

## GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

**DATE:** Friday, 29th September, 2023

**TIME:** 10.30 am

**VENUE:** Banqueting Room, Leigh Sports Village, Leigh  
Stadiumsale Way, Leigh, WN7 4JY

### AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business**
- 3. Declarations of Interest** 1 - 4

To receive declarations of interest in any item for discussion at the meeting. A blank form for declaring interests has been circulated with the agenda; please ensure that this is returned to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer 48 Hours in advance of the start of the meeting.

- 4. GMCA Minutes - 28 July 2023** 5 - 22

To consider the approval of the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 28 July 2023.

- 5. GMCA Resources Committee Minutes 28 July 2023** 23 - 26

<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>

To approve the minutes of the of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 28 July 2023.

**6. GMCA Audit Committee - 20 September 2023 - To Follow**

To note the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 20 September 2023.

**7. GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 26 July & 16 August 2023 27 - 48**

To note the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 26 July & 16 August 2023.

**8. Greater Manchester Business (GMLEP) Board - 19 July & 19 September 2023 49 - 56**

To note the minutes of the Greater Manchester Business (GMLEP) Board held on 19 July & 19 September 2023.

**9. Bee Network Committee - 27 July 2023 57 - 72**

To note the minutes of the Bee Network Committee held on 27 July 2023.

**10. Appointments to Greater Manchester Bodies**

- To approve the appointment of Cllr Imran Rizvi (Bury) as a member of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- To approve the appointment of Cllr Nathan Boroda (Bury) and Mohammed Iqbal (Bolton) as substitute members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- To note the appointment of Cllr Elliot Moss (Bury) to the GM Joint Clean Air Scrutiny Committee.

- 11. Cost of Living and Economic Resilience** 73 - 118
- Report of Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business and Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities
- 12. Fire Cover Review - Kate Green (verbal update)**
- Verbal report of Kate Green, Deputy Mayor, Police, Crime & Fire.
- 13. Greater Manchester Equality Panels Annual Report** 119 - 202
- Report of Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities,
- 14. Towards an Integrated Technical Education, Skills and Work City-Region** 203 - 220
- Report of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Technical Education, Skills and Work.
- 15. Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Switchover** 221 - 232
- Report of Councillor Nick Peel, Portfolio Lead for Digital.
- 16. Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024** 233 - 266
- Report of Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester and Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for the Green City-Region.
- 17. Delivering the Bee Network: Acquisition of Bus Depots to support Bus Franchising** 267 - 274

Report of Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester.

**18. Annual Treasury Outturn Report** 275 - 300

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

**19. Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme** 301 - 308

Report of Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing.

**20. Greater Manchester City Deal Receipts - Investment Approval Recommendations** 309 - 322

Report of Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing.

**21. Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval** 323 - 330

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

**22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**PART B**

**23. Greater Manchester Investment Framework, 3**  
**Conditional Project Approval**

331 - 340

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Political Party</b>
Councillor Arooj Shah	Oldham Council	Labour
Councillor Tom Ross	Trafford	Labour
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Gerald Cooney	Tameside Council	Labour
Councillor Neil Emmott	Rochdale	Labour
Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Bury Council	Labour
GM Mayor Andy Burnham	GMCA	Labour
City Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford City Council	Labour
Councillor David Molyneux	Wigan Council	Labour
Councillor Bev Craig	Manchester CC	Labour
Councillor Nicholas Peel	Bolton Council	Labour

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: Governance and Scrutiny

✉ [sylvia.welsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:sylvia.welsh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

This agenda was issued on 21 September 2023 on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to  
the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street,  
Manchester M1 6EU

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## Declaration of Councillors' Interests in Items Appearing on the Agenda

Name and Date of Committee.....>

Agenda Item Number	Type of Interest - PERSONAL AND NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest	NON PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest Type of Interest – PREJUDICIAL Reason for declaration of interest	Type of Interest – DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST Reason for declaration of interest
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Please see overleaf for a quick guide to declaring interests at GMCA meetings.

## Quick Guide to Declaring Interests at GMCA Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Failure to disclose this information is a criminal offence**

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

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



## Step Two: Determining if your interest is prejudicial

A personal interest becomes a prejudicial interest:

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

### For a non-prejudicial interest, you must:

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

### To note:

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

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

### For prejudicial interests, you must:

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

### You must not:

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

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 28TH JULY 2023 AT ROCHDALE COUNCIL, NO.1  
RIVERSIDE, ROCHDALE, OL16 1XU**

**PRESENT**

Mayor of Greater Manchester	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire)	Kate Green
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Bolton	Councillor Akhtar Zaman
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Ged Cooney
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Manchester	Councillor Luthfur Rahman
Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Lee Fallows
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Carol Culley
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow

Salford	John Searle
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
TfGM	Helen Humble

### **GMCA 134/23      APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received from Councillor Nicholas Peel (Bolton), Councillor Bev Craig (Manchester), Councillor Tom Ross (Trafford), Sue Johnson (Bolton), Joanne Roney (Manchester) & Tom Stannard (Salford).

### **GMCA 135/23      CHAIRS ANNOUCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, invited Deputy Mayor Kate Green to provide an update following some recent high profile news stories in relation to Greater Manchester Police.

Firstly, reference was made to Andrew Malkinson, who had recently been released from prison after close to 20 years for a conviction of rape that he had now been found innocent of. This was an appalling miscarriage of justice and there were a number of concerns about how this case had been handled and a detailed review being undertaken of what had happened within GMP that had resulted in this failure of justice.

Secondly, news had broken in relation to three separate strip searches of women in police custody, in one particular case there had been an accusation of rape by custody officers – this case has now been referred directly to the IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct) and a response was being awaited on whether the IOPC

would take the case. The other two reported cases would continue to progress through the standard complaints process.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had met with one of the women and following this meeting the Mayor had invited Dame Vera Baird KC to conduct an independent review of custody processes and the care of detainees within GMP. This review would take place swiftly and the outcomes would be made transparently available to provide the three women and the wider public assurance that there had been a full and independent review of the circumstances and conditions within GMP's custody suites.

It was requested that Chief Constable Stephen Watson be asked to attend a forthcoming meeting of the GMCA to provide his personal views on the news stories highlighted above.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester raised concerns about the proposals raised by Government to close all ticket offices within rail stations and he, alongside the other Metro Mayors were part of a group reviewing the legality of the process, particularly the three-week consultation process and the inordinate impact that the closures would have on users with disabilities. The GMCA was requested to agree a motion that the current process be halted and replaced with a full consultation process in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act 2005.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the update following recent high profile news stories in relation to Greater Manchester Police be received.
2. That updates on the Dame Vera Baird KC led review be submitted to the GMCA as and when appropriate.
3. That Chief Constable Stephen Watson be invited to a forthcoming GMCA meeting to provide his own view on the matters.
4. That the following motion be agreed:

*This Committee resolves to support the action of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and other Mayors in opposing the current proposal to close ticket offices in rail stations.*

*We call on the Rail Delivery Group to halt the current process and undertake a full consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act 2005.*

**GMCA 136/23      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

That there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any item on the agenda.

**GMCA 137/23      MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 30 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 138/23      MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 June 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 139/23      MINUTES OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING  
COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the minutes of the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee meeting held on 13 July 2023 be noted.

2. That the appointment of Councillor Alan Quinn as the Chair of the Waste & Recycling Committee for this municipal year be approved.

**GMCA 140/23            MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER AIR QUALITY  
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee meeting held on 13 July 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 141/23            MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21  
JULY 2023.**

Item withdrawn.

**GMCA 142/23            GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That Councillor Elizabeth Patel (Trafford) (Labour) be appointed to the Growth Company Board.
2. That Councillor Sean Ennis (Trafford) (Liberal Democrat) be appointed to the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
3. That Councillor Christine Roberts (Wigan) (Labour) be appointed as a substitute member of the GMCA Audit Committee.

**GMCA 143/23            EVALUATION OF THE GMCA SCRUTINY FUNCTION AND  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Gillian Duckworth, GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, introduced a report outlining the work of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the past municipal year

in support of the independent evaluation undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

The evaluation of the first year had found that good progress had been made in the implementation of the recommendations and helpfully highlighted some further areas for consideration during 2023/24, including providing further training and knowledge sessions for members, continued regular attendance by the Mayor and relevant portfolio Leaders, and the continued development of the work programme and task & finish groups.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the draft of the annual report in conjunction with the independent evaluation, as set out in Annex A, be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee will submit a report on their activities to the GMCA on an annual basis.

**GMCA 144/23      GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION CITY REGION**

Councillor Eammon O'Brien, Portfolio Leader for Technical Education, Skills & Work, presented a report which provided an update on the ambition for Greater Manchester as an integrated technical education, skills and work city-region in the context of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal and Local Skills Improvement Plan development.

The approach being developed had received the endorsement of GM's business community & employers, as well as training & skills providers and education establishments. There had been national concern expressed about the proposed approach, particularly from Secretary of State about different offers in different regions, however it was felt that the purpose of devolution was to allow each area to



develop its offer to capitalise upon the strengths and ambitions of that place. It was hoped as well that this would provide a model for other areas to successfully emulate.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the update be welcomed and that the next steps over the coming months, as set out in paragraph 4, be noted as follow:

- Analysis of the stakeholder consultation and public poll responses will be completed and will inform the further development of the technical education/MBacc proposals.
- Framing of the seven Employer Boards (one per career gateway) to help employers shape clear pathways for young people into the jobs of the future and understanding the areas of study needed for these pathways. In this way it will create the same clarity around the technical education route as already exists around the university route. These Employer Boards will sit within the wider governance and accountability landscape linked to the Devolution Deal, including arrangements for implementing the LSIP recommendations. These Boards will be established in the early Autumn.

2. That it be noted that that developmental work will continue over the summer and further details will follow with the intention to submit proposals for the new governance arrangements to the GMCA in September 2023 for consideration and approval.

3. That feedback from public polling be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

## **GMCA 145/23      LOCAL AREA ENERGY PROGRAMME – STRATEGIC OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

Harry Catherall, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region, presented a report which provided an update on the Strategic Outline Business Case completed since the GM Local Area Energy Plan was approved in September 2022. The report

included proposals to leverage significant investment into the region and set out the strategic imperative and proposed approach to deliver the outcomes from the Greater Manchester Local Area Energy Plan.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report and the proposed approach to delivering the outcomes from the GM Local Area Energy Plan be noted.
2. That the investigation and development of outline business cases to accelerate inward investment and delivery be noted.
3. That the development of regional delivery structure, operating model and required capacity be endorsed.
4. That the need for additional dedicated resource to support development of new commercial and finance solutions, the approach to which will be set out in a further report in relation to further work following agreement to the Strategic Outline Business Case, be endorsed.
5. That the submission of a circa £5m bid to Innovate UK Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places, to support delivery of the above, with the GMCA to act as the accountable body, be approved.
6. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader, Green City Region, to finalise the bid, receive and defray funding if successful.

**GMCA 146/23      DOMESTIC ENERGY ADVICE DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT**

Harry Catherall, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region, presented a report which provided background information on the national £20m Domestic Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Projects funding, provided via the Northwest Net Zero Hub, and the opportunity that this would present to the city region.

The report sought approval for the signing of a Grant Funding Agreement with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to receive grant funding of up to £2.1m for a Domestic Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) project which would provide the opportunity for ~24,000 GM residents to be provided with in-person energy saving advice.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the forthcoming opportunity presented by the LEAD funding be noted.
2. That the proposed approach, with the GMCA acting as the accountable body for the LEAD programme, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Lead for Green City Region to
  - Sign a grant funding agreement with the DESNZ to receive grant funding for a GM LEAD project up to £2.14m.
  - Expend the awarded grant funds by defrayed agreements via the funding partners i.e., 3 Local Authorities, 2 Social Enterprises, 2 private business and a cooperative.

**GMCA 147/23      ATOM VALLEY BUSINESS PLAN**

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, introduced a report seeking the GMCA's approval for the Atom Valley MDZ Business Plan 2023/24.

The Business Plan detailed the workstreams currently underway and the huge amount of work already taking place in relation to each of the separate sites including work on skills, innovation and transport.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the Atom Valley MDZ Business Plan 2023 - 2024 (Appendix A) be approved.

**GMCA 148/23      UKSPF: COMMUNITIES AND PLACE WIGAN COUNCIL  
PHASE 2**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report setting out a proposal from Wigan Council on the second phase of UKSPF investment in the district and the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board to the GMCA, as the Lead Authority, in relation to the investment proposal. The proposal was related to the UKSPF Communities and Place investment priorities E1, E3 and E6.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That Wigan Council be granted up to £1,958,294 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place Phase 2 proposal by March 2025, taking the Wigan Council Communities and Place UKSPF investment across Phases 1 and 2 to a maximum of £3,008,294.
2. That the additional impact of the Wigan Council Phase 2 proposal to the collective impact of the currently approved ten Local Authority proposals, in exceeding the majority of outcomes and outputs for the Communities and Place Investment Priority as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, be noted.

**GMCA 149/23      PROPOSAL FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF SUPPORT FOR  
THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report that offered context and outlined a proposition for a two-year programme of support for the social economy in Greater Manchester. This would include the commissioning of £460,000 specialist business support activities and £365,000 for the creation of an Inclusive Ownership Platform and associated provision to support community wealth building in Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board on the strategic fit and deliverability of the UKSPF proposal for the creation of an Inclusive Ownership Platform and associated business support activity be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Economy, Business and International and Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment, to approve the procurement method and subsequent award of contract(s) worth £825,000 across the following indicative allocations:
  - £460,000 for specialist support activities which address gaps or weaknesses in the current support available to inclusively owned businesses: and
  - £365,000 for the creation and management of the GM Inclusive Ownership Platform, delivering the UKSPF outputs and outcomes described in this report.

## **GMCA 150/23      GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 1 2023/24**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report informing of the GMCA's financial position at the end of June 2023 (Quarter 1) and forecast revenue outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year.

The report showed a forecast deficit of £15.3m for TfGM for 2023/24, but this would be fully mitigated by the actions proposed within the report including the reallocation of Bus Service Improvement Plan funding.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £500k funded from Mayoral reserves towards the cost of additional extended rough sleeper provision provided through Manchester City Council (para 3.2) be approved.
2. That an increase to the revenue grant to Transport for Greater Manchester of £7.8m funded from the Capital Programme Reserve to fund capital financing

costs that are unable to be met from Metrolink revenues (para. 6.14) be approved.

3. That the intention to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding previously awarded by Department for Transport to support bus services, with £7.5m of this re-allocation to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25 (para 6.14) be noted.

## **GMCA 151/23      GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE QUARTER 1 2023/24**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report which provided an update in relation to the GMCA's 2023/24 capital expenditure programme.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the current 2023/24 forecast of £681.3m compared to the 2023/24 budget of £591.8m be noted and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
2. That an increase in the Transport capital budget, approved by GMCA in June 2023 as part of the Transport Capital Programme report for the City Region Sustainable Transport schemes of £41.4m, as outlined in section 2.9, be noted. That the inclusion within this figure of Greater Manchester's (GM's) share of the national Additional Maintenance (Pothole) Funding of £6.2m within the 2023/24 forecast, as outlined in section 2.9.4 of this report, also be noted.
3. That other increases in capital budget over £500k be approved as follows:
  - Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) capital funding of £3.6m as outlined in section 2.5;
  - Access for All of £2.8m as outlined at section 2.7;
  - GM One Network of £1.8m as outlined at section 2.14;

- Regional Growth Fund Loans of £3.9m outlined at section 3.1;
- Growing Places of £9.3m for outlined at section 3.2;
- Housing Investment Loans Fund of £9.6m outlined at section 3.3;
- Brownfield Land Fund of £16.4m outlined at section 3.7;
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding of £1.8m outlined at section 3.9;
- UK Share Prosperity Fund carry forward of £1m unspent approvals from 2022/23 outlined at section 3.10;
- Social Housing Decarbonisation funding of £26.7m outlined at section 3.11;
- Social Housing Quality Fund of £15.0m outlined at section 3.12;
- Homeless Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme of £2.1m outlined at section 3.13 and
- Fire and Rescue Services of £4.0m outlined as section 4.

**GMCA 152/23      GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report which provided an overview of GMCA’s achievements in managing investment in commercial property, residential development and business within Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**GMCA 153/23      GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK –  
REQUEST FOR DELEGATION**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment

and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding previously approved by the Combined Authority, for the period 29th July 2023 to 28th September 2023.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and approve urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 29 July 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023
2. That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

**GMCA 154/23      GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS /  
CITY DEAL RECEIPTS / GREATER MANCHESTER  
BROWNFIELD PROGRAMME**

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve investments from the Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund (GMHILF) and/or investments using City Deal Receipts, and to agree urgent variations to the terms of GMHILF and City Deal Receipts funding previously approved by the Combined Authority.

Additionally, approval was also sought to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve further allocations of brownfield funding that has been devolved to GMCA.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve projects for GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding, and agree urgent variations to the terms of GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.



2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve further allocations of brownfield funding, that has been devolved to GMCA, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.
4. That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the Combined Authority.

### **GMCA 155/23      DELIVERING THE BEE NETWORK: FARES AND PRODUCTS**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, presented a report setting out the proposed introduction of fares and products that would be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24th September 2023.

The report, in addition to the broad fare structures, included some of the more discreet products on offer that lived outside of the multimodal core offers. These included offers for students, discounted routes and cross-boundary services that would continue to exist.

The Mayor acknowledged comments raised by the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bee Network Committee. These comments had included an ask that concessionary support continues for all groups, and that no groups be left at a disadvantage, with a particular emphasis on support carers. It was asked that the compensation process be made as simple as possible with bureaucracy minimised, that relations be improved with trade unions to mitigate risk of strike action, and that pathways to careers be improved to increase driver availability.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the proposed range of fares and products that will be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be approved.

2. That the recommendations and feedback from the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bee Network Committee be noted.

**GMCA 156/23            GREATER MANCHESTER BUS STRATEGY: BETTER BUSES  
FOR THE BEE NETWORK**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, introduced a report seeking approval of the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy, a sub-strategy of the 2040 Transport Strategy. A summary was provided of its contents, including how the bus network would support the creation of the integrated Bee Network.

One of the key targets within this was to increase bus patronage in Greater Manchester by 30% by the year 2030. An ambitious target that would be achieved through lower fares and better integration, which studies showed would account for 15% of this. 8% of the increase would come through improved services, and the remaining 7% sought via improved reliability. Realising this ambition would also however, require proper investment from Government on a fair and consistent basis as seen with Transport for London.

The Mayor advised of the suggestion raised by the Bee Network Committee, that its model be replicated at the district level to allow for better control and coordination when deploying bus services.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy be approved.
2. That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
3. That the principle of the replication of the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to better control and coordinate the deployment of Bus Services be endorsed.

## **GMCA 157/23      METROLINK CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, presented a report seeking approval to trigger the extension option within the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with Keolis Amey Metrolink Ltd (KAM) to extend the contract until 25 July 2027.

It was advised that a large-scale review would take place on the vision for the future of Metrolink as the service now passed the 30 years mark. This review would potentially commence in late 2024 stretching into 2025 and would include consideration of any potential network expansion and the current financial compensatory arrangements in place for those authorities that did not currently have a Metrolink service.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
3. That the proposed terms of an extension to the MOMA with KAM from 21 July 2024 to 25 July 2027 be approved.
4. That it be noted that a large-scale review of the vision for Metrolink will be undertaken late 2024/ 2025, noting the review will include any potential Metrolink network expansion and the current financial compensatory arrangements in place for those authorities who do not currently have a Metrolink service.

## **GMCA 158/23      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**GMCA 159/23      METROLINK CONTRACT EXTENSION**

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 157/23)

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 28 JULY 2023

### PRESENT:

Andy Burnham	Mayor of Greater Manchester
Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Bury
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport
Councillor David Molyneux	Wigan

### ALSO PRESENT:

Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM
Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Chief Executive, GMCA
Gill Duckworth	Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Steve Wilson	Treasurer, GMCA
Kevin Lee	Mayor or Greater Manchester's Office

### RC/01/23/4 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors Bev Craig (Manchester) and Tom Ross (Trafford), and Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett.

### RC/02/23/4 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2023/24

### RESOLVED/-

That Andy Burnham, GM Mayor be appointed as Chair of the Resources Committee for 2023/24.

#### **RC/03/23/4 MEMBERSHIP**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

That the membership of the GMCA Resources Committee, as agreed at the GMCA Annual Meeting held on 26 May 2023, be noted as follows:

- Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham (Lab)
- Eamonn O'Brien (Bury) (Lab)
- Bev Craig (Manchester) (Lab)
- Tom Ross (Trafford) (Lab)
- Paul Dennett (Salford) (Lab)
- Mark Hunter (Stockport) (Lib Dem)
- David Molyneux (Wigan) (Lab)

#### **RC/04/23/4 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

That the terms of reference, as contained within the GMCA Constitution agreed on 30 June 2023, be noted.

#### **RC/05/23/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **RC/06/23/4 MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 MAY 2023**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 26 May 2023 be approved as a correct record.

## **RC/07/23/4 REMUNERATION OF MAYORAL ADVISOR – YOUNG PEOPLE**

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, introduced a report seeking agreement for the payment of invoices for the first phase of the Young People Advisor's consultancy work in this role, from June 2020 to the end of May 2021.

Andrew Lightfoot informed the Committee that the Committee in March, 2022 delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to approve payment for the consultancy work undertaken by Diane Modahl from June 2021, with the request today seeking approval to authorise the payment of invoices for the first phase of the Advisor's consultancy work in this role, from June 2020 to the end of May 2021.

By way of background, Andy Burnham advised the Committee that in mid 2020 there were concerns relating to young people and additional support required during Covid and subsequently Diane Modahl MBE was appointed as chair of the Young Persons Guarantee (YPG) Task Force in June 2020, which was adopted by the GMCA in December 2020. Over the last 12 months Diane has focussed on Civic Leadership work.

The resolution tabled at the Resources Committee in March 2022 included incorrect dates, with today's request as a correction to that resolution.

Councillor Mark Hunter added that as the Portfolio Lead for Young People, he had not met nor been offered an opportunity to meet with Diane Modhal regarding the work during her time in post.

### **RESOLVED/-**

That the payment of outstanding invoices relating to Diane Modahl's work as the Young Person's Advisor for the period June 2020 to May 2021, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report, be approved.

**RC/08/23/4 HEAD OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

Andrew Lightfoot introduced a report seeking approval for the establishment of and appointment to the post of a Head of Digital Transformation within the GMCA structure.

**RESOLVED/-**

That authority be delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM to progress the establishment of a Head of Digital Transformation (Senior pay-scale SM6) post and that the current postholder be assimilated into this role on a permanent basis, backdated to January 2023.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY HELD WEDNESDAY, 26TH JULY, 2023 AT  
THE TOOTAL BUILDINGS - BROADHURST HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR, 56 OXFORD  
STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council (Chair)
Councillor Peter Wright	Bolton Council
Councillor Russell Bernstein	Bury Council
Councillor Nathan Boroda	Bury Council
Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin	Manchester Council
Councillor Basil Curley	Manchester Council
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council
Councillor Jenny Harrison	Oldham Council
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham Council
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale Council
Councillor Patricia Dale	Rochdale Council
Councillor Joshua Brooks	Salford Council
Councillor Lewis Nelson	Salford Council
Councillor Helen Hibbert	Stockport Council
Councillor Jill Axford	Trafford Council
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council
Councillor Naila Sharif	Tameside Council
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan Council
Councillor Fred Walker	Wigan Council

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Andy Burnham	GM Mayor
Councillor Tom Ross	Trafford Council
Councillor Shaun Ennis	Trafford Council

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Gillian Duckworth	GMCA
Ninoshka Martins	GMCA
David Taylor	GMCA
Nicola Ward	GMCA
Kevin Lee	GMCA
Steve Warrener	TfGM
Helen Humble	TfGM

**O&SC 01/23                      APOLOGIES**

None received.

**O&SC 02/23                      APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Gillian Duckworth, Monitoring Officer, GMCA opened the meeting and invited nominations for the appointment of Chair.

Councillor Nadim Muslim was put forward as Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year. The decision to appoint Councillor Nadim Muslim was passed with 5 votes in favor and 14 abstentions.

**RESOLVED /-**

That Councillor Nadim Muslim be appointed as the Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2023/24**

The Committee was requested to note the membership of the Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year as below –

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>
Bury	Nathan Boroda (Lab)
Bury	Russell Bernstein (Con)
Bolton	Peter Wright (Ind)
Bolton	Nadim Muslim (Con)
Manchester	Basil Curley (Lab)
Manchester	Mandie Shilton Godwin (Lab)
Manchester	John Leech (Lib Dem)
Oldham	Colin McLaren (Lab)
Oldham	Jenny Harrison (Lab)
Rochdale	Tom Besford (Lab)
Rochdale	Patricia Dale (Lab)
Salford	Joshua Brooks (Lab)
Salford	Lewis Nelson (Lab)
Stockport	Helen Hibbert (Lab)
Tameside	Naila Sharif (Lab)
Trafford	Jill Axford (Lab)
Trafford	Nathan Evans (Con)
Wigan	Joanne Marshall (Lab)
Wigan	Fred Walker (Lab)

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>
Bury	Mary Whitby (Lab)
Bury	To be confirmed
Bolton	Robert Morrissey (Lab)

Bolton	Champak Mistry (Lab)
Manchester	John Hughes (Lab)
Manchester	Linda Foley (Lab)
Oldham	Eddie Moores (Lab)
Oldham	Holly Harrison (Lab)
Rochdale	Sameena Zaheer (Lab)
Rochdale	Ashley Dearnley (Con)
Salford	Marie Brabiner (Lab)
Salford	Arnold Saunders (Con)
Stockport	Lisa Smart (Lib Dem)
Stockport	Shan Alexander (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Claire Reed (Lab)
Tameside	Liam Billington (Con)
Trafford	Mike Cordingley (Lab)
Trafford	Kevin Procter (Lab)
Wigan	Dane Anderton (Lab)
Wigan	Debra Wailes (Lab)

**RESOLVED /-**

That the membership of the Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year be noted.

**O&SC 04/23**

**MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL  
DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and were requested to complete an annual declaration of interest form, which had been emailed to them by the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMCA's Member Code of Conduct (Appendix A of the report) be noted.
2. That member as per their obligation stated in the Code of Conduct would complete their Annual Declaration of Interest form and return it to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

**O&SC 05/23**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the Committee's Terms of Reference be noted.

**O&SC 06/23**

**CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

**O&SC 07/23**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**O&SC 08/23**

**NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the potential implications of the national Resources and Waste Strategy for waste collection and disposal. The report also set out the process being undertaken to review options for future provision of waste services in Greater Manchester.

Concerns were raised around the implication of the national Resources and Waste Strategy in terms of contamination and the requirement of a separate collection of

food waste for all households by March 2025 which would add another receptacle which some residents may have difficulty managing within their home particularly those with disabilities and with limited space. Officers acknowledged the concerns and explained that the information from Government indicated that while the preference may be for the separate collection of materials, it was recognised that this may not be possible for every area. Therefore, a mechanism by which waste collection authorities can undertake a technical, economic, and environmental practicability assessment (known as a TEEP assessment) to justify the selection of a system that deviates from the preferred option is hoped to be further outlined within the next set of guidance.

Members raised concerns around the associated overall costs as officers explained that the treatment of food waste through 'Anaerobic Digestion' (AD) was expected to cost more than the current mixed garden and food collection with 'In Vessel Composting' (IVC) treatment. Officers explained that the estimated high costs were partly due to no availability of AD treatment capacity in the North West.

In terms of the impact to Local Authority income from recyclables, it was reported that the new measures would not impact GM's share of income which would be likely to remain in excess of the minimal threshold of 25,000 tonnes. However, energy from waste was also now to be included in the carbon emissions trading scheme which may result in additional charges to customers.

Members sought to understand whether the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) would result in a further receptacle being added to houses to collect some recyclables. The introduction of a waste tax should reduce the overall number of polymers, however, officers explained that retailers selling in-scope containers would be obligated to host a return point and would receive a handling fee to compensate them for costs incurred.

Defra estimated that EPR would generate in excess of £1 billion to contribute towards local authority management of packaging waste. The draft figures for the 2024/25 timetable payments were expected to be released in August 2023. These would then

be refined and finalised by January 24 with funds starting to flow in quarterly payments from April 2024. Although the goal posts had moved on a number of occasions and there remained a lack of clarity.

It was noted that changes to waste and recycling could impact future housing proposals and therefore it was felt that it would be beneficial for officers to give thought to how waste would be managed in new developments such as apartments. Officers explained that the strategy refers to a kerbside sorting methodology that utilised a number of boxes for the materials which were then emptied into compartments on a 'resource recovery vehicle' (RRV).

Concerns were raised around the carbon impact of using a kerbside sorting facility and members sought to understand whether any research had been undertaken to measure the potential effects. It was suggested that GM could look at the potential of retrofitting the fleet of existing recycling collection vehicles and utilising the second-hand market to drive down costs. Officers welcomed the suggestion and explained that a full assessment of implications would be brought to a future meeting once further direction was received from Government.

In noting that the RRV-based services have a much lower productivity rate and lower capacity – therefore significantly more vehicles and crews would be needed to collect Greater Manchester's recyclable waste. It was suggested that officers should factor in staff requirements and associated costs. Officers welcomed the suggestion and assured members that this would be picked up as part of the development of the Greater Manchester Waste Strategy.

It was felt appropriate that the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee should write to DEFRA outlining their concerns and highlighting the potential implications for residents. This was also identified as an area for Task and Finish activity to consider the possible outcomes and inform the development of the Greater Manchester Waste Strategy.

In conclusion, members were assured that once Government's response had been published the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be updated with a full assessment of the potential implications and would receive a further report on the proposed approach to future waste and recycling contracts ahead of a decision being taken by the GMCA before the end of the year.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the impact on the ambitions of the Greater Manchester Strategy as a result of the National Resources and Waste Strategy be noted.
2. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would write to DEFRA stating their concerns and the potential impacts for residents as a result of changes in operations due to the national Resources and Waste Strategy and to advocate for an exemption for GM following a local TEEP assessment.
3. That the suggestion to include the impact of staff requirements and associated costs as well the carbon impact of measures be picked up as part of the development of the Greater Manchester Waste Strategy be noted.
4. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee receive a further report on the proposed approach to future waste and recycling contracts ahead of a decision being taken by the GMCA, and that this report includes the potential consequential impacts for residents.

**O&SC 09/23**

**BUS FARE INITIATIVES**

**A.**

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF CAPPED FARES**

Consideration was given to a report that summarised the outcome of the annual review of capped bus fares and proposed the continuation of capped fares at existing prices.



The GM Mayor Andy Burnham informed the Committee of the key findings of the evaluation research that found the introduction of the maximum bus fares had contributed to an increase of bus patronage and that residents have continued to feel the new fares have been helpful to combat the cost-of-living crisis.

In noting the positive impact as a result of capped fares, it was seen beneficial to extend the scheme for another year. The Mayor reported that whilst uncertainty remained in relation to long term funding for the bus industry, through Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) there was sufficient funding available to continue the capped fare offer at the existing prices to March 2025, however, it was proposed that a further Annual Review be undertaken in summer 2024 and subsequent reviews would include input from the Bee Network Committee which would be responsible for reviewing fares and making recommendations to GMCA.

Members thanked officers for the report and welcomed the opportunity to receive some initial feedback on the implementation of bus franchising tranche 1 and progress reports on the subsequent deployment of the rest of the tranches. The Mayor assured members that work was under to ensure full operation of the Bee Network by January 2025 and that a further report to the Scrutiny Committee had been scheduled for September on the overall long-term vision for the Bee Network, that would seek to include some early feedback on the implementation of tranche 1.

It was highlighted that services needed to be punctual and at the right cost to encourage travel on the network. The Mayor acknowledged the comments made and explained that under the franchise agreement bus operators would be held accountable for performance. It was added that the Bee Network application once live would have the added functionality for users to rate their journey that would be reflected in operator payments.

There was concern also raised that services in the north of the conurbation were poorer overall, and that it was imperative that they were punctual, safe and low cost. The GM Mayor responded that franchising the bee network could see the greatest

impact in the north of the sub region and recognised that punctuality was a key driver. A commitment to regular services within a franchised model would be fundamental, with an ambition for 12 minute services on as many arterial routes as possible.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the outcome of the annual review of capped bus fares be noted.
2. That the recommendation for the continuation of capped single, daily and weekly bus fares at the existing price be noted.
3. That it be noted that the GMCA has delegated authority to the Chief Executive of GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor, to approve the continuation of the capped bus fares scheme, subject to any recommendations made by the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.

**B. BEE NETWORK FARES AND PRODUCTS**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the proposed introduction of fares and products that would be available to customers travelling from 24th September 2023.

The Mayor stated that Greater Manchester's move to bus franchising provided the mechanism to delivering transformational change in bus service delivery for an integrated 'London-style' transport system with flexible products, which would transform the way people travel across the city region. The GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee were therefore invited to put forward any recommendations/suggestions for TfGM to consider as part of their policy development in relation to fares and products.

Members welcomed the report and highlighted the need to capture the economic, social, and environmental benefits from bus franchising for it to be included as part of the long-term public transport funding case for GM and recognised the need for this data when negotiating a sophisticated funding model with Government

Members sought to understand how bus reliability issues due to driver availability would be addressed under the franchising agreement. The Mayor assured members that in addition to retaining existing drivers, a further driver hire campaign had been launched to ensure services were adequately staffed. It was added that further work had been planned for school leavers to consider public transport jobs as a strong career pathway.

It was highlighted that there was an opportunity for GM to work better to mitigate delays through better management of the road network and that members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee had an opportunity to assist in making improvements that would have a positive impact on punctuality.

In response to a member's query in relation to the financial sustainability of the network, it was reported that current fares caps were funded through BSIP and were proving to be value for money as patronage was steadily increasing. Officers added that GM would be in a better position to report on granularities at the next annual review as more data would be available.

The GM Mayor advised that he would be seeking cross-party support for a proposal to government later in the year regarding the future funding of public transport to ensure future security and sustainability of the network.

It was requested that TfGM continue to provide concessionary support for all groups, leaving no groups or communities disadvantaged and consider the development of product for carers and families. The Mayor advised that conversations with the Credit Union were ongoing to ensure that less affluent residents still had access to the same discounted products, for example annual and monthly tickets which required an upfront payment.

Members raised that despite the fares cap a few operators have continued to increase prices. The Mayor advised that this was a voluntary arrangement however this issue would be regularly monitored and for the very small proportion of customers' journeys where differences do continue to exist, TfGM would seek to review and recompense users where necessary. Members suggested that any compensation scheme be made as simple and accessible to all residents.

To better manage the network, it was suggested that TfGM should seek to improve relations with unions to mitigate any risk of future industrial action impacting the performance of the network. The Mayor welcomed the suggestion and advised that the move towards the Bee Network would lead to improved relations and thus better management of the Bee Network.

The success of the scheme was seen dependent on increasing patronage. Members were assured that a significant wave of publicity campaigns had been planned to increase visibility of products available.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the proposed range of fares and products that would be available to customers travelling from 24th September 2023 be noted.
2. That it be noted that the recommendations/ feedback from the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be presented to the GMCA on 28 July ahead of their approval of the proposed range of fares and products.
3. That it be noted that a further report would be received in September outlining the overall long-term vision for the Bee Network, as well as initial feedback on the implementation of bus franchising tranche 1.

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the work of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee over the past municipal year in support of (and alongside) the independent evaluation undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

Members expressed their thanks to the outgoing Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee and noted that his leadership and support had resulted in a significant uplift in the level of scrutiny activity at a Greater Manchester level and the overall profile of the Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the annual report in conjunction with the independent evaluation set out in Annex A of the report be noted.
2. That it be noted that this report would be shared with the GMCA at their meeting on the 28 July 2023 and that on an annual basis the GMCA will receive a report on the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the draft Work Programme be noted.
2. That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions be received and noted.
3. That a letter of thanks be sent to Councillor John Walsh, former Chair of the Committee for his exceptional leadership over the past year.

**RESOLVED /-**

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

- 16 August; 1-3 PM
- 27 September; 1-3 PM
- 25 October; 1-3 PM
- 22 November; 1-3 PM
- 13 December; 1-3 PM
- 24 January; 1-3 PM
- 7 February; 1-3 PM
- 21 February; 1-3 PM
- 20 March; 1-3 PM

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST 2023  
AT THE TOOTAL BUILDINGS, BROADHURST HOUSE, 1ST FLOOR,  
56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council (Chair)
Councillor Peter Wright	Bolton Council
Councillor Russell Bernstein	Bury Council
Councillor Nathan Boroda	Bury Council
Councillor Mary Whitby	Bury Council
Councillor Linda Foley	Manchester City Council
Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin	Manchester City Council
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale Council
Councillor Patricia Dale	Rochdale Council
Councillor Sameena Zaheer	Rochdale Council
Councillor Joshua Brooks	Salford City Council
Councillor Lewis Nelson	Salford City Council
Councillor Marie Brabiner	Salford Council
Councillor Helen Hibbert	Stockport Council
Councillor Jill Axford	Trafford Council
Councillor Shaun Ennis	Trafford Council
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council
Councillor Dane Anderton	Wigan Council
Councillor Debra Wailes	Wigan Council

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Eamonn Boylan	GMCA
Gwynne Williams	GMCA
Nicola Ward	GMCA
Adrian Bates	GMCA
Laura Blakey	GMCA
Elaine Mottershead	GMCA
Ninoshka Martins	GMCA

## **O&SC 13/23            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Basil Curley, Colin McLaren, Jenny Harrison, Naila Sharif, Joanne Marshall, and Fred Walker.

## **O&SC 14/23            CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

### 1.    GM Cycle Hire Scheme

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, provided a verbal update on the GM cycle hire scheme. The level of theft and vandalism to the bikes had been such that the required repair rate could not be sustained. A recovery plan had now been put in place and was summarised as follows:

- The recovery plan and maintaining subsequent operation of the scheme would be managed within the original budget that was set in 2021.
- The company operating the scheme had made improvements with additional resources to increase the capacity of their repair and maintenance workshop, alongside improvements to security and technology.
- The Greater Manchester scheme was out-performing its business plan as well as similar arrangements in London (the publicly owned scheme, not the private schemes) and West Midlands.
- Manchester, Salford and Trafford had areas where the scheme had been temporarily suspended but there were no current plans to permanently remove the scheme from any areas. The temporary suspensions would be reviewed in September 2023 by all partners including Greater Manchester Police.
- At the lowest level, there were 200 bikes in operation. There were now 320 in operation with a target of 500 to be available by the end of August 2023.
- In response to a member's question around the sustainability of the scheme and the temporary suspensions, it was confirmed that a significant surplus was retained to ensure that there were replacements readily available.
- In response to a member's request, it was agreed that a full written report (including financial data and the recovery plan) would be brought to the next meeting on 27 September 2023.



2. Urgent Item – Call-in of Chief Executive decision regarding investment to LoveRaw Ltd

Following the requisite number of call-in requests received, the Chair had agreed to consider the report relating to GMCA Investment: LoveRaw Ltd as an item of urgent business for this meeting (Part B).

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That a progress report on Greater Manchester's Cycle Hire scheme be brought to the next meeting.
2. That the Committee consider the report relating to GMCA Investment: LoveRaw Ltd as an item of urgent business for this meeting (Part B).

**O&SC 15/23            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**O&SC 16/23            MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JULY 2023**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**O&SC 17/23            GREATER MANCHESTER RACE EQUALITY STRATEGY**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities, introduced the report which provided an overview of the developing Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy. Councillor Shah acknowledged that tackling race inequalities required a long-term commitment and thanked colleagues in Greater Manchester for their continued support and leadership specifically from Elizabeth Cameron, Chair of the Equality Board and GM Mayor Andy Burnham.

During the pandemic, structural racism and related inequalities came to the forefront and were quickly identified as priorities for the region. Councillor Shah drew members' attention to some of the statistics in the report around employment, children & young people, health and housing which further highlighted the need for priority work on this strategy. Five key areas had been identified around leadership, accountability and community engagement, commitment and resources, and performance measures to ensure the required steps could be implemented effectively.

The Chair invited members to consider their potential role in this work and the following questions and comments were noted:

- The Committee agreed that the suggested themes suggested for the Race Equality Strategy felt right.
- In order to support the ambitions, members of the Committee agreed that there was a strong need for political leadership from all place leaders and that a hands on approach to challenging systemic issues was called for.
- There was a view from some members that the report could have contained more detail and specific outcomes. Councillor Shah responded that, as Portfolio Lead, she had been requested to bring this strategy at a very early point to ensure involvement at the developmental stage and that this engagement with Overview & Scrutiny would help shape the priority outcomes for the Strategy.
- There was a challenge around the detail contained in paragraph 1.4 of the report and what work had been done since the Race Equality Panel's establishment in 2020. Councillor Shah responded that progress was at a pace that was disproportionate to the dedication and support of colleagues, some of whom worked in a voluntary capacity, however it was reflective of the significance of the task and the time needed to bring about effective change.

There was acknowledgement that not all statistics could be improved e.g. where health statistics had a genetic basis but, in those situations, members should look to seek improvements on processes or outcomes instead. Similarly, there was discussion about the lack of potential impact in certain areas where there might not be tangible consequences e.g. if a company was not adhering to Greater Manchester's Living Wage initiative.

- It was suggested that, whilst this work needs to be integrated into all other areas, it may benefit from a scrutiny Task and Finish approach. This could for example, include the links between race equality and the criminal justice and education systems.

- The level of scope for this work was discussed and a suggestion made to prioritise quick wins in order to increase the visibility of stepped change and provide focus for the programme.
- In agreeing the initial steps, clarity would be provided over the resources required to deliver on the agreed actions, one of which could be to consider a level of remuneration for Panel members. It was agreed that clear links and a stronger working relationship should be formed between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Race Equality Panel but with a clear aim of co-production and not as a token checkpoint.
- In response to a member's query, Councillor Shah confirmed that the voluntary and social enterprise sector were involved through the members of the panel that already work in that sector and had been consulted already on the Strategy and would continue to be engaged.
- There was a practical suggestion around sourcing work and reports that had been done previously as a baseline. The strategy should, make reference to previous strategies with some explanation as to why they did not produce the desired outcomes, however, reflect that some new approaches would now be necessary.
- Members commented that the GM trailblazer deal should be used to embed the principles of the Strategy in service procurement, delivery and future planning.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be considered when further developing the strategy.
3. That the Equality Strategy, with its links to other areas of work, be considered by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee for a task and finish project.

**O&SC 18/23            WORK PROGRAMME & FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

The Chair reminded the Committee that they would be undertaking a workshop to plan the future work programme.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the Overview & Scrutiny work programme be noted.

**O&SC 19/23            FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The Chair drew members' attention to the list of future meeting dates and that the meeting on 27 September will be held at the different time of 2-4pm.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the schedule for future meetings be noted:

27 September 2023	2-4pm
25 October 2023	1-3pm
22 November 2023	1-3pm
13 December 2023	1-3pm
24 January 2024	1-3pm
7 February 2024	1-3pm
21 February 2024	1-3pm
20 March 2024	1-3pm

**O&SC 20/23            EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the Committee make no recommendations in relation to the GMCA Investment: LoveRaw Ltd, noting that the decision will stand and may be implemented with immediate effect.
3. That the report on GM Investment Funds, submitted to the GMCA at its meeting on 28 July 2023, be circulated to Committee members.
4. That GM Investment Funds be included on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee future work programme.

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**MINUTES FROM THE GREATER MANCHESTER BUSINESS BOARD MEETING HELD AT 16:00 ON WEDNESDAY 19 JULY 2023 IN THE BOARDROOM, GMCA OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER**

**Board Members:**

Lou Cordwell (In the Chair)

Mayor Andy Burnham, Marilyn Comrie, Steve Connor, Cllr Bev Craig, Justin Kelly, Clive Memmott & Vimla Appadoo.

**Advisors:**

David Rogerson (GMCA), Lee Teasdale (GMCA), Mark Hughes (The Growth Company), Oscar Lynch (GMCA), Louise Latham (Marketing Manchester), Ross McRae (GMCA), Lisa Dale-Clough (GMCA), Mark Thomas (TfGM) & Rosalind O'Driscoll (TfGM)

**Attending via Hybrid Link:**

Cllr Eamonn O'Brien (LEP Member), Simon Nokes (GMCA), Jacob Morris-Davis (GMCA) & Joanne Roney (MCC).

**GMBB/23/10          WELCOME, APOLOGIES & INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, advising that the meeting would be structured to allow time for wide ranging discussions on the deep dive items.

Apologies were received from Chris Oglesby, Lorna Fitzsimons, Miles Rothbury, Mike Blackburn and Eamonn Boylan.

**GMBB/23/11          DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**GMBB/23/12          MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

Ratification was required for the minutes of a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

It was advised that arrangements would be made for briefings ahead of party conference season.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Board agrees the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 as a true and correct record of the meeting and ratifies the emergency decisions.

**CURRENT ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

**GMBB/23/13          ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE & BUSINESS ANALYSIS**

**Government Policy Update**

- Welcome news had been received that inflation rates were now appearing to gradually level off.
- The devolution deal continues to be implemented and conversations were ongoing with the Treasury on the single settlement and how to move forward with Investment Zones.
- A senior civil service visit had taken place earlier in the week which had provided a valuable opportunity for telling 'The Greater Manchester Story', including a visit the Stockport MDC, Atom Valley and transport issues in Central Manchester amongst other areas.

**Cost of Living & Economic Resilience**

- Further measures had been incorporated as requested, with data now incorporated from the Growth Hub survey and GM Chamber survey.
- The latest meeting of the Economic Resilience Board had just taken place and the general view at that seemed to be confidence in the region was showing relative resilience but investment decisions in the main continued to be put on hold.



## **Board Economic Intelligence Feedback**

- Confirmation had been received from the government that the recovery funding asks for public transport may not be provided to the amount petitioned for. GM was however sticking to its plans on the fare structure for the Bee Network.
- There was continued disappointment with the decline of the national rail network with the additional news coming out around plans to close all ticket offices in England. GM had made it clear that its position was that a full transparent and proper process needed to take place before any ticket offices were closed. A 21-day process was simply not acceptable.
- The technical education announcements recently made had received hugely positive feedback. The LSIP had now been submitted and would be published within a matter of weeks.
- Places for Everyone would provide the opportunity to really begin to embed investment and growth zones across the city region and the mapping out of an ambition for all parts of the region for the future.
- The GAMMA Steering Group continued to meet and develop – with the intention to now move towards a more formal footing in terms of governance.

## **GC Business Support, International and Marketing**

- There were some indications that spending in terms of commerce remained healthy, particularly e-commerce. Though of particular note was a marked growth in the usage of 'buy now, pay later' schemes.
- There were some tentative growth signs within the labour market.
- The final ERDF programme was now coming to an end with the transition to UKSPF.
- The Made Smarter programme continued to make progress and go well, as did the Create Growth Programme.

- Reference was made to the further development and rollout of the Bee Net Zero Rooftop Revolution which encouraged business to invest in solar energy to unlock huge benefits in their long-term energy costs.
- Discussion took place about inward investment and it was suggested that Marketing Manchester and MIDAS could provide a presentation towards the end of 2023.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the updates on government policy; cost of living & economic resilience; economic intelligence and GC business support, international and marketing; all be received by the Board.
2. That arrangements be made for a deep dive item on inward investment.

**DEEP DIVE**

**GMBB/23/14            FOUNDATIONAL ECONOMY AND GOOD EMPLOYMENT UPDATE**

- The Foundational Economy was a way of conceptualising sectors of the economy and grouping them accordingly – with the variable bringing them all together being that they were needed for social & economic functioning and wellbeing.
- This included a large number of varied sectors, for example health & social care; education; agriculture and manufacturing – areas vital for the rest of the economy to function.
- A flagship programme was now in place that would provide 40 grants to organisations across the conurbation for innovative projects that would drive forward the economy.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the update on the foundational economy and good employment be received.

- The item was added to consider what GM could be doing to further push green transport in the region following recent media coverage. Whilst it was clear that there was a lot of work now being put in place to improve GM's standing it was agreed that discussion needed to take place on how to push this agenda further and faster.
- Discussion points included how the spirit of cooperation in the region between public and private could reap real benefits; the mapping of the region was very strong and ready to be capitalised upon; national rail continued to be in issue that could hold the region back; the challenges of travelling on public transport between parts of the region without coming into the centre; and how the business community could support shared public transport ambitions for the region during conference season.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the Green Transport Discussion be noted.

***MEDIUM TERM PRIORITIES***

- An update was provided on the Economic Resilience Group including how the Business Board itself could support genuine economic resilience and respond to any major economic shocks.
- An update was provided following the latest meeting of the Inequalities Board. A revised set of actions had been developed that would be made available to the Business Board.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the board member feedback be received.
2. That the latest actions arising from the Inequalities Board be made available to the Business Board.

**GMBB/23/17            GM BUSINESS BOARD ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN AND REPORT**

- The latest revision of the Annual Report (looking back at the previous 12 months) and Delivery Plan (looking forward to the next 12 months). These would be produced and signed off by the Chair. It was asked that any feedback on these be sent to Simon Nokes.

**RESOLVED: /**

1. That members receive the latest iteration of the Annual Report and Delivery Plan.
2. That any feedback be sent to Simon Nokes ahead of sending these on to government.

**GMBB/23/18            GM BUSINESS BOARD MEMBERSHIP REFRESH**

- A number of applications had now been received; the shortlisting process was taking place ahead of final interviews.

**RESOLVED: /**

1. That the latest update on GM Business Board Membership be received.

***LONG TERM ECONOMIC CHALLENGES***

**GMBB/23/19            FORESIGHT TOPIC – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

- AI is a key priority that needs to be addressed. The Chair would explore the scope of the work with officers before bringing an update to the Board.

**RESOLVED: /**

1. That information for the scoping of the Artificial Intelligence foresight exercise be shared as it is developed.

***FOR INFORMATION AND VIEWS***

**GMBB/23/20          MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

- Comms around party conference season were being prepared so that all Business Board members would be appropriately briefed. Arrangements were also being made for the Business Board to host an event during the Conservative Conference in Manchester.

**RESOLVED:/**

1. That the marketing and communications update be received.

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE  
HELD THURSDAY, 27TH JULY, 2023 AT GMCA OFFICES,  
56 OXFORD STREET, M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

GM Mayor Andy Burnham (Chair)	GMCA
Councillor Grace Baynham	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale Council
Councillor Dan Costello	Tameside
City Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford
Councillor Sean Fielding	Bolton
Councillor James Gartside	Rochdale
Councillor Hamid Khurram	Bolton
Councillor David Meller	Mayoral
Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Bury
Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury
Councillor Tracey Rawlins	Manchester
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham
Councillor Elaine Taylor	Oldham
Councillor John Vickers	Wigan
Councillor Aidan Williams	Trafford

**OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Noel Bayley	Bury
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**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

James Baldwin	TfGM
Eamonn Boylan	GMCA
Alex Cropper	TfGM
Helen Humble	TfGM
Martin Lax	TfGM

<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>

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jonathan Marsh	TfGM
Rosalind O'Driscoll	TfGM
Stephen Rhodes	TfGM
Gwynne Williams	GMCA

**BNC/1/23 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and noted from Councillors Paul Prescott (Wigan) and Hamid Khurram (Bolton).

**BNC/2/23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA opened the meeting and invited nominations for the appointment of Chair.

The Committee agreed the appointment of the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham as Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham be appointed as Chair for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

**BNC/3/23 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

The nomination of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien was moved and seconded. No other nominations for vice Chair were received.

The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien as Vice-Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**RESOLVED/-**



That Councillor Eamonn O'Brien be appointed as Vice Chair for the 2023/24 municipal year.

**BNC/4/23 MEMBERSHIP FOR 2023/24 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

That the membership of the Committee for the forthcoming year be noted as below:

**RESOLVED/-**

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Substitutes</b>
<b>GM Mayor</b>	Andy Burnham (Labour)	Tom Ross (Labour)
<b>GMCA</b>	Eamonn O'Brien (Labour)	Neil Emmott (Labour)
<b>Bolton</b>	Hamid Khurram (Labour)	Sean Fielding (Labour)
<b>Bury</b>	Alan Quinn (Labour)	Noel Bayley (Labour)
<b>Manchester</b>	Tracey Rawlins (Labour)	TBC
<b>Oldham</b>	Elaine Taylor (Labour)	Chris Goodwin (Labour & Co- operative)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Phil Burke (Labour)	TBC
<b>Salford</b>	Paul Dennett (Labour)	Mike McCusker (Labour)
<b>Stockport</b>	Grace Baynham (Liberal Democrat)	Mark Roberts (Liberal Democrat)
<b>Tameside</b>	Warren Bray (Labour)	Jan Jackson (Labour)
<b>Trafford</b>	Aiden Williams (Labour)	Steve Adshead (Labour)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Labour)	John Vickers (Labour)

<b>District</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Substitutes</b>
<b>Mayoral - Oldham</b>	Howard Sykes (Lib Dem)	TBC

<b>Mayoral - Stockport</b>	David Meller (Labour & Co-operative)	TBC
<b>Mayoral - Tameside</b>	Dan Costello (Conservative)	TBC
<b>Mayoral - Rochdale</b>	James Gartside (Conservative)	TBC

**BNC/5/23 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and were requested to complete an annual declaration of interest form, which had been emailed to them by the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Code of Conduct be noted.
2. That members complete their Annual Declaration of Interest and return their duly filled form to the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

**BNC/6/23 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Consideration was given to the terms of reference and rules of procedure for the newly established Committee.

It was noted that the Bee Network Committee was a joint committee of the ten Greater Manchester district councils ('the Constituent Councils'), the GMCA and the Mayor, that brought together the principal transport decision-makers in Greater Manchester, allowing a holistic, integrated view of transport to be taken.

The role of the newly established Committee was outlined as below:

- a) Decision-Making – Determining changes to transport network operations as set out in Part 2, and the draw down of funding to invest in transport infrastructure and operations.

- b) Performance Monitoring – Oversight of the performance and financial sustainability of the transport network, holding transport operators and TfGM to account.
- c) Policy Development – Developing transport policy to support the delivery of the Local Transport Plan and the Greater Manchester Strategy, within the parameters of the budgets set by GMCA.
- d) Local Coordination – Facilitating coordination between the Constituent Councils to support effective highways management and infrastructure delivery.

The establishment of the Bee Network Committee was welcomed as it was seen as a crucial step to improving the network through better coordination over the delivery of the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan. It was strongly felt that an efficient network would put GM in a better position to lobby Government to agree a future funding position.

The revised Committee model would also allow members the opportunity to closely monitor the performance of the Bee Network. The work of the Committee will also be supported by Task & Finish groups that will be commissioned as and when required.

As appropriate, the Active Travel and Transport Commissioner would attend these meetings to keep members updated on the progress of various schemes.

In seeing local accountability as crucial to the delivery of the Bee Network, it was reported that a similar model had been replicated by a few local authorities. It was therefore felt that it would be beneficial for districts to replicate the Bee Network Committee model at a local level to ensure better coordination of services.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure be noted.

## **BNC/7/23 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That Councillors Tracy Rawlins, Phil Burke, David Meller, Sean Fielding and Dan Costello be appointed to the Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Board.
2. That Mike McCusker be appointed to the Green City Region Partnership.

## **BNC/8/23 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor, Andy Burnham, provided an update on the legal action taken by the four Metro Mayors regarding ticket office closures. It was envisaged that the closure of ticketing offices would have a huge impact on passengers, disproportionately impacting the disabled and most vulnerable residents in GM.

The Mayor indicated that there would be costs implications for the GMCA as a result of his decision to move forward with legal action, however he was willing for his office to bear the costs to ensure that the ticket offices remained open.

Following a robust discussion on the implications to residents and in noting the position of GM Local Authorities to oppose the closure of ticket offices it was felt that it would be appropriate to pass a motion to indicate their support to the Mayor in his decision to call on the Rail Delivery Group to halt the closures of ticket offices and to hold a full consultation in line with the requirements of the Railway Act 2025.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the update on the Mayor's position in relation to the closure of ticket offices be noted.
2. That the following motion be passed by the Bee Network Committee:

*The Committee resolves to support the action of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and other Mayors in opposing the current proposal to close ticket offices in rail*

*stations. We call on the Rail Delivery Group to halt the current process and undertake a full consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act, 2005.*

## **BNC/9/23    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **RESOLVED/-**

That it be noted that Councillor Phil Burke declared a personal interest in items 14 & 17 as an employee of Metrolink.

## **BNC/10/23    GREATER MANCHESTER BUS STRATEGY:    BETTER BUSES FOR THE BEE NETWORK**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy, to which the Committee's endorsement was sought. Included within the report was also details on how the bus network would support the creation of the integrated Bee Network.

It was noted that the priorities and ambitions that were set out within the Bus Strategy would require additional funding to be delivered.

Members thanked officers for the report and welcomed the opportunity to receive regular updates on progress towards the targets set out in the Bus Strategy in order to monitor delivery of its aims.

It was felt that GM had an opportunity to support local policies through advertisement on buses therefore it was agreed that the advertisement policy would be brought to a future meeting.

