

## GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, 27th September, 2023

**TIME:** 2.00 pm

**VENUE:** The Tootal Buildings - Broadhurst House , 1st Floor, 56  
Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

### AGENDA

- 5. Trailblazer Implementation** 1 - 16  
Report of Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and  
TfGM, and Andy Hollingsworth, Head of Devolution, GMCA

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website  
[www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk). Alternatively, contact the following  
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This supplemental agenda was issued on Thursday 21 September 2023  
on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority,  
Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

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## **GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Date: 27 September 2023

Subject: Briefing on Trailblazer Devolution Deal for Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM

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### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the GMCA Scrutiny Committee with an update on the GM Trailblazer Devolution Deal following its agreement on 15 March 2023.

### **Recommendations:**

That the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee –

1. Note the progress update regarding the GM trailblazer devolution deal.
2. Consider where the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would like to be engaged as the preparations for the deal develop over the forthcoming months.

### **Contact Officers**

Andy Hollingsworth, Head of Devolution GMCA.

## 1. Background

- In February 2022, the UK Government (UKG) announced an intention to do new 'Trailblazer' or 'Deeper' Devolution Deals with Greater Manchester and the West Midlands in the Levelling Up White Paper. These Deals were agreed and announced in the March 2023 UKG Budget. The [GM Trailblazer Deal](#)<sup>1</sup> was subsequently endorsed by GMCA on 24 March 23.
- The Deal is wide-ranging, making over 130 specific commitments which range from establishing joint partnership boards to more substantive devolution of responsibilities and covering a wide range of policy areas. A summary of the Deal is attached at Annex A.

## 2. Progress and next steps

- Following Deal signing, GMCA Officers have been working with UKG officials to start implementing the commitments. This is a wide-ranging programme of activity cutting across much of the Combined Authority's business. Broadly, commitments can/will be implemented over three timescales:
  - **(Almost) Immediate:** e.g Year 1 Brownfield Land Fund, Selective Licensing freedoms, immediate Affordable Homes Programme flex.
  - **3-12 months following Deal signing:** e.g future Brownfield Land Fund, new flexibilities on skills funding, agreement of rail ticketing pilots, Strategic Partnerships and Joint Boards.
  - **Medium term (April 25 onwards):** e.g Single Settlement goes live, full new model of Affordable Homes Programme oversight.
- Given the wide-ranging nature of the Deal, and the need to integrate powers and responsibilities into a 'new normal' way of working, existing business-as-usual governance arrangements will be used to track the detailed implementation of the Deal in relevant policy areas. In parallel, periodic high-level overviews (inc. any emerging issues or delays) will be provided.

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<sup>1</sup> Greater Manchester Combined Authority Trailblazer deeper devolution deal:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greater-manchester-combined-authority-trailblazer-deeper-devolution-deal>

- The following sub-sections provide a high-level update on progress implementing the Deal since March, except for the Single Settlement which is covered in Section 3. This includes an update on several Trailblazer-related announcements made by GMCA since the Deal was signed; on technical education, the Bee Network, and private rented sector housing quality.

#### Governance and accountability

- GMCA officials have provided an informal briefing session for new members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on the Trailblazer Deal to support their future work programming and to ensure OSC Members are able to effectively scrutinise Deal implementation.
- Work is progressing between GMCA officers and UKG officials on the proposed MP Scrutiny Sessions set out in the Trailblazer Deal. We expect a draft Terms of Reference to be presented to Leaders shortly, before or alongside UKG Ministers engaging with GM MPs to seek their views.

#### Data and digital

- GMCA will attend its second meeting of the National Chief Data Officers' Council in September. A first joint workshop with West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and the Levelling Up Department's (DLUHC's) Spatial Data Unit has also been held to discuss the scope of the Data Partnership and GMCA officers are working to identify priority datasets to seek access to.
- The Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group will meet in September.

#### Fiscal Devolution

- Work is progressing on the extension of Business Rates Retention (BRR) across Greater Manchester for ten years, with official-level discussions about the Memorandum of Understanding which will govern the new arrangements.
- Similarly, work is progressing on the Growth Zones (GZs) agreed in the Deal (smaller sites with 25-year rates retention) and how they interact with the similar business rates retention sites on offer to GM through the UKG Investment Zone (IZ) programme. The working assumption remains that there could be a wider reset of the business rates system within the next 10 years from which the GZs and IZ rates retention sites would be exempt. The differential benefit between the GZs and IZs and the wider extension of BRR will be realised at the point of this wider reset.

