

## GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, 8th March, 2023

**TIME:** 12.30 pm

**VENUE:** Boardroom, GMCA Offices, Tootal Buildings, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

### AGENDA

**1. APOLOGIES**

**2. CHAIR'S 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. THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 08 FEBRUARY 2023**

5 - 20

To consider the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 08 February 2023.

**5. WORK PROGRAMME & FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

21 - 52

<b>BOLTON</b>	<b>MANCHESTER</b>	<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>STOCKPORT</b>	<b>TRAFFORD</b>
<b>BURY</b>	<b>OLDHAM</b>	<b>SALFORD</b>	<b>TAMESIDE</b>	<b>WIGAN</b>

Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed via [www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk), please speak to a Governance Officer before the meeting should you not wish to consent to being included in this recording.

## 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 22 March 2023; 1 – 3 PM

## 7. 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 paragraph 100A (3) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that, if members of the public were present during that item, confidential information would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence.

## 8. GREATER MANCHESTER TRAILBLAZER DEVOLUTION DEAL - to follow

Name	Organisation	Political Party
Councillor John Taylor	Stockport MBC	Labour
Councillor Mike Hurleston	Stockport	Conservative
Councillor John Walsh	Bolton	Conservative
Councillor Nathan Boroda	Bury	Labour
Councillor Hamid Khurram	Bolton Council	Labour
Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin	Manchester	Labour
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham Council	Labour
Councillor Champak Mistry	Bolton Council	Labour
Councillor Greg Stanton	Manchester City Council	Labour
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale Council	Labour
Councillor Jim King	Salford City Council	Labour
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan	Labour
Councillor Barry Brotherton	Trafford	Labour
Councillor John Mullen	Salford	Labour
Councillor Umar Nasheen	Oldham	Labour

Councillor Amanda Peers	Stockport Council	Labour
Councillor Naila Sharif	Tameside MBC	Labour
Councillor Alex Warren	Salford	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Elise Wilson	Stockport MBC	Labour
Councillor Ashley Dearnley	Rochdale	Conservative

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  
Governance & Scrutiny Officer: [ninoshka.martins@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:ninoshka.martins@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

This agenda was issued on 28 February 2023 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

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  
GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2023 AT  
THE GMCA OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton	John Walsh (Chair)
Bolton	Champak Mistry
Bury	Nathan Boroda
Manchester	Mandie Shilton Godwin
Manchester	John Leech
Oldham	Colin McLaren
Oldham	Umar Nasheen
Rochdale	Ashley Dearnley
Rochdale	Tom Besford
Salford	John Mullen
Salford	Mishal Saeed
Stockport	Mike Hurleston
Trafford	Barry Brotherton
Trafford	Jill Axford
Wigan	Joanne Marshall

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA	Steve Wilson
GMCA	Lisa Rice
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins
GMCA	Phil Swann
TfGM	Steve Warrener
TfGM	Matt Bull

**O&SC 57/23**

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hamid Khurram (Bolton), Naila Sharif (Tameside), Greg Stanton (Manchester) Alex Warren (Salford), Elise Wilson (Stockport), Amanda Peers (Stockport) and David Molyneux (Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment).

**O&SC 58/23**

**CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

- The Chair advised members on the recommendations provided to the GMCA on the Mayoral Precept and Our Pass items at their meeting on 27 January.
- Members were advised that an additional meeting would be taking place on 08 March 2023 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm to consider Government's response to GM's devolution trailblazer proposals.

**O&SC 59/23**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

**O&SC 60/23**

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**O&SC 61/23**

**GMCA REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2023/24  
OVERVIEW**

Steve Wilson, Treasurer to GMCA, introduced the item and provided an overview of the proposed GMCA budgets for 2023/24. The report summarised 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.

Members reflected that only 5% of the income for the GMCA is generated locally, and therefore the need for the consolidation of multiple funding streams through the devolution trailblazer was clear. There should be greater control given to the organisation to determine how local resources are allocated as at present the Government criteria removes the ability for the GMCA to significantly influence spending.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report and its contents be noted.

**O&SC 62/23**

**MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET AND PRECEPT  
PROPOSALS 2023/24**

The report set out the GM Mayor's proposals for the Mayoral General Budget (Including Fire and Rescue) and sought approval for the Mayoral General Precept for 2023/24 which had previously been reviewed by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting in January.