Whilst cashless ticketing was seen as an effective way of improving punctuality of services, it was felt that this could potentially be an issue amongst the elderly. In response, it was explained that work was being done to explore options for expanding the contactless pay-as-you-go system however there still would be an option for passenger to purchase a ticket using cash.

In discussing the issues resulting in delays on the network, it was highlighted that congestion due to road works was a contributing factor. The Mayor welcomed the suggestion on considering shorter routes including park and ride schemes and highlighted that alongside considering shorter routes there was an opportunity for local authorities to improve the co-ordination of roadworks to ensure disruption are kept to a minimal.

Local coordination was seen as essential to delivering an efficient service across the network, it was therefore welcomed that the Mayor recommends to GM Local Authorities to replicate the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to ensure better control and coordination over deployment of services.

In response to members concerns around the lack of connectivity in certain areas of GM, it was highlighted that GM had a better opportunity through bus franchising to manage the network to increase useability alongside the focus being around connecting people to places. It was added that the strategy sets an ambition for buses to run at least every 12 minutes on key orbital and radial routes. It also aims for 90% of the entire Greater Manchester population to be within 400m of a 30-minute frequency bus or Metrolink service on weekdays. Where this was not possible, alternate options to provide connectivity as part of the Bee Network would be put in place.

Safety on the network alongside reliability and affordability were key themes emerging from the discussion that took place with the suggestion that these themes should be incorporated into future campaigns. In noting that safety was a prerequisite to successfully increasing patronage on the network, the Mayor requested that a standing invite be extended to GMP colleagues to attend the Bee Network Committee to be able to address any concerns. In addition, it was also agreed that the Customer Growth Strategy would be brought to a future meeting to allow members the opportunity to input into that piece of work.

It was reported that the Local Transport Plan that sets out GM's long-term ambition for transport was due to be refreshed, members were assured that prior to a draft being submitted to DfT, the plan would be brought to a future meeting for consideration by members.

In an effort to improve reliability, the Mayor assured members that renewed arrangements for workforce engagement were in place. In addition to retaining existing drivers, a further driver hire campaign had been launched to ensure services were adequately staffed. Franchising was also seen as an opportunity to link to the GM skills agenda, to allow school leavers to consider public transport jobs as a career pathway.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy be noted.
2. That it be noted that the Bee Network Committee suggests that the GMCA recommends to GM Local Authorities to replicate the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to ensure better control and coordination over deployment of services across the Bee Network.
3. That a further report on advertising policy on buses be received at a future meeting.
4. In noting that safety was a prerequisite to successfully increasing patronage on the network, it was agreed that a standing invite should be extended to GMP colleagues to all future meetings of the Committee.
5. That a further report on the Customer Growth Strategy be received at a future meeting.
6. That prior to submission to DfT, the Local Transport Plan be received by the Committee.
7. That it be noted that the Bee Network Committee would receive regular updates on progress towards targets set out within the Bus Strategy.

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval over the funding of a number of CRSTS and Active Travel schemes in order to support the continued development and delivery of the Greater Manchester Transport Capital Programme.

Members were advised that the Transport Capital Programme would be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and that regular reports would be brought to future meetings.

In response to Councillor Meller's request for further details on the Greek Street Bridge / Stockholm Road Bridge scheme, it was agreed that officers would pick this following the meeting.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That it be noted that the Greek Street Bridge / Stockholm Road Bridge scheme has achieved Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) approval and that approval be given to the total draw-down for this scheme of £6.0m (comprising, £4.1m from the Tram-Train Package and £1.9m from Stockport Council's Strategic Maintenance Package);

2. That the draw-down of CRSTS funding be agreed as follows:

- City Centre Bus and S4A Connectivity Programme (Radials) – £3.28m to progress individual Outline Business Cases for a number of radial corridors, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC in due course;
  - Oldham Mumps Corridor Improvements – £0.68m to develop the scheme to Final Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
  - Stockport Station – £1.35m to continue to progress design and development activity to a single preferred option, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC in due course;
  - Salford Quays Northern Access – an additional £0.19m to develop the scheme to Full Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
  - Bury – Rochdale Quality Bus Transit - £0.96m to continue to develop the scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;



- Wigan – Leigh Quality Bus Transit - £0.56m to continue to develop the scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
- Wigan – Bolton Quality Bus Transit – £0.43m to continue to develop the scheme to Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage;
- Access for All Programme – £0.27m to complete development of four AfA schemes to Full Business Case and further study work to support the Rail Strategy. Noting a further update will be brought to the BNC upon completion of the procurement exercise; and
- Bury Interchange - £2.72m to facilitate the completion of the Outline Business Case, noting that a further update will be brought to the BNC at that stage.

3. That the draw-down of Active Travel funding be agreed as follows:

- £2.55m to enable full delivery of the Bury Radcliffe Central Phase 1 scheme;
- £2.45m to enable full delivery of the GM Average Safety Cameras scheme;
- £0.75m to enable development of the ATF3, Manchester Alan Turing Way scheme; and
- £0.24m to enable development of the ATF4, GM-wide Signal Junction Upgrades scheme.

4. That further details on the Greek Street Bridge / Stockholm Road consultation be shared with Councillor Meller.

5. That it be noted that the Transport Capital Programme would be reviewed on a bi-annual basis and that regular reports would be received by the Bee Network Committee.

## **BNC/12/23 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH - STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN 2**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the Transport for the North's draft Strategic Transport Plan 2 which had been published for public consultation. The report summarised the draft plan, and the key feedback areas for inclusion in Greater Manchester's response to the consultation. Referenced within the

report was a number of consultations being carried out by National Highways and the Department for Transport which TfGM were currently responding to.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That TfN's draft Strategic Transport Plan be noted.
2. That the key points for inclusion in Greater Manchester's response be noted and endorsed.
3. That the Bee Network Committee agrees to delegate the approval of the final consultation response to the Chief Executive of TfGM and GMCA.
4. That it be noted that TfGM officers were responding to a number of relevant consultations being carried out by National Highways and the Department for Transport.

#### **BNC/13/23 BEE NETWORK FARES AND PRODUCTS**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the proposed introduction of fares and products that would be available to customers travelling from 24th September 2023.

The Mayor stated that Greater Manchester's move to bus franchising provided the mechanism to delivering transformational change in bus service delivery for an integrated 'London-style' transport system with flexible products, which would transform the way people travel across the city region.

Members raised that despite the fares cap a few operators have continued to increase prices. The Mayor advised that this was a voluntary arrangement however this issue would be regularly monitored and for the very small proportion of customers' journeys where differences do continue to exist, TfGM would seek to review and recompense users where appropriate. Members suggested that any compensation scheme should be made as simple and accessible to all residents.

With regards to the issue raised around the variation in the cost of products offered by Go-NorthWest operators, it was agreed that officers would look into the matter and a response would be provided to Councillor Bailey following the meeting.

It was requested that TfGM continue to provide concessionary support for all groups, leaving no groups or communities disadvantaged and consider the development of product for carers. Officers agreed to look into the development of a report on the feasibility of delivering a Bus Companion Pass.

The Mayor advised that conversations with the Credit Union were ongoing to ensure that less affluent residents still had access to the same discounted products, for example annual and monthly tickets which required an upfront payment.

In response to a member's request for details on the Salford Corridor discounted products, officers advised that details would be shared with City Mayor Dennett following the meeting.

Concerns were raised around the lack of functionality around ticketing systems placed at train stations, as there was no option for passengers to purchase a multi-modal ticket. Officers noted the issue raised and agreed to respond to Councillor Fielding following the meeting.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That it be noted, and approval be given to the proposed range of fares and products that will be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
2. That the recommendations or feedback from the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.
3. That further details on the Salford Corridor discounted products be shared with City Mayor Dennett.

4. That the issue raised around the variation in the cost of products offered by Go-NorthWest operators would be reviewed and a response would be provided to Councillor Bailey.
5. That the issue of not being able to purchase a multi-modal ticket at train station would be reviewed and a response would be provided to Councillor Fielding.
6. That in response to Councillor Rawlins' request, officers would look into the development of a report on the feasibility of delivering a Bus Companion Pass.

### **BNC/14/23 METROLINK CONTRACT EXTENSION - PART A**

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval to trigger the extension option within the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with Keolis Amey Metrolink Ltd (KAM) to extend the contract until 25 July 2027.

Members welcomed the report, as well as the approach undertaken through the 'Contract Review' exercise with KAM, which focused on opportunities for efficiencies and net revenue improvements.

In noting members concerns around the absence of Metrolink in certain areas of GM, the Mayor assured members that he was committed to exploring new ways to expand the Metrolink network and the development of potential 'tram-train' services were being considered. Officers added that the Fixed Track Strategy would be brought to a future meeting.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That approval be given to the proposed terms of extension to the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with Keolis Amey Metrolink Ltd (KAM) from 21 July 2024 to 25 July 2027.

3. That it be noted that a detailed report on the Fixed Track Strategy (linked to development of tram-train services) would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **BNC/15/23 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the dates and times of future meetings would be confirmed following the meeting.

### **BNC/16/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

### **BNC/17/23 METROLINK EXTENSION CONTRACT - PART B**

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Item 14 above refers).

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Subject: Cost of Living and Economic Resilience

Report of: Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business and Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities.

---

### Purpose of Report

To provide GMCA with an update on the cost of living pressures on residents and businesses in Greater Manchester, and some of the measures being put in place by the GMCA and partners to respond.

Please note, the structure of this report has been updated since the last iteration of these papers. The new structure first presents headlines from the Residents' Survey and Cost of Living Dashboard. This is followed by the policy response to the impact of the cost of living crisis on residents. The report then presents headlines from the Economic Resilience Dashboard, and this is followed by the policy response to economic resilience challenges.

### Recommendations:

That the GMCA note:

- The latest assessment and emerging response and give views on the next steps in that response.

### Contact Officers

Andrew Lightfoot, Deputy Chief Executive, GMCA

[Andrew.Lightfoot@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Lightfoot@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Simon Nokes, Executive Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA

[Simon.nokes@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.nokes@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

## Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	N/A	
Resilience and Adaptation	N/A	
Housing		
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the Greater Manchester Carbon Neutral 2038 target.		

*No direct impacts arising from this report*

### **Risk Management**

**None**

### **Legal Considerations**

**None**

### **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

**None**

### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

**None**

**Number of attachments to the report: 1**

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

*None*

### **Background Papers**

*None*

### **Tracking/ Process**

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

No



## Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

N/A

## GM Transport Committee

N/A

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

# 1. HEADLINES FROM THE RESIDENTS' SURVEY AND COST OF LIVING DASHBOARD

- 1.1 This section provides insights on how costs of living pressures are impacting Greater Manchester residents. It draws on headline findings from the Greater Manchester Residents' Survey and Cost of Living Dashboard.

### GM Residents' Survey Headlines

- 1.2 The GM Residents' Survey collects data focused on exploring and understanding cost of living pressures from the perspective of the day-to-day impacts on GM residents. Latest Residents' Survey findings are based on fieldwork completed in May and June/July (Wave 7 & 8 respectively). The next tranche of fieldwork (September) will be published in the first week of October.
- 1.3 Cost of living impacts show relatively limited signs of improvement: **over 7 in 10 residents continue to say that their overall cost of living has increased over the past month.** This figure has fallen slightly since March, when figures were last featured in this report, but comparison to benchmarks across a range of metrics continues to suggest that GM residents are experiencing these impacts to a greater degree than elsewhere across Great Britain. The following summary describes the latest picture in relation to debt and financial hardship; energy costs; food insecurity; and rents/mortgages.

## *Debt and financial hardship*

- 1.4 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has devised a measure of financial vulnerability, based on four questions regularly asked in national surveys that are mirrored in the GM Residents' Survey. The questions relate to ability to cope with an unexpected expense; ability to save; borrowing behaviour; and affordability of energy bills. Bespoke analysis of the Greater Manchester data over the period from March to July 2023 suggests that **approximately 1 in 3 residents in Greater Manchester may be considered financially vulnerable according to this definition**. This is **high compared to the 1 in 4 for Great Britain overall, and has remained higher for almost 12 months**. Within localities, the prevalence of financial vulnerability ranges from 26% to 36% (See Table 1).
- 1.5 Although the overall proportion of residents presenting as financially vulnerable has remained broadly stable over the tracking period for which data is available (September 2022 – July 2023), **the proportion of GM residents reporting borrowing more money or using more credit than usual in the last month has steadily been increasing since Wave 5 of the survey in December 2022 (from 30% to 37% in June – July 2023)**. Data shows that residents across Greater Manchester are also more likely than Great Britain residents overall to be borrowing more or using more credit. In the most recent comparable period, **34% of GM residents reported a year-on-year increase in their borrowing or credit use, compared to 25% of Great Britain**. On a locality basis, there is a wide degree of variation. Within localities the proportion of residents borrowing money or using more credit than usual ranges from 26% to 44% (See Table 1).
- 1.6 Although the increase in borrowing does not automatically translate into financial hardship, **two thirds of GM respondents who are borrowing more money do report having some level of difficulty in managing their debt (that is: either things are “getting harder”; things are becoming “difficult to manage”; or they are “unable to manage”)**. Many households in this situation are seeking help from family or friends, but around half have not sought any form of help up to now (including from debt support organisations, charities and similar). Various reasons are cited – including a lack of clarity about the support that might be on offer,

embarrassment / stigma, and other specific concerns (e.g., worry about impact on credit records).

### *Energy costs*

- 1.7 The most prevalent financial vulnerability for residents of Greater Manchester is affording energy costs, with **over half of those paying bills finding it ‘very difficult’ or ‘somewhat difficult’ to afford energy costs** across all six waves of the GM Residents’ Survey (around 13% ‘very difficult’ in the most recent wave). This is despite the fact that GM residents are already taking a range of measures because of increased cost of living: for example, 59% are using less gas and electricity in the home; while 34% are making energy efficiency improvements. There are some vital equalities components to this picture (e.g. higher proportions of disabled respondents report difficulties, as do those whose first language is not English). Previous surveys have also highlighted the specific challenges faced by residents with a pre-payment meter. There is little variation across localities with approximately 50% of residents within each locality reporting difficulty with affording energy costs (See Table 1).

### *Food poverty*

- 1.8 The July survey found **1 in 3 (37%) respondents with children in the household were feeling worried about feeding their family, heading into the recent summer holiday period. This was almost 2 in 3 (62%) amongst respondents earning below the living wage, with particular challenges also reported by respondents who have younger pre-school aged children, and single parent households.** Taking a broader (and retrospective) view of food insecurity over the last twelve months, food insecurity has been intermittently, but persistently reported as an issue for around a third of families without children, and around half of those with children. For a minority, the reality of food security remains acute: in July 13% said there had “often” been times over the past year when the food they bought didn’t last and they didn’t have money to get more. Disproportionate pressures have been noted to varying degrees in relation to householder with caring responsibilities, those with disabilities, and households within racially minoritised communities (with notable variations between the 10 GM localities also seen).

## *Rents and mortgages*

- 1.9 There continue to be striking differences observed between GM results and those reported through national and wider surveys. **Over half of renters (52%) surveyed in July said it is difficult to afford their rent, with 13% confirming they are behind on their rental payments.** We await latest national comparators, but these figures have been consistently much higher than GB benchmarks over multiple fieldwork periods. Amongst these renters who say they are having difficulties affording their payments, 2 in 5 (44%) have contacted someone for advice with their rental payments (friends & family; landlord; letting agent; Citizens Advice; local council housing advice etc) - but half of those experiencing difficulties have not sought advice – somewhat echoing the finding above regarding residents’ proclivity to seek advice and support when struggling with debt. In relation to owner occupiers, meanwhile, 7% of survey respondents say they are behind on the mortgage payments and the picture remains of concern. Within localities, the proportion reporting difficulty with affording their rent over the latest period (March – July 2023) ranged from 46% to 61% (See Table 1).

**TABLE 1. Estimated levels of financial vulnerability by local authority (ONS definition)**

Question	Bolton	Bury	Manchester	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford	Stockport	Tameside	Trafford	Wigan
% financially vulnerable	36%	32%	36%	34%	32%	29%	26%	35%	26%	30%
% borrowing more money or using more credit than usual	36%	28%	44%	35%	40%	35%	26%	39%	31%	29%
% finding it 'very' or 'somewhat' difficult to afford energy cost	53%	50%	55%	51%	55%	49%	51%	52%	49%	50%
% finding it 'very' or 'somewhat' difficult to afford rent*	61%	56%	54%	54%	58%	50%	46%	51%	51%	50%

Notes: Estimates are modelled based on data from the most recent three Residents' Survey waves combined (March – July 2023)

\*represents proportions for those who are renting.

## Cost of Living Dashboard Headlines

- 1.10 The Cost of Living Dashboard presents further metrics which offer insight on the experiences of GM residents over a longer timescale. The key finding resonates with that of the Residents' Survey; Greater Manchester residents continue to be subject to significant cost pressures.
- 1.11 Wages adjusted for inflation demonstrate how persistently high inflation rates are putting pressure on residents. Median monthly pay in May 2023 was reported to be £2,134, an increase compared with the previous year when median monthly pay was recorded as £1,979 across Greater Manchester. However, **once adjusted for inflation the data shows a reduction in median monthly pay between these two periods, from £2,164 in May 2022 to £2,138 in May 2023.**
- 1.12 The impact of rising costs of living across Greater Manchester is represented in data relating to universal credit claims. **Over 328,000 Greater Manchester residents claimed universal credit in June 2023, representing 18% of the city-region's total working-age population.** In June 2019, the proportion of the city region's working-age population claiming universal credit stood at 7%. Whilst some of this difference is accounted for by the roll-out of universal credit, it also reflects an increase in residents with no work requirements.
- 1.13 Data from Citizens Advice Greater Manchester shows the primary issues reported to teams focus on benefits and tax credits, universal credit and debt. Collectively these issues account for 68% of all issues raised in August 2023 across Greater Manchester Citizens Advice teams. **When comparing with August 2022, this year's data shows an increase of 3,000 enquiries into these issues, highlighting the severity of the current situation and the requirement for benefit and debt related support.**
- 1.14 The latest version of the dashboard can be viewed live at the following link (and is attached as a PDF report): [Cost of Living Dashboard](#)

## 2. DEVELOPING RESPONSE TO THE IMPACT OF THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS ON RESIDENTS

2.1 Responses to mitigate the impacts of the cost of living crisis experienced by GM residents (as outlined in Section 1), include the activities described below.

### **GM Cost of Living Response Group**

2.2 The GM Cost of Living Response Group is now convening bi-monthly with the August meeting focusing on local Winter Planning for 2023/24. The cross-sector group shared good practice and learning from last year and received inputs from representatives of some of GM's most vulnerable cohorts on what could be improved this winter. The following components were identified to assist in undertaking local planning for this winter:

- Household Support Fund - Approaches to targeting allocation and distribution
- Local Financial Allocation - Additional local investment into hardship schemes, community funds, discretionary support schemes etc.
- Other Emergency Assistance
- Food deliveries and cards, energy top-ups, household essentials, coordination with food banks/offers etc
- Helplines and Points of Support
- Phone advice/help lines, additional staffing, Welfare Rights teams, face-to-face drop-ins in the community
- Warms Spaces/Hubs - Use of estate, supporting community groups, incorporating wider offers and support
- Information Sheets, Leaflets, Engagement - Support booklets, money advice referral tool, targeted to specific communities
- Wider Comms Campaigns - Social media, messaging alongside council tax bills, roadshow events (additional targeted activities would be developed should budget become available)

- Collaboration between Public Services, VCFSE and Housing sector - Joint working with community groups, coordinating with infrastructure organisations and housing providers
- Other Innovative Approaches - Wrap around support, early intervention and prevention, smart use of tech/data

## **Food Poverty**

- 2.3 A Roundtable event hosted by the Mayor took place on Monday 4th September with representatives from major supermarkets and GM food manufacturers. There was a commitment to support the increase in the uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers which included local promotions and a commitment to work collectively on developing a case to Central Government for auto-enrolment of residents in the scheme. Representatives also committed to actively participating in the GM Food Security Action Network.
- 2.4 As captured in the overview of Residents' Survey findings in Section 1 of this report, holiday hunger clearly remains a big concern for families across the city region. One in three families stated they were worried about feeding their children over the summer holidays, rising to one in two for single parent families, or parents with a child under 5. During the school holidays, the Greater Manchester Mayor committed £20,000 to support this summer's No Child Should Go Hungry Campaign through the Emergency Food Card Initiative. This was boosted by a donation of £2,000 from a private company in Greater Manchester, enabling each Local Authority to receive £2,200 which provided 440 £5 food vouchers.

## **Joint Work with Energy Providers**

- 2.5 Work with energy providers has focused on winter planning including comms and engagement and a drive to ensure all GM residents that are dependent on medical equipment are sent a personal letter to ensure they are signed up to the Priority Service Register. The Register is a free support service that makes sure extra help is available to people in vulnerable situations. The letter also includes information of



the support available through the ECO4 Energy Company Obligation Scheme which can provide fully funded home energy efficiency measures available through approved installers for residents who are vulnerable and/or on a low income with a health condition.

### **Welfare and Debt Advice**

- 2.6 A mapping exercise is currently underway to understand the availability of welfare and debt advice across Greater Manchester including the level of advice offered and gaps in existing provision. It is anticipated that the exercise will evidence considerable variation in welfare and debt advice across GM.
  
- 2.7 In June the Mayor attended the re-launch of the GM Welfare Rights and Advisors Group. Whilst the majority of welfare rights support is delivered and/or commissioned at a local level, it would appear that there is an increasing pan-GM role to play in supporting residents from escaping or avoiding financial hardship.

## **3. HEADLINES FROM GM ECONOMIC RESILIENCE DASHBOARD**

- 3.1 Similarly to the GM resident experience outlined in Section 1, data on the experiences of GM businesses shows a persistently challenging economic situation.
  
- 3.2 The UK's macroeconomic headlines for the past quarter show persistently low growth of the economy (0.2%, Q2 2023) and persistently high inflation (6.8%, July 2023). In response, the Bank of England raised its base interest rate to 5.25% placing further upward pressure on businesses servicing debt.

- 3.3 **High inflation is clearly still an issue for GM businesses.** A survey of businesses by the GM Business Growth Hub (BGH) shows that as of August 2023:
- the proportion of businesses with less than six month's sustainability is at its highest level in almost two years (21.3%, **since September 2021**),
  - 43% of businesses reported rising costs up from 25% a year earlier.
- 3.4 In addition to these short-term risks, there are also potential longer-term effects. A period of sustained high interest rates may stifle productivity in GM by increasing costs of borrowing and discouraging investment. These longer-term effects do not yet appear to be evident for GM businesses. According to the BGH business survey:
- the proportion of businesses reporting cashflow issues has fallen continuously since March to 14%,
  - the proportion of businesses suspending business investment has fallen to its lowest level this year, 4%.
- 3.5. Going forwards, the economic outlook is weak according to the latest data on forward looking measures. The UK Consumer Confidence Index remains negative at -25 and the UK Purchasing Managers Index shows an expected contraction in the manufacturing sector and low growth in the construction and service sectors. At the local level, the GM Index (an indicator of business confidence) dipped in Q2 2023 to 22.1 despite having risen in all previous quarters since Q3 2022. This reflects falls in domestic sales; domestic and export advanced orders; confidence in profitability; and confidence in turnover in manufacturing and service sectors.
- 3.6. For more information, the latest version of the dashboard can be viewed live at this link (and is attached as a PDF report): [GM Economic Resilience Dashboard](#)

## 4. DEVELOPING RESPONSE TO THE IMPACTS ON BUSINESSES

- 4.1 In response to the increased costs for businesses outlined in Section 3, partner organisations across Greater Manchester are mobilising activity and pivoting existing interventions to focus on helping businesses to manage increased costs and reduce their energy bills. These actions will continue to develop over the coming months, informed by the macroeconomic context and any further announcements from government.

### **Growth Company and Business Growth Hub Services**

- 4.2 The Growth Company (GC) and GC Business Growth Hub (BGH) provide a range of core business support programmes commissioned by the GMCA, UK Government and others to support: start-ups and business growth; access to talent and finance; innovation and adoption of productivity-boosting technologies; and upskilling of leaders and managers.
- 4.3 The Growth Company offer includes Greater Manchester's flagship leadership and management programme for SMEs, '**OPEN SME**'. The programme offers free, short-course online learning from the business schools of University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Salford, and University of Bolton to help small business leaders improve profitability, sustainability and increase business growth. The GMCA is currently looking at options to extend this programme into autumn 2025.
- 4.4 The Growth Company are preparing for the launch of a new investment portal, '**Simplifi**'. Designed and developed with support from GC BGH, GC, GC Business Finance and GC Angels, the new online portal aims to help business owners to navigate the complex funding landscape and to get a better understanding of the finance and investment options available to them and how to access the right products and services.

### **Good Employment and the Real Living Wage**

- 4.5 GM has been recognised as the first Living Wage City Region in the UK, working alongside the Living Wage Foundation. There are now over 500 Living Wage accredited employers in Greater Manchester who have made the public commitment to pay all their staff and first line suppliers at least the real Living Wage. The overall target is for at least 650 employers in GM to be accredited by November 2024. The real living wage currently stands at £10.90, in contrast to the National Living Wage (minimum for over 23s) at £10.42 and the Minimum Wage (for those under 23 but over 21) at £10.18.
- 4.6 The Good Employment Charter was co-designed with employers, trade unions, campaigners, and academics to raise employment standards and help employers of all sizes succeed in all sectors. Over 2,000 employers are now engaged with the Charter Unit, with 544 supporters covering 250,000 workers and 93 full members. There are seven key characteristics of good employment that supporters have to make a commitment to improving practice around: secure work; flexible work; pay (including the real living wage); employee engagement & voice; recruitment; good management; and health & wellbeing.

### **Foundational (or “Everyday”) Economy**

- 4.7 The foundational economy is the part of the economy that supplies everyday but essential goods and services that provide the majority of the jobs in the city-region and keeps our economic and social systems working. Phase 1 of Greater Manchester's Foundational Economy Innovation Fund has now gone live. The fund is providing 40 grants valued at £10,000 to organisations in Greater Manchester's “foundational” or “everyday” economy to trial innovative new ideas and improved ways of working. The grants are accompanied by a programme of innovation support and the development of a community of practice between participants. Grant recipients can pitch for additional funding of up to £60,000 following six months of project delivery.

## Greater Manchester Cost of Living Dashboard

Housing and Homelessness

Welfare and Work

Food

Fuel and Energy

Fire

Crime and Incidents

Digital Exclusion

Health and Wellbeing

Contact Us

Glossary

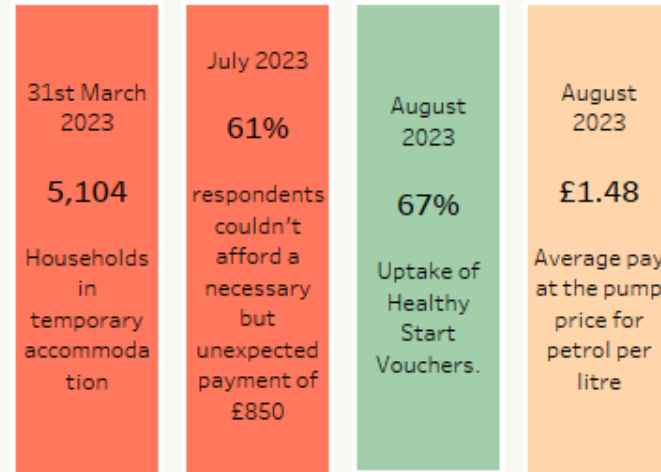
The Greater Manchester Cost of Living Dashboard aims to provide insight and evidence into the rising cost of living in Greater Manchester. The dashboard allows for comparison between each GM local authority, the city region as a whole, the North West and the whole of England. The indicators that are included in this dashboard, cover between April 2019 and the present day, which have contributed to the rising cost of living.

Data presented in the dashboard comes from a variety of sources, such as national data sources, council provided data, data from the Greater Manchester Residents Survey, NHS data and more. Each page in the dashboard that presents data contains a link to the metadata page which details the origin of the data.

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*RAG Ratings - to show comparisons with previous months for the same metrics.*



### Citizens Advice, Greater Manchester

A dashboard has been created to analyse the requests received by Citizens Advice teams across Greater Manchester. This allows breakdown by local authority and ward, as well as, demographic breakdowns by age group, disability, ethnicity and gender. The dashboard also allows for a breakdown of access channel used by residents.

Issues are presented in the dashboard as main issues such as, fuel debts, housing or employment and then broken down further into level 2 and level 3 issues. This dashboard allows for analysis of change over time, with monthly updated data dating back to April 2020.

[Click here to access the Citizens Advice dashboard for Greater Manchester.](#)

### Other Relevant Dashboards

There are other highly relevant and insightful dashboards that are interlinked to the cost of living crisis, such as:

**GM Economic Resilience Dashboard** - *GM economy, pandemic recovery and other emerging issues.*

- In Feb 2023, Consumer Confidence Index stood at -38, a 7 point increase from Jan 2023.



**GM Housing Market Monitor** - *Provides an overview of the housing market in Greater Manchester.*

- 40% of homes in Greater Manchester are in band C, in relation to their Energy Performance Certificate



**GM Poverty Action Dashboard** - *A multi-dimensional picture of poverty in GM across topics including child poverty, debt, education, fuel and so on.*

- 1 in 4 children in the city region are living in poverty, equating to 144,784 children.



**GM Parity Dashboard** - *Provides a modelled housing stock baseline for GM.*

In 2020, a modelled housing stock baseline was produced for GM providing an assessment of all housing stock, predictions of risks in the homes as well as an Energy Query Builder and Housing Query Builder.



**GM Strategy Dashboard** - *Central hub for the progress measures of the GM Strategy to monitor collective progress and assess changes within the region, across all Shared Outcomes and Shared Commitments.*

- 26.8% of households reported that they had experienced some form of digital exclusion in February 2022.



**GM Welfare and Benefits Dashboard** - *A monthly update of data on Claimant Count, Universal Credit claimants, the employment status of UC claimants as well as their gender and conditionality.*

- The GM claimant share in May 2022 was 5.2%, higher than the North West and UK averages (4.4% and 3.8%).





# Housing and Homelessness

[Housing and Homelessness](#)[Welfare and Work](#)[Food](#)[Fuel and Energy](#)[Fire](#)[Crime and Incidents](#)[Digital Exclusion](#)[Health and Wellbeing](#)[Contact Us](#)[Glossary](#)

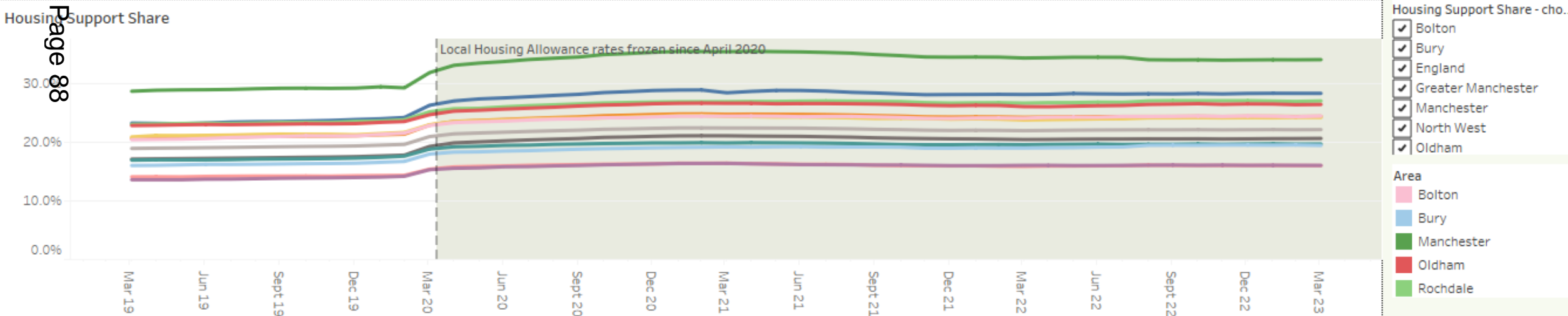
Housing costs account for a significant proportion of household expenses and so understanding the trends that are occurring in this area and the effect changes are having, is key to understanding the cost of living crisis. For the most vulnerable in society, becoming homeless and/or residing in temporary accommodation is a real risk of the cost of living crisis and so these metrics have also been included to give a full understanding of the situation. Whilst a relevant data source has not been identified, it is key to note that housing condition, safety and suitability are also key areas to understand in relation to housing and rising cost of living.

It is key to note that housing condition, safety and suitability are also key areas to understand in relation to housing and rising cost of living. Data in this area is particularly hard to source and where possible has a significant lag. However, DLUHC data on housing stock condition in 2019 (published in 2023) shows 17.1% of inhabited dwellings across Greater Manchester are considered non-Decent. This is higher than the England average (16.7%) and the London average (14%). The proportion of non-Decent dwellings (across all tenures) in Manchester is particularly high, whereby 19.2% of all dwellings are considered non-Decent.

Since the beginning of the cost of living crisis, there has been an increase in the number of households presenting as homeless at their local authority, an increase in households loss of home due to the landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property and increase in households in temporary accommodation.

Page last updated: 06.09.2023

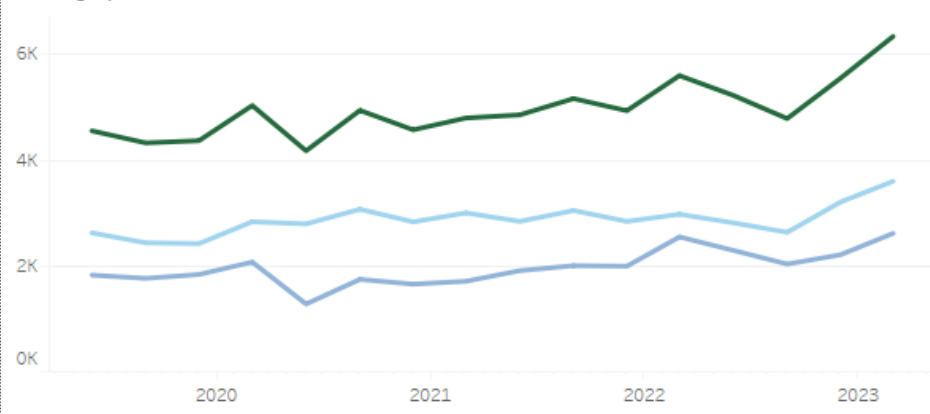
Page next update: 13.10.2023



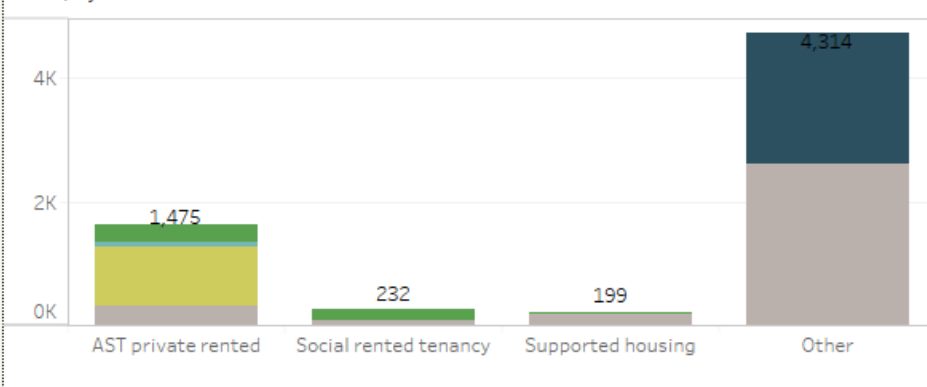
The percentage of households receiving Housing Support. A combination of the number of households receiving Housing Benefit and the housing element of Universal Credit.

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) affects the amount renters are entitled to when living in a private rented tenancy. After a period of disruption to LHA rates between 2011-2020, in April 2020 LHA rates were restored to cover the bottom 30% of rents (in a response to the pandemic) meaning that someone could afford to live in a rental property equal to or below the lowest 30% for the local area. At this point, LHA rates were frozen and between April 2020-April 2022 the bottom 30% of rents rose by around 5%, creating a shortfall of £27 a month, on average between rents and LHA rates.

### Housing Options: initial assessments and duties owed



### Households owed a homelessness duty, by reason for loss (or threat of loss) of last settled home, by tenure



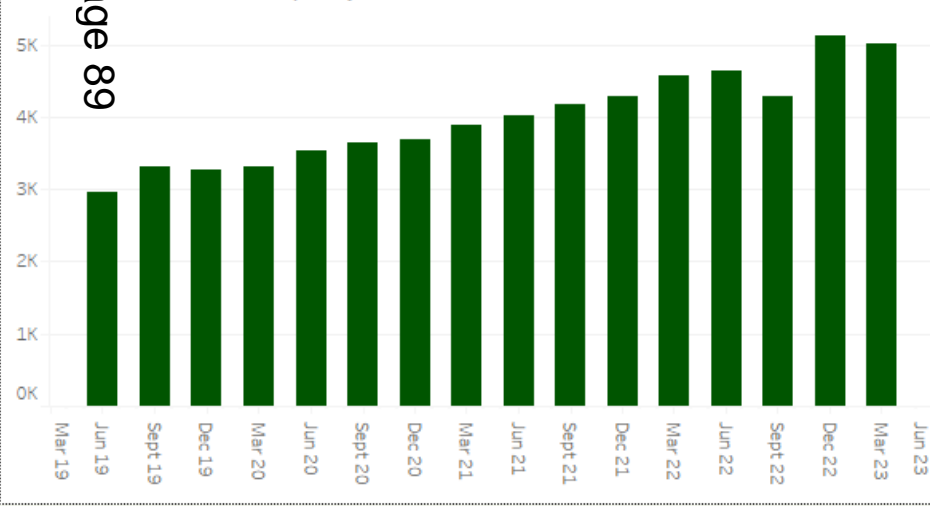
- Housing Options - choose area:
  - Bolton
  - Bury
  - England
  - GM
- Homelessness Duty - choose date:
  - June 2019
  - September 2019
  - December 2019
  - March 2020

A relief duty applies when a local authority is satisfied that an applicant is homeless and eligible for assistance, in this case the authority is required to 'take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure that suitable accommodation becomes available for the applicant's occupation' for at least six months. A prevention duty applies when a local authority is satisfied that an applicant is threatened with homelessness and therefore the authority is required to 'take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available.'

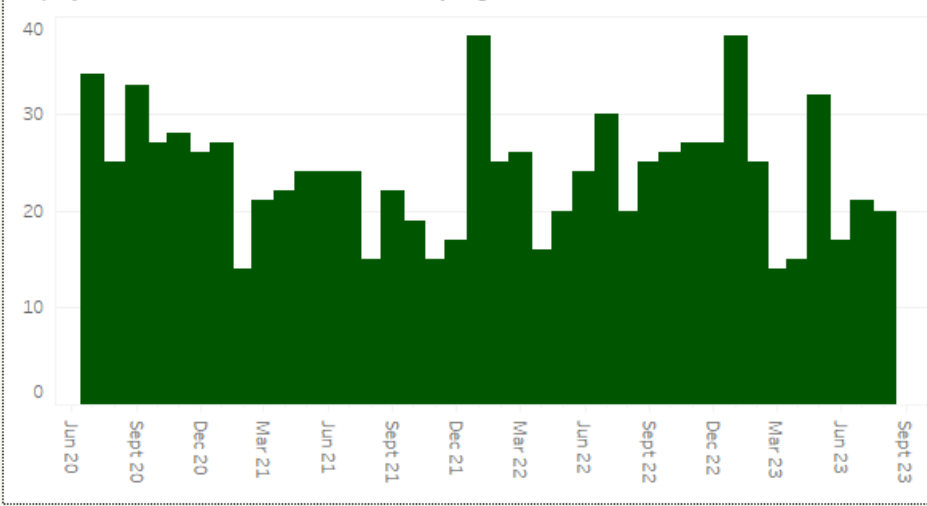
In this metric, those reasons identified as non-cost of living related include anti-social behaviour, tenant complaint of disrepair, violence within the household and so on. Over the quarters presented, there is an increase in households who have lost their last settled home in an assured shorthold private rented tenancy in the most recent quarters and the proportion of these that were caused by the landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property is increasing also.

- Homelessness Duty
  - Rent Arrears
  - Tenant abandoning
  - Family and friends no longer available
  - Other
- Where is this data from?

### Number of households in temporary accommodation



### Employed Individuals referred to A Bed Every Night



National homelessness charity Shelter argues the increase of households in temporary accommodation (74% increase across the country in the past decade) is driven by a chronic shortage of social homes and an over-reliance on grossly expensive and unstable private renting. This data represents a snapshot of the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last date of each quarter. There is a further breakdown of this metric, by local authority, via the link to the right.

A Bed Every Night is cost free for those accessing the accommodation and no housing benefit or rent payment is required, whereas all other forms of temporary accommodation can be expensive, particularly for those who don't qualify for full housing benefit as they are working. This means that those who are in employment may be referred into ABEN due to cost effectiveness rather than best fit for accommodation. There is a further breakdown of this metric, by local authority, via the link to the right.

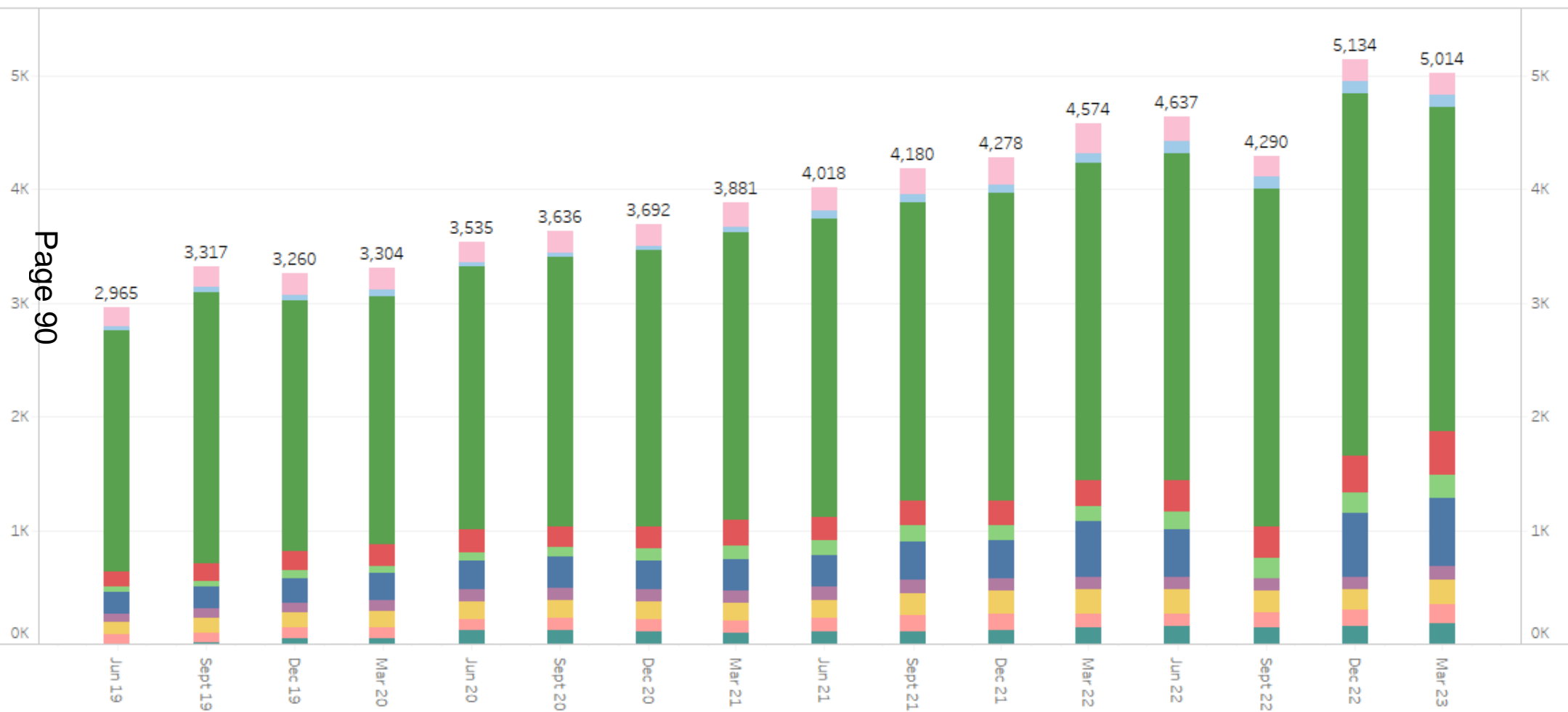




# Housing and Homelessness

[Housing and Homelessness](#)[Welfare and Work](#)[Food](#)[Fuel and Energy](#)[Fire](#)[Crime and Incidents](#)[Digital Exclusion](#)[Health and Wellbeing](#)[Contact Us](#)[Glossary](#)

### Number of households in temporary accommodation



- Area**
- Bolton
  - Bury
  - Manchester
  - Oldham
  - Rochdale
  - Salford
  - Stockport
  - Tameside
  - Trafford
  - Wigan

Where is this data from?

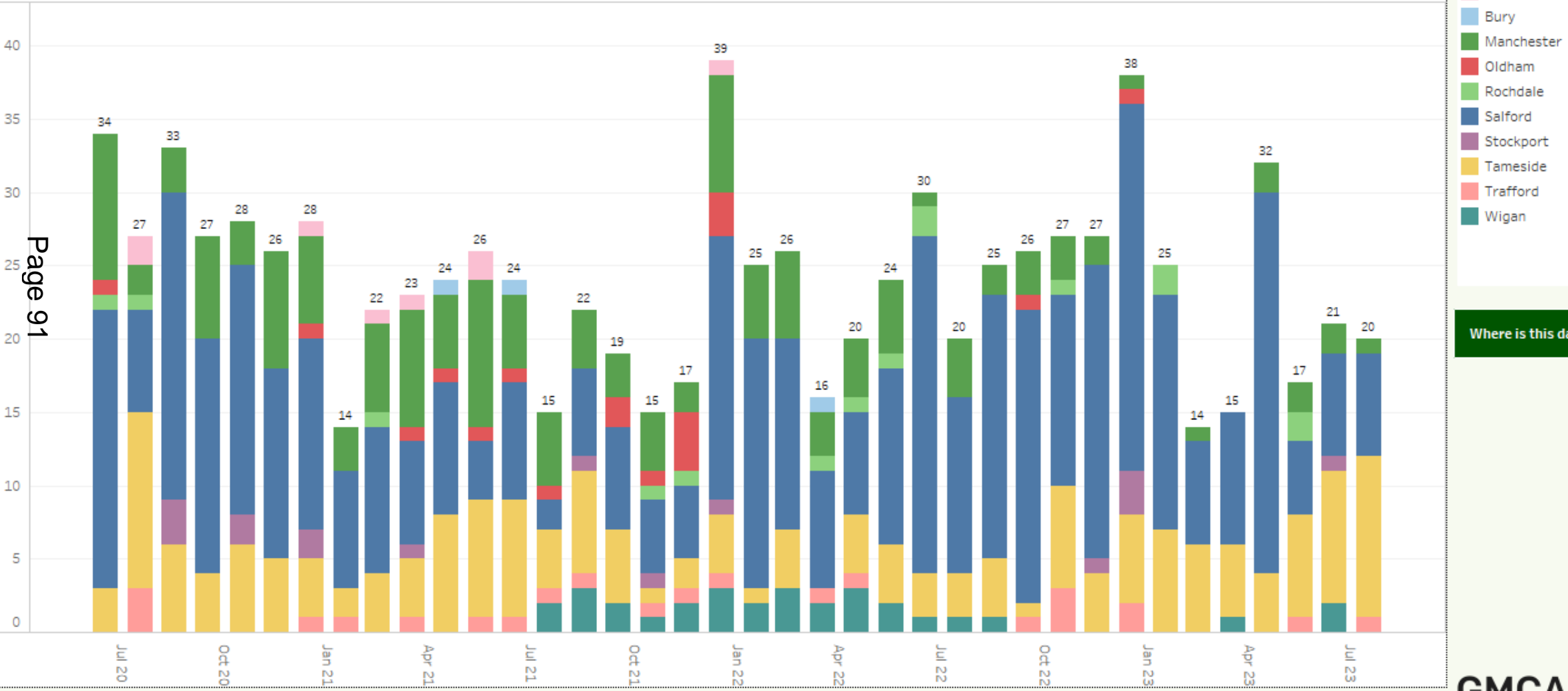
The number of households referred into temporary accommodation in each Greater Manchester borough, on the last day of each quarter, broken down by local authority. Please note, due to missed submissions, data is missing from Wigan for the quarters ending June 2019 and September 2019 and from Salford for the quarter ending September 2022.





# Housing and Homelessness

### Employed Individuals referred to A Bed Every Night



Page 91

**Area**

- Bolton
- Bury
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan

Where is this data from?

The number of people referred to A Bed Every Night, each month, who are in employment. Broken down further to examine the proportion of those referred in each local authority.

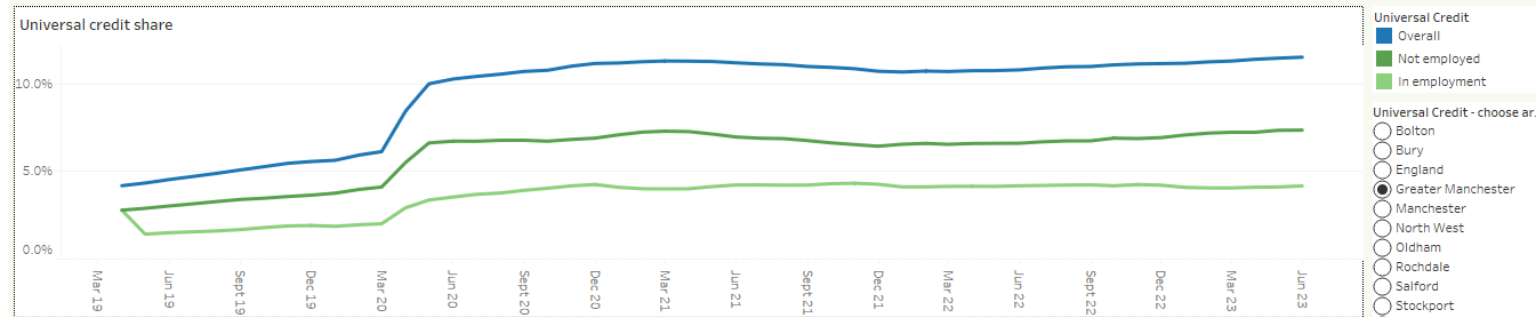


# Welfare and Work

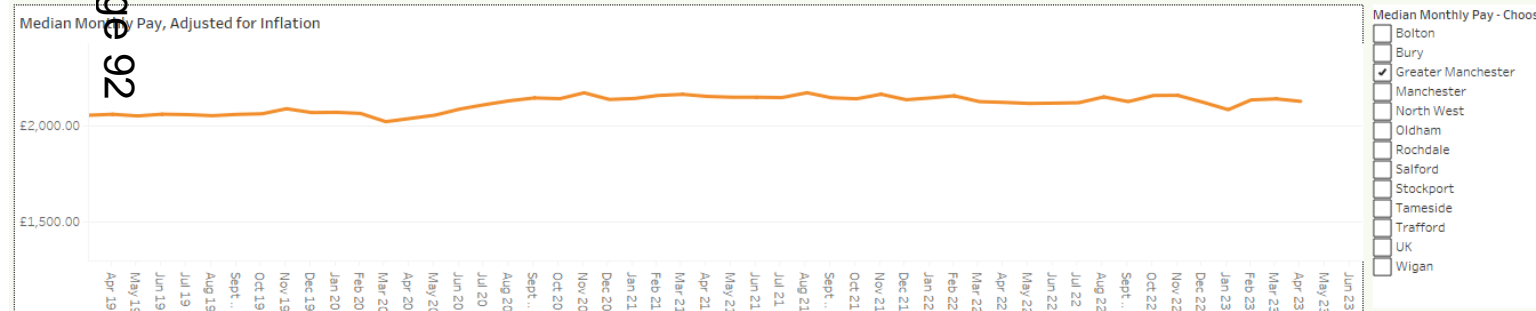
- Housing and Homelessness
- Welfare and Work
- Food
- Fuel and Energy
- Fire
- Crime and Incidents
- Digital Exclusion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Contact Us
- Glossary

Assessing the cost of living crisis in relation to welfare support, wages in real terms once adjusted for inflation and local authority support, such as council tax support/relief measures, allows for a greater understanding of GM residents' experience of the cost of living crisis in relation to welfare and work. This page also links to the GM Citizens Advice dashboard which details the issues raised by Greater Manchester residents' with Citizens Advice, since 2020, with a particular focus on cost of living related issues. Finally, the page explores residents' perception of their finances through related survey questions. Since the cost of living crisis began, wages in real terms are falling for Greater Manchester residents, there has been a small increase in the proportion of residents claiming universal credit but a decrease in households receiving council tax support.

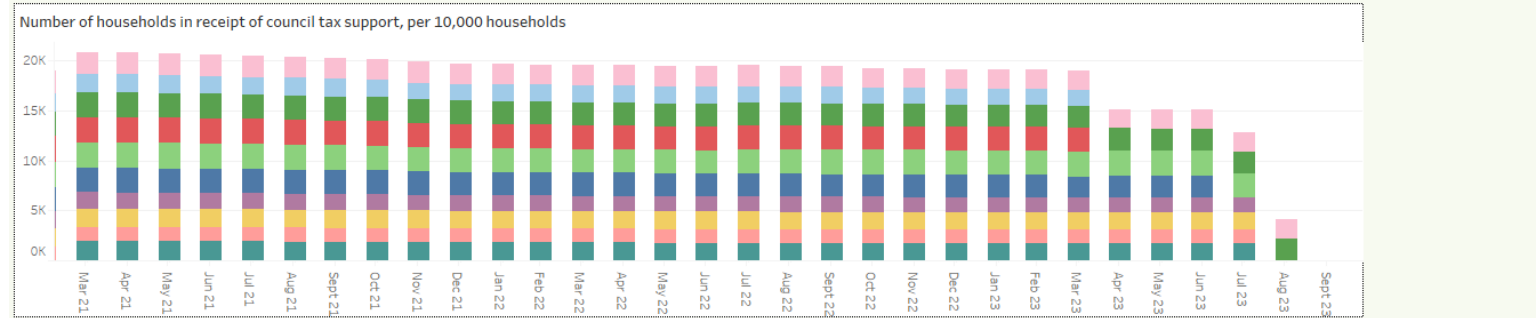
Page last updated: 06.09.2023 Page next update: 13.10.2023



The proportion of residents claiming Universal Credit, as an overall proportion of the population as well as broken down by those who are in employment and unemployed. Universal Credit has replaced legacy benefits for many people (such as legacy benefits include housing benefit, child tax credit, income support) and is paid monthly.



Whilst inflation has risen throughout the cost of living crisis, median monthly pay (adjusted for inflation) shows that wages in real terms, have been falling since the end of 2022 for Greater Manchester residents.



The number of households in receipt of council tax support (sometimes referred to as council tax reduction), per month, per 10,000 households. It should be noted that changes in claims can be affected by team capacity rather than just resident need.

Page 92

Nationally, Citizens Advice helped over 2.5 million people in the 2021-2022 financial year. Understanding the issues presented to Citizens Advice, by Greater Manchester residents provides insight into issues relating to Welfare and Work that haven't previously been accessible.

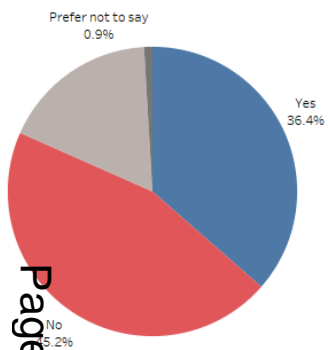
The Citizens Advice, Greater Manchester dashboard presents the number of issues reported to Citizens Advice teams on a monthly basis across all 10 Greater Manchester LAs, dating back to January 2020.

The issues are presented as main issue (including things such as Debt, Housing and Employment) and then broken down further into Level 2 and Level 3 issues which allow for further granularity on these issues.

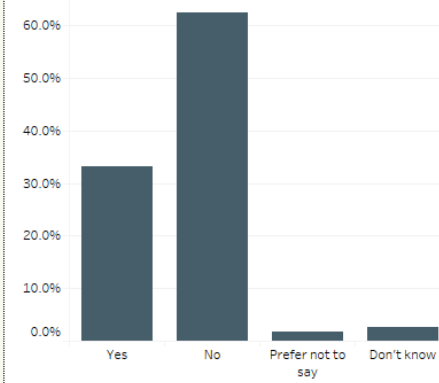
The data is available at ward level and can show demographic breakdowns as well as the access channel through which the GM resident made their issue known.

Click the Citizens Advice, Greater Manchester logo to access this dashboard.