## Housing and regeneration

- Positive discussions are ongoing to remove the need to return unspent and uncommitted monies from the Housing Investment Fund (HIF) to UKG.
- There are also positive ongoing discussions with UKG officials about the Deal commitments on the Affordable Homes Programme (AHP). For now these are focussed on the more immediate flexibilities agreed in the Deal. Once resolved they will move onto operationalising the more wide-ranging commitments which come into force from the start of the next AHP in 2026.
- Progress is on-track for full devolution of the £150m Brownfield Funding agreed in the Deal over the next three years. Methodology and allocations for the first year's funding were approved by GMCA on 30 June 23.
- On 27 June 2023, GM published '[A New Deal for Renters](#)'<sup>2</sup> which set out policy proposals for how to tackle poor quality in the private rented sector, including through use of the new powers and roles agreed in the Deal.
- The new freedom to designate larger selective licensing schemes without UKG approval has been enacted by the DLUHC Secretary of State issuing a General Approval for such schemes to all GM Local Authorities on 14 September 2023.
- Cross-Whitehall meetings of the Housing Quality Policy Sandbox between GMCA and UKG officials have also begun. This is the joint taskforce agreed in the Deal to *“explore changes to the current operation of the welfare, housing and health and social care systems within GM”* to *“drive improvements to the renting experience for tenants and landlords and the quality of homes in the private rented sector”*. Emerging policy ideas from the group will feed into the proposed Joint Ministerial Housing Strategy Group.

## Skills and employment

- On 16 May 2023, GMCA published '[Toward a Technical Education City Region](#)'<sup>3</sup>, a paper setting out a vision for how the new Trailblazer powers could be used to deliver an integrated technical education system in GM.

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<sup>2</sup> A New Deal for Renters, GMCA: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/a-new-deal-for-renters/>

<sup>3</sup> Toward a Technical Education City Region, GMCA: <https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/work-and-skills/technical-education-city-region/>

- Following a consultation on the proposals over the Summer, GMCA will be discussing proposals for a new integrated governance model for skills and employment on 29 September 23. This model incorporates GM's new joint oversight role for post-16 technical education and careers, co-commissioning responsibilities of employment support, and wider labour market oversight, via a Joint Oversight Board with a set of sub-committees and Employer Boards. If endorsed, the intention is that this model will be operating in shadow form by October 2023, and be fully operational in early 2024.
- The wider devolution of non-Apprenticeship, post-19 adult skills functions and funding from the next Spending Review (SR) will be enacted via the Single Settlement. Within this SR, work is ongoing to deliver the target thresholds and spend levels set out in the Deal to unlock additional freedoms over Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) and Bootcamps funding.
- Discussions are ongoing with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) officials about operationalising the commitment to co-design of all future contracted employment support programmes, with a focus on upcoming or recently announced initiatives (Universal Support and Pioneer programme).

## Transport

- The Trailblazer Deal confirmed a commitment to delivering *“full multi modal fares and ticketing integration across bus, Metrolink, rail and cycle hire (including fares simplification and capping) by 2030”* with *“PAYG ticketing pilots, to be developed and agreed by the end of 2023”*. The locations of these first pay-as-you-go pilots were [announced on 26 June 2023](#)<sup>4</sup> (in a wider set of Bee Network announcements). The first pilots will be the Hadfield/Glossop-Piccadilly and Stalybridge-Victoria lines and will launch in 2025.
- On 1 August 2023, TfGM and Network Rail agreed a Partnership to seek opportunities to deliver an integrated transport system, look at land development and placemaking around stations, and improve both accessibility and environmental footprints. It will initially focus on the six central stations (Piccadilly, Victoria, Deansgate, Oxford Rd, Salford Central and Salford Crescent).

