly offset the increasing costs of operating bus stations.

4.34 The budget also assumes that the fees applied to utility companies, commercial contractors and developers when temporarily opening and closing bus stops / shelters are increased from £290 to £320 for the first four stops and that the costs thereafter are increased from £100 to £110 per stop. The costs for 'revisiting' a stop are also proposed to increase from £130 to £140.

4.35 TfGM is forecasting an unmitigated, net revenue loss from Metrolink operations for 2023/24 of c£26m, which, in addition to the budgeted financing costs that were previously assumed to be funded from Metrolink net revenues, of £12.836m, results in an overall net deficit of c£39m. The mitigation strategy to fund this net deficit is summarised earlier in this report.

Income

4.36 An analysis of the funding from GMCA is set out in section 2 above in this report.

4.37 The main elements of the GMCA funding are the Transport Levy, the Statutory Charge and funding from the Mayoral General Budget including from the precept as it relates to Transport.

4.38 Following Transport Orders being laid in April 2019, the Mayor was given further powers for transport functions, which in relation to TfGM's activities supports activities associated with delivery of Bus related activities. An amount of £86.7 million was agreed as the cost of delivering these functions and this funding is raised via a statutory charge to District Councils. This was offset by a corresponding reduction in the Transport Levy, so overall funding was unchanged.

4.39 The Transport levy is proposed to increase from £105.773m in 2022/23 to £113.472m in 2023/24, an increase of £7.7m, which together with a flat Statutory Charge of £86.7m is an overall increase of 4% (3% of which will be recurrent with a 1% one off increase in 2023/24). The Levy allocated to TfGM is budgeted to increase in 2023/24 to partly fund the net operating loss from Metrolink as set out above.

4.40 The Mayoral General budget continues to fund other costs in 2023/24 which relate to Mayoral functions and priorities, including the costs associated with updating and delivering the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the costs of Our Pass (the 16-18 Concessionary Travel Scheme). The LTP costs are budgeted to be £3.55 million, which

is unchanged from 2022/23, and the contribution from the Mayoral budget to the costs of Our Pass are budgeted to be £16.9m.

4.41 The funding from the DfT Rail grant in 2023/24 is budgeted to remain at the same level, although this has not yet been formally confirmed by DfT so is a risk in the budget.

5 RESERVES

5.1 An analysis of the forecast and budgeted movements in transport related reserves for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is set out below:

Transport Reserves and Balances	Final Closing Balances 31st March 2022	2022/23 Planned Use	Projected Closing Balance 31st March 2023	2023/24 Planned Use	Projected Closing Balance 31st March 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Capital Programme Reserve	-100,800	4,850	-95,950	0	-95,950
Business Rates Top-Up - Highways	-31,260	-1,137	-32,397	-5,457	-37,854
Integrated Ticketing Reserve	-10,629	1,800	-8,829	1,800	-7,029
Earnback Reserve	-29,430	3,620	-25,810	8,585	-17,225
Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve	-18,310	400	-17,910	2,300	-15,610
Concessionary Fares Reserve -TfGM	-16,303	0	-16,303	0	-16,303
Property Reserve TfGM	-10,900	400	-10,500	400	-10,100
Metrolink Reserve TfGM	-2,100	0	-2,100	0	-2,100
Joint Road Safety Group Reserve TfGM	-6,607	0	-6,607	0	-6,607
<u>General Revenue Reserves</u>					
General Reserve - TfGM	-5,829	0	-5,829	0	-5,829
General Reserve - General	-1,085	0	-1,085	0	-1,085
Total	-233,252	9,933	-223,319	7,628	-215,691

General Reserves

5.1 Current good practice states that reserves should be maintained at an appropriate level as determined by a detailed business risk review. The forecast balance on the

General Reserve at 31 March 2023 is £1.085 million for GMCA and £5.829 million for TfGM and there is no planned use of General Reserves in 2023/24.

Capital Programme Reserve

- 5.2 GMCA and TfGM hold certain reserves which are primarily ring-fenced to pay for and manage the risks of delivering their ongoing capital programme. These reserves are revenue reserves and can be used for capital and revenue purposes, including repaying capital and interest on borrowings and to fund Metrolink renewals to ensure system integrity.
- 5.3 The current forecast balance on the Capital Programme Reserve at 31 March 2024 is approximately £95.950m. The long-term balance on the Capital Programme Reserve is very sensitive to the ongoing delivery of the planned net revenues from Metrolink, inflation pressures and interest rates for capital financing which would be under very significant short term pressure if ongoing financial support from central Government is not provided beyond financial year 2022/23.

Business Rates Pilot Top-Up – Highways/Local Transport Plan

- 5.6 GMCA currently receives revenue funding that is used to support capital spend in GM Local Authorities for highways maintenance and the Local Transport Plan of c£35.7m annually. As this is revenue funding it enables flexibility to support the revenue element of capital schemes. When necessary, approval is sought through GMCA to approve delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to make adjustments between capital funding and this reserve to ensure the correct accounting treatment for planned revenue spend.

Integrated Ticketing Reserve

- 5.7 The Integrated Ticketing Reserve had a balance of £10.6m on 31 March 2022. The reserve will be used over a period of time to contribute towards the development and delivery of integrated, including smart, ticketing schemes. Planned use of the reserve

is £1.8m in 2022/23 with a proposed further drawdown of £1.8m in 2023/24, which would reduce the balance at 31st March 2024 to £7.0m

Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve

5.8 This relates to grants received ahead of expenditure, with the largest grants being in relation to Clean Air plan funding and the Active Travel Fund.

Concessionary Fares Reserve

5.9 A reserve is held to cover specific costs and manage various risks including:

- Costs of fixed deal arrangements with the larger bus operators;
- forecast costs of reimbursing other operators;
- other costs including concessionary travel data collection and 'smart' related costs, which would otherwise be funded from the Levy;
- the costs of concessions, to the extent that they cannot be managed within the 'core' budget, including the 16-18 travel concession and weekly capped fares.

Property Reserve

5.10 The Property Reserve has been generated from the disposal of a number of historic surplus assets and is being used to fund the depreciation costs of the TfGM Head Office. The remaining balance will be applied to match the depreciation charges.

Metrolink Reserves

5.11 TfGM Metrolink reserves of £2.1m relates largely to historic reserves which have been retained for specific purposes.

Joint Road Safety Group Reserve

5.12 The Greater Manchester Joint Road Safety Group operates as part of TfGM. The forecast and budgeted movements represent the net income generated from the delivery of driver improvement training offset by the cost of investments in road safety schemes.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 In coming to decisions in relation to the revenue budget the Authority has various legal and fiduciary duties. The amount of the transport levy and statutory charge must be sufficient to meet the Authority's legal and financial commitments, ensure the proper discharge of its statutory duties and lead to a balanced budget.
- 6.2 In exercising its fiduciary duty, the Authority should be satisfied that the proposals put forward are a prudent use of the Authority's resources in both the short and long term and that they are acting in good faith for the benefit of the community whilst complying with all statutory duties.

Duties of the Treasurer (Chief Finance Officer)

- 6.3 The Local Government Finance Act 2003 requires the Chief Finance Officer to report to the Authority on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. The Authority has a statutory duty to have regard to the CFOs report when making decisions about the calculations.
- 6.4 Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Authority to monitor during the financial year its expenditure and income against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, the Authority must take such action as it considers necessary to deal with the situation. This might include, for instance, action to reduce spending in the rest of the year, or to increase income, or to finance the shortfall from reserves.
- 6.5 Under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, where it appears to the Chief Finance Officer that the expenditure of the GMCA incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure, the Chief Finance Officer has a duty to make a report to the Authority.

6.6 The report must be sent to the Authority's External Auditor and every member of the Authority and the Authority must consider the report within 21 days at a meeting where it must decide whether it agrees or disagrees with the views contained in the report and what action (if any) it proposes to take in consequence of it. In the intervening period between the sending of the report and the meeting which considers it, the authority is prohibited from entering into any new agreement which may involve the incurring of expenditure (at any time) by the authority, except in certain limited circumstances where expenditure can be authorised by the Chief Finance Officer. Failure to take appropriate action in response to such a report may lead to the intervention of the Authority's Auditor.

Reasonableness

6.7 The Authority has a duty to act reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and not considering anything which is irrelevant. This Report sets out the proposals from which members can consider the risks and the arrangements for mitigation set out below.

Risks and Mitigation

6.8 The Treasurer has examined the major assumptions used within the budget calculations and considers that they are prudent, based on the best information currently available. A risk assessment of the main budget headings for which the GMCA will be responsible has been undertaken and the key risks identified are as follows;

- The pandemic and the subsequent, unprecedented levels of general – and specifically energy – inflation has had a significant impact on the finances of TfGM. In particular, this includes passenger revenue from Metrolink, which has been significantly adversely impacted; and the requirement to fund additional bus services to stabilise the network, as well as in other areas of activity, including loss of bus service related incomes and loss of commercial revenues.

The mitigation strategy to manage these risks is summarised earlier in this report.

- The risk that net revenues from Bus Franchising are not sustainable from operating income streams. The Assessment for Bus Franchising included a number of mitigating sources for this risk;
- For anticipated borrowings current market interest rate forecasts have been used. While these costs have been budgeted, there remains a risk that until the costs are fixed actual costs may exceed budget. This risk is mitigated by the specific Capital Programme Reserve.
- The complex nature of the significant capital developments being undertaken to enhance and extend the transport network is another key risk area. Whilst these projects and programmes are subject to rigorous management and governance arrangements and each contains an appropriate level of risk allowance and contingency, there remains an inherent financial risk with any project or programme of this size.

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10 February 2023

Subject: D. GMCA General Revenue Budget 2023/24

Report of: Cllr David Molineux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and
Steve Wilson, Treasurer to GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report sets out the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) General Revenue Budget for 2023/24. The proposed District contributions to be approved for 2023/24 of £8.603m are included within the report together with the consequential allocations to the individual Councils which is unchanged from 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is recommended to:

1. Approve the budget relating to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority functions excluding transport and waste in 2023/24 as set out in section 2 of this report.
2. Approve District contributions of £8.603 million as set out in section 5 of this report.
3. Approve the use of reserves as set out in section 6 of the report.

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Equalities Implications: N/A

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures: N/A

Risk Management – An assessment of the potential budget risks faced by the authority are carried out quarterly as part of the annual financial planning process and quarterly monitoring process.

Legal Considerations – See section 7 of the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue – The report sets out the planned budget strategy for 2023/24.

Financial Consequences – Capital – There are no specific capital considerations contained within the report.

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: GMCA General Budget 2022/23 – 11 February 2022

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: GMCA Homelessness Budget 2022 – 2027 - 27th May 2022

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Revenue Update 2022/23 – 28th October 2022

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

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 8th February 2023

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides details of the proposed Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Revenue General budget for 2023/24. The budgets for Mayoral activities including Fire and Police, Transport and Waste services are reported separately.
- 1.2 The GMCA General Budget is made up of the Corporate Service directorate and six directorates which lead on specific programmes of work, the majority of which are funded by government grants:
- Corporate Services
 - Digital
 - Economy
 - Environment
 - Place
 - Public Service Reform
 - Education, Work and Skills
- 1.3 The 2023/24 GMCA General budget reflects the latest position for GMCA taking account of devolved funding, specific grant funding and new cost pressures such as pay and price inflation. GMCA will achieve a balanced budget for the year ahead, and will ensure activities achieve value for money, add value and drive progress against priorities set out in the GMCA Corporate Plan.
- 1.4 The District contributions in relation to the GMCA General budget are set out in section 5 and Appendix 3 to the report. The reserves are detailed within section 6 of the report including planned utilisation in 2022/23 and 2023/24. The Authority's legal obligations and the responsibility of the Treasurer to the Combined Authority (CA) are also set out in section 7 of the report.

2. PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/24

2.1 The proposed budget for 2023/24 for the GMCA Revenue General budget is £245.584 million. The report provides information on the GMCA Corporate Service budget in Section 3 and directorate programme budgets in Section 4. The table below summarises the overall proposed 2023/24 GMCA General revenue budget compared to the 2022/23 original budget approved by GMCA in February 2022.

GMCA General Revenue Budget	2022/23 Original Budget	2023/24 Proposed Budget
Expenditure	£000	£000
GMCA Corporate	27,320	27,526
Digital	2,597	353
Economy	18,499	9,746
Environment	758	1,509
Place	6,707	23,446
Public Service Reform	30,961	41,884
Education, Work and Skills	155,779	141,120
Total Expenditure	242,621	245,584
Government Grants	180,134	188,865
District Contributions	8,603	8,603
Internal Recharges	18,995	22,905
Retained Business Rates Reserve	16,327	8,014
Other Earmarked Reserves	3,683	5,543
Other Income	14,879	11,654
Total Resources	242,621	245,584

3. CORPORATE SERVICES BUDGET

3.1. The GMCA Corporate functions include Finance/Audit/Commercial, Core Investment, IT services, People Services, Procurement and Contracts, Legal/Governance/Information Governance/Business Support, Strategy, Research and Communications and Engagement.

3.2 GMCA does not receive any core government funding to fund Corporate functions and costs have been supported from a combination of recharges to Fire and

Rescue, Police and Crime and Adult Education, District contributions and non-recurrent funding.

3.3 During 2022/23 a new overhead recharge approach has been developed to ensure that the cost of corporate functions are allocated in full and consistently applied across all activities of the organisation. This new approach has been reflected in the budget for 2023/24 and has enabled the development of three-year medium term financial plan (MTFP) up to 2025/26 for Corporate Services.

3.4 The Corporate Services medium term financial plan for 2023/24 – 2025/26 includes the following planning assumptions:

- Employee related costs:
 - Pay award – 4% 2023/24, 2% 2024/25 and 2% 2025/26;
 - Changes relating to directly funded temporary posts;
- Estates related costs – increase for energy and loss of income;
- Other services expenditure – changes to planned activities;
- Business Partnering Recharge for the direct cost of Corporate staff supporting GMCA grant funded programmes of work;
- Fees, charges and other income changes;
- Revised Corporate overhead recharge approach for 2023/24 with 2% increase for 2024/25 and 2% 2025/26;
- District contribution – following 10% reduction in 2021/22 and no increase in 2022/23, no further inflationary increase is planned for the three years up to 2025/26;
- Deposit interest of £2.3m with no further increase over the period up to 2025/26.

3.5 The table below sets out the Corporate Services MTFP which has a balanced budget position for 2023/24 and a shortfall of £0.719m for 2024/25 and £1.092m for 2025/26 resulting from unfunded cost pressure and loss of income. Further work will be undertaken during 2023 to manage the Corporate Services medium term financial position, taking into consideration changes in programmes of work, available funding and savings proposals. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the 2023/24 budget for each of the Corporate Services functions.

GMCA Corporate Services			
Medium Term Financial Plan	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure			
Employee payroll costs	20,975	20,971	21,076
Employee related costs (Other)	1,097	1,095	1,089
Estates related costs	1,529	1,697	1,707
Transport related costs	89	88	89
Other services expenditure	3,701	3,461	3,512
Internal recharges (DR)	136	140	144
Gross Exp	27,526	27,452	27,616
Internal recharge (CR)	-210	-214	-219
Business Partnering Recharge	-4,598	-4,146	-3,778
Fees, charges and other income	-4,285	-4,187	-4,233
Grant Income	-63	-63	-63
Transfer from reserves	-810	-309	-162
Corporate overhead recharge	-12,579	-12,831	-13,088
District contribution	-2,725	-2,725	-2,725
Deposit interest	-2,256	-2,256	-2,256
Total Income	-27,526	-26,733	-26,524
Net budget	0	719	1,092

4. PROGRAMME BUDGETS

- 4.1 GMCA has six directorates focused on delivering key programmes of work largely funded through a significant number of Government grants, supported by funding from retained business rates growth, reserves and external income.
- 4.2 The confirmation of Government funding varies considerably depending upon the nature of the grant. Some programmes have confirmed or indicative funding over the current Spending Review period and others operate with short term grant funding confirmed on an annual basis. As such medium term financial planning for GMCA programmes is restricted to the information available at the time of setting the budget for the following year and will be updated throughout the financial year as part of the quarterly financial update reports.
- 4.3 The Spending Review in autumn 2022 confirmed the extension of the 100% retained business rates growth pilot in 2023/24. The proposed budget for 2023/24

includes use of retained business rates as agreed by GMCA on 29th July 2022. It excludes any further funding for GM schemes which will be considered in a later report to GMCA.

4.4 A description of the programmes which make up the proposed budget for 2023/24 is provided in the paragraphs below and Appendix 2 provides a breakdown of the 2023/24 budget for each of the programme directorates.

