

## GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** Wednesday, 7th June, 2023

**TIME:** 2.30 pm

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

### AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** 1 - 4
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2023** 5 - 14

To consider the approval of the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 March 2023.

5. **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS** 15 - 40

Report of Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA.

<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>

**6. THE GREATER MANCHESTER FRANCHISING SCHEME FOR BUSES 2021 - PROCUREMENT UPDATE 41 - 52**

To be presented by GM Mayor, Andy Burnham.

**PART B**

**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 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.

**8. BUS FRANCHISING - INDICATIVE PREFERRED BIDDER**

To be presented by GM Mayor, Andy Burnham.

**8.A BUS FRANCHISING TRANCHE 2: LARGE LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACT - MIDDLETON 53 - 100**

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

**8.B BUS FRANCHISING TRANCHE 2: LARGE LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACT - OLDHAM 101 - 136**

Report of Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of GMCA & TfGM.

**8.C BUS FRANCHISING TRANCHE 2: LARGE LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACT - QUEEN'S ROAD 137 - 172**

Report of Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of GMCA & TfGM.

**8.D BUS FRANCHISING TRANCHE 2: SMALL LOCAL SERVICE CONTRACT: APPOINTMENT OF PREFERRED BIDDER - ROCHDALE A & B 173 - 204**

Report of Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of GMCA & TfGM.

**8.E BUS FRANCHISING TRANCHE 2: SMALL LOCAL SERVICE 205 - 232**

**CONTRACT: APPOINTMENT OF PREFERRED BIDDER -  
OLDHAM**

Report of Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive of GMCA & TfGM.

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

✉ [ninoshka.martins@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:ninoshka.martins@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

This agenda was issued on 30.05.2023 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
Page 1			

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 22 MARCH 2023 AT  
THE GMCA OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton	John Walsh (Chair)
Bolton	Champak Mistry
Bolton	Hamid Khurram
Bury	Nathan Boroda
Bury	Mary Whitby
Oldham	Colin McLaren
Oldham	Umar Nasheen
Oldham	Sam Al Hamdani
Rochdale	Ashley Dearnley
Rochdale	Tom Besford
Salford	John Mullen
Stockport	Elise Wilson
Trafford	Jill Axford
Trafford	Barry Brotherton

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA	Steve Wilson
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins

**O&SC 79/23**

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Greg Stanton, Mandie Shilton Godwin, John Leech, Mike Hurleston, Joanne Marshall and Naila Sharif.

**O&SC 80/23**

**CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised members that feedback and recommendations from the Committee's previous discussions on the GM Trailblazer Devolution Deal had been submitted to GM Leaders ahead of their final conversations with Government.

**O&SC 81/23**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**O&SC 82/23**

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH  
2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**UPDATE ON THE GREATER MANCHESTER TRAILBLAZER DEVOLUTION  
DEAL**

The Chief Executive thanked members for their input and reported that the devolution deal had now been signed. The key features of the deal remained unchanged including the commitment by Government for a single settlement from the next spending review which would also include funding for local growth & place, transport, housing & regeneration, adult skills and retrofit net zero expenditure.

Alongside that, the deal also included the following elements:

- greater control over post-16 technical education, setting GM firmly on the path to become the UK's first technical education city-region.
- new levers and responsibilities to achieve fully integrated public transport, including rail, through the Bee Network by 2030.

- new responsibilities over housing that will allow GM to crack down on rogue landlords and control over £150m brownfield funding.
- a single block grant that will allow gm to go further and faster in growing our economy, reducing inequalities, and providing opportunities for all.
- collaboration on a range of net zero, nature recovery and climate change adaptation measures, with some net zero spending decisions to be made locally.
- strengthened accountability arrangements.

Members noted the positive step forward and thanked officers for their work in delivering this piece of work.

In discussing the accountability arrangements, the timely review of scrutiny was noted. In return for more responsibilities, Greater Manchester's existing scrutiny committees would see the development of an enhanced and active role in defining the outcomes that would be delivered.

In response to a member's query on as to whether there would be an oyster card facility for payment on the transport network. Members were advised that the intention was for a wider roll out of contactless payment on the network similar to London with plans to start contactless payment through the introduction of franchising later this year.

