

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

PRESENT:

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|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| GM Mayor | Andy Burnham (in the Chair) |
| GM Deputy Mayor | Kate Green |
| Bolton | Councillor Nicholas Peel |
| Bury | Councillor Eamonn O'Brien |
| Manchester | Councillor Bev Craig |
| Oldham | Councillor Elaine Taylor |
| Rochdale | Councillor Neil Emmott |
| Salford | City Mayor Paul Dennett |
| Stockport | Councillor Mark Hunter |
| Tameside | Councillor Eleanor Wills |
| Trafford | Councillor Tom Ross |
| Wigan | Councillor David Molyneux |

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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| Group Chief Executive Officer, GMCA, GMFRS & TfGM | Caroline Simpson |
| Group Deputy Chief Executive | Andrew Lightfoot |
| Group Solicitor & Monitoring Officer | Gillian Duckworth |
| Group Treasurer | Steve Wilson |
| Bolton | Sue Johnson |
| Bury | Lynne Ridsdale |
| Manchester | Tom Stannard |
| Oldham | Mike Barker |
| Rochdale | Stephen Rumbelow |
| Salford | Melissa Caslake |
| Stockport | Michael Cullen |
| Tameside | Ashley Hughes |
| Trafford | Sara Todd |
| Wigan | Alison McKenzie-Folan |

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| Managing Director, TfGM | Steve Warrener |
| Director, Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA | Julie Connor |
| GMCA | Sylvia Welsh |
| GMCA | Lee Teasdale |

1. **APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Arooj Shah (Oldham), Shelley Kipling (Oldham) & Harry Catherall (Tameside).

2. **CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

1. That Tom Stannard be welcomed to the meeting in his new role as Chief Executive of Manchester City Council.
2. That Melissa Caslake be welcomed to the meeting as the Interim Chief Executive of Salford City Council.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests received

4. **MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2025**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 31 January 2025 be approved.

5. **MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2025**

That the proceedings of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 January 2025 be approved.

6. **MINUTES OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2025**

That the proceedings of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 30 January 2025 be noted.

7. BUDGET REPORTS

A. GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2025/6 Overview

That the contents of the summary report be noted.

B. Mayoral General Budget & Precept Proposals 2025/26

1. That the Mayor's General budget for 2025/26, as set out in the report, together, with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates set out in Appendix 2, be approved.
2. That the Mayoral General Precept to £128.95 (Band D) comprising of £86.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £42.75 for other Mayoral General functions be approved.
3. That the following be approved:
 - i. the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2025/26 covered by the Mayoral precept.
 - ii. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service.
4. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 3 of the report, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2026 are adequate be approved.
5. That it be noted that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes will record the names of those Members voting for or against the Mayor's budget and precept proposals.
6. That the feedback received from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

7. That the GMCA record its thanks to the Group Treasurer and his team, alongside the financial leads in each individual Local Authority for their considerable work during the budget process.

C. GMCA Transport Revenue Budget 2025/26

1. That the risks and issues which affected the 2025/26 transport budgets, as detailed in the report, be noted.
2. That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the Levy, as set out in the report, for 2025/26 be approved.
3. That a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2025/26 of £125.657m, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2023, be approved.
4. That a Statutory Charge of £86.7m to District Councils in 2025/26, as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2023, be approved.
5. That the proposal to increase fees and charges, as noted in the report at paragraph 4.6.14, be endorsed.
6. That the use of Transport reserves in 2024/25 and 2025/26, as detailed in section 5 of the report, be approved.

D. GMCA Revenue General Budget 2025/26

1. That the budget relating to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority functions, excluding transport and waste in 2025/26, as set out in section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That approval be given to Local Authority contributions of £7.95 million, as set out in section 5 of the report including the recurrent reduction of £650,000 to be delivered through group efficiencies in 2025/26 ahead of further reductions in future years.

3. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 6 of the report, be approved.
4. That approval be given to the establishment of a two-year fixed term group Chief Transformation Officer at a grade up to SM3 and the establishment of seven fixed-term senior programme director posts, up to grade SM3, to support the delivery of growth location programmes.

E. GM Waste Budget and Resources - Budget and Levy 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Plan to 2027/28

1. That the forecast outturn for 2024/25 be noted, and a return of £10m of reserves to districts from the forecast in-year underspend be approved.
2. That the proposed 2026/27 Trade Waste rate of £141.94 to allow forward planning by Local Authorities be approved.
3. That the capital programme for 2025/26, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.
4. That the budget and levy for 2025/26 of £179.2m (2.8% increase) be approved.
5. That the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy be noted, and approval be given to a further reduction of £20m of reserves to districts in 2025/26.
6. That the proposal of a partial return of funds to Local Authorities from the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR) be approved and authority be delegated to the Group Chief Financial Officer to finalise the amount, estimated to be £17.7m, once the final notice as assessment is received from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

F. GMCA Capital Programme -2024/25 - 2027/8

1. That the current 2024/25 forecast of £631.6m compared to the previous forecast of £581.8m be noted.
2. That the addition to the 2024/25 capital programme of £4.4m for 2024/25 local highways maintenance and £14.8m (£11.1m to be paid to local authorities and £3.7m retained by the Department for Transport (DfT) as a new incentive element) for 2025/26 local highways maintenance, as outlined in sections 2.9.8 and 2.9.9 of the report, be approved.
3. That the addition to the 2024/25 capital programme of £0.3m, funded by borrowing, for the replacement of end-user networking hardware at Tootal Buildings as per section 3.17.1 of the report, be approved.
4. That the capital programme budget for 2025/26 of £598.3m and the forward plan, as detailed in the report and in Appendix A, be approved.

A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)

This decision notice was issued **11 February 2025** on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on **18 February 2025**

Call-In Process

In accordance with the scrutiny procedure rules, these decisions would come into effect five days after the publication of this notice unless before that time any three members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to call-in a decision.

Members must give notice in writing to the Chief Executive that they wish to call-in a decision, stating their reason(s) why the decision should be scrutinised. The period between the publication of this decision notice and the time a decision may be implemented is the 'call-in' period.

Decisions which have already been considered by the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where the GMCA's decision agrees with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may not be called in.