4.5 Digital

4.5.1 The GM Digital team is committed to delivering on the GM Digital Strategy through a three year approach set out in the GM Digital Blueprint. GM Digital collaborates across the GM digital system which includes industry, universities, health, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to create opportunities, maximise outcomes and generate inward investment.

4.5.2 The proposed 2023/24 budget for Digital is **£0.4m** which relates GM Connect funded from earmarked reserves. The Digital budget excludes GM Digital Strategy and Unified Architecture programmes currently funded from retained business rates which will be fully utilised in 2022/23. Further considerations on funding for Digital programmes in 2023/24 will be included in a later report to GMCA.

4.6 Economy

4.6.1 The Economy portfolio leads key groups including the Growth Board, Local Industrial Strategy Programme Delivery Executive, GM Economic Resilience Group and GM Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The team leads on negotiations with Government on behalf of the city-region, bringing together voices and ideas from across the wider GM system to present an integrated and strategic set of priorities.

4.6.2 Key priorities for 2023/24 include the continued delivery of commitments in the Greater Manchester Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy programmes, including to support the Foundational Economy and Leadership and Management, alongside

the work of Innovation GM and the delivery of the Innovation Accelerator. The Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard is a standing item at each meeting of the GMCA providing live data about the economic issues affecting GM residents, particularly the impacts of the Cost of Living crisis. The dashboards are also presented to the Business Board (LEP) so that business leaders can respond to the issues and changes in the local economy.

4.6.3 The proposed 2023/24 budget for Economy is **£9.7m**, which includes:

- **£4.4m** for the GM Productivity Programme and GM Local Industrial Strategy programmes, both of which are funded from previously agreed retained business rate growth. Further business rates funding will be required to continue programmes in full in 2023/24.
- **£2.1m** relating to Marketing Manchester and MIDAS funded from District Contributions of £1.4m and £0.7m from previously agreed retained business rate growth.
- **£1.8m** relating to Made Smarter Adoption North West programme fully funded from Government grant;
- **£0.4m** for the Employment Charter funded from previously agreed retained business rates growth;
- **£0.5m** for Business Angels project funded from previously agreed retained business rates growth;
- **£200k** for the Cricket Strategy funded from previously agreed retained business rates growth;
- **£140k** of funding awarded from Government for the Innovation Accelerator to support the development of projects that will drive tens of millions of pounds' worth of research and development investment into Greater Manchester;
- **£200k** for the Economy team funded from a combination of internal recharges.

4.7 Environment

4.7.1 Environment is the lead for the implementation of the GM Five Year Environment Plan and delivering housing and public retrofit programmes as part of green economic recovery and progressing the environment plan to continue to reduce carbon emissions and create an improved, more resilient natural environment for socially distanced recreation. The proposed 2023/24 budget for Environment is **£1.5m** which is predominantly funded from government grants, recharges and District contributions.

4.8 Place

4.8.1 Place making focuses on the development of individual places prosperous and vibrant places in which GM residents can grow up, live and grow old. This has brought together Housing and Planning, Land and Property, Culture, Delivery and Infrastructure teams, each of which has a vital role to play in place development. The proposed 2023/24 budget for Place Making is **£23.4m** which includes:

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) **£17.7m** – GMCA has been assigned lead authority for GM and has overall accountability for the funding and how it operates, working closely with Districts and key stakeholders including local MPs in the design and delivery of UKSPF. Following agreement of the GM investment plan, GMCA has been allocated a total of £83.9m over the three year period 2023/24 – 2024/25. The Place Directorate budget for 2023/24 includes planned expenditure of £17.7m in relation to:
 - Supporting Local Business - investment that would support business to thrive, innovate and grow, including any interventions that are best delivered at a larger scale in collaboration with other places, or more locally;
 - Communities and Place – investment to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting building pride in place

- People and Skills - skills and people related interventions will take place in 2024/25. For 2023/24 funding for Multiply programme is included in the budget as part of the Work and Skills Directorate below.
- Cultural and Social Impact Fund of **£3.3m** funded by District contributions to support a new approach to cultural investment agreed by the GMCA in October following consultation over the summer 2022. At this stage the funding available for 2023/24 is less than 2022/23 which included £1.1m of funding from retained business rates to support the sector through the impact of the Covid pandemic. Further considerations on funding for 2023/24 will be included in a later report to GMCA.
- GM Delivery team budget of **£1m** funded from earmarked reserves and internal recharges.
- There is **£1.3m** of budget for Business, Innovation and Enterprise Policy, Planning and Housing, Public Sector Decarbonisation and Create Growth from a combination of external grants, internal recharges and District contributions.

4.9 Public Service Reform

- 4.9.1 Public Service Reform supports reform, innovation and social policy development across GM with the overarching objective of addressing inequality and improving outcomes for all residents across the city-region. It is made up of a number of thematic strands with lead responsibilities that include Early Years, Children and Young People, Troubled Families, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, Asylum and Refugees, Armed Forces and Veterans, Gambling Harm Reduction and the GM Ageing Hub. The service performs a cross-cutting role across GM in collaboration with localities, other public service organisations and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to drive the implementation of unified public services for the people of Greater Manchester.
- 4.9.2 The proposed 2023/24 budget for Public Service Reform is **£41.9m**. The majority of the budget is funded from Government grants supported by partner contributions, retained business rates and use of reserves, this includes:

- Through an agreement with Government established in 2017 GMCA has received Supporting Families funding through the GM Reform Investment Fund (RIF) prior to it being distributed to the ten Local Authorities. This agreement with Government which also sees Greater Manchester Local Authorities work towards a collective number of families has helped to ensure that money is being invested in things that allow families to get access to the family support services they need, whilst also freeing up funding to contribute to transformation of services at neighbourhood level. In 2022 the Government provided indicative allocations of £11.6m per year for the Supporting Families programme for the period 2022/23 – 2024/25 with the aim of working with up to 7,297 families by 2023/24 with additional funding for successful family outcomes of £5.8m in 2023/24 a maximum of **£17.4m** which is included in the PSR budget for 2023/24 the majority of which is paid to local authorities.
- Changing Futures grant funding of **£1.4m** for 2023/24 which is the final year of a three year programme to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy provides long term vision and cross sector commitment. Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping will continue to be key priorities and policy objectives in 2023/24. In May 2022 government grants of c£30m for the period 2022/23 – 2024/25 were announced. From this funding **£9.9m** is reflected in the 2023/24 proposed budget including Community Accommodation Service, Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme and Rough Sleeper Initiative and Housing First Pilot extension.
- The A Bed Every Night (ABEN) programme provides key accommodation and support pathway for people who are experiencing rough sleeping, or at imminent risk. ABEN provides for people with no statutory duty of interim accommodation owed them, including those with No Recourse to Public Funds. During 2023/24 the ABEN has a planned cost of **£5.7m** funded from local and national funding, including £0.6m of Rough Sleeper Initiative grant and delivered as one part of a wider system of activity to prevent and relieve rough sleeping.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic GMCA funded from the RIF a ‘Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathfinder’ to develop a working model that could be procured as a full social outcomes contract. The ‘fee-for-service’ pathfinder ran

from December 2020 to December 2021 and supported an estimated 250 young people at risk of homelessness. The outcome of this led to the design of a larger three-year outcomes based contract (£4.85m) which commenced early in 2022, with the aim of achieving positive outcomes for 1,500 young people. The contract is to be funded from the RIF and local match funding from retained business rates growth funding to provide a proposed budget of **£2.6m** for 2023/24.

- Asylum and Refugee - **£1.4m** from a social investor known as 'Big Integration Partnership' to fund the Refugee Transitions Outcome Fund (RTOF) programme in GM. The purpose of the funding is to improve housing, employment and wider integration outcomes for newly recognised refugees. The funding allocation is to be applied as follows; £1.195m delivery fees in the form of grant allocations to the ten Districts; £143k flexibility for other initiatives to support the programme and a £130k management fee to be retained by GMCA.
- Ageing Better budget for 2023/24 is **£1.1m**, this includes 'Ageing in Place' pathfinder grant funding of £2.1m confirmed earlier in 2022/23 for the period up to 2025/26 of which £0.7m is reflected in the 2023/24 proposed budget.
- Other programmes such as Children Services, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, GM Safeguarding Alliance, GM Health Devolution and Media Literacy Taskforce funded from a combination of grants and external income totalling **£1.1m**. PSR Directorate net delivery budget of **£1.3m** funded from district contributions, other external income and recharges.

4.10 Education, Work and Skills

4.10.1 Education, Skills & Work works in partnership with local authorities, partners and businesses to deliver and performance manage programmes that support people to enter, progress and remain in work. The proposed 2023/24 budget is **£141.1m** to support the following programmes:

- The Adult Education Budget (AEB) of **£96.3m** devolved to GM to support the city-region's residents to develop skills needed for life and work;
- The AEB National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 programme funding of **£7.7m**;

- AEB Multiply programme of **£5m** in 2023/24 which is part of an allocation of £14m up to 2023-25 to support residents to become more confident with numbers and progress them on in life. It will also increase the number of adults participating in and achieving their Level 2 or equivalent in Maths.
- European Social Fund (ESF) Skills for Growth Programme of **£10.3m**, part of £40m over three years (completing in 2023/24) to support business growth and deliver an integrated approach to employment and skills.
- Department for Education (DfE) Skills Bootcamps funding of **£7.5m** to support adults from diverse groups to retrain and help employers to fill skills shortages. The programme provides the opportunity to build up sector specific skills through fully funded and co-funded flexible courses of up to 16 weeks followed by fast track to a guaranteed interview with a local employer.
- European Social Fund (ESF) Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) prevention/reduction and youth employment programme of **£2.8m**.
- Working Well services to support people experiencing or at risk of long term unemployment, including the Work and Health Programme of **£7m** and Working Well Specialist Employment of **£1.1m**.
- The GM Careers Hub supports the development and delivery of schools' and colleges' careers education programmes, with around 200,000 young people aged 11 to 19 supported by the Hub with funding of **£0.9m** for 2023/24.
- Delivery resources of **£0.5m** and other programmes totalling **£1.9m** including Careers & Enterprise, Self Employment Pilot, Life Readiness, Greater Manchester Apprenticeship & Careers Service, Skills Capital, Young Person's Guarantee and Health and Employment.

5. BASIS OF APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS TO DISTRICTS

- 5.1 Constituent Councils have to meet the GMCA's costs which are reasonably attributable to the exercise of its functions. The amount payable by each Council is determined by apportioning the costs between the Councils in such proportions as they (unanimously) agree or, in default of such agreement, in proportion to the resident population. The 2011 Order provides flexibility to deal with the

apportionment of costs in respect of the functions. Appendix 3 details the apportionment of costs across the Districts.

5.2 The basis of apportioning historic MIDAS and Marketing Manchester budgets between Districts is set out below:

- MIDAS recharge of £1.023m – 84% of the funding is split equally between each District with the remaining 16% being split on a population basis.
- Marketing Manchester recharge of £350k - 80% of the funding is split 35% Manchester City Council and the remaining 65% split equally between the other nine Districts, the remaining 20% of the total funding is split on a population basis.
- Additional funding for both MIDAS and Marketing Manchester has previously been approved by GMCA to be met from retained business rates growth.

5.3 The Cultural and Social Impact Fund of £3.3m is unchanged and is allocated on the basis of population.

5.4 The proposed charge to each District is detailed in Appendix 3 and summarised in the table below:

District	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	£000
Bolton	861	861
Bury	606	606
Manchester	1,640	1,640
Oldham	729	729
Rochdale	692	692
Salford	795	795
Stockport	877	877
Tameside	701	701
Trafford	729	729
Wigan	973	973
Total	8,603	8,603

6. RESERVES

6.1 An analysis of the forecast and budgeted movements in reserves for 2022/23 and 2023/24 is set out below:

GMCA General Reserves	Opening Balances 1 Apr 22 £000s	Planned movement (in)/out 2022/23 £000s	Planned Closing Balances 31 Mar 23 £000s	Planned movement (in)/out 2023/24 £000s	Planned Closing Balances 31 Mar 24 £000s
GMCA General Reserve	-4,273	0	-4,273	0	-4,273
Business Rates	-37,641	19,535	-18,106	8,014	-10,092
Corporate	-4,113	263	-3,850	810	-3,040
Core Investment Team	-11,157	0	-11,157	0	-11,157
Housing Investment Fund	-13,067	131	-12,936	470	-12,466
Digital	-740	322	-418	164	-254
Economy	-1,124	124	-1,000	41	-959
Environment	-216	0	-216	0	-216
Place	-2,648	61	-2,587	52	-2,535
Public Service Reform	-8,167	1,233	-6,934	1,661	-5,273
Work and Skills	-18,321	1,680	-16,641	2,345	-14,296
	-101,469	23,349	-78,120	13,557	-64,563

General GMCA Reserve

6.2 The GMCA general reserve is funded through contributions from the GMCA revenue account either planned or as a result of general underspending. The current balance is £4.273m and there is no planned change to this reserve as part of the budget proposals in this report.

Business Rate Pool and Growth Retention Scheme

6.3 This reserve had a balance of £37.6 million at 1 April 2022, which was the remaining balance committed to following decisions taken at GMCA on 27th November 2020. In July 2022 the GMCA agreed use of the 2021/22 retained business rates growth to with expenditure take place from 2022/23. This included

approved GM schemes totalling £17.4m funded from 25% share of the 2021/22 income of £16.3m and £1.1m of slippage against previously agreed schemes. Planned use of this reserve in 2022/23 and 2023/24 would leave a balance in reserve by 31st March 2024 of £10m, of which £4.2m is set aside to fund the 2024 GM Mayoral election.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 In coming to decisions in relation to the revenue budget the Authority has various legal and fiduciary duties. The amount of the Transport Levy and the amount charged to the Districts in respect of the Authority's General functions must be sufficient to meet the Authority's legal and financial commitments, ensure the proper discharge of its statutory duties and lead to a balanced budget.
- 7.2 In exercising its fiduciary duty the Authority should be satisfied that the proposals put forward are a prudent use of the Authority's resources in both the short and long term and that they are acting in good faith for the benefit of the community whilst complying with all statutory duties.

Duties of the Treasurer (Chief Finance Officer)

- 7.3 The Local Government Finance Act 2003 requires the Treasurer to report to the Authority on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. The Authority has a statutory duty to have regard to the CFOs report when making decisions about the calculations.
- 7.4 Section 28 of the Local Government Act 2003 imposes a statutory duty on the Authority to monitor during the financial year its expenditure and income against the budget calculations. If the monitoring establishes that the budgetary situation has deteriorated, the Authority must take such action as it considers necessary to deal with the situation. This might include, for instance, action to reduce spending in the rest of the year, or to increase income, or to finance the shortfall from reserves.
- 7.5 Under Section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, where it appears to the Treasurer that the expenditure of the GMCA incurred (including expenditure it

proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources (including sums borrowed) available to it to meet that expenditure, the Treasurer has a duty to make a report to the Authority.

- 7.6 The report must be sent to the Authority's External Auditor and every member of the Authority and the Authority must consider the report within 21 days at a meeting where it must decide whether it agrees or disagrees with the views contained in the report and what action (if any) it proposes to take in consequence of it. In the intervening period between the sending of the report and the meeting which considers it, the authority is prohibited from entering into any new agreement which may involve the incurring of expenditure (at any time) by the authority, except in certain limited circumstances where expenditure can be authorised by the Treasurer. Failure to take appropriate action in response to such a report may lead to the intervention of the Authority's Auditor.

Reasonableness

- 7.7 The Authority has a duty to act reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and not considering anything which is irrelevant. This Report sets out the proposals from which members can consider the risks and the arrangements for mitigation set out below.

Risks and Mitigation

- 7.8 The Treasurer has examined the major assumptions used within the budget calculations and considers that they are prudent, based on the best information currently available. A risk assessment of the main budget headings for which the GMCA will be responsible has been undertaken.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Detailed recommendations appear at the front of this report.

