

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2023 AT BURY TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Mayor of Greater Manchester	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire)	Kate Green
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Manchester	Councillor Joanna Midgley
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Ged Cooney
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Bolton	Councillor Mrs Linda Thomas
Bolton	Councillor Nadim Muslim (Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee)
Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley (Chair of Police, Fire & Crime Panel)
GM Race Equality Panel	Elizabeth Cameron

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
GMCA Exec Director of Policy & Strategy	Simon Nokes

GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny	Julie Connor
Bolton	Rachel Tanner
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Mark Duncan
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Maggie Kufeldt
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sarah Saleh
Wigan	Sonia Halliwell
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

GMCA 183/23 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Nicholas Peel (Bolton), Councillor Bev Craig (Manchester), Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Sue Johnson (Bolton), Tom Stannard (Salford), Sara Todd (Trafford) and Alison McKenzie-Folan (Wigan).

GMCA 184/23 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, advised that the GMCA & TfGM Chief Executive Eamonn Boylan had announced his intention to retire following the May 2024 Mayoral Elections. The Mayor reflected on how vital the support of Eamonn had been to him throughout his six years as Mayor, particularly throughout the Bee Network process. It was advised that discussions had been taking place

through the Resources Committee to agree the recruitment process for a new Chief Executive and the GMCA would be further updated on this in due course.

An update was provided on the HS2 situation following the announcement by Government over the decision to scrap the Manchester to Birmingham arm of the HS2 network. It was felt that the decision-making process for this had not been conducted in an appropriate way, and that this was particularly disappointing after officers within Greater Manchester had worked on the plans around this for a full decade in good faith.

There were opportunities arising from what had now been announced, for example £12bn within the plan for a proposed new line between Greater Manchester and the Liverpool City Region. The HS2 Phase 2b plans in relation to Greater Manchester had also been safeguarded until the summer of 2024 to allow time for Greater Manchester/TfGM to work with the Liverpool Combined Authority to work on a plan for improving rail connectivity in both regions. It was hoped that this would include discussions for both a new station at the Airport and an underground station at Manchester Piccadilly.

In reference to the Phase 2 part of the plan (Crewe to Birmingham) the Government had signalled plans to dispose of the reserved land within a matter of weeks. This timetable would not allow sufficient time for the concessions that the West Midlands Mayor had agreed for consideration of the alternatives to HS2 in increasing rail capacity between Birmingham and Manchester. A letter had now been sent to the Secretary of State for Transport asking for an alignment of the timetable for the consideration of these issues in which the land would be protected for at least another nine month period. The GMCA would be updated in due course on whether the proposal had been accepted.

Reference was made to the ongoing tragic events unfolding in the Middle East and the stress and anxiety that many residents of Greater Manchester would be going through in relation to this. The Mayor advised that he had attended the vigil held by the Jewish Community following the initial attacks and would this afternoon be meeting with representatives from the Muslim Community for a listening event. It was vital to

engage with all communities in the sub region, all communities would be treated with equal respect.

All present expressed their condolences and best wishes to the family and friends of Sir Bobby Charlton following his sad passing, and his incredible contribution to the promotion of Greater Manchester on the football world stage was acknowledged.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the announcement that Eamonn Boylan would be retiring as the Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Combined Authority & Transport for Greater Manchester following the May 2024 Mayoral Elections be acknowledged.
2. That the latest rail network development updates be received following the decision of the Government to cancel the Manchester to Birmingham arm of HS2.
3. That it be noted that the Combined Authority will be kept informed of the outcomes following the letter sent to the Department for Transport requesting that protections of the land purchased for HS2 be extended into 2024 to ensure full consideration of the options available.
4. That it be noted that following the ongoing tragic events in the Middle East, the Mayor has met with the Greater Manchester Jewish Community and the Mayor and Leaders will today be meeting with the Greater Manchester Muslim Community.
5. That Members express their condolences and best wishes to the family and friends of Sir Bobby Charlton following his sad passing, and that his incredible contribution to the promotion of Greater Manchester on the world stage be acknowledged.

GMCA 185/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

That Mayor Andy Burnham declared an interest in Item 17 (Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff) and would vacate the Chair and leave the meeting for consideration of this item.

GMCA 186/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 29 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 187/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 29 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 188/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 September 2023 be noted.

GMCA 189/23 MINUTES OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Bee Network Committee held on 28 September 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 190/23 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER WASTE &
RECYCLING COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Waste & Recycling Committee meeting held on 11 October 2023 be noted.

GMCA 191/23 GREATER MANCHESTER EQUALITY STRATEGY

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, opened the item by thanking Elizabeth Cameron for her leadership over the past year as the first chair of the Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel. He also congratulated her strong work and leadership in raising the profile of equality issues before inviting Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Communities, to introduce the item which outlined the next steps required to achieve meaningful change for our racially diverse communities.