In response to a member's query regarding the position of Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2 in relation to the deal, it was reported that the deal referenced the partnership which was fundamentally around the integration of the suburban network and that GM would continue to push for the delivery of Northern powerhouse Rail. In relation to HS2, it was reported that the indication from government was that it remained committed to delivering HS2 to Manchester therefore work was underway looking at the delivery of HS2 in respect of the physical impact, particularly on Manchester city centre, and the delivery of the Airport station, which was seen as critical to GM's economy but also to the wider North.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the update in relation to the GM Trailblazer Devolution Deal be noted.
2. That it be noted that there is a clear role for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in contributing to the conversations regarding the potential outcomes for the single settlement.
3. That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

## **O&SC 83/23**

## **RETAINED BUSINESS RATES PILOT UPDATE**

Cllr David Molyneux, GM Portfolio Holder for Resources and Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced the report that provided an update on the position in respect of the 100% retained business rate pilot; including the current GM business rates funded schemes, the latest forecasts for 2022/23 and 2023/24 income and sought support for proposed 2023/24 schemes funded from the income expected to be received in 2022/23.

In discussing the schemes proposed for 2023/24, it was noted specifically that the scheme focused on developing the Night-Time Economy would provide a platform to re-build the economy whilst developing a skills pathways and career development opportunities within the sector.

In response to a member's query regarding the fluctuating forecast benefit of the pilot for 2022/23, it was clarified that these were projected figures at this stage and no commitments would be made until 2024/25. It was noted that these figures were based on a 100% growth benefit and would be influenced by economic conditions. One of the benefits of a 10-year extension would be that the variances and that volatility described between different authorities would even out allowing for a consistent and steady growth in the amount retained by GM.

In discussing the arrangement that would likely be put in place through the trailblazer, officers advised that the arrangement would need to reflect the unique arrangements agreed with GM at the start of the pilot in relation to any future reset of the baseline by which growth is assessed against. It was added that national resets were always part of the plan for the pilot, although none have happened since the introduction of the scheme, and this is likely to continue to be the case for any new deal. However, the “partial reset” mechanism agreed with GM and as set out in the original Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would allow GM authorities to retain part of the achieved growth and maintain the growth incentive principle which is fundamental to the rates retention system.

In response to a member’s query whether the Growth and Investment Zones would be subject to a national re-set, it was clarified that the Growth and Investment Zones there were exempt from that re-set, and that there was a partial exemption in Greater Manchester for local investments. Therefore, it was seen essential to link the incentive to the levers to allow GM to retain maximum benefit of local investment.

In conclusion, members thanked officers for their work in developing this piece of work and requested that a future item be added as to the work programme to ensure that the current 25/75% split between Greater Manchester and Local Authorities remained effective and in line with agreed principles.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the following recommendations to the GMCA:
  - a) Note the forecast, as at the end of quarter 3, for 2022/23 business rates income including the 75:25 split between districts and GM investment.
  - b) Note the planned income for 2023/24.
  - c) Approve the proposed 2023/24 GM use of the 2022/23 business rates income (set at 25% of total benefit).

- d) Approve the proposal to bring back any further in-year commitments should the year end income exceed that forecast at quarter 3.
  - e) Note the position in respect of the devolution trailblazer deal for Greater Manchester.
2. That the Business Rates retention scheme be included in the Committees work programme for the forthcoming municipal year, specifically to ensure the effectiveness of current operation.

**O&SC 84/23**

**GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY: PROGRESS  
REPORT SPRING 2023**

Simon Nokes, Executive Director, GMCA introduced the report and provided an overview of the progress made at 12 months into delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy, noting the updating of the performance dashboards which underpin the GMS performance framework.

The report focused on key strategic opportunities presented to Greater Manchester, raising visibility of how whole system responses, and applying GMS ways of working could support maximisation of opportunities.

It was noted that energy efficient homes were important to achieving the environmental ambitions for GM and therefore a member sought to understand what was being done at a GM level to support the delivery of GM's environmental ambitions. Officers advised of the work that was being done at a GM level to develop the existing housing stock. Further to that a task and finish group had been set up under the Green City Region Partnership to identify challenges and suitable intervention as part of the 5-year environmental plan. It was also reported that as part of the devolution deal further funding and powers had been secured to support GM authorities to tackle poor quality private rented sector properties.

It was noted that GM's objective to be carbon neutral by 2038 was still considered achievable, however the pathway towards that, was reported to likely exceed the

carbon budget, by a considerable margin unless decarbonisation would be accelerated. In support of achieving carbon neutral targets and to understand the impact of decisions, the GMCA had launched an assessment tool that would assist in the scrutiny process and in the development of policies and interventions in order to drive significant progress in support of attaining the wider GMS ambitions.

In response to a member's query regarding the alignment of the Integrated Care Partnership to the GMS, it was highlighted that this allowed for a whole system approach which would create a better opportunity to improve the health and wellbeing of GM residents whilst minimising environmental impacts through the delivery of sustainable healthcare.