The report recommended 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.

Members were requested to note the changes around the finalisation of council tax base and business rates as part of the final report that has been included within the GMCA Revenue and Capital Budget reports.

## **RESOLVED /-**

That the recommendations in relation to the Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals 2023/24 to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on 10 February 2023 be noted as below:

1. To 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. 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 and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions.
3. To approve:
  - i. the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2023/24 covered by the Mayoral precept.
  - ii. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service
4. To approve the use of reserves as set out in section 3 of the report and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as of March 2023 are adequate.
5. 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.

**O&SC 63/23**

### **GMCA TRANSPORT REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the transport related Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) budget for 2023/24. Also included within the report was the proposed Transport Levy to be approved for 2023/24 together with the consequential allocations to the District Councils of Greater Manchester.

It was noted that it was a significant year of ambition for the Bee Network, with the first tranche of franchised buses due to begin operations in September 2023. However, due to the current financial challenges including inflation, energy costs and reduced patronage, the proposition being put forward to the Combined Authority was for an overall 4% increase to the Transport Levy.

The report showed a current budgetary gap of £39m, however a balanced budget was presented on the basis of ongoing discussions with the Department for Transport.

In noting the broader pressures faced by the network, a member queried the sufficiency of the bus support grant. Officers acknowledged the challenges and advised member that BSIP (Bus Services Improvement Plan) funding of £6m was allocated to support the continuation of certain bus services.

With regards to the impact of energy costs on the operating cost of the bus fleet, it was reported that the cost of both acquiring and maintain the zero-emission bus fleet had been factored into the business case for the CRSTS funding that GM had received. In terms of Metrolink, it was reported that there was a significant increase in operating costs however to mitigate impact on budgets further work was underway to develop a Financial Sustainability Plan that would be shared with members in due course.

A member sought to understand how bus and Metrolink fare revenues had impacted the budget. It was explained that currently the income and expenditure of operating bus services were the responsibility of operators and only the net gap was shown within the budget. However, following the move to franchising the net gap in the commercial market would need to be covered by the CA as done with Metrolink. The Treasurer offered to provide a gross breakdown of Metrolink fare box revenues to increase members' understanding of the impact within the budget report for the forthcoming year.

A member queried the sustainability of reserves in the longer term particularly with the view to alleviating budget difficulties associated with capping bus fares. It was clarified that fare capping was not funded by reserves but rather was fully funded through the Bus Services Improvement Plan for a period of 3 years with an annual review of the process to ensure affordability. Members were advised that further conversations with Government were underway to develop a longer-term financial sustainability plan, however as illustrated in the Quarter 3 Revenue Update there was a £5m deficit forecasted in the transport budget that would require the use of reserves.

With regards to products or services that TfGM provide, such as certain bus fares (on schools, demand responsive transport (DRT) and Ring Ride services), it was clarified that any formal changes would be made through respective governance arrangements rather than through the bus franchising process and would be included within the overall annual review of fares.

In response to a member's query regarding the source of funding for the work done as part of developing the Clean Air Zone, it was clarified that this activity was funded by the Joint Air Quality Unit and therefore was not accounted for within the GMCA budget.

It was noted that there was a continued need to increase patronage and revenue, therefore officers went on to advise members on the number of initiatives that had been launched with the view to tap into new markets whilst taking into consideration the recent change in travel behaviours. Officers added that further work was also being done to encourage active travel and that plans were underway to develop a pilot that would be looking at the feasibility of bikes on trams following the recent successful pilot of dogs on trams.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recommendations in relation to the GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2023/24 to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on 10 February 2023 be noted as below:
  - a. To note the risks and issues which are affecting the 2023/24 transport budgets as detailed in the report.
  - b. To approve the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in this report for 2023/24.
  - c. To approve a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2023/24 of £113.472m, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020.
  - d. To 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.
  - e. To 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.
  - f. To approve the use of Transport reserves in 2022/23 and 2023/24 as detailed in section 5.
2. That the Bee Network Financial Sustainability Plan be shared with members.
3. That a gross breakdown of Metrolink fare box revenues would be included within the budget report for the forthcoming year to increase members' understanding of the impact.