Appendix 1

GMCA Corporate Services Budget 2023/24	Gross Exp	Internal Recharges	Other external Income	Business Partnering	Grant Income	Earmarked Reserves	Total Income	District Contribution	Corporate Overhead inc deposit Interest	Net Exp
-	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Senior Management	697	0	-136	-46	0	0	-182	-92	-423	0
Resilience	324	0	-99	0	-63	-162	-324	0	0	0
Strategy	1,237	0	-40	-229	0	-52	-321	-640	-276	0
Research	2,193	-65	-170	-1,381	0	-220	-1,835	-292	-66	0
Communications	1,575	-59	-19	-213	0	0	-291	0	-1,284	0
ICT Technology	4,632	0	-116	-240	0	0	-357	-491	-3,784	0
Tootal Building	1,641	0	-138	-75	0	0	-213	0	-1,427	0
Finance - Accountancy	2,378	0	-207	-788	0	0	-995	-102	-1,281	0
Commercial Services	1,106	0	-68	-215	0	0	-284	-250	-572	0
Internal Audit and Risk	607	0	-75	-234	0	0	-309	-86	-212	0
Core Investment Team	1,745	0	-1,745	0	0	0	-1,745	0	0	0
Legal Services	494	-55	0	-73	0	-97	-224	-102	-168	0
Information Governance	1,993	55	-859	0	0	-280	-1,084	-50	-859	0
Democratic Services	853	0	-50	-77	0	0	-127	-418	-308	0
Business Support	753	-85	-75	-177	0	0	-338	-45	-369	0
HR Apprenticeship Levy Training	142	0	-142	0	0	0	-142	0	0	0
People Development & Support	1,486	0	-72	-49	0	0	-121	0	-1,365	0
Talent Learning & Resourcing	1,201	0	-245	-51	0	0	-296	0	-905	0
OD & Culture	438	0	-30	-56	0	0	-86	0	-352	0
Safety, Health & Wellbeing	640	0	0	-9	0	0	-9	0	-631	0
Land and Property Strategy	1,394	0	0	-684	0	0	-684	-157	-553	0
GMCA Totals	27,526	-210	-4,285	-4,598	-63	-810	-9,966	-2,725	-14,835	0

Appendix 2

GMCA Directorate Programme Budget 2023/24	External Grants	Retained Business Rates	District Contributions	Earmarked Reserves	Internal Recharges	Other Income	Total Budget 2023/24
-	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
GM Connect	0	0	0	164	89	0	253
GM Digital Strategy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smart Residents Data Exchange Platform	0	0	0	0	100	0	100
Total Digital	0	0	0	164	189	0	353
Economic Advice	0	0	34	0	0	0	34
Economy	0	400	0	0	0	220	620
Made Smarter Adoption North West	1,800	0	0	0	0	0	1,800
GM MIDAS	0	200	1,023	0	0	0	1,223
GM Marketing Manchester	0	500	350	0	27	0	877
GM Productivity Programme	0	3,231	0	0	0	0	3,231
GM Local Industrial Strategy	0	1,011	0	41	69	0	1,121
GM Cricket Strategy	0	200	0	0	0	0	200
Economy 2022/23 RBR Programmes	0	500	0	0	0	0	500
Data Accelerator	140	0	0	0	0	0	140
Total Economy	1,940	6,042	1,407	41	96	220	9,746
Environment and Low Carbon	0	0	207	0	175	0	382
Natural Course	164	0	0	0	0	0	164
Five Year Environment Plan	32	65	0	0	0	130	227
Energy Innovation Agency	0	50	0	0	0	315	365
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund	371	0	0	0	0	0	371
Total Environment	567	115	207	0	175	445	1,509
Business, Innovation and Enterprise Policy	0	0	189	52	136	0	377
Planning and Housing	66	0	217	0	102	0	385
Cultural and Social Impact Fund	0	0	3,300	0	0	0	3,300
GM Delivery Team (HIF)	0	0	0	470	628	0	1,098

UK Shared Prosperity Fund	17,706	0	0	0	0	0	17,706
Public Sector Decarbonisation	155	0	0	0	0	0	155
Create Growth	425	0	0	0	0	0	425
Total Place	18,352	0	3,706	522	866	0	23,446
Childrens Services	0	0	0	0	0	156	156
GM Health Devolution	0	0	0	0	0	224	224
Ageing Better	100	0	109	146	0	0	355
GM Trailblazer	0	0	0	33	307	0	340
Public Service Reform	19,435	0	404	69	156	0	20,064
Housing First	3,854	0	0	0	0	0	3,854
Ageing in place pathfinder	717	0	0	0	0	0	717
Youth Pathfinder	0	1,283	0	1,283	0	0	2,566
A bed every night	100	0	0	24	3,241	2,350	5,715
Rough Sleeping Initiative	1,952	0	0	0	0	0	1,952
Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme	359	0	0	0	0	0	359
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	196	196
GM Safeguarding Alliance	0	0	0	0	0	74	74
Asylum & Refugee	0	0	0	0	0	1,448	1,448
Media Literacy Taskforce	101	0	0	0	0	0	101
Community Accommodation	3,657	0	0	106	0	0	3,763
Total Public Service Reform	30,275	1,283	513	1,661	3,704	4,448	41,884
Work and Skills	0	0	45	274	185	0	504
Self Employment Pilot	0	0	0	650	0	0	650
Skills Capital	0	0	0	243	0	0	243
ESF Neet 10m	2,823	0	0	0	0	0	2,823
Apprenticeship & technical education (legacy tax incentive)	0	0	0	264	0	0	264
Careers & Enterprise	639	0	0	12	263	0	914
Youth Contract	0	0	0	138	0	0	138
Work & Health Programme	6,847	0	0	176	23	0	7,046
Adult Education	96,316	0	0	0	0	0	96,316
City Deal Tax Incentives	0	574	0	0	0	0	574

WW - Specialist Employment	567	0	0	521	17	0	1,105
ESF Skills for Growth	10,279	0	0	0	0	0	10,279
DfE – Skills Bootcamp	7,500	0	0	0	0	0	7,500
Health & Employment	0	0	0	67	0	0	67
AEB -National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer	7,679	0	0	0	0	0	7,679
AEB - Multiply	5,018	0	0	0	0	0	5,018
Total Education, Work and Skills	137,668	574	45	2,345	488	0	141,120
GMCA Totals	188,802	8,014	5,878	4,733	5,518	5,113	218,058

Appendix 3

2023/24 District Contribution	Mid-Year Population 2020		GMCA General Budget	Cultural & Social Impact Fund	Marketing Manchester	MIDAS	Total
			£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Bolton	288,248	10.12%	398	334	27	102	861
Bury	190,708	6.70%	263	221	25	97	606
Manchester	555,741	19.51%	767	644	112	118	1,640
Oldham	237,628	8.34%	328	275	26	100	729
Rochdale	223,659	7.85%	309	259	26	99	692
Salford	262,697	9.22%	362	304	27	101	795
Stockport	294,197	10.33%	406	341	27	103	877
Tameside	227,117	7.97%	313	263	26	99	701
Trafford	237,579	8.34%	328	275	26	100	729
Wigan	330,712	11.61%	456	383	28	105	973
Total	2,848,286	100.00%	3,930	3,300	350	1,023	8,603

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GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10 February 2023

Subject: E. GMCA Waste and Resources - Budget and Levy 2023/24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2022/23 – 2025/26

Report of: Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and Steve Wilson, Treasurer to GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek comment on the budget and levy for 2023/24 and on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2022/23 to 2025/26. The report sets out:

1. A total levy requirement for 2023/24 of £169m, which represents a 2.5% average increase over 2022/23. At a District level the levy changes range from 1.8% to 3.2%; and
2. The MTFP proposes levy charges of £177.4m in 2024/25 and £185.5m in 2025/26.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is recommended to:

1. Note the forecast outturn for 2022/23.
2. Approve the proposed 2024/25 Trade Waste rate of £134.14 to allow forward planning by Districts.
3. Approve the budget and levy for 2023/24 of £169m (2.5% increase).
4. Approval of a one-off reduction of £27m to the levy in 2023/24 funded from reserves reducing the 2023/24 requirement to £142m and delegate approval to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the basis of distribution with local authority Treasurers.
5. Note the risk position set out in the balances and reserves strategy.

CONTACT OFFICERS

Steve Wilson, Treasurer

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EQUALITIES IMPACT, CARBON AND SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

N/A

RISK MANAGEMENT

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Authority's Chief Financial Officer (the Treasurer) is required to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget and levy calculations and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. This information enables a longer-term view of the overall financial position to be taken.

In accordance with these requirements a review has been undertaken of the risks that the GMCA may face from waste and resources activities which would require the allocation of resources over and above those already included in the MTFP budgets. That review broadly supports the proposed revenue and balances strategy.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please refer to risk management section above.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES - REVENUE

This report sets out the 2022/23 forecast outturn and proposed revenue budget for waste disposal in 2023/24.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES - CAPITAL

This report sets out the proposed capital budget for waste disposal in 2023/24 which is proposed for approval as part of the GMCA Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26 reported in separate report on the agenda for this meeting.

NUMBER ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

Appendix A - District Forecast Levy Increases

COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Revenue Update 2022/23 – 28th October 2022.

Report to Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Waste and Resources Budget and Levy 2022/23 – 11 February 2022.

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

N/A

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18th January 2023 - Final proposals to Waste & Recycling Committee and Scrutiny Committee

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The base budget for 2023/24 has been compiled and updated based upon:
- a) District final tonnage information, as supplied in their October 2022 submissions; and
 - b) Actual inflation as measured using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) September 2022 for the Waste and Resource Management Services (WRMS) and Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services Contracts (HWRCMS).
- 1.2 This report is structured to cover the following matters:
- a) Forecast outturn 2022/23;
 - b) Proposed budget 2023/24;
 - c) MTFP for two further years to 2025/26;
 - d) Balances and Reserves Strategy;
 - e) Budget engagement; and
 - f) Risk Assessment.

2. FORECAST OUTTURN 2022/23

Revenue

- 2.1 The budget for 2022/23 was set by the GMCA at £165.314m with a contribution from reserves of £474k in February 2022. The forecast outturn position for 2022/23 is a £27.352m underspend as shown below.

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
	£000	£000	£000
Operational Costs	107,872	81,849	(26,022)
Operational Financing	50,614	49,865	(750)

Office Costs	6,318	5,114	(1,204)
Non Operational Financing	510	492	(18)
Total Budget	165,314	137,320	(27,994)
Levy Adjustment		642	642
Transfer (from)/to reserves	474	474	0
Levy	164,840	137,488	(27,352)

2.2 The forecast underspend in Operational Costs is largely driven by estimates of third-party income due to be received from TPSCo which represents half of the underspend above (£13.082m). Forecast income from paper/card and commingled waste is currently above budget and makes up £6.446m of the underspend. The remaining forecast underspend is largely made up of savings on residual waste treatment due to lower than forecast tonnages.

2.3 Budgeted and forecast tonnages received from Districts and from HWRCs are shown below:

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Residual	378,169	376,975	(1,194)
Biowaste	207,876	198,239	(9,637)
Commingled	121,663	117,081	(4,582)
Paper & Card	81,708	77,262	(4,446)
Street Sweepings	22,937	26,650	3,713
Trade	46,163	44,188	(1,975)
HWRC	275,659	217,156	(58,503)
Total	1,134,175	1,057,551	(76,624)

- 2.4 The forecast underspend on operational financing arises from a slight reduction in the Minimum Revenue Provision capital financing charge for the year and the interest paid on the short term borrowed debt.
- 2.5 The forecast underspend on office costs is a result of lower than anticipated support service recharge and largely a reduction in consultancy fees spend on ongoing responses to the National Waste Strategy. This work is reprofiled into 2023/24.
- 2.6 The current Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) provides for in-year adjustments to be made when actual waste arisings vary from declared levels. Based upon updated forecast tonnages an indicative outturn position has been calculated which predicts at District level, adjustments may be needed as set out below.

	Charge/ (Refund)
	£000
Bolton	(10)
Bury	(226)
Manchester	(328)
Oldham	(29)
Rochdale	(46)
Salford	(87)
Stockport	(19)
Tameside	(115)
Trafford	218
Total	(642)

Capital

2.7 A revised capital programme is shown below:

Capital Programme 2022/23	Original Budget	Revised Budget at Quarter 2	Quarter 3 Forecast Outturn	Variance against revised budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Operational assets	9,004	11,104	14,235	3,131
Non-Operational assets	1,350	1,350	700	-650
Total	10,354	12,454	14,935	2,481

2.8 The main variances on Operational Assets are due to the reprofiling from 2021/22 into the current year of mobile plant and vehicles. Process improvements at Raikes Lane, Bolton have a higher spend than budget but works have also been carried forward from 2021/22.

3. PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/24

Revenue

3.1 A base budget has been produced based upon achieving the vision and objectives set out in the Greater Manchester Waste Management Strategy. There is a £4.184m increase in net budget requirement for 2023/24 (2.5% increase). Further detail is provided below:

	Budget
	2023/24
	£000
Operational Costs	108,555
Operational Financing	53,731
Office Costs	7,212
Non-Operational Financing	525

Total Budget	170,023
Use of Reserves	(1,000)
Levy	169,023

Levy Apportionment

- 3.2 The tonnages supplied by Districts in October 2022 have been subject to scrutiny by the Waste and Resources Team and detailed discussions with District Waste Chief Officers. The projections for future years include the impact of population and housing growth.
- 3.3 The tonnage forecasts mean that individual Districts' allocations will vary from the average of 2.5% increase and have a range of 1.4% (covering 1.8% to 3.2%). The final allocations to Districts can be summarised as:

District	2022/23 Levy £000	2023/24 Levy £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000	Increase/ (Decrease) %
Bolton	19,373	19,729	356	1.8
Bury	13,384	13,680	296	2.2
Manchester	29,956	30,632	677	2.3
Oldham	17,174	17,650	476	2.8
Rochdale	15,113	15,502	389	2.6
Salford	19,383	19,989	606	3.1
Stockport	19,933	20,573	640	3.2
Tameside	15,249	15,520	271	1.8
Trafford	15,275	15,748	473	3.1
Total	164,840	169,023	4,184	2.5

3.4 It is further proposed that the levy figures described above are subject to a one-off reduction in 2023/24 of £27m, funded from waste reserves, reducing the overall levy to £142.023m

Capital

3.5 The proposed capital spend for 2023/24 is £6.780m and is included for approval in the GMCA Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26 reported separately on this agenda. Any programme carry forward from 2022/23 will increase the capital programme as part of the 2023/24 Quarter 1 Capital Update report. The proposed programme for 2023/24 can be summarised as:

- a) £3m for a HWRC at Reliance Street, Newton Heath;
- b) £460k Environment Agency prescribed changes at Raikes Lane, Bolton;
- c) £1.320m for rail wagons; and
- d) £2m for mobile plant and equipment.

4. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2022/23 - 2025/26

4.1 The GMCA has adopted a current year 2022/23 and following year 2023/24 plus two future year planning cycle in this budget paper. A number of assumptions have been made which take a balanced view of the risks facing the service in 2023/24 and beyond.

Retail Price Index (RPIx) and Consume Price Index (CPI) Inflation

4.2 The forward look assumptions for RPIx and CPI inflation are shown below and have been included in the MTFP.

Financial Year	Forecast RPIx	Forecast CPI
2024/25	3.3%	5.0%
2025/26	3.7%	2.1%

4.3 The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) projections assume that:

- a) Districts will be able to deliver on their expected waste declarations;

- b) No change from England's Resources and Waste Strategy;
- c) Landfill tax will continue to rise annually by RPI;
- d) An income for mixed paper and card in 2023/24 equivalent to the handling charge; and
- e) An income from TPSCo in 2023/24 for a share of electricity income.

4.4 Taking account of the above, the estimated budget and levy for the MTFP period are set out below with Appendix A providing further information on District forecast levy increases.

Financial Year	Budget Requirement £000	Use of Reserves £000	Levy £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000
2022/23	165,313	(474)	164,840	0
2023/24	170,023	(1,000)	169,023	4,183
2024/25	181,371	(4,000)	177,371	8,348
2025/26	187,515	(2,000)	185,515	8,144

5. BALANCES

5.1 The balances attributable to the Waste & Resources team as at 1 April 2022 were £66.560m. During 2022/23, £10m of reserves have been returned to Districts. The budget for 2023/24 contains proposals to utilise £1m of Waste Compositional Analysis Reserve and for a further £27m to be used to fund a one off reduction in the levy for 2023/24.

5.2 The level of balances is assessed for adequacy on a risk assessed basis, and this reflects the risks below:

- a) Tonnages of waste delivered and received at facilities;

- b) Achievement of recycling/composting levels;
- c) Reduction in contamination;
- d) Recyclate income prices; and
- e) Upside/ downside risks from energy prices at the Runcorn TPS.

5.3 The level of balances is an area of ongoing discussion with Districts. However, financial risk assessment on an annual basis and the need to hold an appropriate level of balances, will continue to have a major influence on the budget and MTFP for the Waste & Resources Team.

5.4 In accordance with our usual practice, Officers have sought to engage on budget matters with both Waste Chief Officers and Treasurers of constituent Districts. As far as possible the budget and levy take into account their comments.