Concerns were raised around the digitalisation of the UK's telephone network and the impact on older residents. In acknowledging the concerns raised, officers advised that the old copper network was coming to the end of its life and therefore plans were underway to switch off the network by the end of 2025 as such landline would instead work via a broadband connection and therefore officers noted that there was a need to ensure that residents were made aware of these upcoming changes.

Members thanked officers for the report and welcomed the opportunity to explore the key themes highlighted within the report and to receive a detailed delivery programme.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report and the progress made since the launch of the strategy, including the current strategic opportunities presented to Greater Manchester, and how these could be used to maximise the potential to achieve the GMS ambitions be noted.
2. That it be noted that insufficient detail of programme delivery had been gathered to assess specific impacts arising from delivery in support of GMS ambition.

3. That it be noted that the assessment completed took an overview approach, considering the strategic intent of the GMS and forming a view from the overall approaches, understanding and intent.
4. That it be noted that the Committee would welcome the opportunity to explore the key themes highlighted within the report and to receive a detailed delivery programme.

**O&SC 85/23            GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND  
FINISH REVIEW - AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE WIDER  
DETERMINANTS OF EFFECTIVE INTEGRATED WATER  
MANAGEMENT IN GREATER MANCHESTER.**

Councillor Mandie Shilton-Godwin, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, introduced the report and provided an overview of the findings of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Task & Finish Review into the wider determinants of effective integrated water management in Greater Manchester.

Members welcomed the report and were supportive of the recommendations as outlined within the report. There was broad agreement from members around the need for an integrated water management approach to mitigating future flood risk in GM.

The importance of ensuring adequate planning policies were in place was highlighted. It was felt that that integrated water management should be predominant consideration for all new planning developments.

A member highlighted that certain green belt sites earmarked for development under Places for Everyone were subject to flood risk and noted that current drainage system was not suitable to accommodate these additional new developments. Therefore, the need to manage surface water sustainably and incorporating planning requirements



to design solutions into new developments was seen as essential in reducing flood risk.

In response to a member's query on as to whether the funding being received through the Trailblazer Deal would see a reduction in houses being built on greenbelt sites, it was stated that the specification of the funding allowed for the sole delivery of existing brownfield sites and not the creation of new sites and therefore would not meet the housing targets for GM.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked all those that were involved in the development of the report and recognised the importance of bringing the issues to the attention of political leads to ensure that adequate support would be provided to Local Authorities.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report and its contents be noted.
2. That the recommendations within the report for consideration by the GMCA be noted.

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## GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7 June 2023  
Subject: GM Forward Plan of Key Decisions  
Report of: Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide the Committee with the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix A) 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 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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## 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:

- (i) 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
- (ii) 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 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
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 goods (including all contracts for the provision of equipment, hardware, software and	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM  GM Mayor  Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023  Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023  Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with recommendations	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
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 20</p>	<p>background IT infrastructure that are required to support and/or facilitate the delivery, and ongoing operation, of franchised bus services and the overall 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</p>						



<b>Decision title</b>	<b>What is the decision?</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Planned Decision Dates</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	<b>Lead Director</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
	services and the overall franchising scheme.						
ESF Skills for Growth Commissioning	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 Jun 2023 and 31 Oct 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Treasurer GMCA	Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Bus Franchising Tranche 1 Bus Fares	To approve bus fares and products for the implementation of Tranche 1 of Bus Franchising in September 2023.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Jul 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Helen Humble helen.humble@tfgm.com
City Region Sustainable Transport	To approve allocations and Governance	Chief Executive Officer GMCA	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report and recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive	

<b>Decision title</b>	<b>What is the decision?</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Planned Decision Dates</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	<b>Lead Director</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
Settlement (CRSTS)	and Assurance arrangements for specific schemes as and when required.	& TfGM Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023			Officer GMCA & TfGM	
Bus Depot Acquisitions	To negotiate and approve the acquisition of bus depots to support bus franchising, within previously approved capital and revenue budgets for bus franchising.	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Jun 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
Bus Depot Leasing Arrangements	To agree the final terms of leases of bus depots to be granted to TfGM and the terms of all	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Jun 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
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 23</p>	<p>subleases of the depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements to existing operators and the franchise depot subleases to be granted to the franchise bus operators.</p>						
<p>Bus Depot Leasing Arrangements</p>	<p>To complete and execute all leases of bus depots to be granted to TfGM.</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer GMCA</p>	<p>Between 1 Jun 2023 and 29 Dec 2023</p>	<p>12 Delivering the Bee Network</p>	<p>GM Mayor Andy Burnham</p>		<p>Jacqueline Elliott Jacqueline.Elliott@tfgm.com</p>
<p>GM Adult Skills Programme (including devolved Adult Education Budget and Free Courses</p>	<p>To approve a cost of delivery exceptional payment to AEB Skills Providers for the 2022/2023 academic</p>	<p>Chief Executive Officer GMCA &amp; TfGM</p>	<p>Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023</p>	<p>Report with recommendations</p>	<p>Councillor Eamonn O'Brien</p>		<p>Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk</p>