Consideration was given to a report that set 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 was also included within the report together with the consequential allocations to the individual Councils which remained unchanged from 2022/23.

In response to a member's query on the Bed Every Night increased budgeted costs for 2023/24, it was clarified that this was currently partially funded by the NHS. However, any overspend could be covered by the Mayoral General Reserves or through a reduction in one-off costs. Further calculations on the impact of inflation and anticipated increased demand on the service would be funded would be shared with members following the meeting.

With regards to the difference in budgets earmarked for certain service, it was explained that service area budgets were predetermined based on government grants, including recharges, and district contributions hence the variation in allocations, however appendix one to the report offered a further breakdown.

In discussing the benefits from a potential single block grant, it was highlighted that this would see a reduction to overheads however any fund management details through the devolution trailblazer were yet to be disclosed by Government but were likely to include a more enhanced scrutiny and accountability arrangement.

In response to a member's query regarding the position around Business Rates Reserves, it was explained that GM had received a multi-year settlement whereby GM retained 100% of all business rates (75% to Local Authorities and 25% to the GMCA) and that 2023/24 was forecasted as the final year of the scheme however there was a possibility of this scheme being extended. It was clarified that the figure included within the report was based on the revenue received by the GMCA up to the end of March 2022, as there would be no commitments against 2023/24 until Local Authority submissions had been received by Government.



On the adequacy of reserves, the Treasurer had made his judgement based on forecasted figures, however, with regards to the GMCA core budget, it was explained that the GMCA would be in breach of grant conditions if a reserve was created from the grants received.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recommendations in relation to the GMCA General Revenue Budget 2023/24 to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on 10 February 2023 be noted as below:
  - a) To 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.
  - b) To approve District contributions of £8.603 million as set out in section 5 of this report.
  - c) To approve the use of reserves as set out in section 6 of the report.
2. That further calculations on the impact of inflation and anticipated increased demand on the service would be funded would be shared with members following the meeting.

**O&SC 65/23**

**GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE AND  
RESOURCES - BUDGET AND LEVY 2023/24 AND  
MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the Waste and Resources budget which also set out a total levy requirement for 2023/24 of £169m, that represented a 2.5% average increase over 2022/23. At a District level the levy change ranged from 1.8% to 3.2%; and the MTFP proposed levy charges of £177.4m in 2024/25 and £185.5m in 2025.

The Quarter 3 Revenue Update report also highlighted that although there had been a £13m income generated to the GMCA through waste burning during 2022/23, the future costs for waste and recycling were unknown, and therefore a 2.5% increase to the levy was proposed.

Members sought to understand how Local Authorities would see the benefit from the sale of recyclables under the National Waste Strategy (NWS). Officers explained that under NWS, manufacturers would be taxed at source for non-recyclable materials which would then be transferred to LAs. It was reported that a report outlining the implications of the NWS would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

A member raised concerns around the fluctuating costs and benefits from the various streams of waste and how the returns to Local Authorities were calculated. In terms of the revenue generated from paper and card recyclables, it was explained that at the end of the year a final payment would be made based on the volume of waste and recyclables.

It was also requested that the affordability of items at the Renewal Shops be given consideration. Officers assured members that their comments would be fed into the Waste and Recycling team for consideration.

In response to a member's query regarding inflation and price indices of the SUEZ contract, officers explained that the areas locked into Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Retail Price Index (RPIx) varied. However, in terms of overall value for money the contract had proved to be beneficial in comparison to the considerably higher levies should the GMCA have remained in the previous PFI contract.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recommendations in relation to the Greater Manchester Waste and Resources - Budget and Levy 2023/24 And Medium-Term Financial Plan to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on 10 February 2023 be noted as below:

- a) To note the forecast outturn for 2022/23.
  - b) To approve the proposed 2024/25 Trade Waste rate of £134.14 to allow forward planning by Districts.
  - c) To approve the budget and levy for 2023/24 of £169m (2.5% increase).
  - d) To approve the 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.
  - e) To note the risk position set out in the balances and reserves strategy.
2. That a report outlining the implications of the National Waste Strategy would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
3. That officers feedback comments raised regarding the affordability aspect of items at the Renew Shops to the Waste and Recycling Team.