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<sup>4</sup> Better off with the Bee Network, TfGM: <https://news.tfgm.com/press-releases/9dd7282f-3098-4e35-b4d2-05f9540fc3f0/better-off-with-the-bee-network-new-tickets-to-make-travel-20-cheaper-as-greater-manchester-moves-closer-to-london-style-transport-network>

- The Greater Manchester Rail Board met for the first time in August 2023, with representatives from Government and the rail industry. The Board noted the good progress made on working towards the delivery of the Rail Trailblazer Devolution Deal Commitments. Industry representatives also signalled a willingness to ramp up the pace of the delivery of the Fares and Ticketing PAYG programme **and** look at delivering opportunities around modal integration and wider fares simplification, allowing GM to align rail fares and ticketing with proposed Bee Network products.
- Intensive work is ongoing between GM, the Department for Transport (DfT) and Levelling Up Department (DLUHC) to identify the exact legal mechanism which would enable GM to effectively tackle and enforce against anti-social behaviour and fare evasion on the bus network.

### Economy and culture

- Discussions are ongoing at an official level about the establishment of Strategic Partnerships for Innovation, Business Productivity and Culture. We currently expect all three to begin meeting in the Autumn. In all cases, there has been some debate between GMCA Officers and UKG officials about the scope, terms of reference, and intended purpose of the Partnerships.
- There are also ongoing discussions with UKG officials about operationalising the commitments on trade, investment and exporting, with a workshop of Senior Civil Servants and Senior GMCA Officers planned for early Autumn to take this forward.
- Discussions with the relevant officials in the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) have begun, **including through** three specific workstreams to progress the R&D Trailblazer commitments.

### Net Zero and the Environment

- Positive progress is being made on the Deal commitments relating to the energy market, Local Area Energy Planning, and Local Nature Recovery, with productive discussions between GMCA officers and relevant UKG officials and regulators. Commitments to explore the case of local Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards seem in doubt following a wider UKG policy shift on these standards nationally.
- Progress on the pilot devolution of net zero funding (inc. but not necessarily limited to buildings retrofit) will be progressed via the Single Settlement.



## Public services

- The Integrated Care Partnership is working on the components of the Deal that relate to integrated workforce approaches across health and care, principally through the GM Integrated Social Care Workforce Strategy and Development of the GM Care Academy.
- It is hoped that the Deal commitment to considering the inclusion of future funding streams relating to Multiple Disadvantage (MD) in the Single Settlement will be operationalised via the Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). In parallel, work is underway through the Reform Delivery Exec to develop a system wide business case and understand the breadth of previous MD funding streams potentially in scope in future.

### **3. Single Settlement Update**

- Alongside the policy-specific commitments, the Trailblazer also committed to a fundamental shift in the way UKG funding flows to GMCA. A central component of the Deal was the commitment to a new 'Single Settlement' from the next Spending Review. As the introduction to the Deal sets out:
  - *“The deal sets out a landmark new approach to devolution in England, devolving responsibility for a clear set of policies and functions to GMCA to support economic growth, alongside enhanced accountability with clear outcomes for delivery... This will be underpinned – from the next SR – by a single funding settlement, to invest in local priorities.”*
- At core, the Single Settlement is about enabling GM (both GMCA and GM Local Authorities) to act in different ways, use funding more flexibly and effectively, and deliver better outcomes for our residents. By significantly trimming back the reporting arrangements, ringfences and other bureaucracy associated with UKG funding we should free GM authorities collectively to take the decisions that will make the most sense for our places and residents.
- The Settlement also addresses a longstanding issue with the Combined Authority (CA) model in England by establishing a core funding settlement for a core set of responsibilities at the CA level (akin to the Local Government Finance Settlement). This means there are real opportunities to learn from the funding, delivery and decisionmaking processes we already have in our Local Authorities (both what works and what doesn't).

- The Single Funding Settlement is expected to cover five policy ‘pillars’:
  - Local Growth and Place
  - Local Transport
  - Housing and Regeneration
  - Adult skills
  - Buildings Retrofit and Decarbonisation
- The Trailblazer Deal did not set out details of how the Settlement will operate but did agree a set of principles which would shape this detailed model. These were that the Settlement would:
  - *“Cover an entire spending review period”*
  - *“Replace individual grant funding streams”*
  - *“Be the default mechanism through which GMCA receives their relevant share of additional funding for new national budgets or programmes announced during a spending review period associated with the functions that are devolved to GMCA”*
  - *“Give GMCA greater flexibility to plan and fund local priorities over the longer term... [giving] GMCA a greater ability to flex funding across the pillars of the single settlement... for activity outside of that pillar”*
  - *“Be contingent on GMCA agreeing with the government a single, streamlined accountability framework for the settlement...[including] the assurance framework administered by DLUHC, the specific outcomes GMCA will achieve over the spending review period or funding period, and appropriate spending control processes.”*
  - *“Represent a change to the wiring, nature and flexibility of funding from central government rather than the quantum.”*
- To begin working through the details of how the Settlement will work in practice, the Deal confirms that *“Government will work with GMCA to agree a memorandum of understanding (MoU) outlining how single settlements will work by the end of January 2024”*. GMCA officials are currently in discussions with Treasury (HMT) and Levelling Up Department (DLUHC) officials, and officers from the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) regarding the scope and content of the MoU, and the specific publication timeline.