Councillor Shah stated that the purpose of the Strategy was to bring the issues highlighted within it out into the open, the Panel had been given an important level of freedom by the Mayor to truly broach the subject and ask sometimes uncomfortable questions about structural inequality. The Strategy would not be easy to implement and would face challenges, but there was a full commitment to breaking down as many barriers as possible. It was important to remember that the members of the Race Equality Panel were volunteers, and it was not their responsibility to implement the five key themes within the Strategy, this responsibility fell upon local political and organisational leads and it was vital all endorsed and bought into the Strategy in full.

Councillor Nadim Muslim was then invited, as the Chair of GMCA Overview & Scrutiny, to advise of the comments made by that Committee. Councillor Muslim welcomed the fact that Strategy was now being brought to the Committee providing the opportunity to feed into them at an earlier stage. The Committee had broadly

welcomed the Strategy's approach to tackling the issues found cross the region, and whilst the task would be significant, the Strategy had clear areas for prioritisation.

The outgoing Chair of the Race Equality Panel Elizabeth Cameron was then invited to comment. She commented that the commitment of the GMCA in actively pushing this agenda forward was strongly welcomed and provided the Panel members with the energy to spur them on in the development of the Strategy – and it was hoped that this would form a lasting legacy. The themes within the Strategy were fully supported and it was time now to bring the 'experts' in to ensure that the resources and contacts are made available to build upon the work of the Panel.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GMCA would consider its role in supporting delivery of the themes and actions within the proposed framework and development of a Race Equality Strategy.
3. That the key themes and actions, as set out in the report, including the appointment of a political and organisational lead from each local authority to drive forward individual action and collective development of a Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy be endorsed.
4. That the points raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
5. That the comments made by The Chair of the GM Race Equality Panel be received and noted.
6. That the GMCA record it thanks to Elizabeth Cameron for chairing the first year of the GM Race Equality Panel.

**GMCA 192/23 IMPLEMENTATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER
VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE (VCFSE) ACCORD AND A FAIR FUNDING
PROTOCOL**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Communities and Equalities introduced a report seeking GMCA approval of the Fair Funding Protocol.

The GMCA had previously approved a new tripartite Accord agreement with the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector and NHS Greater Manchester, to act as a framework for collaboration involving VCFSE leaders and organisations in the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) and the thematic strategies and delivery plans that would exist to deliver the GMS vision. The Accord had been endorsed through the Executive structures of all ten of the Greater Manchester local authorities. In March 2022, a five-year Implementation Plan for the Accord was published, and the report provided an update on the work that was currently taking place across Greater Manchester.

It was clear that a huge amount of progress has been made already, with VCFSE sector representatives “at the table” in the places where important decisions were made across the NHS, Health and Social Care and GMCA partnerships. The sector was playing a strong role across all the commitments and thematic areas of the GMS, and improvements have been made in the sector’s workforce, in communication, in partnerships and in service delivery.

The Accord included a commitment that the GMCA would work with its partners to build a financially resilient VCFSE sector. However, the sustainability and resilience of front-line community groups and organisations had been hit hard by both the current economic situation and the withdrawal of Covid emergency funding, thereby reducing their capacity to help. It was proposed therefore that GMCA commit to a Fair Funding Protocol in relation to new grants and contracts for activities and services that the VCFSE sector carried out across Greater Manchester which were funded directly from the GMCA’s budget.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress update be noted.
2. That the Fair Funding Protocol for activities and services that the VCFSE sector carries out across Greater Manchester, which were funded directly from the GMCA's budget, be approved.

GMCA 193/23 HOMELESSNESS UPDATE 2023

City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for homelessness, presented a report updating the GMCA on the current pressures being faced and activity taking place to combat homelessness and rough sleeping in Greater Manchester. Current activity highlighted included:

- The development and implementation of the Homelessness Prevention Strategy continued apace.
- Work was taking place with government to ensure that the Housing First pilot had a long-term legacy.
- Development would take place for 300 new units of 'move on' accommodation through the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme run in tandem with the development of an ethical lettings' agency model.
- Reference was made to the accelerated asylum decision-making implemented by the Home Office to clear the current backlog. In the long-term such a process was support, however, at the present time this would create significant pressures for local authorities and the VCFSE sector against a backdrop of other ongoing issues. It was estimated that 500 families and 2000 single person households in the region would receive a positive decision and require temporary accommodation before the end of the year. There was also concern around those who received a negative decision who would be at risk of exploitation and destitution during any appeals process.
- The report looked to the future in terms of developing a strategic approach to delivering asylum & migration. There was a need to continue to lobby

government for at least £2.6m until March 2025 to mobilise emergency funds following the ceasing of the Home Office Refugee Transitions Outcome Fund (RTOF) in March 2024.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current and forthcoming pressures on Rough Sleeping and Statutory homelessness services, and the activity undertaken to mitigate these, be noted.
2. That the funding risk and uncertainty for all homelessness programmes beyond 31 March 2025 be noted.
3. That the ongoing work to define a vision for homelessness beyond 2025 be noted.
4. That a request be made to the Home Office for further support to be made available and that a stable alternative to the temporary Home Office Refugee Transitions Outcome Fund (RTOF), which was due to end in March 2024, be developed.