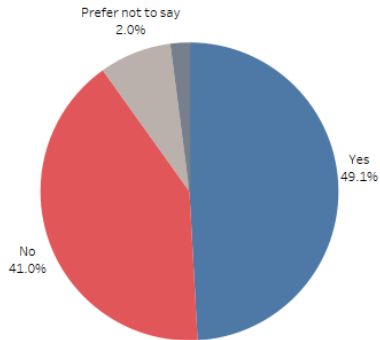
In view of the general economic situation, do you think you will be able to save any money in the next 12 months?



Have you had to borrow more money or use credit than usual in the last month, compared to a year ago?



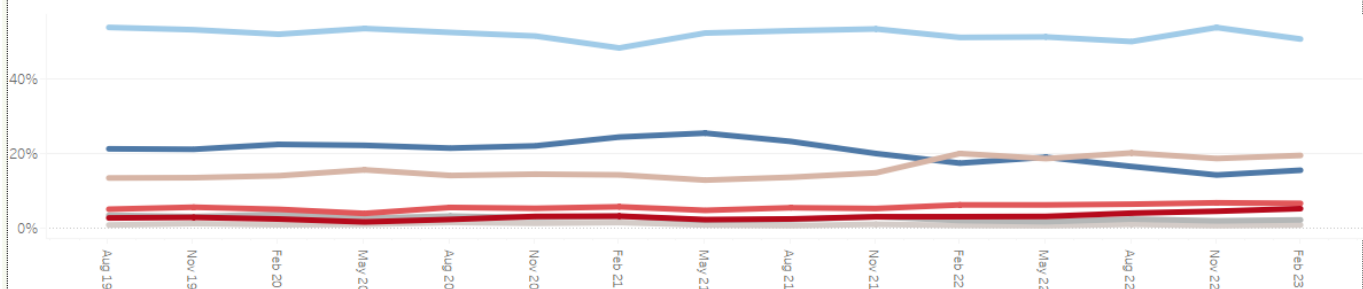
Could your household afford to pay an unexpected, but necessary, expense of £850?



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Questions from Wave 3-8 of the Greater Manchester Residents' Survey, conducted between September 2022 - July 2023. These questions allow for analysis of residents' perception of their experience of welfare and work in relation to the cost of living crisis.

Financial status



Financial status

- I can rarely afford essential items
- Sometimes I can't afford essential items
- I can afford essential items but not luxuries
- I can afford essential items and luxuries
- Prefer not to say
- Don't know

The Policing and Community Safety Survey is commissioned with the aim of understanding public perceptions of personal and community safety, ran by an independent market research agency and commissioned by the GMCA. Whilst having a focus on personal and community safety, the survey also includes a question which focuses on financial status, asking people 'which of the following statements best describes your current circumstances...?'

The survey is conducted each quarter and consists of 3,250 interviews with members of the public (325 from each GM local authority). People take part voluntarily and are contacted either via telephone, online or face-to-face to complete the survey.

All respondents must be 16 or over and a resident of Greater Manchester. The sample are selected to be representative of the age, gender and ethnicity of each local authority.



# Food

[Housing and Homelessness](#)[Welfare and Work](#)[Food](#)[Fuel and Energy](#)[Fire](#)[Crime and Incidents](#)[Digital Exclusion](#)[Health and Wellbeing](#)[Contact Us](#)[Glossary](#)

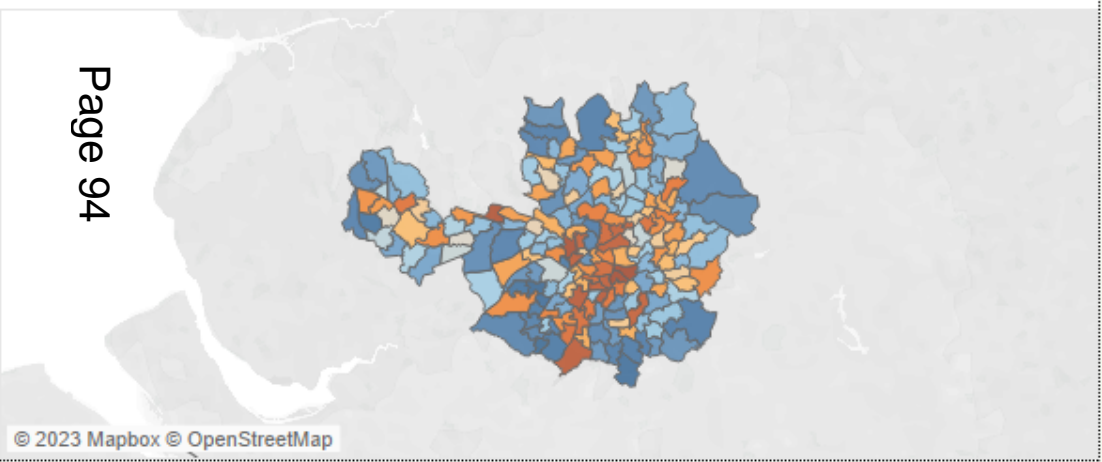
As inflation rises and households struggle to pay bills, the cost of food can become a stressor and so it is key to track how the cost of living crisis is affecting food distribution services and recognise where peaks are forming and intervention may be necessary. It is also of great value to track trends in eligibility and claimant levels for government schemes in place which aim to support citizens with food costs, such as free school meals and healthy start vouchers. Since the beginning of the cost of living crisis, an increased proportion of Greater Manchester residents have low levels of food security, reflected both in their own interpretation of their food security, as well as, the number of food parcels distributed by local authority affiliated food provision services and charities such as The Bread and Butter Thing and Trussell Trust. In more recent months, there has also been an increase in households claiming healthy start vouchers, an increase in support measures relied on.

Page last updated: 06.09.2023

Page next update: 13.10.2023

## Free School Meal Eligibility

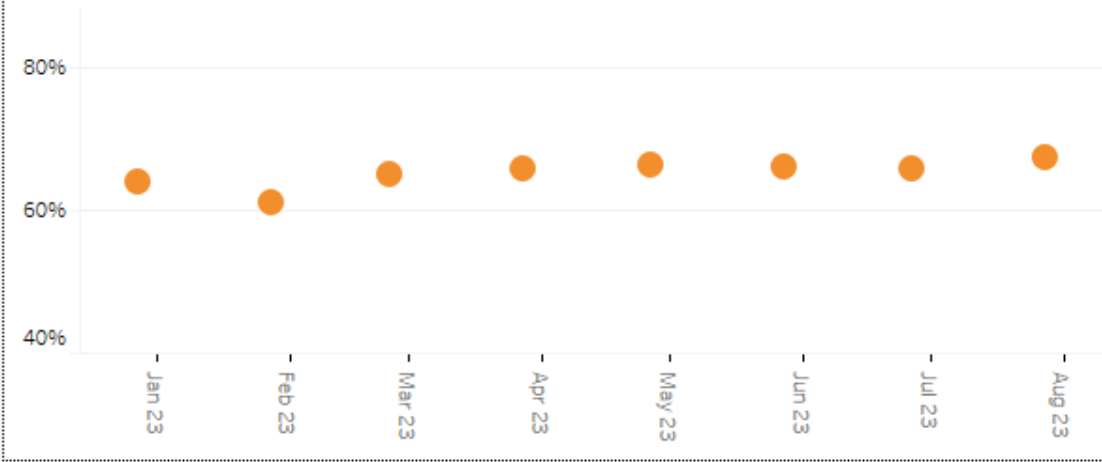
Page 94



The percentage of children eligible for free school meals, by ward. Across England, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to free school meals. Children in year 3 and above are entitled to free school meals if a member of their household claims one of a range of benefits.

Free school meals help ensure that the children who receive them get at least one nourishing and hot meal, per day. The government calculates that a school meal costs £2.41.

## Healthy Start Vouchers Uptake



The percentage of healthy start vouchers taken up by those eligible across each local authority in GM, in comparison with the GM average. Those who are eligible must be at least 10 weeks pregnant or have at least 1 child under 4 years old and be receiving any of a range of benefits.

Citizens Advice Greater Manchester estimate that around £4 million worth of vouchers is going unclaimed across the region.

FSM - Choose month

- May 2019
- October 2019
- 2020

FSM - Choose authority

- Bury
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport

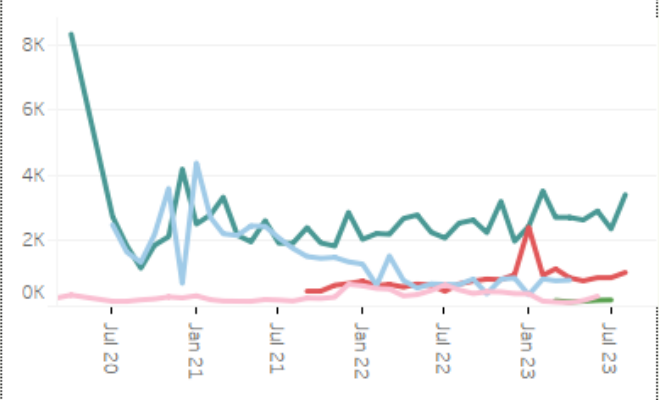
Healthy Start - Choose Area

- Bolton
- Bury
- Greater Manchester
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale

Area

- Greater Manchester

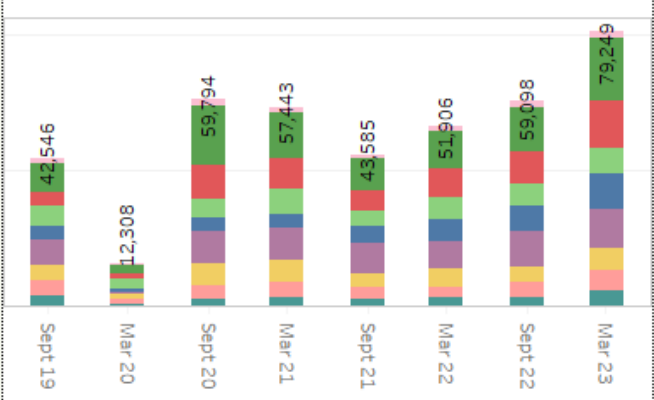
### Food Parcel and Voucher Distribution Levels



well as the number of vouchers distributed across Oldham (further food services are included for Oldham from January 2023). For Wigan, this number includes all free food parcels, vouchers and meals but those supplied by Compassion in Action are not included. The data relating to Stockport focuses on the number of foodbank vouchers, referrals and food boxes distributed via the Household Support Fund and through the Cost of Living line (which was set up in April 2023).

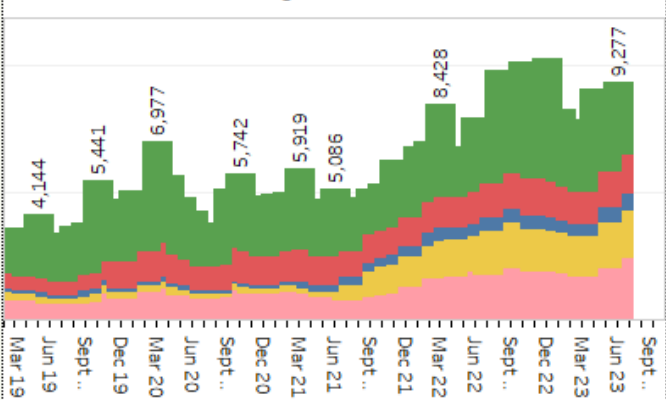
Not all local authorities are able to collect this data due to the set up of food distribution services. These figures do not represent a full picture in any LA due to missing submissions from providers.

### Trussell Trust Food Parcels distributed



The total number of food parcels distributed by food banks from within the Trussell Trust network, across GM using mid-year statistics. As of September 2022 there were 61 food banks as part of the Trussell Trust network across GM.

### The Bread and Butter Thing - Transaction Levels

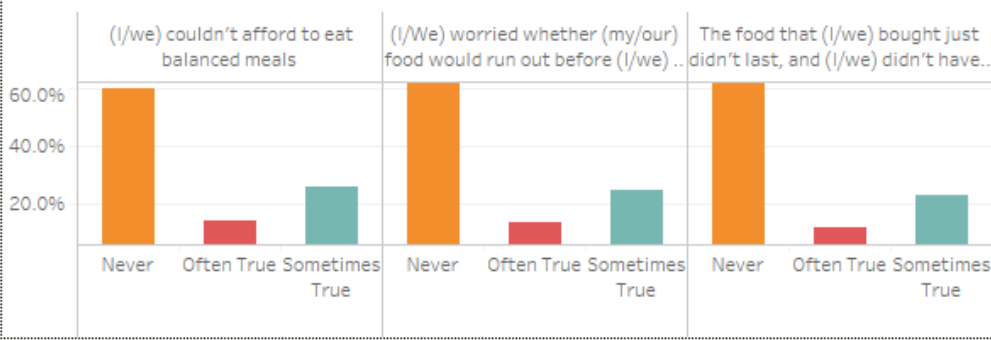


The number of transactions, per month, in the 5 local authorities that 'The Bread and Butter Thing' operate in. TBBT's mobile food clubs give access to nutritious and affordable food taken into the heart of communities starved of money, food and resources.

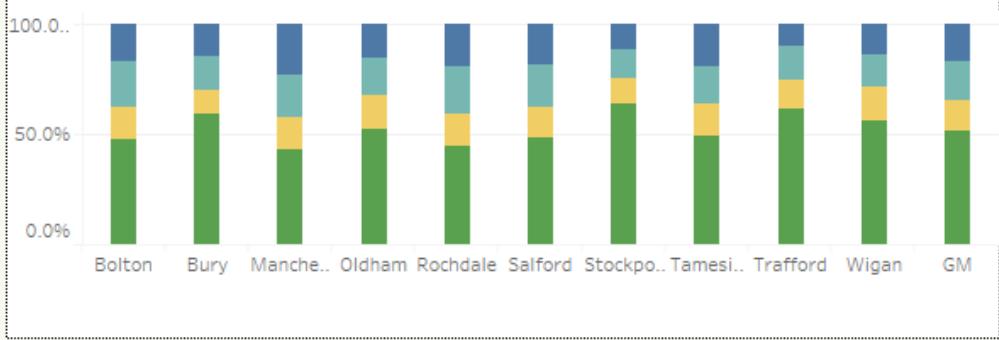
Where is this data from?

Level of Food Security  
 Very low  
 Low  
 Marginal  
 High

### Food Security Questions



### Food Security by Local Authority



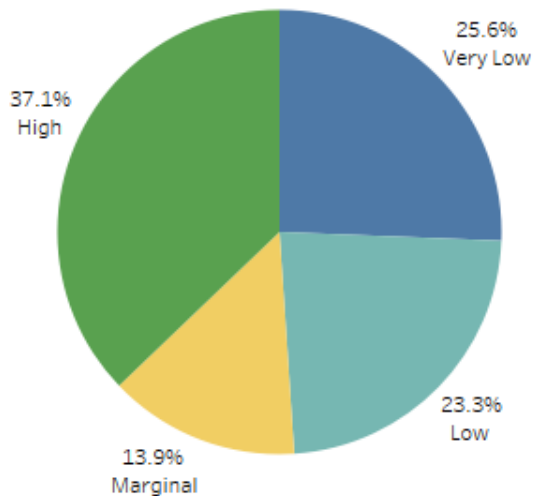
Questions from waves 1-8 of the Greater Manchester Residents' Survey, conducted between February 2022 - July 2023.

Food security scores are calculated through responses to the questions that respondents are asked during the Food Security section of the GM Residents' Survey. These questions were asked in waves 1-6 of the GM Residents' Survey, which were conducted between February 2022 - May 2023. There is a further breakdown of this graph and further explanation on how these score are calculated and the meanings behind the scores via the link to the right.

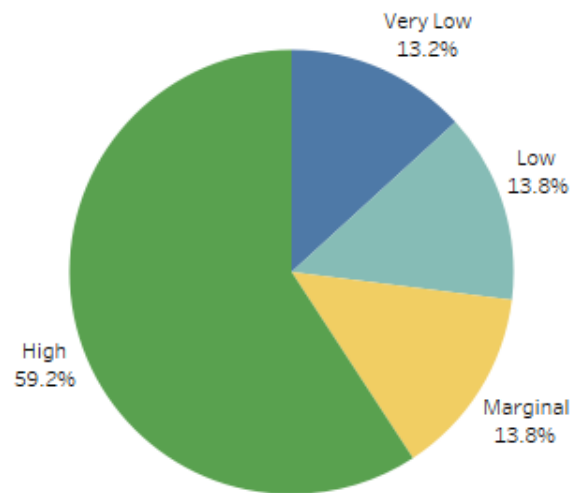




Food security for respondents in households with children



Food security for respondents in households without children



Where is this data from?

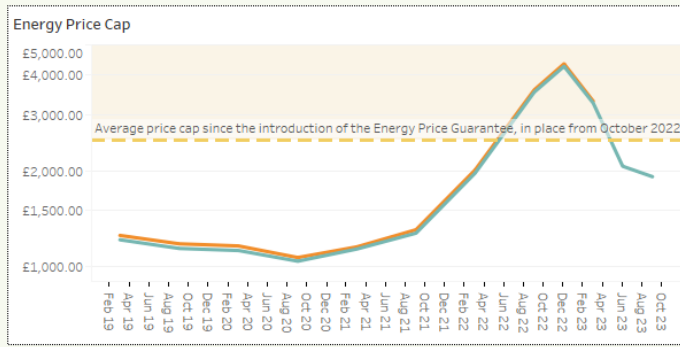
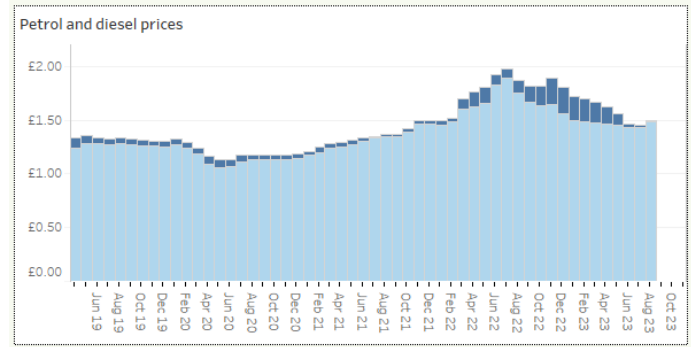
Food security score is calculated through responses to the questions that respondents are asked during the Food Security section of the GM Residents' Survey. A food security score can be calculated for each household, based on respondents' answer to a suite of questions, with the ability to report findings both for households with and households without children. Food Insecurity reflects a situation where there is a material impact on the overall level of food available to a household, as well as an impact on things like nutritional value. Any household that is assigned a food security score of "low" or "very low" is classified as a household experience food insecurity.



# Fuel and Energy

The historically high prices of fuel, on an international basis, have had a direct effect on the cost of living for households. Effecting both pay at the pump petrol and diesel prices and energy costs for running a household. It is also key to recognise government intervention in this area, for example the energy price guarantee and how this has an effect on household costs.

Page last updated: 06.09.2023 Page next update: 13.10.2023



**Fuel Type**

- Diesel Prices
- Petrol Prices

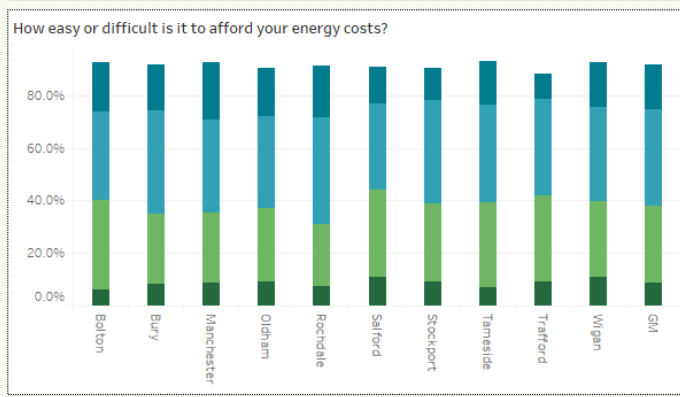
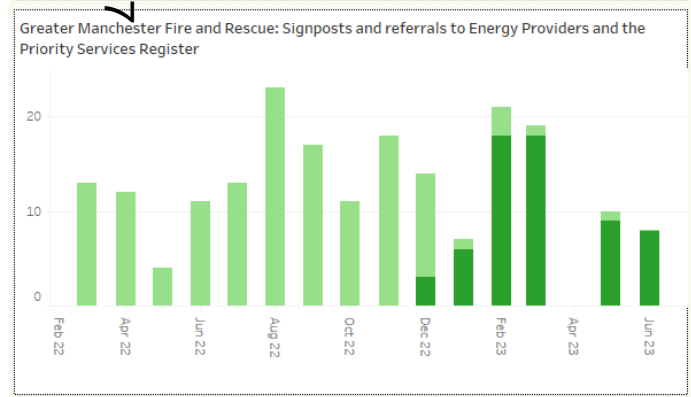
**Payment Methods**

- Direct Debit Payment
- Pre-Payment

Monthly average pay at the pump prices for petrol and diesel, per litre, in the UK.

A backstop protection for those on a default energy tariff set by Ofgem. This graph includes an indication of the average yearly price, following the introduction of the Energy Price Guarantee (from 01/10/2022).

Pre-payment meters require users to pay in advance before they use energy, as well as a standing charge (so even if no power is used, a payment will still be required). Whilst there are a multitude of reasons a household may have a pre-payment meter for their energy, it is generally the case that they are most expensive. From July 2023, households without a pre-payment meter will no longer receive an Energy Price Guarantee discount on their gas and electricity bills. This is because the Ofgem price cap will be lower than the Energy Price Guarantee level, meaning households will pay the rate set by the price cap.



**Level of difficulty**

- Very difficult
- Somewhat difficult
- Somewhat easy
- Very easy

**Signposts and Referrals**

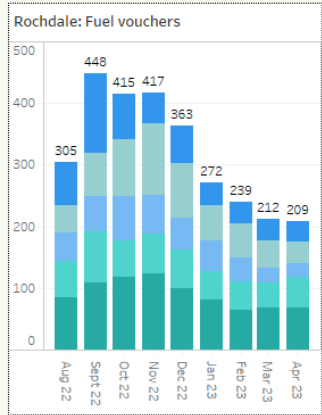
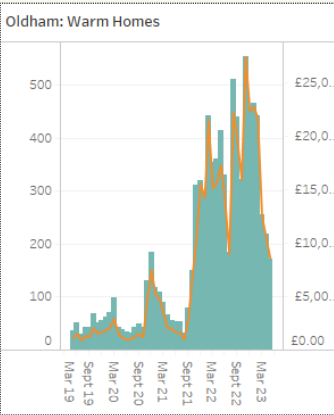
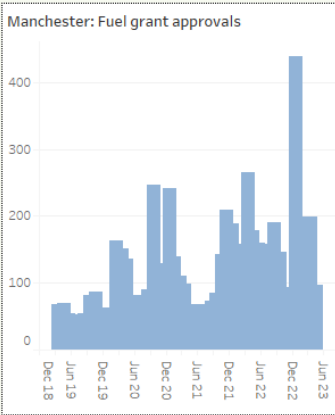
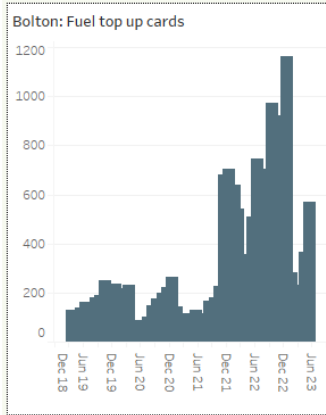
- Energy Provider
- Priority Services Register

Signposts and referrals to Energy Providers, by GMFRS crews involves referring households to their own energy supplier in order to facilitate engagement between the two to ensure the household are able to keep safe and warm at home. Suppliers offer a wide range of services from gas safety checks, to supporting affordable warmth, priority services, cooker cut off valves, maintenance issues etc. Action taken by the supplier following a signpost to them will depend on the reason for referral, the services the provider offers and the householder's eligibility and choices.

The Priority Service Register is a free service offered throughout the energy industry available to domestic customers, providing extra support and advice to vulnerable customers who may need additional assistance with their energy supply. Services include prioritisation in an emergency such as a power cut, help with pre-payment meter access, translation, free gas safety checks and so on.

Question from waves 3-8 of the Greater Manchester Residents' Survey, conducted between September 2022-July 2023. This question was asked online and over the phone to respondents.

Whilst this question captures an understanding of those who find it difficult to afford their energy costs, it does not capture all vulnerabilities in this area. For example, those who use dangerously low levels of energy (in an effort to reduce costs) may not report that they are having difficulty in affording, because their costs are low, but they are still struggling greatly.



Where is this data from?

Rochdale Fuel Vouchers - To..

- Heywood
- Middleton
- Pennines
- Rochdale North
- Rochdale South

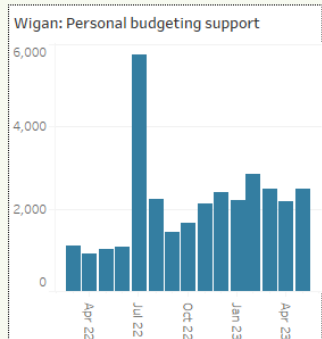
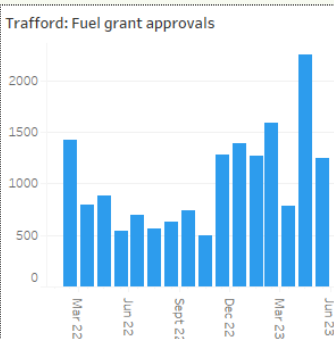
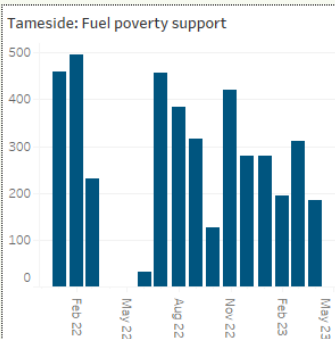
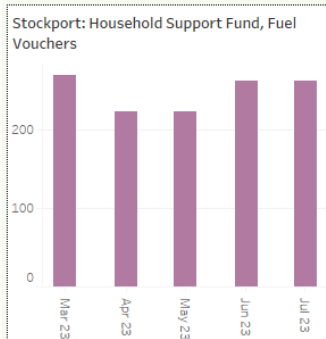
The number of eligible households who have received top up cards for gas and electric key or card meters.

The number of unique approvals of fuel grant applications in Manchester. These are available for some who are struggling with their fuel bills or at risk of being disconnected and who use pre-paid meter cards.

The number of families helped via the Warm Homes scheme in Oldham and the monetary value of the support provided. Warm Homes started in 2013 as an advice service to help with Fuel Poverty offering advice and since 2019 the service has also been providing financial support in the way of Fuel Vouchers.

Please note, when fuel voucher support was first introduced in 2019, families could only claim support once per year. When the pandemic hit, this was changed to twice per year and in 2022 currently stands at four times per year. There must be a gap of at least a month between support claims. The support was originally capped at £30 per family and this has now increased to £50. There are some limitations on those that can claim through this sc..

The number of fuel vouchers distributed across Rochdale, broken down by township level. These vouchers are paid for through the Household Support Fund.



Fuel vouchers issues for residents, funded through the Household Support Fund.

Utilities payments made through the household support fund programmes in Tameside, please note due to these being utility related, this could include water bills. Please also note, there is recognition from Tameside council that the volume is likely limited by available funding rather than the number of households in need. As of June 2023, the Household Support Fund is in between grant periods and as such applications for fuel/utilities support are closed and no payments have been made.

The number of unique approvals of fuel grant applications in Trafford. These are available for some who are struggling with their fuel bills or at risk of being disconnected and who use pre-paid meter cards. From May 2023, the award amount has increased from £50 to £100 and is a one off payment to help residents with food/fuel/utilities. Eligible customers can apply twice in a 12 month period and therefore data from this point is not comparable to previous data submitted.

Funding provided to households in the most need across Wigan, to support with food, energy and water bills as well as other wider essential costs. This is funded through the Household Support Fund.





# Fire

Housing and Homelessness

Welfare and Work

Food

Fuel and Energy

Fire

Crime and Incidents

Digital Exclusion

Health and Wellbeing

Contact Us

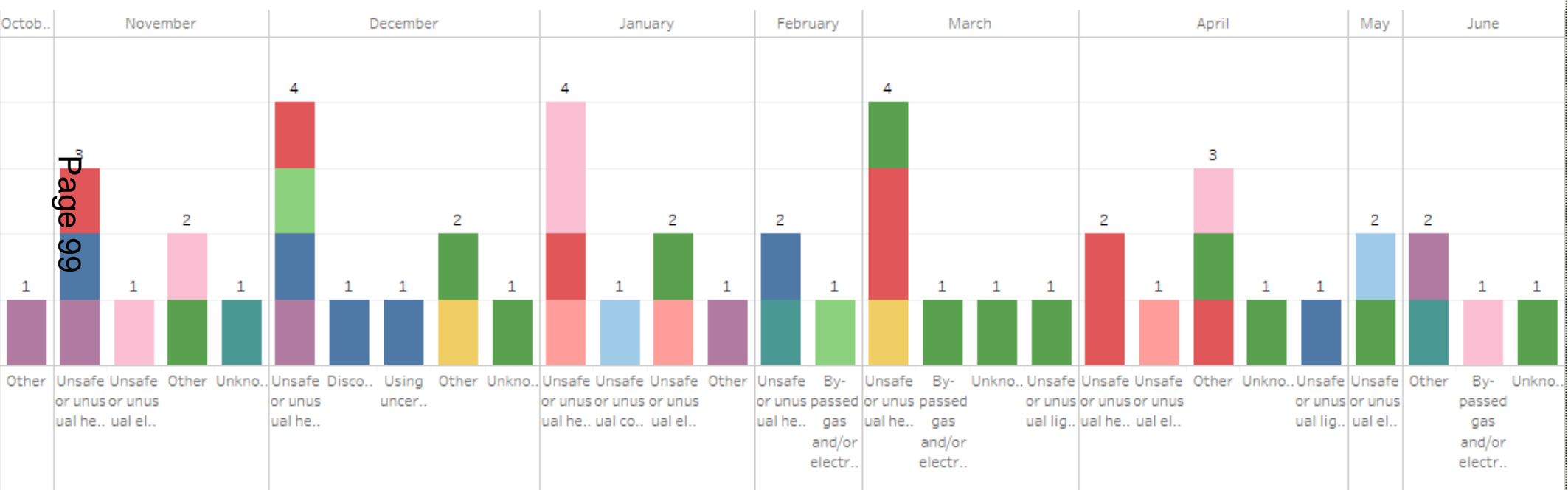
Glossary

As the cost of living is rising for Greater Manchester residents, there is concern that we could see a rise in the number of cost of living related fire incidents. Cost of living related questions were added to the Incident Recording System at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in October 2022, to understand how cost of living is effecting behaviour change in relation to fire safety.

Page last updated: 14.07.2023

Page next update: 13.10.2023

## Cost of Living related incidents recorded by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service



- Filter by area
- Bolton
  - Bury
  - Manchester
  - Oldham
  - Rochdale
  - Salford

- Filter by month
- October 2022
  - November 2022
  - December 2022
  - January 2023
  - February 2023
  - March 2023

### Where does this data come ..

- Area
- Bolton
  - Bury
  - Manchester
  - Oldham
  - Rochdale
  - Salford
  - Stockport
  - Tameside
  - Trafford

A cost of living related incident refers to an incident that has resulted from unusual, unsafe or risky personal behaviour and/or neglect of, or adaptations to, the dwelling/premises due to factors related to financial hardship or poverty.

The incidents reflected here are based on the subjective judgement of the crews attending the incident and are recorded as either 'Yes' whereby it was clear to the crews that the incident was cost of living related, or 'Don't know' where they believe this to be the case based on something they've seen or been told but aren't as confident.

Incidents classified as 'other' can include a range of fire and personal safety related issues, unspecified on the GMFRS Incident Recording System. 'Unknown' incidents are when the crews have not answered relevant question on the incident recording system.





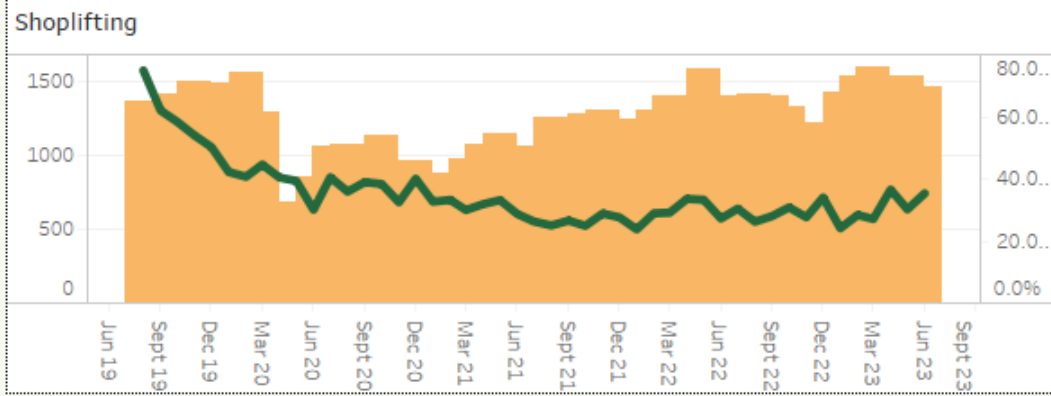
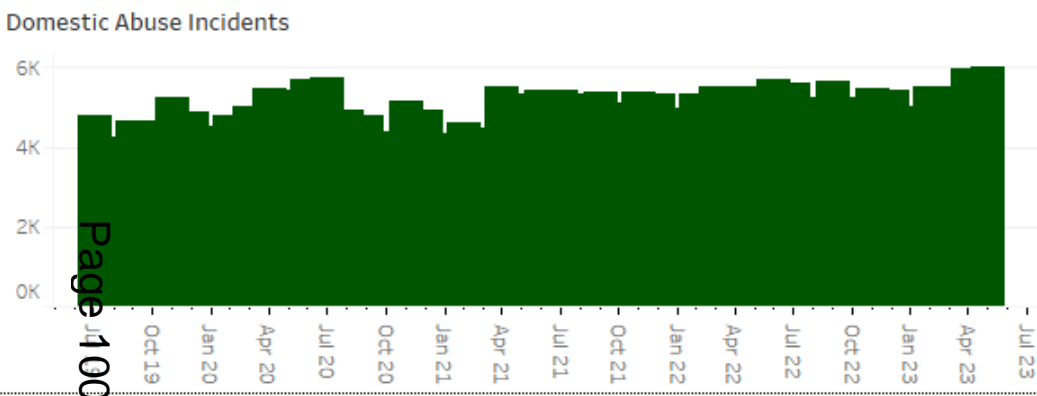
# Crime and Incidents

- Housing and Homelessness
- Welfare and Work
- Food
- Fuel and Energy
- Fire
- Crime and Incidents
- Digital Exclusion
- Health and Wellbeing
- Contact Us
- Glossary

As we experience a rising cost of living, concern is increasing that we could see a rise in crime as a result. Whilst evidence does not yet support a link between rising cost of living and an increase in acquisitive crime and domestic abuse incidents, this page aims to monitor the relationship between an increased cost of living and these types of crime.

Page last updated: 09.08.2023

Page next update: 13.10.2023



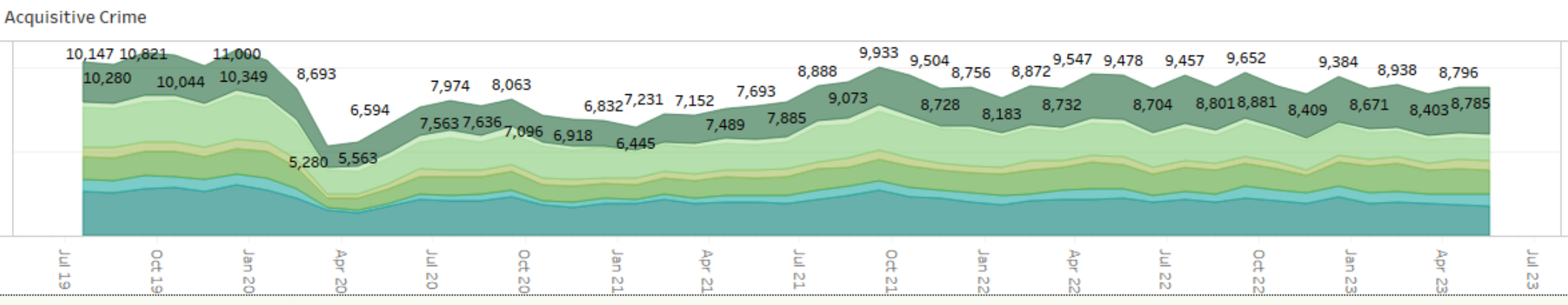
Shoplifting  
 ■ % Of Crimes By First Ti..  
 ■ Total shoplifting offenc..

National charity, Women's Aid, found that 66% of survivors reported their abusers use rising cost of living and concerns about financial hardship as a tool for coercive control and 73% of women living with and having financial links with the abuser said that the cost of living crisis had either prevented them from leaving or made it harder for them to leave. Click the button to the right for a breakdown of this graph by local authority.



The number of shoplifting offences across Greater Manchester, alongside the percentage of shoplifting crimes committed by first time offenders. The first 6 months of the data relating to first time offenders should be ignored as at this point, all offenders were unknown and so this doesn't represent a particular peak of first time offending.

Where is this data from?



Crimes Recorded  
 ■ All other theft offences  
 ■ Bicycle theft  
 ■ Burglary  
 ■ Robbery  
 ■ Shoplifting  
 ■ Theft from the person  
 ■ Vehicle offences

A breakdown of all acquisitive crimes reported in Greater Manchester, by the type of crime.



# Crime and Incidents

Housing and Homelessness

Welfare and Work

Food

Fuel and Energy

Fire

Crime and Incidents

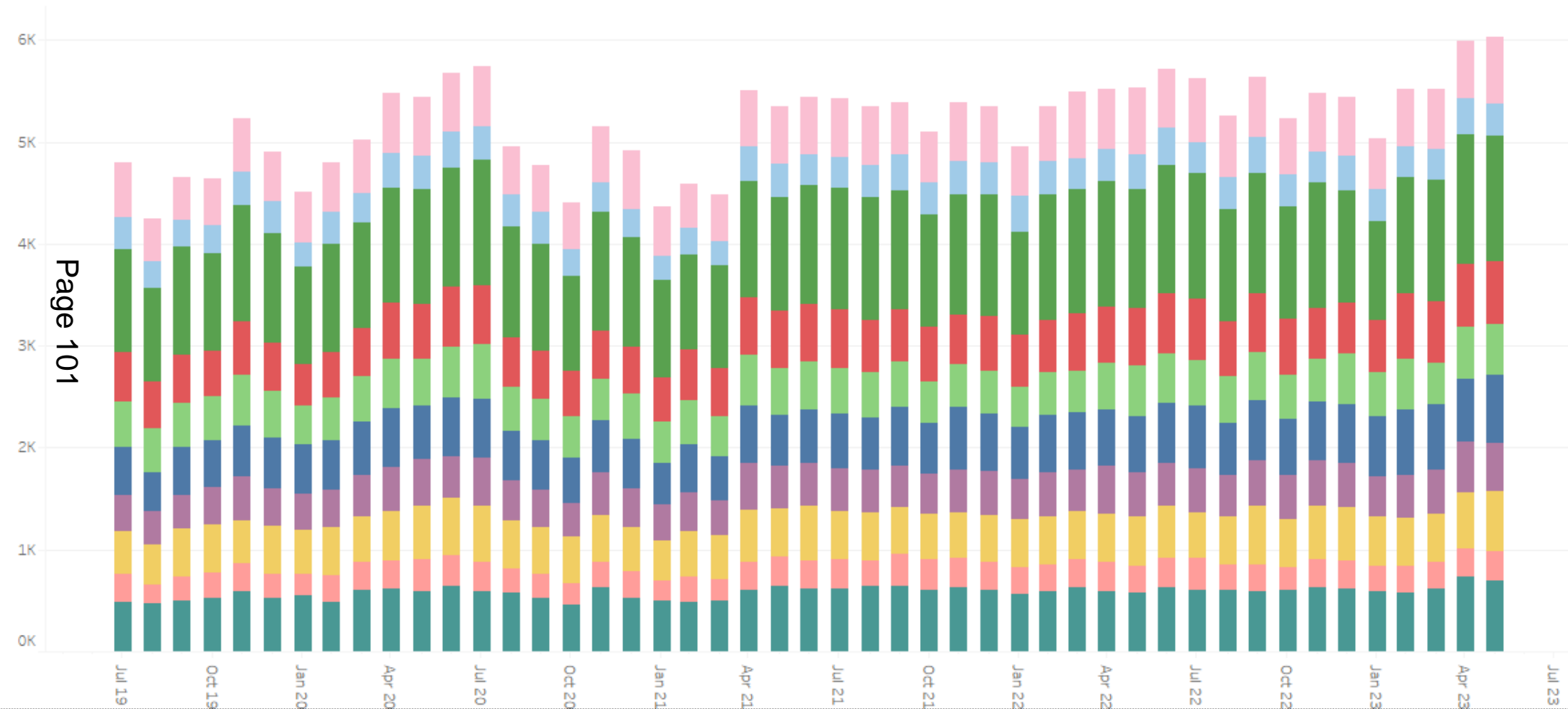
Digital Exclusion

Health and Wellbeing

Contact Us

Glossary

## Domestic Abuse Incidents



- Area
- Bolton
  - Bury
  - Manchester
  - Oldham
  - Rochdale
  - Salford
  - Stockport
  - Tameside
  - Trafford
  - Wigan

Page 101

Where is this data from?

The number of domestic abuse incidents. Broken down further to examine the proportion of those referred in each local authority.





Digital exclusion is simultaneously a product of and a contributor to poverty. Greater access to digital services and capability and confidence when using these, allows for better use of online money management tools, avoidance of online harm and scams and simplified engagement with health services. It is also key to reflect on the priority groups of the digital inclusion agenda, those aged below 25, above 75 and those who are disabled.

The poverty premium, where low-income households pay more for basic goods and services due to a range of demand and supply side factors, is found to disproportionately affect households who are digitally excluded, meaning they are less likely to shop around for insurance products or energy deals and more likely to have an insufficient data profile that decreases the likelihood of being serviced by creditors. Research by The Centre for Social Justice finds that 20% of adults with a household income below £15,000 are digitally excluded, compared to just 1% of households with an income over £50,000.

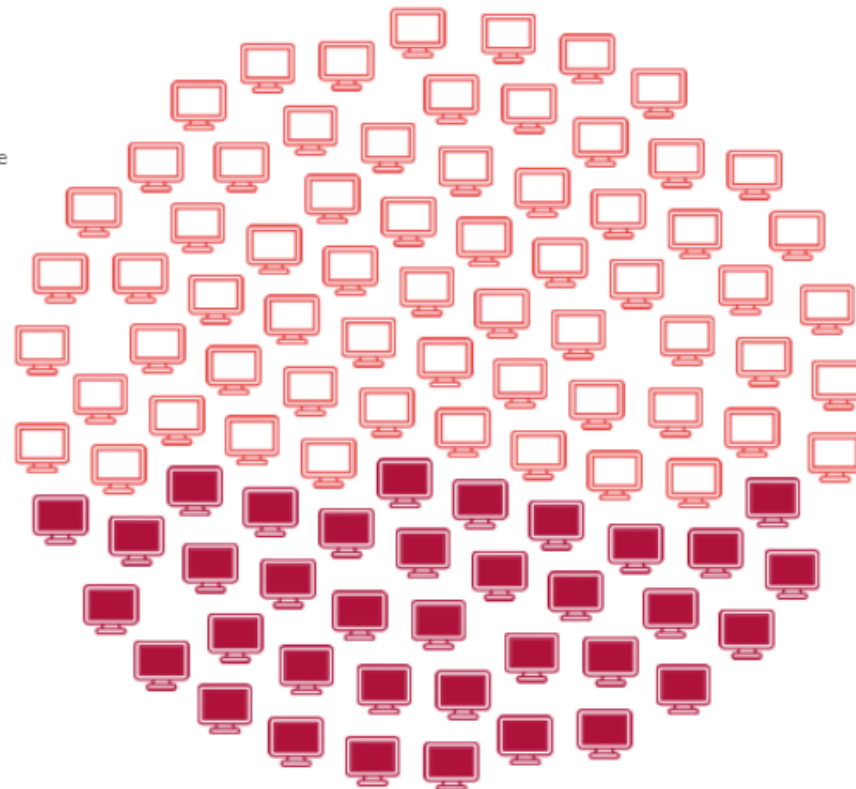
Page last updated: 19.05.2023

Page next update: 13.10.2023

## What if Greater Manchester's rate of digital exclusion was represented by 100 people?

Select the priority group you'd like to look at, and the graphic will represent the split of digital exclusion, within the group you've selected.

**36**  
would be  
**Digitally Excluded**



- Priority Group
- Overall Digital Exclusion
  - Over 75
  - 16 - 24
  - Disabled
  - Null

Where is this data from?

\*Figures from the Greater Manchester residents survey, as of April 2023

## Digitally Excluded



\*Figures from the Greater Manchester residents survey, as of April 2023



Between September 2022 and March 2023 (waves 3-6 of the GM Residents' Survey) 36% of respondents indicated that their household experienced some form of digital exclusion. This included 19% of households experiencing one aspect of digital exclusion and 17% experiencing multiple aspects.

The questions asked in the survey related to current and future intended use of digital services online, as well as, confidence in using digital services online. Respondents were asked the questions twice, in relation to themselves and then anyone in their household.

Different groups are impacted by digital exclusion in different ways and in Greater Manchester we have set out 3 priority groups to address digital exclusion; Over 75's, under 25's and disabled people - which we have used the residents survey to reflect where possible.

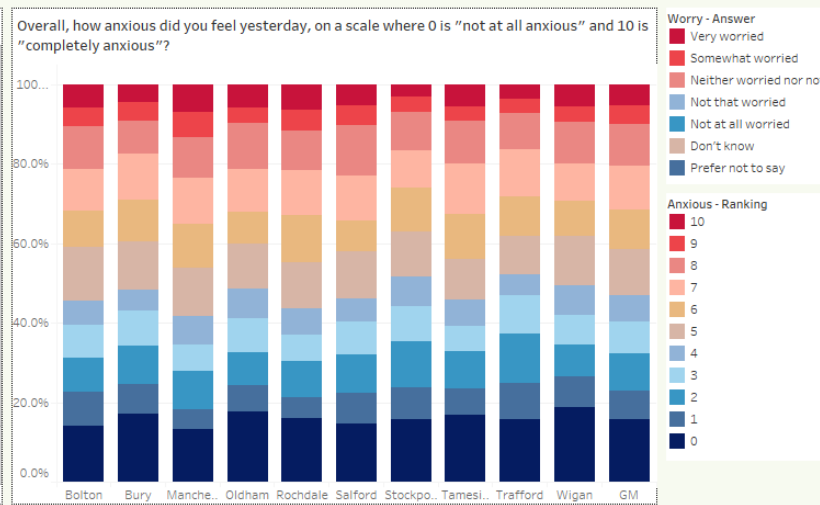
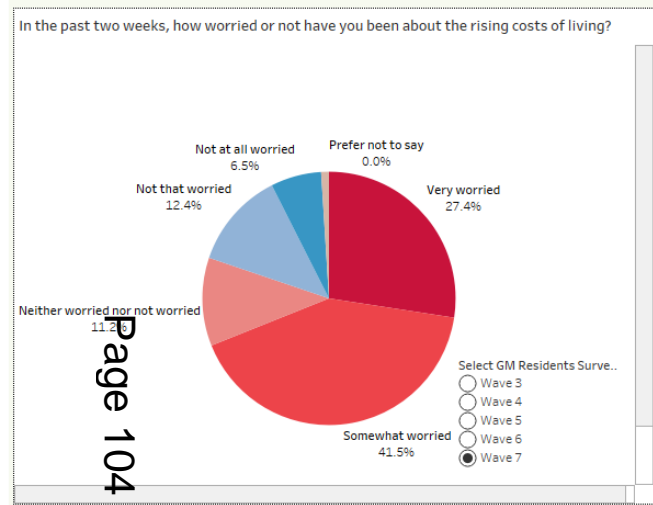
These questions were asked to 1,005 respondents, as they were only asked in telephone samples (and not of respondents taking part in the survey online, who are therefore one less likely to be digitally excluded than the population as a whole).

To analyse the data, weights have been applied to the data gathered to ensure the sample matches the population profile by age, gender and locality, and to ensure consistency between individual surveys - this was important, as the sample size was limited to telephone interviews only.

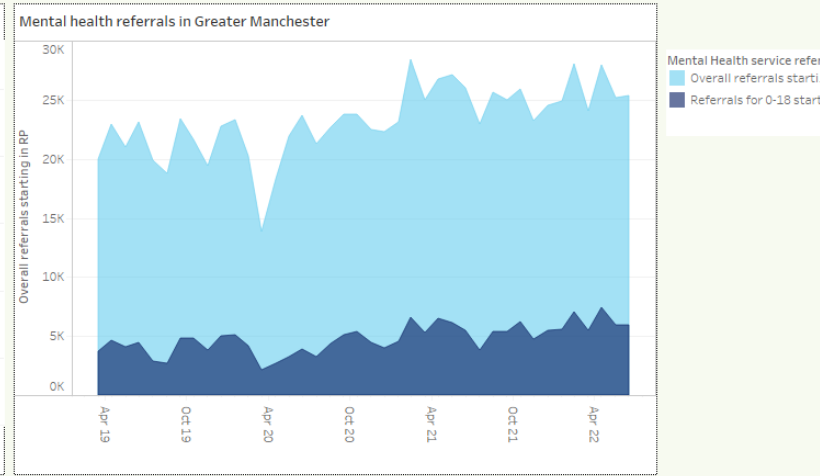
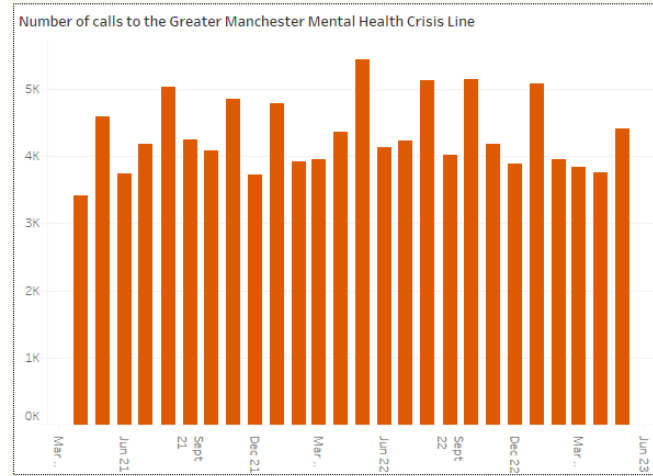


The rising cost of living risks many being unable to afford essentials to maintain their health and bring increased stress and anxiety as residents try to make ends meet. The metrics included under this theme aim to describe some of the headline health impacts of rising costs for GM residents. This includes an account of their own self-perceived worries and anxieties, their engagement with mental health services, their experience of crisis and, in the most severe cases, the effects on excess deaths in the city region. Since the beginning of the cost of living crisis, there have been spikes of engagement with mental health services (in relation to secondary services and crisis line calls) which align with key periods of time in relation to cost of living, as well as, an increased number of excess winter deaths in comparison with previous winters pre-cost of living crisis.

Page last updated: 06.09.2023 Page next update: 13.10.2023



Thousands of GM residents are regularly surveyed, as part of the GM Residents' Survey, about their worry and anxiety. The most recent waves of the Residents' Survey took place between September 2022 - July 2023.



A Mental Health Crisis Line is available across all of GM to provide urgent support to those experiencing crisis. Because it is free and available on a 24/7 basis, it is a useful barometer of the extent to which the wider population (not just those engaged in support services) feel overwhelmed and at a point of crisis.

The total number of referrals made in each month, for access to secondary mental health services across Greater Manchester, as well as, the total number of referrals made for those aged between 0-18. Click the button to the right for a further breakdown of this graph, by locality.

[Where is this data from?](#)

Poor mental health can make earning and managing money harder. And worrying about money can make mental health worse. This can act as a vicious cycle, as mental health charity Mind refer to the 'two way link' between money and mental health. At its worst, this can culminate in referrals into mental health services.

Social Prescribing in a holistic and asset based approach that connects people to activities, groups and services in their community to meet practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing. Local agencies such as local charities, social care and health services can refer people to a social prescribing link worker. The social prescribing link worker give people time, focusing on "what matters to me" to co-produce a simple personalised care and support plan, and support people to take control of their health and wellbeing.

The top reasons an individual was referred into an organising delivering social prescribing in Greater Manchester in the year 2022-2023 include social isolation, mental health, financial advice, depression/anxiety, employment support, wellbeing, dealing with chronic illness, physical inactivity, weight management and covid-19. Overall there were 29,009 referrals made for social prescribing across Greater Manchester in the year 2022-2023.

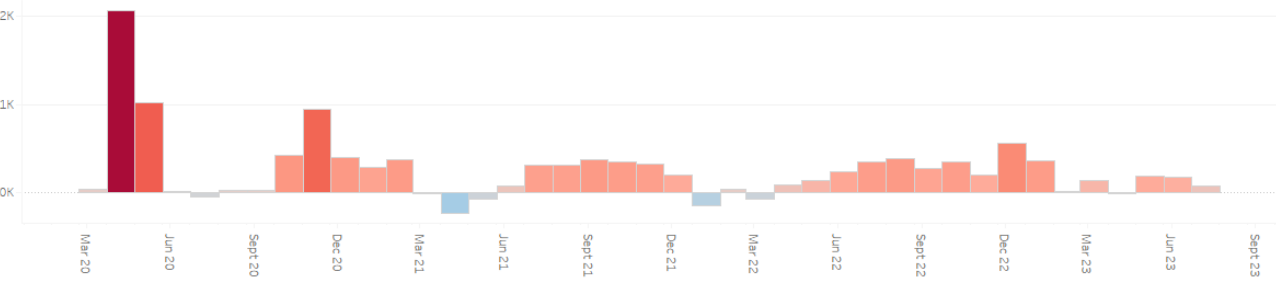
Onward referrals by Social Prescribing providers across Greater Manchester, 2022-2023



The words above represent a 'soft count' of onward referrals made across Greater Manchester. Providers were asked to identify the top 10 onward referral routes for individuals who they supported in the year 2022-2023. Some providers listed specific organisations, others reported the type of services referred into and others provided a mixture of the two.

Overall there were 93 individual organisations and services quoted and the word cloud above indicates the organisations and services that were reported most frequently. For more generalised descriptions of referrals hovering over the word will allow for detail.

Excess deaths in Greater Manchester



The number of deaths recorded each month, considered to be in excess of the expected number had the Covid-19 pandemic not occurred. Click the button to the right for a further breakdown of this graph, by locality.

Analysis undertaken by the Marmot Review Team shows excess winter deaths to be a direct impact of cold housing and fuel poverty. Around 40% of excess winter deaths are attributable to cardio-vascular diseases and 33% are attributable to respiratory diseases, both of which have strong relationships with cold temperatures in homes.





## Contact Us

Housing and Homelessness

Welfare and Work

Food

Fuel and Energy

Fire

Crime and Incidents

Digital Exclusion

Health and Wellbeing

Contact Us

Glossary

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Any feedback on how this dashboard could be changed or expanded is more than welcome. I am also available to take any relevant queries or suggestions, I am contactable via [beth.kilheeney@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:beth.kilheeney@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)





## Glossary

[Housing and Homelessness](#)[Welfare and Work](#)[Food](#)[Fuel and Energy](#)[Fire](#)[Crime and Incidents](#)[Digital Exclusion](#)[Health and Wellbeing](#)[Contact Us](#)[Glossary](#)

As the cost of living crisis has progressed, more resources and tools have been created to further understand or help support those in need. This page acts as a glossary for these resources. We welcome any suggestions or recommendations on links to be added to this page - please see our details on the Contact Us page.

Page last updated: 19.05.2023

Page next update: 13.10.2023

### Helping Hand

Advice for all those affected by the cost of living crisis across Greater Manchester. A directory of help and support, broken down by locality.

[Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Helping Hand](#)



### Cost of Living Hub

A hub sharing best practice and help focused on councils supporting their residents with the rise in cost of living.

[Local Government Association: Cost of Living Hub](#)



### Cost of Living Data Dashboard

A dashboard sharing insights gained from across the Citizens Advice service focused on the cost of living crisis, with monthly updates.

[Citizens Advice: CA cost of living data dashboard](#)



### Tracking Financial Vulnerability in the UK

UK Financial Vulnerability Index using publicly available measures and unique consumer data from Lowell, one of Europe's largest credit management services companies. Tracking financial vulnerability since 2017, at a parliamentary constituency level.

[Urban Institute: Tracking Financial Vulnerability in the UK](#)



# Economic Resilience Dashboard



## Tracking the Greater Manchester Economy

The Economic Resilience Dashboard provides quarterly intelligence on the conditions of the Greater Manchester (GM) economy.

The data is divided into five sections:

- **Labour Market** provides leading indicators on employment and economic activity.
- **Cost Pressures** provides data on pay, debt and inflation.
- **Business Outlook** provides data gathered by GM based organisations on business sentiment and confidence.
- **National Indicators** provides leading indicators on the state of the economy nationally.
- **International Trade** provides the most up to date information available on exports at different geographies.

