

# GM Business Board (LEP)

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GM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 2023

# *GM Business Board (LEP) – Existing Model*

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- GM Business Board (LEP) is a private-sector led, voluntary partnership whose core function is to provide leadership alongside the GMCA to deliver the region's strategic ambitions
- It is co-terminous with GMCA and was established at the same time in 2011. Both bodies were designed to have a shared strategic vision and complementary roles from the outset, as set out in the original proposal to government
- GM's unique approach had the Board integrated into the heart the city region's governance arrangements, ensuring that business leaders are empowered to work with GMCA to set the strategic course, agree priorities, determine local priorities and drive growth and job creation within the city region.
- The Board consists of 15 members; 11 private sector members and 4 GMCA members which includes the Mayor and three GMCA representatives along with 2 'ex-officio' members
- The Board is led by Lou Cordwell as Chair and Cllr Bev Craig as Deputy Chair. The model reflects the Board's commitment to be a modern, collaborative and ambitious voice of GM business
- This is underpinned by joint ownership of the refreshed GMS along with the GM Local Industrial Strategy agreed and launched jointly with Government and the GM Economic Vision.

# LEP Integration & New Model

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- Government LEP Review resulted in LEPs being integrated into local democratic institutions - announcement in the Levelling Up White Paper
- Now evolving towards a new model of a GM Business Board fully integrated into GMCA with a remit to ensure we can be as ambitious as possible, maintaining a strong business voice at the heart of city region and maximising economic growth across GM:
  - Contribute to current **GM economic thinking** and develop responses to any challenges/opportunities and feed into wider inclusive economic development work
  - Oversee **framework of key GMS priorities** agreed annually with GMCA
  - Lead delivery through **affiliated groups** in areas where GMCA is already allocating considerable resource
  - **Explore Foresight topics** that reflect the longer-term economic issues that will shape the city region e.g. AI
  - Provide **thought leadership** to influence at local, regional, and national level developing productive relationships with political and strategic decision-makers
  - Engage with **GM Districts** to strengthen connection and visibility, gather views/evidence from local business and support delivery of key district initiatives
- Waiting on approval from Government to take the next steps

# GMS Priority Framework & Delivery (1)

Priority	Business Board Affiliated Group	Deliverable
Innovation	Innovation Greater Manchester	Helping create an innovation ecosystem across the city region which will drive our frontier sectors; support productivity in all parts of the economy via innovation adoption; and generate solutions to societal issues such as achieving net zero
Net Zero	Bee Net Zero Bee Network Partnership	Ensuring all our businesses are on a journey to Net Zero by making Greater Manchester the easiest place in the UK to become a net zero business
Real Living Wage	Living Wage City Region Action Group	Supporting businesses in becoming the first city region to pay all employees a real living wage
Economic Resilience	Economic Resilience Group	Ensuring issues affecting the resilience of GM's businesses and economic networks are fully understood and emerging responses are developed and debated
Skills	GM Employment and Skills Advisory Panel	Ensuring an integrated employment and skills eco-system that is demand led by employers building Greater Manchester's economic growth through the skills and talent development of its people

# GMS Priority Framework & Delivery (2)

Priority	Business Board Affiliated Group	Deliverable
Marketing and International	GM International Marketing Advisory Board	Promoting Greater Manchester to our identified global, national and local audiences as a place to visit, invest and do business to boost Greater Manchester's ambitions.
Business Support	Business Support & Finance Advisory Board	Understand and respond to the needs of entrepreneurs and businesses to start, and grow; addressing productivity, inclusivity, and environment sustainability, via the Growth Hub and working in partnerships with public and private sector.
Investment Finance	Business Finance Advisory Group	Ensuring that finance needs of businesses and market finance gaps are understood. Improve the signposting of available finance in GM (public and private) to support business start-up and growth as well as attracting new finance solutions to GM.
Addressing Inequalities	Tackling Inequalities Board/GM Good Employment Charter	Working with business to address inequalities and improve wellbeing by raising employment standards across Greater Manchester for all organisations of any size, sector or geography

# *Next Steps*

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The actions outlined demonstrate our commitment to realising the ambitions of the GMS as we transition into a fully integrated GM Business Board.

But we know that we cannot achieve our vision alone and we will continue to work with partners to create a fairer, greener and more prosperous Greater Manchester.

The Board is keen to explore how we can work with the 10 GM districts:

- To ensure we deliver for all parts of the city region
- To best engage with Leaders and local members to highlight positive impacts in each district
- To make best use of private sector Board member leads for each GM district
- To engage with local business networks and support delivery of key district initiatives