5.5 Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Authority's Chief Financial Officer (the Treasurer) is required to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget and levy calculations and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. This information enables a longer-term view of the overall financial position to be taken.

5.6 In accordance with these requirements a review has been undertaken of the risks that the GMCA may face from waste and resources activities which would require the allocation of resources over and above those already included in the MTFP budgets. That review broadly supports the proposed revenue and balances strategy.

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GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10 February 2023
Subject: F. GMCA Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2025/26
Report of: Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and Steve Wilson,
Treasurer

Purpose of Report

To present an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 2022/23 capital expenditure programme and the 2023/24 capital budget and forward plan for approval.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the current 2022/23 forecast of £462.1m compared to the 2022/23 previous forecast of £565.6m and approve changes to the capital programme as set out in the report.
2. Approve the capital programme budget for 2023/24 and the forward plan as detailed in the report and in Appendix A.
3. Approve funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) grant as set out in Section 3.10 of this report.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

N/A

Risk Management

An assessment of major budget risks faced by the authority are carried out quarterly as part of the reporting process – at the present time a significant proportion of the capital budget is funded through grant. In order to mitigate the risk of monetary claw back the full programme is carefully monitored against the grant conditions and further action would be taken as necessary.

Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal implications contained within the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no specific revenue considerations contained within the report.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The report sets out the capital expenditure for 2022/23, 2023/24 and future years.

Number of attachments to the report: None

Background Papers

GMCA Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2024/25 - 11 February 2022

GMCA 2022/23 Capital Update – Quarter 1 – 29 July 2022

GMCA 2022/23 Capital Update – Quarter 2 – 28 Oct 2022

GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24 – 10 February 2023

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?

N/A

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

8th February 2023

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) approved the 2022/23 capital programme at its meeting on 11 February 2022. The latest 2022/23 capital reforecast at quarter 2 was reported and noted by the GMCA at its meeting on 28 October 2022.
- 1.2 GMCA's capital programme includes Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services, Economic Development and Regeneration programmes, Waste & Resources Service and the continuation of the programme of activity currently being delivered by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Local Authorities including the following elements:
- a) The Greater Manchester Transport Fund ('GMTF');
 - b) Metrolink Trafford Park Line Extension;
 - c) Clean Air Schemes including Early Measures Investment Fund (EMIF), Clean Bus Initiatives, Office for Zero emissions Vehicles (OZEV), Electric Vehicles (EV), Taxi, EV Taxi Infrastructure, Clean Air Zones (CAZ), Financial Support Schemes (FSS) and DEFRA Air Quality Monitoring;
 - d) City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funded schemes;
 - e) Other capital projects and programmes including Transforming Cities Fund 1, Active Travel, Cycle City Ambition Grant (CCAG 2), Rail – Access for All, Cycle Safety, Bus Franchising and Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA);
 - f) Transport Growth Deal Major Schemes;
 - g) Minor Works (including schemes funded by Integrated Transport Capital Block and Growth Deal);
 - h) Capital Highways Maintenance, Traffic Signals and Full Fibre;
 - i) Investments including Growing Places, Regional Growth Fund and Housing Investment Fund;
 - j) Economic Development and Regeneration Growth Deal Schemes;
 - k) Fire and Rescue Service Schemes; and
 - l) Waste and Resources Schemes.

1.3 The proposed Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2025/26 is summarised in Appendix A and the major variances are described in this report.

2. Impact of National and Global Pressures

2.1 As previously reported, the progression of a number of schemes and their associated expenditure profiles has been impacted by global pressures on construction materials availability, associated pricing and inflationary pressures.

2.2 TfGM and Local Authority Delivery Partners are continuing to work with their respective supply chains to mitigate the impacts of the above matters; albeit due to more recent ongoing global events and trends this continues to be an increasing challenge across the capital programme.

2.3 It is anticipated that these impacts will continue in respect of expenditure within 2022/23, 2023/24 and beyond. Officers are progressing work to formulate a strategy to address these and related issues. A report detailing the outcome of this work and associated recommendations will be submitted to the GMCA in May 2023.

2.4 It is therefore recommended to adopt a prudent approach to scheme expenditure and the drawing down of funding whilst this work is being progressed.

2.5 To this end, this report includes a request for the drawdown of the following CRSTS funding, including to enable scheme development and delivery, to continue over the coming months, ahead of a further report being brought to the Combined Authority in May 2023.

- £2.9 million to Rochdale Council to support their Strategic Highways Maintenance commitments, with works due to commence on site during 2023/24;
- £2.6 million to support a number of GM Local Authorities to progress the development of their Streets for All programmes; and
- £14.8 million to support the development / delivery of a number of TfGM promoted bus and rail schemes, £6.3 million of which relates to expenditure that has been cash flowed from revenue budgets in the current financial year to date and that now needs 'switching' to be funded from CRSTS. The remaining £8.5 million is forecast expenditure in the period to the end of quarter 1 2023/24.

3. Transport Schemes

3.1 Greater Manchester Transport Fund (GMTF)

- 3.1.1 The GMTF programme is funded from a combination of grants from the Department for Transport; a 'top slice' from the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Block (ITB) LTP funding; and from a combination of borrowings, to be undertaken by GMCA, and partly from local/third party contributions and local resources (including LTP and prudential borrowing).
- 3.1.2 The GMTF was established on the basis that GMCA would repay the borrowings in full by 2045, in part through the application of Metrolink net revenues (being Metrolink revenues, net of operating, maintenance and other related costs); in part by the application of the annual ring-fenced levy contributions, which will be raised by GMCA, under its levying powers and in part from local, third party, revenue contributions.
- 3.1.3 The GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24 report, on the agenda for this meeting, includes further detail on the overall revenue funding position, including in relation to Metrolink net revenues and financing costs.

Metrolink Programme

- 3.1.5 The Metrolink Programme includes the close out of certain activities relating to the Phase 3 expansion programme as well as other service and operational improvement works to the network.
- 3.1.6 The current forecast expenditure on these residual works in 2022/23 is £3.3m, compared to a previous forecast of £4.1m. The variance is primarily due to the rephasing of certain activities and associated costs into future years.
- 3.1.7 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £10.4m.
- 3.1.8 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

Metrolink Renewals and Enhancements

- 3.1.9 The Metrolink Renewals and Enhancements programme has historically been funded by prudential borrowings, with repayments being made from Metrolink net revenues. However, because of COVID-19 and the associated impact on Metrolink revenues referred to above, the programme has been reprioritised, with only works that are either safety or operationally critical currently being delivered.

3.1.10 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £15.2m, compared to a previous forecast of £14.7m.

3.1.11 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £10.8m.

3.1.12 The current year forecast, and the 2023/24 budgeted expenditure, includes some renewals and enhancements expenditure funded from CRSTS and ITB.

3.1.13 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

Park and Ride

3.1.14 The current forecast expenditure for 2022/23 is £0.1m, which is in line with the previous forecast.

3.1.15 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is nil.

3.1.16 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

Bus Priority Programme

3.1.17 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £0.2m, which is in line with the previous forecast.

3.1.18 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £1.0m.

3.1.19 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

Interchanges

3.1.20 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £0.01m, which is in line with the previous forecast.

3.1.21 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is nil.

3.1.22 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

3.2 A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR)

3.2.1 Stockport Council is responsible for the delivery of the A6MARR, resulting in the expenditure largely comprising grant payments to Stockport MBC.

3.2.2 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £2.7m, which is in line with the previous forecast.

3.2.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £3.6m.

3.2.4 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

3.3 Metrolink Trafford Park Extension

- 3.3.1 The expenditure relates to the closure of final accounts on land transactions.
- 3.3.2 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £0.2m, compared to a previous forecast of £0.3m. The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £0.3m.
- 3.3.3 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

3.4 Transforming Cities Fund – First Allocation (TCF1)

- 3.4.1 The programme includes:
 - a) The Metrolink Additional Capacity Programme; and
 - b) The Mayor’s Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF)
- 3.4.2 The Metrolink Additional Capacity programme includes the purchase of 27 additional trams (all of which have now been delivered) and additional supporting infrastructure. The current forecast expenditure for 2022/23 is £12.0m, compared to a previous forecast of £14.1m. The variance is predominantly due to the rephasing of some of the additional infrastructure works into next year.
- 3.4.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £4.7m.
- 3.4.4 The Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund includes 127 schemes. Overall programme management and design assurance undertaken by TfGM. The majority of schemes are delivered by the Local Authorities. The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £30.9m, compared to a previous forecast of £33.6m. The variance is mainly due to the reprofiling of some design development into future years.
- 3.4.5 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure for the MCF programme is £28.3m.
- 3.4.6 Total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budgets.

3.5 Active Travel Fund (ATF 2 and 3)

- 3.5.1 The Active Travel Fund programme (ATF 2 and 3) comprises 27 cycling and walking infrastructure schemes. The ATF capital programme is being delivered by the Local Authorities, with supporting behaviour change activities being delivered and managed in conjunction with TfGM. The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £3.3m, compared to a previous forecast of £4.5m. The variance is due to rephasing of some ATF 2 expenditure from 2022/23 to 2023/24 due to changes to the original programme of works and rephasing of ATF 3 design expenditure into next year.

3.5.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure for the ATF 2 and 3 programme is £7.5m.

3.5.3 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

3.6 Cycle Safety Grant

3.6.1 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 from the Cycle Safety Grant is £0.1m, compared to a previous forecast of £0.3m. The variance is due to certain works being rephased into 2023/24.

3.6.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £0.3m.

3.6.3 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

3.7 Clear Air Programme

3.7.1 This is a range of Clean Air schemes which are funded entirely through grant funding from central government.

3.7.2 The 'Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan' was submitted to the Secretary of State in draft on 1 July 2022 and confirmed as an approved document, following a meeting of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee on 17 August 2022. The costs to date and all future costs are fully funded by the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit. The current forecast included for the Clean Air Plan is broadly in line with original budget and the previous forecast. The Government's has now asked Greater Manchester to provide additional evidence that will enable them to further consider the case for a new investment-led, non-charging Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.

3.7.3 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £20.6m. 2023/24 budget expenditure is £20.0m.

3.7.4 The total outturn costs are within approved budgets for this programme.

3.8 Other Capital Schemes and Programmes

3.8.1 The other capital schemes and programmes include:

- a) Cycle City Ambition Grant (CCAG2) funded schemes; and
- b) Rail – Access for All

3.8.2 The current forecast expenditure is 2022/23 for CCAG 2 is £0.1m, which is line with the previous forecast.

3.8.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is nil.

3.8.4 The Access for All Programme current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £1.0m, compared to a previous forecast of £2.1m. The variance is predominantly due to the rephasing of constructions works into next year.

3.8.6 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £2.6m.

3.8.7 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget for these programmes.

3.9 Bus Franchising

3.9.1 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £30.9m, compared to a previous forecast of £39.1m. The variance is predominantly related to the rephasing of depot costs from future years into 2022/23, offset by a rephasing of ticketing infrastructure expenditure into future years.

3.9.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £70.8m, which largely relates to depot and land acquisition costs, aligned to the depot strategy as set out in the assessment

3.9.3 The current year forecast and 2023/24 budgeted expenditure includes expenditure funded from CRSTS local matched funding contributions met from borrowing.

3.9.4 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget.

3.10 City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)

3.10.1 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 for CRSTS funded schemes is £77.3m, compared to a previous forecast of £87.8m. The variance is predominantly due to entering into contract for the delivery of an additional 50 Electric Vehicle (EV) buses ahead of the previous schedule; offset by the rephasing of certain HS2 development activities; and the rephasing of other works us Franchising ticketing infrastructure procurement and Bus Pinchpoint Local Authority works,

3.10.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £98.2m, a summary of which is included in Appendix A.

3.10.3 Within the 2023/24 budgeted expenditure £8.5m relates to Strategic and £26.3m for Core, Highways Maintenance programmes, allocated to the GM Local Authorities in the table below.

Authority	Strategic Highways Maintenance 2023/24 £'000	Core Highways Maintenance 2023/24 £'000
Bolton	1,730	2,867
Bury	783	1,912
Manchester	675	3,568
Oldham	699	2,300
Rochdale	2,925	2,294
Salford	1,125	2,357
Stockport	-	2,984
Tameside	-	2,179
Trafford	-	2,184
Wigan	612	3,605
Total	8,549	26,250

3.10.4 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget for this programme.

3.11 Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA)

3.11.1 The ZEBRA project has received £35.7m of Department for Transport Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas funding and £12.5m GMCA funding funded from prudential borrowing.

3.11.2 The current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £0.5m, against a previous forecast of nil. The variance is due to the bringing forward of some depot electrification works into this financial year.

3.11.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £23.0m.

3.11.4 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budget for this programme.

3.12 Transport Local Growth Deal 1 Majors Schemes

3.12.1 The Transport Local Growth Deal 1 & 3 Majors Programme consists of 15 major schemes (excluding Stockport Town Centre Access Plan (TCAP)) which are being delivered by TfGM and the Local Authorities. The total current forecast expenditure in 2022/23 is £52.5m, compared to a previous forecast of £53.2m. The variance is predominantly due to rephasing of Oldham Town Centre works into the current financial year, offset by the rephasing of some construction activities on the SBNI programme into the 2023/24 financial year.

3.12.2 The current year forecast and the 2023/24 budgeted expenditure includes some expenditure that will be funded from the CRSTS grant.

3.12.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £57.8m.

3.13 Minor Works

3.13.1 The Minor Works schemes are being delivered by TfGM and the Local Authorities

3.13.2 The current forecast expenditure for 2022/23 on these schemes is £2.9m compared to a previous forecast of £3.7m. The variance is due to the rephasing of works across various schemes from 2022/23 into 2023/24.

3.13.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £1.2m.

3.13.4 The total forecast and budget outturn costs are within the total approved budgets.

3.14 Traffic Signals

3.14.1 The current forecast is in line with the budget of £2.5m. All traffic signals are externally funded and the annual amount will fluctuate year on year dependant on the level of new installations and developments. Future year forecasts are expected to stay within the £2.5m range.

3.15 Full Fibre Network

3.15.1 The current forecast expenditure is £1.1m compared to a previous forecast of £3.3m. The scheme is now largely complete.

3.16 GM One Network

3.16.1 Following installation of full fibre network, the GM One Network project will provide the equipment to 'light the fibre' that has been installed at the public sector sites. The project has been rephased from quarter 4 2022/23 to quarter 2 and capital expenditure phased over the life of the project. This has reduced forecast spend in 2022/23 from £12.1m to £3.1m with a budget of £3.5m estimated for 2023/24.

4 Economic Development and Regeneration

4.1 Regional Growth Fund (RGF)

4.1.1 The RGF of £65m was secured by GM through two rounds of bidding in 2012/13 and 2013/14. The RGF has supported eligible projects and programmes raising private sector investment to create economic growth and employment. The forecast at quarter 3 is now £9.2m with additional schemes having been added.

4.1.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £7.5m.

4.2 Growing Places

4.2.1 The Growing Places Fund originally secured by GM in 2012/13 totalled £34.5m of capital grant funding which is being used to provide up front capital investment in schemes. The forecast at quarter 3 is now £11m as an additional scheme has now been included.

4.2.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £11.7m.

4.3 Housing Investment Fund

4.3.1 The Greater Manchester Housing Investment Fund has been designed to accelerate and unlock housing schemes. It will help build the new homes to support the growth ambitions across Greater Manchester. To facilitate this government has provided a £300m loan to provide the up-front funding and loans are approved by GMCA. The forecast at quarter 3 is now £45m with pipeline schemes not expected to complete during 2022/23 previously removed.

4.3.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £123.4m.

4.4 Skills Capital Round 2 & 3

4.4.1 The current forecast expenditure of £2.2m is in line with a small change from the previous forecast position.

4.5 Life Sciences Fund 1

4.5.1 The Greater Manchester and Cheshire Life Sciences Fund is a seed and early-stage venture capital fund targeting life sciences businesses located in the Greater Manchester and Cheshire and Warrington region. The current forecast expenditure of £0.7m has decreased from the previous quarter as Life Sciences 2 has now been shown on a separate line.

4.5.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £2.2m.

4.6 Life Sciences Fund 2

4.6.1 Life Sciences Fund 2 is reinvesting the returns from Life Sciences Fund 1. The forecast expenditure for 2022/23 is £2.6m.

4.7 Pankhurst Institute

4.7.1 The forecast expenditure is in line with budget and previous forecasts. The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £0.8m.

4.8 City Deal

4.8.1 The City Deal funding was extended from 31 March 2022 to 30 September 2022. A further extension has now been granted until 31 January 2023. The scheme has been removed for 2022/23 and £30m reprofiled into 2023/24.