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
<p>for Jobs funding) 2022/2023 academic year update and 2023/2024 academic year forward plan</p> <p>Page 24</p>	<p>year.</p> <p>To note progress of the 2023/2024 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 contract award.</p> <p>To approve the proposed</p>						

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 25	<p>indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded further education institutions.</p> <p>To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to agree any minor changes that arise during discussions between each institution and GMCA.</p>						
Forthcoming Changes to the Bus Network in Greater Manchester	To approve forthcoming changes to subsidised bus services.	Greater Manchester Transport Committee  Chief Executive	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023  Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham  GM Mayor	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Stephen Rhodes stephen.rhodes@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
		Officer GMCA & TfGM			Andy Burnham		
UKSPF Local Business	To agree the award of individual contracts for delivery of the UKSPF Core Local Business Support Programme following a call for competition process.	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Bev Craig		John Wrathmell john.wrathmell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
UKSPF E1, E3, E6 Wigan unallocated fund	Subject to the recommendation of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board, approve the project proposal from Wigan Council for the previously unallocated	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Jul 2023	Report and recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Alison Gordon alison.gordon@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

<b>Decision title</b>	<b>What is the decision?</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Planned Decision Dates</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	<b>Lead Director</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
	funds remaining on the E1,E3,E6 Communities & Place project.						
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 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report	Councillor Ged Cooney		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 changes to existing investments	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Ged Cooney	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Agreement to using further	To agree the further use of	Greater Manchester	Between 1 Jun 2023 and	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Ged	Chief	Michael Walmsley

<b>Decision title</b>	<b>What is the decision?</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Planned Decision Dates</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	<b>Lead Director</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses	Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loan Fund (GMHILF) surpluses to support the delivery of the GM Housing Strategy	Combined Authority	31 Aug 2023	ons	Cooney	Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Michael.Walmley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Property Funds	To conditionally approve property investments to proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial changes to existing investments.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Ged Cooney	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcintosh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Business Funds	To conditionally approve business investments to	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with Recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux	Chief Executive Officer GMCA	Kirsteen Armitage kirsteen.armitage@greatermanchester-



Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial changes to existing investments, including where relevant negotiated settlements.					& TfGM	ca.gov.uk
Active Travel Programme	Approval to release funding to progress the development and delivery of cycling and walking schemes and programmes.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com
Local Growth Deal ( 1, 2 and 3) six monthly progress update	To grant Full or Conditional Approval and/or release funding / approve expenditure	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com

<b>Decision title</b>	<b>What is the decision?</b>	<b>Decision Maker</b>	<b>Planned Decision Dates</b>	<b>Documents to be considered</b>	<b>Portfolio Lead</b>	<b>Lead Director</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
	and allocate/reallocate funding across the programme for schemes within the Growth Deal 1,2,3 and/or the Transforming Cities Fund.						
Page 30 Salford Bolton Network Improvements	Funding Approval	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Reports with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Steve Warrener steve.warrener@tfgm.com
Use of funds from DLUHC for tackling damp and mould hazards in social rented homes	To agree the process for deployment of £14.9 million of funding announced by SoS DLUHC to social housing providers in Greater	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Ged Cooney		Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcintosh@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
	Manchester						
UKSPF Communities and Place Phase 2 proposal - Manchester City Council	Subject to the recommendation of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board, approve the project proposal from Manchester Council for second phase of their UKSPF funded Communities and Place Programme	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Aug 2023	Report	Councillor Bev Craig		Alison Gordon alison.gordon@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Bury: Ramsbottom Town Centre Development	To approve the CRSTS funding to enable the development of the Ramsbottom Streets for All Town Centre scheme to be	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 30 Sep 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Joanne Betts joanne.betts@bury.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	progressed.						
Bury Town Centre Scheme	To approve the CRSTS funding to enable the development of the Bury Town Centre Streets for All scheme to be progressed.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 30 Sep 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Joanne Betts joanne.betts@bury.gov.uk
Procurement of GM Individual Placement & Support in Primary Care (IPSPC) Initiative	Contract award to successful bidder, following open procurement process via The Chest, to deliver the GM IPSPC initiative.	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Jul 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien		Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Integrated Ticketing and Information Measures	To approve CRSTS funding to enable the ongoing development	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 30 Sep 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Sean Dyball Sean.dyball@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	of the Integrated Ticketing and Information Measures programme.						
Rochdale Littleborough Streets for All	To approve CRSTS funding to enable the development of the Rochdale Littleborough Streets for All scheme to be progressed.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 30 Sep 2023	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Paul Moore paul.moore@rochdale.gov.uk
GM VCSE Fair Funding Protocol with GMCA	Enter into a Fair Funding Protocol agreement with the GM VCSE Leadership Group	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Jun 2023 and 31 Jul 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Arooj Shah		Anne Lythgoe anne.lythgoe@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Integrated Water Management	To agree: The Integrated Water	Greater Manchester Combined	30 Jun 2023	Report with recommendations			Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcinto

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Plan (IWMP)	Management Plan (IWMP) for Greater Manchester and its recommendations.	Authority					sh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
GM Brownfield Programme Devolution Deal)- Year 1 Methodology and Allocations	To agree the methodology for prioritising schemes and the award of grant.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	30 Jun 2023	GM Brownfield Fund- Year 1 Methodology and Spend Allocation Report to the GMCA	Councillor Ged Cooney		Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcintosh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Local Area Energy Plan Strategic Outline Business Case Next steps and supporting funding bid to IUK Net Zero Pathfinder Cities	The approval to proceed to Outline Business Case stage, working with the districts to agree asset classes.  Approval to spend	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	30 Jun 2023	Local Area Energy Plan Strategic Outline Business Case Update Paper to GMCA	Councillor Tom Ross		Sean Owen  <a href="mailto:Sean.owen@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk">Sean.owen@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk</a>

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 35</p>	<p>previously agreed retention of business rate funding to support the outline development.</p> <p>Approval to bid and if awarded receive funding on behalf of the region from IUK Net Zero Pioneer places via delegated approvals to the treasurer and city solicitor.</p>						
<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Supporting Local Business Proposal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to the recommendation of the UKSPF</li> </ul>	<p>Greater Manchester Combined Authority</p>	<p>Between 30 Jun 2023 and 30 Sep 2023</p>	<p>Report with recommendations</p>	<p>Councillor David Molyneux</p>		<p>John Wrathmell john.wrathmell@greatermancaster-ca.gov.uk</p>

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 36	Local Partnership Board, to agree the investment approach and route to market for the E19 Local Business Support priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support innovation growth						



Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 37</p>	<p>across GMT to grant delegated authority for contract award to the GMCA Treasurer in consultation with the Resources and Investment Portfolio Leader and Lead Chief Executive for Econom</p>						

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	y, Business and International.						
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Supporting Local Business Page 38	Subject to the recommendation of the UKSPF Local Partnership Board, to approve the project proposal for a programme of local activity supporting entrepreneurs and business start-ups across GM.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 30 Jun 2023 and 31 Jul 2023	Report with recommendations	Councillor Bev Craig		John Wrathmell john.wrathmell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Approval of the revised revenue and capital budget for 2023/24	Approval for revisions to the GMCA Revenue and Capital Budget 2023/24 as	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	28 Jul 2023	Report	Councillor David Molyneux		Rachel Rosewell <a href="mailto:Rachel.rosewell@greatermanchester">Rachel.rosewell@greatermanchester</a>

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	part of the quarterly financial update reports						<a href="http://ca.gov.uk">ca.gov.uk</a>

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## GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 7 June 2023

**Subject:** THE GREATER MANCHESTER FRANCHISING SCHEME FOR  
BUSES 2021 – PROCUREMENT UPDATE

**Report of:** Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, GMCA and TfGM

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide an update and make a number of recommendations in relation to the procurement process for the Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021 (the Scheme), in particular to note and agree the outcome of the process to procure service providers to operate the three Large Local Service Contracts in Sub-Area B of the Scheme. Three further reports on the outcome of the evaluation of tenders in relation to these Large Local Service Contracts have been submitted in Part B of the agenda.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note and agree the outcome of the process to procure a preferred service provider to operate the Middleton, Oldham and Queens Road Large Local Service Contracts in Sub-Area B of the Scheme;
2. Note the proposed key contractual arrangements of the Middleton, Oldham and Queens Road Large Local Service Contracts.