The dashboard is updated with the best available data to reflect the current economic conditions each quarter and the resultant analysis is described in the Analysis tab.

We would welcome feedback on alternative measures to be included in the dashboard, further areas for analysis or insights on the data provided. If you have any feedback please email [ellie.voyt@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.voyt@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk).

Please note, we also produce a summary dashboard which is updated monthly. To view these more regular updates on the GM business outlook and labour market, please click the link below.

[Click here to view the summary dashboard](#)

Last updated  
1st September 2023

## Analysis



UK Inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index was **6.8%** in the 12 months to July. This is a 3.3 percentage points lower than the March figure of 10.1%.



Consumer Confidence was **-25** in August, showing a two month dip following a steady improvement throughout the first half of 2023.



Inflation adjusted median monthly pay was **£2,178** in July 2023. This is £22 higher than the average for January to March 2023.

**The UK economy grew by 0.2% in Q2 2023, following growth of 0.1% in Q1 according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).** The ONS reports growth was strong within the production and manufacturing sectors, and boosted by household and government consumption.

**The IMF has revised forecasted UK economic growth upwards to predict growth of 0.4% in 2023.** This upwards revision reflects stronger than expected consumption and investment following falling energy prices, improved post-Brexit uncertainty and a resilient financial sector.

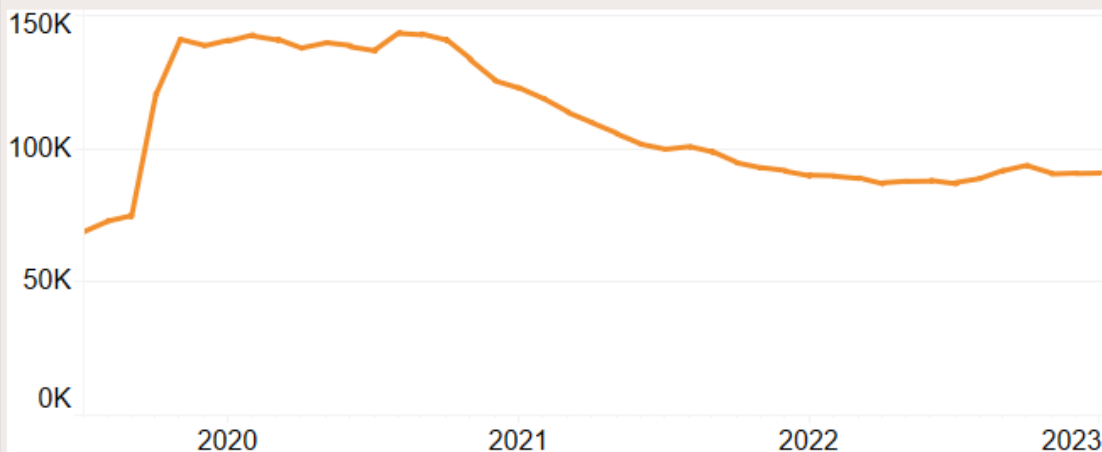
**The trend towards improving consumption observed by the ONS and IMF are reflected in the Consumer Confidence Index which had been rising steadily from -45 to -24 throughout 2023.** However, in July the value dipped to -30 and remained low at -25 in August. Businesses appear to be acting less confidently also. The UK Composite PMI (a weighted index of manufacturing and service sector PMIs) fell to 50.7 in July down from 52.8 in June.

**With inflation remaining well above the 2% target at 6.8%, the Bank of England increased the Bank Rate in August by 0.25% to 5.25%.** The Bank of England expects the Bank Rate will peak at just over 6% and average at 5.5% over a three-year forecast period. Inflation is expected to reduce to around 5% by the end of 2023, assuming sustained lower fuel costs.

**Accounting for inflation, median monthly pay in Greater Manchester (GM) rose slightly since the last Economic Resilience Dashboard update in April, by £39.** Whilst this remains below the UK average for 2021, inflation adjusted median monthly pay has grown more quickly in GM than across the UK as a whole over the past year.

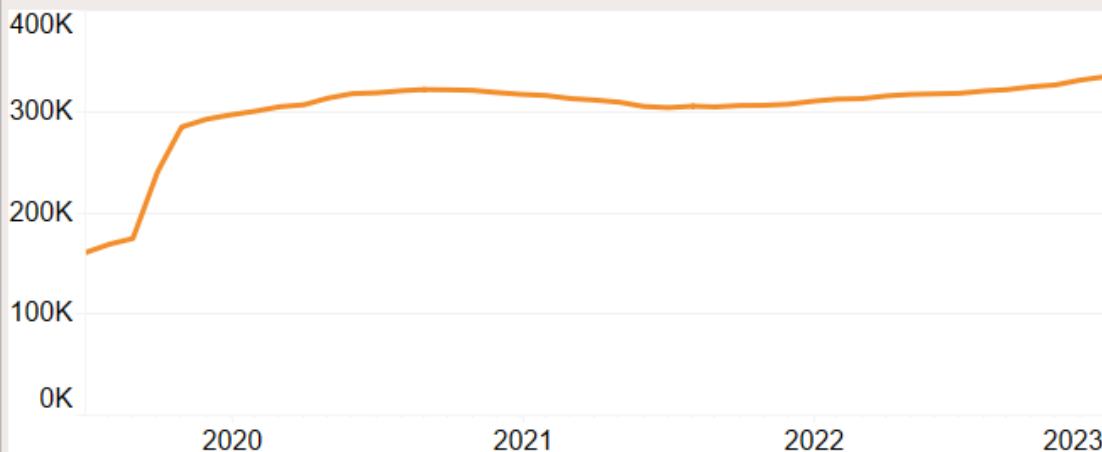
**The trends of rising numbers of people claiming Universal Credit and falling economic inactivity have continued.** The inactivity rate in the North West was 22.0% in the three months to June 2023, compared to 22.6% in the 3 months to March. There were more Universal Credit claimants in GM than ever before (334,000).

Claimant Count



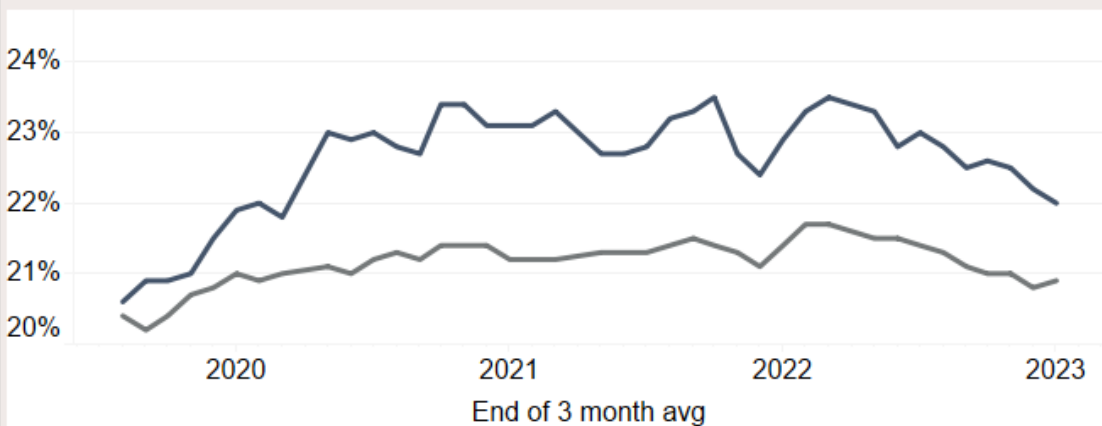
The number of claimants in GM decreased by 2.8% to 91,100 between April and July. Compared with July 2022, the claimant count increased by 0.9%.

Universal Credit Claimants



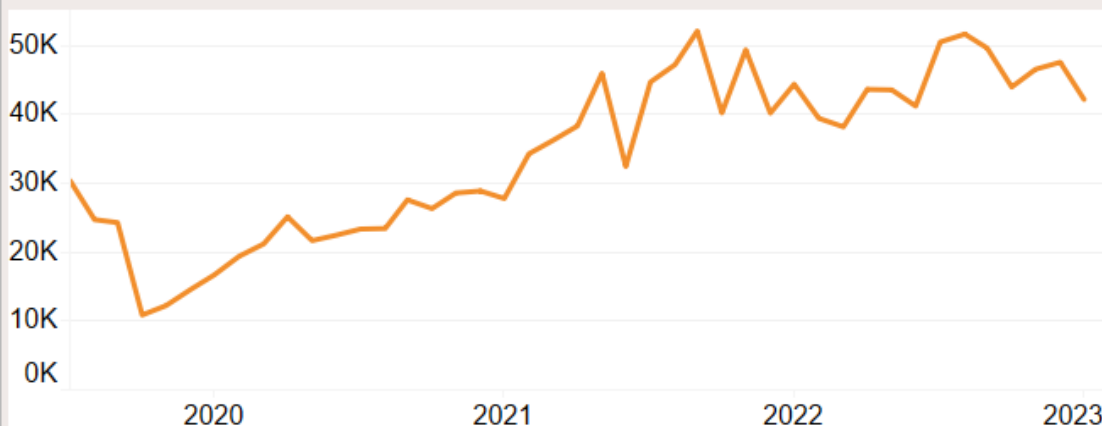
There were 334,370 Universal Credit claimants in GM in July. This is an increase of 3.0% compared to April 2023, 0.2 percentage points more than the increase across Britain as a whole.

Economic Inactivity Rate



In the NW total economic inactivity continued to fall in the three months to June 2023 to 991,000 (22.0% of the working age population) . This is slightly higher than the UK rate of 20.9%.

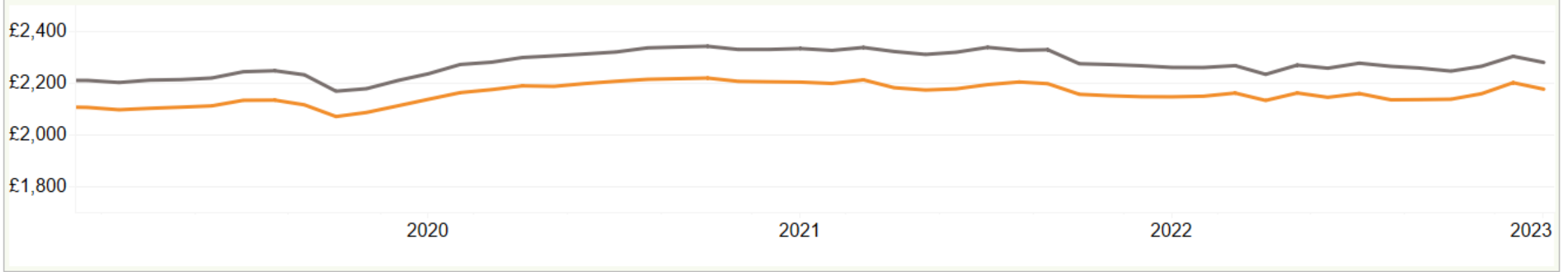
Job Postings, GM



There were 42,200 job postings in July, an decrease of 4% from April. The number of job postings was 5% below July 2022.

## Cost Pressures

### Resident Median Monthly Pay, Inflation Adjusted

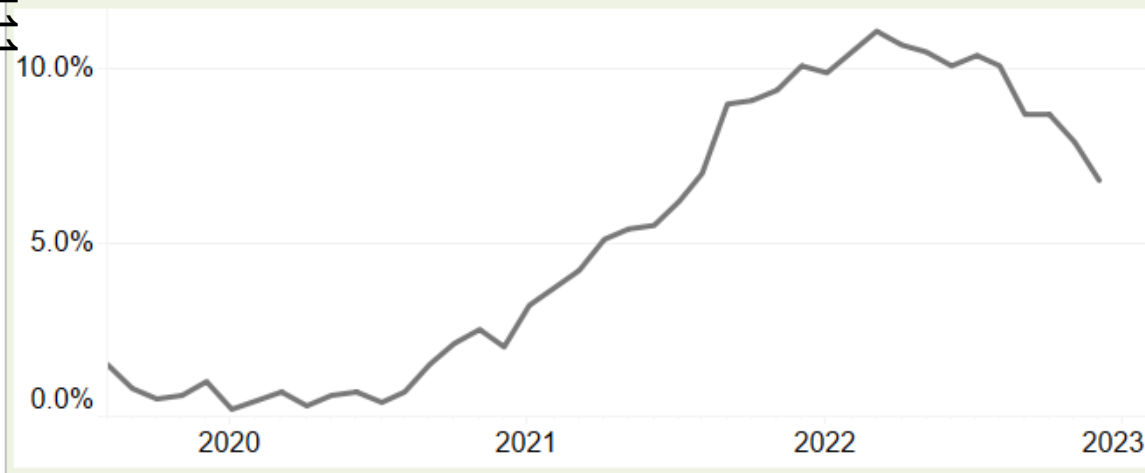


Median monthly pay adjusted for inflation in Greater Manchester was **£2,178** in July. This is **£157** lower than the UK pay, according to PAYE RTI data. However, median monthly pay in GM has increased 1.4% since July 2022, compared to 0.9% for the UK as a whole.

Area  
■ Greater Manchester  
■ UK

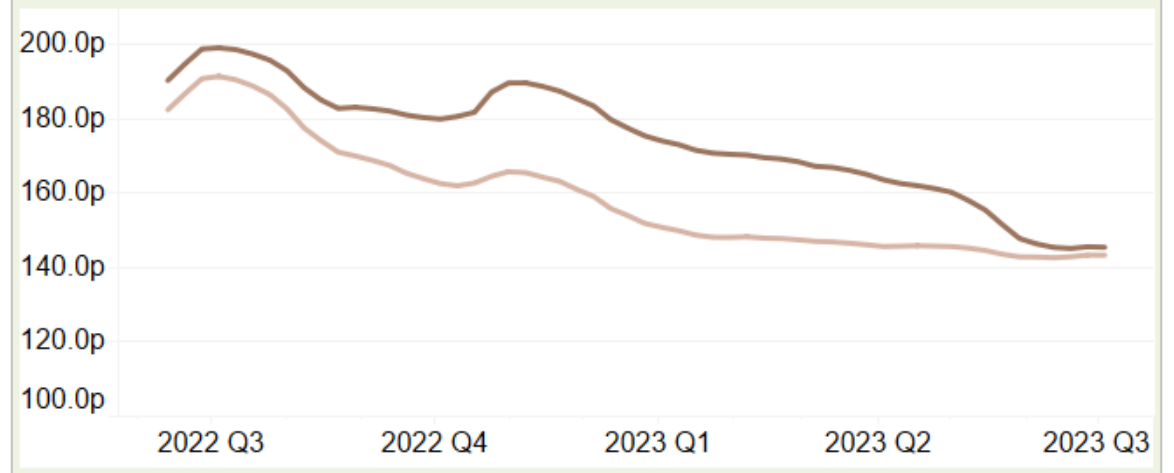
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### Consumer Price Index of Inflation (CPI), UK



UK inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index was **6.8%** in the 12 months to **July 2023**. This was a 3.3 percentage point decrease from the March figure of 10.1%. Inflation including housing costs was 6.4% in July - a 2.5 percentage point fall on the March figure.

### Weekly Fuel Prices, UK

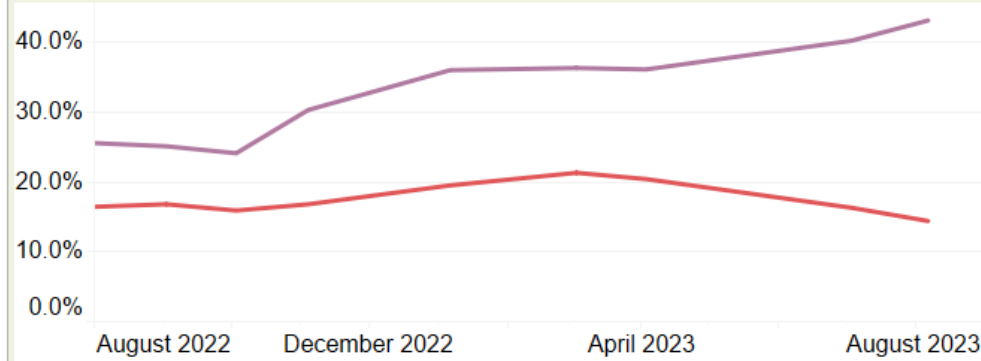


Petrol pump prices were **147.8p** per litre in week commencing 14th August 2023, 1.8p lower than in April 2023. Diesel pump prices were **150.4p** per litre, 11.7p lower than in April 2023.

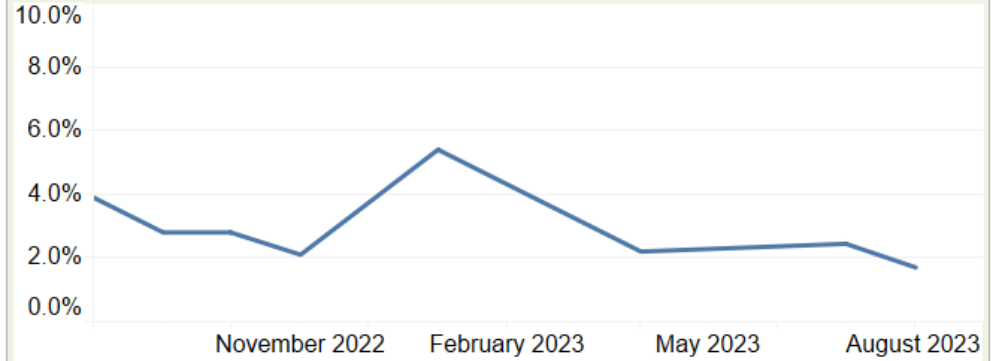
Type  
■ Diesel Pump Price  
■ Petrol Pump Price

## Business Outlook

Share of surveyed businesses experiencing Cashflow Issues & Rising Costs



Share of surveyed businesses considering making redundancies

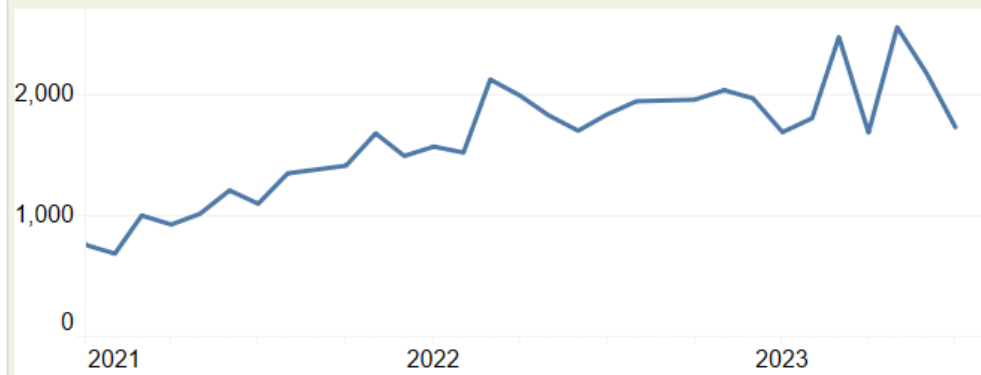


Experience of: ■ Cashflow Issues ■ Rising Costs	Indicator Multiple values	Area GM	Sector All Sectors
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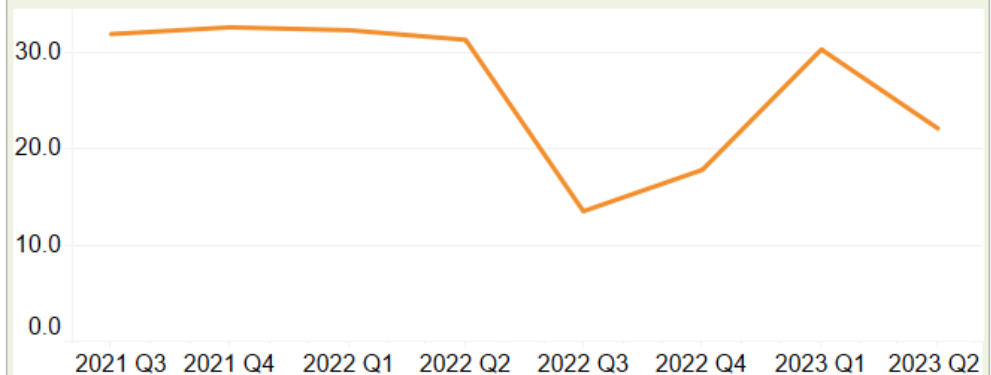
The number of firms that said they were considering making redundancies was 1.7% in the 12 weeks up to 6th August. This is the lowest level since December 2021.

43% of businesses reported rising costs in the 12 weeks to 6th August, according to the Growth Hub's Business Survey. This is the highest level recorded since we began reporting this in September 2020. 14% of businesses reported cashflow issues over the period, compared to 20.4% in the 12 weeks to 3rd April.

Company Insolvencies, UK



GM Index

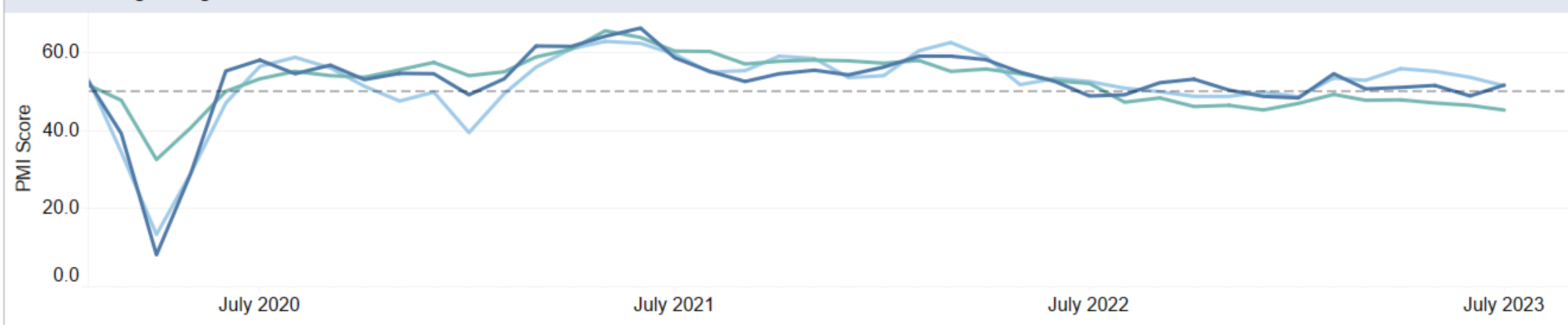


There were 42,200 job postings in July, an decrease of 11.3% from June. This was 5% below July 2022.

Greater Manchester Chamber's GM Index fell from 30.3 in Q1 2023 to 22.1 in Q2 2023.

## National Indicators

### UK Purchasing Managers Index

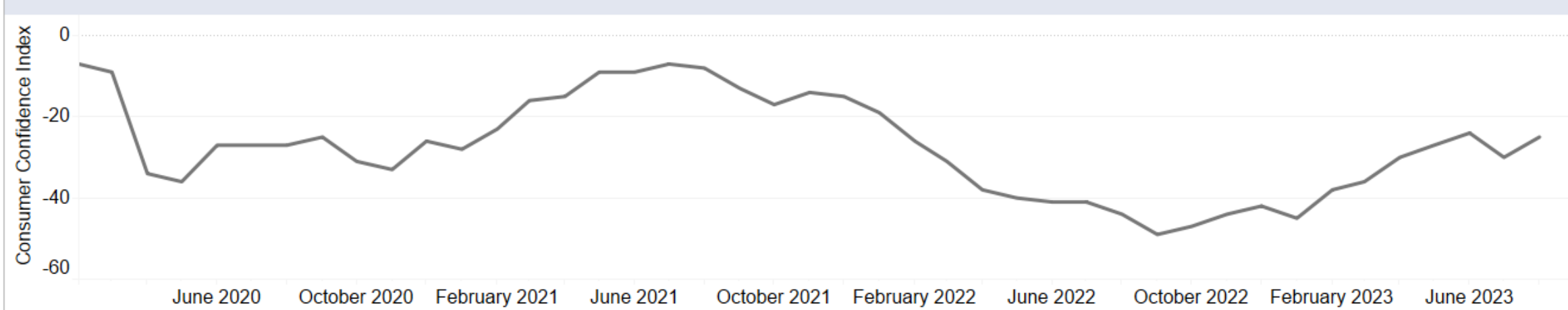


Since April, the Manufacturing PMI decreased from 47.9 to 45.3, The Services PMI decreased from 55.9 to 51.5 and the Construction PMI increased from 51.1 to 51.7. Both the Construction and Services PMIs were above the 50.0 threshold that indicates expected growth.

PMI  
■ Construction  
■ Manufacturing  
■ Services

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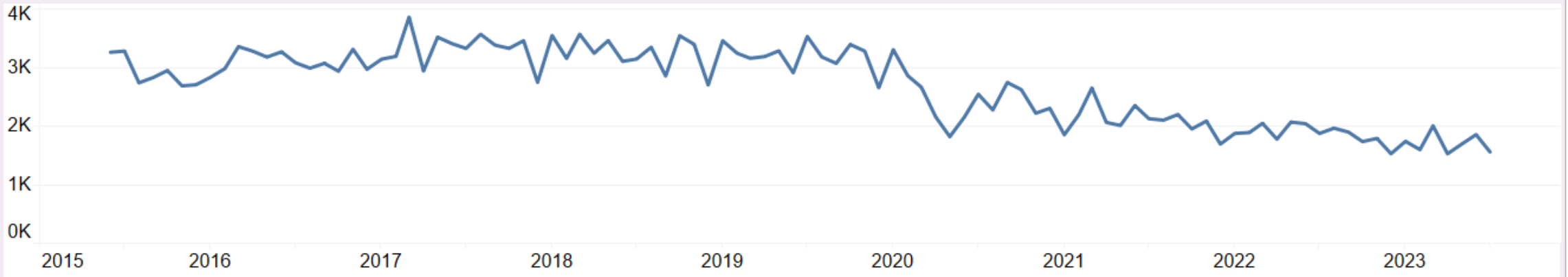
### UK Consumer Confidence



The UK Consumer Confidence Index rose from -45 to -24 from January to June, before returning to -30 in July.

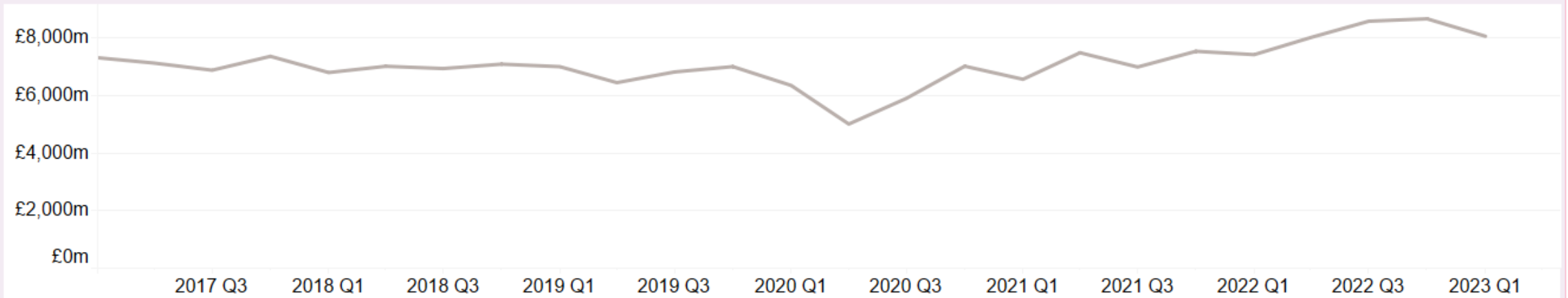
## International Trade

### Number of export documents processed by GM Chamber of Commerce



Export documents processed by the GM Chamber of Commerce decreased by 8.4% between January and February, from 1,599 to 1,741. The total number of export documents is down 15.4% since February 2022. The Chamber of Commerce notes that with the development of new Free Trade Agreements, the need for export documents is reducing.

### Value of Goods Exports, North West



**The total value of goods exports from the North West was £8.1 billion in Q1 2023, 7.0% less than Q4 2021.**  
The total value of UK exports was £91.7 billion in Q1 2023, 10.1% more than Q1 2022.

Region  
North West

Partner Region  
Total



## Definitions

### Labour Market

**Claimant Count** - This data is taken from a monthly statistical release by the Office for National Statistics. Alternative Claimant Count experimental statistics measure the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits by modelling what the count would have been if Universal Credit had been fully rolled out since 2013 (when Universal Credit began) with the broader span of people this covers.

**Economic Inactivity** - This data is taken from a quarterly release by the ONS. Economic inactivity refers to people who are not participating in the labour market: they are neither working nor seeking employment.

**Job Postings** - Job postings data is taken from Burning Glass and updated on a weekly basis. This measure indicates new job vacancies posted in that week for GM as a whole. New job postings are averaged over 3 weeks.

### Cost Pressures

**Median Monthly Pay** - Taken from the ONS's monthly experimental release using PAYE data. Median monthly pay shows what a person in the middle of all employees would earn each month. The median pay is generally considered to be a more accurate reflection of the "average wage" because it discounts the extremes at either end of the scale.

**Inflation** - This data is taken from a monthly release by the Office for National Statistics. The Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH) is the most comprehensive measure of inflation. It extends the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) to include a measure of the costs associated with owning, maintaining and living in one's own home, known as owner occupiers' housing costs (OOHC), along with council tax.

**Weekly Fuel Prices** - This data is taken from a weekly release by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. It provides average UK retail pump prices.

### Business Outlook

**Growth Company Business Survey** - Figures relating to the impact of COVID-19 on business are taken from the Growth Company's monthly business survey. The survey covers all businesses that are Growth Company Clients, this means that some businesses outside of GM that access Growth Company services may be included in the dataset.

**Credit Risk** - This data is provided on a monthly basis by RedFlag, a provider of real-time business intelligence. The data shows businesses that have 1 or more 'red flags', this means that they are at risk of potential insolvency.

**GM Index** - The Greater Manchester Index is a quarterly composite indicator taken from seven measures in the GM Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Economic Survey. Those seven indicators are Domestic Sales, Advance UK Orders, Export Sales, Advance Overseas Orders, Capacity Utilisation, Turnover Confidence, Profitability Confidence.

### National Indicators

**Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI)** - an index of showing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing, service and construction sectors. It summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting. **The Index is published on a monthly basis by IHS Markit Economics.**

**Consumer Confidence** - In the UK, the consumer confidence survey measures the level of optimism that consumers have about the performance of the economy in the next 12 months. **Published on a monthly basis by GfK.** The GfK Consumer Confidence is derived from the survey of about 2,000 consumers which are asked to rate the relative level of past and future economic conditions including personal financial situation, climate for major purchases, overall economic situation and savings level.

### International Trade

**Export Documents** - a monthly count of the number of export documents processed for GM businesses, as reported to GMCA by the **GM Chamber of Commerce**. It indicates the level of international trade happening in GM in the month.

**Regional International Trade** - This data is published by HMRC on a quarterly basis. The data combines EU and Non - EU trade for all regions of the UK.

## Haven't found what you were looking for?

GMCA maintains a number of other resources for information on Greater Manchester's economy:

Name	Link
Cost of Living Dashboard	<a href="https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/Workbook: Cost of Living (gmtableau.nhs.uk)">Workbook: Cost of Living (gmtableau.nhs.uk)</a>

The **Cost of Living Dashboard** aims to provide insight and evidence into the rising cost of living in Greater Manchester. The Data presented in the dashboard comes from a variety of sources such as national data sources, council provided data, data from the Greater Manchester Residents Survey, NHS data and more.

Name	Link
Labour Market and Skills Review	<a href="https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/research/research-work-and-skills/labour-market-and-skills-review/">https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/research/research-work-and-skills/labour-market-and-skills-review/</a>

The **Labour Market and Skills Review (LMSR)** is a comprehensive collection of data on Greater Manchester's labour market and skills system. It comprises a series of topic areas, each one with a related dashboard in which users can view and manipulate data. The dashboards operate using Tableau software (no logins or software downloads are necessary). The LMSR dashboards cover the labour market, pay, skills demand, skills supply and recruitment.

Name	Link
Labour Insights COVID-19 Dashboard	<a href="https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/t/GMCA/views/LabourInsightsCOVID-19Dashboard/Introduction?%3Aiid=1&amp;%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizp...">https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/t/GMCA/views/LabourInsightsCOVID-19Dashboard/Introduction?%3Aiid=1&amp;%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizp...</a>

The **Labour Insights COVID-19 Dashboard** provides information regarding the number of online job postings in the UK, Greater Manchester and its Local Authorities. The dashboard is updated every Monday with labour market information from the previous week. The data is sourced from Labour Insights, the largest single source of real-time labour market information in the UK.

Name	Link
GM International Dashboard	<a href="https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/Workbook: Greater Manchester International Dashboard (gmtableau.nhs.uk)">Workbook: Greater Manchester International Dashboard (gmtableau.nhs.uk)</a>

The **Greater Manchester International Dashboard** aims to monitor the city-region's international profile and success against priorities set out in the Greater Manchester International Strategy. The data is split into 5 sections: Trade in goods, Trade in services, Investment, Tourism and Academia and Research and Innovation.

Name	Link
GM Economy Factbook	<a href="https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/Workbook: Greater Manchester Economy Factbook (gmtableau.nhs.uk)">Workbook: Greater Manchester Economy Factbook (gmtableau.nhs.uk)</a>

The **Greater Manchester Economy Factbook** is a comprehensive collection of key facts about the Greater Manchester economy intended as a reference for Leaders, Policymakers, Analysts and anyone interested in GM's economy. The data is divided into 6 sections: Population Demography, Economy, Employment Counts, Employment Rates and Earnings, Business Demography and International.

## Other Resources

For further information about Greater Manchester's economy from some of GMCA's partner organisations, please see the links below.

Name	Link
GM Data Insights	<a href="#">GM data insights   Policy@Manchester   The University of Manchester</a>

This collection of insights is maintained by the University of Manchester. It contains data collated across different policy themes to provide an in-depth understanding of pressing policy challenges within Greater Manchester. It also serves as an evidence base for policymakers to develop more targeted and tailored policy responses to address key policy issues.

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Subject: Greater Manchester Equality Panels Annual Report

Report of: Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities, and  
Sara Todd, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Equalities and Communities

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### Purpose of Report

This report summarises the activity and impact of the Greater Manchester Equality Panels through their individual Annual Reports 2022-23.

### Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:





1. Note the Annual Reports provided by the Disabled People's Panel, Youth Combined Authority, Women and Girls Equality Panel, Race Equality Panel, Faith and Belief Panel Advisory Panel, Older Peoples Equality Panel and LGBTQ+ Equality Panel
2. Endorse commitment of all Portfolios to proactively engage with Equality Panels (individually or collectively) on issues that impact communities-of-identity.


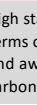

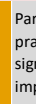
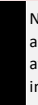
Contact Officers

Adrian Bates, Head of Equalities Strategy, GMCA

[adrian.bates@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.bates@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

# Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	There are seven Equality Panels, focused on improving outcomes and reducing discrimination faced by people from communities-of-identity (protected characteristics); Faith, Race, Women and Girls, Older People, Young People, Disabled People, LGBTQ+ People experiencing inequality often face multiple issues, including social and economic disadvantage. The Panels focus on those most at risk in society Access, experience and outcomes from public services are not equal, and making this equitable is a priority for the Panels Membership of the Panels are residents with lived-experience, or representatives of voluntary organisations that support residents. Engaging the Panels in decisions and services that affect them at the earliest stage leads to better outcomes and value for money The Panels bring together diverse community voices, strengthening understanding and collaborating to celebrate Greater Manchester's culture of social inclusion	
Health	G	The Equality Panels provide insight into the access, experience and outcomes of diverse communities. This should help public services develop more effective policies and deliver more efficient services. The Panels cover a range of topics across Health and Wellbeing, enabling communication, codesign and collaboration between public services, voluntary sector and residents.	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	The Equality Panels enable public services to communicate and engage with diverse communities. Reducing inequality in these communities builds resilience. Tackling discrimination will enable public services to become more representative of their communities, building trust and confidence. Hate Crime is a cross-panel priority	
Housing	G	The Equality Panels have contributed to the new Homelessness Prevention Strategy, providing valuable insight to policy makers on the lived-experience of people from diverse communities, including those fleeing domestic abuse from ethnic minority communities, people with no recourse to public funds and those requiring supported housing due to health or disability	
Economy	G	The Equality Panels provide insight into the access, experience and outcomes of diverse communities. This should help public services develop more effective policies and deliver more efficient services. The Panels cover a range of topics across Economy and Employment, enabling communication, codesign and collaboration between public services, voluntary sector and residents. For example, the Panels are informing the Good Employment Charter and Workforce Equality Strategies	
Mobility and Connectivity	G	There is a specific focus in the new Digital Taskforce on Older People and Disabled People. The Older Peoples Panel and Disabled Peoples Panel are directly supporting this activity, providing professional expertise and connectivity into their communities. This will ensure solutions meet the needs of target group	
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	The Equality Panels provide insight into the access, experience and outcomes of diverse communities. This should help public services develop more effective policies and deliver more efficient services. The Panels cover a range of topics across Environment, enabling communication, codesign and collaboration between public services, voluntary sector and residents. For example, the Youth Combined Authority contribution to the Green Summit.	
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target			
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment		
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	 Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment				
Overall Score	<input type="text"/>			
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential	N/A			
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A			
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A			
<b>Transport</b>				
Active travel and public transport	N/A			
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A			
Access to amenities	N/A			
Vehicle procurement	N/A			
<b>Land Use</b>				
Land use	N/A			
 No associated carbon impacts expected.	 High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	 Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	 Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	 Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

## **Risk Management**

This paper describes work to manage risk relating to services for people with a protected characteristic.

## **Legal Considerations**

As set out in section 149 Equality Act 2010, a public authority (which includes the GMCA within its definition) must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

This legislation is more commonly known as the Public Sector Equality Duty and is informed, amongst other things, in GM, by the work of the Equality Panels.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

The £367,500 annual investment enables the GMCA and partners to engage people experiencing inequality through the Equality Panels, facilitated by commissioned culturally appropriate organisations. Effective Equality Panels support public service resources to be invested in ways that are more targeted to those most at risk, reducing costs and achieving better outcomes. There is no additional financial ask relating to this paper.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

N/A

**Number of attachments to the report:** Seven

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

N/A

## **Background Papers**

N/A

## **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

**GM Transport Committee**

N/A

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

N/A

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# 1. Introduction

1.1 The Greater Manchester Equality Panels have been established to advise, proactively support and constructively challenge Greater Manchester's political leaders and policy-makers to tackle the discrimination and disadvantage that cause injustice and inequality in society, and champion Greater Manchester as an inclusive city-region.

1.2 They do this by working together with the GMCA and partners to:

- Provide insight into Greater Manchester's diverse communities, enabling political leaders and public bodies to listen and engage in a more targeted and effective way
- Communicate key messages to our communities as trusted sources
- Codesign policies, programmes and strategies to ensure they work effectively for communities
- Support an asset-based approach, highlighting new opportunities (and challenges) for positive collaboration that build on the resources and strengths within our communities

1.3 The panels are independent advisory bodies, informing and influencing political and policy leads through dialogue and ensuring credibility with communities. They are not part of the statutory legal governance framework and do not have any decision-making authority. However, their position within the Equalities Portfolio ensures they retain a high profile, can influence positive change, and overcome any barriers they face.

1.4 There are seven panels – Race Equality Panel, Disabled People's Panel, Faith and Belief Advisory Panel, LGBTQ+ Equality Panel, Women and Girls Equality Panel, Youth Combined Authority and Older People's Equality Panel. Further information on the Panels can be found at <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/equalities/>

1.5 Membership reflects diversity, across different demographics, districts, sectors and other interests. Recruitment is transparent, the Chairs selected by panel members and membership is publicised.

1.6 The Chairs of the Equality Panels meet regularly with the Portfolio Leads to explore opportunities for collaboration on intersectional issues and share common challenges to delivering impact. In addition, the Chairs are members of the Tackling Inequalities Board, ensuring a strategic connection between the Panels and political and organisational leaders. These structures and connectivity enable the panels to have

greater clarity of purpose; influencing the strategic agenda, mandate to work with public services (and challenge where necessary) and empowered to deliver more impactful activity.

1.7 Each Panel is facilitated by a culturally appropriate voluntary sector organisation, commissioned by GMCA using the same specification to ensure consistency of approach across the panels. This strengthens the support to panel members, creating strong foundations that enable greater flexibility within the Panel to focus on the issues that are most important to their communities. Panel Facilitators work in partnership with GMCA officers to ensure the panel can engage policymakers effectively, and act as a bridge between public services and the wider community. They meet regularly, enabling resources and practice to be shared, delivering greater impact and value-for-money.

## **2. Equality Panels and the Greater Manchester Strategy**

2.1 In Greater Manchester, the pandemic exacerbated longstanding inequalities, as well as highlighting new ones. From access to good jobs, to transport, health and housing, the impact has been unequal and unfair, affecting different people, places and communities across Greater Manchester in very different ways.

2.2 A strong message from the Independent Inequalities Commission was that a deep understanding of the issues, and the solutions to those, can only come from working in and with those communities, being informed and guided by their voices and experiences. The Greater Manchester Strategy has a clear commitment to ensure policies and services support all diverse communities appropriately, and actively target resource at the people and places facing the greatest obstacles in life

2.3 Panel members give their time voluntarily and can often be sharing traumatic experiences of discrimination and disadvantage. It is crucial their time is used effectively and for maximum impact. The responsibility is on policymakers to engage early and genuinely with the Equality Panels and take proactive action to address the inequalities they have heard.

## **3. Activity and impact**

3.1 Disabled People's Panel (Appendix 1)

- The Disabled Peoples Panel is a pan-impairment Panel, made up of Disabled People's Organisations from the ten districts, and facilitated by the Greater Manchester Coalition

of Disabled People. The Panel and members operate from the perspective of the Social Model of Disability.

- The panel's Greater Manchester Big Disability Survey was the largest of its kind in the United Kingdom. Presented to GMCA in October 2022, the survey findings achieved national media coverage and strategic influence, including Parliament, Government departments and United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It has prompted a wide range of stakeholder challenge, for example with Ofgen and energy suppliers on the impact of energy costs, force-fitting and credit to Pre-Payment Meter switching on disabled consumers.
- In addition to the survey, in partnership with the Integrated Care Partnership the panel produced the Greater Manchester Mental Wellbeing and Disability Report, which has led to a programme of Inclusion Grants to support Deaf and Disabled People. In addition, the panel has been assisting the Greater Manchester Mental Health Partnership to improve the accessibility of its online resources.

### 3.2 Faith and Belief Advisory Panel (Appendix 2)

- The panel acts as a 'network of networks', bringing together representatives from across Greater Manchester's Faith, Belief and Interfaith networks, facilitated by Pulse Regeneration. The aims of the panel are to optimise the Faith and Belief contribution to the Greater Manchester Strategy and ensure that the role of Faith and Belief in society is recognised and valued.
- Members of the panel are actively involved in a range of Greater Manchester Action Networks, including homelessness, digital inclusion, net zero, real living wage and food security. The panel also collaborates with the Greater Manchester Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE's) and Greater Manchester Resilience Forum.
- Earlier this year, Greater Manchester Leaders endorsed a statement by the panel on the positive contribution of the Faith and Belief Sector. Thriving local Interfaith Networks are crucial and, following research into models of good practice, locality conversations will take place with Leaders to explore how infrastructure can be developed and resourced where there are gaps.

### 3.3 LGBTQ+ Equality Panel (Appendix 3)

- The LGBTQ+ Advisory Panel aims to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people across the city region by championing LGBTQ+ inclusion and ensuring that the needs of our

diverse LGBTQ+ communities are fully considered across Greater Manchester. The panel is facilitated by the LGBT Foundation.

- The panel has three primary work areas:
  - o Places & Spaces: all parts of Greater Manchester are accessible, safe and welcoming for all LGBTQ+ people and communities.
  - o Counting us in: all publicly funded services in Greater Manchester consistently and appropriately record sexual orientation and trans status, and use this insight and other data to improve services for LGBTQ+ people.
  - o Inclusion as standard: all new and existing public policy in Greater Manchester is LGBTQ+ inclusive, and, where appropriate, there are specific policies in place to protect LGBTQ+ people.
- In addition, the panel are achieving strategic influence. This year GMCA committed to the panel's Pledge to End Conversion Therapy, and, importantly, adopted a trans-inclusive and consent loop-hole-free definition of conversion therapy. Panel members met Victor Madrigal-Borloz, United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as part of his visit to the UK, and the Panel Chair represented GMCA at Montpellier Pride Festival, building relationships with representatives from Kyiv, Paris, Barcelona, Heidelberg, Istanbul, and Sherbrooke.

#### 3.4 Older Peoples Equality Panel (Appendix 4)

- The Older Peoples Panel identifies and consider the diverse issues of concern to older people within Greater Manchester, engaging in strategies so that older people can influence policies that support the creation of age-friendly neighbourhoods, and providing the opportunity for older people to promote and share a positive perspective on ageing in Greater Manchester. The panel works in partnership with the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub and is facilitated by Macc.
- The panel has prioritised three issues within the Age Friendly Strategy.
  - o Impact of the cost of living crisis - contributing to the Cost of Living Response Group, highlighting issues related to Pension Top Up and Warm Spaces
  - o Care settings – engaging with the Greater Manchester Adult Social Care Transformation Team and advising a range of workstream groups
  - o Digitalisation – tackling digital exclusion in over 75s is a Mayoral priority, and the panel are represented at the Digital Inclusion Action Network. The panel recruited a test team for new software to make phone and tablet simpler to use.

- Running throughout the panel is the theme of “Valuable not Vulnerable”. Older people play a key role in society and are a diverse group, in both age and experiences.

### 3.5 Race Equality Panel (Appendix 5)

- The Race Equality Panel work to promote racial equality, tackle racial discrimination and foster positive relationships between ethnically diverse communities, and embed the Public Sector Equality Duty in policies, processes, procedures, practices and people development. Over the last year, the panel has focused its efforts on Policing and Criminal justice, Education, Employment, training and leadership, Mental Health and Wellbeing and Housing and Homelessness. The panel is facilitated by the Caribbean and African Health Network
- Examples of the positive impact of the panel include
  - o The panel’s Race Equality Charter for Schools has been well-received by schools across the city-region, who have signed up to the Charter and are implementing change for the benefit of their pupils and teachers. The Charter has been adopted by the Greater Manchester Learning Partnership, creating a strong partnership between the panel and education professionals.
  - o Building on the success of last year’s employment event, the panel recently delivered a second employment event, bringing together a cross-sector group of workforce leads to hear from inspiring speakers and explore best practice, to overcome the long-standing challenges of racism and discrimination in the workplace.
- Throughout the year the panel have collaborated on the development of a new Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy, being facilitated by the Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (University of Manchester). As the panel looks to refresh its membership in 2023, the Strategy will act as the legacy of the inaugural panel members, setting the future ambition for Greater Manchester to achieve racial equity.

### 3.6 Women and Girls Equality Panel (Appendix 6)

- The Women and Girls Equality Panel aims to address the inequalities facing women and girls in GM. Whilst the panel members attend in an individual capacity, many are also employed by organisations aiming to tackle issues experienced by women and girls. The Panel is facilitated by the Pankhurst Trust. Over the last year, the panel has continued creating strong working connections that are enabling it to influence positive

change for women and girls. The Panel has retained its two working groups on Education, Skills and Employment and Violence Against Women and Girls.

- The Education, Skills and Employment (ESE) working group has continued to build on its work on childcare, skills pathways, good employment standards, women's self-employment, and co-operatives, as well as care and commissioning. In addition, it considered several new topics such as reskilling, self-employment, entrepreneurship, tech and gaming, and flexible working.
- The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) group has explored important topics such as the Victims Bill, preventing and policing hate crime, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) VAWG Delivery Plan, police response to public protection and domestic abuse, the Police Perpetrator Act, and police behaviour & abuse of position of trust. An important focus for has been to strengthen its relationships with GMP and the Gender Based Violence Board.

### 3.7 Youth Combined Authority (Appendix 7)

- The Youth Combined Authority (YCA) brings together young people from the district Youth Parliaments and youth organisations that support a diverse range of young people, ensuring the membership is rich in lived experience and inclusivity. Stronger links have been built over the last year to ensure the YCA has a defined role advising, supporting and challenging the new Children and Young Peoples Strategy, facilitated by Youth Focus North West.
- The YCA has four priority areas: Health and Wellbeing, Covid Recovery, Equity Equality and Inclusion, and the Environment, exploring topics with policymakers at each meeting. More focused work with the young people has been on
  - o policing and the Race Action Plan with the YCA developing a 'know your rights' resource pack
  - o engaging stakeholders at the University of Manchester Green Gathering and the Greater Manchester Green Summit
  - o over 500 young people completed a YCA survey on public transport and active travel, with the findings influencing future collaboration with Transport for Greater Manchester
  - o shaping the youth outreach project of the Civic Leadership Programme and supporting the selection of the supplier, Youth Leads UK

- All of the YCA members are supported throughout their personal development journey with the YCA. In total, young people have given over 700 hours of voluntary time to the YCA, reporting growth in confidence, feeling safe to give their opinions in this space, as well as feeling that their opinions will be taken seriously and taken forward by external partners who have attended sessions.

## **4. Recommendations**

4.1 Recommendations appear at the front of this report.

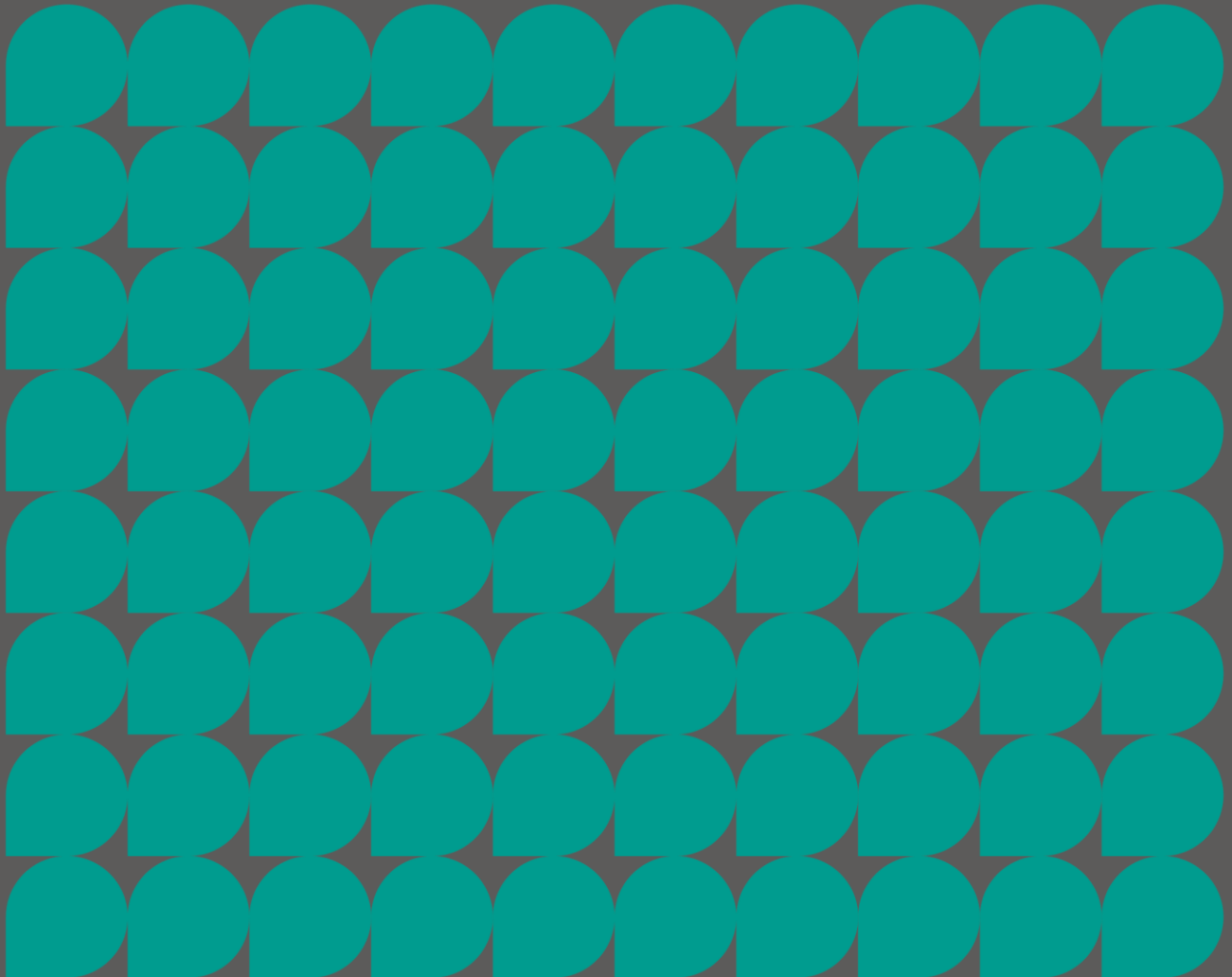
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# Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel Annual Report 2022 - 2023



## Nothing About Us Without Us

Disabled People everywhere demanding their rights and inclusion in society

### Contents

1. About the Panel
2. Annual Report
3. Conclusion

## 1. About the Panel

The Panel is convened by the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) in partnership with GM Mayor Andy Burnham and the GM Combined Authority (GMCA). There are 15 Disabled People's Organisations (majority or wholly led and run by disabled people as distinct from charities) on the Panel drawn from across the city region, they are:

Breakthrough UK • Bury People First • Disability Stockport • Embrace Wigan & Leigh • GM Autism Consortium Advisory Committee • GMCDP (Convenor) • George House Trust • Manchester Deaf Centre • Manchester Disabled People's Access Group • Manchester Disabled People Against Cuts • Mental Health Independent Support Team • Manchester People First • People First Tameside • Rochdale And District Disability Action Group • Salford Disability Forum • Stand Up Sisters

In 2022-2023 we had three Co-Chairs: Michele Scattergood (Breakthrough UK), Chris Hamnett (Embrace Wigan & Leigh), Sarah Cross (Rochdale and District Disability Action Group – currently on temporary leave of absence). Michele Scattergood retired in April 2023 and we have two new acting co-chairs: Melvin Bradley (Mental Health Independent Support Team – based in Bolton) and Sara Crookdale (Disability Stockport) as well as Chris Hamnett.

The Panel Steering Group meets weekly and comprises: the three Co-chairs, GMCDP manager Nicola McDonagh, Panel Officers Jane Bevan and Rick Burgess, and Anne Lythgoe joins us from GMCA.

We pay each member organisation £800 per year to help cover their costs for the extra work they do plus we cover any access needs members have and providing information in accessible formats. The Co-chairs receive an additional £500 annually as a reflection of the extra work they do. This is how we operate ethically in line with the disabled people's movement principles and valuing disabled people's lived expertise and labour.

We also have a wider associate network of interested stakeholders, who do not attend meetings, with whom we share information.

The Panel and members operate from the perspective of the Social Model of Disability.

Thanks and further information

We would like to offer a special thank you to our outgoing co-chair Michele Scattergood, one of the founding members of the Panel, and a tireless advocate for the voice of disabled people in Greater Manchester. We are grateful for the continuing support from the Mayor, his office, GMCA and its officers. Special thanks to Anne, Shona, Rachel and Adrian at the GMCA.

GM Disabled People's Panel

[gmdisabledpeoplespanel.com](http://gmdisabledpeoplespanel.com)

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Officers

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Rick Burgess, Outreach and Development Lead

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Host/Convenor GM Coalition of Disabled People

[GMCDP.com](http://GMCDP.com)

GMCDP, Unit 4

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70 Alexandra Road, Manchester, M16 7WD

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## 2. Annual Report Year 4 2022 - 2023

### 2.1 Greater Manchester Big Disability Survey – Cost of Living

*‘No decisions should be made until [the survey report] has been fully absorbed at a Westminster and Whitehall level because this is the picture that needs to guide all of those decisions’. [there was] ‘nothing left to cut, actually, other than people’s hope, people’s support, and in the end risking people’s lives. It’s that severe.’*

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

The key piece of work for the Panel in 2022-2023 has been the Greater Manchester Big Disability Survey. The report was published in October 2022 and included multiple recommendations. We have timetabled our work for 2023-2024 to cover these issues and to work with our partners to address them.

The 2022 Survey was tabled as an agenda item at the October 22 Greater Manchester Combined Authority meeting.

Progress on thematic recommendations.

The Panel has been working with GMCA to bring together responses to the Survey recommendations and identify progress. The Survey recommendations focussed on several thematic areas and we have outlined below, the work the Panel has undertaken in 2022/23 in each thematic area.