**O&SC 66/23**

**GMCA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 - 2025/26**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 2022/23 capital expenditure programme and the 2023/24 capital budget and the forward plan.

The most significant challenges were predicted to be as a result of supply chain issues and the impact of inflation, however regular updates would be provided to the GMCA (including information on any slippage) as schemes progressed.

A member sought to understand whether the capital programme was realistically deliverable. In response officers assured members that GM was appropriately resourced to ensure timely delivery however challenges did remain regarding supply chains which may result in some slippage.

In response to a members query around how the upgrade of speed cameras was funded, it was reported that this was done so through the Mayor's Challenge Fund and that the net surplus generated through the driver training courses would then be utilised specifically to fund road-safety type initiatives across GM.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recommendations in relation to the GMCA Capital Programme 2022/23 to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on 10 February 2023 be noted as below:
  - a) 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 as set out in the report.
  - b) To approve the capital programme budget for 2023/24 and the forward plan as detailed in the report and in Appendix A.
  - c) To approve funding from the City Region Sustainable Transport Scheme (CRSTS) grant as set out in Section 3.10 of this report.

**O&SC 67/23**

**GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 3 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined 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.

In terms fire fighter pay awards, it was reported that discussions with unions were still underway and if there would be an increase above 5%, the increase would be covered by reserves for 22/23, however this would result in ongoing costs which could not be met continually by reserves. It was clarified that there had been no announcement of national funding to cover pay awards.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recommendations in relation to the GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 3 2022/23 to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on 10 February 2023 be noted as below:
  - a) To note the 2022/23 forecast outturn position for the GMCA budgets at the end of December 2022 (quarter 3).
  - b) To 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.

## **O&SC 68/23**

## **GM DIGITAL BLUEPRINT 2023 - 2026**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an outline of the rationale for refreshing the GM Digital Blueprint three years following its initial launch. Included within the report was an outline of the process that was being followed to ensure that GM continued to grow as a digital city region, and how GM was seeking to engage with stakeholders to achieve this ambition.

The GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee was particularly asked to consider whether the proposed refreshed GM Digital Blueprint adequately and appropriately responded to the ambitions of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

Although Members welcomed new providers and digital access for all, concerns were raised around the lack of policy adherence by companies when erecting masts for Broadband cables. Officers noted the comments and assured members that the CA would continue to push digital providers to adhere the code of conduct and carry out appropriate consultation prior to any infrastructure developments.

In response to a member's query to utilising open data sources to build the network, officers explained that there was significant interest for data around the transport network and other valuable data assets. Members were advised that these assets would be captured within the GM information Strategy and agreed that on completion this Strategy would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

In response to a member's query regarding how success was measured, officers advised that work was underway to understand the type of data sets available and those that were suitable to be aligned with the Greater Manchester Strategy. Furthermore, the Delivery Plan was already in development, with each initiative having its own set of measures.

With regards to the question raised on addressing online harm, it was reported that GMCA was taking a proactive approach in terms of coordinating with stakeholders to develop a response to the Online Abuse Bill and addressing online harm had been embedded within the initiatives for a digital inclusive agenda.

Members raised concerns around the issues faced by older individuals particularly on lower incomes and highlighted the need to ensure older residents were adequately supported to access digital services or ensuring alternative access remained available. Officers assured members that considerable amount of work was underway at a locality level to support older residents, with online hubs now established all across GM.

With regards to the questions raised around digital plans for households, members were advised that work was underway with housing providers to address digital affordability to individuals living in housing associations. It was noted that there was a need for GM to develop a digital infrastructure that would stimulate and deliver an affordable online offer to all GM residents and to drive this piece forward work was also being done through the Digital Inclusion Task Force and with localities to improve connectivity across the city region.

In terms of the query raised around the quotient of full fibre and gigabytes availability within GM, it was reported that currently 41% households in GM had full fibre connection which was within the national average and over 80% had gigabyte connectivity.