- Following the MoU, the exact allocation of GMCA's first Single Settlement will be decided via the UKG Spending Review. We do not know when this will happen, but it must happen in enough time to set budgets for April 2025 onwards. From April 2025, the Settlement will go live. Government may not hold a Spending Review before the General Election and so this may mean concluding discussions on the Settlement with a new administration.

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## **Briefing: Greater Manchester Trailblazer Devolution Deal**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- In the UK Government Budget on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the Chancellor announced Government had concluded a Devolution Deal with Greater Manchester. Alongside Greater Manchester's Deal, a similar Deal for the West Midlands was also confirmed.
- The Government first announced its intent to do deeper (or Trailblazer) Devolution Deals with GM and the West Midlands in February 2022, in the Levelling Up White Paper.
- The Deal is a statement of intent from Government and GM Leaders. It will now need to go through a formal process of consultation, ratification and implementation.

### **KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Single settlement**

- The Deal confirms Government's intention to negotiate and implement a Single Settlement (capital and revenue) with GMCA at the next Spending Review. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covering how the Settlement will operate will be agreed by Jan 2024. But the Deal sets out some key principles, agreeing the Settlement will:
  - Cover an entire Spending Review period;
  - Replace individual grant funding streams;
  - Be the default mechanism for receiving funding in areas covered by the settlement;
  - Give GMCA greater flexibility to plan and fund priorities over the longer term;
  - Be subject to a single, streamlined accountability framework; and
  - Represent a change to the wiring of funding decisions rather than quantum.
- The Single Settlement will be structured around the following areas: Local growth and place; Local transport; Housing and regeneration; Adult skills; and Retrofit/Net Zero.

#### **Transport**

- **Rail.** A new Rail Partnership with Great British Railways (GBR) will support the integration of Rail into the Bee Network by 2030, through a range of commitments including new governance and partnership working models (such as a GM Rail Board), data sharing arrangements, and pilots. The Deal makes firm commitments to deliver full fares and ticketing integration across bus, Metrolink, and Rail by 2030 (with the first pilots designed by the end of the year) and Bee Network co-branding across the network by 2027.
- **Roads and Buses.** The Government commits to working with GMCA and TfGM to identify the specific legal powers needed for TfGM to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour and fare evasion on the bus network. Government is also working on the reform of a key bus subsidy, Bus Service Operator Grant, and commits to giving GMCA an active role in shaping these reforms as they are developed.
- Government is open to working with GMCA to explore the potential options which could address the challenges that out-of-area working by pre-booked taxi and private hire vehicles can present. Government will also explore the options of introducing side road zebra crossings and tackling pavement parking.

## Housing and Regeneration

- **Brownfield funding.** Government will devolve £150m brownfield funding to GMCA over the next three financial years. In return, GMCA will be expected to deliver 7,000 homes.
- **GM Housing Investment Fund.** Government will waive the requirement for funding from the GM Housing Investment Fund (HIF) which has not been lent at the end of the financial year to be returned to the consolidated fund.
- **Strategic Place Partnership (SPP).** GM's existing SPP with Homes England will be strengthened. This will include closer joint working on the delivery of truly affordable net zero homes, working with partners to drive innovation in construction, materials, skills and finance needed to bring forward the development of a pipeline of net zero homes across GM.
- **Affordable Homes Programme.** The Deal sets out a new approach to the delivery of the Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) – giving GMCA an increasing ability to set the direction for the AHP in GM (a first in England outside London). This will happen in two stages, with immediate new flexibilities followed by a new model of oversight and direction when the next AHP programme begins in 2026.
- **Housing Quality.** The Deal confirms a new Housing Quality Pathfinder to support action to tackle poor quality in the private rented sector. This will deliver new powers and partnership arrangements to support GM authorities in this agenda – including:
  - A new general approval for larger selective licensing schemes in GM (ending the need for Secretary of State sign off),
  - A joint Ministerial Housing Strategy Group,
  - Early engagement on the Government's Private Rented Sector Portal and
  - A 'Policy Sandbox' exploring innovative changes to the operation of welfare, housing and health and social care systems within GM to help tackle poor quality housing.
- The Deal also confirms previously agreed funding over three years to support local enforcement, and £3.9m to lease 200 good-quality homes for use by homeless families.
- **Public Land.** The GM Housing Commission will be strengthened, with Cabinet Office attendance and a clear remit to understand where under-utilisation of public land in GM may be standing in the way of regeneration and progress requests for disposal.