Examples include:

### 2.2 Money, Benefits, and Energy Costs

- Our Survey was a driving force behind the establishment of the Mayor's energy working group. Some of the outcomes of the Group have been improving priority service registers, working with magistrates to ensure issuing of warrants takes into account disabled people's needs, sharing of data to benefit disabled residents,

suggestions of pooling suppliers' hardship funds, the Panel has been working with the British Gas Energy Trust on a possible debt and benefits advice project

- The Panel submitted its findings from the Survey to the inquiry of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Poverty into the (in)adequacy of the social security in the UK. Debbie Abrahams MP tabled an Early Day Motion on the GM Disability Survey in the House of Commons and signed by MPs in England, Wales and Scotland. The Panel submitted its Survey findings to the of UNCESCR (United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) civil society report for England and Wales and presented the findings at the national launch of the report. The report was coordinated by Just Fair who also used evidence from Greater Manchester Disabled People's Panel in the two submissions so far in 2023:Human Rights at Work Response: JCHR and Consultation on benefit levels: Work and Pensions Committee.
- The survey findings have also been a key driver behind the work of the GM Cost of Living response Group, influencing several positive outcomes such as a shared agreement across the ten boroughs that warm spaces have to be accessible and encouraging localities to speak to community transport, GMCA is collating pre-payment meter data and analysing data related to disabled energy users thanks to our survey, and the GM Textline relay service was launched for support with the cost of living crisis and the service delivered by a Panel member, Breakthrough UK.

### **2.3 Housing and Neighbourhood**

- The Panel facilitated the submission to Places for Everyone by Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP) and Manchester Disabled Peoples Access Group (MDPAG).

- The Panel has supported the work of GMCDP Housing Working group and **Claddag** in relation to Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs)

## 2.4 Mental Health and Wellbeing

- In April 2022 we were asked to host the launch **The GM Mental Wellbeing and Disability Report** which the Panel produced in partnership with GM Integrated Care Partnership. This has led to a programme of **Inclusion Grants to support Deaf and Disabled People.** Further to recommendations from the Greater Manchester Mental Wellbeing & Disability report, we influenced the development of disability action rather than disability awareness training. The Panel has been assisting the GM Mental Health Partnership to improve the accessibility of its online resources

## 2.5 Health Services

- Panel Officers met with the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman to discuss how findings of our surveys match their Covid findings. They also said that they found data relating to learning disabled people and Covid-19 through our website
- Kings Fund used the Panel as example of good practice in their report on partnering for inclusion and in its report: **Towards a new partnership between disabled people and health and care services** using the Panel as an example under "When it works: disabled people leading change"
- The Panel presented its work at the Disability Rights UK Campaign Conference "Influencing Health and Care Systems" in July 2022

## 2.6 Problem Solving and Support.

- The Panel has met with the GM Resilience Forum who are running a pilot project focussed on understanding older people's experiences during times of emergency older adults but are looking to increase the

- scope in the future for disabled people. We have advised forward planning in relation to fires (in high rises, moorland and accessible fire alarms), power cuts and accessible information, public health information in relation to Covid and flooding and accessible alerts
- The Panel are represented on the Digital Inclusion Action Network chaired by Andy Burnham, through this we have pursued digital enablement being provided in GM, which now covers 9 out of 10 boroughs, with talks ongoing for the tenth. We have co-produced a forthcoming GM publication collecting together all the help for disabled people to get online.

## **2.7 Strategic influence**

In addition to recommendations in 2022 Survey on the thematic areas outlined above, we also made strategic recommendations relating to infrastructure, a rights-based approach and political representation and participation. We have described below progress made in these Strategic areas.

Although the GM Disabled People's Panel (GMDPP) has been established to improve the lives of disabled people in Greater Manchester, there are policy areas which have a substantial impact on the lives of disabled residents in Greater Manchester which can only be tackled at a national level. Through the GM Mayor's direct facilitation in 2020 following our first big GM Survey – Covid-19, we were able to restart regular meetings between DPO's throughout England and the Disability Unit and the Minister for Disabled People.

Since the establishment of the GM Disabled People's Panel we have been working to broaden the approach of the Greater Manchester system to equalities, especially in relation to intersectionality. We were a driving force behind the Independent Inequalities Commission (we influenced the recommendations of the Commission), the bringing together of the Panel



Facilitators, the establishment of the Panel Chairs' meetings and the Tackling Inequalities Board. We have lobbied for more resources of the equality infrastructure at GM level which has led to the creation of an Equalities Lead, the partnership working of Equalities Officers across GM and the mainstreaming of equality into the Greater Manchester Strategy and into research initiatives (such as the GM Residents' Survey).

## **2.8 Political Representation and Participation**

The impact of the work of the Panel on voter ID and accessible elections was confirmed by the GM Elections Lead at the March 2023 Panel meeting. Our feedback has led to:

- A supplemented list of equipment in Greater Manchester to that produced by the Electoral Commission to make polling stations more accessible.
- a local accessible Greater Manchester video
- information about accessibility arrangements from all Greater Manchester Councils
- information on how to get more support on all polling cards in Greater Manchester.

Disabled People's lack of knowledge about voter ID was flagged up in the Survey. This led to an audit of the information published by the ten Greater Manchester councils which was shared with the Greater Manchester election's lead and subsequently with ten councils (Feb 2023). The audit criteria was then shared and used by other DPO's nationally.

We also communicated with the network of GM Equality Officers on accessible elections and particularly with Manchester City Council and shared Bradford City Council's good practice in increasing the numbers of disabled voters.

### **3. Conclusion**

In Year 4 2022 - 2023 our work was dominated by the cost of living crisis and how we responded to this through our second Survey in Summer 2022. We have been pursuing actions in response to our Survey recommendations throughout the year and we will continue to pursue these in 2023 – 2024. In 2022-2023 we also improved the way we worked, becoming more inclusive through our Easy meetings.

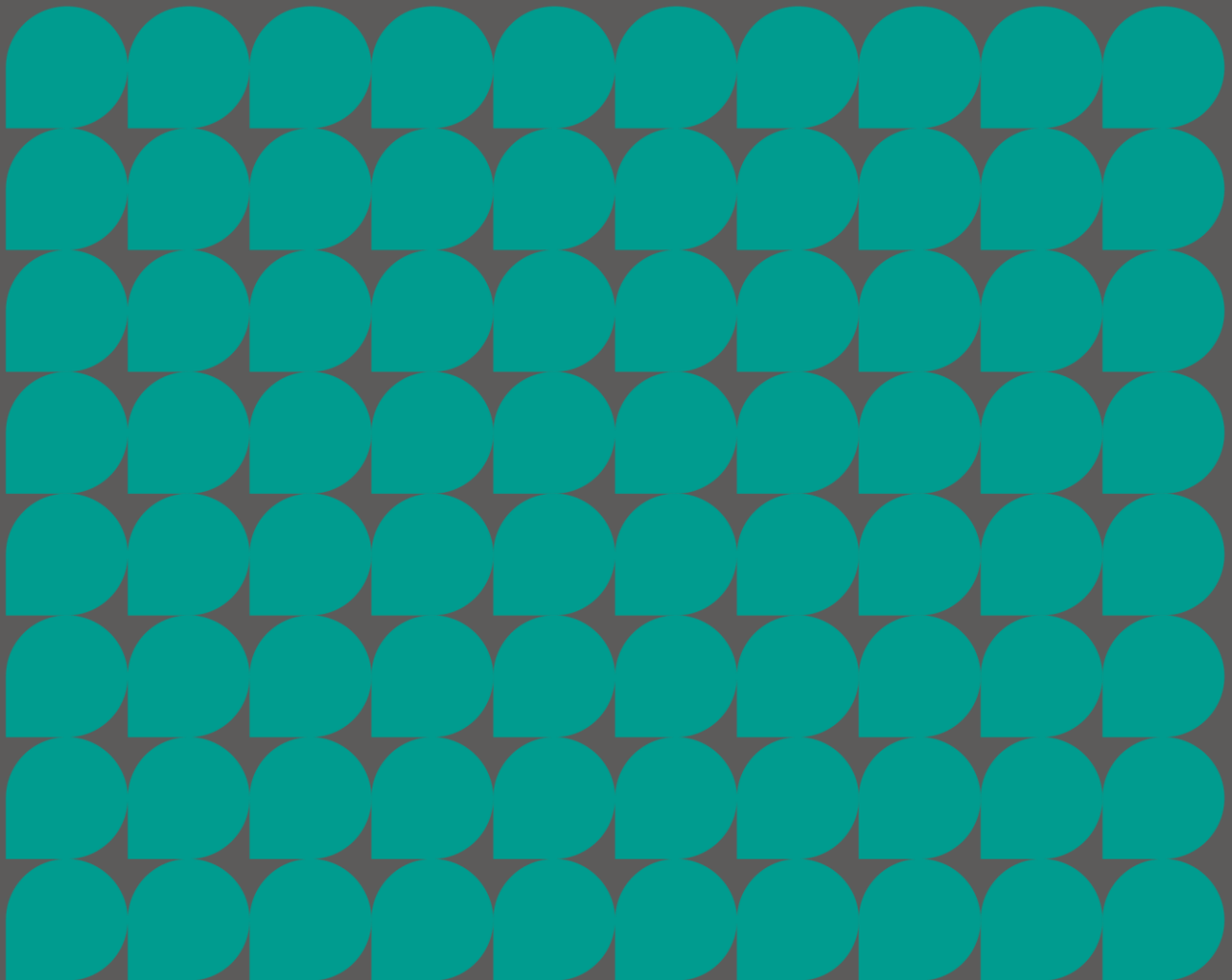
We recognise that we still have gaps in representation in two of the Greater Manchester localities (Trafford and Oldham) and we are still working to encourage representation in these areas. To repeat what we said in last year's report: areas that have a Disabled People's Organisation in it, always results in better lives for disabled people there. We also have identified the need to continue to increase how we work intersectionally.

Without doubt the Panel provides a voice to disabled people in Greater Manchester and it amplifies that voice to influence policy at the highest level. The challenges disabled people face are not going away: years of austerity, followed by the pandemic and now the cost of living crisis highlight the need for this strong voice of lived experience to realise the ambition of the Disabled People's Panel of making Greater Manchester the best place to live in the country for disabled people.

# FAITH & BELIEF ADVISORY PANEL

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

## Annual Report 2022-2023



# 1. Message from the Co-Chairs

The Greater Manchester Faith & Belief Advisory Panel, launched in March 2021, has continued to develop in the way we operate, the way we engage with other groups and the way we contribute to the Greater Manchester Strategy.

We were both re-elected as Co-Chairs by our colleagues on the Panel and have ensured, along with our Facilitator, Chris Hart of Pulse Regeneration, that we continue to work effectively to achieve the Panel's aims and objectives. These include representing the voice of Faith and Belief communities at a Greater Manchester level, in the work of Greater Manchester Combined Authority and within the Greater Manchester Strategy.

This includes ensuring that the concerns and key issues for people of faith and their communities are communicated to Greater Manchester leaders and structures and on a local borough level too. We have liaised and met with GMCA officers and the VCSE Leadership Group to ensure that the contribution of faith communities is also recognised and that our voice is heard at all levels.

Along with our bimonthly meetings, some Panel members are involved in the Action Networks, the Tackling Inequalities Board and the Equality Panel Chairs meetings, among others. There are regular reports at our meetings on the work of these Action Networks and groups.

It has been another exciting year and we believe we have made important steps in realising the vision for the Panel. The work of Panel members and their support in a variety of areas demonstrates the importance of the Faith & Belief Advisory Panel.

We have had our first in-person Panel meeting in January this year (all others have been online) and are strengthening our engagement with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, who will also be joining a Panel meeting in person.

Our faith communities and members continue to play such a significant role in the life of our city region and we commit to develop the connections further and to ensure a true partnership in the way we live, work and share together.

**Co-Chairs, Rabbi Warren Elf MBE and Dr Jill Brennan**

## 2. About the Panel

The Faith and Belief Advisory Panel acts as a 'network of networks' bringing together representatives from the 10 Greater Manchester borough Interfaith bodies with key individuals from single and mixed faith networks. The Panel currently has 42 members representing 33 networks from across Greater Manchester and aims to reflect the city-region's diverse faiths and beliefs. Gender balance is important to the Panel, and each network is encouraged to nominate a male and female representative.

The Panel aims to strengthen the partnership between public services, Faith and Belief organisations and wider society, through collaboration on shared missions, unlocking assets and resources in Greater Manchester communities and the powers available through devolution.

### Faith and Belief Advisory Panel – Aims

- Optimise the Faith and Belief contribution to The Greater Manchester Strategy
- Ensure that the role of Faith and Belief in society is recognised and valued
- Foster good relations and dialogue between people of Faith and Belief (who share a protected characteristic) and people who do not share it
- Advance equality of opportunity and eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation (and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty) between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not

## **3. Highlights of the Last Year**

### **3.1 The Important Work of the Panel**

The Panel meets bimonthly and has considered a range of important topics including Tackling Poverty and the Cost of Living crisis in Greater Manchester; Contribution of the Faith and Belief sector to the Greater Manchester Mental Wellbeing Offer; and Role of Faith and Belief Places in Developing Age-Friendly Communities.

The Panel Co-Chairs have continued to be very active throughout the last year attending the Tackling Inequalities Board and the Equality Panel Chairs meetings. Co-Chair Warren Elf was also part of a Delegation of Greater Manchester Faith and Civic Leaders to meet with Pope Francis in Rome to discuss tackling climate change.

The Panel has contributed to key events including the GM Resilience Forum Conference; Our Faith, Our Planet Conference; Power of Staff Network Conference; and activities and promotions during Interfaith Week in November.

### **3.2 The Role and Contribution of Faith and Belief**

A Panel subgroup progressed actions about the contribution Faith and Belief provides to the Greater Manchester Strategy. This included developing a joint Action Plan with GM VCSE Leadership Group to increase recognition and support delivery of the VCSE Accord. The subgroup has developed a Faith and Belief Contribution Statement which received GMCA (Mayor of Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Portfolio Holders) Endorsement.

### **3.3 Local Interfaith Networks Research**

Funding has been secured through the VCSE Accord Ecosystem for research into developing Interfaith Networks in the Greater Manchester boroughs. The Panel believes this can have a significant impact locally. Research has included engaging with the GM Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) for the 10 boroughs to undertake a baseline exercise and discussions with Panel Interfaith Representatives to identify gaps, opportunities, and actions for future investment and support.

### 3.4 Action Networks/ Summit Event

The Panel continued to support priorities within the Greater Manchester Strategy and VCSE Accord through the Panel’s work in the Action Networks and Taskforces.

These include the Greater Manchester Food Security Action Network (GMFSAN); GM Homeless Action Network (GMHAN); GM Climate Interfaith Action Network; Real Living Wage City-Region; GM VCSE Accord Delivery Group; Preventing Hate Crime in GM; and GM Digital Inclusion Taskforce.

Panel members have increasingly been engaged in these networks culminating in a Summit Event “Connecting our Social Justice and Climate Justice Missions Across GM” in June which brought all of the Action Networks together to join up their areas of work. The Summit included conversations about connecting climate action, a keynote speech from the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and a call to action to build a GM network of networks with support from the Mayor.



Panel member, and member of Faith Network for Manchester, Sukhbir Singh, taking part in a Live Theatre Performance with GM Jokers

Panel member Rev. Ian Rutherford introducing Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham on stage

### 3.4 Engaging with Women of Faith & Belief

Co-Chair Jill Brennan held a first meeting to establish a Women of Faith & Belief Group for the Panel. This will help promote different ways of working and improve the gender balance on the Panel. The first meeting enabled experiences to be

shared and explored developing a formal connection, including the opportunities and barriers. The group will reach out to additional people who would like to be involved and are keen to keep cross gender dialogue and to use this as a space to empower themselves to have those conversations and find ways of having their voices heard.

### **3.5 Supporting the GM SACREs**

The Panel has established joint meetings with the Greater Manchester Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE's) Chairs and Coordinators which take place 6 monthly. Each of the 10 GM boroughs has a SACRE which brings together members of local faith communities, teachers, and the local authority to decide on what is appropriate for pupils to learn in religious education.

The meetings enable best practice to be shared and support to be provided. This includes the Panel helping to develop a diverse faith representation on the SACREs. Key actions have included developing an outreach offer into schools to develop understanding about different faiths and beliefs, and how to develop quality and consistency across the SACRE's.

#### **Second Year Impacts**

Increased recognition of the role and contribution of Faith and Belief in Greater Manchester

Integration of Faith and Belief into the VCSE sector and greater representation of the voice of Faith and Belief in our communities

Increased Faith and Belief engagement in the Action Networks and helping to connect Social Justice and Climate Justice Missions

Increased involvement and voice of Women of Faith & Belief

Increased connections with other GM Equality Panels



## 4. Planning for the Year Ahead

The Panel now has a comprehensive Action Plan 2023 set against the Panel's aims. Some of the key action areas for the next year are provided below.

### 4.1 Optimising the Role and Contribution of Faith & Belief

GMCA Endorsement of the Faith & Belief Sector Contribution Statement recognises the active contribution provided by the Panel to some of the city-regions most pressing issues. These include tackling food poverty, homelessness, and climate change. The Panel is able to showcase the positive impact of collaboration between public services and Faith and Belief organisations, and how this can deliver for the most disadvantaged in our communities. The Statement also reinforces the message that Faith and Belief provides more than just services. The spiritual comfort and hope that has helped Greater Manchester residents and communities through their toughest times, and their happiest times, must also be recognised and valued.

Over the next year the Statement will be used to develop a stronger partnership with Faith and Belief in a range of work areas and places. This will include an in-person Panel meeting with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and other faith and civic leaders which will focus on optimising the contribution of Faith and Belief.

### 4.2 Developing Support for Interfaith Networks in the GM Boroughs

The Faith & Belief Sector Contribution Statement will especially support conversations with the leaders in the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs about future support and investment in local Interfaith Networks. Panel Interfaith Representatives will be involved in these local conversations about how models of good practice can be replicated, and infrastructure developed where there are gaps.

An ambition of the Panel is to develop a Faith Covenant which will provide a joint commitment between faith communities and local authorities to a set of principles

that guide engagement to promote open, practical working on all levels. This would commit the borough Councils to welcoming the involvement of faith groups in the delivery of services and social action on an equal basis with other groups, and faith based organisations committing to working actively with the Councils in the design and delivery of public services.

### **4.3 Engaging Across Equality Panels**

The Panel is conscious about the importance of intersectionality. People of Faith and Belief can also have other protected characteristics, e.g. disability; race; age; or sexual orientation. The Panel is keen to engage with other Greater Manchester Equality Panels on key issues of mutual concern, so these can be joined up and addressed together.

Priorities for the coming year will include actions to increase engagement with young people through the Youth Combined Authority, and the LGBTQ+ Equality Panel to discuss sexual orientation and religion. The Panel is also committed to exploring the findings of the Big Disability Survey and how faith communities can implement these.

### **4.4 Supporting Research and Development**

The Panel will continue to support important research and development projects which enhance the role and contribution Faith and Belief in Greater Manchester and the impact the Panel can have. This will include supporting the University of Manchester Impact Accelerator research about how religious spaces can support older people in urban neighbourhoods.

## **5. How to Get Involved**

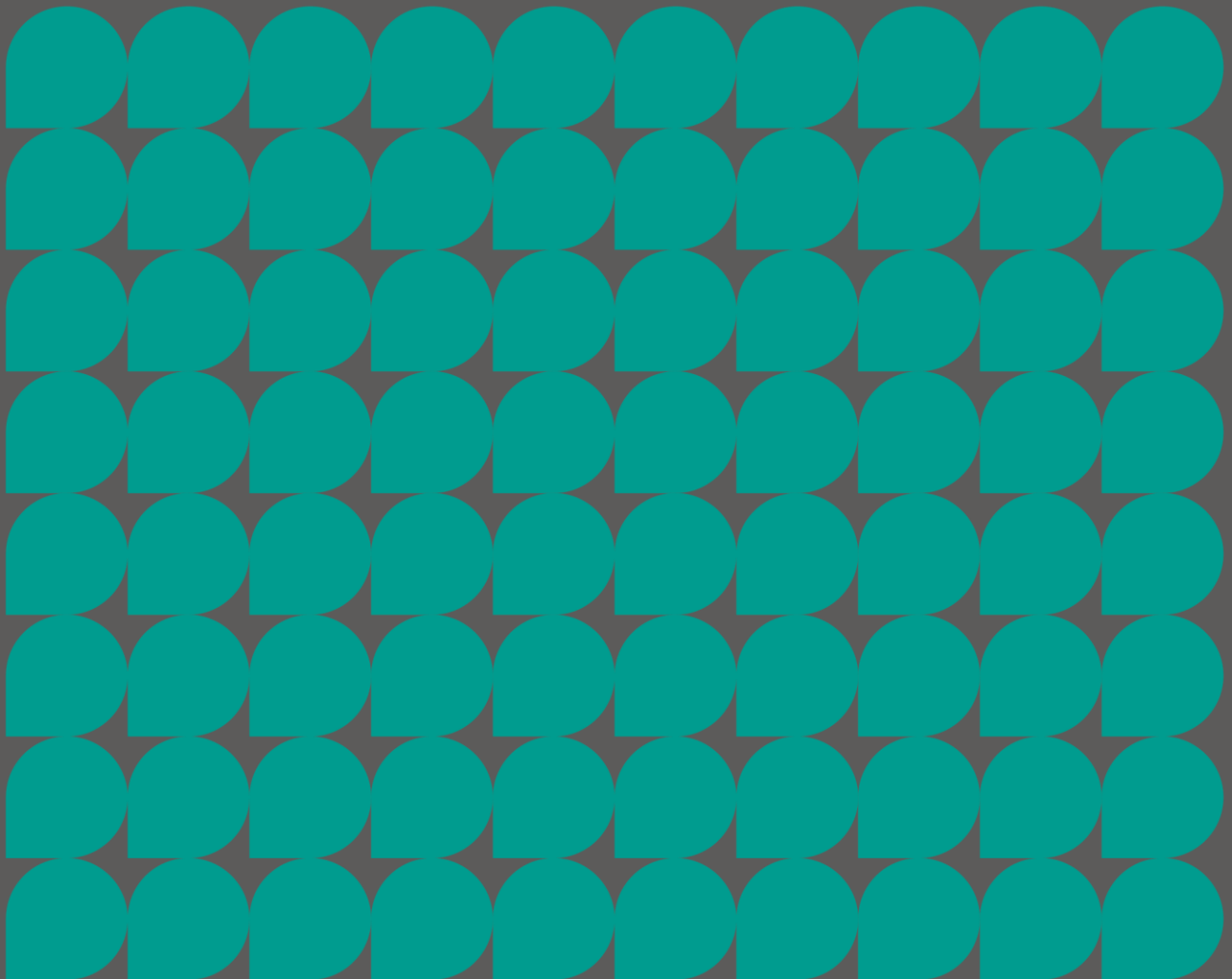
For more information about the Greater Manchester Faith & Belief Advisory Panel please visit the [GMCA website](#).

Or to find out how you can get involved or provide support please contact the Facilitating Organisation by getting in touch with Chris Hart, Pulse Regeneration – [chris@pulseregeneration.co.uk](mailto:chris@pulseregeneration.co.uk)

# LGBTQ+ EQUALITY PANEL

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

## Annual Report 2023 - 2024



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# 1. Foreword

The LGBTQ+ Equality Panel is keen to lead the way for the future of the community within our region and beyond. We are very proud to advise the GMCA on matters relating to the lives of the LGBTQ+ community and are committed to ensuring that we continue to make our contribution to local history and culture, enriching our wonderful city region.

The panel is proud of our intersectionality, and we are delighted to be forging strong and positive relationships with the other equality panels. We are also proud to be representatives of both Greater Manchester and the diversity of the amazing LGBTQ+ community, so that we can build a brighter future, together.

*Abi Giles (she/her) – Co-Lead (2023-) & Brian Boag (they/them) – Co-Lead (2022-).*

## 2. About the Panel

### 2.1. Introduction

The Greater Manchester LGBTQ+ Equality Panel is one of seven panels established by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to tackle inequality and injustice in the region. Its aim is to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people across the city region by championing LGBTQ+ inclusion and ensuring that the needs of our diverse LGBTQ+ communities are fully considered across Greater Manchester. The panel is made up of twenty-three diverse LGBTQ+ volunteers from across Greater Manchester.

LGBT Foundation is proud to be facilitating the GMCA LGBTQ+ Equality Panel, re-establishing it in January 2022 on the ethos of community ownership and co-production.

### 2.2. Core Objectives & Workgroups

Following the re-establishment of the Panel in January 2022 and informed by the results of community research carried out by LGBT Foundation, Panel members co-produced a work strategy to outline its priorities. These are:

#### Primary work areas:

- Places & Spaces: all parts of Greater Manchester are accessible, safe and welcoming for all LGBTQ+ people and communities.
- Counting us in: all publicly funded services in Greater Manchester consistently and appropriately record sexual orientation and trans status, and use this insight and other data to improve services for LGBTQ+ people.
- Inclusion as standard: all new and existing public policy in Greater Manchester is LGBTQ+ inclusive, and, where appropriate, there are specific policies in place to protect LGBTQ+ people.

The Panel's current focus is on three **workgroups**:

1. Work with police and other blue light services to ensure that our communities are appropriately served and improve recording of hate crime and domestic abuse.
2. Improve access to public spaces for all LGBTQ+ people by ensuring that leisure facilities, public toilets, etc are inclusive and accessible.
3. Work with public bodies to increase sign-up to conversion therapy-free city region pledge.

## 3. Summary of Activity

### 3.1. 2022

Following the establishment of core objectives and workgroups, the Panel formally launched on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). This launch was accompanied by the announcement of the **Greater Manchester Pledge to End Conversion Therapy** which commits to making GM a conversion therapy-free city-region. Initial signatories included The Mayor of Greater Manchester, and GM's LGBTQ+ sector leaders, among others. In August, the Panel's attendance at Manchester Pride was an exciting opportunity to raise awareness of the group amongst the region's LGBTQ+ communities.

Conversations with Pride attendees were wide ranging but largely centred upon the Panel's actions and priorities as well as giving a platform for LGBTQ+ people to feedback their views on what should be done to achieve LGBTQ+ equality.

Autumn soon approached, bringing with it an exciting opportunity for the Panel to meet with The Mayor of GM, Andy Burnham. An evening of rich discussion ensued where The Mayor made a number of recommendations. For example, he encouraged direct engagement between Panel members and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to improve hate crime monitoring and reporting. Most notably, The Mayor committed to bringing the Pledge to End Conversion Therapy to November's GMCA meeting. During this GMCA meeting, the Board unanimously passed the Pledge and, importantly, adopted a trans-inclusive and consent loop-hole-free definition of conversion therapy.

Throughout November, the attention of the Panel was directed towards a public consultation on the proposed **interim service specification** for specialist gender dysphoria services for children and young people operated by NHS England. The Panel's response to this consultation demonstrated an excellent application of the group's collective lived and professional experience in support of protecting access to gender affirmative healthcare. If you would like to read the Panel's consultation response, please email **[lgbequalitypanel@lgbt.foundation](mailto:lgbequalitypanel@lgbt.foundation)**.

The year ended with the Panel taking part in anti-racism training to help the group implement anti-racist practice in all their work. In particular, they focused on recruiting

and retaining members from Queer, Trans and Intersex People of Colour (QTIPoC) communities through recognising the barriers which hinder engagement from these communities and implementing anti-racist practices that seek to reduce these barriers. Conversations surrounding how the Panel can commit to anti-racism will be on-going through 2023 and beyond.

### **3.2. 2023**

Much of late winter and spring was spent completing a comprehensive third round of recruitment, which resulted in nine new members joining the Panel. Thanks to this, the group is now more representative of GM's diverse LGBTQ+ communities than ever before. They are proud to share that they now have representatives from each of the ten GM boroughs. Such representation is central in ensuring that the Panel work with the best interests of all of GM's LGBTQ+ communities in mind.

In May, Panel members joined Manchester City Council and the GMCA to welcome the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, to Manchester. As part of his country visit to the UK, Victor discussed the livelihoods of LGBTQ+ people across GM with Panel members. Through this conversation, the important work being undertaken by the Panel was shared along with concerns about the increase in LGBTQ+ hate crime incidents and anti-trans rhetoric across GM and the UK more broadly. The Panel welcomed the Independent Expert's initial findings, which can be read [here](#).

In response to new requirements for proof of identity to be given in order to vote in May's 2023 local council elections, the Panel completed essential partnership with the GMCA's elections team to reduce the impact this new legislation will have on LGBTQ+ communities. Conversations were held to better Panel member's understanding the nuances of this new legislation before discussing what interventions could be made to reduce any impact this legislation may have on the ability and/or willingness of LGBTQ+ to vote. Following May's local elections, the Panel intend to continue their relationship with GMCA's elections team. Together, they hope to analyse LGBTQ+ voter turnout and plan interventions that will mitigate any negative impact of this new legislation on LGBTQ+ communities in future elections.



June brought another influential opportunity as the Panel was asked to represent the Mayor of GM at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pride in Montpellier. This visit was not only an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the two cities but to share the work of the Panel with attendees and similar representatives from Kyiv, Paris, Barcelona, Heidelberg, Istanbul, and Sherbrooke. The Panel look forward to seeing how the relationships made here develop, and what opportunities arise from them.

## **4. Planning for the Year Ahead**

### **4.1. Community Engagement**

As a Panel re-established with the ethos of wide-reaching community engagement, the Panel will be dedicating several weekends of this summer to visiting Pride events across GM. These events promise to be an excellent opportunity for the Panel to spread awareness of their work throughout GM's LGBTQ+ communities and receive feedback on their newly drafted action plans.

The Panel will also be replicating the community engagement survey they conducted in early 2022 to refresh their understanding of the current difficulties facing GM's LGBTQ+ communities and collect feedback on the Panel's action plans and workgroup aspirations.

Alongside this multitude of community engagement work, the Panel will be working closely with LGBT Foundation's Communications Team to develop a more strategic and purposeful approach to the Panel's communications work. It's hoped that a comprehensive communications strategy will help to weave community engagement through all that the Panel do. Early outputs from this communications strategy will likely include more regular posting through LGBT Foundation's social media channels as well as better utilising the Panel's page on LGBT Foundation's website through sharing regular updates on the Panel's work, including a monthly blog.

### **4.2. Workgroups**

With the renewed impetus and expertise brought by the addition of the nine new Panel members, the workgroups are set for a productive and impactful year ahead.

Workgroup 1, whose remit is on ensuring that blue light services appropriately serve LGBTQ+ communities, continues to focus on working with GM Police (GMP). Their two

priorities are improving LGBTQ+ hate crime data, reporting and training within the force as well as developing a GM-wide LGBTQ+ hate crime campaign. As an outcome of this work, LGBTQ+ people will feel more confident in reporting hate crimes they experience whilst GMP will be better equipped to respond to these incidences sensitively and effectively.

Workgroup 2 will continue to focus on improving access to public spaces for all LGBTQ+ people. One area of focus will be on the inclusivity of Manchester's Gay Village, ensuring that this space is welcoming to all LGBTQ+ people through tackling questions around discrimination and accessibility. The group will seek to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ safety and belonging in public spaces throughout the city-region, ensuring that all LGBTQ+ people are able to move proudly and safely across the whole of GM. It is hoped that further analysis of the 2021 census data will help to support this work.

Workgroup 3 will be seeking to ensure that the commitments made in the pledge to end conversion therapy are put into practice across GM. An essential first step in this process will be confirming the legality of implementing a ban on conversion therapy practices within GM, work which is currently underway. Meanwhile, the workgroup will seek to build support for the pledge. This will be achieved through launching a campaign to increase signatures primarily from political and public body institutions. Workgroup 3 is also considering how they can support local political and social leaders to play an active role helping secure a national ban which is both trans-inclusive and loophole-free if and when a draft bill is presented to Parliament.

## 5. Further Information

If you have any questions about the Panel or would like to share your thoughts on what can be done to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people in Greater Manchester, please follow this link: <https://form.jotform.com/222292197499368>

Or emails us at: [lgbtequalitypanel@lgbt.foundation](mailto:lgbtequalitypanel@lgbt.foundation)

For more information on the GMCA and its relationship with the LGBTQ+ Equality Panel please follow this link: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do...>

# **OLDER PEOPLE'S EQUALITY PANEL**

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**DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

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## Annual Report 2022-23

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# 1. Co-chair's Introduction

Over the last 12 months the Greater Manchester Older People's Equality Panel has established itself as a valuable partner in some of the work being done to transform how services work across Greater Manchester. The challenges faced by our residents over the last few years have highlighted the inequalities in our city-region and it is important that the decisions we make on how to improve life in Greater Manchester recognise this and aim to include many voices in creating change. We will continue to provide a crucial platform for the voices of older people and attempt to reflect the diverse lives, experiences, and needs of older people.

Thanks to the support of our panel facilitators at Macc, membership of the panel has recently more than doubled in size, including the appointment of a Co-Chair, as we seek to meet the challenge of a good representation of the many voices of older people in Greater Manchester.

We are keen to focus on the big issues older people are facing and will do this by collaborating with existing networks at neighbourhood, borough and GM level; listening and learning from people who feel at risk of being left behind and attempting to influence how change happens.

I am incredibly proud to be part of this process and hope that we can continue to make a difference in our city-region.

Jan Kitching (Co-chair)

## 2. Membership and objectives

The Panel is comprised of older people (aged 50 and over) and organisational representatives who have an interest in or focus on working with older people. The panel has membership from across Greater Manchester and aims to be a representative voice for older people in the city region.

The first phase of recruitment was successful in forming a panel with members representing each of the 10 boroughs.

In February 2023 the second phase of recruitment was completed with existing panel members involved in selecting 13 more members. The panel now has 21 members and is a mix of individuals and organisational representatives.

The current members are:

Jan Kitching (Stockport) Co-Chair	Alison Tilzey (Manchester)
Nakib Narat (Manchester) Co- Chair	Hazel Roy (Manchester)
Erica Woods (Salford)	Lucette Tucker (Bury)
Samantha Days (Manchester)	Damy Patel (Tameside)
Dorretta Maynard (Trafford)	Amy Muthra Shah (Manchester)
Elizabeth Lynskey (Rochdale)	Gita Conn (Manchester)
Steve Sherry (Bolton)	Joy Watson (Salford)
Jackie Corr (Manchester)	John Armstrong (Manchester)
Yuen Megson (Manchester)	Angela Cooper (Manchester)
Bernadette Ashcroft (Wigan/ Wigan & Leigh Carers Centre)	
Anna Hughes (Manchester/ George House Trust)	
Nichola Booth (Stockport/ Home Instead)	

The panel decided to elect two co-chairs. Jan Kitching and Nakib Narat currently act in these roles.

The Equality Panels have been established to advise, support and challenge Greater Manchester's political leaders and policy makers to tackle the discrimination and disadvantage that cause injustice and inequality in society, and champion Greater Manchester as an inclusive city-region.

The Older People's Equality Panel do this by working together with the GMCA and partners to:

- Ensure that Greater Manchester's political leaders and public bodies are more informed about how their decision making impacts older people in different communities or circumstances, allowing for more effective policy and services.
- Build positive relationships with communities and neighbourhood groups in each borough to identify strengths, listen to older people and share key messages.
- Make key contributions to the development of GM wide policies, programmes and services so that they can work successfully for older people within different communities.

### **Objectives:**

- To identify and consider the diverse issues of concern to older people within Greater Manchester.
- To engage with Greater Manchester strategies, so that older people can influence policies that support the creation of age-friendly neighbourhoods.
- To provide the opportunity for older people to promote and share a positive perspective on ageing in Greater Manchester.

## 3. Addressing priorities

The panel had agreed on 3 prioritised issues which lie within or across the three themes for the Age Friendly Strategy:

- Impact of the cost of living crisis
- Care settings
- Digitalisation

Three subgroups were convened to work on these themes.

### 3.1 Care settings

There is a recognition that this theme was very wide ranging and it was difficult to prioritise on what was most important. The subgroup met with the GM Adult Social Care Transformation Team to assess what areas the panel could have influence on.

Subgroup members have been invited to join the following governance groups and will be in a position to influence decision making as the different strands of transformation are discussed and implemented.

Unpaid Carers, Enhanced living at home and Urgent and Emergency Care.

The panel also contributes in other forums such as the Greater Manchester Older People's Network (GMOPN) Health & Social Care Working Group.

The most common issue discussed in meetings, communities etc. was the access to a GP appointment. This has been an ongoing issue and the panel is working with GMOPN to ensure that attempts to improve the situation are appropriate and informed.



Transport and hospital appointments were difficult for many people, more so when supporting a vulnerable family member.

The panel was able to take part in several consultation and engagement events.

Several panel members attended the Greater Manchester Ageing Well Workshop in October 22. This was an opportunity to hear about plans and contribute to how those plans might be implemented.

The panel organised a focus group in November '22 as part of GM Integrated Care's Community and Engagement Programme. Panel members expressed concerns felt by older people, with regards to the roll out of the integrated care service. Combined with the GMOPN work of its Health & Social Care Working Group.

## **3.2 Digital participation**

Digital Participation is a consistent theme across the panel and subsequent subgroups. Particularly since the increase in digitalisation since the Covid-19 pandemic. The greatest concern for older people is, that digital solutions are seen as a best fit without thorough consideration of the impact on people for whom they are not suitable or appropriate. The Greater Manchester Digital Inclusion Action Network (DIAN) leads targeted action to combat digital exclusions with a specific focus on supporting under 25s, over 75s and disabled people in Greater Manchester . The subgroup links with the DIAN through the GM Ageing Hub and GMOPN representative, Gill Stainthorpe.

The panel recognises that there is much to be gained from the advantages of digital solutions but stresses the need to ensure that those who are happy to participate are not alienated and those that are not participating are not left behind.

The panel recruited a test team for the software development company, Easology. Easology have made a financial contribution to the panel in recognition of the work undertaken. This team contributed to some of the co-production work on Easology's interface for Android, in preparation for an updated version. This software attempts to make using a tablet easier by streamlining and simplifying the screen and functions.

The team have recently started working with Easology on a similar process for the phone version.

The subgroup is currently leading a small team assessing older people's experience of council websites, the team recruited to assess a series of tasks for each website and how the same task might be completed non-digitally.

Outcomes will be fed back to the GM Ageing Hub and the Locality Leads for Ageing.

### **3.3 Impact of the cost of living crisis**

The panel recognises that financial hardship and deprivation is the common thread though all the panels and any tackling inequality initiatives.

The subgroup attended the response to the cost of living crisis group, and was presented in February '23 with the Ageing Hub on pension top up. As well as some pointers on how older people used warm spaces.

The panel will be working closely with the Independent Age and Ageing Hub Financial Hardship Programme.

The subgroup will be contributing to the GM Residents Survey by collating qualitative data on older persons' experiences to complement the regular survey.

### 3.4 Other themes which need to be addressed

In several meetings panel members highlighted other concerns which needed to be prioritised at some point.

- The value of older people – It was felt that the term older people can be viewed as an uncomplicated term and can be used to mean vulnerable when convenient. Older people should be seen as diverse and the term should be qualified where necessary. Much work has been done to challenge this and promote the concept of “Valuable not Vulnerable” but it needs to be considered an ongoing issue.
- The age range of who was considered to be an older person was discussed. People who are 50 – 65 (or SPA) can have very different circumstances to people who are recently retired or 75+. The panel are working closely with the GM Ageing Hub to promote the Age Friendly strategy update and include the diverse range of experiences within each age range.
- Housing options – Different issues in different boroughs. Discussed issues for home owners as well as issues for people renting either privately or from a social landlord.

## 4. Collaborations

The panel has worked alongside the GMOPN, which brings together over 400 members to campaign for better outcomes for older residents. Four panel members are also members of the GMOPN steering group and report back to the panel as required. Similarly, there is a regular update from the panel to the steering group. This allows both bodies to work effectively together and avoid duplication.

We have worked with GM Ageing Hub in a range of ways, supporting the work being done to update the GM Age Friendly Strategy. All panel members representing a particular borough are encouraged to develop a good working relationship with the relevant locality lead for ageing. Jan Kitching is a representative for the panel on the Ageing in Place Pathfinder steering group.

Sam Days is the panel rep on the GM Equalities working group.

Elizabeth Lynskey is the panel representative on the older people and financial hardship steering group. The panel has been involved in a series of initiatives, studies and consultations with University of Manchester, Easology, GM Integrated Care, TfGM and Manchester's Resident and Business Digital Experience Programme. We are also building relationships with Age Action Alliance, Parliamentary and Health Services Ombudsman and Independent Age through a range of collaborations.

## 5. Challenges

The panel currently has 21 members, and each member needs to be supported to ensure that they can continue and feel confident to contribute to the panel. As well as being able to present as a panel member within their own networks. All of the panel members' work is voluntary and can sometimes prove difficult. Many panel members are already involved in other voluntary work, which is also time consuming. Some members juggle their time with paid work.

All of this can be a challenge and panel members are encouraged to speak to the facilitator about any issues of time commitment or any other difficulty.

Over the lifetime of the panel several members have had to withdraw due to a change in circumstances. This may require fresh recruitment if it leaves one borough without a representative.

Macc is currently developing a policy on participation and reward, how the work contributed by people involved in co-production work, focus groups, research studies and advisory panels can be valued in an appropriate way.

## **6. Support and Training**

Macc is the facilitating organisation for the panel. John Mulvenna is the panel facilitator and is part of a team of 5 people.

All panel members are offered one to one support as required. This is an opportunity to discuss any issues or identify a training need.

Subgroup meetings are bi-monthly, though sometimes they can be more frequent.

Panel meetings are bi-monthly, the theme of the meeting is rotated to match the work of each subgroup unless there is a specific issue to be addressed.

## **7. Forward planning**

### **7.1 Action plan 2023 – 2024**

The panel will be meeting in July to agree an action plan for the next 12 months.

## **7.2 Continuing recruitment**

The second phase of recruitment was completed recently with the panel now up to 21 members. The majority of members are individuals.

Nine boroughs are represented, with Oldham the only one which does not have at least one member. Work is currently being done to recruit to this position.

Three members are representing organisations – Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre, George House Trust and Home Instead.

The panel has agreed to continue to recruit to a maximum of 25 members with an emphasis on organisational representatives who can contribute in a specific way.

## **7.3 Engage at local levels – build new networks.**

The panel will support GMOPN to link in with existing older people's networks and appropriate community group. Supported by Macc, the panel will continue to conduct outreach work and identify marginalised groups to engage with across the city region, to ensure their overall voice is representative, inclusive and include the perspectives of those who are marginalised.

Building good working relationships with community groups, GMCA partners, Locality Leads and local older people's networks is a key part of the panel's work. Panel members are supported to attend appropriate events and build on their existing networks.

## **7.4 Collaborating with other panels**

The Panel will seek opportunities to work with the other GM equality panels. It is particularly interested in investigating the concern that older

people and younger people may be set against each other. Panel members met and discussed several issues including how intergenerational work can be fostered, specifically in education and training.

The Care Settings Subgroup has had discussions with the Disabled People's Panel about the impact of rising costs of social care and continue to liaise on this issue.

## 7.5 Events

The panel and the network are planning an event for the autumn. This event will bring together several different strands around planning for later life. The intention is to convene a mix of individuals, professionals and stakeholders to discuss how best to move away from a culture of crisis management.

## 8. Find out more

If you want to find out more or speak to someone about the panel on any issue, please contact John Mulvenna.

Email: [gmopep@macc.org.uk](mailto:gmopep@macc.org.uk)

Website: [www.gmopn.org.uk/gmopep](http://www.gmopn.org.uk/gmopep)

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# Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel Annual Report 2022-2023



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## 1. Chair's Forward

I am humbled in my role as Chair to introduce the Annual Report of the Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel. This report summarises a year of dedication, collaboration, and determination as we strive to address the racial disparities that persist within our communities by influencing policy and practice at the level of decision making.

Over the past year, the Panel has shown its unwavering commitment to promoting equity and inclusion. Our tireless efforts have centered around challenging the status quo, advocating for change, and holding decision makers accountable towards fostering an environment where every individual is valued for their unique experiences and contributions.

This report highlights the engagements and progress we have made, but it also serves as a reminder of the work that lies ahead. While we reflect on our activities, we must also confront the uncomfortable truths that have been unearthed through our discussions and work. It is through this introspection and transparency that we can effect real change.

As Chair, I have been inspired by the dedication and resilience of our members, and the voices of those who have shared their stories with us. Our shared commitment to dismantling systemic barriers, confronting racial injustices, and feeding into a future defined by unity and understanding is what drives our collective efforts.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every individual who has played a role in advancing the goals of the Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel. Your passion, your insights, and your unwavering dedication are the driving forces behind everything I do and say.

As we look toward the future, let us continue to draw strength from our diversity, embrace the challenges that lie ahead, speak truth to power and work to create a Greater Manchester where race is not a barrier but a source of strength and unity.

**Elizabeth Cameron**

**Chair, Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel (2021-2023)**

## 2. Executive Summary

The Race Equality Panel in Greater Manchester has been at the forefront of promoting race equality and influencing policies to create a fair and inclusive Greater Manchester. This annual report presents a snapshot of the panel's activities, achievements, challenges faced, impact made on policy development in the region and recommendations for the future.

During the past year, the Panel undertook an array of engagements to drive meaningful change across various systems. These engagements were mainly centred around its five priority areas:

- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Criminal Justice & Policing
- Health & Well-being)

However, engagements have not been exclusively limited to these as the panel has also fed into other areas such as Transport. The panel explored the impact of various new and existing policies on race equality in Greater Manchester and offered constructive feedback to these which can improve policies and address systemic inequities.

These cross-sector engagements were a top priority for the panel. Several consultations, meetings, and workshops were held with key statutory organizations, policymakers, and various stakeholders to foster dialogue and collaboration. By actively engaging stakeholders in policy development, the panel ensured that they feedback views that were reflective of diverse range of perspectives and policies would be more responsive to the needs of ethnically diverse communities.

The ongoing work of the Race Equality Panel to influence policy development in Greater Manchester has the potential of being highly significant. This collective action offers a tangible influence on policymakers, leading to positive policy changes that directly address race-related concerns. Several policies and strategies have been influenced by the panel's recommendations. Examples of these policy influences include ensuring safety of pupils in schools, improved social housing and feeding into the Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy

However, the journey towards achieving the panels ambition has not been without its challenges. The panel has encountered obstacles such as resistance to change, limited resources, and structural barriers. Nevertheless, these challenges have served as valuable lessons, highlighting the need for perseverance, collaboration, and strategic advocacy in the pursuit of lasting policy reform.

The panel acknowledges and appreciates the collaborative partnerships with organizations, community groups, and governmental bodies that are committed to its work. These partnerships demonstrate the power of collective action in driving change and have further strengthened the panel's advocacy efforts.

Looking ahead, the Race Equality Panel remains committed to its vision of a truly inclusive Greater Manchester. There would also be a refresh of the panel membership over the next few months. The panel's future plans encompass continued listening to communities and the development of evidence-based policy recommendations by advocating for policies that dismantle systemic barriers and promote racial equity, the panel aims to contribute to creating a more just and equal society for all residents of Greater Manchester.

## 3. About the Panel

### 3.1 Background and Introduction

The Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel is one of seven Equality Panels established to advise, support and challenge Greater Manchester's political leaders and policymakers to tackle the discrimination and disadvantage that cause injustice and inequality in society, and champion Greater Manchester as an inclusive city-region. The Panel launched in March 2021 and has continued to develop in the ways of operation and engagement with multiple cross-sector stakeholders in Greater Manchester. Our commitment remains in promoting race equality and influencing policies that create a fair and inclusive society for all.

### 3.2 Panel Aims, Objective and Priorities

The aims and objectives are to:

**1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation (and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty)**

- Public agencies tackle all forms of racism and discrimination within their organisation and the structure they contribute to.
- Public sector bodies are proactive in their approaches to meet their Public Sector Equality Duty

**2. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it**

- The Greater Manchester Strategy tackles inequality and increases equity for ethnic communities.
- The diversity of the public service workforce, including volunteers and senior leadership, is increased.
- Positive role models, particularly in leadership positions, public services, civic society and with the business community are promoted.

### **3. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.**

- Greater Manchester's cultural heritage and history of community inclusion and social justice is championed.

The priorities for the Panel were identified by residents through a series of listening exercises that took place in 2020.

- Discrimination in policing and criminal justice.
- Employment and labour market inequalities, including ethnic diversity in leadership.
- Health and wellbeing inequality
- Educational inequalities and achievement
- Financial inclusion and poverty
- Hate crime and preventing discrimination.
- Housing and homelessness, including hidden homelessness.

Furthermore, it is felt that most issues are the consequences of institutional racism, and this is a focus for the Panel throughout its work.

### **3.3 Panel Membership and Composition**

In December 2020 when the Race Equality Panel was launched, it brought together 23 inspiring people from across our diverse communities. There have been drop-offs in panel membership over time due to changing roles and competing priorities. The members bring significant community and professional experience, across public, private, and voluntary sectors, and personal experience campaigning for equality and against discrimination for many years.

Panel members are enthusiastic and dedicated to championing the cause of equality across Greater Manchester. They are encouraged by the opportunity to discuss issues directly with policymakers. The Panel is not without its challenges; securing consensus across a diverse membership is difficult, as well as balancing the expectations of the community with the pace of change in public services. Whilst the discussions with policymakers can be challenging, they are constructive, with Panel members committed to supporting public services to make positive changes.

The Panel membership would be refreshed in the third quarter of 2023 as the tenure of the current members elapses in November 2023. The current cohort have been brilliant pacesetters in laying a strong foundation for future work across various priority areas. The resilience and tenacity of the members have been without a doubt exemplary.

## 4. Summary of Activities (2022/23)

The panel continued to advance its work from the year before (2021/2022), in Thematic Groups up until February 2023. The groups were subsequently morphed into Task and Finish groups as panel members began to round up sub-group engagements following its end of term in October 2023, and subsequent induction of a new cohort of panel members.

Work began with joint agreement of panel members to write letters to the wider membership of the tackling inequalities group of GMCA which included public private and third sector groups. These letters clearly laid out the framework within which the race panel wanted to engage with agreement from the start that from the disproportionate deaths (we were still experiencing at that time) from COVID 19 to the over aggressive policing and disproportionate job losses or schools' exclusions, systemic racism at an institutional level (as described by the Mc Pherson report), played a significant role.

### 4.1 Education

The Education Subgroup was formed in October 2021 after the panel had begun its substantive work earlier that year. The group consisted of approximately six members of the Race Equality Panel who presided over various engagements.

A notable policy and practice development the subgroup intervened in was on School Based Police Officers, which has now subsequently changed to School Engagement Officers with less of a focus on police officers being based within a school. The Education sub-group worked proactively to arrange meetings and engagements with relevant GMCA officers, discussed the issue through a Safeguarding lens and raised potential issues with Chairs of Safeguarding Boards seeking clarity on how children were protected and with Senior Officers from GM. We note there is a focus now on child-centred policing and this is an area which the panel recognises as being important to understand as part of its on-going work.

The group was also heavily involved in work around safeguarding of young people in schools. Collaboratively the sub-group developed a Race Equality Charter together. There were several additional meetings where this was co-developed and went back

to the main panel members for agreement. Members of the sub-group met with GMCA officers and elected members responsible for the Children and Young People's Plan to discuss the race equality charter. Through this, the panel was introduced to the Greater Manchester Learning Partnership (GMLP). A key aspect of our work here was in making use of the existing structures across GM to complement the work already being undertaken. The work with the GMLP has been particularly fruitful. Since January 2022, there have been various strategic engagements have been highly positive.

## **4.2 Employment**

Through both the lived experiences of its members and engagement with wider communities across Greater Manchester, the Race Equality Panel recognises that the employment sector often fails communities experiencing racial inequality. On the employment front, the Panel is committed to addressing racial disparities and promoting equal opportunities in the workplace across the region. The objective is to address the diversity of the public service workforce, including volunteers and ensuring senior leadership, is increased.

In progressing the work around employment, the panel organised and delivered two conferences, one to introduce the issues at hand as the ethnically diverse community experiences them. We introduced examples of good and poor practice to the extent of a personal account of racial bullying and harassment. We shared tools of good practice (NHS) and worked collaboratively with the Good employment Charter to deliver this workshop, which also highlighted experiences across four different sectors through discussion groups and panel presentations. 'In June 2023 we held an Employment and Race conference The conference which also had representation from trade unions (TUC and UNISON) brought together stakeholders from Public, Private and Voluntary sector to explore best practices for diversifying workforce and ensuring safe spaces for people to operate at work. The conference was well attended and attracted almost 100 delegates and speakers with expertise from different sectors at Eventbrite sign up.

Overall, the conference focused on the following points:

1. Sharing best practices in relation to race equity and tackling discrimination in the workplace.
2. Providing a safe space for people/organisations to share their continuing concerns and encounters relating to racism and how these can be addressed.
3. Supporting organisations facing challenges in implementing the outputs of an initial employment roundtable which took place in May 2022.
4. Provided practical examples for continuing good practice and increased employee relations with regard to race.



During the conference, various points such as senior level, leadership, and board representation. These and other outputs would be explored further as the panel continues its work on that front.

### **4.3 Criminal Justice & Policing**

The panel employed various approaches in holding the Criminal justice and policing systems accountable as part of its remit of reviewing public service policies to ensure that they are anti-racist. Members of the Panel have directly responded to issues highlighted in the community such as recruitment/ representation, leadership, use of force and disproportionate policing. There were several engagements not only with the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and relevant portfolio leads/ officers within the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The panel also strategically sought to engage regulatory institutions who had statutory responsibility of overseeing the actions of GMP such as the Independent Office of Police Conduct (IOPC), His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

### **4.4 Housing**

Panel members remain dedicated to tackling housing inequality. Besides ongoing efforts to raise awareness of housing and homelessness issues and race locally, the panel has proposed to undertake a piece of work around scoping racial inequalities in housing and homelessness following the unfortunate incident surrounding Awab Ishak's passing in December 2020.

The chair of the Panel met with the Mayor following the release of the inquest into the untimely death of Awaab Ishak (November 2023) in order to make progress on contributing to address the systemic failings that led to his death. Further conversations identified that the Panel could play a leadership role in this area, and a focus on practical work to identify and address barriers to progress and action to overcome them would be a direct way to tackle racially driven inequalities in social housing in Greater Manchester.

In going forward with this work the panel would be exploring strategic engagements with Greater Manchester Housing Providers (GMHP) and GMCA is being established to develop the detailed workplan to deliver the objectives outlined above. A resourcing plan is to be drafted, for discussion with the steering group, to understand the resource requirements from across the system to deliver this project.

### **4.5 Health & Well-being**

With a wide-ranging remit which covered the disproportionate deaths of Black and Asian women in childbirth to increased likelihood of African Caribbean men and women to be sectioned and have a taser used on them to the mental health impact of

racism, the group chose to follow progress in mental health as a new strategy was being created that we felt ethnically diverse people should have contribution. The establishment of the Health & Wellbeing subgroup has allowed the Panel to develop relationships with key stakeholders and to review existing health provisions to ensure that it is appropriate for ethnically diverse communities. Ongoing work is designed to tackle continued inequalities in access, experience and outcomes for communities facing racial inequality.

The panel facilitated a Mental Health Roundtable which brought together several Practitioners from with the Health and Well-being space in GM to discuss strategies and align priorities. The purpose of the meeting was to explore commitment to how the Panel tackles mental health from a race structural perspective and align with the work that is already on-going in the Greater Manchester system. The roundtable was very engaging and attended by key practitioners who shared insights and ideas on their work.

Subsequently there were also strategic engagements with other stakeholders from this discourse which has facilitated a steer toward three (3) strategic priorities to address the issues faced in various communities.

1. Inclusive integrated services through the Mental Health community transformation programme.
2. External support and work on culturally appropriate services working with community partners in the voluntary sector.
3. Cultural competence, cultural confidence, and trauma informed care tailored to meeting the needs of ethnic communities.

#### **4.6 Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy**

Following engagements with multiple stakeholders from across various footprints and thematic areas. The panel proceeded to embedding its work into the on-going development of a Race Equality Strategy for Greater Manchester by the Centre On the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CODE), University of Manchester.

The panel views the strategy as a sustainable lever of the intelligence gained across the engagements of its five sub-groups. Further to this, the panel has been part of various co-design workshops feeding significantly into the formulation of the strategy.

#### **4.7 Other Activities**

- ❖ **Consultations** – Panel members have fed into several online consultations, one of which was TfGM consultations rounds on quality improvements to transport accessibility within Greater Manchester.

- ❖ **Stephen Lawrence Day** – The Panel hosted a Webinar on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2023 to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial of Stephen Lawrence Day. The virtual event in honour of Stephen Lawrence’s death celebrated the life of Stephen Lawrence by reflecting on positive changes that have been made in his memory and further promote the values of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The event had several guest speakers and the discussion centred on:

1. What progress there have been over the last 30 years
  2. What do we still have to do and who do we need to influence to make the necessary changes?
  3. How do we encourage people to reflect on the issues of racism and discrimination that still exist in society and to work towards creating a more equal and inclusive society?
- ❖ **Community engagements by the Panel Chair** – The panel chair actively represented the panel at various community occasions and activities such as: Iftar meal, churches, community events.

