

Date: 24 September 2021

Subject: Greater Manchester Civic University Agreement

Report of: Councillor Andrew Western; Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Tom Stannard; Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report seeks endorsement from Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the Greater Manchester Civic University Agreement, a collective, co-developed commitment between GM's five universities listed below and GMCA around collaborative working to tackle a shared range of local priorities.

Manchester Metropolitan University, Royal Northern College of Music, University of Bolton, University of Manchester, University of Salford

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note and endorse this shared approach by GM's universities embodied in the Greater Manchester Civic University Agreement (CUA).
2. Note that the CUA is a starting point: it is a high-level framework and symbolic statement of intent, with more specific deliverables needing to follow through the creation of a Civic University Board between the universities and GMCA.
3. Note that the CUA is a living document and can be revisited in light of developments to the Greater Manchester Strategy.
4. Note that, following agreement of this CUA by Leaders, a public announcement will follow on Monday 27 September.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

Equalities Implications:

Impacts Questionnaire			
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation	
Equality and Inclusion	G	CUA includes commitment to reducing inequalities within GM and between GM and other parts of the UK, including tackling education & skills gaps	
Health			
Resilience and Adaptation			
Housing			
Economy	G	Supports LIS frontier sectors/sub-sectoral specialisms and leverages GM's significant HE innovation and R&D assets Has potential to support inward investment linked to specialisms as well as creative/cultural economy	
Mobility and Connectivity			
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	Includes commitments around GM carbon net zero ambition, both in the fundamental content of the proposal and in relation to the partners' responsibilities as institutions	
Consumption and Production			
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		The proposal sets out a shared commitment to supporting carbon net zero ambitions by harnessing the universities' collective R&D and science & innovation assets in support of GM's 2038 net zero target, ensuring that low carbon knowledge/training are embedded in courses, and in recognising the partners' individual and collective responsibilities as institutions to reduce their impact via a formal commitment to become signatories of the GM zero carbon plan.	
Further Assessment(s):	N/A		
 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.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

Carbon Assessment				
Overall Score				
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation		
New Build residential	N/A			
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenanc	N/A			
New Build Commercial/Industrial	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:

No specific risks associated with this report.

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

N/A – activity delivered within existing resources.

Financial Consequences – Capital:

N/A

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To be considered at a future meeting if required.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

No previous papers considered on the CUA.

TRACKING/PROCESS	
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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	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	TBC if called	

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Universities across the UK have been strongly encouraged by government to enter into voluntary [Civic University Agreements](#) (CUA) – strategies co-developed with regional leaders and communities to address local priorities. Rather than develop these in isolation, the five publicly-funded universities based in Greater Manchester have worked with the GMCA in the early part of 2021 to agree a high-level set of shared priorities based on workshops with civic leaders and [polling with the public](#). The CUA will be the largest in the UK and will help to support more collaborative ways of working and opportunities to collectively address key priorities in Greater Manchester.

2. THE GREATER MANCHESTER CIVIC UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT

- 2.1 This Civic University Agreement is the first time that all of the five universities in our city region have come together to collectively make commitments on this scale. It builds on the existing work that the five universities in Greater Manchester have been doing, along with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, both before but increasingly during the Covid crisis - recognising that there is more power in the collective than acting individually, and our role and responsibility as major contributors and anchor institutions within our city region.
- 2.2 It sets out the universities' shared priorities as institutions, in partnership with the GMCA and the elected Mayor of GM. It builds on the existing GM strategy, which all institutions continue to be involved in and contribute to, as well as a wide range of other activities being undertaken by the universities as civic institutions. It sits alongside a shared ambition to make GM the best place to grow up, get on and grow old in the UK.
- 2.3 It is based on concrete actions which the partners will take – individual as universities and alongside democratically elected local leaders, with a focus on where we can make substantial changes to really improve the city region in the medium term.
- 2.4 It is collective. GM's HE assets are more than the sum of their parts, and as they work together - and indeed with other bodies, from our Further Education colleges to NHS Trusts to businesses to the creative and cultural sector – they can do so much more. There is an ambition to deepen this collaboration over time and broaden it to include more organisations.

- 2.5 Most importantly, this agreement is drawn from our own population's priorities. The [polling commissioned](#) by the universities in advance of this agreement shows clearly that as universities and as a combined authority, we have many strengths in making our region a good place to live, and an economic powerhouse. But we also know that there is more to be done to become a tangible force for change in all ten boroughs, and a place where our residents can engage with their universities.
- 2.6 This agreement will follow the Mayoral cycle and be for an initial three year period. During this period the universities want to play their part, alongside their core mission of teaching and research, in contributing to economic recovery, addressing inequalities, sharing their creative and cultural facilities and increasing the number of Greater Manchester residents who visit and engage with the institutions.
- 2.7 The partners will produce and publish an annual update against this agreement, and establish new partnership arrangements so that we can work together collectively to oversee and manage progress against it.
- 2.8 The universities believe deeply in their civic responsibilities as anchor institutions for our region and believe it is a region where people can and will thrive. The priorities of the signatories are to work together to build upon our foundations of collective work and address the areas where we can make a concrete difference to people's lives, and truly deliver a Greater Manchester.
- 2.9 The Agreement is set out below. The list of proposed signatories is appended to this report.