4. Agree that in relation to Sub Areas A, B and C of the Scheme TfGM will manage the implementation and operation of the Scheme and the Local Service Contracts awarded in relation to Sub-Areas A, B and C following their award on behalf of the GMCA subject to the following conditions:

a) TfGM will manage the implementation and operation of the Scheme and the above contracts in accordance with the provisions of an agreed Protocol with the GMCA.

b) That authority to agree the final terms of the above Protocol and any other associated necessary legal agreements on behalf of the GMCA be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.

c) That authority to complete and execute the Protocol and any other necessary legal agreements be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.

(If agreed, this delegation will supersede the delegation set out at no. 4 in the recommendations in the report titled *Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses: Procurement* dated 25 November 2022, made by the GMCA at its meeting on 25 November 2022).<sup>1</sup>

## **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM:

[eamonn.boylan@greatermanchester.ca.gov.uk](mailto:eamonn.boylan@greatermanchester.ca.gov.uk)

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[steve.wilson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:steve.wilson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Gillian Duckworth, GMCA Monitoring Officer and Solicitor:

[gillian.duckworth@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.duckworth@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Steve Warrener, Managing Director and Finance and Corporate Services Director:

[steve.warrener@tfgm.com](mailto:steve.warrener@tfgm.com)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s23704/08.%20Franchise%20Procurement%20Tranche%201%20Bolton%20Part%20A%20FINAL.pdf>

### **Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment:**

This decision is the implementation of the Franchising Scheme that was approved in March 2021, therefore the assessment which was undertaken at that time remains relevant to this decision.

### **Risk Management:**

Risks associated are being captured and managed as part of the overall Bus Franchising programme.

### **Legal Considerations:**

Legal considerations are set out in the report.

### **Financial Revenue Consequences:**

The financial consequences relating to this report are included in the background papers set out below

### **Financial Capital Consequences:**

The financial consequences relating to this report are included in the background papers set out below

### **Number of attachments:**

Appendices

Appendix 1: The Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021 Bus reform decision March 2021 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
([greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](http://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk))

## **Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee:**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets on 7 June 2023 and comments will be reported to the GMCA on 9 June 2023.

## **Background Papers:**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report.

Report to GMCA dated 28 May 2021.

Report to GMCA titled Bus Reform: Consultation and the GMCA Response dated 23 March 2021

Decision of the Mayor 25th March 2021

Report to GMCA titled Budget Paper C - GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2021/22 dated 12 February 2021

## **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

To be considered on 7 June 2023.

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

### 1. INTRODUCTION

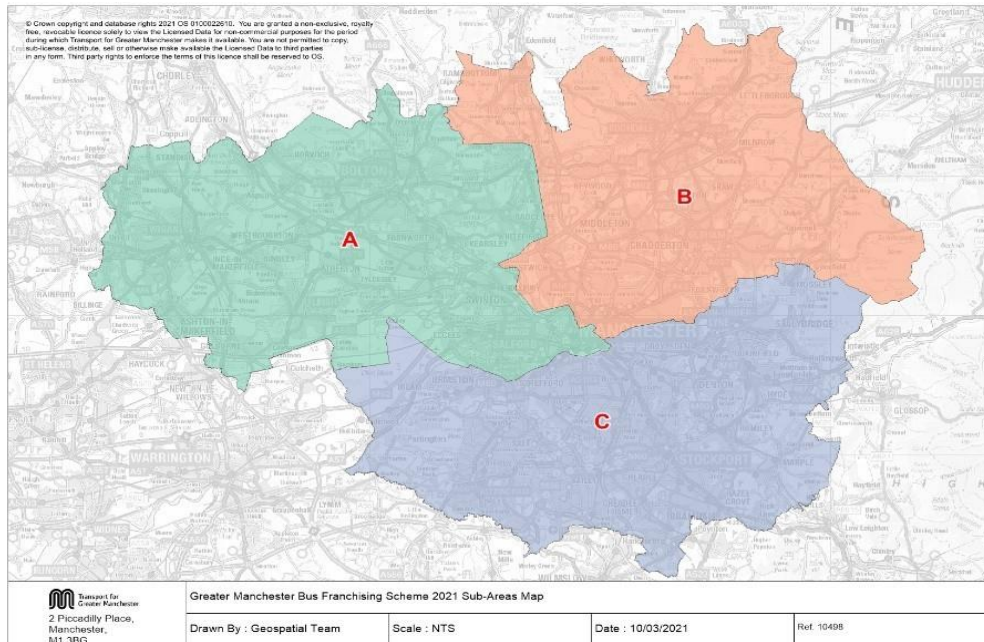
- 1.1 As members are aware, the GMCA considered the TfGM report titled ‘Bus Franchising in Greater Manchester March 2021: Consultation Report’ at its meeting on 23 March 2021 and recommended to the Mayor that he make a franchising scheme as more particularly set out in Appendix 5 to that report.
- 1.2 On 25 March 2021, the Mayor made the decision to make the franchising scheme. Subsequently the Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021 (“the Scheme”) was made on 30 March 2021 which was published in a Notice on the same date. At the same time 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.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the GMCA agreed to:
  - a) commence the procurement process for the Local Service Contracts required for the implementation and operation of Tranche 2 (and Tranche 3) of the Scheme. Tranche 2 includes the Middleton, Oldham and Queens Road Large Local Service Contracts.
  - b) delegate to TfGM the authority to undertake and manage the procurement process on its behalf with a requirement that TfGM