A member suggested that it would be beneficial to utilise data to meet the accessibility needs of residents for instance through the introduction of real-time data for bus services. It was highlighted that through the bus franchising programme there was an opportunity to harness digital assets whilst improving the connectivity for the entire city region through the introduction of the Bee Network App that would evolve to bring in together active travel with public transport modes whilst providing customers with real time stop and departure information to aid journey planning.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the refreshed GM Digital Blueprint priorities and its strategic ambitions set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy be noted.
2. That the CA would continue to push digital providers to adhere the code of conduct and carry out appropriate consultation before the erection of masts.

**O&SC 69/23**

**WORK PROGRAMME & FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

A member raised that there were a number of decisions in relation the acquisition of bus depots on the forward plan, suggesting that these decisions should come to scrutiny. It was agreed that the Bus Franchising Programme Director would be invited to a future meeting to provide members with an update on progress.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming months be noted.

2. That a progress update on Bus Franchising be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.
3. That an invite be extended to the Bus Franchising Programme Director to provide an update at a future meeting of the Committee.

**O&SC 70/23**

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**RESOLVED /-**

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

- Wednesday 8 March, 12:30pm – 2:30 pm
- Wednesday 22 March, 1:00pm – 3:00 pm

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



## GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 08 March 2023  
Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and Forward Plan of Key Decisions  
Report of: Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide an opportunity for the Committee to review their Work Programme for the forthcoming three months (Appendix A) and provide the Committee with the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix B) to ensure that they are informed of the forthcoming decisions to be taken by the GMCA, GM Mayor or any delegated officer or committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to –

1. Consider the proposed Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming three months.
2. Use the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to identify any potential areas for further scrutiny.

### CONTACT OFFICER:

Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

[nicola.ward@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.ward@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

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## GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme March 2023

22 March 2023

Title	Lead member / officer	Trajectory of item	Ask of Scrutiny
Business rates	Cllr David Molyneux  Steve Wilson	CA March	To consider the proposed approach to allocation of business rate income.
GMS performance report	Deputy GM Mayor, Paul Dennett  Simon Nokes / Amy Foots	6 monthly performance report	To provide an oversight in relation to the delivery of the GMS
Integrated Water Management Strategy And outcomes of the Task and Finish exercise	Cllr Mandie Shilton Godwin	Roundtable with Mayor in March  GMCA report in May	To report back on the work of the T&F group

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## What is a Forward Plan of Key Decisions?

The Register is a published list of the key decisions which are due to be taken by the:

- Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)
- Greater Manchester Elected Mayor
- Joint GMCA & AGMA Executive Board
- Transport for Greater Manchester Committee
- GMCA Resources Committee
- GMCA's Waste & Recycling Committee
- Statutory Officers of the GMCA

These decisions must be published on the Register at least **28 clear days before the decision is to be taken**, whether in public or private. The Register is updated at least once a

## What is a Key Decision?

A key decision defined by 'the Order' is a decision which, in the view of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, would result in any of the decision makers listed:

- incurring expenditure over £500,000, or making significant savings of £500,000 or more relating to the budget for the service area to which the decision relates; or
- be significant in terms of its effects on persons living or working in an area of more two or more wards or electoral divisions of Greater Manchester.

## How to find out more on these proposed decisions

The report (other than those which contain confidential or exempt information) relating to these decisions will be published on the GMCA's website five working days before the decision is to be made see [www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk).

For general information about the decision-making process please contact:

Julie Connor - Secretary to the GMCA  
[julie.connor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:julie.connor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

<p>month.</p> <p>This Register of Key Decisions has been prepared in accordance with <a href="#">Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017</a> ('the Order').</p> <p>The Register is published on the GMCA's website <a href="http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk">www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk</a> and hard copies are available at the offices of:</p> <p>Greater Manchester Combined Authority &amp; Greater Manchester Mayor Tootal Buildings Oxford Street Manchester M1 6EU</p>	<p>The GMCA's has three thematic Scrutiny Committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Issues and Reform</li> <li>• Economy, Business Growth and Skills</li> <li>• Housing, Planning and Environment</li> </ul> <p>These Committees' role is to contribute to the development of GMCA's strategies and policies, to scrutinise decisions of the decision-makers listed above and to consider any matter affecting those who live, work, study or run businesses in Greater Manchester.</p>	
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Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Trailblazer Devotion Deal	To consider proposals and recommendations relating to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal negotiations as set out in the report.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Andy Hollingsworth andy.hollingsworth@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
UKSPF Local Business	To agree the investment approach and route to market for the Core	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2023 and 30 Jun 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Bev Craig		John Wrathmell john.wrathmell@greatermanchester-