## Skills and employment

- **Post-16 education and skills.** The Deal commits to a new Partnership for post-16 Technical Education and Skills, underpinned by a Joint Governance Board to provide strategic oversight of post 16 technical education and skills and ensure alignment with local labour market needs (including via implementation of GM's Local Skills Improvement Plan and development of an all-age careers strategy for GM).
- **Post-19 skills.** The Deal builds on the successful devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) through committing to devolution of non-apprenticeship adult skills functions and grant funding to in the next Spending Review period. Within this SR period:
  - **Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ).** From next financial year GMCA flexibility will increase over funding (with 50% able to be used for any Level 3 course). Once GMCA has delivered 80% of available FCFJ funding met deliverability targets, all ringfences will be removed and the programme will be fully devolved.

- **Skills Bootcamps.** From next financial year, Government will increase GMCA flexibility to spend up to 30% of the available budget on Bootcamps that meet a need in any local sector, followed by 100% of the available budget in financial year 24/25, together with the ability to flex the core model to best meet local needs. As early as possible in the next Spending Review period (and subject to various conditions) – Bootcamps will be fully devolved and sit within the Single Settlement.
- **Contracted Employment Support.** The Deal commits to a co-design approach to all future contracted employment support programmes in the city-region, for young people and adults, with an assumption of a GM footprint and a delegated delivery model. This is subject to various provisos and conditions and final DWP Secretary of State sign off.
- **Careers.** Government will work with GMCA to offer a more place-based approach to careers education and develop joint governance arrangements for the delivery of careers services in GM. This will establish GMCA as the central convenor of careers provision in the region and ensure greater regional tailoring of careers provision.
- **Labour market governance.** A new DWP-GMCA Joint Strategy and Oversight Board will be formed with the authority to consider evidence, make advisory recommendations and engage in discussions proactively, to ensure that DWP, Jobcentre Plus (JCP) activity and GM activity works together to improve client outcomes.

### **Governance and accountability**

- GMCA commits to ensuring reasonable resources are available for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee to commission research and receive communications support.
- The GMCA Chair and other Members (if needed) have also committed to attend:
  - Full council meetings – up to one a year for each constituent council (if requested)
  - Public ‘Question Time’ events, chaired by an independent person.
  - Parliamentary Select Committees (if requested)
  - A new, quarterly public scrutiny session with GM Members of Parliament

### **Economy, private sector growth and culture**

- **Innovation.** A new Strategic Innovation Partnership will give GMCA a new role informing the national research and innovation ecosystem and identify further mechanisms for accelerating innovation in GM and transferring more autonomy to GM’s developing regional innovation ecosystem. The Deal also confirms a range of other partnerships and pilots to support GMCA to grow the city-region’s innovation ecosystem.
- **Business productivity.** A new Strategic Productivity Partnership will enable GMCA to raise local priorities for future business support and advisory services and ensure complementarity between national and local commissioning activities. The Deal also commits to a “new, empowered role in integrating, promoting and enabling access to business support and advisory services” and to a new role for GMCA in in the governance of the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund.
- **Trade and Investment.** The Deal commits to three strands of activity on international trade, investment and export activities. These include:
  - Strengthened partnership with Government (e.g. through a new joint Trade and Investment Board, and shared outcomes for inward investment and exports),

- Activity to promote inward investment (e.g. regional support from the Office for Investment, continued joint agreement on High Potential Opportunities, and a co-developed GM-specific investment plan), and
- Activity to promote exports (e.g., supporting the development and implementation of GM-specific export plans and objectives and supporting further visits like the joint Mayoral and Ministerial visit to Dublin in March 22).
- **Culture and Tourism.** A new Strategic Cultural Partnership will identify shared priorities and align resources, with an MoU agreed by the end of the year. As part of this, Government will work with GMCA and arm's length bodies and local stakeholders to support greater funding alignment, joint investment and strategic collaboration in the region. The Deal also confirms that VisitEngland and Marketing Manchester (on behalf of GMCA) will work to recognise Marketing Manchester as a recognised Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP).

### Net zero and the environment

- **Strategic energy planning.** The Deal recognises and welcomes GMCA's work on Local Area Energy Plans and actively supports GMCA's offer to work with the existing City Decarbonisation Delivery Programme.
- **Retrofit and net zero funding.** The government will pilot the devolution of net zero funding to GMCA through allocation rather than competition from 2025 onwards, subject to confirmation of funding and policy design. This pilot will include, but is not necessarily limited to, funding for buildings' retrofit and the allocation will form part of GMCA's single settlement. Various legal conditions will need to be met, including the type and level of greenhouse gas emission reductions to be achieved, fuel poverty targets, value for money and match funding/leverage requirements, quality standards, and monitoring, evaluation, and audit requirements. The Deal also recognises GMCA's strategic roles and activity in planning our future energy system for net zero and sets out further work on standards, green finance, and advice to increase household energy efficiency.
- **Minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES).** Government will engage with GMCA via a bi-annual, official-level forum to understand the extent to which any national MEES standard meets the energy efficiency requirements of social housing properties in GM. The Deal also confirms that government is open to considering the case for GM to set minimum energy efficiency standards, which exceed the national standards in the private rented sector.
- **Nature recovery and adapting to climate change.** The Mayor of Greater Manchester will be appointed as the responsible authority to develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for GM. The government will support GMCA to accelerate delivery of its Natural Capital Investment Plan and overcome the barriers to implementation of local investment in natural capital. This may include offering funding support; specialist expertise; co-ordination of peer support and networking; and/or local partnership working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (DEFRA) arm's length bodies. The Deal also confirms that Government will consider GM a testbed for exploring and developing options for how flood risk management, including other relevant adaptation activities, can best be addressed and accelerated at the local level.



## Public services

- **Reform Investment Fund.** The Deal confirms that Government will explore opportunities to better join-up funding related to multiple disadvantage, prevention and early intervention, as part of a commitment to funding simplification and building on GMCA's Reform Investment Fund. Where relevant new future funding streams relating to prevention and/or multiple disadvantage are under consideration, Government will engage GM authorities to discuss whether GM's allocation could be included as part of the single settlement.
- **Families and multiple disadvantage.** To further support GM public bodies to more effectively address the causes and consequences of multiple disadvantage, the Deal confirms that Government will review the secondary legislation that underpins pooled and aligned budgets (section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006). This Review will aim to amend the scope and simplify the regulations where needed. Government will work with GMCA to develop opportunities for further pooling and aligning budgets as part of this review.
- **Health.** GMCA will work with the government to support local delivery of a more integrated and robust training and education infrastructure across health and social care.
- **Early Help.** The Deal confirms that Government is keen to learn from the GM response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care regarding Early Help and use this to help shape future policy.

## Data and Digital

- **Data Partnership.** A new Data Partnership will ensure the legal, safe and secure sharing of data between the Government and relevant local and national bodies. Initial priority areas are: skills and training, employability and labour markets, careers, business support, transport, trade and investment, crime, energy use and climate resilience, and devolved functions. GMCA will also be invited to joint a new Local Chief Data Officers Council.
- **Data sharing powers.** Government will work with GMCA to continue to explore options, legislative and otherwise, to safely streamline the sharing of data between the government, the wider public sector and GMCA and its constituent local authorities – potentially including amending the Digital Economy Act 2017, subject to sufficient Parliamentary availability.
- **Digital Infrastructure.** A new Digital Infrastructure Leadership Group will explore ways to accelerate the roll-out and take-up of high-speed connectivity, align and refine place-based opportunities and interventions, and better engage local bodies in the design and procurement of digital infrastructure.

## Resilience

- **UK Resilience Framework.** Government will work with GMCA to pilot and test key aspects of the UK Government Resilience Framework. The aim will be to empower local leaders, the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum and local partners to consider, drive and improve resilience across the places for which they are responsible. They will be given a clear mandate to support the building of more resilient communities and places that are best able to adapt and respond to, and recover from risks, emergencies and disruptive events.

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