recommend to GMCA the preferred bidder in relation to each Local Service Contract; the decision to award the Large Local Service Contracts is to be taken by the GMCA.

- 1.4 The procurement process has been undertaken by a project team which includes TfGM internal specialists, and external legal, commercial and financial advisers. This report updates the GMCA on the current position in relation to the procurement process for the Scheme (in particular the Middleton, Oldham and Queens Road Large Local Service Contracts) and makes a series of recommendations. Three further reports on the outcome of the evaluation of tenders in relation to these Large Local Service Contracts have been submitted in Part B of the agenda.

## **2. PROCUREMENT APPROACH- SUMMARY**

- 2.1 As members are aware, the Franchising Scheme applies to the entire Greater Manchester area, which has, in turn, been divided into three franchising scheme 'sub-areas' (namely Franchising Scheme Sub-Areas A, B & C) to allow the transition from the existing deregulated market to a franchised model to take place over a period of time.
- 2.2 Tranche 1 (Sub-Area A) will principally cover the north-west of Greater Manchester (operational start date of 24 September 2023),
- 2.3 Tranche 2 (Sub-Area B) will principally cover the north-east of Greater Manchester (operational start date of 24 March 2024), and
- 2.4 Tranche 3 (Sub-Area C) will principally cover the south of Greater Manchester (operational start date of 5 January 2025).
- 2.5 The extent of each sub-area is set out in the map below.



2.6 The Middleton Large Local Service Contract largely covers the services that run within or into/out of Middleton including the main services operating into Central Manchester. The Oldham Large Local Service Contract largely covers the services that make up the local Oldham network as well as key services linking Oldham with Manchester and Ashton/Rochdale. The Queens Road Large Local Service Contract covers a selection of services covering areas of North Manchester, Salford, Bury as well as the FreeBus services. The duration of the Franchise Agreement for each contract will be 5 years from the Commencement Date (namely 24 March 2024), plus two optional extensions, each of 1 year (i.e., 5+1+1) to 23 March 2031.

2.7 Under franchising all local bus services provided within Greater Manchester (subject to certain exceptions including interim services, services provided under a permit and services which are excepted from regulation) will be provided under a Local Service Contract. There are three categories of Local Service Contract – large, small and those relating to school services.

2.8 Local Service Contracts will be awarded through competitive procurement processes under which operators tender for the exclusive right to provide certain local services. The operators will have to provide those local services on the terms specified in the relevant contract, including those relating to frequency and standards. The services to be franchised are listed in the Scheme (Appendix 1 to this report).

- 2.9 The proposed packaging strategy for the Franchising Scheme is comprised of 10 large Local Service Contracts (a general principle of one large franchise per strategic depot has been adopted) and up to 16 small Local Service Contracts across the whole Scheme.
- 2.10 The 10 large Local Service Contracts will be let in three 'tranches' Tranche 1 relates to the Local Service Contracts which relate to Sub-Area A, Tranche 2 to Sub-Area B and Tranche 3 to Sub-Area C. The procurement exercise is being run for each tranche broadly sequentially albeit with some overlap. Once the Scheme has become operational across all areas franchising arrangements will apply across the whole of Greater Manchester.

### **3. Procurement of Local Service Contracts**

- 3.1 Procurement of the bus franchising operations has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 (UCR 2016). The negotiated procedure was adopted for Tranche 2 because of the additional flexibility it provides. As members will recall from the Commercial Case set out in the Assessment, the negotiated procedure enables contracting authorities to enter into negotiations with a group of pre-qualified bidders by way of an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) notably in areas such as the terms and conditions of any franchise agreement. The negotiated procedure provides greater flexibility than the restricted procedure but provides less scope for negotiating with the preferred bidder than competitive dialogue. The negotiated procedure will also be adopted for Tranche 3.

#### **Qualification system**

- 3.2 As set out in the Assessment, a qualification system has been used for the procurement of all Local Service Contracts under the Scheme. This means that Bidders are only required to complete the qualification process once and therefore represents a much more efficient system than a typical pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) approach as there is no need for repeated issue and evaluation.
- 3.3 On 5 August 2021 TfGM published a Periodic Indicative Notice (PIN) on behalf of GMCA on Find a Tender (FTS) outlining that it would be introducing a qualification system for the provision of franchised bus services. TfGM, on

behalf of GMCA, published a Qualifications System Notice (QSN) via Find a Tender on 6 August 2021.

- 3.4 Acceptance onto the qualification system resulted in an operator becoming a Passport Holder.

### **Expressions of Interest**

- 3.5 On 24 August 2022 TfGM, on behalf of GMCA, sent a Franchise Expression of Interest (Eoi) for each of the Large Local Service Contracts contained within Sub-Area B to all Passport Holders asking whether they wished to express an interest in one or more franchises contained within Sub-Area B.
- 3.6 The Eoi tests economic and financial standing, the purpose being to ensure that operators are of sufficient size and financial robustness relative to each franchise opportunity. Passport Holders were also provided with the remaining procurement documents, including the draft Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) and franchising agreement, as required by the UCR 2016.
- 3.7 All potential bidders who successfully satisfied the requirements of the Qualification System (Passport Holders) were also required, as part of the Eoi stage to confirm agreement to the terms and conditions set out in the Bus Services Framework Agreement (“BSFA”) as a further condition of being considered for any franchise.
- 3.8 Passport Holders who received the Eoi had until 24 October 2022 to express their interest in one or more Local Service Contracts contained within Sub-Area B and answer the selection questions contained within the Eoi.
- 3.9 All Passport Holders who had expressed their interest in one or more of the Middleton, Oldham and Queens Road Large Local Service Contracts and whose selection question responses met the minimum thresholds in the Eoi, were issued with an ITN Initial Phase document for the relevant Large Franchise(s). Passport Holders who were being taken through to the ITN Phase were notified on 4 November 2022. These Passport Holders were now considered to be Bidders in respect of the Sub-Area B Large Local Service Contract(s) in which they had expressed an interest.

### **Invitation to Negotiate**

- 3.10 The ITN phase of the procurement process commenced on 8 November 2022. For the Sub-Area B Large Local Service Contracts there was a two-stage ITN process.
- 3.11 The ITN Initial Phase required bidders to submit short proposals in response to a small number of franchise specific issues or requirements. These proposals were reviewed to provide bidders feedback to be used in the ITN Final Phase and bid submission. However, there was no shortlisting of bidders at this stage.
- 3.12 The final version of the Franchise Agreements and ITN were issued on 20 February 2023, as was the call for final tenders. There followed a period of time for qualification questions and ITN responses had to be submitted by 31 March 2023.

### **Evaluation, preferred bidder and contract close**

- 3.14 Bidders submitted their bids by the deadline of 31 March as required by the ITN. Following completion of initial compliance checks, the bids were passed to TfGM's and GMCA's evaluation teams for their consideration. The outcome of the evaluation process is described in the accompanying reports in Part B of the agenda along with a series of recommendations.

### **Procurement of Sub-Area C and Management of Sub-Area A, B and C contracts**

- 3.15 In respect of Sub-Area C, the EOIs were issued to Passport holders on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with EOI responses due to be submitted on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023, ITNs are due to be issued on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and bid submissions are due back on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Contracts are due to be awarded on 22 March 2024 with operations starting on 5 January 2025.
- 3.16 TfGM is establishing a function to manage the implementation and operation of the Scheme and Local Service Contracts on behalf of the GMCA in line with the principles set out in the Commercial and Management cases of the Assessment and subsequent implementation work. A delegation is therefore

sought which will authorise TfGM to perform this role on behalf of the GMCA, in accordance with the provisions of an agreed Protocol with the GMCA. <sup>2</sup>

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The recommendations are set out at the beginning of the report.

Eamonn Boylan

**Chief Executive Officer, TfGM and GMCA**

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<sup>2</sup> If made, this delegation will supersede the delegation set out at no. 4 in the recommendations in the report titled Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses: Procurement dated 25 November 2022, which was agreed by the GMCA at its meeting on 25 November 2022.

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