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	Local Business Support element of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.						ca.gov.uk
Trailblazer Devolution Deal	To consider proposals and recommendations relating to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal negotiations as set out in the report.	GM Mayor	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with recommendations			Andy Hollingsworth andy.hollingsworth@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Extension of Delegated	To offer contract	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Mar 2023 and	12 GMCA 11th Feb NSF	Councillor Eamonn		Adele Reynolds



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Authority-Skills Bootcamps Sector 1: Digital, Technology, & Creative, Sector 2: Construction & Green Skills, Sector 3: Manufacturing & Engineering, Sector 4: Logistics, Sector 5: Foundation Economy, Sector 6:	extensions and proceed with the procurement and contracting of providers and activity relating to the GM Skills Bootcamps programme.		30 May 2023	Update - Final Draft	O'Brien		adele.reynolds@gretermanc hester-ca.gov.uk

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Innovation Pot/Ot							
Bus Franchising	To approve the award of:  (i) the franchise contracts relating to bus franchising; (ii) contracts for the provision of various franchise scheme related services and	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM  GM Mayor  Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023  Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023  Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with recommendations			Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 31	goods (including all contracts for the provision of equipment, hardware, software and background IT infrastructure that are required to support and/or facilitate the delivery, and ongoing operation, of franchised bus services and the overall						

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Page 32	franchising scheme); and (iii) contracts for the acquisition and/or lease of land, sites or other assets (comprising real estate or otherwise) in connection with the delivery, and ongoing operation, of franchised bus services and the overall						

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	franchising scheme.						
GM City Deal Receipts - Investment Approval Recommendations	The approval of investments funded with City Deal Receipts received from Homes England.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 Mar 2023	Report			Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Housing Funds	To conditionally approve housing investments to proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 Mar 2023	Report with Recommendations		Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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	changes to existing investments						
Agreement to using further Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses	To agree the further use of Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loan Fund (GMHILF) surpluses to support the delivery of the GM Housing Strategy	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 Mar 2023	Report with Recommendations		Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Property	To conditionally approve	Greater Manchester Combined	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 Mar 2023	Report with Recommendations		Chief Executive Officer GMCA	Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcinto

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Funds	property investments to proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial changes to existing investments.	Authority				& TfGM	sh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Forthcoming Changes to the Bus Network in Greater Manchester	To approve forthcoming changes to subsidised bus services.	Greater Manchester Transport Committee	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Stephen Rhodes stephen.rhodes@tfgm.com
Greater Manchester Business	To conditionally approve	Greater Manchester Combined	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 Mar 2023	Report with Recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux	Chief Executive Officer GMCA	Kirsteen Armitage kirsteen.armitage

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Funds	business investments to proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial changes to existing investments, including where relevant negotiated settlements.	Authority				& TfGM	ge@greatermanchestre-ca.gov.uk
Active Travel Programme	Approval to release funding to progress the development and delivery of	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com



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	cycling and walking schemes and programmes.						
ESF Skills for Growth Commissionin	To proceed with the procurement and contracting of providers and activity relating to the GM Skills for Growth programme.	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 Oct 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Treasurer GMCA	Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement	To approve allocations and Governance and Assurance	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 26 May 2023	Report and recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	

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(CRSTS)	arrangements for specific schemes as and when required.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 26 May 2023				
Local Growth Deal ( 1, 2 and 3) six monthly progress update	To grant Full or Conditional Approval and/or release funding / approve expenditure and allocate/reallocate funding across the programme for schemes	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 30 Apr 2023	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com

