

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 28th October 2022

Subject: GM 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

Purpose of Report

This report seeks Greater Manchester Combined Authority (“Combined Authority” and “GMCA”) approval for a loan to HN Flow Limited (“Hydr”). The loan will be made from recycled funds.

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 £350,000 to HN Flow Limited.
2. Delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority 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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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment

A) HN Flow Limited

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion		
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation		
Housing		
Economy	G	Investment will lead to job creation and improve access to finance for SMEs.
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment		
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target	N/A	
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		
Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	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

The loan 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

There are no revenue implications.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The proposed loan 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. HN Flow Limited, Manchester

Sector: Financial Services

- 2.1.1. The business case in respect of a £350,000 convertible loan facility to HN Flow Limited (trading as "Hydr") has been submitted to and appraised by the Core Investment Team and is recommended to the Combined Authority for conditional approval.
- 2.1.2. Hydr is a UK-based technology-enabled invoice finance platform, serving small and medium sized businesses. The business commenced trading in 2021 and following early traction is embarking upon a fundraise to support its scale-up plans over the next twelve months.
- 2.1.3. The fundraise will be used to provide growth capital for the business to expand its Manchester-based team and continue its progress through the development roadmap for its technology platform.
- 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.