4.9 Brownfield Land Fund

4.9.1 The current expenditure forecast is £17.9m which is lower than previous estimates due to the reprofiling of some schemes into 2023/24.

4.9.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £36.1m.

4.10 Affordable Homes

4.10.1 The current expenditure forecast is £0.01m which is lower than previous forecasts. Timing of payments of grants is dependent on schemes coming forward and grant is claimed in arrears.

4.10.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is 0.1m.

4.11 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 1

4.11.1 The 2021/22 programme was carried forward to reflect agreed carry forward to 2022/23 of £42.980m to be spent by end of June 2022. The programme has now successfully completed and final claim submitted with final spend being £41.6m.

4.12 Homelessness Rough Sleeper Programme

4.12.1 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. Forecast of £2.8m is in line with previous budget.

4.13 Green Homes

4.13.1 Spend is now complete on this scheme with full grant spend not able to be achieved in the timescales leading to an underspend of £9.7m against budget of £21.5m.

4.14 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3a single year

4.14.1 There is a forecast of £11.9m against the original programme of £15.5m due to partners expected delivery by the government deadline of 31st March 2023. The programme is extremely challenging to deliver within timescales and there is little flexibility for partners that cannot guarantee permitted spend with timescales.

4.15 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3a multi-year

4.15.1 Grant award was made during 2022/23 and forecast spend is £0.4m.

4.15.2 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £1m.

4.16 Social Housing Decarbonisation

4.16.1 Scheme is in line with previous forecasts and funding of £10.5m is expected to be spent by 31 March 2023.

4.17 UK Shared Prosperity Fund

4.17.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of central government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of central government's support for places. The GMCA is lead authority for Greater Manchester and the amounts included in the budget are the minimum capital spend percentages set out in the national prospectus and it expected that GM will comfortably exceed the minimums of £1m in 2022/23.

4.17.3 The 2023/24 budgeted expenditure is £2.6m.

4.18 Homelessness Accommodation Project

4.18.1 This project has grant funding of £3.9m to support the leasing of good-quality properties for homeless families and contribute to efforts to eliminate the use of 'Bed and Breakfast' accommodation for homeless families. The project is expected to be complete in 2022/23.

5. Fire and Rescue Service

5.1 Estates

5.1.1 An assessment of the estates capital programme strategy has been undertaken to re-profile the five year scheme based on expected timescales of delivery of works following the revision of schemes as reported in the previous period.

5.3 Vehicles & Equipment

5.3.1 The forecast against vehicles is in relation to the estimated value of stage payments due to be made within the year for orders placed on appliances plus other vehicles delivered to date.

5.4 Sustainability

5.4.1 The expected costs of the grant funded PV and Battery schemes at Ashton and Bury fire stations are lower than budgeted. It is proposed that the residual budget is removed.

5.5 Health & Safety

5.5.1 Alongside the estates strategy is a programme of work to replace and update fitness equipment on fire stations. A review of requirements has been completed under the Health, Safety & Fitness team which has been incorporated into the capital programme.

6. Waste and Resources

6.1 The main variances on Operational Assets are due to the reprofiling from 2021/22 into the current year of mobile plant and vehicles. Process improvements at Raikes Lane, Bolton have a higher spend than budget but works have also been carried forward from 2021/22.

6.2 The forecast spend in 2023/24 of £6.780m can be summarised as:

- a) £3m for a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) at Reliance Street, Newton Heath;
- b) £0.460m Environment Agency prescribed changes at Raikes Lane, Bolton;
- c) £1.320m for rail wagons; and
- d) £2m for mobile plant and equipment.

7. Funding Requirements

7.1 The capital programme over the next three years, results in a borrowing requirement of £364.6m. Provision has been made in the revenue budget for the associated financing costs.

7.2 The estimated funding profile for the forecast spend in financial year 2023/24 is as follows:

Source	£m
Borrowings	140.6
Capital Receipts	175.5
Grants	230.3
Revenue Contribution	0.1
External Income	45.2
Total Funding	591.8

Appendix A

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	Budget 2022/23	Previous 2022/23 Forecast	Current 2022/23 Forecast	Variance	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	Future years forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Metrolink Programme	5,871	4,103	3,296	807	10,392	12,064	2,276	-
Metrolink Renewals and Enhancements	10,217	14,746	15,182	(436)	10,762	26,453	13,182	293,117
Park and Ride	8	75	67	8	-	-	-	7,726
Bus Priority Programme	186	266	184	82	982	6,013	4,963	-
Interchange Programme	54	11	15	(4)	-	468	-	53
Greater Manchester Transport Fund	16,336	19,201	18,744	457	22,136	44,998	20,421	300,896
Road Schemes (Stockport)								
Stockport Town Centre Access Plan (DfT retained scheme)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A6 MARR / SEMMMS	6,204	2,713	2,675	38	3,600	4,800	3,500	8,714
Stockport Council Schemes total	6,204	2,713	2,675	38	3,600	4,800	3,500	8,714
Other Metrolink Schemes								
Trafford Extension	410	318	233	85	325	2,954	6,721	-
Other Metrolink Schemes total	410	318	233	85	325	2,954	6,721	-
BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD				
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN				

	Budget 2022/23	Previous 2022/23 Forecast	Current 2022/23 Forecast	Variance	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	Future years forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Clean Air Schemes								
OLEV & CAP Taxi	1,187	1,132	1,225	(93)	1,181	543	-	-
Clean Air Financial Support Scheme (FSS)	1,843	768	768	-	1,134	-	-	-
Clean Air Zone (CAZ)	8,267	8,267	9,434	(1,167)	17,142	-	-	-
Clean Bus Technology Fund	-	424	424	-	-	-	-	-
Clean Bus Fund	7,076	8,533	8,533	-	156	4,087	57	114
Defra Air Quality Monitoring	-	343	49	294	328	-	-	-
Early Measures	243	230	131	99	99	-	-	-
Clean Air Schemes	18,616	19,697	20,564	(867)	20,039	4,631	57	114
Clean Air Schemes total	18,616	19,697	20,564	(867)	20,039	4,631	57	114
Other Capital Schemes								
Smart Ticketing (non Growth Deal Funding)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CCAG 2	-	112	112	-	-	-	-	-
TCF - Mayors Challenge Fund	39,700	33,573	30,915	2,658	28,256	11,999	-	-
TCF - Metrolink Capacity Improvement Programme	15,044	14,124	12,039	2,085	4,657	7,987	-	-
Active Travel Fund	10,235	4,453	3,287	1,166	7,505	8,655	4,472	-
Access For All	2,716	2,065	1,025	1,040	2,602	4,087	-	533
ZEBRA	-	-	504	(504)	23,004	24,692	-	-
Bus Franchising	37,510	39,107	30,933	8,174	70,773	21,368	393	-
Cycle Safety	-	300	60	240	258	1,224	-	-

	Budget 2022/23	Previous 2022/23 Forecast	Current 2022/23 Forecast	Variance	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	Future years forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other Capital Schemes total	105,205	93,734	78,875	14,859	137,055	80,012	4,865	533
Growth Deal								
TfGM Majors	48,608	49,676	48,893	783	57,156	21,274	1,686	15,753
Local Authorities Majors	3,669	3,474	3,588	(114)	634	2,775	1,256	-
Growth Deal total	52,277	53,150	52,481	669	57,790	24,049	2,942	15,753
Minor Works								
ITB Local Authorities	970	952	837	115	415	397	-	-
Growth Deal 1 & 2 Local Authorities	1,497	1,791	1,411	380	555	385	-	-
Growth Deal 2 TfGM Schemes	55	70	67	3	10	1,037	7	-
Growth Deal 3 TfGM schemes	1,077	827	591	236	255	367	-	-
Growth Deal 3 Local Authorities	-	14	14	-	-	-	-	-
Minor Works total	3,599	3,654	2,920	734	1,235	2,186	7	-
Bus CRSTS	6,900	19,366	22,302	(2,936)	46,115	65,284	101,609	98,971
Active Travel CRSTS	-	-	-	-	-	8,632	16,206	15,967
Interchanges CRSTS	-	250	400	(150)	1,900	1,429	4,989	18,321
Rail CRSTS	1,695	10,784	931	9,853	2,284	18,933	67,547	5,414
Other CRSTS	3,055	700	-	700	1,300	4,540	6,893	5,341
Metrolink CRSTS	60	2,901	639	2,262	4,858	17,316	17,360	41,031
Local Authority CRSTS	-	53,760	53,053	707	41,764	105,303	99,554	116,301

	Budget 2022/23	Previous 2022/23 Forecast	Current 2022/23 Forecast	Variance	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	Future years forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total CRSTS	11,710	87,761	77,325	10,436	98,221	221,437	314,158	301,346
Traffic Signals (Externally Funded)	2,500	2,500	2,500	-	2,500	2,500	2,500	
Full Fibre Network	3,344	3,344	1,050	2,294	-	-	-	
GM One Network	12,053	12,053	3,084	8,969	3,518	1,075	865	8,541
Total - Transport	232,254	298,125	260,451	37,674	346,419	388,641	356,036	635,897
Regional Growth Fund	5,000	6,006	9,163	(3,157)	7,503	5,380	5,000	-
Growing Places	8,444	6,727	11,008	(4,281)	11,685	10,000	10,000	-
Housing Investment Fund	80,444	48,895	45,038	3,857	123,363	92,892	41,749	-
Skills Capital Round 2 & 3	1,404	2,072	2,231	(159)	-	-	-	-
Life Sciences Fund 1	489	1,837	668	1,169	2,203	2,203	-	-
Life Sciences Fund 2	-	-	2,594	(2,594)	-	-	-	-
Pankhurst Institute	793	793	793	-	793	-	-	-
City Deal	-	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-
Brownfield Land Fund	18,000	46,484	17,909	28,575	36,112	17,421	-	-
Affordable Homes	200	200	14	186	100	100	100	-
Public Sector								
Decarbonisation Scheme 1	20,589	42,980	41,623	1,357	-	-	-	-
Homelessness Rough Sleeper Programme	-	2,796	2,796	0	-	-	-	-
Green Homes	21,457	21,457	11,735	9,722	-	-	-	-

	Budget 2022/23	Previous 2022/23 Forecast	Current 2022/23 Forecast	Variance	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	Future years forecast
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3a single year	-	15,534	11,948	3,586	-	-	-	-
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3a multi year	-	-	379	(379)	1,002	1,550	-	-
Social Housing Decarbonisation	-	10,473	10,473	-	-	-	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	-	1,018	(1,018)	2,646	10,665	-	-
Homelessness Accommodation Leasing Project	-	-	3,900	3,900	-	-	-	-
Total ED&R	156,820	236,254	173,290	62,964	215,407	140,211	56,849	-
Estates	12,666	5,883	5,661	222	12,186	24,645	13,709	1,867
ICT	1,574	2,662	2,617	45	400	150	150	300
Vehicles & Equipment	7,634	6,909	3,803	3,106	7,994	1,890	4,480	4,871
Sustainability	240	599	484	115	75	75	75	150
Health & Safety	-	-	82	(82)	522	-	-	-
Waking Watch Relief	-	2,728	728	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
Total Fire & Rescue	22,114	18,781	13,375	5,406	23,177	26,760	18,414	7,188
Operational Sites	9,004	11,104	14,235	(3,131)	6,780	4,820	3,320	-
Non-Operational Sites	1,350	1,350	700	650	-	750	1,200	-

	Budget 2022/23	Previous 2022/23 Forecast	Current 2022/23 Forecast	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total - Waste & Resources	10,354	12,454	14,935	(2,481)
Total Capital	421,542	565,614	462,051	103,563

2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	Future years forecast
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
6,780	5,570	4,520	-
591,783	561,182	435,819	643,085

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GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10th February 2023

Subject: GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 3 - 2022/23

Report of: Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and
Steve Wilson, Treasurer to GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform GMCA of the 2022/23 financial position at the end of December 2022 (quarter 3) and the forecast revenue outturn position for the 2022/23 financial year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is recommended to:

1. Note the 2022/23 forecast outturn position for the GMCA budgets at the end of December 2022 (quarter 3).
2. Approve the changes to the GMCA General and Transport budgets following the confirmation of additional funding and planned expenditure during quarter 3 shown in sections 2 and 6 of the report.

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

N/A

Risk Management

An assessment of major budget risks faced by the authority are carried out quarterly as part of the reporting process – the risks are identified within the report.

Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal implications with regards to the 2022/23 budget update.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Revenue – The report sets out the forecast outturn position for 2022/23.

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no specific capital considerations contained within the report.

Number of attachments to the report: n/a

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Background Papers

Reports to Greater Manchester Combined Authority:

GMCA Budget Reports – 11th February 2022

GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 1 - 2022/23 – 29th July 2022

GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 2 – 2022/23 – 28th October 2022

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?

N/A

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report details the full GMCA position to 31st December 2022 and forecast revenue outturn position for 2022/23, covering Mayoral General Budget, Mayoral GM Fire and Rescue Budget (GMFRS), GMCA General Budget and GM Waste and Transport including Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). It provides an analysis of the significant forecast variances in year compared to approved budget and seeks approval for revisions to the budget.
- 1.2 The position at Quarter 3 is summarised in the table below with further detail on the variances provided in each section of the report.

Summary 2022/23 Quarter 3	Forecast Outturn Q3			Variance from Budget		
	Exp	Income	Total	Exp	Income	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
GMCA General	269,894	-270,742	-848	27,274	-28,122	-848
Mayoral	139,020	-139,020	0	0	0	0
GMFRS	121,825	-119,722	2,103	2,282	-179	2,103
Waste	137,320	-164,672	-27,352	-27,520	168	-27,352
Transport inc:	296,653	-296,653	0	27,300	-27,300	0
TfGM	239,374	-234,374	5,000	32,300	-27,300	5,000

2. GMCA GENERAL BUDGET

- 2.1 The GMCA General budget approved by the GMCA in February 2022 was £242.620m and the forecast outturn expenditure reported to GMCA on 28th October 2022 (quarter 2) was £259.914m with a net underspend of £0.871m. At quarter 3 forecast income is £270.742m an increase of £9.957m over the last quarter and a net underspend of £0.848m.
- 2.2 The quarter 3 underspend of £0.848m compared to £0.871m at quarter 2 is a decrease in the underspend of £23k due to:
- Additional deposit interest from short term investment forecast to increase by £1.120m less;
 - Expenditure provision of £1m to support Districts with the GM Children's Services Sufficiency programme;
 - Other changes which add up to a £143k increase in net expenditure.

2.3 The table below provides a breakdown of the position including the original budget, revised budget at quarter 2 and forecast outturn and variance for quarter 3:

GMCA Revenue Monitoring 2022/23 Quarter 3	Original Budget	Revised Budget Qtr 2	Forecast Outturn Quarter 3	Change from Quarter 2
	£000	£000	£000	£000
GMCA Corporate	27,320	26,058	26,101	43
Digital	2,597	3,429	2,983	-446
Economy	18,499	16,758	18,524	1,766
Environment	758	3,713	5,527	1,814
Place	6,707	11,015	21,823	10,808
Public Service Reform	30,960	40,947	41,086	139
Work and Skills	155,779	157,994	153,849	-4,145
Total Expenditure	242,620	259,914	269,894	9,980
Government Grants	-180,133	-199,198	-204,676	-5,478
District Contributions	-8,603	-8,603	-8,603	0
Internal Recharges	-18,995	-18,995	-17,946	1,049
Earmarked Reserves	-20,010	-18,805	-23,349	-4,544
Other Income	-14,879	-15,184	-16,168	-984
Funding	-242,620	-260,785	-270,742	-9,957
Net Expenditure	0	-871	-848	23

2.4 The GMCA General expenditure at quarter 3 is forecast to increase in relation to programme funding for Place, Economy and Environment. The Work and Skills and Digital forecast expenditure is projected to reduce. Further details as follows:

2.5 The Place Directorate programmes have increased by a net **£10.808m** in relation to:

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the Government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF). The primary goal of UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, while recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the Covid pandemic. GMCA has been assigned lead authority for GM and have overall accountability for the funding and how it operates, working closely with Districts and key stakeholders including local MPs in the design and delivery of UKSPF. Following agreement of the GM investment plan, GMCA has been allocated a total of £83.9m over the three year period 2022/23 – 2024/25 from which the allocation for 2022/23 is **£9.198m**.

- The GM Housing Strategy - It was agreed by GMCA on 25th March 2022 to allocate £4m from the GM Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses to fund activity in support of the GM Housing Strategy. From this **£875k** is projected to be spent in 2022/23.
- Create Growth Programme – Following a successful bid, GMCA has been awarded grant funding from Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport of £1.275m over three years 2022/23 – 2024/25 with **£425k** allocated for 2022/23. The grant is to provide high growth potential creative businesses with a bespoke business support programme and data collection to enable an evidence base to determine impact.
- Other GMCA Place based programmes including **£182k** from GM Health and Social Care partnership / Integrated Care Board and **£128k** additional spend on Business Rates funded for Places for Everyone.

2.6 Economy and Environment Directorates have increased projected expenditure of **£1.766m** and **£1.814m** respectively in relation to retained Business Rates growth funding approved by GMCA on 29th July 2022.

2.7 Work and Skills Directorate has a reduction in forecast spend of **£4.145m** due to lower than expected delivery fees for Adult Education Budget National Skills Fund Level 3, European Social Fund Skills for Growth and Work and Health Programme.

2.8 Digital programmes have a forecast reduction in expenditure by **£446k** largely in relation to rephasing of implementation costs for the GM One Network into 2023/24.

3. MAYORAL BUDGET

3.1 The Mayoral budget for 2022/23 approved by GMCA in February 2022 was £139.020m. For quarter 3 the forecast position for the Mayoral budget is breakeven. This position includes a forecast shortfall in income towards the cost of Our Pass which will be met from earmarked reserves held by TfGM. The table below provides a breakdown of the position including the original budget and forecast outturn and variance:

Mayoral Budget 2022/23 Quarter 3	Original Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure:			
Mayors Office	531	531	0
Corporate Recharge	794	794	0
Mayoral Priorities	3,600	3,600	0
Mayoral Transport	134,095	134,095	0
Gross Expenditure	139,020	139,020	0
Funded by:			
Mayoral precept	-24,717	-24,717	0
Collection Fund surplus	-1,445	-1,445	0
Bus Service Operator grant	-13,150	-13,150	0
Mayoral Capacity grant	-1,000	-1,000	0
Earnback revenue grant	-9,750	-9,750	0
Statutory Charge	-86,700	-86,700	0
Use of reserves	-1,408	-2,258	-850
External income	-850	0	850
Total Funding	-139,020	-139,020	0
Net expenditure	0	0	0

4. MAYORAL GENERAL – GM FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

4.1 The 2022/23 budget for GM Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) in February 2022 was approved at £119.543m. The forecast revenue outturn position at quarter 3 is an overspend of £2.103m to be met from reserves.

4.2 The table below provides a summary of the position:

GM Fire & Rescue Service Budget 2022/23 Quarter 3	Approved Budget	Actual Quarter 3	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure:				
Employees	91,215	67,707	93,082	1,867
Indirect Employees	1,940	933	1,963	22
Premises	4,875	3,548	6,343	1,467
Transport	2,196	1,569	2,435	240
Supplies & Services	8,481	7,074	8,861	379
Support Services	7,343	7,353	7,646	303
Government Grants	-769	-731	-958	-190
Tfr to/from Provision	0	0	-1,577	-1,577

Other Grants & Contributions	-215	-109	-210	5
Customer & Client Receipts	-2,460	-1,003	-2,101	360
Capital Financing Costs	1,692	414	1,025	-667
Tfr to Earmarked Reserve	5,245	0	5,316	72
Total Expenditure	119,543	86,755	121,825	2,281
Funded by:				
Localised Business Rates	-9,521	-9,290	-9,521	0
Baseline Funding	-43,131	-32,757	-43,131	0
Section 31 - Business Rates	-5,300	-3,975	-5,258	42
Section 31 - Pension Related	-5,605	-5,605	-5,605	0
Precept Income	-55,429	-41,572	-55,429	0
Collection Fund Deficit	2,637	4,185	2,637	0
Trf from Earmarked Reserve	-3,194	2,952	-3,415	-220
Total Funding	-119,543	-86,062	-119,722	-178
Net Expenditure	0	693	2,103	2,103

Employee Related

- 4.3 Employees pay and pensions is a forecast overspend of £1.867m. This forecast is based on the headcount plus the expected future costs associated to new firefighter recruit cohorts throughout the financial year. The figures do not include any assumptions of leavers in future quarters and does include an assumption of some current vacancies being recruited to. The overspend also includes payments made to date in respect of Bear Scotland v Fulton for which a drawdown from the provision has been forecast. Changes to National Insurance thresholds and employer rates have also been included in the calculations on assumed headcount. Pay award assumptions for non-uniformed staff have been included at the current employer's offer of £1,925 per whole time equivalent.
- 4.4 The forecast for uniformed staff includes the employer's pay award offer of 5% which was rejected. Any pay award settlement above the current offer would further deteriorate the forecast outturn. Discussions have been held with Government on a national level to determine how Fire and Rescue Services will fund the increased costs. To date, Government have indicated that the costs of the pay award will need to be funded locally.
- 4.5 Costs arising to provide enhanced resilience capability are included at known levels, any future increase in FTE numbers will be calculated and included in future reports. In the event of industrial action, net mobilisation costs will also form part of future

reports. Pre-arranged overtime has been included in the forecast based on average cost to date for the hours required to maintain ridership and also to ensure that crews can be released to attend planned training.

Non-pay related

- 4.6 Indirect Employee Allowances position is broadly within budget with a minor training cost overspend of £22k.
- 4.7 Premises Related expenditure is forecast to overspend by £1.467m based on current spend, mainly in the areas of utilities and fuel. A budget increase was provided for this area of spend, however, using costs incurred to date and based on expert led inflation rate estimates, a significant overspend is predicted in-year and a continued trend in future years.
- 4.8 Transport related expenditure forecast has a minor amendment since last period reflecting the estimated increase in fuel costs resulting in an overspend of £240k.
- 4.9 Supplies and services related expenditure has a forecast overspend of £379k, a change in forecast overspend from the previous period by £206k mainly as a result of contract price increases, primarily within the areas of ICT and operational equipment. Potential future price increases will place additional financial burden on the service.
- 4.10 Support services budget incorporates the central recharges received from the GMCA. Further charges for specific additional support from Human Resources and Organisational Development (HROD) for whole-time firefighter recruitment and selection process and Communications and Engagement support for various projects and strategies have been forecast, which result in an overspend of £303k.

Income

- 4.11 Income is expected to underachieve and has a forecast loss of income of £175k against budget. This is mainly in the area of Princes Trust which is budgeted as self-funding, however, income is predicted to be lower due to vacancies within the team which, due to strict ratios, has meant smaller cohort numbers. A successful recruitment process will start to alleviate this. The forecast also includes estimated apprenticeship

levy income against the cost of training. This and other elements of income will be closely monitored to identify any future variances.

Capital Financing Costs

4.12 The capital financing costs has been re-calculated on an annuity basis using final capital spend within 2021/22, resulting in an underspend of £667k. This reflects a new policy for Minimum Revenue Provision approved by GMCA earlier in 2022 which provides a consistent approach to capital financing across all GMCA programmes.

Reserves

4.13 The current forecast is showing an additional use of reserves requirement of £220k in relation to both revenue grants unapplied (£187k) mainly in relation to Protection grants plus earmarked reserves (£33k).

4.14 To fund the anticipated overspend reported plus any cost of additional resilience crews not within the current forecast, it is proposed that the transfer to reserves budget to fund future capital will need to be reduced.

4.15 A small additional transfer to revenue grants unapplied in relation to Protection grant of £71k is forecast. This grant can be used in the next financial year if not fully utilised in year.

5. GM WASTE AND RESOURCES

5.1 The Waste & Resources budget approved in February 2022 was £164.840m and at the end of quarter 3 there is a forecast underspend of £27.352m as detailed in the table below.

Waste and Resources 2022/23 Quarter 3	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn Quarter 2	Forecast Outturn Quarter 3	Forecast Variance
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Operational costs	107,872	88,860	81,849	-26,023
Operational financing	50,614	50,374	49,865	-749
Office costs	6,318	6,046	5,114	-1,204
Non-operational financing	510	491	492	-18
Total	165,314	145,771	137,320	-27,994
Levy adjustment	0	660	642	642

Transfer (from)/to reserves	-474	-474	-474	0
Levy	164,840	145,957	137,488	-27,352

- 5.2 The forecast underspend in operational costs is largely driven by estimates of third-party income due to be received from TPSCo which represents £13.082m of the underspend. Forecast income from paper/card and commingled waste is currently above budget and makes up £6.446m of the underspend. The remaining forecast underspend is largely made up of savings on residual waste treatment due to lower than forecast tonnages.
- 5.3 The forecast underspend on operational financing arises from a slight reduction in the Minimum Revenue Provision charge for the year and the interest paid on the short term borrowed debt.
- 5.4 The forecast underspend on office costs is a result of lower than anticipated support service recharge and largely a reduction in consultancy fees spend on ongoing responses to the National Waste Strategy. This work is reprofiled into 2023/24.
- 5.5 Forecast tonnages and the indicative outturn position for each District in 2022/23 is provided in the 'Waste and Resources Budget and Levy 2023/24 and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2025/26' report on the agenda for this meeting.

6. TRANSPORT REVENUE BUDGET

- 6.1 The Transport revenue budget approved by GMCA in February 2022 was £269.353m, which includes funding from the Transport Levy and Statutory Charge, Mayoral precept, grants and reserves. The majority of the Transport revenue budget is paid to Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) for transport delivery and the budget approved for 2022/23 totalled £189.055m. The remainder of the Transport revenue budget is retained by GMCA for capital financing costs for Metrolink and other programmes. The position against the capital financing budget is breakeven.
- 6.2 The table below summarises the original approved budget for TfGM for 2022/23 and the proposed revised budget at quarter 3 of £234.374m, an increase of £27.3m, largely due to additional expenditure of activities which are fully funded from additional grants. A commentary on the key changes is provided below the table.

Transport for Greater Manchester Budget 2022/23 Quarter 3	Approved Budget	Forecast Outturn Quarter 3	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure:			
Concessionary Support	75,600	77,600	2,000
Supported Services	36,000	39,500	3,500
Capped Fares Scheme	0	17,000	17,000
Payment of Devolved BSOG	11,750	11,750	0
Accessible Transport	3,700	3,700	0
Operational Costs	37,697	37,597	-100
Traffic signals costs	3,822	3,822	0
Clean Air Plan Costs	400	1,400	1,000
Scheme Pipeline development Costs	15,900	19,800	3,900
Bus Franchising costs	15,895	15,895	0
Metrolink net revenue loss	0	5,000	5,000
Financing	6,310	6,310	0
Total Expenditure	207,074	239,374	32,300
Funded by:			
Funding from GMCA	-189,055	-216,355	-27,300
DfT Rail grant	-1,900	-1,900	0
Other grants	-2,700	-2,700	0
TfGM funding from Reserves	-13,419	-13,419	0
Total Funding	-207,074	-234,374	-27,300
Net Expenditure	0	5,000	5,000

6.3 The costs of the statutory concessionary reimbursement are currently forecast to outturn in line with budget. In line with previous Department for Transport (DfT) guidance, TfGM has continued to reimburse bus operators for concessionary reimbursement consistent with pre-pandemic volumes. This has been adjusted for further DfT guidance, where operated mileage has been less than 100% of pre-pandemic levels. Any underspend on the approved budget will be transferred into the concessionary reserve and ring fenced for funding bus costs. The overall increase of £2m represents a higher forecast outturn in relation to the costs of the Our Pass scheme, where volumes continue to recover strongly post Covid-19. In line with the funding strategy agreed by GMCA on the introduction of the scheme, this spend will be funded from concessionary budgets held by TfGM including concessionary reserves.

- 6.4 The recently announced Mayoral initiative for 'capped' bus fares for single and daily fares, which came into effect in September, and for weekly fares which came into effect in January, will be met from GM's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding. The costs and grant income for 2022/23 are currently estimated to be c. £17m but will be updated as the year continues when further data is obtained.
- 6.5 Since April 2020, the UK Government has been providing financial support to bus operators and Local Transport Authorities in England in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. From October 2022 operators gave notice of their intention to make commercial service changes across all areas of Greater Manchester in October including service withdrawals and reductions in frequency. Without intervention by TfGM the consequences of the service changes would be significantly detrimental in terms of accessibility to the network and accessibility for residents through the network to reach employment, education and key services such as health facilities.
- 6.6 In response and following consultation with members of the GM Transport Committee, TfGM has replaced withdrawn services at current frequencies, with the exception of minor variants where there is no negative impact on network coverage. Where commercial changes involve frequency reductions, these are being restored to current levels up to a maximum of four buses per hour.
- 6.7 The financial impact of the additional services being supported is approximately £15m per annum, with, in 2022/23, funding to come from a combination of existing budgets and current and future government funding. This will include funding from the Bus Recovery Grant which has since been extended to the end of the current financial year. The impact of the above on the outturn is shown above.
- 6.8 Costs of Accessible services and Operational costs are currently forecast to outturn in line with budget.
- 6.9 Clean Air Plan costs are currently forecast to outturn £1m higher than budget due to the additional work required to review and republish the proposed Clean Air Plan scheme from 1 July 2022. As in previous years, all of these costs are funded by grants from the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit.

- 6.10 The budget approved for 2022/23 to progress the further development of GM's pipeline of future transport schemes was £15.9m. The outturn for the year is forecast to be £19.8m which includes both scheme development costs and the costs of developing strategic outline business cases for schemes which are being delivered through funding from GMCA's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) award. This will be part funded from the DfT through £8.4m from the Intra-City Transport Settlement funding for financial year 2022/23, with the remaining funding from the previously approved funding from GM's previous award of Transforming Cities funding (TCF2), which has now been amalgamated within GM's CRSTS award, as well as other CRSTS funding. This funding will be funded from the Business Rates Top-Up reserve which provides flexibility on use of revenue funding to support capital schemes.
- 6.11 The budget included an estimated sum of £15.9m for the revenue costs for the implementation plans for the introduction of Bus Franchising. The current forecast outturn for these costs is in line with the budget.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Recommendations are included at the front of the report.

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10th February 2023

Subject: Skills Bootcamps: Priorities & Approach for 2023-25

Report of: Cllr Eamonn O'Brien; Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital and Joanne Roney; Lead Chief Exec for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to provide members with:

- An update on Skills Bootcamps particularly the opportunities to access devolved funds to support retraining and upskilling until March 2025.
- Outline a delivery proposal for skills bootcamps including sector focus and set out the approach for working with stakeholders to commission provision.
- Key recommendations to ensure that this ambitious programme can be delivered on time, with full draw down of funding and maximum benefit for GM residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

GMCA is requested to:

1. Comment on the proposed approach to Skills Bootcamp delivery until March 2025.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

2. Delegate authority to the GMCA Treasurer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital to agree the commissioning route and award of individual contracts including any subsequent contract extensions.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	The Skills Bootcamps Proposal supports those who are economically disadvantaged by ensuring they can access fully-funded skills provision with bespoke programmes for disadvantaged groups to support removal of barriers. This supports residents to progress in learning and to move towards / into productive and sustained employment. The Skills Bootcamps Proposal for 2023/24 set out what we plan to deliver to fill in-demand skills vacancies in the region with a focus on responding to the inequalities commission and targeting those groups facing most barriers to accessing employment.
Health	G	The opportunity to upskill and retrain into good quality well paid work will promote better physical and mental health for residents. Providers will need to show the wrap around support in place; for example, with childcare, resilience and mental health support.
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Upskilling residents and tackling skills gaps will support individuals, businesses and GM's labour market to become more adaptable and resilient, future proofing the economy. The specific focus on green skills will support GM's low carbon infrastructure.
Housing		
Economy	G	The Skills Bootcamps proposal will address key skills gaps identified in GM (especially those within priority sectors, such as Digital and Green) by employers and will provide local residents with opportunity to access fully funded training leading to improved employment. The proposal addresses the needs for upskilling and retraining to support career progression.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The proposal outlines green skills as one of the key priority areas for upskilling residents in GM. In 2022/23 we have worked with providers who have delivered bootcamps in areas such as Low carbon, electric car installation, rail engineering and insulation which we will continue to run in 23/24. This will not only give residents the opportunity to upskill/retrain but will help reduce carbon emissions and achieve GM's Net Zero targets through filling these in demand "green economy" roles.
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		This proposal supports Greater Manchester to become carbon neutral by 2038 through the delivery of skills training relating to the green economy (such as retrofitting, and electric vehicle installation). The commissioning also goes beyond delivering skills programmes and includes working with sector business leaders and training providers to build systemic capacity to lead/respond to the low carbon agenda through employer led skills bootcamps.