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	within the Growth Deal 1,2,3 and/or the Transforming Cities Fund.						
Salford Bolton Network Improvements	Funding Approval	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 30 Apr 2023	Reports with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com
Bus Depot Acquisitions	To negotiate and approve the acquisition of bus depots to support bus franchising, within previously	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 29 Dec 2023	28 Delivering the Bee Network - Bus Fares Fleet Depots and CRSTS	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	approved capital and revenue budgets for bus franchising.						
Bus Depot Leasing Arrangements	To agree the final terms of leases of bus depots to be granted to TfGM and the terms of all subleases of the depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 29 Dec 2023	12 Delivering the Bee Network	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Jacqueline Elliott Jacqueline.Elliott@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	to existing operators and the franchise depot subleases to be granted to the franchise bus operators.						
Bus Depot Leasing Arrangements	To complete and execute all leases of bus depots to be granted to TfGM.	Monitoring Officer GMCA	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 29 Dec 2023	12 Delivering the Bee Network	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Jacqueline Elliott Jacqueline.Elliott@tfgm.com
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy	Approval of an amendment to the GM Electric Vehicle	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Richard Banks richard.banks@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Update	Charging Infrastructure Strategy.						
Funding and Delivery of Access for All Schemes: Daisy Hill and Irlam	Approval of drawdown of funds, and appointment of contract to deliver, DfT funded Access for All schemes; Daisy Hill and Irlam	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Cat Morris cat.morris@tfgm.com
Tyldesley Travel Hub/P&R Project Development -	To approve the budgets (and associated drawdown) to develop the	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Luke Bramwell Luke.Bramwell@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
CRSTS Funding	Tyldesley Travel Hub/P&R to Outline Business Case stage.						
<p>           GM Adult Skills Programme (including devolved Adult Education Budget and Free Courses for Jobs funding) 2022/2023 academic year update and         </p>	<p>           To approve a cost of delivery exceptional payment to AEB Skills Providers for the 2022/2023 academic year.         </p> <p>           To note progress of the 2023/2024         </p>	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 30 Jun 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien		Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
2023/2024 academic year forward plan	<p>Adult Education Budget commissioning process and where applicable, the selected skills providers</p> <p>To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to take forward the AEB commissioning , including to</p>						



Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 45	contract award.						
	To approve the proposed indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded further education institutions.						
	To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to						

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Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	agree any minor changes that arise during discussions between each institution and GMCA.						
Replacement Datacentre Hardware Project	Approval to proceed following a compliant tender exercise via the North West Procurement Portal (The Chest), and to award a	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	March 2023	Contract award report	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien		Paul Wilkinson paul.wilkinson@greatermancaster-ca.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	contract for the replacement of GMCA's datacentre hardware.						
Planned spend for UKSPF / Recycled Funds (Education, Work & Skills Directorate)	To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to take forward the commissioning including to contract award.	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Mar 2023 and 31 May 2023	GMCA report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien		Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
GM Digital Blueprint 2023-26	To approve the content for the GM Digital	Greater Manchester Combined	24 Mar 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien		Phil Swan Phil.Swan@greatermanchest

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	Blueprint 2023-26	Authority					er-ca.gov.uk
Agreeing to the development of a Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy	That the GMCA should be named as the provisional responsible authority for developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Greater Manchester.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24 Mar 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Martyn Cox		Samuel Evans samuel.evans@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Use of funds from DLUHC for tackling damp and mould hazards	To agree the process for deployment of £14.9 million of funding	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24 Mar 2023	Report with recommendations			Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcintosh@greatermanchester-

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
in social rented homes	announced by SoS DLUHC to social housing providers in Greater Manchester.						ca.gov.uk
Approval of the GMCA Capital Strategy for 2023/24	To approve the 2023/24 GMCA Capital Strategy with sets out the over arching principles and processes by which capital and investment decisions will be made.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24 Mar 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Rachel Rosewell

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy 2023/24	To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2023/24 to 2025/26.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24 Mar 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Rachel Rosewell
Approval of proposals for 2022/23 Retained Business Rates growth to be investment in	Following the Government's confirmation of the extension of the 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	24 Mar 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Steve Wilson Steve.Wilson@greater-manchester-ca.gov.uk

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Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
GM wide initiatives	for a further year this report sets out for approval proposed investment in GM wide initiatives.						
Greater Manchester Resource and Waste Strategy - Outline Proposals	To agree outline proposals and to commence public consultation	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Apr 2023 and 30 Jun 2023	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Martyn Cox	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	David Taylor david.taylor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Integrated Water Management	To agree: The Integrated Water	Greater Manchester Combined	26 May 2023	Report with recommendations			Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcinto

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Plan (IWMP)	Management Plan (IWMP) for Greater Manchester and its recommendations.	Authority					sh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk