

GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, 7th February, 2024

TIME: 1.00 pm

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

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and apologies**
2. **Chairs announcements**
3. **Declarations of interest** 1 - 4

To receive declarations of interest in any item for discussion at the meeting. A blank form for declaring interests has been circulated with the agenda; please ensure that this is returned to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held 24 January 2024** 5 - 14

To consider the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

Please note that this meeting will be livestreamed via 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.

- 5. School Readiness Update** 15 - 28
Report of Councillor Mark Hunter, GM Portfolio Lead for Children and Young People.
- 6. GM Budgets - to follow**
Report of Councillor David Molyneux, GM Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment.
- A. GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2024/5 Overview
 - B. Mayoral General Budget & Precept Proposals 2024/25
 - C. GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2024/25
 - D. GMCA Revenue General Budget 2024/25
 - E. GM Waste Budget and Resources - Budget and Levy 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Plan to 2023/24 - 2026/26
 - F. GMCA Capital Programme -2023/24 - 2026/7
- 7. Work Programme and Forward Plan of Key Decisions** 29 - 74

For copies of papers and further information on this meeting please refer to the website www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Alternatively, contact the following Governance & Scrutiny Officer: Helen Davies, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer
✉ helen.davies@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on Tuesday, 30 January 2024
on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority,
Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU

Declaration of Councillors' Interests in Items Appearing on the Agenda

Name and Date of Committee.....>

Agenda Item Number	Type of Interest - PERSONAL AND NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest	NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest Type of Interest – PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest	Type of Interest – DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST Reason for declaration of interest

Please see overleaf for a quick guide to declaring interests at GMCA meetings.

Quick Guide to Declaring Interests at GMCA Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

Failure to disclose this information is a criminal offence

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

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

Step Two: Determining if your interest is prejudicial

A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest:

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

For a non-prejudicial interest, you must:

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

To note:

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

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

For prejudicial interests, you must:

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

You must not:

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

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Agenda Item 4

Minutes of the meeting of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

held on Wednesday 24 January 2024

at the Tootal Buildings, Broadhurst House, 1st floor,

56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

Present:

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council (Chair)
Councillor Russell Bernstein	Bury Council
Councillor Imran Rizvi	Bury Council
Councillor Basil Curley	Manchester City Council
Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin	Manchester City Council
Councillor Jenny Harrison	Oldham Council
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham Council
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale Council
Councillor Patricia Dale	Rochdale Council
Councillor Lewis Nelson	Salford City Council
Councillor Helen Hibbert	Stockport Council
Councillor Jill Axford	Trafford Council
Councillor Shaun Ennis	Trafford Council
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council
Councillor Fred Walker	Wigan Council
Councillor Maria Brabiner	Salford Council
Councillor Mary Whitby	Bury Council

Also in attendance:

Andy Burnham	GM Mayor
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Officers in attendance:

Eamonn Boylan	GMCA
Nicola Ward	GMCA
Helen Davies	GMCA
Steve Wilson	GMCA
Peter Boulton	Transport for Greater Manchester
Julie Reide	Transport for Greater Manchester
Superintendent Gareth Parkin	Greater Manchester Police

O&SC 65/23 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joshua Brooks (Salford), Councillor Naila Sharif (Tameside), Councillor Peter Wright (Bolton) and Councillor John Leech (Manchester).

O&SC 66/23 Chair's Announcements and Urgent Business

The Chair announced the additional GMCA Overview and Scrutiny meeting in February and requested that any apologies for absence should be registered as soon as possible.

O&SC 67/23 Declarations of Interest

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

**O&SC 68/23 Minutes of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
held on 13 December 2024**

Resolved/-

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 December 2024 be approved as a correct and accurate record.

O&SC 69/23 Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals

The Chair invited the Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, to present the Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals to the Committee. Context was given on finances and the Committee was advised that the budget had been difficult to calculate given that finances for Local Government were in a poor position with council tax being used to fund more than ever. The discipline had been to minimise this extra burden where possible.

The Committee noted that Greater Manchester Police (GMP) was on a significant pathway to improvement ahead of any other force in the country; an example of this was the speed of answer for 999 and 111 calls by the GM public which were now under 1 minute. However, GMP acknowledged there were still achievements to be made and the force had not yet fully recovered the cuts to staffing levels over the last decade. Further challenge had arisen with the publication of the police settlement 2023/24 in mid-December 2023, which had been significantly below inflation and created a "black hole" in the GMP finances, that the proposed precept would not cover. However, it was

anticipated that the £13 increase, in-line with the majority of police forces across England and Wales, would enable GMP remain stable and not disrupt the progress being made.

The Mayoral Precept was proposed to increase by £5 for a Band D property in GM, the rationale for this was due to the number of people in fuel poverty, particularly in GM were facing hardships with difficult winter periods, it was anticipated the increase would minimise the required increase. The mayoral general function element of this precept had been frozen with no proposed increase, this element partially funded schemes including Our Pass and Bus Reform.

The Committee was advised that the Bee Network had been fully operational in the north of the borough for 2-months. Prior to going live with the Bee Network, limited bus performance data was shared with GMCA due to commercial reasons and so the budget had been forecast based on a set of assumptions. Despite some initial teething issues, current data showed that the Bee Network was a better offer for GM residents than the bus network it replaced. Tranche One data had returned 15% increase in revenue of the farebox, and if the data was replicated in the north of GM, this could be a strong financial outlet. The Mayor of Greater Manchester confirmed the £2 fare cap would be retained.

There were proposed increases to the Mayoral Precept in relation to the GM Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS). The Kerslake Review, following the events at the Manchester Arena in 2017, had uncovered many issues at GMFRS including the financial position of the organisation, at that time it was suggested that the fleet held 50 pumps. The Fire Review conducted last year recognised the growth and change of Manchester City Centre, and that 52 pumps should be the baseline which has created a stronger position for GMFRS. An Inspectorate report was due in February 2024 and it was expected to recognise the progress made post-2017.

The Committee was invited to seek clarification or questions in relation to the proposed budget:

- It was clarified that crewing GMFRS in Manchester City Centre had been identified as a significant issue, this was revenue funding and could not be found via Section 106 or CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding which would only cover capital expenditure.

- The data that related to the 15% increase in the farebox would be monitored as income across the Bee Network. The expectation was the more data captured across the network would help shape to better inform the 2024/25 budget. The GM Mayor informed the Committee that from 25 January there would be weekly performance data published to increase the accountability of the Bee Network.
- The £5.4million current budget requirement for homelessness across GM was met from a number of funding sources including: NHS, Mayors Charity, Ministry of Justice, Rough Sleepers Initiative, with £500k being met via government initiatives. A Bed Every Night provided beds for 600 people per night, however challenges in Home Office policies meant the eviction of people at short notice (with no transitional support in place). Additionally, there was evidence of mini-buses bringing in additional homeless people from outside GM to Manchester and Salford over Christmas, A Bed Every Night had to be expanded as the system was in an unmanageable position, further exasperated by the ceasing of any Government funding to support asylum seekers.
- The government funded, new model of neighbourhood policing was announced in 2023, as part of this there was a commitment to named officers in every ward, the programme of change was being finalised as part of a process change at GMP and had included Superintendents moving into districts.
- The Committee agreed that whilst it was not a statutory duty, the burden of flood and water management was a large part of the remit for GMFRS and this risk would increase in the future. The Mayor of Greater Manchester noted that the level of transparency for GMFRS was at the highest level for a decade.
- There were several positive outcomes from the bus reform: financial reserves could be used this year to fund the Bee Network, the 15% increase on the farebox gave confidence in the system, despite some scars, the covid effects had gone and patronage on the network had increased. Whilst complaints of those appealing fines had increased the likelihood was due to more enforcement and fines being awarded. The Committee requested that TfGM work towards a fair culture of enforcement, not presenting as hostile or military.
- The Bee Network was largely inherited with some required enhancements for Tranche One such as the bus washing facilities at the bus depot in Bolton that were in a bad state of repair. The Bee Network phone app was being reviewed as

the current tracking was not performing as well as the previous app, a solution was expected in early/mid-March before Tranche Two went live.

- The Committee recognised that the Our Pass initiative was an important solution to support GM ambition for a technical education for young people seeking an equal alternative to a university education.
- Councillor Maria Brabiner noted the work being pioneered in Salford for homelessness being featured on the local news and thanked the Mayor of Greater Manchester for his continued support in this area.
- The Committee agreed that policies by the Home Office to evict people in 7-days with no transitional support did not lead to any form of sustainable housing especially when considering 6.5k children were in this position. This was damaging and disruptive for education, mental and health impacts, the change back to 28-days was welcomed.
- The GMFRS services grant was below inflation, which had resulted in further challenge to the budget that had been met through the use of reserves. The GM Treasurer noted the loss of the services grant equated to an 80% cut from the Local Government Settlement (£1.1million) and would advocate for a reinstatement of the services grant.
- The Committee noted the fire services estate needed significant attention including security. GMCA contributed to the North-West control costs but had challenged for a fairer deal by spreading the cost more equitably with partners.
- The GMP grant had been continually funded below inflation, the Mayor for Greater Manchester noted a cross-party agreement should be drafted in order to avoid uncertain cuts and funding decisions. The proposed precept increase for 2024/25 of £13 would not cover the “black hole” in the GMP budget that was approximately in excess of £40million. The GM Treasurer noted the £40million gap on a budget of £800million equated to a reduction on the precept of £20million and would be more efficient; a full paper was being prepared for the Police, Fire and Crime Panel for consideration next week and outlined the full scope of savings.
- The unique model of town centre regeneration in Stockport by the Mayoral Development Corporation (MDC) that included improvements for the Bee Network, and the interchange due for completion in February 2024 was noted. The Mayor for Greater Manchester commented that the model pioneered would be available for other areas across GM such as Farnworth, and could include the

release of Brownfield land. An example of this was the GMP site on Chester Road where Truly Affordable Net Zero (TANZ) homes were included as part of the scheme.

Resolved/-

1. That the recommendations be commended to be considered by the GMCA at its meeting on the 26 January 2024.
2. That the Committee would welcome the opportunity to get a true picture of the financial landscape of the Bee Network once all tranches have been implemented and the farebox has stabilised.
3. That concerns regarding access to ABEN be picked up directly with Cllr Ennis.
4. That confirmation would be provided to Cllr Ennis as to when his ward would be given a named GMP officer.
5. That members of the Committee would receive a copy of the recent Fire Cover Review for more detail on its contents.
6. That further information on the recent cuts to policing budgets also be shared with the Committee.

O&SC 70/23 Greater Manchester Vision Zero Strategy

The Chair invited the Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, to present the Greater Manchester Vision Zero Strategy to the Committee. The Committee was given context that the roads across GM were not as safe as they should be with 64 fatalities per month, many being motorists, and 852 fatalities or seriously injured per year. The aim for GM was to ensure that road use is safer for everyone, whether those cycling, walking or using a car. During school half-term the perception by the public was a significant traffic reduction on the roads, however data showed this was just 7% which makes the ambition for a different mix of journeys e.g. less journeys of less than 1km and 50% of journeys being carried out using public transport seem attainable.

Peter Boulton, Head of Highways, TfGM advised the Committee that the Strategy had been written in partnership with the National Highways, Health Sector, Business, GMCA, TfGM and the District Local Authorities. The next steps were for consultation and an Action Plan in consultation with the public. The final strategy and action plan would be presented to GMCA in November 2024.

The Committee was advised that a societal drive for change was needed in respect of road safety, and instances of fatalities needed to be challenged and not accepted. Superintendent Gareth Parkin advised the Committee that GMP worked closely with TfGM and had achieved a reduction in road traffic fatalities across GM of 31% in 2023 compared with 2022. This figure bucked the national trend, yet it never made front page news despite being significantly higher than knife crime.

The Committee was invited to seek clarification or questions in relation to GM Vision Zero Strategy:

- The Committee acknowledged that congestion was a growing risk particularly in relation to safety around schools. School Street Schemes were successful and appreciated by schools, children and parents creating a positive orderly atmosphere and safe spaces around schools, the issue with creating more schemes was funding, enforcement and management. Some councils were exploring options for decriminalising traffic offences, or camera enforcement as an income stream to deliver safe streets. It was acknowledged that funding for schemes linked to traffic regulations would need to be explored. The Mayor for Greater Manchester expressed his ambition to incorporate School Streets as a GM policy in a targeted manner, he committed to raising this with TfGM and GMP to explore further.
- Councillors gave anecdotal experience of dealing with drivers exhibiting anti-social behaviour using the roads on the outskirts of GM towards the rural counties as a racetrack. Superintendent Gareth Parkin expressed the notion that every serious injury or fatality was preventable. Deterrent measures such as speed enforcement cameras across GM, uplift to Road Policing Teams to enable more prosecutions, the seizure of 10k vehicles driving criminally or illegally and targeted operations to specific issues such as Car Cruises have resulted in criminals choosing to move activity into other counties as there is now more threat of enforcement within GM.
- The data contained within the report referenced the number of fatalities in each authority, it was noted that some authorities were much larger than others and have different characteristics so therefore should not be compared. Additionally, statistics that demonstrated more men were injured on a bicycle than women could be down to the number of male cyclists being significantly more than

women. This should be considered when presenting the data within the report. Members expressed an interest in further analysis of the data to determine why the fatalities happened and if it was due to criminal driving.

- The Mayor of Greater Manchester expressed concern at the standard position of the Department for Transport that Local Authorities are to determine need for road calming measures based on number of casualties and that strategies should be prevention driven. The Chair of the Bee Network Committee had resolved to write to the Department for Transport to review the criteria for the implementation of road traffic measures and meet with GMP regarding the use of local information to inform interventions.
- Whilst the 20MPH initiative was reported as a positive measure in the London Boroughs, Members had anecdotal experience that GMP would find it difficult to enforce speeding within a 20MPH zone and if this was the general perception it would therefore not be a successful measure to enhance safety.
- The Committee expressed concern about the use of residential streets to create 'rat-runs' for drivers, the combination of side streets and pedestrian corridors carried a significant risk during key times of the day. Community enforcement was suggested a potential mitigation measure.
- The Head of Highways, TfGM noted that anti-engineering models could be explored e.g. anti-skid to mitigate sharp bends.
- The Mayor of Greater Manchester advised the Committee that complaints were often raised with regards to food delivery riders, often bicycles had been enhanced to reach speeds in excess of 15MPH and GMP had seized a number of these. Discussions were ongoing to implement a code of practice for delivery drivers similar to London.

Resolved/-

1. That the draft Vision Zero Strategy be supported, commending it for approval by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
2. That the draft Vision Zero Strategy and the commencement of a period of engagement with stakeholders and the public be endorsed.
3. That it be noted that a supporting Action Plan be developed following a period of stakeholder and public engagement on the strategy.

4. That the challenge to the Department of Transport regarding the use of road deaths as criteria for the provision of road safety be supported.
5. That each Local Authority should consider specific traffic calming measures on an individual community basis and consideration should also be given to engineering elements such as anti-skid road surfaces in particular hotspots.
6. That data should be normalised when used to compare GM Local Authorities or different road users as populations and characteristics are vastly different.

O&SC 71/23 Work Programme

The Chair noted the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group exploring the subject of Affordable Housing across GM had been meeting regularly and an update was expected back to this Committee in due course.

Resolved /-

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny work programme be noted; and
2. That members contact the Governance & Scrutiny Team directly if they had suggestions for topics on future briefing sessions.

O&SC 72/23 Dates of Future Meetings

The schedule for the future meetings was noted:

7 February 2024	1-3pm
21 February 2024	1-3pm
20 March 2024	1-3pm

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GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7th February 2024

Subject: School Readiness Update

Report of: Councillor Mark Hunter Portfolio Lead for Children and Young People and
Caroline Simpson Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Children and Young
People.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update on the Greater Manchester School Readiness programme, including an update on early years performance in Greater Manchester and the trajectory for early years outcomes since the covid pandemic in 2020.
- Discuss the potential impact of the national policy reforms to funded early education entitlements, in relation to early year outcomes.
- Outline work within the programme focused on addressing the ongoing inequalities gap in the early years.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked:

1. To note the contents of the report and identify any areas for further scrutiny;
2. Give consideration to how it can inform the refresh of the GM School Readiness Strategy.

Contact Officers

- Jane Forrest, Director, Public Service Reform, GMCA
jane.forrest@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
- Miriam Loxham, Programme Manager – School Readiness, Public Service Reform
GMCA miriam.loxham@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Report authors must identify which paragraph relating to the following issues:

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

The latest performance data for child development and school readiness, discussed in section 2 of this paper, highlights the ongoing impact of the covid pandemic on early years and continues to highlight how children growing up experiencing poverty and disadvantage have been disproportionately impacted. Section 3 of the paper also discusses the potential impact of the national policy reforms for funded early education entitlements, which risk widening the inequalities attainment gap at age 5. The report outlines the work underway within the GMCA School Readiness programme to respond to both these challenges.

Risk Management

N/A

Legal Considerations

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Resourcing of the current programme is discussed in section 1.2. Funding is non recurrent and due to end in March 2025.

3.3.Financial Consequences – Capital

N/A

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Background Papers

- School Readiness Update Report to Corporate Issues & Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 8 March 2022
- Greater Manchester Strategy Progress Report to the GMCA – Autumn 2023

Tracking/ Process

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

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? No

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1. Improving school readiness at age 5, continues to be a priority for Greater Manchester and is a key priority within the GM Children and Young People's programme and a shared, system priority within the Integrated Care Partnership strategy. Since 2019, GMCA has led delivery of the GM School Readiness transformation programme as a key policy priority within the Public Service Reform agenda.
- 1.2. The current programme of work was mobilised in 2019 and funded through an initial investment of £2.1m from the GM Health and Social Care Partnership, with an additional £1m funding provided in 2021/22 to support covid recovery priorities.
- 1.3. Oversight and accountability for the programme is provided through the GM School Readiness Programme Board, Chaired by Chris McLoughlin from Stockport Council, on behalf of the GM Directors' of Children's Social Care. The Board includes Early Years Strategic Leads from all 10 localities, representation from NHS GM Integrated Care, the education sector and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. The programme board reports into the GM Children and Young People's Board.
- 1.4. The programme has focussed on closing the gap with national performance rates for school readiness, through strong system integration, early identification of family need by universal services and delivery of evidence-based interventions. The programme is structured around delivery of activity within three priority strands, identified below.
 - 1.4.1. **Developing an evidence-based model.** Further development and implementation of an evidence-based model for improving early years outcomes, with a focus on rollout of a universal 18month assessment; high quality research and innovation partnerships; strengthening integrated working in the first 1,001 critical days.

1.4.2. Embedding best practice pathways. The GM Early Years Delivery Model (EYDM) includes several evidence-based pathways focused on universal and targeted provision that supports early intervention. The current programme of work focuses on developing and strengthening new and existing pathways that support speech and language; physical development and social-emotional development and wellbeing. Since 2020, this has included ensuring pathways are responsive to the impact of the covid pandemic on child development.

1.4.3. Developing system enablers. Activity within this priority focuses on developing integrated digital solutions to strengthen data sharing and insights; high quality, accessible early education provision that supports covid recovery, and strengthening our integrated early years workforce.

1.5. A deep dive review of the programme was completed in winter 2021/22 to support with refreshing priorities and ensuring the programme remained responsive to the impact of the covid pandemic. Activities and deliverables continue to remain agile, to ensure added value to locality work and alignment to the changing national policy context, particularly the modernisation of the Healthy Child Programme, the expansion of funded early education for under 2-year-olds of working parents and the introduction of Family Hub models to provide place-based family help and support from pregnancy to age 19.

2. School Readiness Performance

2.1. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, GM used the Good Level of Development (GLD) measure as the headline performance indicator for school readiness, in line with the approach taken by Ofsted and the Department for Education. This measure is based on an assessment of all children at the end of reception (5 years old), using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP), and is intended to provide a reliable, valid, and accurate assessment of a child's development at a point in time.

2.2. EYFSP assessments were cancelled during the pandemic, so there is no available data for academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21. During this period, the national and local context surrounding GLD also changed considerably due to the introduction of EYFS reforms in September 2021. As a result, GLD data from academic year 2021/22 onwards is not comparable with historic data – however it remains helpful for benchmarking GM performance relative to the national average.

2.3. In part due to these challenges, the current Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) performance framework moves away from the GLD measure and instead focuses on the expected level of development at age 2-2.5 years, measured at the universal child development review. This aims to provide a more meaningful 'leading indicator' of child development and reflects particular concern over the impact of the pandemic restrictions, and ongoing universal service disruption, on expectant and new parents and babies since 2020.

2.4. Prior to the start of the pandemic, school readiness for all pupils had been steadily improving in Greater Manchester. In the academic year 2018/19, 68.2 percent of children achieved GLD, compared with 71.8 percent nationally.

2.5. We were beginning to see the impact from our targeted focus on inequalities and had closed the GLD gap with the England average for children eligible for free school meals. This is despite having higher levels of deprivation than England as a whole. However, outcomes for this cohort remained 12 percentage points behind the GM average.

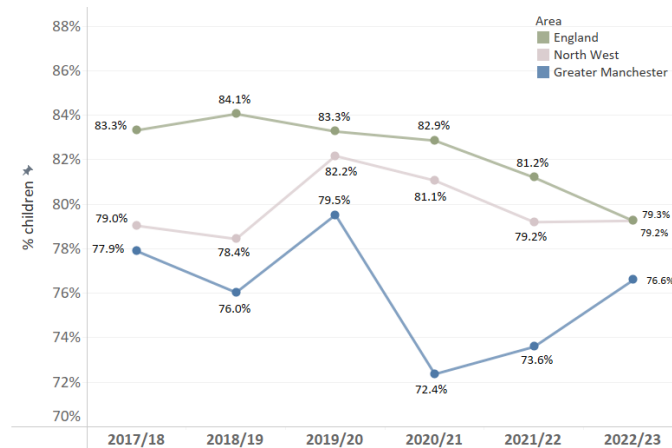
2.6. Data since 2020 highlights the profound impact of the pandemic and associated restrictions on the development of children under 5. However, we are beginning to see green shoots emerging, with early evidence that covid recovery strategies in GM are having a positive impact.

2.7. Child Development Outcomes at age 2-2.5 years

2.7.1. This measure is based on data collected by health visitors during the Healthy Child Programme 2-year review, or integrated review which uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) tool. This captures overall child development based on five areas: communication; gross motor skills; fine motor skills; problem solving; and personal-social development.

2.7.2. Chart 1 shows recent improvements to child development outcomes at age 2-2.5 years. Although GM remains below the England average, there is a positive trend since the initial decline in outcomes in 2020/21. Data for 2022/23 shows 76.6 percent of children in GM met the expected level of development across all 5 domains, compared with 79.3 percent nationally. This gap is the narrowest it has been since before the pandemic and the positive trajectory for children in GM contrasts with the England average which continues to decline.

Chart 1: Child development outcomes at age 2 - 2.5 years 2017 - 2023



2.7.3. The GMS target is to close the gap with the national average, so that 81 percent of 2-year-olds in GM are achieving the expected level of development by April 2024. If the current trend continues, GM is on track to achieve this target.

2.7.4. Despite the overall improvement, there is ongoing spatial variation in outcomes with performance ranging from 59.2 percent to 89.6 percent across the city region. Following the latest GMS update, a cross policy area review has taken place and identified opportunities to explore and strengthen existing approaches.

2.8. School Readiness Outcomes at age 5

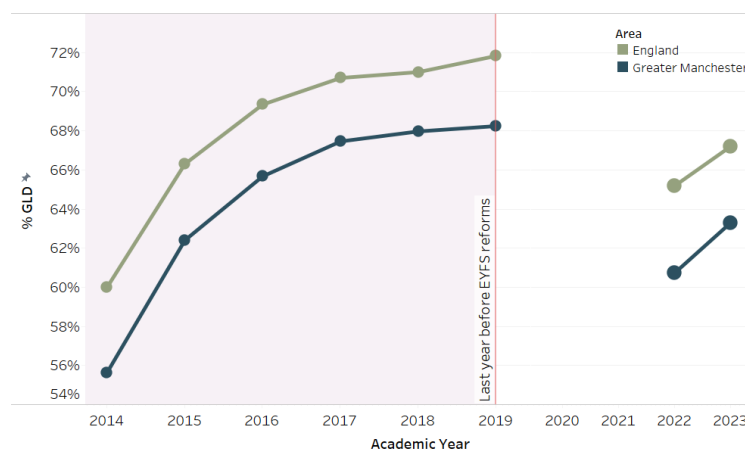
2.8.1. GLD data returned in academic year 2021/22 and provided an early opportunity to explore the impact of the pandemic and the closure of schools and early years settings on children’s attainment in GM.

2.8.2. Data for 2021/22 confirmed the impact of the pandemic on school readiness at age 5, with a widening of the attainment gap between children in GM and the England average. The data also highlight the disproportionate impact of the covid pandemic on children growing up in disadvantage in GM, with a widening of the attainment gap between children eligible for free school meals and their peers in GM and with the England average for this cohort.

2.8.3. The recently published data for the academic year 2022/23 provides the first comparison year since the reforms to the EYFSP. When reviewing early years data since 2020, it is important to recognise the specific and unique experiences of each cohort during 2020/21. Children included in the 2022/23 GLD data were born between September 2017, and August 2018. The oldest of them would, therefore, have been around 2.5 years old when Covid arrived, the youngest around 18 months old.

2.8.4. Data for 2022/23 shows outcomes are improving. 63.3 percent of children in GM achieved GLD, this is an increase from 60.7 percent from the previous year. GM performance remains 3.9 percentage points behind the England average (67.2 percent), however chart 2 shows that this gap is beginning to narrow following the initial widening post pandemic.

Chart 2: Percentage of children achieving GLD 2014 - 2023

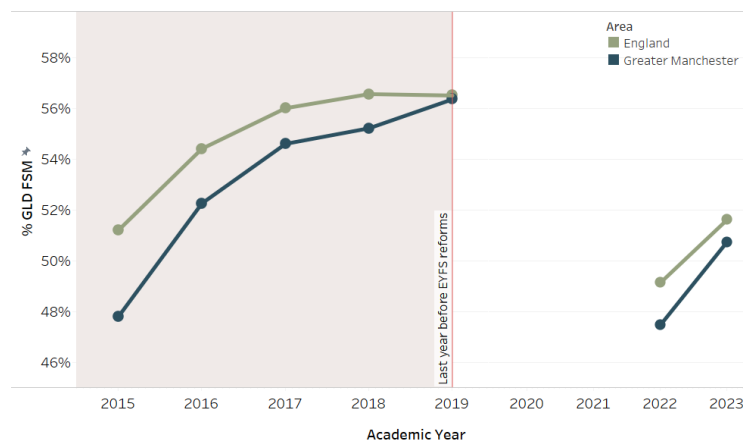


2.8.5. All localities have seen an increase in their GLD from 2021/22; with four areas seeing an increase above 3 percentage points; Manchester, Salford, Rochdale, and Oldham. However, all localities remain below their pre-pandemic performance and there is notable variance in performance across the city region with average GLD ranging from 58.5 percent to 72.1 percent.

2.8.6. For children growing up in more disadvantaged communities the data is also improving but there remains a significant inequalities gap in the early years; reflecting that where you are born in GM continues to impact on your life chances.

2.8.7. For 2022/23, 50.7 percent of children eligible for free school meals in GM achieved GLD, compared with the England average of 51.6 percent. Six localities have seen an increase in GLD for this cohort, a welcome trend given the overarching disadvantage attainment gap; and the gap between GM and the England average has narrowed. However, in seven localities less than half of this cohort are achieving GLD. There are opportunities to learn from the areas with greatest improvement for this cohort, notably Oldham, Manchester, Wigan and Rochdale where performance increase ranged from 8.9 to 3.5 percentage points.

Chart 4: Percentage of children eligible for free school meals achieving GLD 2014 – 2023



2.8.8. Applying a gender lens to the latest EYFSP data also highlights a persistent gender attainment gap, with 56.5 percent of boys in GM achieving GLD compared with 70.4 percent of girls. There has been some improvement in performance of boys in GM over the last 12 months, however, applying FSM eligibility identifies that this improvement reflects an uplift in the performance of boys in more affluent contexts. Therefore, the attainment gap between boys eligible for free school meals and their peers in GM has widened.

2.9. Take up of 2 year funded early education entitlement

2.9.1. In recognition of the significant inequalities gap in the early years, the GMS outcomes framework includes a performance measure focused on take up of the 2-year funded early education entitlement (FEEE). This measure is one of three pilot measures within the GMS focused on a neighbourhood spatial footprint and reflects a commitment to levelling up within GM where there is variance across and within localities.

- 2.9.2. All 10 GM localities have committed to focus on one prioritised neighbourhood where take up of the funded early education offer for two-year olds (if certain criteria are met) is low or resistant to change compared to other neighbourhoods in the locality. In order to promote a targeted understanding and response, the floor target ambition is that by April 2024, take up in each of these neighbourhoods will have improved, reducing the gap with the rest of the locality.
- 2.9.3. Overall performance on this indicator suggests that we are seeing positive trends against our floor target ambition. As of summer 2023, data shows sustained positive progress against the GMS floor target. Eight of the ten priority neighbourhoods have increased take up from the previous measurement point and all ten localities have increased take up rates in their prioritised neighbourhood compared to the baseline. This equates to approximately 879 more children taking up the offer across GM.
- 2.9.4. The latest official data from the Department for Education show that the GM take up rate in January 2023 was 77.2%, demonstrating a return to pre-pandemic levels (an improvement of 9.6 percentage points since January 2021). However, given that substantial variation remains across the city-region, locally sourced data remain an important tool in seeking a spatially differentiated response, as pursued under the floor target approach.

3. The role of early education in addressing inequalities in the early years

- 3.1. 27.2 percent of children aged 0-15 are living in low-income households in GM; these levels of deprivation will mean that closing the overall early years attainment gap requires a concerted focus on levelling up and improving outcomes for children, particularly boys, experiencing poverty and deprivation.¹
- 3.2. The inclusion of the 2-year FEEE indicator in the GMS outcomes framework reflects the importance of high-quality early education in improving the life chances of children growing up experiencing disadvantage. Work is ongoing to identify and share learning from the specific strategies and activities driving improved performance across GM; the termly bespoke GM reporting cycle provides a frequent, granular level of reporting that is underpinning a continuous review and learn cycle within the School Readiness programme, supported by locality Early Education leads.

- 3.3. However, the national policy focussed on the expansion of funded early education entitlements for 0–2-year-olds of working parents poses a challenge to addressing existing inequalities in the early years. The new entitlements will mean that children of working parents are eligible for 30 hours of funded early education from the term after the child reaches 9 months; for children where parents are not working this will only be 15 hours from the term after the child is 2.
- 3.4. This policy layers additional disadvantage on children who are most in need of support in their earliest years and is likely to lead to widening of the attainment gap in the early years. Research from the Sutton Trust has highlighted the negative impact on children growing up in disadvantage, of the extended entitlements for 3- and 4-year-olds, where children qualify for an additional 15 hours if both parents are working.²
- 3.5. The new policy also risks potential the unintended consequence that providers will prioritise places for children of working parents, at the expense of children eligible for the targeted 2-year-old entitlement due to family circumstances and income levels. Children of working parents are more likely to require additional hours (above the funded entitlement) and be in a position to pay subsistence costs.
- 3.6. The GM programme is responding to these challenges through lobbying for an expansion of eligibility to *all* children under 2; support for localities with workforce sufficiency, quality and building the case for a fair funding model to support progress on pay levels within sector.

4. School Readiness Programme Delivery Update

- 4.1. The focus on addressing inequalities in the early years is central to programme delivery plans and wider activity beyond early education. Key areas of progress and achievements realised between April 2022 and March 2024 include:

² The Sutton Trust, *A Fair Start? Equalising access to early education*, August 2021.

- 4.1.1. Rollout of the GM Early Years workforce competency framework to strengthen early years practice across the integrated workforce.** The framework aims to provide a common language to describe the workforce competencies that support child development and supports practitioners and localities with identifying areas for practice improvement. It also aims to ensure that pre and post qualifying training programmes support with readiness to practice. The framework is currently being rolled out in two early adopter localities: Stockport and Tameside. Learning from this phase will inform wider rollout.
- 4.1.2. Improved workforce training and support in delivery of interventions** that focus on speech, language and communication, physical development, and social and emotional development. This includes securing grant funding from the Education Endowment Foundation to develop a GM workforce training and support package for use of the WellComm early language intervention in early years settings.
- 4.1.3. Commissioning of universal and targeted programmes to support with prevention and early intervention in early years settings.** This includes rollout of the Think Equal programme, that supports pro-social behaviours and emotional wellbeing in the early years, across 960 reception classes and 600 nurseries in GM. Rollout has been jointly funded by £250,000 of investment from GMCA, GM NHS and the GM Violence Reduction Unit and directly responds to the impact of the covid pandemic on the social, emotional development and wellbeing of under 5s.
- 4.1.4. Development of universal child development resources aimed at parents and the integrated early years workforce.** This includes the GM 10 Top Tips for Talking/Moving and Thriving, digital films to model parent-child verbal interaction and access to quality assured universal and targeted advice via the Essential Parent eCare platform, now commissioned in nine localities.
- 4.1.5. Ongoing rollout of the GM Early Years integrated digital solution** to support the digitisation of child development assessments to enable improved collation and sharing of data across families and different professional groups. The digital solution now being used in four localities for ASQ3 assessments and two localities for WellComm assessments in early years settings.

4.2. The current period of funding for this phase of transformation activity is due to end in March 2025. Work has begun to engage stakeholders in development of a refreshed GM School Readiness strategy that focusses on addressing the ongoing challenges to improving outcomes and reflects and responds to the local and national policy context. Delivery priorities to March 2025 are set out below.

4.2.1. **Pilot of integrated 20-week antenatal contact as part of the *Fairer Start Local* partnership.** This 3-year partnership between GMCA/Stockport and Nesta uses innovation methodologies to design solutions that aim to improve early years outcomes. The focus of the final year of the project will be the implementation and evaluation of enhanced integrated working between midwifery and Health Visitors, focussing on improved coordination and communication, collaborative training, the use of a single assessment tool and delivery of a 20week joint visit for women on the enhanced pathway, grounded in relational practice. Subject to evaluation, a toolkit to support wider rollout of this way of working across GM will also be developed.

4.2.2. **Nuffield funded 5-year research project: Childrens' Information; Improving Lives through better listening and better data'**, focussing on how "data" and "voice" can be used to improve the lives of children and families. Work over the last 2 years has focused on Oldham and Rochdale, testing how the use of information can be strengthened to address local priorities including speech, language and communication and provision of early education. Learning will inform wider work within the GM programme and support stronger use of data and information in service design and practice.

4.2.3. **Developing the economic case for rollout of the universal 18-month assessment**, through completion of a cost-benefit analysis to support work to spread and scale this model across GM. There is already a strong evidence base for the benefits of this assessment for child development, however delivery is variable across the city region due to workforce capacity to deliver.

4.2.4. **Contributing to wider transformation work to redesign the 0-19 speech, language, and communication pathway to align with the *Balanced System* principles.** This will improve access and timeliness of support, reduce demand on specialist therapy services and improve outcomes for children.

- 4.2.5. **Further integration of early years and early help services within the context of family hubs** to ensure a minimum, consistent offer across Family Hubs in the city region, with universal and targeted support for families reflective of place-based need.
- 4.2.6. **Development of the GM Infant Pledge** to provide best practice guidance for public sector services that focus on putting the needs of young children front and center across public services.
- 4.2.7. **Strengthening and reducing variance in early years pathways** - launch of pathway guidance for social-emotional development and wellbeing pathway, further work to build capacity at a universal and targeted level to support physical development. Support for the GM perinatal and parent-infant mental health pathway including addressing the gap in specialist and targeted infant mental health provision for 2- to 5-year-olds.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. The covid pandemic had a significant impact on families and children under 5 in GM, negatively impacting child development and increasing existing inequalities in the early years. Over the last three years the GMCA School Readiness programme has supported localities to address these challenges and there is now emerging evidence of improved performance in child development outcomes at age 2 and school readiness outcomes at age 5. However, the latest outcomes data highlights that entrenched inequalities remain in school readiness levels for specific population groups, including children experiencing poverty and disadvantage and boys.
- 5.2. The GMCA School Readiness programme has plans in place over the next 12 months focussed on further work to address these challenges and working with the localities and wider partners to respond to new challenges posed by the national policy reforms to funded early education entitlements.
- 5.3. Work in 2024/25 will also include a refresh of the GM School Readiness strategy, informed by the evidence base, locality priorities and hearing from families about their day to day lived experience.

GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7 February 2024

Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
and Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Report of: Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

Purpose of Report:

To provide an opportunity for the Committee to review their draft Work Programme for February 2024 – March 2024 (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 February 2024 – March 2024.
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

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GMCA Overview and Scrutiny draft Work Programme February – March 24

15 February – Information briefing on Digital – Phil Swan

7 February (single item agenda)

Item	Lead member / officer	Trajectory of item	Ask of scrutiny
GM Budgets	David Molyneux / Steve Wilson	GMCA February	To consider the GM budget proposals including the GMCA General Budget, GMFRS budget, GM Waste Budget and GM Transport Budget.
Early Years Education	Mark Hunter / Miriam Loxham		To consider the latest DfE data on school readiness and challenged around early years education.

21 February

Item	Lead member / officer	Trajectory of item	Ask of scrutiny
Bus Franchising Tranche 3	GM Mayor / Anne Marie Purcell	GMCA Feb / March	To consider the preferred bidder for tranche 3 of bus franchising.

Housing Standards / Good Landlord Charter	Ged Cooney / Steve Fyfe		
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Mid March – Information briefing tbc

20 March

Item	Lead member / officer	Trajectory of item	Ask of scrutiny
Fair Funding Protocol for the Voluntary and Community Sector	Arooj Shah / Anne Lythgoe	Anticipated to be approved by the GMCA in October	To consider how effectively it has been implemented, hear first-hand experience from community representatives and determine its future direction.
Scrutiny Task and Finish Report	Cllr Lewis Nelson, Chair of the Task and Finish Group		

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.

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

Julie Connor - Secretary to the GMCA
julie.connor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

<p>month.</p> <p>This Register of Key Decisions has been prepared in accordance with Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 ('the Order').</p> <p>The Register is published on the GMCA's website www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk and hard copies are available at the offices of:</p> <p>Greater Manchester Combined Authority & Greater Manchester Mayor Tootal Buildings Oxford Street Manchester M1 6EU</p>	<p>The GMCA's has an Overview & Scrutiny Committee whose 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
Green City Region							
Biowaste Management Strategy and Procurement of treatment capacity	To approve the strategy for management of biowaste and to commence a procurement for future treatment capacity	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	22 Mar 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Tom Ross		David Taylor david.taylor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Net Zero Accelerator Funding	The approval to accept up to £7m Net Zero	Greater Manchester Combined	23 Feb 2024	DESNZ Net Zero Accelerator	Councillor Tom Ross		Sean Owen Sean.owen@greatermanches

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 36</p>	<p>Accelerator funding via draw down funding from DESNZ potentially via Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority</p> <p>Approval to be the accountable body for the region.</p> <p>Approval for</p>	<p>Authority</p>		<p>Funding Opportunity</p>			<p>ter-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
	delegated approvals to the treasurer and city solicitor.						
Future service provision for waste management in Greater Manchester	To approve the delivery model for GMCA waste management services from April 2026	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	22 Mar 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Tom Ross		David Taylor david.taylor@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Transport							
Bus Franchising	To approve the award of: (i) the	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham GM Mayor		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 38	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	GM Mayor Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024 Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024		Andy Burnham GM Mayor Andy Burnham		

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 39	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						

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 40	other assets (comprising real estate or otherwise) in connection with the delivery, and ongoing operation, of franchised bus services and the overall franchising scheme.						
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)	To approve allocations and Governance and Assurance arrangements	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 Jul 2024 Between 1	Report and recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	for specific schemes as and when required.	Bee Network Committee	Feb 2024 and 31 Jul 2024				
Bus Depot Acquisitions	To negotiate and approve procedural changes for the acquisition of bus depots to support Tranches 2 and 3 bus franchising, within previously approved capital and revenue	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024 Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	28 Delivering the Bee Network - Bus Fares Fleet Depots and CRSTS	GM Mayor Andy Burnham 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
	budgets for bus franchising.						
Bus Depot Leases Tranche 2 and Page 42	To agree the final terms of leases of bus depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements to existing operators and the franchise depot subleases to be granted to the franchise bus operators	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	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
	for Tranches 2 and 3.						
Bus Depot Acquisitions Treasurer Decision Tranches 1, 2 & 3	To agree the terms of any agreement between GMCA and TfGM to bring Tranche 1 leases in line with Tranches 2 and 3.	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	12 Delivering the Bee Network	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Jacqueline Elliott Jacqueline.Elliott@tfgm.com
Subsidised Services	To approve forthcoming changes to subsidised bus services.	Bee Network Committee Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024 Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham GM Mayor Andy Burnham	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
Active Travel Programme	Approval to release funding to progress the development and delivery of cycling and walking schemes and programmes.	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	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 and	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with Recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	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 45	allocate/reallocate funding across the programme for schemes within the Growth Deal 1,2,3 and/or the Transforming Cities Fund.						
Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas Fund 2 Bid Submission	Agree in principle to submit a bid to DfT for the ZEBRA 2 fund and delegate full approval of the full	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	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 46	<p>business case to the Chief Executive of GMCA & TfGM.</p> <p>Agree the submission of a full business case bid to the DfT for the ZEBRA 2 Fund.</p>						
Bee Network Advertising Policy	To review the Bee Network Advertising Policy to ensure it aligns with and	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	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
	support the objectives of the Greater Manchester Strategy.						
Transport Network Planning and Review Process 2024	To approve the proposed approach to reviewing and developing the franchised bus network through a programme of network reviews. To approve the proposed	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		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
Page 48	<p>network planning guidelines.</p> <p>To approve the 12-month programme of network reviews.</p>						
Sale West to Altrincham Network Improvements	To approve CRSTS funds to implement signal priority for late running buses and install permit automatic traffic counters on the Sale	<p>Greater Manchester Combined Authority</p> <p>Bee Network Committee</p>	<p>Between 1 Feb 2024 and 29 Feb 2024</p> <p>Between 1 Feb 2024 and 29 Feb 2024</p>	Report with recommendations	<p>GM Mayor Andy Burnham</p> <p>GM Mayor Andy Burnham</p>		<p>Anthony Murden</p> <p>Anthony.murden@tfgm.com</p>

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	West to Altrincham corridor.						
City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity Programme	To approve CRSTS funding to continue development of the City Centre Bus and Streets for All Connectivity Programme ready for OBC submission.	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Anthony Murden Anthony.murden@tfgm.com
Rapid Transit Extensions CRSTS	To approve CRSTS funding to	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Jack Rodgers jack.rodgers@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
funding drawdown	continue developing the Rapid Transit Extensions package.						
Integrated Measures Ticketing	To approve CRSTS funding to support the development of the Full Business Case and delivery	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Helen Humble helen.humble@tfgm.com
Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme	To approve CRSTS funding to continue developing and delivering	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Anthony Murden Anthony.murden@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	the Bus Pinch Points and Maintenance Programme.						
Manchester: Transforming Deansgate	To approve CRSTS funds to develop Manchester's Transforming Deansgate Streets for All scheme.	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Hayley Fails hayley.fails@manchester.gov.uk
Metrolink Renewals and Enhancements Programme (MREP)	To approve CRSTS funding for the Metrolink Renewals and Enhancements Programme	Bee Network Committee	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	GM Mayor Andy Burnham		Daniel Vaughan daniel.vaughan@tfgm.com

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	(MREP).						
Technical Education & Skills							
ESF Skills for Growth Commissionin Page 52	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 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Treasurer GMCA	Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanc hester- ca.gov.uk
GM Adult Skills Programme (including	To approve a cost of delivery exceptional payment to	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien		Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh@greatermanc hester-

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
devolved Adult Education Budget and Free Courses for Jobs funding) 2022/2023 academic year update and 2023/2024 academic year forward plan	AEB Skills Providers for the 2022/2023 academic year. To note progress of the 2023/2024 Adult Education Budget commissioning process and where applicable, the selected skills providers						ca.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 54	<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 indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-</p>						

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 55	<p>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>						
	Skills Bootcamps	To proceed with the	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Feb 2024 and	National Skills Funding (CA	Councillor Eamonn	

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
2023 - 2024: Phase 2 commissioning ; Sector 3 (recommissioning): Adv Manufacturing; Sector 8: Security; Sector 9: Residential Childcare	procurement and contracting of providers and activity relating to the GM Skills Bootcamps programme.		30 Apr 2024	report Feb 2023)	O'Brien		hannah.vincen t@greaterman chester- ca.gov.uk
GM Devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB) and Free Courses for	To note update on latest AEB close of academic year 2022/2023.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority GM Mayor	March 2024 March 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien Councillor Eamonn		Gemma Marsh gemma.marsh @greatermanc hester- ca.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Jobs (FCFJ) Update and Key Decisions	<p>To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to take forward additional AEB and / or FCFJ commissioning , and / or grant funding including to contract / grant funding agreement award.</p> <p>To approve the proposed</p>				O'Brien		

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Page 58	<p>indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded further education institutions.</p> <p>To approve the proposed indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM procured providers as per the</p>						

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 59</p>	<p>commissioning processes subject to annual terms and conditions being met.</p> <p>To grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to agree any minor changes that arise during discussions between the grant funded</p>						

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 60</p>	<p>or procured organisations and GMCA.</p> <p>The Mayor, to approve the proposed indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded Local Authorities and to grant delegated authority to the GMCA Treasurer to</p>						

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	approve any minor changes that arise.						
Resources and Investment							
Greater Manchester Business Funds	To conditionally approve business investments to proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial changes to existing investments, including where relevant	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with Recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Kirsteen Armitage kirsteen.armitage@greatermanchestre-ca.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	negotiated settlements.						
Revenue and capital budget updates	Approve revisions to revenue budget and capital programme. July / October and February.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	22 Mar 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Rachel Rosewell rachel.rosewell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
GMCA General Revenue Budget 2024/25	To approve the 2024/25 budget relating to the GMCA functions (excluding transport and waste), including local	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	9 Feb 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Steve Wilson Steve.Wilson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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	authority contributions and use of reserves.						
Transport Revenue Budget 2024/25	To approve the 2024/25 GMCA budget relating to transport functions including the levy and statutory charge to GM local authorities and use of reserves.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	9 Feb 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Steve Wilson Steve.Wilson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Mayoral	To approve the	Greater	9 Feb 2024	Report with	Councillor		Steve Wilson

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
General Revenue Budget 2024/25 including GMFRS	2024/25 Mayor's General budget, including the Fire and Rescue Authority, use of reserves and calculation of the precepts and council tax rates.	Manchester Combined Authority		recommendations	David Molyneux		Steve.Wilson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Waste and Recycling Revenue Budget 2024/25	To approve the 2024/25 waste budget, levy to GM local authorities and use of	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	9 Feb 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Steve Wilson Steve.Wilson@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
	reserves.						
GMCA Capital Programme 2023-2027	To approve the capital programme, including the quarter 3 update to the 2023/23 budget and the 2024/25 budget and forward plan.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	9 Feb 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Steve Wilson Steve.Wilson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 3 - 2023/24	Approve any revisions to the 2023/24 GMCA revenue budgets at the end of quarter	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	9 Feb 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Steve Wilson Steve.Wilson@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
	3.						
Approval of the GMCA Capital Strategy for 2024/25	To approve the 2024/25 GMCA Capital Strategy with sets out the overarching principles and processes by which capital and investment decisions will be made.	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	22 Mar 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Lindsey Keech lindsey.keech@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Approval of the Treasury Management Strategy and Annual	To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement,	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	22 Mar 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Lindsey Keech lindsey.keech@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

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Investment Strategy 2024/25	Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2024/25 to 2026/27.						
Project 1 GMCA Water, Wastewater and Ancillary Services	Agree to award the water, wastewater and ancillary services contract to winning bidder via CCS framework agreement, for a duration of 4 years (initial 2	Treasurer GMCA	March 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor David Molyneux		Mathew Chard chardm@manchesterfire.gov.uk

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
	years with 2 year extension option)						
Housing							
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 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report	Councillor Gerald Cooney		Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
GM Brownfield Programme	The allocation of funding from GMCA's brownfield programme to	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Gerald Cooney		Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-

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	residential developments in GM.						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 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Gerald Cooney	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Agreement to using further Greater Manchester	To agree the further use of Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Gerald Cooney	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Michael Walmsley Michael.Walmsley@greater

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Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses	Housing Investment Loan Fund (GMHILF) surpluses to support the delivery of the GM Housing Strategy						manchester-ca.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Property Funds	To conditionally approve property investments to proceed to due diligence and/or note commercial changes to	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with Recommendations	Councillor Gerald Cooney	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM	Andrew McIntosh andrew.mcintosh@greatermanchester-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
	existing investments.						
Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth							
UK Shared Prosperity Fund- Support for the Social Economy	To agree the contract award for the UKSPF Support for the Social Economy Programme, following an open and competitive procurement process.	Treasurer GMCA	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Bev Craig		John Wrathmell john.wrathmell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Greater Manchester	The allocation of the first £9m	Greater Manchester	23 Feb 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Bev Craig		John Wrathmell

Decision title	What is the decision?	Decision Maker	Planned Decision Dates	Documents to be considered	Portfolio Lead	Lead Director	Officer Contact
Investment Zone first year allocations	of Greater Manchester's Investment Zone funding for the FY 2024/25.	Combined Authority		ons			john.wrathmell@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Homelessness							
GM Refugee Homelessness Prevention Service	Award of grant allocations under the new GM Refugee Homelessness Prevention Service	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Between 1 Feb 2024 and 30 Apr 2024	Report with recommendations	City Mayor Paul Dennett		Joe Donohue joseph.donohue@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
Culture Strategy 2024-2029	To approve the Culture Strategy 2024-	Greater Manchester Combined	31 May 2024	Report with recommendations	Councillor Neil Emmott		Marie-Claire Daly Marie-Claire.Daly@g

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	2029.	Authority					reatermanchest er-ca.gov.uk

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