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.
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Risk Management:

A risk assessment has been developed for the programme identifying key risks and planned mitigations – strategic risks are highlighted under section five. GMCA's Education, Work & Skills Directorate will work with providers to ensure comprehensive processes are in place to identify and manage risk including managing the performance of delivery.

Legal Considerations:

Colleagues from legal have played a key role in the delivery of the various GM Skills Bootcamp pilots thus far.

The DfE will be making National Skills Fund (“**NSF**”) Grant available to the GMCA for the delivery of the GM Skills Bootcamps Programme during the 2023-24 Financial Year. It is expected that the DfE will require the GMCA to enter into a formal Memorandum of Understanding / Grant Offer Letter / Grant Funding Agreement (the “**DfE GFA**”), which will oblige the GMCA to comply with the DfE’s requirements in respect of the use of this NSF Grant. It is expected that the DfE GFA will include standard Government Grant “clawback” provisions which will apply in the event that the GMCA fails to comply with its obligations.

The GMCA will in turn procure a number of Providers who will enter into contracts with the GMCA for the delivery of individual GM Skills Bootcamps Projects across GM (the “**GMCA Contracts**”). The GMCA will ensure that its procurement of these Providers complies with all relevant requirements under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the GMCA’s own Financial Regulations, and all relevant requirements imposed under the DfE GFA. The GMCA will ensure that its GMCA Contracts “flow through” to Providers the obligation to comply with all relevant requirements of the DfE GFA (such as the requirement for Providers to supply the GMCA with any Monitoring Information which the GMCA is in turn required to supply to the DfE under the DfE GFA).

GMCA’s Education, Work & Skills Directorate will work with legal support to ensure the DfE GFA and the GMCA Contracts are in place within the timescales required.

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

This proposal provides an additional external funding stream of £7m to support retraining provision in GM in FY 23/24. To note – This is the same amount of funding we received in 22/23. DfE have approved in principle the full £7m for skills delivery, however they only have initial approval from HMT for 70% of this amount. DfE expects approval for the rest of the funding after business planning at the end of January/ early February. It is likely that we will

receive similar funds for 24/25 but this will be confirmed in late 2023. (We have pushed hard for a multi-year allocation to support strategic planning without success).

Financial Consequences – Capital:

Not applicable.

Number of attachments to the report: 0.

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

Engagement took place with the Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny committee prior to the proposal being submitted in early 2022 which this is an evolution of. There have also been further updates on all education, work and skills programmes. Individual contract awards have also been shared with scrutiny members providing the opportunity for questions before formal contract awards are made.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Skills Bootcamps Policy Spec Wave Four FY2023-24 Grants.docx](#)

TRACKING/PROCESS

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

Yes – impacts on all 10 LA Areas.

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

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - GMCA EWS Update 14th Dec 2022

1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

The Department for Education (DfE) are providing £2.5bn of funding (released on a year by year basis) running until 2024/2025 for the National Skills Fund (NSF) to help adults build skills for the economy of the future; complementing provision available through Adult Education Budget (AEB). NSF comprises of Skills Bootcamps and the Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs Offer. **Skills Bootcamps** offer free flexible courses of up to 16 weeks giving people the opportunity to build up sector specific skills and fast track to an interview with a local employer. The key objectives are to support adults to retrain/upskill into a better role and help employers to fill current skills shortage vacancies.

Skills Bootcamps are targeted at all adults aged 19+ who are in-work, self-employed, unemployed, returning to work after a career break and prisoners on temporary release or due to be released within six months.

GMCA initially worked with DCMS, Lancashire Digital Skills Partnership & more recently DfE to test “digital skills bootcamps” through a multi-year £6m pilot starting in 2019. (Details on impact under section 2). In 22/23 we received £7m of funding for skills bootcamps delivery, splitting the funding across three key sectors; Digital & Tech, Construction & Green and Manufacturing (Details on impact under section 2). The success of which has led to further funding being secured for the Skills Bootcamps delivery in 23/24. It is important to note that whilst we have funding and locally commissioned projects, it is not fully devolved.

GM’s Labour Market is at a pivotal moment; skills and work activity has a critical role to play in supporting the recovery of growth and foundation sectors and tackling inequalities. GM is working with industry to shape our training offers, creating more routes into skilled employment. Skills Bootcamps are a unique industry led offering through co-design/delivery with employers. They represent an example of the flexible, non-qualification-based training that will play a vital role in responding to the Local Skills Improvement Plan currently being developed in GM led by the GM Chamber of Commerce. The GM LSIP will be published in late Spring, making recommendations around changes that are needed in the local skills offer in order to better align with the needs of our labour market.

Skills Bootcamps are one element of an integrated approach to skills dovetailing with:

- **Adult Education Budget** focuses on ensuring adults aged 19+ have the core skills that they need for work and fulfills several statutory entitlements relating to english, maths

and digital skills as well as first Level 2 and 3 qualifications and ESOL. AEB also delivers pre-employment training to support Sector Based Work Academies for jobseekers.

- **Skills for Growth** is a £42m three year ESF funded programme due to finish by the end of September 2023 which supports businesses to fill occupational skill gaps and upskilling for people in-work. At present it is supporting upskilling through flexible skills provision in the following key sectors; retrofit, construction, blue light services, health & social care, logistics, digital and manufacturing.
- Greater Manchester has ambitious plans to become the UK's leading technical education city region. This would build upon our thriving **Apprenticeships and Technical Education** landscape incorporating; GMACs, Traineeships, T-Levels, Apprenticeships, The GM Institute of Technology and Higher Technical Qualifications.

2. PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

Following an announcement in the October 2018 Budget GMCA worked with the Department for Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) to test “digital skills bootcamps”. The pilot funded twenty consortia of employers & providers to deliver innovative digital skills training with a wide range of employers engaged of all sizes and across all sectors. A wide range of underrepresented/disadvantaged groups were supported including unemployed young people, women returners, ethnic minorities and residents displaced by Covid-19. The success of the pilot led to an opportunity to work with DfE to further test the model and skills bootcamps are now being rolled out at scale nationally as part of National Skills Fund.

In 22/23 we have funded 14 providers across three priority sectors: Digital, Creative & Tech, Construction & Green and Manufacturing. There is a wide variety of skills bootcamps being delivered, covering skills gaps in areas such as: digital marketing, cyber security, cloud engineering, low carbon heating, installation of green technologies, rail engineering, advanced manufacturing and industrial textiles. The providers we have worked with in 22/23 include employers, independent training providers and FE Colleges.

Impact to Date: On the DfE funded skills bootcamps there have been 1259 participants completed so far. Key demographic data of participants:

- Gender: 58% Male: 39% Female (1% prefer not to say and 2% other)

- Ethnicity: 57% of participants were from ethnic minorities (this compares favorably to the demographic makeup of the sector with just 21% of employees from ethnic minorities). In GM we have specifically focused on tackling labour market inequalities for underrepresented groups and diversification of the workforce.
- Prior Employment Status: 50% unemployed, 37% in-work, 8% self-employed and 1% in-education, (2% unknown, 1% caring responsibilities).
- 72 % of those who completed in the pilot phases were offered a guaranteed interview with 54% moving into skilled employment. These outcomes are broadly similar to the national programme though it is important to note 86% of the GM outcomes relate to new jobs (as opposed to general upskilling) generating significant added value.
- Geography: The majority of participants came from Manchester (33%), Salford (14%) & Trafford (8%) due to the cluster of tech employers in these areas. Over the last year we have commissioned more place-based delivery and in developing the next phase GMCA have worked closely with localities to develop ways to connect a greater number of residents from all ten boroughs into these opportunities.

3. OVERVIEW OF 23/24 PROPOSAL: SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

By 1st December 2022, DfE required MCAs to submit a high-level proposal setting out what we plan to deliver in **23/24 only** (starting from April) to fill in-demand skills vacancies in the region. Including quantum of funding required, numbers to be trained and sector/occupational focus. The proposal has been developed based on Local Industrial Strategy priorities, vacancy data and consultation undertaken with employers, sector bodies, localities, and the GM Employment & Skills Advisory Board. At the end of Dec 22, DfE approved the 23/24 proposal in principle, agreeing to grant the full amount requested.

Our proposal is based on the following key principles:

- Responsive to employer need and an integral part of our response to the GM Local Skills Improvement plan in line with the policy intent set out in “Skills for Jobs”.
- Responsive to skills gaps and vacancies in frontier and high employment sectors.
- Building upon what has worked well in delivering job outcomes and career progressions to date; whilst commissioning new provision to address specific gaps.

- A greater focus on targeted approaches for underrepresented cohorts in response to local data and sustainment of job outcomes over the longer term.

Our key learnings from delivery during the pilot phase are:

- The wider economic & social context has presented significant challenges to delivery. Businesses operating under tight margins are reluctant to release staff for training whilst the cost of living crisis, ongoing impact of the pandemic and high number of job vacancies have impacted on the willingness of people to undertake an unpaid training programme.
- Adult learners come with a wide range of challenges as well as the need for technical skills such as; mental health issues, caring responsibilities, digital exclusion, poor physical health & low confidence. In order to complete courses and sustain job outcomes learners and employers are requiring far more wrap-around support than was envisaged. To deliver a more intensive type of provision will require greater investment per person.
- Lack of employer engagement in designing courses has been a key challenge – only the large employers will have the capacity to do this. In GM we were able to bring together UK Fashion & Textiles Industry with a local FE College to develop a programme but this needs to be baked into the bootcamps model on a much bigger scale.
- There is a real opportunity to join up the national procurement and MCA activity. This will become ever more important to ensure a coherent response to the GM LSIP.

If we had been given the opportunity to submit a three-year proposal in FY 21/22, we believe GM could have delivered an ambitious £25m+ programme supporting at least 10,000 people. But as we are still only able to submit a one-year proposal now there is a need to strike an appropriate balance between ambition and deliverability. We have been granted £7.5m (inc management fee) for 23/24, which will allow us to build upon year 1, maintaining quality whilst ensuring the demand is there from learners and employers. (We do not anticipate any issues with committing this level of funding in year two given many of the projects are already up and running and we are widening the sector focus).

For £7m GMCA will commission bootcamps across the range of LIS Priority Sectors including digital creative & technology, advanced manufacturing, green economy (including construction), and wider sectors such as health and social care, education and hospitality supporting 2100 people into real job vacancies in the region.

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. Bespoke, targeted packages of support have proved highly successful thus far in helping for example - returners to work and black women - overcome the barriers they face.

The rationale for our proposed sector focus is set out below:

- Digital Creative & Technology will remain a focus for year two due to the significant demand for talent from a wide range of employers & large volume of skills shortage vacancies – over the last year 79,432 job vacancies have been advertised in Tech.
- GM will see several environmental initiatives roll out over the next few years supporting the journey to Net Zero by 2038. Ensuring the right skills support is critical – particularly in construction, net zero transport solutions, net zero buildings and de-carbonisation of existing sectors. As GM transitions to Net Zero all jobs will need to be “green jobs” so we will look to include core green skills such as carbon literacy across all the bootcamps.
- Other areas of technical skills such as advanced manufacturing and logistics are a key focus. Particularly given major strategic developments such as the Advanced Machinery & Productivity Institute in Rochdale and logistics hub around Airport City.
- Post-Covid wider sectors such as Health and Social Care and Education have significant vacancy pressures and skills gaps particularly in areas such as early years, adult social care and children’s services. The bootcamp model would support staff shortages in these sectors and attract new talent. We will take a test and learn approach to piloting the bootcamp model in these new sectors utilising the learning from other programmes.
- In addition to our priority sectors there are a number of cross cutting pilots we are looking to test. Including an intensive bootcamp model providing enhanced pre and post-programme support and a pathway to accelerated apprenticeship model.
- GM will also look to ensure to enhance and align other provision such as AEB, FCFJ, InnovationGM where appropriate.

3. ENGAGEMENT APPROACH & TIMELINE

In developing this proposal so far engagement has taken place with: key employers & sector bodies, localities, GM Employment & Skills Advisory Panel, and organisations engaged in the pilot phase. Overall feedback received was positive and in agreement with the approach.

Key comments included having flexibility to support a wider range of sectors in 23/24 as well as adding flex regarding unit cost to support learners who need extra support. The details of the commissioning approach are still being worked through, but it is likely to comprise sector specific lots and an innovation strand to allow for creative ideas.

The procurement timeline is as follows:

- Confirmation of GM funding allocation from DfE & terms of grant – **Jan 23**
- Sector/Stakeholder Engagement Events – **Feb 23**
- Procurement Activity for all providers (Launch, time to bid and evaluation) - **Feb–April 23**
- Mobilisation of providers – **April-May 23**
- Indicative start for providers delivery – **May 23**
- **All training delivery to be completed – End of March 24** (may be some flex around this and we would want the potential to extend beyond one year dependent on good performance).

During Jan and the beginning of Feb 2023, market engagement events for six different sectors will be taking place with employers and providers as well as further engagement with localities. Commission of provision will be launched in February to ensure enough time for mobilisation and to meet the timescales for delivery.

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GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

Date: 10 February 2023

Subject: GM City Deal Receipts – Investment Approval Recommendations

Report of: Steve Rumbelow, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure

Purpose of Report

This report seeks the Combined Authority’s approval to the investment of City Deal Receipts in two social impact funds focussed on the delivery of housing for vulnerable people, as detailed in the recommendation below.

Recommendations:

The Combined Authority is requested to:

1. Approve the following investments of City Deal Receipts, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report;

FUND	SCHEME	DISTRICT	INVESTMENT
National Homelessness Property Fund 2	Homelessness Fund	GM wide	£2.5m
Resonance Supported Homes Fund LP	Supported Homes Fund	GM wide	£2.5m

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 each fund is given below:



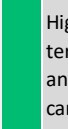


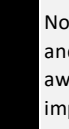
National Homelessness Property Fund 2

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	G	Providing new stable homes to those in acute need of housing.
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	Providing new homes for those at risk of homelessness and rough sleepers.
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
	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/maintenance		Refurbishment works will meet a minimum EPC rating of C.
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		
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.

Resonance Supported Homes Fund

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	G	Providing new homes for those with learning disabilities, autism and/or mental health challenges.
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	Providing new homes for those with learning disabilities, autism and/or mental health challenges.
Economy		
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	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance		Refurbishment works will meet a minimum EPC rating of C.
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

An investment strategy is in place for each fund which establishes the detailed risk management protocols. GMCA will receive ongoing performance reporting from the fund managers.

Legal Considerations

Detailed partner subscription agreements will be entered into ahead of GMCA's investments in the funds being committed.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

There is no requirement for additional revenue expenditure by GMCA in addition to the approved Core Investment Team budget.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The investments will be funded from the £30.1m of City Deal Receipts which GMCA has received from Homes England for onward investment. GMCA does not bear any financial liability for the investments.

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None.

Background Papers

GM City Deal – Homes and Communities Agency (*report to Combined Authority, 28 March 2014*)

GM City Deal – Homes and Communities Agency: Update (*report to Combined Authority, 26 September 2014*)

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 commitments set out in the GM City Deal agreed with government in 2012, Homes England has agreed to make receipts from the disposal of its land and property in Greater Manchester in the period up to March 2022 available for GMCA to reinvest in schemes which support the objectives of the GM City Deal agreed with Government in 2012. Under the arrangements, GMCA is currently holding £30.1m of 'City Deal Receipts'.
- 1.2 City Deal Receipts can only be invested in 'Viable Projects', i.e. those which a reasoned assessment confirms will, in all likelihood, be able repay the investment. If an investment is not recovered, the amount to be repaid to Homes England is reduced accordingly. Equally, Homes England approval is required to all investments of City Deal Receipts.
- 1.3 In 2016, GMCA agreed that it would ringfence City Deal Receipts for investment in residential schemes with the intention that the funds would complement the investment capacity available through GMHILF. City Deal Receipts are managed within the GMCA Core Investment Team, with oversight from the GMHILF Credit Committee.
- 1.4 The arrangements were originally intended to come to an end in March 2022, at which point GMCA would have repaid the funds it has received to Homes England together with the returns it had made on the investments made (typically, fees and interest on loans funded with City Deal Receipts). By agreement with Homes England, the repayment was rescheduled for 31 January 2023, with GMCA having until then to bring forward proposals for further investments which, if approved by Homes England, will be subject to their own specific repayment arrangements which are to be agreed by Homes England on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.5 Homes England has confirmed its approval to the proposals set out in this report, should GMCA approve the proposals.