## 5. Plans for Next Year (2023/24)

The work of the panel in the coming year is to build on existing engagements especially around the Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy. The resolve of the panel is to ensure that this important piece of strategy is reflective of the needs of the diverse communities the panel represents. The panel is seeking to ensure its five (5) thematic areas is heavily embedded into the strategy and there are policy levers which address the concerns. In addition to the Race Equality Strategy development, the panel would also be exploring engagements across other sectors.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel has made strides in advancing race equality across various domains in the region. Through rigorous policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement, the panel has effectively highlighted racial disparities, proposed evidence-based solutions, and pushed for positive changes in policies and practices. While some progress has been made, challenges persist, and there is much work ahead to dismantle systemic barriers and create truly inclusive and equitable systems, and it is strongly felt that unless the leadership of the city is not more representative, the many issues facing ethnically diverse communities will not be acted upon due to lack of understanding and commitment to difficult change and shift of power. The panel remains committed to its vision of a Greater Manchester where every individual, regardless of their racial background, has equal opportunities and experiences fair treatment in all aspects of life.

By continuing to dialogue with stakeholders, advocate for change, and push for the implementation of innovative strategies, it is hoped the panel can contribute to a Greater Manchester which is truly reflective of the needs of its communities.

## **6.1 Further Information**

If you have any questions about the Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel or would like to remain aware of the panel's engagements, please connect with us via the following channels:

**Email – [gmracepanel@cahn.org.uk](mailto:gmracepanel@cahn.org.uk)**

**Twitter – [@GM\\_RaceEquality](https://twitter.com/GM_RaceEquality)**

**Facebook – Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel**

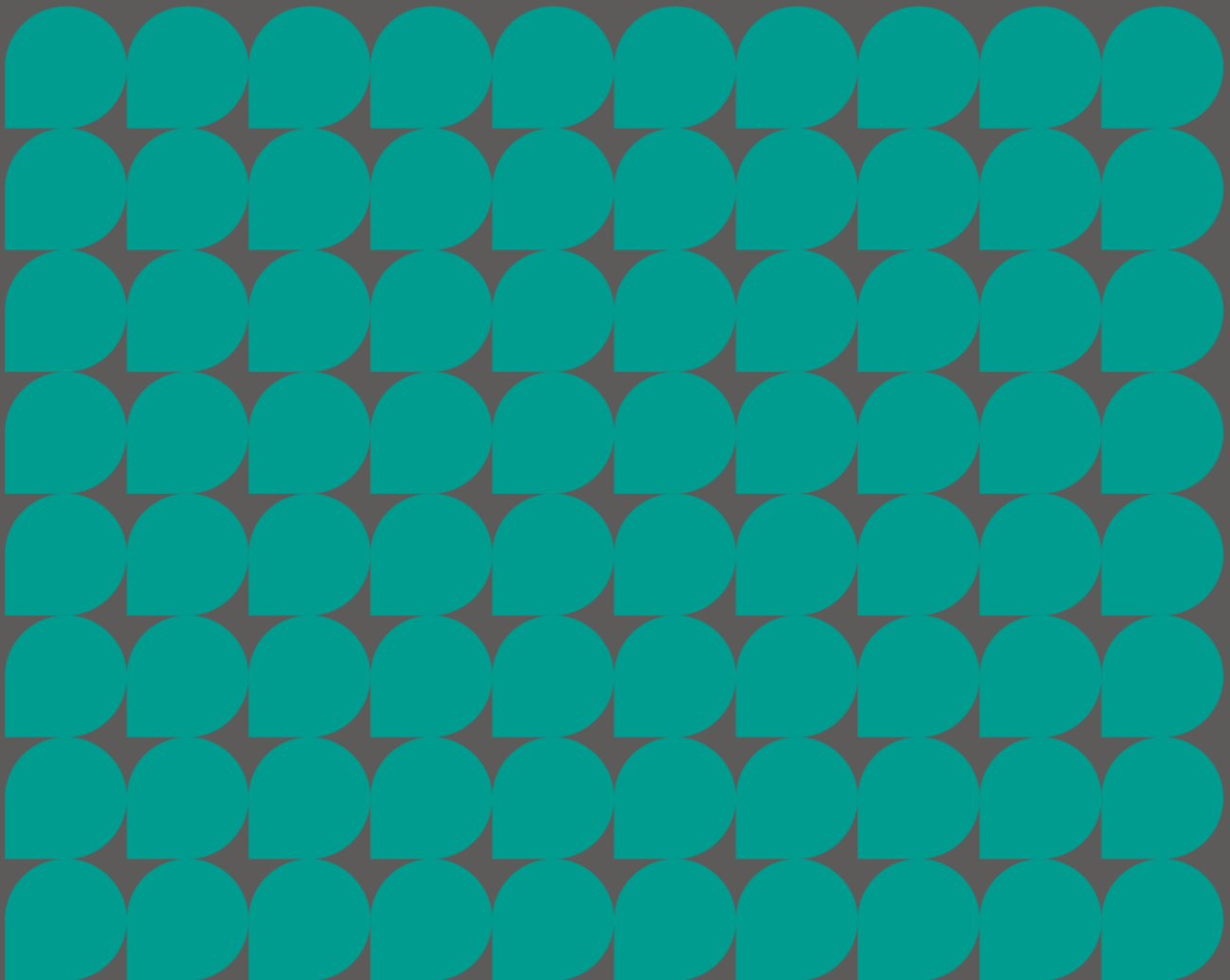
**LinkedIn - Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel**

**<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/equalities/race-equality-panel/>**

# WOMEN & GIRLS EQUALITY PANEL

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

## Annual Report 2022/23



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6. Future focus

# 1. Message from the Chair

## **Halyma Begum (Chair of the Women and Girls' Equality Panel & Senior Inclusion Manager at Business in the Community)**

It has been another year where the Panel has continued to preserve and campaign for Gender Equality in Greater Manchester (GM). We saw headlines about misogyny in the Police force, the very people who we women put our trust in to protect us. The Panel voiced our concerns and those of the women in GM. We built closer relationships working with Greater Manchester Police and continued to contribute to and influence the Gender Based Violence Strategy to ensure that the safety of women is a priority.

Not only did the Panel voice the concerns of Women, but we also looked at how GM can support young girls in getting the right support to equip them to make the right choices as they transition from secondary school into the world of employment. We were fortunate to have Mayor Andy Burnham join us for a Panel meeting where we talked about support for young girls, safety for women and funding for women entrepreneurs, and have had his support to continue to pursue our work in these areas. I look forward to continuing to progress these actions and continue to tackle Gender equality in GM with the help of the truly committed passionate Women we have in our Panel.

Halyma Begum - Chair of the Panel

## 2. Introduction to the Panel

**The Women and Girls' Equality Panel was established in December 2020 to address gender inequality in Greater Manchester.**

The Panel aims to establish a clear vision for women and girls by utilising its knowledge, expertise, and networks to understand and address the issues and inequalities affecting their lives.

The role of the Panel is to constructively challenge political and system leaders to tackle prejudice and discrimination against women and girls. The Panel works alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the wider Greater Manchester (GM) system to ensure that equality is actively considered in decision making to help make the city a better place for women and girls to live, work and study and do business.

The Panel is convened by the Pankhurst Trust, in partnership with GM4Women2028, a charity focused on promoting equality and diversity for the benefit of the community in Greater Manchester.

The Panel meets on a quarterly basis. It has established two working groups – one looking at Education, Skills, and Employment and the other Violence Against Women and Girls. It also benefits from the support of an Allies' Network, comprised of women and girls from across Greater Manchester who are willing to contribute their expertise and experiences.

The Panel is made up of a diverse range of individuals, organisations and sectors who are committed to ensuring that the viewpoints of women and girls from a cross-sector of society are represented. To find out more about the Panel and its members, please visit: [Greater Manchester's W&GS' Equality Panel Information.](#)



### 3. The Previous Year

**Over the course of the previous year, the Panel has gained greater insight and understanding across a wide range of issues pertinent to achieving gender equality for women and girls. The Panel and its working groups have achieved some notable successes, generated new ideas and created strong working connections and relationships that continue to positively impact the lives of many.**

The Panel welcomed eight new members this last year, with the aim of adding new skill sets and energy to the group. The recruitment drive specifically targeted women from certain boroughs of Manchester, women of different age groups, and women of colour to achieve greater diversity within the Panel and better represent the women of Greater Manchester. At the end of 2022 the Panel bid farewell to two members, Francesca Gains and Jean Hurlstone, both of whom were instrumental to the Employment, Skills and Education working group.

Halyma Begum continued to serve as the Chair of the Panel. Emma Persand, Founder of Lemur Health, and Sally Carr, Northwest Director of Street Games, were appointed as the new Co-Chairs of the ESE working group and Gemma Aitchison, Founder and Director of Yes Matters UK, was appointed as the new Chair of the Violence Against Women and Girls working group.

The Panel continued to work with GM4Women2028 this last year. Panel members ran listening workshops at the Dialogue, Deeds and Determination events held in different boroughs within Greater Manchester to engage local women in determining the Panel's priorities. Many of the newly recruited members learned about the Women and Girls' Panel through attending the GM4Women events and hearing about the work the Panel does. Similarly, the Panel gets many expressions of interest throughout the year and channels this towards GM4Women membership and participation in their five working groups on Employment, Safety, Participation, Education and Culture & Active Lives.

The Panel has continued to collaborate with other equality panels across a range of matters, including the representation of women, and particularly women of colour in

digital and tech industries and leadership roles and has received valuable input from Elizabeth Cameron, Chair of the Race Equality Panel.

This year the Panel welcomed speakers from several organisations working in the VCSE sector as well as academics, local authority leaders and GMCA officers, with the aim of building our knowledge and understanding across a range of topics and considering how we can work together to influence change and improve outcomes.

Over the course of the year, the Panel and its sub-groups looked at several topics relating to the Education, Skills and Employment and Violence against Women and Girls agendas and developed a series of asks, which we presented to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham. An important milestone for the Panel was the subsequent meeting with the Mayor in November 2022. The Mayor's willingness to collaborate and his commitment to address issues related to underrepresented voices in decision-making was well received by the members of the Panel.

## 4. The Working Groups

### 4.1 Education, Skills, and Employment

The Education, Skills and Employment (ESE) working group has had a busy year, continuing to build on its work on childcare, skills pathways, good employment standards, women's self-employment, and co-operatives, as well as care and commissioning and exploring the next steps for these issues.

In addition, the ESE group considered several new topics such as reskilling, self-employment, entrepreneurship, tech and gaming, and flexible working. The group are keen to continue discussions on care & commissioning in more depth and address intersectionality and representation in future sessions.

The Panel has strived to make real progress in this area including:

- Working with GMCA to support the development of activities to improve the confidence and career aspirations of teenage girls, as recorded in the annual Bee Well Survey, a programme that measures the wellbeing of young people and delivers meaningful, youth-centred actions.
- Supporting the evaluation of the Meet your Future programme which includes empowering women and girls through mentoring, shadowing, and leadership.

- Working with the Greater Manchester Apprenticeship & Careers Service and Curriculum for Life to support the development of content around confidence levels for teenage girls and women in STEM, as well as digital skills for women and girls.
- Several panel members now volunteer as mentors with Girls Out Loud, helping to inspire girls to be the best they can be. In addition, Girls Out Loud and GMP have attained funding from the Sheriffs Trust for policewomen to become 'big sisters' in their program.

## 4.2 Violence against Women and Girls Group

The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) group met frequently over the past year, exploring important topics such as: the Victims Bill, preventing and policing hate crime, Greater Manchester Police's VAWG Delivery Plan, police response to public protection and domestic abuse, the Police Perpetrator Act, and police behaviour & abuse of position of trust.

In addition, an important focus for the VAWG group over the last year has been to strengthen its relationships with GMP, the Gender Based Violence Board (GBV Board), and GMCA, recognising the important roles these organisations play in ending VAWG.

There have since been a number of positive developments including

- the VAWG group being asked to provide feedback on videos for the #IsThisOkay Communication Campaign aimed at educating men and boys and supporting them in calling out sexual harassment, online abuse and stalking amongst other things, as well as participate in the evaluation of the latest phase of the campaign.
- we have set up a joint Data Working Group between GMCA and the VSCE sector to better understand how VAWG data is currently collated, compiled, shared, and used to inform GMCA Strategy and Policy and consider what data is missing.
- Following the VAWG group's development of a Standards and Expectations list for the GMP to adhere to when it came to dealing with migrant women, GMP started working with two of the VAWG members to create a training programme which would help police deal with cases where women victims and survivors have no recourse to public funds.

## 5. Future Focus

**The Panel has gone from strength to strength over the last 12 months and as it moves into its third year it will continue to play a lead role in reducing gender inequality in Greater Manchester. The Panel will continue to build on its programme of activity, working with partners and stakeholders to deliver real change and continuing to provide intersectional input to GM strategies.**

In 2023 and beyond, the Women and Girls' Equality Panel is committed to driving equality in women's health. We have been a key stakeholder so far providing valuable input into the GM Integrated Care Partnership Strategy and the GM Women's Health Strategy. Our Panel members and Allies Network bring professional and lived experience of the challenges faced by women and girls in particular the impact of women's health on employment opportunities and healthcare services that do not address women and girls' differentiated needs.

We will continue to support GM4Women in furthering their goal of reaching gender equality in Manchester by 2028. We will continue to build our Allies Network and gather data and insight on the needs of women and girls in Greater Manchester in partnership with GM4Women2028 through engagement workshops at their Dialogue, Deeds and Determination events and the annual Pankhurst-Fawcett Gender Equality Scorecard.

We will continue to pursue the 'Asks' we put to the Mayor of Greater Manchester including improved support for mental health and career services for young girls, promoting digital skills training and exploring existing programs like Enterprising You for self-employment support.

The ESE working group has defined its priorities for the next two years, which include: employment and menopause, entrepreneurship and sports and leadership. We will continue to contribute to the development of the Good Employment Charter to make sure it reflects the specific needs of women in employment in particular childcare, menopause and sexual health and reproductive challenges.

The VAWG working group has also been developing its priorities which include policing and criminal justice, the creation of whistle blowing guidance for victims of police misconduct, and ongoing support with the delivery of the GBV strategy and the #IsThisOkay Campaign. You can view our workplan on our website.

In 2022 we discussed how to ensure that women and girls' equality, and safety is adequately considered as part of the decision-making process in GM for example by taking part in Equality Impact Assessments where these are carried out on all major policy and strategy decisions. This is a theme we will continue to explore over the next year.

A key aim for 2023 is to increase awareness of the Panel and have greater transparency around the work we do. With this in mind, we are posting regularly on social media, providing public summaries of our meetings, and communicating regularly with our Allies Network through Basecamp where we share relevant events and consultation opportunities. Going forward, we are also keen to explore the potential for releasing position statements on current topics and legislation.

## 6. Contact us

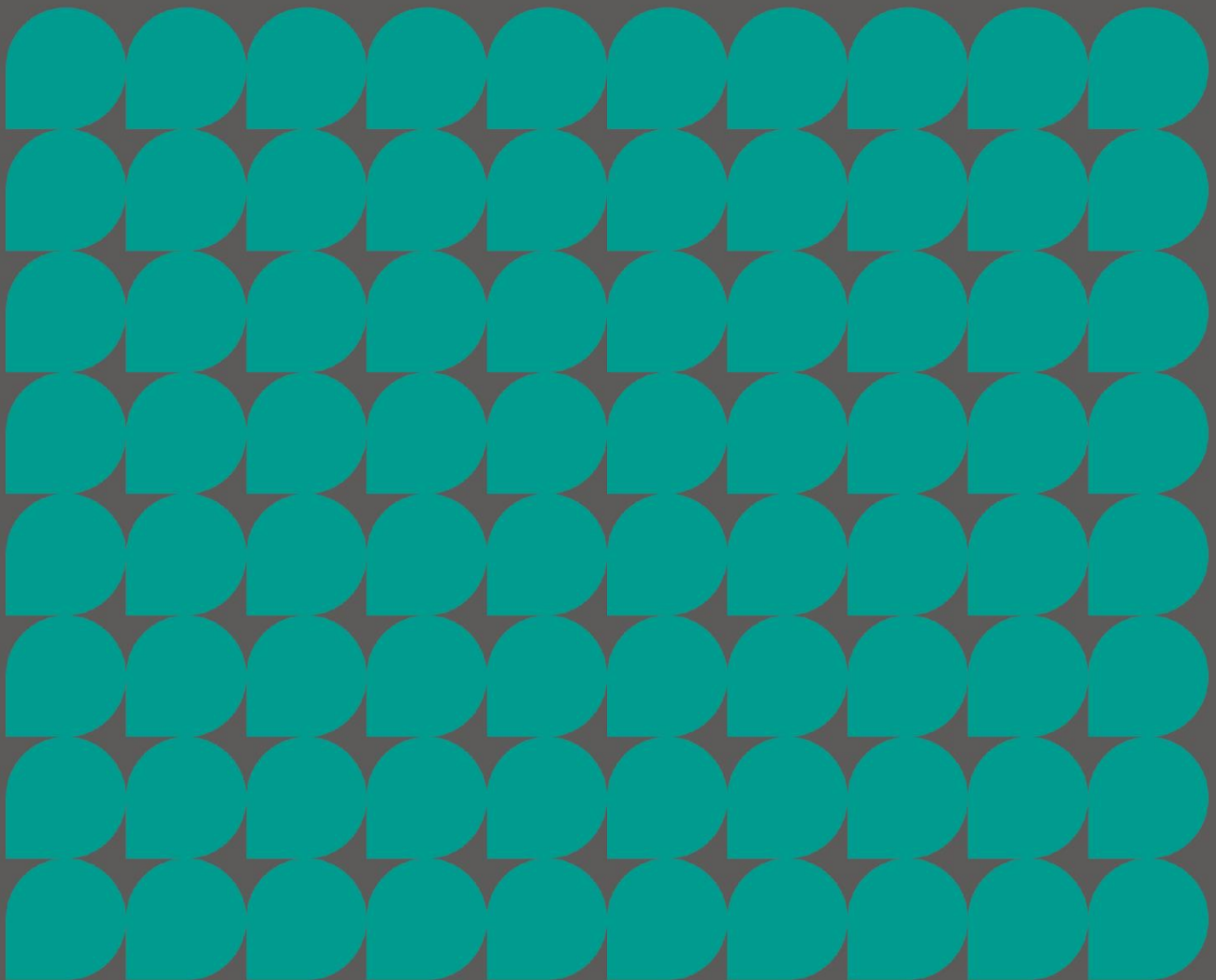
Organisations or members of the public wishing to get involved in the Panel's work can join one of the GM4Women subgroups. The subgroups' [themes](#) include Education, Safety, Culture & Active Lives, Participation in Public Life or Employment. You can also join our Allies Network to get Panel and working groups updates, invitations to consultations and information about issues affecting women and girls in Manchester. Just email [womenandgirls@pankhursttrust.org](mailto:womenandgirls@pankhursttrust.org) and ask to sign up to our Basecamp. You can also keep up to date and get involved with the Women and Girl's Equality Panel by following [GM 4 Women 2028](#) on [Twitter](#), and Manchester Women's Aid on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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**YOUTH  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY**

**DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY  
FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

**Greater Manchester  
Youth Combined Authority  
Annual Report 2022-2023**



# 1. Background

The Greater Manchester Youth Combined Authority (YCA) was formed in 2018. It is an integral part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Mayor of Greater Manchester's Office. It is one of the organisation's six equality panels (a full list of the six Equality Panels can be found at [GMCA's Equalities webpage](#).)

The purpose of the YCA is to:

- Advise the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the GMCA Portfolio Lead for Equalities, Inclusion, and Cohesion and the GMCA Portfolio Lead for Young People of the challenges and opportunities faced by young people.
- Proactively support the GMCA and its public, private, and voluntary sector partners to develop effective policy and practices for young people.
- Constructively challenge political and system leaders on progress to improve outcomes for all young people, including those that face discrimination and disadvantage because of their identity.

The current cohort (cohort 3) began their term in April 2022; The membership has grown to 52 young people representing 26 organisations from across Greater Manchester. Each organisation nominates two young people to be YCA members (with the option to nominate two deputies.)

The full membership meets on the second Thursday of each month between 6-8pm. In addition, thematic task and finish groups (known as working groups) take place and members also participate in 'development days' – which are opportunities for YCA members to meet outside of the monthly meetings – twice during the calendar year.

Youth Focus North West (YFNW) is the YCA's facilitating organisation, organising the group day-to-day. YFNW undertakes one-to-one meetings with YCA members twice a year and draws together a 'community of practice' up to three times a year for the staff supporting young people from their organisation.



## 2. Membership

78 individual members have attended one or more of the sessions from April 2022 - March 2023 (including main meetings, development days and external asks), with an aggregate attendance across all sessions of 311

The current members are aged between 12-23 years old.

38% of the current membership are from Asian, Black and other ethnically diverse communities. 36% of the cohort are White, and 26% have chosen not to share their ethnicity.

48% of current members identify as Female, 32% Male, 1% Gender Fluid, and the remainder have chosen not to say.

## 3. Leadership Group

The new membership elected their Leadership Group on 14th July 2022. The roles of Chair, Secretary, Communications, Inclusivity and External Relations were filled by young people from Cohort 3, democratically elected by using Single Transferable Voting.

In order to strengthen the existing leadership team, in April 2023 we hope to elect new members to the new roles of Deputy Chair and External Relations co-lead, and to refill the vacant Secretary role.

The Leadership Group have worked closely with external partners and stakeholders, helping to co-produce and co-chair YCA meetings, as well as meeting with external partners and exploring opportunities for the wider cohort to get involved in (see 5.2 for examples)

The Leadership Group has also played a key role in representing the views and opinions of the YCA at external meetings, sitting on Equality Boards, and attending external events. Most notably, the leadership team has started to reach out to work closer with other Equality panels (Older People's Panel, Faith and Belief Panel and Race Equality Panel at present) in order to reflect the views of young people in mutual issues.

## 4. April 2022- March 2023

In the run up to the first YCA meeting for Cohort 3, all organisations had a one-to-one meeting with YFNW staff to outline the role and responsibilities of being part of the group. Young people's needs were identified so that meetings and activities could be made as accessible as possible.

Since April 2022, the YCA has met in person on a monthly basis and had two Development Days in May and September. This has enabled young people to forge relationships with each other and to understand their role and responsibilities in relation to the YCA.

From April 2022- March 2023, members took part in 10 main meeting sessions, focusing on the themes outlined in the [vision document](#); more details of each session are outlined below.

Month	Theme
April	Induction, background of the YCA and roles and responsibilities, understanding the Vision
May	Development Day- St Thomas Centre
June	Autism in Schools
July	Leadership Group Elections
September	Health and Wellbeing - with a specific focus on Poverty and how communities across Greater Manchester are affected.- Elaine Morgan Strategy Principal in the Reform Team leading on Poverty and Cost-of-Living, NHS Focus on Health, Wellbeing and Poverty - David Boulger
September	Development Day - Anderton Centre
October	Q&A session with Andy Burnham and Councillor Mark Hunter.
November	Environment Sarah Mellor - Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Team. Speakers Manchester Climate Change Youth Board
December	Health & Wellbeing Speakers included Dr Carol Ewing, Elsie Whittington of BeeWell and Jess Eastoe of GreaterSport. All speakers spoke to the group about

Month	Theme
	opportunities for their involvement in their areas of work, including sharing findings from BeeWell, and an opportunity for funding from Greatersport to encourage involvement in sports for mental health benefits.
January	Equity Equality & Inclusion Operation Black Vote to speak about active citizenship and the youth outreach element of OBV. We also spoke about the Police Race Action meeting that panel reps attended in November, and how we might start on our proposed actions.
February	Environment Speakers included Emma Greenwood, former YCA members, about the ways in which we can break down topics around the environment and climate change into manageable actions. The group also used the time to review their current themes, and refine them for the year ahead.
March	COVID recovery Participants discussed the topic of loneliness and mental health with Amy from the #BeeWell team, as well as some discussion questions on how mental health services can work better for young people

## 4.1 Task and Finish groups

During this year, members of the Youth Combined Authority have taken part in thematic Task and Finish groups.

### Race Action Plan Task and Finish Group

Six young people from the wider YCA membership attended the first Race Action Plan session in late 2022 led by Angela Herbert; the group were challenged to bring actions on behalf of the YCA two of which were taken forward..

- 1) Developing a new updated 'Know Your Rights' resource, exploring existing resources and adapting to create new, up to date information for other young people.
- 2) To use that information to create an audio-visual piece of work (either a video, song to be shared on Spotify & YouTube etc) that makes the information memorable for other young people. It may feature well-known Greater

Manchester personalities and/or young people. GMCA have committed £5,000 to the creation of this video.

### Environmental Working Group (EWG)

The EWG is made up of young people from the wider YCA organisational membership. It had its first meeting in January 23 to identify key goals and tasks that the young people wanted to achieve. The group have taken part in a sustainable fashion workshop at Patagonia, Manchester, and have collaborated with the GMCAs Waste team to identify campaigns to influence. The group are also working with Manchester University to create a workshop on a range of hands-on activities for other young people and families to encourage greater curiosity in environmental themes for the forthcoming Green Gathering Event, as well as liaising with GMCA Environment team to plan deliver elements of the Green Summit in October.

## **4.2 Development days**

The members have met twice for development days; one in May 2022 and the second in September 2022. These days were designed to enable young people to build relationships and develop life skills such as confidence and communication.

Within the next year (April 2023- March 2024), the group will take part in two more development days; to enhance their skills building and build stronger relationships within the group to aid in their future work.

## **5. Future Meeting Schedule**

Meetings are scheduled on a monthly basis and have been linked to the four themes set out in the vision document. Each theme will be explored four times between April 2022 and March 2024,

In particular, members will work with colleagues from Transport for Greater Manchester on the launch of the Bee Network, including presenting their work at events such as the Big Active Conversation, working alongside other equality panels to represent youth voice on all panels, and attend events such as the Northern Powerhouse Education, Employment and Skills Summit 2023.

Month	Theme to be discussed during the month
April 2023	Health and Wellbeing / Leadership elections
May	Development Day - Team Building, leadership
June	Equity, Equality and Inclusion
July	The Environment
August	Development Day
September	COVID recovery - with a focus on Transport
October	Health and Wellbeing
November	Equity, Equality and Inclusion
December	The Environment + End of year celebration
January 2024	COVID recovery
February	Health and Wellbeing
March	Equity, Equality and Inclusion + End of term review and celebration

## 6. Journey for young people

All of the YCA members are supported throughout their journey with the YCA. Each young person has their own local Youth Worker to provide advice and guidance. Members are also supported by a Youth Voice Lead and Youth Voice Worker from YFNW.

Young people evaluate their own skills and understanding of the YCA twice a year. At each session young people provide feedback about their experience and share ideas for improvement. Young people also evaluate their experiences using the Lundy model of participation every quarter.

In this year, young people have reported feeling safe to give their opinions in this space, as well as feeling that their opinions will be taken seriously and taken forward by external partners who have attended sessions.

There has been an increase of young people asking for feedback on where their opinions have gone after their contributions, which has prompted more follow ups from the Leadership Team to those who have attended to get this information and to ensure young people's voices are being actively used in ongoing work of external partners.

## 7.1 Examples so far

Young people have given over 700 hours of voluntary time to the project (aggregate contact hours at all Sessions from April 2022- March 2023), showing ongoing engagement and commitment to the YCA.

Young people have grown in confidence since the start of their engagement with the YCA; this is seen via their ongoing engagement in attending meetings, their contributions at meetings and the consistent challenge and scrutiny they provide to the process.

Young people have rightly questioned which adults come to the YCA and ask for the YCA's input. They have implemented a process based on the [GM Children and Young People's Participation and Voice Framework](#) and Lundy Model. This process means that adults who wish to come into the YCA need to explain how doing so will enable young people to have the right conditions of space, voice, audience and influence to have their views heard and acted upon.

By introducing this step it has enabled the YCA Leadership Group to check the appropriateness of those seeking to consult with the wider membership, and to refine the focus of the group.

It is also important to reflect that for some young people the speed of change and the degree of direct influence to make change has been somewhat frustrating. It is an ongoing challenge to manage the expectations of what young people want with the structures and systems within which the YCA operates.

## 7.2 Wider engagement

Young people have represented the YCA at a variety of external events. In this year, young people have attended Notwestminster 2023, Manchester City Council Our Year celebrations and other events to represent the voices of YCA.

The YCA members have also been working on issues surrounding transport, stemming from their involvement with the National Youth Combined Authority, and recently presented national transport work for Transport for Greater Manchester

internal inequalities steering group. They will continue on this topic in the next year, creating a report of their findings and advocating for change for young people to have better and more consistent access to transport.

The YCA Chair was also invited to present the youth combined authority model in front of Thailand government officials, which was a great opportunity to showcase the work of the YCA on an international platform.

## 8. Thanks and further information

We would like to offer a special thank you to all members of Cohort 3 along with their youth workers and services. Also, special thanks to Adrian and Ellie within the GMCA. For further information on the YCA visit the [YCA's webpage on the GMCA website](#). Or contact the Youth Combined Authority (Youth Focus North West) by emailing [youth.gmca@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:youth.gmca@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29 September 2023

Subject: Towards an Integrated Technical Education, Skills and Work City-Region

Report of: Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Technical Education, Skills and Work, and Joanne Roney, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Technical Education, Skills and Work

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### Purpose of Report

The purpose of the paper is to set out the ambition of a Technical Education, Skills & Work (ESW) city region within the wider proposed Governance structure to take forward the whole ESW agenda and devolution trailblazer.

At the last meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in July 2023, an update was provided about the Technical Education ambition and proposed Greater Manchester Baccalaureate (MBacc), including the next steps around consultation and the development of employer boards.

This paper will set out progress whilst showing the connection into the proposed new Governance structure.

### Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Review and note the update and proposed next steps.
2. Consider and approve the proposals for new governance arrangements for GMCA's Education, Skills and Work portfolio, including the development of the Joint Oversight Board (JOB) with central government in line with the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, and the proposed operation of a 'shadow' JOB ahead of full implementation in early 2024.

3. Consider and approve the standing down of current ESW governance – primarily the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP), with thanks for members' contributions to date.
4. Approve the establishment of a GMCA ESW Executive Member portfolio leads' forum, comprising the ten portfolio leads (e.g. Work & Skills or equivalent). Leaders are invited to nominate their relevant Executive Member portfolio lead.
5. Note the progress of the LSIF application and delegate initial sign off for the submission to the Portfolio Leader for Technical Education, Skills & Work.

## **Contact Officers**

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# Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

**Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers**

*The GMCA is requested to welcome the update and note the next steps over the coming months*

**Impacts Questionnaire**

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	Proposals should contribute to wider agenda around tackling social and labour market inequalities linked with access to learning/work	
Health	G	Supports residents' ability to access pathways into the labour market - links between good, fulfilling work and improved health/wellbeing are well-established.	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Contributes to a stronger, more resilient GM labour market and supports residents in acquiring the skills they need to contribute to/benefit from it.	
Housing	G	Potential for indirect/longer term benefit: education and skills are part of a raft of support and interventions that can help reduce the risk of homelessness linked to unemployment/economic inactivity.	
Economy	G	Proposals will ensure businesses have the skills they need, now and in the future - approach is evidence-led, informed by employers. Supports increased employment/progression opportunities, both for young people entering the labour market for the first time and for those already in work. The skills base of the workforce is a key determinant of inward investment; these proposals help deliver the skills investors need, esp in: frontier/high employment sectors, growth locations, innovation/R&D pipeline. Will increase access to education, training and skills; strengthens connections between the skills offer across GM and local labour market needs.	
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment			
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Will help provide a suitably skilled workforce to deliver vital enablers of the carbon neutrality target. In particular, large scale infrastructure projects (both new-build and retrofit) will rely on having both the relevant skills base and the necessary labour supply to support the design, construction, management and maintenance of low carbon buildings and transport infrastructure across GM.	
Further Assessment(s):	N/A		
<b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.

**Carbon Assessment**

Overall Score:

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential	N/A			
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A			
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A			
<b>Transport</b>				
Active travel and public transport	N/A			
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A			
Access to amenities	N/A			
Vehicle procurement	N/A			
<b>Land Use</b>				
Land use	N/A			
No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

## Risk Management

There are no direct risks associated with this report.

## Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations arising from this report.

## Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report. Any financial considerations associated with specific programmes/services referenced within the plan will be dealt with in line with the relevant commissioning, assurance and governance arrangements for those activities.

## Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital funding consequences arising from this report.

## Number of attachments to the report:

N/A

## Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

## Background Papers

This paper can be read in conjunction with:

- Policy paper, [Towards a Technical Education, Skills and Work City-Region: Starting the Conversation](#), together with the [recording of an event](#) held to launch the paper and associated consultation.
- Previous paper considered by GMCA (July 2023): [GMCA Part A Report Template \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

## 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

## **GM Transport Committee**

N/A

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

N/A

# **1. Introduction/Background**

## **Towards an integrated technical education, skills, and work system for the GM economy**

1. The GM Integrated Technical Education, Skills & Work System will connect residents, localities, providers, and businesses to build a strong, resilient, modern GM economy that works for everyone.
2. Our Integrated System is not solely about qualifications; it is about good jobs at all levels. We want to deliver a clear line of sight for residents into the GM economy through clear skills and inclusive employment pathways to good jobs. A system that can respond to industry requirements and employer needs and system where businesses play their part.
3. The previous paper (considered by GMCA in July 2023) set out the importance of connecting skills with the labour market of GM, both now and in the future, with a particular focus on young people through the lens of Technical Education; however the ambition is all age, and for all stages of our residents' labour market 'journey', from the first step on the path into work to those looking to progress or return to employment after a period away from work. This is a narrative well-rehearsed; however, to make it a reality requires a system change in terms of behaviour and thinking of all involved - from young people to our older residents, their peers, supporters, parents & carers, education institutions, Government, Business and many others.
4. The further opportunities that Devolution brings is an element in this narrative via GMCA's new mandate working with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on strategic oversight of post-16 technical education, careers and employment support, to explore new ways to bring greater clarity to the system. However, this is not solely down to one organisation or Government – Greater Manchester has made the case for devolution so now is the time to do things differently.

## 2. Towards the Vision: key components

### 2.1 Strong Governance to drive forward change- towards deeper devolution

5. Greater Manchester's education, skills and work (ESW) system's previous governance arrangements have included the Skills & Employment Partnership (in place from 2012 to 2018), and the GM Employment & Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP), established in 2018 as part of the Skills Advisory Panels programme under the Government's (now withdrawn) Industrial Strategy, to bring together local stakeholders, employers and skills providers to drive analysis and pool knowledge on skills and labour market needs in ways that informed the skills agenda and improved economic outcomes.
6. Whilst those arrangements provided valuable input to and oversight of the ESW agenda to date, as we move forward with the opportunities presented by the March 2023 Trailblazer Deeper Devolution Deal between central Government and Greater Manchester, the time is right to give deeper consideration to the purpose and functions of the governance structures. This approach would ensure that they better meet GM's needs and support the employer-led, resident-centred system towards which we are working, and that the expertise of key stakeholders can be harnessed to better effect.
7. Recognising the critical role that mayoral combined authorities and the local partners including Local Authorities play in supporting education, skills and employment support, and their alignment to regional economic growth, the Deal included a commitment to new partnership arrangements and joint governance around aspects of the ESW landscape.
8. In particular, the Deal paved the way for:
  - a strong joint governance board to provide oversight of post-16 technical education and skills in Greater Manchester, ensuring the link between the technical education offer within GM and timely labour market intelligence about the needs of the local labour market. The Deal specified four main roles for the Board: responsiveness, implementation of the Local Skills Improvement Plan, data-sharing, and careers.
  - a Joint Strategy and Oversight Board made up of senior GMCA officers and UK Government (UKG) officials with the authority to consider evidence, make advisory recommendations and engage in discussions proactively, to ensure that DWP,

Jobcentre Plus activity and Greater Manchester activity work together to improve client outcomes.

9. Whilst each of these new partnership and governance elements has a distinctive focus, they are interdependent aspects of Greater Manchester's overarching ambition to become an integrated technical education, skills and work city-region. As such, it is important that a balance is struck between ensuring that technical education/skills and work/employment support receive the dedicated focus they need, while at the same time guarding against considering them separately from each other and undoing some of the existing alignment of skills and work – the alignment that has been instrumental in paving the way for aspects of the Deal.
10. It is therefore proposed that, rather than de-coupling education/skills and employment support, an integrated approach will be taken, with a single **Joint Oversight Board (JOB)** being established, comprised of senior officials from Greater Manchester and UKG (primarily DfE, DWP and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)), taking forward the functions set out in the Deal together with oversight of/accountability for the significant body of ESW activity not directly impacted by the Trailblazer.
11. It is also proposed that JOB will be supported by additional elements of the system to ensure specialist input, stakeholder engagement, and a closer connection with district priorities including: Thematic Panels, Employer Boards, a LAs Executive Member Portfolio Forum, current external partnership boards including GM Colleges Group, GMLPN, Business Representation Organisations, Growth Location Boards etc.
12. **It is proposed that the Governance should also dock into other GMCA portfolios including Economy, Digital and Environment to name a few to show the connectivity of the EWS agenda against areas such as IGM, Investment Zones & Growth Locations.**

## **2.2 Key functions/elements of the proposed new governance landscape**

- **Joint Oversight Board** – providing a mechanism for the strategic system oversight and increased accountability that is an intrinsic part of the devolution agreement with government, and through which to tell a coherent 'GM story' that will help inform and influence wider UKG and devolved policy, in line with the Trailblazing nature of the Deal. It will have a strong place based approach understanding the difference in need across GM to Level Up.

### 2.2.1 Proposed Priorities:

- To provide strategic oversight of the whole employment, skills and post-16 technical education landscape in Greater Manchester, ensuring the link between an intelligence-led technical education, skills and employment support offer and the needs of the Greater Manchester labour market.
- In particular, providing strategic oversight (i.e., facilitating alignment and addressing issues) of relevant post-16 technical education or training offer linked to delivering the Local Skills Improvement Plan, including a role in signing off the Local Skills Improvement Fund application from the lead college to ensure alignment of local skills improvement fund-funded projects and wider labour market strategies.
- Explore opportunities to test new approaches and support national policy development in this space by enabling UKG to better understand the interplay on the ground between different strands of policy owned by policy teams and Departments.
- To ensure responsiveness through a strong strategic partnership between commissioners/funders, the demand side and the supply side, utilising exploring all available data/intelligence, policy and fiscal levers and resources to translate needs into provision and secure a responsive post-16 technical offer that is aligned to local skills needs and ensures sufficiency, capacity, capability and curriculum relevance and pathways.
- To ensure strong connections between GM-level activity and the ESW agenda in each of GM's 10 districts, with greater clarity and collective purpose around those areas in which GM and LA labour market strategies can be more mutually supportive while retaining their own distinctive character.
- Consider evidence, make advisory recommendations and engage in proactive discussions, to ensure that all employment support activity, whether unilateral or co-designed/commissioned, works together to improve outcomes for residents.

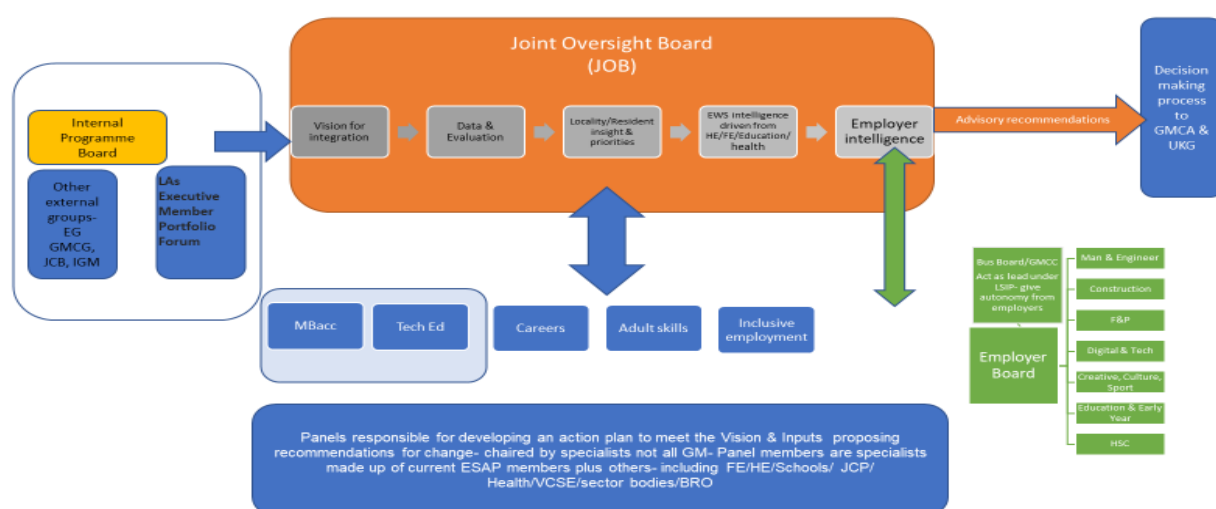


- Consider the feasibility and potential scope of employment support pilots and/or approaches to working together that are aligned to national and regional priorities and challenges using devolved funding for local needs. Specifically, scope potential GMCA-led employment support pilots that focus on using national employment and health levers alongside devolved local functions/funding.
- Develop an all-age careers strategy for Greater Manchester that responds to the local skills improvement plan and reflects the skills ambition for the city region and otherwise support GMCA in delivering on its new mandate for oversight of all publicly funded careers services delivered to GM residents.
- Explore and make recommendations around lawful and relevant data sharing in order to support effective planning functions linked to both sufficiency and alignment between the technical education offer and local labour market needs.
- To consider recommendations from a series of specialist thematic panels that will provide insights and take forward recommendations as appropriate.
- **Thematic Panels (suggested below)** – It will be the role of the panels to translate the inputs – evidence, data and insights – into an action plan, based on shared commitments to take actions forward, which will bring about the required change/improvements in the relevant thematic area. The panels will be made up of specialists in their field, including expert colleagues within GM’s local authorities, Colleges, Schools, HE, Jobcentre, VCSE, health partners and thinktanks (those that currently support ESAP) with an ambition to see improvements across GM and the necessary reach into/leverage with the networks/organisations they represent to take agreed actions forward. Each panel will define their precise remit.
- **Employer Boards** (see 3.1 below) – One of the main inputs for the panels & JOB will come from the Employer Board, made up of 7 Sector Skills Leads who will be the figure head – the role will be heavily linked to the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) in terms of intelligence gathering from their sector. There is an expectation that this will constitute engagement that reaches more widely than their own organisations. This will not be a Board that pontificates around the whole system- This, if done right is the first step in a system change and therefore this board is

unique and different to what already exists. It will have a specific scope to focus on 4 areas in the first instance **(there is a further phase that could support the wider agenda):**

- Raise the number of placements for T-levels and apprenticeships
  - Support curriculum relevance based on a GM agreed view of skills challenges in the Gateway areas – potentially leading to provision development
  - Spearhead the advocacy of the benefits of technical skills and qualifications as a solution to the skills challenges
  - Articulate what are the barriers preventing this growth and provision change- create recommendations for Devo Board (JOB)
- **LAs Executive Member Portfolio Forum** – providing stronger connections between GM-level activity and the ESW agenda in each of GM’s 10 districts, with greater clarity and collective purpose around those areas in which GM and LA labour market strategies can be more mutually supportive while retaining their own distinctive character.
  - **Internal Programme Board** – chaired by the GMCA Lead Chief Executive as senior responsible officer, this is an internal GMCA oversight group comprising senior officers (GMCA Executive Director for Policy & Strategy, ESW Director & Assistant Directors, together with other relevant SROs including CA Treasurer).

## 2.3 Proposed structure & Membership



## 2.4 JOB proposed Membership

- Greater Manchester:
  - GMCA Portfolio Leader- Technical Education, Skills and Work
  - Chief Executive - Technical Education, Skills and Work
  - GMCA Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer
  - Executive Director, Policy & Strategy
  - Director, Education, Work & Skills
  - Chief of Population Health & Inequalities/Deputy Chief Executive
  - CEx GM Chamber of Commerce (GM's designated Employer Representative Body (ERB)<sup>1</sup>) - also representing the views of the Employer Boards
    - Chair, GM LEP/Business Board
- Department for Education - **One of the following**
  - Director, Labour Market, Skills & Funding
  - Director, Regions & Providers
  - IfATE
- Department for Work & Pensions – **One of the following**
  - Director, NW
  - Director, Places Policy
  - NW Strategic Partnership Lead
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities
  - Director, Levelling Up Group

Whilst not full members, the Chairs of the Thematic Panels will attend JOB in an advisory capacity.

### 3. The critical role of employers – Update

#### 3.1 Employer Boards

13. The previous paper set out the ambition to have seven Employer Boards to drive forward the development of the Technical Education ambition, including the proposed Greater Manchester Baccalaureate ('MBacc') and associated career gateways. In time these employer boards will support the entire EWS vision - but they need to have a clear remit in the first instance so not to try and do everything and achieve nothing. They will be intrinsically linked to GM's Local Skills Improvement Plan ('LSIP' – see below) in terms of bringing about change by articulating the employer voice, setting out and championing the skills/talent that employers in each career gateway will need in the future and present.

14. The Mayor has been keen to ensure 'high value brand' businesses come forward to support the Employer Board and the ambition about creating equal prestige in the technical education pathway.
15. Over the past month employers have been showing their support, with 50-60 well-known businesses from across Greater Manchester already pledging their support for the ambition. **A meeting is taking place on 26th September** which will showcase backing from the supporter's network and will also launch the process for the selection of each Sector Skills Leader (SSL).
16. It will be critical that these SSL commit to becoming the linchpin that connects numerous other employer forums and business representative organisations together in terms of labour market intelligence and skills needs. They will also advocate for businesses becoming part of the movement to bring about change in the technical education space and the wider work and skills system in the latter stages linked to the outcomes from the LSIP.

### **3.2 GM Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) & Local Skills Improvement Fund**

17. Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce published GM's LSIP on 11 August and is putting plans in place for phase two, the objective of which is embedding the LSIP process in the local skills system. The LSIP articulates employers' skills needs and makes recommendations about changes that are needed to ensure that the education and skills offer in Greater Manchester more closely aligns with the needs of the local labour market. This is why aligning the LSIP to the ambition of the employer boards and the gateways makes sense in terms of pulling in all available information and intelligence to create a strong narrative from employers about their skills & labour market needs.
18. In addition, the GM LSIP makes recommendations to employers about their role investing in and contributing to workforce development and talent pipeline planning, in ways that help maximise the opportunities arising from the Devolution Deal and facilitate new ways of delivering the technical education, skills and work ambitions that will deliver a productive, inclusive and resilient GM economy/labour market.
19. DfE has made implementation funding available via the Local Skills Improvement Fund, a two-year, £165 million national pot (mix of capital and revenue) that has been made available to support colleges in responding to LSIPs. Following an expression of interest process run by DfE, Wigan & Leigh College was approved in July to lead the

development and submission of a collaborative bid for funding on behalf of the Greater Manchester Colleges Group (submission deadline mid-September). An indicative funding ceiling – around £8.5m over the two year period – has been earmarked by DfE for activity within GM.

20. The projects will address key aspects of the LSIP and include a major investment in Cave Automatic Virtual Environments. The focus will be:

- Construction: retrofit and digitisation
- Engineering & Manufacturing: lean manufacturing with focus on sustainability and electric/hybrid vehicles
- Digital: basic digital skills and pathways to higher qualifications in cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence
- Health: digitisation of health – looking at current workforce needs and embedding skills in existing pathways
- Education/Workforce: developing a GM approach to staff development and collaboration with HEIs over addressing issues around staff shortages in technical education

This will be underpinned by work with the CA on career gateways. A governance group including the CA, GM Chamber of Commerce, GMLPN and the college project leads will provide oversight and ensure activity remains relevant to delivering against the LSIP.

## **4. Technical Education and MBacc**

### **4.1 Update**

21. As noted in the July paper, in May 2023, the Mayor set out proposals for a Greater Manchester Baccalaureate, or MBacc, and boosting delivery of the Government flagship T-level qualifications, alongside other technical qualifications including Apprenticeships, in partnership with our business community. Our aim is to create a clear line of sight for people to the fantastic technical roles and job opportunities that exist in Greater Manchester via two equal pathways for young people – one academic and one technical.

22. The focus of work since July has been on engagement with parents on the MBacc proposals through a People's Poll, and the galvanisation of work to scope and deliver the MBacc ambition.

## 4.2 Poll results

23. Following the consultation with businesses and stakeholders completed in July 2023, GMCA commissioned BMG Research to carry out an online poll with residents from across the city-region, between 20 July and 1 August 2023. A total of 975 parents (with at least one child of school age) across GM were interviewed and data weighted to be representative of parents across Greater Manchester using information from the 2021 Census and the Greater Manchester Residents' Survey.
24. Participants were asked about their attitudes towards school curriculum, and our proposals to develop the MBacc:
- There is a sense amongst respondents that current provision leans towards more emphasis on academic subjects when advising children in year 9 about their future. Respondents support a more equal approach – making technical education as valued as academic education.
  - There is more awareness of A-levels and apprenticeships, than other qualifications or routes for young people. Even those that are familiar with more technical courses, many wouldn't know how to access them.
  - Awareness of the Mbacc is higher in Manchester than other Districts (but still relatively low). Overall the support is higher – especially from those parents who have children either at or approaching the age where they start to make educational decisions.
  - Regardless of prior awareness, support for the MBacc is high, with 3 in 5 (59%) supportive of it, while just 4% oppose it.
25. In addition to the confirmation of support delivered through the consultation and the poll, both channels have provided a further layer of insight from businesses and residents around our proposals, including opportunities to increase engagement and awareness, and potential risks and challenges. This feedback is now being analysed and connected into the relevant workstreams outlined below.

## 4.3 MBacc

26. Following the broad mandate of support received for the MBacc proposals through the initial consultation and subsequent People's Poll, GMCA have commissioned the Edge Foundation (an independent foundation working to inspire the education system to give young people the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to flourish in their future life and work) to work with a group of high profile national policy leaders and GM

education leaders on the development of the MBacc through the creation of an “engine room”.

27. This initial phase of work will take place between August and December 2023 and will deliver:

- Identification of subjects that will form part of the MBacc;
- Research of best practice models from around the world that we can learn from and incorporate;
- Identification of essential skills that can be built into the MBacc curriculum;
- A consultation with the wider GM education sector on proposals and a final recommendation of the MBacc scope and work required to deliver.

28. Pilot schools will then be confirmed to develop aspects of the MBacc and associated curriculum planning to commence delivery from September 2024.

#### **4.4 High Quality Technical Careers Education**

29. In Spring 2023 we surveyed careers professionals working in GM schools and colleges to gauge awareness of technical education pathways; whilst knowledge of Apprenticeships and vocational offers was high, T Levels, Supported Internships and wider labour market understanding were lower. This is in line with the responses from the People’s Poll. In response to this we have developed a CPD session which will run in October, in line with the academic year, to furnish Careers Advisers with an up-to-date understanding of technical routes available for young people and how to access them. We will then work with the sector to develop toolkits and ongoing updates to ensure those professionals informing young people have access to the most current GM information.

30. We are also working with colleges and independent training providers on the implementation of Provider Access Legislation<sup>1</sup> to widen levels of engagement for young people with technical education provision to help inform their choices.

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<sup>1</sup> Provider Access Legislation specifies that schools must provide at least six encounters with approved providers of apprenticeships and technical education for all their students between Years 8 and 13, to further help learners understand and take-up not just apprenticeships, but wider technical education options such as T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications

## 4.5 Digital Routes to Engage

31. We currently have three digital routes for young people to access support (on both technical and academic pathways) through:

- **GMACS**, (the Greater Manchester Apprenticeships and Careers Service), our navigation tool to explore options and hear from GM businesses;
- **Curriculum for Life**, accessing information as young people navigate into adulthood (due to go live October 2023);
- **Our Pass**, which enables travel to anywhere in the city-region for all 16-18 year olds, regardless of their learning pathway to access training, study, and opportunities like sports and cultural/leisure opportunities.

32. During this year we have improved the technical education content on GMACS to better reflect the GM offer; however, there is more to be done on this and during Autumn 2023 we will be engaging with young people to support the co-design of new and engaging technical education content on the site. As part of this work we are exploring the potential to develop an interactive routeway map that will enable young people, parents and carers, and careers professionals to have a line of sight through the various technical options available from school through to a job in GM. This will build on the work done nationally by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) on the occupational routes maps (which include occupational standards setting out the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed across more than 600 job roles) but will reflect our seven GM gateways – those priority sectors which, together, account for more than half of jobs in GM's labour market.

33. We are also exploring the potential to develop a common application process for T levels and industrial placements.

## 4.6 Broad and Exciting Technical Education Offer

34. Our integrated ambition would extend the approach GM is already applying to adult skills to all learning that draws its primary purpose from the workplace.

35. It will help to build a virtual toolkit through:

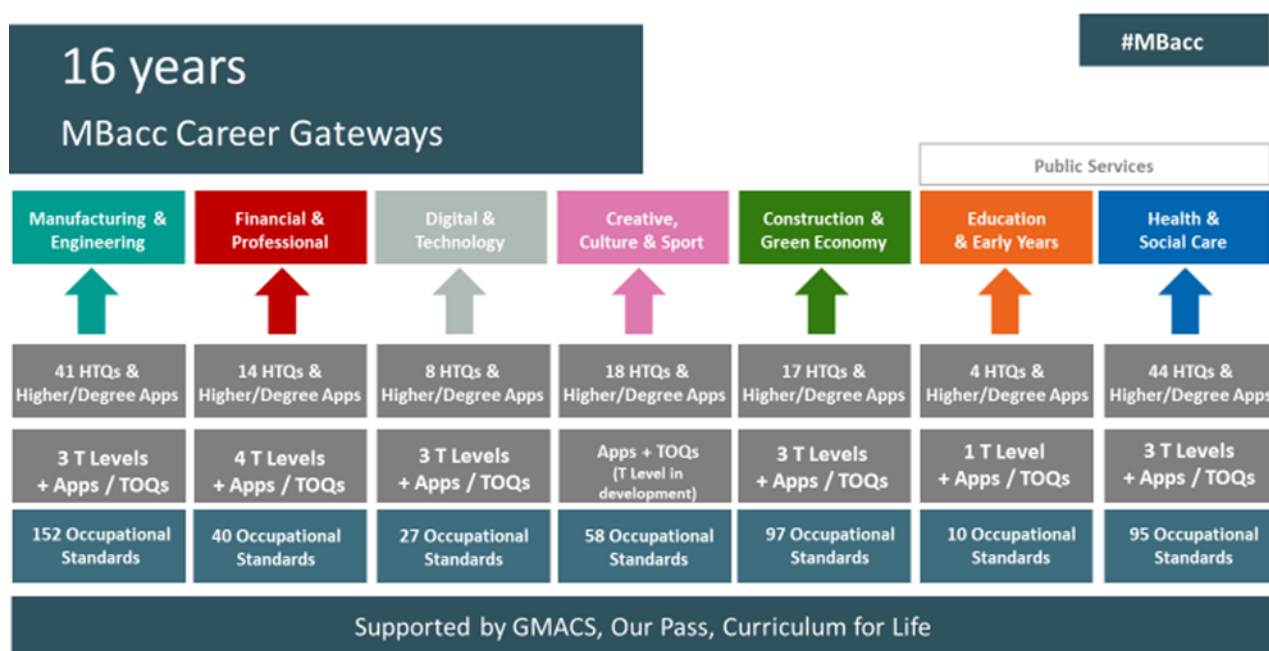
- A core cluster of qualifications that are valued by employers and open doors into key GM sectors and industries;
- A wide range of workplace experiences, curriculum enrichment and other opportunities that support the development of soft skills and entry to the world of work;



- A clear, trusted platform through which to explore and apply for technical education pathways and wider support and enrichment, together with the tools needed to access them.

36. A key part of the ambition is to become renowned as a ‘T level city-region’ and 2023 is the first year that substantial numbers of learners have completed T levels with results for GM above the national average pass rate of 90.5%. T levels require the completion of a substantial industrial placement (c.45 days) to achieve the qualification and for the 2024/25 academic year we anticipate, based on current projections, that at least 5000 placements will be required to support learners across GM. The development of the infrastructure to deliver this will be a priority for the Employer Boards.

37. A mapping exercise of the technical pathways available from age 16 upwards against our 7 gateways has been undertaken (diagram below) and the team are now analysing learner data, accessibility, and progression to inform the creation of data packs that will enable our Employer Boards to consider the current offer and make recommendations on areas in need of development.



## 5. Next Steps

38. Next steps relating to the technical education proposals have been set out in Section 4. In relation to the wider governance proposals it is proposed that:

- Officers continue to work with UKG colleagues to develop proposed arrangements for the Joint Oversight Board (JOB).
- Members of ESAP represent key stakeholder networks so would be invited to join focused thematic panels in the main, as they have in depth knowledge that is required to drive change in the new proposed Governance model.
- A GM ESW portfolio leads' forum be re-established, comprising the ten LAs' relevant Executive Members portfolio leads (e.g. Work & Skills or equivalent). Leaders are invited to nominate their relevant portfolio lead to join this forum.
- Continue to work on the five areas under the banner of Technical Education – presentation attached
- Continue to work with the GM Chamber & GM Colleges group on the development of the LSIP & associated funding for the LSIF.

## **6. Recommendations**

39. As above.

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29 September 2023

Subject: Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Switchover

Report of: Councillor Nick Peel, Portfolio Lead for Digital; and Joanne Roney, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Digital

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### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to highlight changes in UK telecoms infrastructure that will impact a significant number of people and organisations across the city region and seek approval for the recommendations listed below.

### Recommendations

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the paper and progress towards supporting PSTN switchover in GM.
2. Support advocating that the Government should play a stronger and more active role in the PSTN switchover.
3. Endorse the need to ensure that public sector organisations and their partners are undertaking appropriate steps to upgrade or mitigate.
4. Support work between local authorities and industry to identify vulnerable households and request that no-one is disconnected by industry until a suitable alternative connection are available.
5. Endorse the establishment of a GM PSTN Switchover working group to coordinate activity and communication, in partnership with ISPs and Local Authorities.

### Contact Officers

Phil Swan – Director of Digital [phil.swan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:phil.swan@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

Beena Puri- Innovations and Partnership Lead, [beena.puri@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:beena.puri@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

# Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers			
Insert text			
Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	<p>This proposal will positively impact and support those who are facing disadvantage by mitigating the risks that may be faced with people that face additional challenges and communicating support to help understand the change.</p> <p>This proposal will positively impact access the ability to access public services, and mitigate risks where cost is an issue.</p> <p>This proposal could support communities by actively communicating switchover changes, GM plans and potential impacts, as well as where to go for support.</p>	
Health	G	The change in infrastructure means that there could be significant negative impacts initially for sectors such as telecare and concerning impacts therefore to residents.	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	<p>This plan will positively impact residents who are digitally-excluded, dislike change and those that use telecare services.</p> <p>This proposal and plans will help drive awareness and action to empower businesses and communities navigate the switchover.</p> <p>These recommendations will not only drive awareness to GM residents, it could help mitigate risks for those classed as most vulnerable.</p> <p>This plan should help to support and mitigate risks around scamming by sharing what to look for and where to go for support.</p>	
Housing			
Economy	G		
Mobility and Connectivity	G		
Carbon, Nature and Environment			
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target	N/A		
<b>Fur</b> <b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment					
Overall Score					
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation			
New Build residential	N/A				
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A				
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A				
Transport					
Active travel and public transport	N/A				
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A				
Access to amenities	N/A				
Vehicle procurement	N/A				
Land Use					
Le	No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

## Risk Management

The switch off the Public Service Telephone Network (PSTN) poses a significant risk to some SMEs; public and sector; voluntary, community & social enterprise organisations; and vulnerable residents.

## Legal Considerations

The legal considerations for the GMCA and local authorities are detailed in this report and its recommendations.

## Financial Consequences – Revenue

There are no revenue finance consequences for the GMCA from this report and its recommendations.

## Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital finance consequences for the GMCA from this report and its recommendations.

## Number of attachments to the report:

None.

## Comments/ recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable.

## Background Papers

- PSTN switchover report to Wider Leadership Team, July 2022.
- External Link: [Upgrading landlines to digital technology – what you need to know - Ofcom](#)
- External Link: [Future of Voice – Homepage](#)
- External Link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines>

## 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.**

## GM Transport Committee

Not applicable

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Telecommunication companies providing physical copper lines to homes and businesses intend to withdraw this analogue telephone system - called the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) - by December 2025. This process has already commenced. All services currently provided over PSTN will need to be upgraded to a fully-digital service that uses internet protocol (IP) across a fibre-based network. This includes landlines, telecare systems, and business telephone systems.
- 1.2 Unlike the move to digital TV from 2007 to 2012, which was government-led, the government has decided that the withdrawal of the PSTN should be industry-led as the network is privately owned. However, the government has recognised it has a responsibility to ensure the change is achieved safely and effectively.
- 1.3 PSTN is an ageing network that is becoming harder and more expensive to maintain and it is positive that this technology is being retired both in the UK and

internationally. The switchover will significantly reduce UK energy demand as the Openreach exchanges and street cabinets currently account for over 85,000 kWh of energy equating to 20,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Industry stakeholders have highlighted other benefits of the switch to digital, such as improved call quality.

## **2 Risks associated with PSTN switchover**

### **2.1 Reliance on PSTN Services**

2.1.1 PSTN switchover will not have a significant impact on most households with a landline, as 90% of the current handsets can be connected to an internet service via an interconnecting device.

2.1.2 Of particular concern are those households and organisations that are most reliant on PSTN services. Anyone wishing to maintain a landline telephone or any service that currently operates over PSTN will be required to install an internet connection and deploy new technology with any cost borne by the household or organisation.

2.1.3 These include:

- Many emergency and telecare call buttons and pendant alarms used in households and care homes.
- Fax machines (they are still used in small numbers, particularly in health and social care).
- Remotely monitored alarm systems.
- Some point-of-sale terminals and payment card readers.
- Anyone with an ISDN service, either an office PBX or ISDN modem. This includes traditional commercial phone systems used by many organisations.
- Emergency telephones in lifts.

### **2.2 Older people and disabled people**

2.2.1 These groups rely more heavily on traditional phone services for communication and access to essential services, and may also be dependent on social care support services using PSTN equipment.

- A recent Uswitch survey showed that 95% of over-65s still have a landline compared to 52% of 18–24-year-olds. For many older and disabled residents, their telephone is essential to connect with family, friends and local services, and a change of technology may be difficult to cope with and manage.

- The loss of dialling tone when the switch over is made is likely to result in some residents become confused and anxious. There is a need for these residents to receive support to manage this transition, particularly those with a cognitive impairment. The GM Ageing Hub, national charity Independent Age, and the Greater Manchester Disabled People's panel (GMDPP) have evidence that some priority groups have begun to receive some limited information on the PSTN change.
- These organisations have reported that amongst these priority groups in Greater Manchester, there is confusion around practical implications of the switchover on customers. Specific issues raised include the costs associated with the switchover (both equipment and increased electricity usage, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis), the timelines around when individuals will be switched over, the support that will be available and how to access it, and the process of making the change. All this uncertainty is resulting in high levels of anxiety amongst older people and disabled people, many of whom are not online. The different approaches and timings taken between each telecom providers are adding to the confusion. In addition, older adults are less likely to have access to a mobile phone as a backup.
- These priority groups may have difficulty using digital services and may be impacted by the costs of new specialist equipment and the operational differences.

## 2.3 Telecare users

2.3.1 It is estimated that there are approximately 110,000-130,000 telecare users in Greater Manchester and many telecare call buttons and pendants use PSTN. For example, Stockport Homes' 24/7 CareCall Service is based on PSTN and receives 185,000 emergency calls per year from its 5,000 customers, with 450+ emergency home visits each month.

- The cost of upgrading and operating its telecare equipment is significant, approximately 240% of the analogue cost. No funding is available from government or industry to support this transition.
- In Lancashire, a decision by local government to introduce charges for clients using telecare services to cover the costs of the technology upgrade for the



PSTN switchover have resulted in 50% of users withdrawing from the service, with implications for increasing 999 and health and social care service demand.

- There are significant concerns around shortages of the equipment needed to support telecare services provided over digital, with a 6 - 8 month lead time to replace this specialist equipment. Telecare providers also need to test devices to see which work on PSTN and may need support in communicating with customers and training call wardens and colleagues who are handling calls. They may need support in planning the process and will need to be aware of costs related to replacing devices and upgrading schemes.

## **2.4 Access to emergency services during a power cut**

2.4.1 Unlike traditional landline phones that get their power from the telephone exchange, internet-based phones rely on the electricity in the home. This powered connection is one reason why so many services run across PSTN.

2.4.2 The switch means that when the power goes out in a home, so does the internet phone service. Therefore, internet phone users may not be able to make or receive calls during a power outage including if there was an emergency. Households would need to have a mobile phone as a back-up which might not be an option in areas of poor signal or for cost reasons, or a back-up power supply to their landline which industry may provide.

## **2.5 Awareness and coordination**

2.5.1 A recent Which? Survey showed that 74% of consumers with copper landline connection were unaware of the migration. In addition, a solely industry led approach increases the risk that consumers and businesses will either not engage at all (because of a lack of trust). Whilst BT and Virgin Media account for a large proportion of households, the industry is highly fragmented with over 450 telecoms providers across England.

- The switchover is taking place on a region-by-region basis, and plans differ depending on the telecom provider. It is understood that most telecoms providers will contact customers around 6-12 months before the switchover to inform them of their next steps.
- Internet service providers are phasing vulnerable people toward the end of the programme with enhanced support and a commitment not to forcibly switch

vulnerable people, whilst also maintaining the December 2025 deadline. However industry is also asking councils, housing, health and care organisations for help in identifying vulnerable people which creates data protection challenges.

- Industry is holding fast to the December 2025 deadline, with support for vulnerable people being addressed by the telecom industry towards the end of the switchover programme. However, this is likely to coincide with adverse winter weather conditions and a time when vulnerable people are more reliant on landline services, highlighting the need for this to be resolved in partnership significantly before then.
- The lack of a consistent brand and approach increases the risk that households and vulnerable people could be targeted by scammers.

## **2.6 Local Authorities and GM businesses**

2.6.1 The LGA is recommending that Local Authorities, other public sector organisations and businesses delivering services currently using PSTN equipment undertake reviews to determine their level of vulnerability to the change and plan for transition. This has been discussed at the GM ICT Leaders Group and the Digital Inclusion Locality Leads Group. At present:

- There are a variety of different approaches being taken across the public sector. Some Local Authorities either do not have a focussed person to support the coordination locally, a switchover plan in place or limited focus on service users, such as residents that are supported by telecare services.
- The GM Chamber of Commerce has highlighted concerns about the low level of awareness across SMEs in the City Region and is keen to work with industry to address this. It is recognised that there is a risk of interruptions to some services if businesses do not plan and audit to determine everything that is connected to the PSTN. Businesses that do not switch to the VoIP system in a timely manner may also choose suppliers who charge higher costs.

### **3 PSTN Opportunities**

- 3.1 As referred to above, PSTN switchover will reduce carbon emissions across the country not only because of reductions in power consumption but also the cost of manufacturing, installing and operating duplicate infrastructure.
- 3.2 PSTN switchover also presents opportunities to encourage or enable some residents to get broadband who might otherwise might not. This may enable a broader range of services such as Hospitals at Home and enable online council services to be accessible to a greater number of people, however there would need to be support in how to use the internet safely and effectively.

### **4 Support for switchover and mitigating activities**

- 4.1 GM has been proactive in engaging with government and industry, however it should be noted that the UK government is not providing any resources to enable national, regional or local communication or coordination. Whilst GM are not offering to take on responsibility for coordination and messaging around the switchover, we are calling for the communications around this transition to be better coordinated, transparent and easy for residents to navigate and understand what to expect and where they should go if they have questions or need further support.

#### **4.2 Ofcom and Government activity**

- 4.2.1 The Department of Science, Technology and Industry (DSIT) are supporting the change by:
- Monitoring the change by having regular meetings with Ofcom and communication providers.
  - Attending working groups such as the Local Government Association (LGA) and National Telecare Stakeholder Working Group.
  - Raising awareness of the change by attending events and corresponding with relevant partners.
  - Publishing guidance on their website.
  - Co-ordinating quarterly engagement surveys and cross-departmental meetings to keep updated with the ongoing rollouts.

4.2.2 Ofcom requires telecom providers to take measures to ensure uninterrupted access to emergency services including during a power cut and is engaging with government and industry over switchover.

### 4.3 **Industry activity**

4.3.1 Industry has been working towards PSTN switchover for several years with GM engagement via TechUK and major suppliers. BT and Virgin Media are planning a set of regional activities across GM in October 2023 as part of a national engagement series targeted at household customers, with the potential for a focused event for telecare and local authority customers. Both telecom organisations are seeking support from councils to establish data-sharing agreements relating to identifying vulnerable people.

4.3.2 BT currently have no plans to prioritise switchover for telecare customers, adults over 70s, or residents with no mobile connectivity (landline only) unless these residents proactively opt in.

### 4.4 **Local Government Association (LGA) support**

4.4.1 The LGA has established a National Switchover Working Group including a range of local authorities and industry, is engaging with government and has developed a set of materials to support local awareness raising and planning for transition. These are available at [Digital switchover hub | Local Government Association](#).

### 4.5 **Greater Manchester response**

4.5.1 Following a report on PSTN to the GM Wider Leadership Team, a Digital Voice Switch Over event was held in Salford in March 2023 with a broad range of stakeholders. It was followed by a PSTN Roundtable chaired by the GM Mayor and Cllr Nick Peel in June 2023 which convened a broad range of industry, housing, and public sector stakeholders to explore the opportunities and challenges of the switchover. These events highlighted the range of concerns reflected in this report and have led to this escalation to GMCA.

4.5.2 GMCA Digital has also been in discussions with the Scottish government and Greater London Authority to hear about their plans and approach to the switchover. Whilst Scotland is in an advanced position, catalysed by funding for a dedicated team and activity and Greater London regional authority is at the start of their thinking, what is clear are the concerns around impacts, resilience and a lack of

national coordination is a common theme for all authorities.

4.5.3 A GM PSTN Working Group is being convened in September to bring together key stakeholders. An initial focus will be BT's PSTN Regional Roadshow in October and maximising communication coordination and impact including:

- Identifying vulnerable groups and investigating how data can be shared through a data-sharing agreement to allow telecom providers to target these individuals.
- Potential for co-branding communication between industry and local authorities to reduce the risk of scams and anxiety related to the planned changes.
- Creating a toolkit of resources which can be shared with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness.
- Ensuring that no one will lose access to their phone service (or other devices using PSTN) and that the switch over will come at no additional costs to residents on lower incomes.

GMCA are engaged with the National Telecare Stakeholder Group to understand the national challenges and landscape around the telecare transition, the impacts on customers and telecare resilience. There is interest from industry in GM being a large-scale first mover on a more coordinated approach.

## 5 Summary and recommendations

5.1 The PSTN switchover will not significantly affect most homes and organisations, but there are significant risks for some of our most vulnerable people and a more coordinated approach is needed which gives people and organisations confidence and clarity of the process. Industry has been asked to lead this however it is fragmented. Whilst regional authority is not in a position to take ownership of the communications, regional and local governments have a role to play. However, there are barriers that can only be overcome at a governmental and national level.

5.2 Therefore, in addition to the activities outlined above it is recommended that:

- **GM presses government for more holistic coordination.** Given its likely impact on vulnerable people, on SMEs, and the lack of general awareness, there is a strong sense that the government needs to be taking a more active role at a national level with a more highly organised campaign working with industry.

- **GM's public organisations undertake PSTN health checks and encourage partner organisations to do so** if not already undertaken. Reviews will enable identification of lines and assess which use PSTN. Action can then be taken to switch over lines that are needed. Local authorities should also consider appointing a PSTN project lead to act as a key point of contact including engagement with industry. Budgets may need to be identified early to cover implementation costs and support coordination. It is recommended that PSTN is included in locality risk logs as a business continuity risk to support effective management. In addition, it is recommended that Local authorities engage with their social care and community providers to ensure that there is sufficient awareness of planned changes and action plans in place.
- **GM enhances regional and local communications.** It is proposed that GM works with industry and government to enhance communications and engagement with residents and businesses using existing channels, but that capacity for this is currently very limited.
- **GM collaborates to share information on vulnerable households with the major telecoms companies** where there is additional reliance on landlines and navigating the impacts and risks is a joint effort. GMCA and local authorities will work with industry to identify the people directly affected by the change but there should be a recognition that this will require resource to complete and this work is unfunded by government.

### 5.3 Recommendations

See top of the report.

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

**Date:** 29 September 2023  
**Subject:** Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024  
**Report of:** Andy Burnham Mayor of Greater Manchester and Councillor Tom Ross,  
 Portfolio Lead for the Green City-Region and Eamonn Boylan Lead Chief  
 Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM

### Purpose of the Report

To seek approval from the GMCA for the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) to 31 March 2024 and resources required to enable the plan to be progressed and delivered.

### Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024 (Annex A)
2. Approve the budget request this financial year (£207,758) to operationalize the plan (paragraph 3.5).
3. Approve the request to create new fixed terms posted funded through retained business rates (paragraph 3.2).
4. To agree that a minimum of £250k is allocated to the Integrated Water Management Plan from FY 24/25 retained business rates (Paragraph 3.6).

### Contact Officers:

[Eamonn Boylan](#) - Eamonn Boylan – Chief Executive Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) & Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)  
[Andrew Lightfoot](#) – GMCA Deputy Chief Executive  
[Simon Nokes](#) GMCA Executive Director of Policy and Strategy  
[Andrew McIntosh](#) – GMCA Place Director  
[Mark Atherton](#) – GMCA Environment Director

## Equalities Impact, Carbon, and Sustainability Assessment:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers						
<i>The assessment identifies positive impacts overall.</i>						
Impacts Questionnaire						
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation				
Equality and Inclusion	G	Many of Greater Manchester’s least affluent communities already live in areas at higher risk of flooding with poor water quality.				
Health	G	Nature based solutions will be prioritised where possible. This will create multifunctional green infrastructure - such as sustainable drainage system within walking and cycling routes. Risk from extreme weather and anxiety caused by flooding is a known cause of stress. Reducing this risk through action will have a positive impact. See question 1. See question 1. See question 1.				
Resilience and Adaptation	G	Assessments of risk and modelling of climate change indicates that risk and frequency of events are increasing. How we manage water is essential to resilience. See question 1 above. See question 1 above. Nature based solutions will be prioritised where possible. This will create multifunctional green infrastructure - such as sustainable drainage system within walking and cycling routes. A catchment scale approach will also be taken,				
Housing		Managing water - flood risk, drainage, green infrastructure and biodiversity netgain is a requirement of the statutory planning process and a new system of sustainable drainage standards will be introduced in 2024. The urban area will have to be retrofitted with new sustainable drainage systems, surface water diverted from the combined sewer and new property level protection measures installed.				
Economy	G					
Mobility and Connectivity						
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	Nature based solutions to address water issues can if installed close to roads improve air quality. Yes - one of the main aims of the plan is to reduce water pollution. Water management - and impacts such as flooding goes hand in hand with measures to improve water quality, reducing diffuse pollution and carbon emissions. Yes - retrofitting the urban environment to make space for water and use of nature based solutions can improve visual amenity. Natural Flood Measures - include tree planting and positive management of carbon sinks such as peat and can deliver a netgain for biodiversity. A sustainable drainage system that is multifunctional can count as a biodiversity netgain credit. Multifunctional green space can include land eg Salford flood basin or Sustainable Drainage Systems that are included within cycleways, roads, pavements, bus stops and new development. Natural Flood Measures - include tree planting and positive management of carbon sinks such as peat.				
Consumption and Production	G	The plan will include actions to raise awareness and promote the				
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Converting and developing the the existing drainage system in response to climate change will cost billions, and will generate carbon if a traditional grey engineering approach is followed. By making space for water carbon emissions can be reduced.				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #2e8b57; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.</td> <td style="background-color: #f1c232; padding: 5px;"><b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.</td> <td style="background-color: #c00000; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.</td> <td style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.</td> </tr> </table>			<b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.
<b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.			



Carbon Assessment		
Overall Score		
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential		This will be undertaken at the programme/project stage.
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance		No applicable
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport		Plan will aim to incorporate Nature Based Solutions (NBS) within the urban area.
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access		Will incorporate Nature Based Solutions within the urban area.
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land use		The focus is on the enhancing the creation of new greenspace and management of existing land to deliver improvements in the water environment. There will be opportunities but it's not known at this stage.
No associated carbon impacts expected.		High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.
		Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.
		Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.
		Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

## Risk Management

The collaboration agreement between the GMCA, Environment Agency and United Utilities will be extended to specific projects and an business plan will be taken to the GMCA on an annual basis and reviewed by Scrutiny Committee.

## Legal Considerations

The GMCA has the power under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 to take any steps which it considers likely to improve the “*economic, social or environmental well-being*” of the Greater Manchester area. On 24 September 2021 the GMCA approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the GMCA to create a strategic partnership to influence and deliver sustainable growth and development in Greater Manchester by improving flood resilience, enhancing the environment, driving circular economy approaches, and supporting regeneration. The GMCA agreed the Integrated Water Management Plan at the June 2023 meeting.

## Financial Consequences – Revenue

Paragraphs 3.1-3.5.

## Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no direct financial consequences to the GMCA.

**Number of attachments to the report:** One.

## Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

## Background Papers:

- [AGMA Budget Update 2022/23 and Budget 2023/24](#)
- [GMCA Retained Business Rates Update July 2022](#)
- [GMCA Retained Business Rates Update March 2023](#)
- [GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee March 2023](#). An investigation into the wider determinants of effective integrated water management in Greater Manchester.
- [Report to GMCA 26 May 2023](#). Subject: GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Report on Integrated Water Management.
- [Report to the GMCA 30 June 2023](#) Greater Manchester Integrated Water Management Plan

## 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

27 September 2023

# 1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1 [The Integrated Water Management Plan \(IWMP\)](#) was approved by the GMCA when it met on the 30 June and it was agreed that the funding and resource plan (Business Plan) should be submitted to the GMCA in September 2023.
- 1.2 The Integrated Water Management Plan is a joint Plan between the GMCA, the Environment Agency and United Utilities, it responds to the recommendations from the [GMCA Scrutiny Committee](#) to the GMCA in May 2023 and builds on the [memorandum of understanding between the parties agreed in 2021](#).
- 1.3 As the GMCA heard from the Chief Executives of the Environment Agency and United Utilities when in met in June, Greater Manchester is nationally leading on this agenda and a significant infrastructure investment programme is being developed by United Utilities that will benefit Greater Manchester.
- 1.4 The government has committed to several reforms nationally through the [Environmental Improvement Plan \(2023\)](#) and [Plan for Water \(2023\)](#) with Integrated Water Management reflected within the [devolution deal](#) agreed with government earlier this year which states that: “the government agrees that Greater Manchester will be a testbed to explore and develop options for how flood risk management, including other relevant adaptation activities, can best be addressed and accelerated at the local level. This could include:
  - a. Examining how adoption of an ecosystem services approach can deliver cobenefits for the economy and citizen health;
  - b. Sharing of best practice approaches and learning on integrated water management to inform government reforms to local flood risk management planning;
  - c. Piloting ‘revenue stacking’ and the blending of public, private and philanthropic finance to fund projects at scale; or
  - d. Early testing of proposals from any government strategies on these issues in development.

- 1.5 The Integrated Water Management Plan aims to create a paradigm shift in water management. The plan provides a vision for water management as it should be, with positive outcomes for people, place and environment considered as a whole. The paradigm shift needs a new way of funding and resourcing the appropriate capacity to deliver this ambition.

## **2. Business Plan**

- 2.1 The Integrated Water Management Plan, agreed by the GMCA in June 2023, includes seven workstreams:

- Workstream 1 - Living Integrated Opportunity Programme
- Workstream 2 - Digital Platform
- Workstream 3 - Adaptive Policies and Standards
- Workstream 4 - The Partnership
- Workstream 5 - Skills and Resources
- Workstream 6 - Integrated Investment Plan
- Workstream 7 – Marketing and Engagement

- 2.2 Following on from the GMCA approval, a more detailed Business Plan has been developed to identify the components of the Plan that will be delivered by 31 March 2024 and the resources required. An annual progress report and business plan for FY 24/25 will be presented to the GMCA when it meets in March 2024.

- 2.3 The main outputs that will be delivered by March 2024 are:

1. Establishment of the Integrated Water Management Team, implementation of team culture and charter and sharing of resources across GMCA, EA and UU.
2. Further development of the living integrated opportunity programme (projects and interventions within geographical locations and catchments).
3. Identification and progression (from concept to business cases) of the first tranche of geographical clusters to demonstrate the impact and delivery of better outcomes.

4. Confirmation of the skills and graduate/apprenticeship programmes across the CA, UU, and EA for integrated water management to commence in September 2024.
5. Review of the existing GMCA governance structures to strengthen accountability, scrutiny and provide clarity of responsibility in accordance with the principles for good governance (attributes for integrated water management – Annex B)).
6. Establishment of the partnership board in accordance with the governance framework (output 5 above).
7. A communication and engagement plan outlining who will be engaged, when and how during 2023-24.

2.4 The Business Plan details the roles required and an interim Integrated Water Management Plan Team has been established. United Utilities will deploy additional resources (FTEs) following a recruitment exercise this summer and a restructure this autumn. Additional resources (FTEs) are being provided by the Environment Agency and external consultancy support will be utilised until the end of September 2023 and March 2024 (senior analyst only).

2.5 The team can't operate or deliver in isolation; successful delivery of the business plan will rely on interdependencies between various teams across the GMCA, the Local Authorities and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the GMCA is seeking support from the Greater Manchester system to ensure successful delivery.

### **3. Budget**

3.1 The GMCA has allocated £330,000 ([from Retained Business Rates](#)) to address flood risk and integrated water management over the period April 2022 – March 2024 (£80,000 carried over from 2022 with £250,000 allocated from 2024-24). It is forecast that £119,000 of this budget will be spent on external consultancy support up to March 2024 (as specialist capacity within the GMCA and Local Authorities does not exist).

3.2 The following new posts within the GMCA are required to match the commitment from the Environment Agency and United Utilities to deliver the Plan:

- 1x project lead (Grade 9)
- 1x analyst (Grade 7-8)
- 1x support/project officer (Grade 6-7)
- 1x apprenticeship/graduate to rotate with EA and UU graduates (Grade 4)

3.3 The proposed posts are fixed term for 2 years to attract appropriately skilled people into the roles and to recognize the longer term nature of the approach. The intention is to extend these to align with United Utilities next investment cycle (2025-30) and the Environment Agency 2021-27.

3.4 An equal contribution to a 1x programme manager (post shared with UU and EA) - (£22,000) is also required

3.5 The total budget request this financial year is therefore £207,758 (which can be fully funded from the existing budget). There will continue to be need for funding in future years, including an allowance to commission technical studies and business cases, where required, and the budget will be reviewed annually as the partnership grows and the work programme and delivery increase. The annual business plan reporting will be through the GMCA (next scheduled – March 2024). Development of the annual business plan from April 2023 will commence in October 2023.

3.6 As 2 year fixed term posts are proposed to be created to operationalize the team, there is a need to agree the availability of funding from next years Retained Business Rates allocation to ensure sufficient funding is available to make appointments into the roles. The CA is therefore being requested to agree a minimum of £250k is allocated to the Integrated Water Management Plan from FY 24/25 retained business rates.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024 (Annex A)
2. Approve the allocation of the existing budget required to operationalize the plan and approve the budget required from next financial years retained business rates to fund the fixed term posts being created.
3. Approve the request to create new fixed terms posted funded through retained business rates.

**ANNEX A – The draft Business Plan to March 2024**

Plan attached separately.



## ANNEX B – Good governance attributes

The key governance attributes for integrated water management from the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) are:

1. Defined **roles and responsibilities**.
2. Manage water intervention at **appropriate geographical scale** in Greater Manchester
3. **Policy coherence** across water and other sectors; housing, transport etc.
4. Resource **commitment across organisations**
5. **Data and information** integration to prioritize a plan.
6. **Mobilize water finance** and allocate financial resources.
7. **Influence** on future investment programmes
8. **Alignment of governance practices** within organisations/regulatory boundaries
9. Level of **accountability** to decision-making
10. Level of **Partner/Stakeholder engagement and participation** in the implementation of an IWMP
11. The **partnership enables wider participation in IWMP**, to enable wider social & ecological benefit.
12. **Monitoring and evaluation of metrics** specific to the IWM (Performance Monitoring)
13. Arrangement and **contribution of co-funding**

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Water 

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52023-2024

# Integrated Water Management Annual Business Plan



**Document Control Sheet**  
**Integrated Water Management**  
 Annual Business Plan

Revision No	Date	Description/Amendment	Prepared by (Author) Programme Manager	Checked by BCM	Reviewed by SRO
01	13/7/23	First draft for Trilateral Meeting	Michael Holme	David Hodcroft/Helen Telfer/Dee Grahamslaw	
02	23/08/23	Second draft for Trilateral Board Review	Dee Grahamslaw	David Hodcroft/ Helen Telfer	

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- 2. Workstream Action Tables ..... 3
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- APPENDIX A: Financial Requirements for 2023/24**
- APPENDIX B: Resource Commitments by IWMP Role**

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# 1. Objective and Outcomes



1. **Objective and Outcomes to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Building on the IWMP (June 2023), the objective for this financial year is to mature the partnership and operationalise the plan through further development of the seven workstreams and associated actions set out in Section 2 of this document. Recognising that the workstreams within the plan cannot work in isolation from each other a detailed programme of work has been developed which is owned by the three Business Change Managers, this includes key actions that will require signoff at the appropriate trilateral Director meetings, including;

<b>Trilateral Meeting</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Associated Workstream</b>
25 <sup>th</sup> Sep '23	Establish Partnership charter, behaviors and ways of working including escalation procedures.	WS4
	Initial Business Plan focus for 24/25	N/A
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct '23	Proposal for grad/apprentices across the Partnership and sharing of resources	WS5
	Digital requirements plan, short term requirements and longer-term ambitions	WS2
	Update on Collaborative Agreement and Funding approach	WS4
20 <sup>th</sup> Nov '23	Update on gap analysis and statement of needs for further engagement academia and HE/Schools	WS5
14 <sup>th</sup> Dec '23	Recommend good practices and changes on the policies and standards identified for enhancement	WS3
	Communication and engagement plan outlining who will be engaged, when and how during 2023-24	WS7
	Confirm appointment of key roles	WS1
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan '24	Investment portfolio brochure	WS7
	Sign off metrics that support the Objectives within the IWMP	WS3
TBC Feb '24	Share draft Digital Platform and reporting requirements	WS2
TBC Mar '24	Programme of all potential living integrated opportunities programme (projects and interventions)	WS1
	Lesson learnt from testing the LIOP process	WS1

The main outputs that will be delivered by March 2024 are:

- Establishment of the Integrated Water Management Team, implementation of team culture and charter and sharing of resources across GMCA, EA and UU.
- Further development of the living integrated opportunity programme (projects and interventions within geographical locations and catchments).
- Identification and progression (from concept to business cases) of the first tranche of geographical clusters to demonstrate the impact and delivery of better outcomes.
- Confirmation of the skills and graduate/apprenticeship programmes across the CA, UU, and EA for integrated water management to commence in September 2024.
- Review of the existing governance structures to strengthen accountability, scrutiny and provide clarity of responsibility in accordance with the principles for good governance
- Establishment of the partnership board in accordance with the governance framework (output 5 above).
- A communication and engagement plan outlining who will be engaged, when and how during 2023-24.
- The key outcome for March '24 will be the development of the the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme workstream. This will be tested, evolved and embedded with the creation of a live programme and resources in place to support. This output underpins the success of the other workstreams and supports the ambitions and objectives set out within the IWMP.





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# 2. Workstream Action Tables

## 2. Workstream Action Tables

### WORKSTREAM 1 – The Living Integrated Opportunity Programme

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
Sharing of opportunity data across partners and stakeholders	Several water data sets have been shared	Further data identified to be collected. Protocol to gain regular updates to be developed along with the collation of data opportunities from wider stakeholders (ad-hoc)	Oct 23
Analysis of data to identify potential opportunities across partners	Evaluation undertaken of current data sets to identify the early potential for opportunity integration	Further and more detailed analysis required, including with wider data sets to provide the starting point to evaluate the potential to integrate opportunities  Regular updates of analysis undertaken manually until tool ready to automatically analyse	Jul 23 (ongoing to Oct 23).
Develop roles, resourcing requirements and appoint resources in data analysis, opportunity evaluation and brokering	Role outlines developed and likely resource requirements scoped	Review, update and agree across partnership. Pre-mortem roles and how they interact with partners and projects, amending as appropriate, prior to advertising and appointing. Agree where roles sit, how they are funded and assign level of authority	Aug 23
		Appoint to role	Dec 23
Establish a process to support and facilitate the delivery of the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme	Draft high level process created outlining way of working and components, including what, why, how and performance metrics required for reporting to the partnership and board	Test, evolve and embed the process and its application on opportunities identified across partners to integrate opportunities and commence forming the programme which will grow overtime. Connected with new roles identified above.	Mar 24
Build the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme and track its progress and maturity of integrated opportunities.	Early quick wins have been identified that would form part of the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme	Commence the building of the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme. Create a live programme of opportunities and track progress of integration and value created. Identify missed opportunities, to learn from	Mar 24

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## WORKSTREAM 2 – Digital Platform

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
Create and sign up to data sharing agreement	Started and shortly due to finalise the first Collaborative Agreement	Explore existing agreements developed by each partner and their capacity to be refined to support a collaborative and efficient data sharing approach. This includes who and what data will be shared as the IWMP becomes more visible and opportunities to collaborate are published and stakeholders share their opportunities	Sep 23
Define existing digital tools and how they may be used	Started to review tools and how they may be used	Deeper exploration of the capacity of these tools to be shared and their roadmap for future development	July 23
Define the data mapping & needs to enable the Living Integrated Opportunity Programme	Started through engagement to define requirements of the platform	Building on initial understanding, confirm the data assets held and managed by each partner. Outline the immediate data needs that could support near future collaboration. Outline the staged future needs.	Aug 23
Develop the delivery plan: Digital Tools Journey and scoping – All Needs	Started by capturing the short and longer term requirements from partners and mapping this out	Understand and capture the high-level digital needs for all phases and use cases. Develop a clear plan for delivery that enables short term requirements and longer- term ambitions.	Oct 23
Digital Capacity & Capability	Started by conducting partner interviews and formulating a recommendation paper	Understand the partners digital capabilities, capacities and future investment/ commitments to support the ongoing digital platform	Aug 23
Develop the initial platform including data structure to enable the Living Integrated Opportunities Programme to be managed and be visible to partners.	A platform to enable visibility and analysis scoped at a high level. High level scoping of attributes completed, and requirements of the platform	Develop the platform. Confirm the user interface requirements and reporting requirements. More detailed structure to be developed and evaluated including the value it brings and the implications for partners and stakeholders	Mar 24

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**WORKSTREAM 3 -Adaptive Policies and Standards**

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
Identify shortlist of local/regional policies and strategies into which IWM can be integrated (gap analysis)	Policies and Standards identified to date have been mapped to identify potential opportunities for enhancement	Identify policy and standards to which modifications will bring the greatest benefit to the management of water in the region	Sep 23
Identify key stakeholders behind policies to be included in the engagement plan	Policies and Standards identified to date have identified owners	Engage with the Policy and/or standard custodians, as part of wider engagement plan	Oct 23
Recommend good practices and changes on the policies and standards identified for enhancement	Not started	Identify good practice where policy could be adapted and updated, with recommendations for change. Review across partners and stakeholders and evolve recommendations	Dec 23
Use the identified policies and standards to influence our own objectives and metrics	Metrics from within policies have been identified through the analysis undertaken in PowerBi	Identify the connections between existing metrics and the objectives of IWM to be able to measure the success of the IWMP.  Develop new metrics where existing metrics are not appropriate	Jan 24  Feb 24

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## WORKSTREAM 4 – The Partnership

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
Sharing of resource across the organisations	Started – weekly colocation between GMCA, UU and the Environment Agency	<p>Define requirement, undertake gap analysis and develop additional roles and responsibilities aligned to workstreams. Identify wider skills required to support IWMP delivery.</p> <p>Undertake knowledge sharing between EA, UU and GMCA to providing an understanding of how each operates and allocates projects and funding</p>	<p>Jul 23</p> <p>Sep 23</p>
Behaviours and culture - create an independent and inclusive culture which enables stakeholders across the Greater Manchester to work together	Started through engagement with the OD & Culture Team to develop a proposal to support the partnership in achieving their goals– workshop planned	<p>Resource support to develop a set of values within the Partnership that everyone agrees to lead on and commit to demonstrating the right behaviours aligned with the values.</p> <p>Define and agree to how members will work together, clarify and seek agreement to responsibilities.</p> <p>Develop a process to manage conflict or disagreements about roles and responsibilities</p>	Sep 23
Develop a collaborative agreement for the Implementation Phase	Collaborative agreement has been drafted for the initial work	To be drafted based on the “development” phase collaborative agreement and to reflect the on-going commitment to work together	Oct 23
Governance Framework to create the structure required to bring together the collective vision, objectives and delivery programme	Review of existing groups and networks has started, developed draft Terms of Reference for the delivery network	Cross-organisational decision-making principles and mindset of the partnership to consider integrated opportunities individually within a wider strategic context, with outputs documented within the annual business plan.	Aug 23
Grow the partnership beyond GMCA, UU and the Environment Agency	Agreed the ambition to extend beyond the 3 organisations a set an ambition to be a multi sector partnership by 2030	Engage with TfGM and others to draw them into the IWMP, grow participation in data sharing and discussions around integrating opportunities	Mar 24
Shared funding pool	Initial phase of work has been co-funded equally	Process established through the Collaborative Agreement to detail requirements and processes for a shared funding approach	Oct 23

**WORKSTREAM 5 - Skills and Resources**

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
High-level Skills and Training Discovery Phase	Ongoing	Scope more comprehensive discovery within the Trilateral Partners	Jun 23
		Analyse outcomes, undertake gap analysis and prepare proposal and business case for sharing resources	Oct 23
		Internal training and mentoring, by sharing of key learning and material across partners and stakeholders to enable them to be allies and be more aligned	Feb 24
		Engagement with supply chain to make clear the future and provide an opportunity for alignment of their own skill/capacity development	Apr 24
Engage with Academia	Not Started	Undertake gap analysis and prepare statement of needs for further engagement	Nov 23
Engage with Higher Education and Schools	Not Started	Undertake gap analysis and prepare statement of needs for further engagement	Nov 23
Plan for general knowledge sharing across partners, stakeholders, and supply chain	Not Started	Identify and implement sustainable delivery mechanism amongst those involved	Dec 23

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**WORKSTREAM 6 – Integrated Investment Plan**

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
Develop a list of funding options	Started (via the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC))	Build on the existing RFCC work and best practice elsewhere to develop a comprehensive funding menu for IWM including opportunities for green finance.	Sep 24
Map Business Planning Cycles	Started in Phase 1 of the IWMP	Add funding cycles captured in the funding options list	Oct 23
Collate exemplar funding applications as part of a materials reference library	Not Started	Engage with Partners and Stakeholders to identify suitable exemplar material and the range of material that would form part of the library	Nov 23

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**WORKSTREAM 7 – Marketing and Engagement**

Action	Progress	Next Step	Complete by
Internal Engagement and Communication Plan	Started	Develop a strategy for internal engagement and communication that ensures multi-level awareness and advocacy of the IWMP and its ambitions, including provision of tools and information that can be shared by all involved and not directly involved in the IWMP	Oct 23
Communication Website	Started	Web space started using the GMCA site. To be updated as more information from the plan is made available	Oct 23
External Engagement and Communication Plan	Not Started	Develop plan for thought leadership and knowledge exchange across the sector	Dec 23
Investment portfolio brochure	Started (Phase 1)	Discovery exercise on what a Greater Manchester specific Investment portfolio should include, ensuring that it is targeted around the growth opportunities and water management challenges that exist	Jan 24

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### **3. Resource and Financial commitment**



### 3. Resource and Financial commitment

IWMP Resource	Roles	FTE Requirement			
		GMCA	EA	UU	Co-Funded
Director (SRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct the vision, programme strategy, business case</li> <li>Release annual funding agreed in Annual Business Plan to BCM</li> <li>Agree IWM approach including the programme strategy</li> <li>Approval of documents associated with the IWM workstreams</li> <li>Monitoring of programme performance, delivery of new capabilities and realisation of outcomes</li> <li>Make decisions regarding high impact IWM risks</li> </ul>	½ a day month	½ a day month	½ a day month	
Business Change Manager (some of these tasks will differ within organisations and will be assigned to a project lead)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides single point of contact for the IWMP for respective organisation</li> <li>Identifying and supporting funding and project integration opportunities (brokering)</li> <li>Identify opportunities and feed into the IWM Programme</li> <li>Implementing the IWMP vision and strategy within respective partner organisation</li> <li>Conducts an annual review and revision of the IMWP to inform the Annual Business Plan</li> <li>Regularly engaging and soliciting feedback from internal and external stakeholders</li> <li>Planning and delivering specific business change activities (people, process and systems) relating to the workstreams</li> <li>Identifying risks and issues that relate specifically to the ability of the organisations to adopt changed ways of working, understanding and aligned and integration to existing policies or where there is a short fall in resources to deliver</li> <li>Agreeing leading metrics to provide information of the success of the IWMP to achieve the objectives (working other strategies e.g LNRS)</li> <li>Co-ordinate the development and update of the Collaboration Agreement with support from Commercial and Legal</li> <li>Facilitating and co-ordinating resource input</li> <li>Scrutiny/governance of the work undertaking by the IWM Programme team</li> </ul>	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Programme Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and maintain the living integrated opportunity delivery pipeline, monitoring actual progress to date and forecasting progress on future programmes</li> <li>Accountable for all the workstreams being delivered</li> <li>Defining and maintaining a budgets, monitoring actual and forecast costs</li> <li>Delegation of activities/deliverables to appropriate person</li> <li>Monitoring and reporting overall performance against the IWMP and progress against objectives, including engagement, risk and benefit realisation</li> <li>Identifying and resolving programme level issues</li> <li>Identifying and delegating project level issues to the appropriate Project Lead</li> <li>Identifying and escalating IWMP issues to the BCMS</li> <li>Development of the Annual Business Plan</li> </ul>				1.0

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IWMP Resource	Roles	FTE Requirement			
		GMCA	EA	UU	Co-Funded
Support Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Programme Manager with keeping the delivery of IWMP on track</li> <li>Support the Business Change Managers within the LIOP process</li> <li>Maintaining IWM webpage and keeping it up to date with the latest documentation</li> <li>Setting and issuing agendas</li> <li>Meeting co-ordination and general admin tasks</li> </ul>	1.0			
Project Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop business case for integrated projects</li> <li>Deliver projects (e.g., UU and EA Capital Programmes, Brownfield Housing Fund, Irwell IWM strategy etc)</li> <li>Project performance reporting to IWM</li> <li>Manage project level risks and opportunities</li> <li>Liaison with other partner organisations</li> <li>Implementation support to the Local Authorities</li> <li>Learn lessons from integrated delivery and advise BCM on operational processes</li> </ul>	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Data Analyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis of spatial data through the appropriate mapping software and determining the best way to represent it visually to the IWM team and stakeholders</li> <li>Identify and obtain additional (or new) datasets that could be used to support analyses and keep up to date</li> <li>Quality assurance and process documentation of the data sources</li> <li>Managing a digital library of geographic programme data in various file types</li> <li>Create new spatial data sets by geographically representing data, as well as through digitising spatial information for use in geo-spatial analyses</li> <li>Prioritise the data and develop routines to create integrated opportunities against pre-defined objectives</li> <li>Produce maps that will inform the IWM team and stakeholders by overlapping various datasets</li> <li>Run queries</li> <li>Produce reports/ slide pack visuals</li> </ul>			1.0	1.0 (funded until 31/3/24)
Digital Lead	Adhoc support from Partners - further developed through Workstream activities				
Communication Lead	Adhoc support from Partners - further developed through Workstream activities				
Commercial and Legal	Adhoc support from Partners - further developed through Workstream activities				
Skills (HR) Lead	Adhoc support from Partners - further developed through Workstream activities				

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IWMP Resource	Roles	FTE Requirement			
		GMCA	EA	UU	Co-Funded
Total		3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

## Appendix A: Financial Requirements for 2023/24

Item	GMCA	EA	UU	Other Source	LBE Total
IWMP Development (Phase 2)	£56,533	£56,533	£56,533	£15,000 (RFCC)	£184,600
Programme Manager (Oct '23 – Mar '24)	£11,166	£11,166	£11,166	£0	£33,500
Digital Platform Design and Build	£0	£0	£0	£45,000 (Ofwat fund?)	£45,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£67,699</b>	<b>£67,699</b>	<b>£67,699</b>	<b>£60,000</b>	<b>£263,100</b>

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## Appendix B: Resource Commitments by IWMP Role

IWMP Role	Full Time Equivalent	Average Salary (Glassdoor.co.uk)	Resource Commitment
Programme Manager	1.0	£66,308	£66,308
Business Change Manager	3.0	£60,507	£181,521
Project Lead	3.0	£59,109	£177,327
Data Analyst	1.0	£38,117	£38,117
Support Officer	1.0	£31,536	£31,536
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.0</b>		<b>£494,809</b>

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# Enhancing Life through Water



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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: Friday 29 September 2023

Subject: Delivering the Bee Network: Acquisition of Bus Depots to support Bus Franchising

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Portfolio Lead for Transport and Eammon Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM.

---

### Purpose of Report

This report provides an update on the acquisition of Bus Depots to support Bus Franchising and seeks authorisation for procedural changes in the acquisition of the bus depots required to support Tranches 2 and 3 of the GM Bus Franchising Scheme.

### Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the procedural changes for depot acquisition for Tranches 2 and 3 in order to streamline the acquisition and leasing of depots.
2. Note the changes to the decisions and delegations from the September 2022 GMCA set out in the Appendix.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, TfGM and GMCA to agree the final terms of leases of bus depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements to existing operators and the franchise depot leases to be granted to the franchise bus operators for Tranches 2 and 3.
4. Delegate to TfGM the authority to manage, maintain and insure all of the bus depots on behalf of GMCA in accordance with the terms of an agreed Protocol between GMCA and TfGM referred to in earlier reports to the GMCA.
5. Delegate authority to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the terms of any agreement between the GMCA and TfGM to bring Tranche 1 leases in line with Tranches 2 and 3.

## Contact Officers

Steve Warrener	Managing Director, TfGM	<a href="mailto:steve.warrener@tfgm.com">steve.warrener@tfgm.com</a>
Jacqueline Elliot	Head of Legal, TfGM	<a href="mailto:jacqueline.elliott@tfgm.com">jacqueline.elliott@tfgm.com</a>

## Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

N/A

## Risk Management

The revised acquisition strategy will mitigate challenges as set out within the report.

## Legal Considerations

As set out within the body of the report.

## Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

## Financial Consequences – Capital

None

**Number of attachments to the report:** None

## Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

## Background Papers

- GMCA Report – The Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021 - Implementation and Operation – Friday 28th May 2021.
- GMCA Report – Bus Franchising – Land Acquisition – Friday 25th June 2021
- GMCA Report – Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Fares, Zero Emission Buses, Bus Depots and CRSTS - Friday 29th July 2023
- GMCA Report – Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Network Stabilisation, Bus Fares, Our Pass, Franchising and Depots – Friday 30th September 2022

## Tracking/ Process

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

No.

### **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No.

### **Bee Network Committee**

N/A

## **1. Background**

- 1.1. Greater Manchester's move to bus franchising provides the mechanism to deliver transformational change in bus service delivery. This all builds towards delivering the Bee Network, an integrated 'London-style', high patronage, low fare, transport system, which will transform the way people travel across the city region.
- 1.2. This report seeks to change the existing delegations (attached as an Appendix) for the acquisition of the existing GM Bus Depots in respect of Tranches 2 and 3 of the GM Bus Franchising Scheme.

## **2. Proposals**

- 2.1. At a meeting of the GMCA in September 2022 a decision was made in respect of the process for acquiring the existing Greater Manchester bus depots for the purpose of the GM Bus Franchising Scheme. As Franchise Authority pursuant to the Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Bus Services Act 2017), GMCA would acquire the depots and enter into a full repairing and insuring lease of 150 years at a nominal (£1) annual rent with TfGM, as GMCA's executive body. TfGM would sublease the depots to each individual franchise operator as required by the respective franchise agreement. Delegations were authorised by GMCA to reflect these depot leasing arrangements.
- 2.2. Tranche 1 depots in Wigan and Bolton have been acquired under this leasing structure and a number of complications have come to light during the process, namely:
  - 2.2.1. Some of the existing depots are leasehold, rather than freehold as envisaged and the leases under which the depots are held have restrictions on subleasing which has caused difficulty, as approval from the superior landlord is required and they require a market rent to be charged rather than the agreed nominal rent. Charging a market rent to TfGM results in stamp duty land tax being payable on both transactions;

- 2.2.2. The operators who sell the depots require an interim leaseback to enable them to continue to operate commercially from the depot until the commencement of bus franchising for that area. They want to obtain sale and leaseback tax relief which can only apply where the seller and purchaser are the same party for both transactions. Therefore, TfGM cannot grant the interim leaseback as it is not the acquiring party. GMCA must grant the interim leaseback and only then grant the longer lease to TfGM to effectively make TfGM the operator's direct landlord making the transaction more complex and expensive to undertake;
  - 2.2.3. TfGM require a land interest in the depots in order to allow them to reclaim Value Added tax on their operational costs; and
  - 2.2.4. GMCA are subjected to additional accounting duties that are purely administrative in nature and potentially increase risk to the organisation for no apparent gain.
- 2.3. The above is inefficient both in terms of tax and administration. The administration is doubled requiring a larger number of legal documents. The pressures and complexities of the Bus Franchising programme, alongside broader operational interdependencies to each Tranche start date, such as fleet and electrification works, are such that an agile and streamlined process by which to expedite transactions and management is crucial.
- 2.4. The day-to-day operation of Bus Franchising by TfGM will be governed by an agreed Protocol as approved by the GMCA and this once drafted will include reference to depots.
- 2.5. It is therefore recommended that for Tranches 2 and 3, TfGM use their operational powers to acquire the depots for the purpose of operating Bus Franchising, directly from the operators subject to the approval of the terms by the Chief Executive Officer GMCA and TfGM. Future use or disposal of the depots should they become surplus to requirements for Bus Franchising would be referred back to the GMCA for decision.
- 2.6. The change would have no effect on the operation of Bus Franchising or the connected Depot Strategy nor the level of influence that the GMCA would have with regard to decisions relating to Bus Franchising or future use of depots.

## **Appendix – Existing Delegations**

**Friday 29th July 2022**

### **Subject: Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Fares, Zero Emission Buses, Bus Depots and CRSTS – Part B Report**

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Portfolio Lead for Transport and Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM.

Purpose of Report: To provide members with further details regarding the costs and financial and commercial agreements for the Zero Emission Bus Programme and the acquisition of bus depots for Bus Franchising.

Recommendations: The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the reallocation of £8m of funds, previously allocated, in accordance with the agreed Franchising Depot Strategy for the purchase of the existing Stockport Bus Depot, to fund the design and construction of a new Stockport Bus depot;
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Chief Executive of Stockport MBC, to put in place the necessary arrangements, in accordance with the DfT ZEBRA funding to design and construct a new bus depot in Stockport;
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to procure an initial, 50 Zero Emission Buses for deployment within Tranche 1 of bus franchising, funded by up to £30 million from GMCA's City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement, via a direct award to Alexander Dennis Limited (ADL) using the Crown Commercial Services national framework RM6060;
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor, to negotiate with Rotala, Stagecoach, Arriva, Go North West and First Group to acquire their depots for Tranche 1 - and for future tranches - of bus franchising within overall agreed budgets for bus franchising;
5. Delegate to TfGM the authority to agree the best commercial terms in consultation with the GMCA Treasurer;

6. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA and TfGM to agree the final terms of all necessary agreements for the purchase of the depots; and
7. Delegate authority to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to complete and execute all necessary legal agreements

### **Friday 30th September 2022**

#### **Subject: Delivering the Bee Network: Bus Network Stabilisation, Bus Fares, Our Pass, Franchising and Depots**

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Portfolio Lead for Transport and Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM.

**Purpose of Report** This report provides an update to GMCA on progress to deliver a number of key elements of the Bee Network including bus fares, fleet and depots. The report also requests a number of delegations to officers to agree bus depot leasing arrangements in support of bus franchising, and delegation to TfGM to manage, maintain and insure those bus depots on behalf of GMCA.

**Recommendations:** The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note the progress made towards delivering the Bee Network.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, TfGM and GMCA to agree the final terms of leases of bus depots to be granted to TfGM and the terms of all subleases of the depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements to existing operators and the franchise depot subleases to be granted to the franchise bus operators.
3. Delegate authority to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to complete and execute all leases of bus depots to be granted to TfGM.
4. Delegate to Chief Executive Officer, TfGM and GMCA, the authority to manage, maintain and insure the bus depots on behalf of GMCA by way of lease of the bus depots granted by GMCA to TfGM.

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29 September 2023

Subject: Annual Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23

Report of: Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and Steve Wilson,  
Treasurer

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### Purpose of Report

The Combined Authority is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23. This report meets the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).

During 2022/23 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Authority should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year
- a mid-year, (minimum), treasury update report
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report)

The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Authority's policies previously approved by Members.

This Authority confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by the Audit Committee before they were reported to the full Authority. Member training on treasury management issues was undertaken during the year on 22 June 2022 in order to support Members' scrutiny role.

## **Recommendations:**

The Authority is requested to:

- a) Approve the report.

## **Contact Officers**

Steve Wilson

Treasurer

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

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

N/A

## **Risk Management**

There are considerable risks to the security of the GMCA's resources if appropriate Treasury Management strategies and policies are not adopted and followed. The GMCA has established good practice in relation to Treasury Management.

## **Legal Considerations**

This report fulfils the statutory requirements to have the necessary prudential indicators to be included in a Treasury Management Strategy.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

Financial revenue consequences are contained within the body of the report.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

Financial capital consequences are contained within the body of the report.

**Number of attachments to the report:**

None

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

N/A.

**Background Papers**

Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23, GMCA 11 February 2022

**Tracking/ Process**

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

No

**Exemption from call in**

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

**GM Transport Committee**

N/A

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

N/A

# Annual Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23

## 1. Introduction and Background

1.1 This report summarises the following:

- a) Capital activity during the year;
- b) Impact of this activity on the Authority's underlying indebtedness, (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- c) The actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- d) Overall treasury position identifying how the Authority has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- e) Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- f) Detailed debt activity; and
- g) Detailed investment activity.

## 2. The Authority's Capital Expenditure and Financing

2.1 The Authority undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- a) Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Authority's borrowing need; or
- b) If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

2.2 The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed.

£m	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
	Actual	Budget	Actual
<b>Capital expenditure</b>	<b>526.924</b>	<b>438.555</b>	<b>433.390</b>
Financed in year	(429.011)	(265.058)	(358.800)
<b>Unfinanced capital expenditure</b>	<b>97.912</b>	<b>173.497</b>	<b>74.590</b>

### 3. The Authority's Overall Borrowing Need

- 3.1 The Authority's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Authority's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Authority and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2022/23 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 3.2 Part of the Authority's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Authority's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies, (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB], or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Authority.
- 3.3 **Reducing the CFR** – the Authority's underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Authority is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the borrowing need. This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.
- 3.4 The total CFR can also be reduced by:
- a) the application of additional capital financing resources, (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
  - b) charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).
- 3.5 The Authority's 2022/23 MRP Policy, (as required by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Guidance), was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2022/23 on 11 February 2022.

3.6 The Authority's CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Authority's borrowing need. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

CFR (£m)	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Budget	2022/23 Actual
Opening balance	2,345.059	2,404.273	2,360.238
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	97.912	173.497	74.590
Less MRP/VRP and other repayments	(82.734)	(97.481)	(88.855)
Closing balance	2,360.238	2,480.289	2,345.973

3.7 Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for gross borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

3.8 **Gross borrowing and the CFR** - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Authority should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2022/23) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2023/24) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Authority is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Authority some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2022/23. The table below highlights the Authority's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Authority has complied with this prudential indicator.