In this Civic University Agreement, the 5 Universities (We) jointly agree to work with others on addressing the following:

- **EDUCATION AND SKILLS.** We commit to playing our part in making our region the best area in the country for young people to grow up, and for children and adults at all ages and all levels of qualification to be supported to learn throughout their lifetimes. Through our research programmes and training functions, and our work on widening participation, we will contribute to addressing the education and skills gaps between GM and the rest of the UK and between the most and least advantaged parts of GM. We will engage with learners from underrepresented through individual and shared access and outreach initiatives. We will build on collaboration with Further Education Colleges and businesses, including through a new Local Skills Improvement Plan, to identify labour market shortages and collectively plan how we will address them. We commit to work with local employers, large and small, to grow the number of Apprentices being trained in GM.
- **REDUCING INEQUALITIES.** We will support the levelling up of opportunities and life-chances between Greater Manchester and the rest of the UK and between the most and least advantaged towns and districts of GM - through our role as key employers

and anchor institutions. Working together, we will play our part in reducing inequalities by taking forward relevant elements of the refreshed GM Strategy, building on the conclusions of the independent Inequalities Commission.

- **JOBS AND GROWTH.** We will work with leading innovators from business, science, our own universities and FE colleges and local government to help drive growth and create jobs across GM. This will include focusing on growth in digital technology and cyber security. We will further develop the UK's first city-region wide innovation agency, Innovation GM - a £7bn blueprint focusing on innovation across the region and inclusive economic growth which could create 100,000 jobs, boost R&D investment and 'level up' the North, building on our R&D strengths in areas including advanced materials and manufacturing, health innovation, digital and creative, and net zero.
- **THE DIGITAL ECONOMY.** We will work together to support research and new businesses to drive growth in areas such as e-commerce, cyber security, data analytics, creative digital, smart cities and health tech, making Greater Manchester a top-5 European digital city-region. We will provide support for work in cyber security and AI through the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry and the Greater Manchester AI Foundry. And through Health Innovation Manchester and other institutional initiatives we will improve local people's health and wellbeing through new technology and devices, digital products and tools, improving prevention, and early detection and treatment of disease.
- **NET ZERO.** We will direct our research, innovation, courses and the management of our own estates to support our city region's ambitious 2038 zero-carbon target. We make a collective commitment to be signatories to Greater Manchester's 2038 zero carbon plan. We will harness our science and innovation base, study programmes and policy expertise to address the ambition. We will collaborate to ensure that our institutions fully embed the low carbon knowledge and training required for students to be work-ready for their future careers. We commit to working together to set baselines of current emissions and sharing individual formal reduction targets for our institutions in line with our target for zero carbon by 2038.
- **CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ECONOMY.** GM is the UK's most visited city-region outside of London in part because of the strength of our cultural facilities. Our universities contribute to this through our research, study programmes and our stewardship of important cultural institutions and partnerships, as well as our support for creative and cultural education. We will work to make our involvement in the city's cultural institutions better known and used by a wider population, and grow the opportunities we have for people across the city region to visit us. We will continue to support programmes which use our creative and cultural power to drive economic growth – including through supporting students and graduates into start up enterprises, increasing knowledge exchange around our universities' output in creative subjects,

and supporting students across our city region at all ages to understand the benefits to their future careers from studying creative and cultural subjects.

This high-level Civic University Agreement is our starting point. A new Civic University Board will be established to oversee the development of specific targets, deliverables and reporting of progress in the second half of 2021.

Appendix: Proposed Signatories to the CUA

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Rt Hon Mayor Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

Mayor Paul Dennett, Salford City Mayor

Cllr Neil Emmott, Leader, Rochdale Council

Cllr Martyn Cox, Deputy Leader, Bolton Council

Professor George Holmes, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Bolton

Cllr Sir Richard Leese, Leader, Manchester City Council

Professor Helen Marshall, Vice Chancellor, University of Salford

Professor Linda Merrick, Principal, Royal Northern College of Music

Cllr David Molyneux, Leader, Wigan Council

Cllr Eamonn O'Brien, Leader, Bury Council

Professor Malcolm Press, Vice Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice Chancellor, University of Manchester

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader, Oldham Council

Cllr Brenda Warrington, Leader, Tameside Council

Cllr Andrew Western, Leader, Trafford Council

Cllr Elise Wilson, Leader, Stockport Council