2. Investment approvals sought

- 2.1 The National Homelessness Property Fund 2 (“NHPF2”) acquires and refurbishes property, then leases it to Registered Providers. NHPF2 is seeking an additional investment of £2.5m to provide additional homes to rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness. The GMCA has committed to £9.1m to date to NHPF2 which has delivered over 150 properties in Greater Manchester and is forecast to deliver a further 60.
- 2.2 An additional £2.5m investment is expected to deliver at least 30 more properties in Greater Manchester, given NHPF2 has raised 5 times the GMCA’s commitment from other social impact investors. This new investment is to be sourced from City Deal Receipts.
- 2.3 The Resonance Supported Homes Fund LP (“RSHF”) acquires and refits properties to meet the specific needs of the individual, then leases the property to Charity Partners. RSHF is seeking an additional investment of £2.5m to provide additional supported homes to individuals with learning disabilities, autism and/or mental health challenges. The GMCA has committed £5m to date, of which half has been committed to new properties. The full £5m GMCA commitment will need to be fully deployed before the second tranche is provided.
- 2.4 A £2.5m investment is expected to deliver at least 25 more properties in Greater Manchester, given RSHF has raised 3 times the GMCA’s from other social impact investors. This new investment is to be sourced from City Deal Receipts.
- 2.5 Further details of the funds and terms of the investments are included in the accompanying Part B report, to be treated as confidential on account of the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 10th February 2023

Subject: GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

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

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Greater Manchester Combined Authority (“Combined Authority” and “GMCA”) approval for an investment into My First Five Years Limited (“MFFY”). The investments will be made from recycled funds.

Further details regarding the investments 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 an investment into My First Five Years Ltd (investment of up to £150k)/
2. Delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above investments, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the investments, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investments 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) My First Five Years Limited

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	The investment will preserve existing jobs and will lead to job creation.
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/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 investment 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

The proposed investment will be made from recycled funds.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The proposed investment 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 Fund 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. My First Five Years Ltd, Manchester

Sector: Digital & Creative

- 2.1.1. The business case in respect of an up to £150,000 investment into My First Five Years Limited ("MFFY") has been submitted to and appraised by the Core Investment Team and is recommended to the Combined Authority for conditional approval.
- 2.1.2. The GMCA invested £750,000 into MFFY in January 2022 to support the development and commercial launch of its child development app. The app provides advice and information that is based on science and research, from a wide range of sources, rather than opinion.
- 2.1.3. The Company was founded by Jennie Johnson (also the founder of Kids Allowed nurseries) alongside an early years development expert, Alistair Bryce-Clegg.
- 2.1.4. The business has progressed over the last 12 months and a further investment of up to £150,000 is recommended as part of an overall fundraise of £800,000.

2.1.5. 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.

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 10th February, 2023
Subject: GMCA Culture Investment 2023-2026
Report of: Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Culture and Alison McKenzie-Folan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Culture

Purpose of Report

To seek GMCA approval on levels of investment to the GM Culture Investment approach 2023-26, including organisations to be funded under the new Spirit and Sustain strands of investment

Further details are included as a more detailed report, considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the information relating to the potential investments by GMCA subject to GMCA approval

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve a three-year budget of £4,425,000 p/a from April 2023 (subject to annual review) to support the new GMCA Cultural Investment Approach. Annual budget to be made up of £3.3m District Contributions and £1.25m Retained Business Rates.
2. Approve the proposal that, between April 2023 and March 2026 this budget will be spent in the following ways:
 - £3,965,000 p/a to support delivery and project management of the five strands of the new GM Culture Investment approach (recommended Spirit and Sustain organisations and recommended levels of investment detailed within the Part B item of this report)
 - Inspire (£100,000 p/a)
 - Spirit (See Part B)
 - Sustain (See Part B)
 - Collaborate (£120,000 p/a)
 - Strategic (£150,000 p/a)
 - Project Management (£70,000 p/a)
 - £460,000 p/a to support the ongoing social impact commitment
3. Note that the list of organisations proposed to be funded by the GMCA Culture Fund are detailed in a separate report to be considered in Part B of this agenda, to be made public within one month of this meeting.
4. Approve the outlined approach to GM Town of Culture 2023, with a view to revising the application process in 2024.

Contact Officers

Name of key contact Officer and email address to be included

Alison Gordon, GMCA (Alison.gordon@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Marie-Claire Daly, GMCA (Marie-Claire.Daly@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

Insert text

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	
Health	G	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	
Housing	G	
Economy	G	
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production	G	

Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target

There is a specific strand of investment (Collaborate) under this proposal that will support consortia of cultural organisations to develop and deliver innovative approaches that support GMS aims around a Greener GM.

Fur	G Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	RR Negative impacts overall.
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Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	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

La	No associated carbon impacts expected.	G High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	B Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	A Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	R Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.
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1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2023, following extensive consultation and research, GMCA agreed to a new GMCA culture investment approach – 2023-2026. The approach outlined in this proposal requests a three-year indicative financial commitment, subject to annual review.
- 1.2 The new approach has been devised to better support delivery of the new Greater Manchester Strategy, as well as recognising the changing and challenging landscape for cultural organisations and freelancers.



INSPIRE A small grants programme to support individual practitioners, freelancers and grass roots and community organisations, building on the success of GMCA's cultural 'covid commissions' project. This will ensure that talent is supported and developed across the city region. Awards will be between £500 and £2,000 p/a. GMCA will procure a partner to deliver this programme. Grants will be given across several thematic areas to ensure the total grant programme supports delivery of strategic aims.



SPIRIT These grants will support locally-loved and important organisations with an award of between £20,000 and £200,000 p/a. Organisations in receipt of Spirit Grants will not need to deliver across all of Greater Manchester, but will be of strategic importance to the cultural ecosystem of the city region



SUSTAIN This strand will provide support for organisations who require £200,000 or more per year to deliver GM-wide activity and support for artists and grass-roots organisations in every district of Greater Manchester. Sustain organisations will be expected to have both local and international impact and will be required to support the cultural ecology across Greater Manchester, providing space, expertise and employment for artists and smaller cultural organisations across the city region.



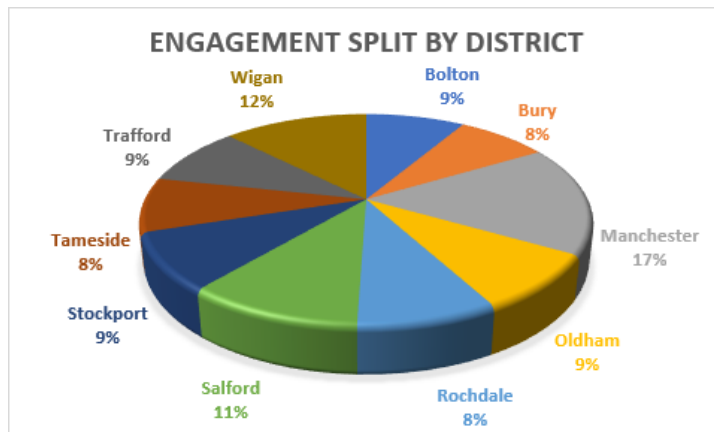
COLLABORATE - Collaborate provides organisations in Greater Manchester with an opportunity to form consortia to deliver the strategic aims of GMS. Consortia will be asked to apply to deliver one of the three core aims of GMS; Greener, Fairer, More Prosperous. This programme will stimulate innovation in the delivery GMS priorities by cultural organisations. Consortia will be expected to match-fund activity to bring the greatest possible value to GM investment.



STRATEGIC - GM Strategic funds will continue to fund activity that supports delivery of the GM Culture strategy, including Town of Culture, Creative Improvement Districts, StreamGM and the Greater Manchester Music Commission.

- 1.3 The approach also recognises the increasing role culture plays in the health and wellbeing of our people and vibrancy and attractiveness of our places, as well as its contribution to the economy of Greater Manchester
- 1.4 Prior to opening the Spirit and Sustain strands of investment, officers undertook analysis of cultural engagements by GMCA-funded organisations between April 2022 and October 2022. This was the first post-pandemic analysis undertaken by the team. During this period GMCA Culture Fund engagement by district was appropriately split across all 10 districts, especially when considering population

split and concentration of cultural infrastructure in the city of Manchester, and the likelihood of residents travelling into Manchester to engage with culture.



Engagement with GMCA-funded cultural organisations April-Oct 2022

The GMCA Culture Fund portfolio 2020-2023 was the first to include investment in all 10 GM districts. The split of engagement demonstrated here represents a much fairer split of benefit to previous years where engagement in Manchester was around 24%. It is encouraging to see the broadening and increase of investment result in a more equitable split of benefit.

- 1.5 In November 2022, Arts Council England announced the successful applicants to its NPO programme 2023-2026. Greater Manchester organisations were

awarded £90.5m over the three-year period, recognising the strength of cultural provision in GM. This represents an increase in investment of £3.4m p/a

2. Introduction

- 2.1. In November 2023 – GMCA opened applications to the Spirit (£20,000-£200,000) and Sustain (£200,000 or more) programmes.
- 2.2. GMCA received 124 applications to the Spirit programme and six applications to the Sustain strand. Following eligibility checks, undertaken by GMCA staff not in the Culture team, 10 applications were deemed ineligible, largely due to not proposing cultural activity.
- 2.3. 120 applications (114 Spirit, six Sustain) were taken forward for full appraisal by GMCA’s Research and Skills teams, with scoring based on criteria published in applicant guidance. Applications were scored on Current Work, Delivery of priorities, Proposed Work, Geography of Delivery, Impact, Management, Governance and Finance. Scores were then added up to produce a ranked list which was then balanced according to published balancing criteria – Diversity, Geography, Artform and Scale – to ensure that the final proposed portfolio was properly representative of the cultural landscape of Greater Manchester
- 2.4. In developing the proposed portfolio list officers ensured that recommended applications all demonstrated a sufficient level of quality, supported the current cultural ecosystem and, where new organisations were welcomed into the portfolio, that they scored highly, passing a quality threshold and provided a specific offer, not currently delivered by the GM Culture Portfolio.
- 2.5. More than half of applications received were from City of Manchester-based organisations, reflecting the concentration of cultural infrastructure in the city. The balancing process recognises this concentration while ensuring that the proposed portfolio supports investment, as well as delivery, in all 10 GM districts, continuing the demonstrable success of this approach by previous GMCA Culture Fund portfolios.

3. Investment

- 3.3 Part B of this report proposes a final balanced portfolio of high-scoring applications to the Spirit and Sustain strands of investment, that supports the

current ecology while recommending investment in seven 'new' high-scoring organisations, not currently funded by GMCA.

3.4 In developing a balanced portfolio within a responsible budget ask, the following approach was used;

- Where organisations are of strategic benefit to Greater Manchester, but their applications didn't sufficiently demonstrate value for the amount requested, it is proposed that GMCA make reduced offers. Agreed delivery will reflect the amount awarded.
- Where currently funded organisations have requested less investment or did not apply to join this portfolio it is proposed that the value of the reduction should be directed to supporting 'new' high-scoring, strategically important organisations.
- Based on scores and delivery of activity not currently delivered by the GM Culture Portfolio it is recommended that seven new high-scoring, strategically important organisations are brought into the portfolio. Where there were exceptional circumstances relating to an organisation at time of application, and officers have been working with key stakeholders throughout the appraisal period to determine the best course of action, it is proposed that investment be ringfenced until a mutually acceptable solution is found.
- It is proposed that 22 currently-funded organisations in the Spirit pillar, who made a compelling case for an increase, will receive an annual increase of up to 10%, recognising that many currently-funded organisations have not received an increase in investment in more than five years.
- Where high-scoring currently-funded organisations either did not request an increase in investment, or did not make a compelling case for an increase it is proposed they be supported at existing levels, with negotiated delivery to reflect amount awarded as required.
- The three Sustain organisations requesting more than £200,000 p/a are able to access high-value schemes like Orchestra, Theatre and Museums Tax Relief so it is proposed that all Sustain organisations are offered standstill funding with agreed delivery reflecting the amount awarded as required.

3.5 The 'new' organisations recommended for funding reflect the changing needs of Greater Manchester, providing investment for more organisations who support

GM residents' physical and mental wellbeing, as well as improving the diversity of the GMCA Culture portfolio and supporting new, strategically important organisations in music, theatre and visual arts.

4. SPIRIT & SUSTAIN RECCOMENDATIONS

- 4.1. Current annual investment into the GMCA culture budget is £3.3m from district contributions and £1.1m from Retained Business Rates. This includes an ongoing commitment of £460,000 into social impact organisations and the GM VCSE Accord.
- 4.2. The balance is invested in the GM Culture Portfolio, strategic investment and programme management. The amount 'saved' by the recommended portfolio that sees current organisations leaving the portfolio with a reduced ask or with a reduction to reflect required delivery is £398,936 p/a.
- 4.3. The cost of increasing awards to 22 currently-funded organisations who made a compelling case for an increase, each of which will receive of no more than 10% increase per year, is £139,014 p/a.
- 4.4. The cost of bringing seven new strategically important organisations into the GM Culture Portfolio is £235,143 p/a.
- 4.5. The amount ringfenced under 'exceptional circumstances' is £50,000 p/a.
- 4.6. This means that while the number of organisations supported by GM Culture would increase by seven and 22 organisations would receive an annual increase of up to 10% under this proposal, the increased ask once portfolio changes are applied, is £25,211 p/a. It is recommended that this additional investment is funded through Retained Business Rates.

5. DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

- 5.1 The new investment approach approved by GMCA includes a further three pillars, Inspire, Collaborate and Strategic. The following amounts are recommended to deliver the ambitions of the total approach, with a focus on supporting delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy.
- 5.2 **INSPIRE £100,000 p/a**
Inspire will support organisations and individuals with small one-off grants using

a simple application process, recognising the barriers to accessing funding experienced by grass-roots organisations, diverse communities and freelancers. The inequality of access to funding came into sharp focus during the Pandemic and was a clear recommendation during consultation. The fund will be administered on behalf of GMCA following an open tender process.

5.3 COLLABORATE £120,000 p/a

Consortia of cultural organisations and non-artistic partners will be able to access up to £40,000 per project to develop and deliver programmes across three themes, aligned with the Greater Manchester Strategy; Greener, Fairer, More Prosperous. These programmes will encourage cross-sector collaboration and bring partners and investment into Greater Manchester, with a clear focus on match funding and innovation.

5.4 STRATEGIC £150,000 p/a

Strategic funds will be used to deliver strategic projects, including GM Town of Culture, Creative Improvement Districts, initiatives developed by the Greater Manchester Music Commission and StreamGM as well as providing match-funding for one-off events like WOMEX

5.5 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT £70,000 p/a

Programme management costs remain at the same level as they have for the past five years, funding the GMCA Culture team to deliver all activity in this investment proposal.

6. PROPOSED BUDGET

- 6.1. Requested budget for 2023/24 to 2025/26 is broadly in line with current annual investment of £3.3m from GM Districts and £1.1m of Retained Business Rates. This includes the ongoing commitment to social impact organisations of £460,000 p/a. The approach outlined in this proposal represents a three-year indicative financial commitment, subject to annual review.
- 6.2. The proposed budget for the new investment approach set out in the report, to include the expanded portfolio (listed in Part B) and support for development funds, as outlined above, would represent an annual investment of £4,425,000 – £3.3m district contributions as previously and £1.125m GMCA Retained Business Rates - a small increase of £25,000 p/a

7. TOWN OF CULTURE

- 7.1. The Greater Manchester Town of Culture programme was launched in 2019. Bury became GM's first Town of Culture in 2020, with a £50,000 award made from GM Culture Strategic Funds.
- 7.2. While Bury worked tirelessly throughout 2021 on online programmes, including United We Stream, which saw more millions of people around the world tune into content filmed at Bury Met, it became clear that Bury deserved a bigger celebration once public gatherings were allowed again.
- 7.3. In late 2020 GMCA agreed to roll-over GM's inaugural Town of Culture to 2021, giving Bury the opportunity to make the most of the title, including securing Arts Council England funding for the programme.
- 7.4. In December 2021, following a competitive process, Stalybridge was awarded GM Town of Culture 2022 and has run an exciting programme throughout the year, with a focus on community and nature.
- 7.5. Both Bury and Tameside were able to lever in significant additional investment, from partners including Arts Council England, to supplement the £50,000 awarded by GMCA
- 7.6. If a three-year indicative GM Culture budget is agreed we will open the competition for the GM Town of Culture 2023 in Feb and will announce the winner in March.

7.7. For this year, it is expected that the competition process will remain largely unchanged from previous years, with a light-touch application process completed by interested local authorities before a sub-group of the GM Culture and Heritage Steering Group selects the successful town.

7.8. The approach will be revised as part of a GM Culture governance review and as part of GM Culture Strategy development, taking place throughout 2023.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. Recommendations can be found at the front of this report.

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