£m	2021/22	2022/23	2022/23
	Actual	Budget	Actual
Gross borrowing position (including PFI liability)	1,466.667	1,421.681	1,452.072
CFR	2,360.238	2,480.289	2,345.973
(Under) / over funding of CFR	(893.571)	(1,058.608)	(893.901)

- 3.9 **The authorised limit** - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Authority does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2022/23 the Authority has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.
- 3.10 **The operational boundary** – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Authority during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.
- 3.11 **Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream** - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

	2022/23
Authorised limit	£2,773.153m
Maximum gross borrowing position during the year	£1,457.954m
Operational boundary	£2,647.101m
Average gross borrowing position	£1,429.395m
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	9.2%

## 4. Treasury Position as at 31 March 2023

4.1 The Authority's treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through Member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Authority's Treasury Management Practices. At the end of 2022/23 the Authority's treasury position was as follows:

<b>DEBT PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>31 March 2022 Principal</b>	<b>Rate/ Return</b>	<b>Average Life yrs</b>	<b>31 March 2023 Principal</b>	<b>Rate/ Return</b>	<b>Average Life yrs</b>
PWLB	£546.199m	4.64%	16	£527.601m	4.71%	15
Market	£859.419m	2.81%	20	£847.526m	2.85%	19
Temporary	£20.291m	0.00%	0	£40.269m	0.00%	0
<b>Total external borrowings</b>	<b>£1,425.909m</b>	<b>3.51%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>£1,415.396m</b>	<b>3.46%</b>	<b>17</b>
PFI liability	£40.759m			£36.676m		
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>£1,466.667m</b>			<b>£1,452.072m</b>		
<b>CFR</b>	<b>£2,360.238m</b>			<b>£2,345.973m</b>		
<b>Over / (under) borrowing</b>	<b>(£893.571m)</b>			<b>(£893.901m)</b>		
<b>Total cash and investments</b>	<b>£244.934m</b>	<b>0.28%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£246.710m</b>	<b>4.10%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net debt</b>	<b>(£648.583m)</b>			<b>(£647.191m)</b>		



4.2 The maturity structure of the external debt portfolio was as follows:

<b>£m</b>	<b>2021/22 actual</b>	<b>2022/23 actual</b>
Under 12 months	£87.175m	£113.952m
12 months and within 24 months	£38.696m	£46.477m
24 months and within 5 years	£143.177m	£152.791m
5 years and within 10 years	£378.592m	£362.219m
10 years and within 20 years	£457.099m	£480.302m
20 years and within 30 years	£161.993m	£102.979m
30 years and within 40 years	£69.176m	£66.676m
40 years and within 50 years	£90.000m	£90.000m

4.3 The maturity structure of the investment portfolio was as follows:

<b>INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>31 March 2022 Actual £m</b>	<b>31 March 2022 Actual %</b>	<b>31 March 2023 Actual £m</b>	<b>31 March 2023 Actual %</b>
<b>Treasury Investments</b>				
Banks	13.358	5.4%	9.550	3.8%
Local authorities	171.000	69.6%	85.000	33.7%
DMADF (HM Treasury)	61.300	25.0%	157.740	62.5%
<b>TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>245.658</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>252.290</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Non-Treasury Investments</b>				
Third Party Loans	217.387	84.2%	218.864	83.8%
Equity	40.766	15.8%	42.286	16.2%
<b>TOTAL NON-TREASURY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>258.153</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>261.150</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Treasury Investments	245.658	48.8%	252.290	49.1%
Non-Treasury Investments	258.153	51.2%	261.150	50.9%
<b>TOTAL OF ALL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>503.811</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>513.440</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

4.4 The treasury investments held as at 31 March 2023 compared to our counterparty list are as below:

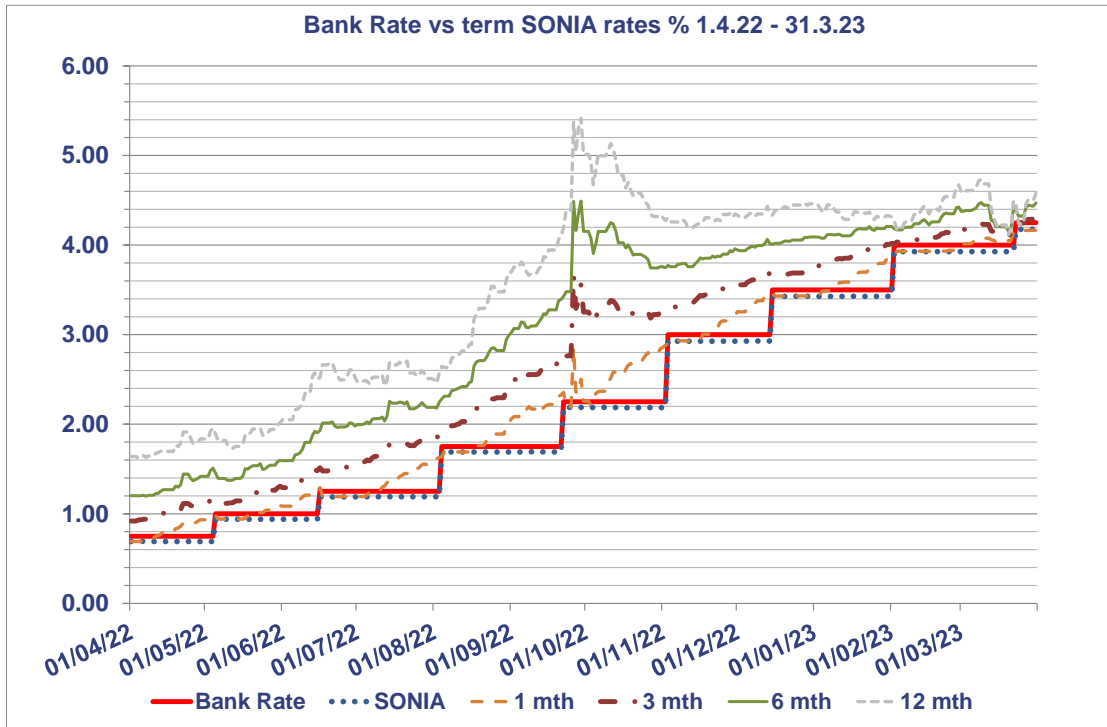
Borrower	Principal	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT/ Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default	Expected Credit Loss
Barclays Bank	£9,550,000	3.80%		Call	A	0.000%	£12
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	£5,000,000	4.65%	20 March 2023	3 April 2023	AA-	0.000%	£0
Debt Management Office	£157,740,000	4.05%	31 March 2023	3 April 2023	AA-	0.000%	£0
Surrey County Council	£10,000,000	4.15%	20 June 2022	5 April 2023	AA-	0.000%	£0

Borrower	Principal	Interest Rate	Start Date	Maturity Date	Lowest LT/ Fund Rating	Historic Risk of Default	Expected Credit Loss
PCC for West Yorkshire	£10,000,000	4.65%	20 March 2023	5 April 2023	AA-	0.000%	£0
Eastleigh Borough Council	£15,000,000	4.25%		Call7	AA-	0.000%	£0
Eastleigh Borough Council	£5,000,000	4.25%		Call7	AA-	0.000%	£0
Manchester City Council	£30,000,000	4.20%	15 March 2023	14 April 2023	AA-	0.001%	£0
Leeds City Council	£10,000,000	4.50%	29 March 2023	3 August 2023	AA-	0.008%	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£252,290,000</b>	<b>4.13%</b>				<b>0.001%</b>	<b>£12</b>

## 5. The Strategy for 2022/23

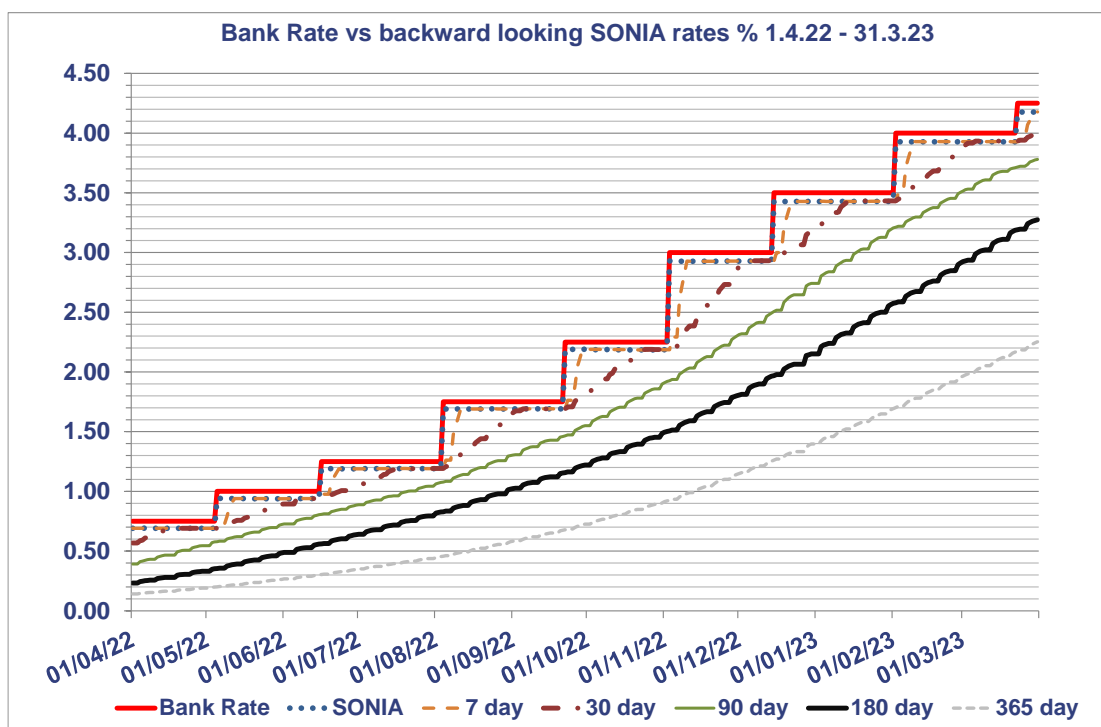
### 5.1 Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

#### 5.1.1 Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages (Term) 2022/23



	Bank Rate	SONIA	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
<b>High</b>	4.25	4.18	4.17	4.30	4.49	5.41
<b>High Date</b>	23 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	29 September 2022	29 September 2022
<b>Low</b>	0.75	0.69	0.69	0.92	1.20	1.62
<b>Low Date</b>	1 April 2022	28 April 2022	1 April 2022	1 April 2022	7 April 2022	4 April 2022
<b>Average</b>	2.30	2.24	2.41	2.72	3.11	3.53
<b>Spread</b>	3.50	3.49	3.48	3.38	3.29	3.79

5.1.2 Investment Benchmarking Data – Sterling Overnight Index Averages  
(Backward-looking) 2022/23



	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
<b>High</b>	4.25	4.18	4.18	4.00	3.78	3.27	2.25
<b>High Date</b>	23 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023	31 March 2023
<b>Low</b>	0.75	0.69	0.69	0.57	0.39	0.23	0.14
<b>Low Date</b>	1 April 2022	28 April 2022	29 April 2022	1 April 2022	1 April 2022	1 April 2022	1 April 2022
<b>Average</b>	2.30	2.24	2.20	2.09	1.81	1.42	0.90
<b>Spread</b>	3.50	3.49	3.49	3.43	3.39	3.04	2.11

- 5.1.3 Investment returns picked up throughout the course of 2022/23 as central banks, including the Bank of England, realised that inflationary pressures were not transitory, and that tighter monetary policy was called for.
- 5.1.4 Starting April 2022 at 0.75%, Bank Rate moved up in stepped increases of either 0.25% or 0.5%, reaching 4.25% by the end of the financial year, with the potential for a further one or two increases in 2023/24.
- 5.1.5 The sea-change in investment rates meant local authorities were faced with the challenge of pro-active investment of surplus cash for the first time in over a decade, and this emphasised the need for a detailed working knowledge of cashflow projections so that the appropriate balance between maintaining cash for liquidity purposes, and “laddering” deposits on a rolling basis to lock in the increase in investment rates as duration was extended, became an on-going feature of the investment landscape.
- 5.1.6 With bond markets selling off, equity valuations struggling to make progress and, latterly, property funds enduring a wretched Q4 2022, the more traditional investment options, such as specified investments (simple to understand, and less than a year in duration) became more actively used.
- 5.1.7 Meantime, through the autumn, and then in March 2023, the Bank of England maintained various monetary policy easing measures as required to ensure specific markets, the banking system and the economy had appropriate levels of liquidity at times of stress.
- 5.1.8 Nonetheless, while the Authority has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the Great Financial Crisis of 2008/9. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

## **5.2 Borrowing strategy and control of interest rate risk**

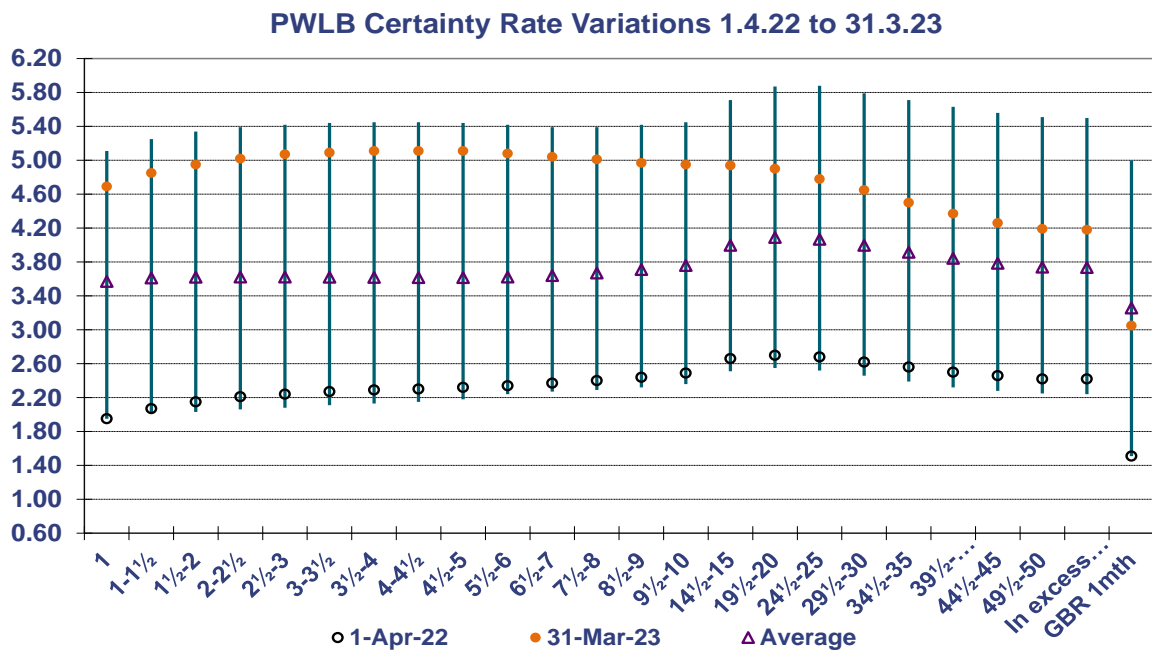
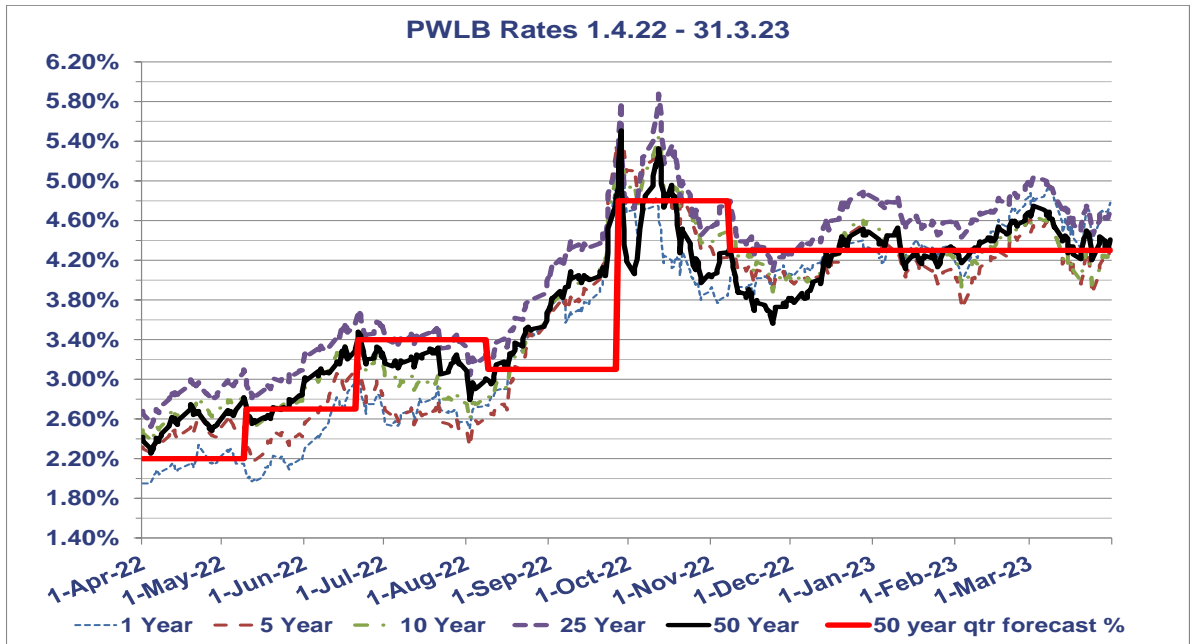
- 5.2.1 During 2022/23, the Authority maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the CFR), was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Authority’s reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were initially low

and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

- 5.2.2 A cost of carry generally remained in place during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns. As the cost of carry dissipated, the Authority sought to avoid taking on long-term borrowing at elevated levels (>4%) and has focused on a policy of internal and temporary borrowing.
- 5.2.3 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances has served well over the last few years. However, this has been kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when this Authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.
- 5.2.4 Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Treasurer therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks:
- a) if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp fall in long and short-term rates, (e.g., due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing would have been considered.
  - b) if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper rise in long and short-term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK), an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.
- 5.2.5 Interest rate forecasts were initially suggesting only gradual rises in short, medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2022/23 but by August 2022 it had

become clear that inflation was moving up towards 40-year highs, and the Bank of England engaged in monetary policy tightening at every Monetary Policy Committee meeting during 2022, and into 2023, either by increasing Bank Rate by 0.25% or 0.5% each time. Currently the Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation is still above 10% in the UK but is expected to fall back towards 4% by year end. Nonetheless, there remain significant risks to that central forecast.

### 5.2.6 PWLB Rates 2022/23



### 5.2.7 High/ Low/ Average PWLB Rates for 2022/23

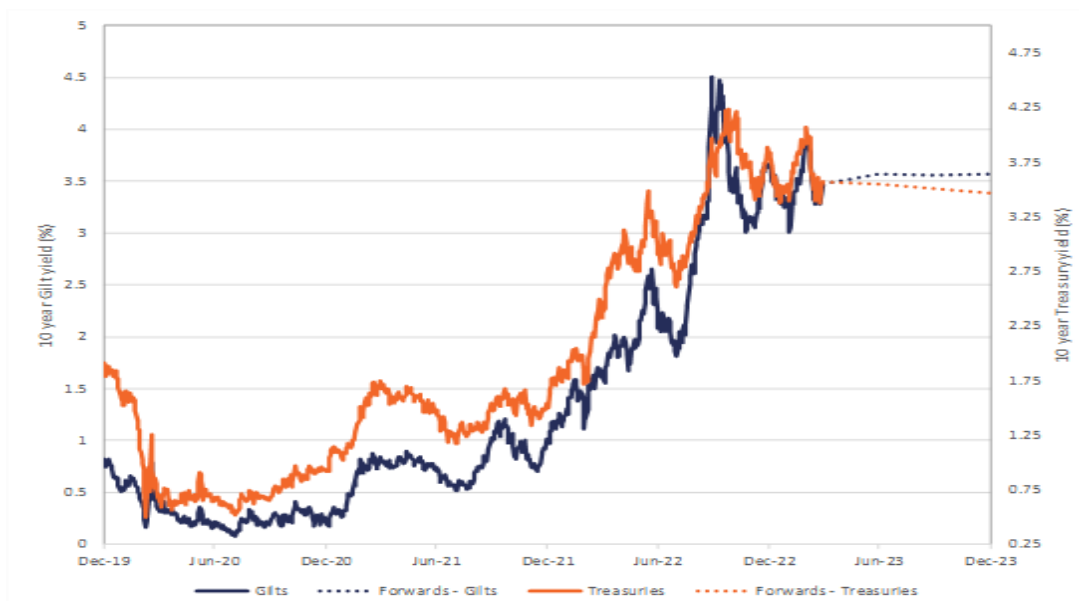


	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>5 Year</b>	<b>10 Year</b>	<b>25 Year</b>	<b>50 Year</b>
<b>Low</b>	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
<b>Date</b>	1 April 2022	13 May 2022	4 April 2022	4 April 2022	4 April 2022
<b>High</b>	5.11%	5.44%	5.45%	5.88%	5.51%
<b>Date</b>	28 September 2022	28 September 2022	12 October 2022	12 October 2022	28 September 2022
<b>Average</b>	3.57%	3.62%	3.76%	4.07%	3.74%
<b>Spread</b>	3.16%	3.26%	3.09%	3.36%	3.26%

5.2.8 PWLB rates are based on gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through HM Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields. Inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last 30 years in lowering inflation and the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation, etc. This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. Indeed, in recent years many bond yields up to 10 years in the Eurozone turned negative on expectations that the European Union (EU) would struggle to get growth rates and inflation up from low levels. In addition, there has, at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US whereby 10-year yields have fallen below shorter-term yields. In the past, this has been a precursor of a recession.

5.2.9 However, since early 2022, yields have risen dramatically in all the major developed economies, first as economies opened post-Covid; then because of the inflationary impact of the war in Ukraine in respect of the supply side of many goods. In particular, rising cost pressures emanating from shortages of energy and some food categories have been central to inflation rising rapidly. Furthermore, at present the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of England are all being challenged by persistent inflation that is exacerbated by very tight labour markets and high wage increases relative to what central banks believe to be sustainable.

5.2.10 Gilt yields have been on a continual rise since the start of 2021, peaking in the autumn of 2022. Currently, yields are broadly range bound between 3% and 4.25%.



5.2.11 At the close of the day on 31 March 2023, all gilt yields from 1 to 50 years were between 3.64% and 4.18%, with the 1 year being the highest and 6 to 7.5 years being the lowest yield.

5.2.12 Regarding PWLB borrowing rates, the various margins attributed to their pricing are as follows: -

- a) **PWLB Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- b) **PWLB Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- c) **Local Infrastructure Rate** is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps)

5.2.13 There is likely to be a fall in gilt yields and PWLB rates across the whole curve over the next one to two years as Bank Rate first rises to dampen inflationary pressures and a tight labour market, and is then cut as the economy slows, unemployment rises, and inflation (on the CPI measure) moves closer to the Bank of England's 2% target.

5.2.14 As a general rule, short-dated gilt yields will reflect expected movements in Bank Rate, whilst medium to long-dated yields are driven primarily by the inflation outlook.

5.2.15 The Bank of England is also embarking on a process of Quantitative Tightening, but the scale and pace of this has already been affected by the Truss/Kwarteng

“fiscal experiment” in the autumn of 2022 and more recently by the financial market unease with some US (e.g., Silicon Valley Bank) and European banks (e.g., Credit Suisse). The gradual reduction of the Bank’s original £895bn stock of gilt and corporate bonds will be sold back into the market over several years. The impact this policy will have on the market pricing of gilts, while issuance is markedly increasing, is an unknown at the time of writing.

## **6. Borrowing Outturn**

### **6.1 Treasury Borrowing**

6.1.1 Due to investment concerns, both counterparty risk and comparatively low investment returns, no borrowing was undertaken during the year.

### **6.2 Borrowing in advance of need**

6.2.1 The Authority has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

### **6.3 Rescheduling**

6.3.1 No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

## **7. Investment Outturn**

### **7.1 Investment Policy**

7.1.1 The Authority’s investment policy is governed by DLUHC investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Authority on 11 February 2022. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

7.1.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy with one exception, and the Authority had no liquidity difficulties. The Authority placed an investment with Manchester Council on 15 March 2023 for one month. The amount invested was £30m which was higher than the £25m limit. This investment had prior approval of the Treasurer.

## 7.2 Resources

7.2.1 The Authority's cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Authority's core cash resources comprised as follows:

<b>Balance Sheet Resources (£m)</b>	<b>31 March 2022</b>	<b>31 March 2023</b>
Balances	45.115	44.958
Earmarked reserves	497.677	579.972
Provisions	19.159	16.662
Usable capital receipts	68.572	76.193
<b>Total</b>	<b>630.523</b>	<b>717.785</b>

7.2.2 Investments held by the Authority

- a) The Authority maintained an average balance of £366.022m of internally managed funds.
- b) The internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 1.97%.
- c) The comparable performance indicator is the 7 days backward looking SONIA un compounded, which was 2.2254%.
- d) Total investment income was £7.253m compared to a budget of £2.675m

## 8. The Economy and Interest Rates

### 8.1 UK Economy

8.1.1 Against a backdrop of stubborn inflationary pressures, the easing of Covid restrictions in most developed economies, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and a range of different UK Government policies, it is no surprise that UK interest rates have been volatile right across the curve, from Bank Rate through to 50-year gilt yields, for all of 2022/23.

8.1.2 Market commentators' misplaced optimism around inflation has been the root cause of the rout in the bond markets with, for example, UK, Eurozone (EZ) and US 10-year yields all rising by over 200bps in 2022. The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation is elevated but labour

markets are extra-ordinarily tight, making it an issue of fine judgment as to how far monetary policy needs to tighten.

	<b>UK</b>	<b>EZ</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>Bank Rate</b>	4.25%	3%	4.75%-5%
<b>Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</b>	0.1%q/q Q4 (4.1%y/y)	+0.1%q/q Q4 (1.9%y/y)	2.6% Q4 Annualised
<b>Inflation</b>	10.4%y/y (Feb)	6.9%y/y (Mar)	6.0%y/y (Feb)
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7% (Jan)	6.6% (Feb)	3.6% (Feb)

- 8.1.3 Q2 of 2022 saw UK GDP deliver growth of +0.1% q/q, but this was quickly reversed in the third quarter, albeit some of the fall in GDP can be placed at the foot of the extra Bank Holiday in the wake of the Queen's passing. Q4 GDP was positive at 0.1% q/q. Most recently, January 2023 saw a 0.3% m/m increase in GDP as the number of strikes reduced compared to December 2022. In addition, the resilience in activity at the end of 2022 was, in part, due to a 1.3% q/q rise in real household disposable incomes. A big part of that reflected the £5.7bn payments received by households from the government under the Energy Bills Support Scheme.
- 8.1.4 Nevertheless, CPI inflation picked up to what should be a peak reading of 11.1% in October 2022, although hopes for significant falls from this level will very much rest on the movements in the gas and electricity markets, as well as the supply-side factors impacting food prices. On balance, most commentators expect the CPI measure of inflation to drop back towards 4% by the end of 2023. As of February 2023, CPI was 10.4%.
- 8.1.5 The UK unemployment rate fell through 2022 to a 48-year low of 3.6%, and this despite a net migration increase of c500k. The fact remains, however, that with many economic participants registered as long-term sick, the UK labour force shrunk by c500k in the year to June 2022. Without an increase in the labour force participation rate, it is hard to see how the UK economy will be able to grow its way to prosperity, and with average wage increases running at over 6% the

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will be concerned that wage inflation will prove just as sticky as major supply-side shocks to food (up 18.3% y/y in February 2023) and energy that have endured since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 22 February 2022.

- 8.1.6 Bank Rate increased steadily throughout 2022/23, starting at 0.75% and finishing at 4.25%.
- 8.1.7 In the interim, following a Conservative Party leadership contest, Liz Truss became Prime Minister for a tumultuous seven weeks that ran through September 2022 and October 2022. Put simply, the markets did not like the unfunded tax-cutting and heavy spending policies put forward by her Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, and their reign lasted barely seven weeks before being replaced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. Their Autumn Statement of the 17 November 2022 gave rise to a net £55bn fiscal tightening, although much of the "heavy lifting" has been left for the next Parliament to deliver. However, the markets liked what they heard, and UK gilt yields have reversed the increases seen under the previous tenants of No10/11 Downing Street, although they remain elevated in line with developed economies generally.
- 8.1.8 As noted above, GDP has been tepid throughout 2022/23, although the most recent composite Purchasing Manager Indices for the UK, US, EZ and China have all surprised to the upside, registering survey scores just above 50 (below suggests economies are contracting, and above suggests expansion). Whether that means a shallow recession, or worse, will be avoided is still unclear. Ultimately, the MPC will want to see material evidence of a reduction in inflationary pressures and a loosening in labour markets. Realistically, that is an unlikely outcome without unemployment rising and wage settlements falling from their current levels. At present, the bigger rise in employment kept the International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment rate unchanged at 3.7% in January 2023. Also, while the number of job vacancies fell for the ninth consecutive month in February 2023, they remained around 40% above pre-pandemic levels.
- 8.1.9 Our economic analysts, Capital Economics, expect real GDP to contract by around 0.2% q/q in Q1 and forecast a recession this year involving a 1.0% peak-to-trough fall in real GDP.
- 8.1.10 The £ has remained resilient of late, recovering from a record low of \$1.035, on the Monday following the Truss government's "fiscal event", to \$1.23.

Notwithstanding the £'s better run of late, 2023 is likely to see a housing correction of some magnitude as fixed-rate mortgages have moved above 4.5% and affordability has been squeezed despite proposed Stamp Duty cuts remaining in place.

8.1.11 As for equity markets, the Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 100 started 2023 strongly, rising to a record high of 8,014 on 20 February 2023, as resilient data and falling inflation boosted earnings. But global equities fell sharply after concerns over the health of the global banking system emerged early in March 2023. The fall in the FTSE 100 was bigger than the drop in the US Standard & Poor (S&P) 500. Indeed, at around 7,600 now, the FTSE is 5.2% below its record high on 20 February 2023, while the S&P 500 is only 1.9% lower over the same period. That's despite UK banks having been less exposed and equity prices in the UK's financial sector not falling as far. It may be due to the smaller decline in UK interest rate expectations and bond yields, which raise the discounted value of future earnings, compared to the US.

## **8.2 US**

8.2.1 The flurry of comments from Fed officials over recent months suggest there is still an underlying hawkish theme to their outlook for interest rates. Markets are pricing in a further interest rate increases of 25-50bps, on top of the current interest rate range of 4.75% - 5%.

8.2.2 In addition, the Fed is expected to continue to run down its balance sheet once the on-going concerns about some elements of niche banking provision are in the rear-view mirror.

8.2.3 As for inflation, it is currently at c6% but with the economy expected to weaken during 2023, and wage data already falling back, there is the prospect that should the economy slide into a recession of any kind there will be scope for rates to be cut at the backend of 2023 or shortly after.

## **8.3 EU**

8.3.1 Although the Euro-zone inflation rate has fallen below 7%, the ECB will still be mindful that it has further work to do to dampen inflation expectations and it seems destined to raise rates to 4% in order to do so. Like the UK, growth has remained

more robust than anticipated but a recession in 2023 is still seen as likely by most commentators.

## **9. Non-Treasury Management Investments**

- 9.1 The Authority's non-treasury management investments are managed by the Core Investment team.
- 9.2 The Housing Investment Fund is to be invested into housing schemes to create new homes. The £300m Fund, of which £180m is currently drawn, was created by a loan from central government of which 80% is underwritten by the Authority. It is on track to achieve its target of delivering 10,000 new homes across GM and has been recycled twice. The Fund will close to new commitments in 2025 with a runoff to 2028.
- 9.3 £70m of Core Funds which was originally sourced from regional Regional Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund monies in 2011/12 and 2012/13. The Fund is invested across business and commercial property as debt or equity and can be recycled and retained for a similar purpose. The fund has to date created and supported 9,345 jobs.
- 9.4 There are three European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investments. Evergreen 1 was established under the 2007-13 ERDF Operational Programme and consists of £60m commercial property debt focussed on office buildings, infrastructure and industrial developments. Evergreen 2 was established under the 2014-20 ERDF Operational Programme and consists of £45m of commercial property debt focussed on research and innovation office/laboratory space and energy efficiency in buildings. The Low Carbon Fund was established under the 2014-20 ERDF Operational Programme and is aimed at renewable energy generation and distribution of assets. These funds are managed by an external fund manager.
- 9.5 There are two Life Sciences Funds managed by external fund managers. Fund 1 is an investment of £10m in a total fund of £31m and is now closed to new investments. Fund 2 is an investment of £10m in a total fund of up to £25m.



# Appendix 1: Approved countries for investments as at 31 March 2023

This list is based on those countries which have sovereign ratings of AA- or higher, (we show the lowest rating from Fitch, Moody's and S&P) and also, (except - at the time of writing - for Hong Kong and Luxembourg), have banks operating in sterling markets which have credit ratings of green or above in the Link creditworthiness service.

## ***Based on lowest available rating***

### **AAA**

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

### **AA+**

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

### **AA**

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

### **AA-**

- Belgium
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29 September 2023

Subject: Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme

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

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### Purpose of Report

This report set out details of further allocations of funding from the GM Brownfield programme which were approved during August and September under the delegation agreed by the Combined Authority in July.

This report also seeks the Combined Authority's approval to delegate the approval of increases in funding allocations previously approved by the Combined Authority and other variations of funding terms and conditions to the Chief Executive acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing and the Lead Member for the relevant district.

### Recommendations:

The Combined Authority is requested to:

1. Note the allocation of up to £14.9m of the Brownfield Housing Fund programme funding devolved to GMCA to the 7 projects identified at Appendix 1.
2. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing and the Lead Member of the relevant district to approve increases of up to 10% on brownfield funding allocations previously approved by the Combined Authority and other variations to funding conditions in the period up to 31 March 2024.

## **Contact Officers**

Andrew McIntosh: [Andrew.Mcintosh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Mcintosh@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

**Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:**

## Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

*It is recommended that the proposal is supported, as set out in the paper. The Decision Support Tool has identified the proposal will positively impact Housing and the Economy. The impact on the Carbon Assessment is currently unknown at this stage of the programme and will be monitored during and at the end of the programme.*

### Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	The proposal will positively contribute to the number of affordable homes in GM. The proposal supports brownfield land being brought back into use where market failure has otherwise made this unviable. It may also support surplus to use buildings being demolished or retained and refurbished for new homes. The overall 3 year programme is required to unlock at least 7000 new homes by March 2026.
Economy	G	The deployment of grant funding will contribute to improving economic development in the residential construction sector and associated supply chains. The deployment of grant funding will support the delivery of 7000 new homes which will in turn increase jobs in the construction sector. The deployment of grant funding will support the delivery of 7000 new homes which will in turn create jobs in the construction sector. The proposal will attract wider investment into GM. Wider investment will include private sector and other public sector funds. The proposal will increase opportunities for training and skills development in the construction sector and wider, e.g. apprenticeships.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Schemes that are to be considered as part of this grant award from DLUHC will have due regard to sustainability credentials in line with the Carbon Neutral 2038 target and applied through an agreed set of deliverability criteria.
<b>Further Assessment(s):</b>	Carbon Assessment	
<b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		<b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment				
Overall Score	[Redacted]			
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential	[Redacted]	Unknown Unknown		
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A			
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A			
Transport				
Active travel and public transport	N/A			
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A			
Access to amenities	N/A			
Vehicle procurement	N/A			
Land Use				
Land use	N/A			
No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

## Risk Management

The grants will be conditional upon a satisfactory outcome of detailed due diligence and ongoing monitoring confirmation that the schemes are being delivered satisfactorily.

In view of the nature of the DLUHC grant funding agreements for this Brownfield programme any conditions will be mirrored in agreements between the GMCA and scheme promoters, mitigating any risk retained by GMCA.

## Legal Considerations

GMCA will be required to enter into a grant agreement with DLUHC in order to receive the grant. Any terms and obligations within the DLUHC grant agreement will be flowed through to the ultimate grant recipients within the onward grant agreements to ensure that potential risks to GMCA are passed on to those grant recipients.

An onward grant agreement and other associated legal documentation will be completed for each scheme ahead of the first grant payment.

As this is a grant the subsidy control position has been considered. The grant agreement from DLUHC to GMCA is not deemed to be a subsidy as GMCA will be acting as an intermediary for the funding and flowing through all of the grant money,

other than its reasonable administrative costs, to grant recipients to deliver the various Brownfield programme funded schemes. GMCA is therefore acting in the capacity of an intermediary of the grant funding which is in line with the Government's Subsidy Control Statutory Guidance. Subsidy Control requirements will be considered further for each individual scheme allocation as part of the detailed due diligence, with any allocation being compliant with the Subsidy Control legislation.

### **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

The Combined Authority has approved the use of up to £500k from the Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses to support the costs of delivering the Brownfield programme.

### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

Capital expenditure will be sourced from the GM Brownfield programme.

Monitoring and reporting assurance will form part of the existing Single Pot Assurance Framework. The GMCA Section 73 Officer and GMCA Monitoring Officer will be required to confirm that investment is being used for the purposes agreed under the respective fund to deliver to fund's objectives.

### **Number of attachments to the report:**

None

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

None.

### **Background Papers**

- GMCA Trailblazer Devolution Deal (*report to GMCA, 24 March 2023*)
- GM Brownfield programme (Devolution Trailblazer deal) - Methodology and Year 1 Allocations (*report to GMCA, 30 June 2023*)

### **Tracking/ Process**

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

Yes

## **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

## **1. Funding allocations approved under delegation**

- 1.1 It has come to light that some schemes allocated Brownfield funding are now facing challenges, this includes schemes experiencing issues around land acquisitions. Furthermore, GM is expecting to receive an allocation of funding through the One Public Estate Brownfield Land Release Fund and this could subsequently remove a number of schemes from GMCA's Year 1 Brownfield programme.
- 1.2 Separately, certain schemes which were allocated funding through GMCA's Brownfield Housing Fund in previous years have not yet gone forward to take up funding, and do not appear to have realistic prospects of doing so in the near term. To ensure that GMCA continues to meet the spend profile and outputs agreed with Government, further schemes need to be brought forward to re-allocate funding.
- 1.3 Under the delegation agreed by the Combined Authority at its meeting in July 2023, the GMCA Chief Executive acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing have approved the allocation of funding from the GM Brownfield programme totalling £14.9m to the 7 schemes detailed at Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The 7 schemes have been prioritised using the same methodology as was used for the allocation of funding approved by the Combined Authority in June 2023, and on the basis that the funding allocated will be spent during the current financial year.

## **2 Delegation**

- 2.1 The detailed due diligence and preparation of grant funding agreements for the schemes within the first round of allocations from the £150m devolution trailblazer brownfield programme is underway. It is becoming apparent that a number of schemes will require approval to changes from the proposals as set



out in obtaining Combined Authority approval. For example, the arrangements under which some schemes will be delivered require the funding to be contracted with a different entity to that identified in the original report to the Combined Authority, or minor changes to the amount of funding or the number of new homes need to be agreed.

- 2.2 In respect of the investment funds managed by GMCA (e.g. the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund, the recycled Regional Growth Fund) the GMCA Constitution provides for increases of up to 10% to the amount of the loan approved by the Combined Authority, and other minor variation to the lending terms, to be agreed by the GMCA Chief Executive acting in conjunction with the relevant Portfolio Holder.
- 2.3 There is no equivalent provision for grant funding devolved to GMCA such as the brownfield programme. The requirement to take minor changes to brownfield funding allocations back through the Combined Authority will potentially cause administrative logjams and jeopardise the delivery of spend by March 2024 in line with the profile agreed with Government.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority is therefore requested to agree a delegation to the effect that increases of up to 10% on the brownfield funding allocations previously approved by the Combined Authority, and variation of other funding conditions, can be approved by the GMCA Chief Executive acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing and the Lead Member of the relevant district.
- 2.5 The Combined Authority is asked to agree the delegation being operative until 31 March 2024, alongside which the opportunity to include a standing delegation within the GMCA Constitution when it is next updated, in line with the approach to investment funds managed by GMCA, will be examined.

**Appendix 1 - Further Scheme Allocations**

Authority	Scheme Name	Developer	No of housing units	Grant required (£m)
Manchester	Whitemoss Day Centre (Benmore Road)	Guinness	20	£365,400
Manchester	Whitemoss Road/Dam Head Drive	Guinness	38	£736,260
Rochdale	Former Oakenrod Primary School	Hallmark Developments	52	£600,000
Rochdale	Greenbooth Road, Norden	Great Places	51	£750,000
Stockport	Royal George Village	CityHeart	442	£8,116,000
Tameside	Former Newton Bank Printworks	Ecclestone Homes	132	£1,320,000
Trafford	Lumina Village	Glenbrook	639	£3,000,000

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29 September 2023

Subject: Greater Manchester City Deal Receipts – Investment Approval Recommendations

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

### Purpose of Report

This report seeks the Combined Authority’s approval to the investment of City Deal Receipts (“CDR”) as detailed in the recommendation below.

### Recommendations:

The Combined Authority is requested to:

1. Approve the following investments of City Deal Receipts in two Social Impact Funds as detailed further in this report;

FUND	DISTRICT	CDR INVESTMENT
National Homelessness Property Fund 2	GM wide	£6.5m
Resonance Supported Homes Fund	GM wide	£2.5m

2. Approve the City Deal Receipts which form part of the £119.8m GMCA is lending to Renaker’s Bankside and Trinity D2 developments being increased from £20m to £21m, with the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (“GMHILF”) element of the loan reduced accordingly, as detailed further in this report.
3. Delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loan, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loan, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

## Contact Officers

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Laura Blakey: [laura.blakey@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:laura.blakey@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

## Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:





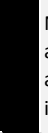
The Equalities Impact and Carbon & Sustainability Assessment for the two Social Impact Funds, and Renaker's Bankside & Trinity D2 scheme, are given below:

*National Homelessness Property Fund 2*

## Impacts Questionnaire





Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health	G	Providing new stable homes to those in acute need of housing.
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	G	Providing new homes for those at risk of homelessness and rough sleepers.
Economy		
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		 Negative impacts overall.

## Carbon Assessment







Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance		Refurbishment works will meet a minimum EPC rating of C.
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A	
<b>Transport</b>		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
<b>Land Use</b>		
No associated carbon impacts expected.	 High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	 Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.
		 Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.
		 Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Resonance Supported Homes Fund

## Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion			
Health	G	Providing new homes for those with learning disabilities, autism and/or mental health challenges.	
Resilience and Adaptation			
Housing	G	Providing new homes for those with learning disabilities, autism and/or mental health challenges.	
Economy			
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment			
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target			
<b>Further Assessment(s):</b>	Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment		
 <b>Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.</b>	 <b>Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.</b>	 <b>Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.</b>	 <b>Negative impacts overall.</b>

## Carbon Assessment

<b>Overall Score</b>				
<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Justification/Mitigation</b>		
New Build residential	N/A			
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance		Refurbishment works will meet a minimum EPC rating of C.		
New Build Commercial/Industrial	N/A			
<b>Transport</b>				
Active travel and public transport	N/A			
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A			
Access to amenities	N/A			
Vehicle procurement	N/A			
<b>Land Use</b>				
Land use	N/A			
No associated carbon impacts expected.	 High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	 Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	 Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	 Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

**Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers**

The results of the Decision Tool identify that the development which GMCA lending will support the delivery of will have positive impacts on housing and the local economy, and incorporates a number of measures to reduce carbon impacts.

**Impacts Questionnaire**

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	<b>G</b>	The development will bring back into residential use a brownfield site previously occupied by vacant or underused light industrial/commercial premises and surface car-parking. The development involves the new-build construction of 42-storey building incorporating 444 apartments.
Economy	<b>G</b>	The development is expected to have an average of 500 construction operatives on site at any point in time, with around 80% of the companies in the contractor's supply chain being GM-based. The development provides opportunities for the companies carrying out the construction to offer apprenticeships in a range of construction skills.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		

**Further Assessment(s):**

Carbon Assessment

<b>G</b>	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b>	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b>	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>RR</b>	Negative impacts overall.
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## Carbon Assessment

Overall Score  

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential		<p>Approx. 90% of the apartments are expected to achieve an EPC rating of 'B+', with the remainder achieving a 'C' rating.</p> <p>The proposed building fabric achieves a 5% betterment against the energy efficiency standards required by Building Regulations Part L.</p> <p>An assessment using the Building Research Establishment's "Housing Quality Mark" framework, which includes analysis of procurement strategies, has been carried out and identifies that the development will achieve a 4 Star "Excellent" rating.</p> <p>Not known</p> <p>A biodiversity impact assessment has been completed and measures to achieve a net biodiversity gain of at least 10% are incorporated in the development.</p> <p>The development is located in a sustainable city centre location in close proximity and with good connectivity to retail, transport and other amenities.</p> <p>Communal areas within the building will be heated using Air Source Heat Pumps.</p>

Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
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New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	
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### Transport

Active travel and public transport	N/A	
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Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
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Access to amenities	N/A	
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Vehicle procurement	N/A	
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### Land Use

Land use	N/A	
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No associated carbon impacts expected.		High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.		Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.		Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.		Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.
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TRINITY TOWER D2

**Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers**

The results of the Decision Tool identify that the development which GMCA lending will support the delivery of will have positive impacts on housing and the local economy, and incorporates a number of measures to reduce carbon impacts.

**Impacts Questionnaire**

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing	<b>G</b>	The development will bring back into residential use a brownfield site previously used as surface car-parking. The development involves the new-build construction of 55-storey building incorporating 483 apartments.
Economy	<b>G</b>	The development is expected to have an average of 500 construction operatives on site at any point in time, with around 80% of the companies in the contractor's supply chain being GM-based. The development provides opportunities for the companies carrying out the construction to offer apprenticeships in a range of construction skills.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		

**Further Assessment(s):**

Carbon Assessment

<b>G</b>	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b>	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b>	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>RR</b>	Negative impacts overall.
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## Carbon Assessment

Overall Score  

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential		<p>Approx. 90% of the apartments are expected to achieve an EPC rating of 'B+', with the remainder achieving a 'C' rating.</p> <p>The proposed building fabric achieves a 5% betterment against the energy efficiency standards required by Building Regulations Part L.</p> <p>An assessment using the Building Research Establishment's "Housing Quality Mark" framework, which includes analysis of procurement strategies, has been carried out and identifies that the development will achieve a 4 Star "Excellent" rating.</p> <p>Not known</p> <p>A biodiversity impact assessment has been completed and measures to achieve a net biodiversity gain of at least 10% are incorporated in the development.</p> <p>The development is located in a sustainable city centre location in close proximity and with good connectivity to retail, transport and other amenities.</p> <p>Communal areas within the building will be heated using Air Source Heat Pumps.</p>
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	

### Transport

Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	

### Land Use

Land use	N/A	
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No associated carbon impacts expected.		High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.		Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.		Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.		Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.
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## **Risk Management**

Both NHPF2 and RSHF have an investment strategy which establishes the detailed risk management protocols. GMCA will receive ongoing performance reporting from the fund managers.

The structure and security package for the Renaker loans remains as per the proposals originally approved by the Combined Authority.

## **Legal Considerations**

A detailed partner subscription agreement will be entered into ahead of the additional investment in NHPF2 being committed. The substitution of an element of GMCA's existing investments in NHPF2 and RSHF does not require any change to existing legal agreements.

Similarly, a loan agreement with Renaker for the Bankside and Trinity D2 schemes is already in place, and does not require any change as a result of the amended mix of the lending between GMHILF and CDR.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

There is no requirement for additional revenue expenditure by GMCA in addition to the approved Core Investment Team budget.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

The investments will be funded from the CDR which GMCA has received from Homes England for onward investment. GMCA does not bear any financial liability for these investments.

## **Number of attachments to the report: None**

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

None.

## **Background Papers**

GM City Deal – Homes and Communities Agency (*report to Combined Authority, 28 March 2014*)

GM City Deal – Homes and Communities Agency: Update (*report to Combined Authority, 26 September 2014*)

GM City Deal Receipts – Investment Approval Recommendations (*report to Combined Authority, 27 January 2023*)

GM Housing Investment Loans Fund / GM City Deal Receipts - Investment Approval Recommendations (*report to Combined Authority, 27 January 2023*)

## **Tracking/ Process**

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

Yes

## **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In line with commitments set out in the GM City Deal agreed with government in 2012, Homes England has agreed to make receipts from the disposal of its land and property in Greater Manchester in the period up to March 2022 available for GMCA to reinvest in schemes which support the objectives of the GM City Deal agreed with Government in 2012. Under the arrangements, GMCA has received £30.1m of 'City Deal Receipts' to invest.
- 1.2 CDR can only be invested in 'Viable Projects', i.e. those which a reasoned assessment confirms will, in all likelihood, be able repay the investment. If an investment is not recovered, the amount to be repaid to Homes England is reduced accordingly. Equally, Homes England approval is required to all CDR investments.
- 1.3 In 2016, GMCA agreed that it would ringfence CDR for investment in residential schemes with the intention that the funds would complement the investment capacity available through the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund. CDR are managed within the GMCA Core Investment Team, with oversight from the GMHILF Credit Committee.
- 1.4 The arrangements were originally intended to come to an end in March 2022, at which point GMCA would have repaid the funds it has received to Homes England together with the returns it had made on the investments made (typically, fees and interest on loans funded with CDR). By agreement with Homes England, the repayment has been rescheduled for 30 September 2023, with GMCA having until then to bring forward proposals for further investments. The balance of any CDR funds which have

not been approved for investment by 30 September 2023 would be returned to Homes England.

- 1.5 GMCA and Homes England have approved the following investments of CDR:
- £2.5m in each of the National Homelessness Property Fund 2 and the Resonance Supported Homes Fund.
  - £20m as part of the £120m loan for Renaker's Bankside and Trinity D2 developments.
- 1.6 This reports set out proposals around the investment of the balance of the CDR which GMCA has received. Homes England approval to the investments has been sought, but has yet to be received.

## **2. Investment approvals sought – Social Impact Funds**

- 2.1 The National Homelessness Property Fund 2 ("NHPF2") acquires and refurbishes property, then leases it to Registered Providers. NHPF2 is seeking an additional investment of up to £4m to provide additional homes to rough sleepers and those at risk of homelessness. The GMCA has committed to £9.1m to date, to NHPF2, which has resulted in 155 properties in Greater Manchester and is forecast to deliver a further 65 with existing funds. The fund delivers a return on capital to investors over time, in addition to the repayment of capital at the end of the fund life.
- 2.2 A £2.5m CDR investment into the NHPF2 fund was approved in February 2023. This proposal therefore seeks approval to increase this figure by £1.5m, to bring the total new commitment to up to £4m. A £4m investment is expected to deliver at least 30 more properties in Greater Manchester. The NHPF2 fund has raised 5+ times the GMCA's total commitment from other social impact investors.
- 2.3 The Resonance Supported Homes Fund ("RSHF") acquires and refits properties to meet the specific needs of the individual, then leases the property to Charity Partners. GMCA has committed £5m to date, of which half has been committed to new properties.
- 2.4 Opportunities for further GMCA investment into Social Impact Funds are currently being explored with various fund managers, and the remaining CDR funds available to GMCA could form part of this. However, detailed investment proposals investment proposals will not be sufficiently worked up to put them forward to Homes England for approval of CDR investment in the near term.
- 2.4 It is therefore proposed that alongside the £4m increase in the investment in NHPF2, a further £5m of CDR are used to part-refinance the GMHILF investment in NHPF2

and RSHF. This will release capacity back into GMHILF which could be used to make new commitments to Social Impact Funds when these are ready to be brought forward, and meets Homes England’s requirement that the amount of CDR investment in any fund is no greater than the amount of other GMCA investment in that fund.

2.5 The table below shows the impact of the proposals on the mix of GMCA investment in the two funds, with GMCA still maintaining significant commitments to both funds.

<i>FUND</i>	<i>GMCA</i>	<i>CDR additional investment</i>	<i>CDR refinance investment</i>	<i>Total CDR investment</i>
NHPF2	£6.6m (previously £9.1m)	£4m	£2.5m	£6.5m
RSHF	£2.5m (previously £5m)	-	£2.5m	£2.5m
Total	£9.1m	£4m	£5m	£9m

### **3.0 Investment approvals sought – Bankside & Trinity D2**

3.1 In January 2023, the Combined Authority approved the following GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (“GMHILF”) loans to Renaker:

- £54.143m for its development known as Bankside, the second of four towers proposed in a masterplan for the Greengate area of Salford involving 444 apartments;
- £65.646m for the development of 483 apartments on part of the site known as Trinity Island, being the first of four towers on the site which will together deliver 1,950 new homes.

3.2 The lending was agreed by the Combined Authority on the basis that approval would be sought from Homes England to substitute up to £20m of the GMHILF lending for the two schemes with City Deal Receipts. This was approved by Homes England in March 2023.

3.3 It is proposed to invest the £1m balance of City Deal Receipts by way of substituting them for £1m of the GMHILF lending. The total amount of the lending for the Bankside and Trinity D2 schemes remains unchanged; the proposal only amends the mix within the lending between GMHILF and City Deal Receipts which would now be as follows:

	<i>GMHILF</i>	<i>CDR</i>	<i>TOTAL LOAN</i>
Bankside	£44.668m	£9.475m	£54.143m
Trinity D2	£54.157m	£11.488m	£65.645m
TOTAL	£98.825m	£20.963m	£119.788m

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## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Subject: Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

Report of: Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources and  
Steve Wilson, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Investment

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### Purpose of Report

This report seeks Greater Manchester Combined Authority (“Combined Authority” and “GMCA”) approval for a loan to ClearCycle Ltd (“ClearCycle”) The loan will be made from recycled funds.

In addition, the GMCA is asked to note that an investment into LoveRaw Limited (“LoveRaw”) has been approved under delegation and is being reported to the GMCA for information.

Further details regarding the loan are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

### Recommendations

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the loan facility of up to £950,000 to ClearCycle.
2. Note the investment into LoveRaw Limited (“LoveRaw”) of £500,000, approved under delegation and;
3. Delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loan, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loan, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

### Contact Officers

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

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Laura Blakey: [laura.blakey@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:laura.blakey@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

## Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment

### A) ClearCycle Limited

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	<b>G</b>	The working capital loan will allow the Company to deploy its growth strategy, including employing more people in key functions, further innovating the technology, and providing on-the-job training.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		N/A
Further Assessment(s):		N/A
<b>G</b> Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	<b>A</b> Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	<b>R</b> Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		<b>RR</b> Negative impacts overall.

## Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	
<b>Transport</b>		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
<b>Land Use</b>		
Land use	N/A	

No associated carbon impacts expected.	G	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	A	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	R	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	RR	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.
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Whilst a Carbon Assessment results are N/A due to limited impact on housing, transport and land use, it is noted that ClearCycle's operating model improves access to the circular economy, and drives a reduction in landfill use.

## B) LoveRaw Limited

Impacts Questionnaire							
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation					
Equality and Inclusion							
Health							
Resilience and Adaptation							
Housing							
Economy	G	Potential to putting Manchester on the map for vegan confectionary. Investment will increase work opportunities in a confectionary disruptor with an international appeal. Local supply chain can help produce and develop new products. Innovation in producing a more sustainable chocolate in comparison to market leaders.					
Mobility and Connectivity							
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	LoveRaw's plant-based sweet snacks contribute to 57% reduction in water consumption, 58% reduction in land use, and 41% reduction in CO2e on average, compared to incumbent products in the market, primarily due to the decreased energy consumption of the animal-free process <sup>1</sup>					
Consumption and Production							
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Greater consumption of more sustainable products will help climate goals at an individual level. Better choices will help inform better decisions. The company utilises no animal products in its processes. Reduction in milk consumption will help reduce the number of contributing cattle needed in					
Further Assessment(s):	N/A						
G	Positive Impacts overall, whether long or short term.	A	Mix of positive and negative Impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	R	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.	RR	Negative Impacts overall.

## Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	N/A	
<b>Transport</b>		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
<b>Land Use</b>		
Land use	N/A	

No associated carbon impacts expected.	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.
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## **Risk Management**

The investments recommended in this paper will be governed under the existing investment framework which includes several levels of review and ongoing monitoring of performance.

## **Legal Considerations**

The legal agreements will be based upon the existing templates for the GM Investment Fund, amended for the specific requirements of the individual funding arrangements.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

The proposed investments will be made from recycled funds.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

The proposed investments will be made from recycled funds.

## **Number of attachments to the report**

None.

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

None.

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Tracking/ Process**

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

Yes

## **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No.

## **GM Transport Committee**

N/A

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

N/A

# 1. Introduction/Background

## 1.1. Background:

- 1.1.1. The Combined Authority maintains and develops a pipeline of projects submitted by applicants seeking funding from the Combined Authority's Core Investment Fund allocation. These projects are assessed against criteria based on the GM Investment Strategy, developed to underpin the economic growth of Greater Manchester. A condition of investment is that the companies sign up as (at a minimum) a supporter of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter.
- 1.1.2. This assessment incorporated:
  - an appraisal by the GM Core Investment Team; and
  - a review by a sub-group of GM Chief Executives.

# 2. Investments Recommended for Approval in Principle

## 2.1. ClearCycle, Manchester

### Sector: Green economy

- 2.1.1. The business case in respect of a loan up to £950,000 to ClearCycle Ltd ("ClearCycle") has been submitted to, and appraised by, the Core Investment Team and is recommended to the Combined Authority for approval.
- 2.1.1. ClearCycle is a specialist re-commerce partner to a range of national UK retailers, handling, refurbishing and re-selling stock that has been returned by end users. The business was founded in 2015 and currently employs 42 people.
- 2.1.2. The business supports the circular economy, and reduces landfill usage.
- 2.1.3. The GMCA loan will be used to provide both working capital and growth capital for the business to expand its team and technology, with 34 new employees forecast over the next 3 years.
- 2.1.4. Further details regarding the loan are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

### **3. Investments approved under delegation**

#### **3.1. LoveRaw Limited, Trafford**

##### **Sector: Food Sector**

- 3.1.1. The business case in respect of an investment of £500,000 to LoveRaw Limited (“LoveRaw”) has been submitted to and appraised by the Core Investment Team. The investment has been approved under delegation.
- 3.1.2. LoveRaw operates in the food industry and develops a range of vegan confectionary for retail. The company is seen as a challenger to the established brands and already has good penetration in major supermarkets in the UK and in Europe.
- 3.1.3. This investment will help support up to 17 jobs based in sales and marketing in its Altrincham based headquarters in the next three years. In addition, it expects to create 37 new roles at its new manufacturing partner based in Rochdale.
- 3.1.4. Further details regarding the equity investment are included in the accompanying Part B report to be considered in the confidential part of the agenda due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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