**GMCA 194/23 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT –
AUTUMN 2023**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, presented a report that provided a progress report on the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) for review, comment and approval.

Councillor Nadim Muslim was invited to provide feedback from the recent consideration of the GMS by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Concerns raised included issues around means testing in terms of training availability; barriers to work for qualified asylum seekers; issues around dependence on private vehicles; and employment pathways for residents of all ages.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the draft progress report, noting the development in the approach to progress reporting, with a greater emphasis on whole system metrics and actions, be approved.
2. That the whole system actions included in the report and the next steps from progressing these actions through a round of thematic, sectoral and place-based engagement on the findings be approved.
3. That the impact assessment summary noted, and that it also be noted that the process adopted for the development of this progress report, has not gathered sufficient detail to assess specific impacts arising from delivery of programmes and policies supporting the GMS ambitions.
4. That it be noted that the assessment completed takes an overview approach, considering the strategic intent of the GMS and collective ability to, over time, achieve that strategic intent.
5. That the comments raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the five key areas within the GMS be received and noted.

GMCA 195/23 GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 2 2023/24

Steve Wilson (GMCA Treasurer) presented a report informing members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority financial position at the end of September 2023 (quarter 2) and forecast revenue outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year.

The report also included an update on the proposed areas for the enhanced business rates sites in Greater Manchester as part the Trailblazer Devolution Deal between Government and GMCA.

During the discussion, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, provided an update on the first full month of tranche 1 of the Bee Network. Following the expected initial teething problems following the scale of the overnight changeover, operations have now stabilised. A steady improvement in reliability and punctuality has taken place and was already up to the level of the previous deregulated services, and in

many cases, already better. Highlighted as particularly improved were the V1 & V2 services. There were also positives in the form of a higher-than-expected farebox return so far. Learning was already being taken onboard from Tranche 1 as preparations for Tranche 2 gathered pace.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the forecast position at 30th September 2023 be noted.
2. That the proposed areas for the enhanced Business Rates sites in Greater Manchester be noted. Also noted that confirmation and approval of final sites will be reported to a later meeting of the GMCA, following formal feedback from government and that the final details for the operation of enhanced Business Rates sites will be included in the Investment Plan.
3. That the updates to the GMCA general budget, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.
4. That the intention, subject to formal approval by the Department for Transport (DfT), to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding, previously awarded by DfT to support bus services, be noted, and that it also be noted that £7.5m of this re-allocation was to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25.
5. That the Mayor's first monthly progress update following the commencement of the Bee Network franchise be received.

GMCA 196/23 GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE QUARTER 2 2023/24

Steve Wilson (GMCA Treasurer) provided an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 2023/24 capital expenditure programme.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current 2023/24 forecast of £623.6m, compared to the previous forecast of £681.3m, be noted, and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
2. That the other increases in capital budget over £0.5m be approved as follows:
 - Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund capital funding of £0.7m, as outlined in section 3.4.3. of the report.
 - Transport Local Growth Deal 1 Major Schemes of £1.7m, as outlined in as outlined at section 3.11 of the report.
 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £7.7m, as outlined in section 4.10, of the report.

GMCA 197/23 UKSPF – E22 SME WORKSPACE – PROJECT CHANGE

Steve Wilson (GMCA Treasurer) presented a report seeking agreement to change the location of the scheme in Oldham town centre.

This would now change from creating SME workspace in the Prudential Building to SME workspace in the Spindles Centre. The UKSPF funding requirement and purpose would remain the same and would not impact on GMCA's ability to achieve the outputs and outcomes set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan agreed by GMCA in July 2022.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the UKSPF E22 investment in SME workspace in Oldham town centre, to support the creation of SME workspace in the Flexible Workspace project in the Spindles Centre and not the Prudential Building, be approved.
2. That the proposition for any UKSPF E22 underspend, under the £15m total allocated be reassigned to E22 projects that had to reduce grant ask in 2023, up to the maximum E22 total of £15m agreed by GMCA in January 2023, be approved.

3. That it be noted that the overall UKSPF investment to the end of March 2025 remains the same overall at £1.462m but is to be split into £1m capital investment and £0.462m revenue investment.
4. That the revised outputs and outcomes proposed and the positive contribution they will make to achieving those set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan be noted.

GMCA 198/23 ASHTON GROWTH CORRIDOR: PROPOSED MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, introduced a report seeking approval for and setting out the proposed concept for a Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) in the Eastern Growth Cluster, to be named Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (AMDZ).

The Eastern Growth Cluster was one of six Growth Locations across Greater Manchester that would deliver new mixed-use development, create a renewed and vibrant town centre, create and retain jobs, offer better job opportunities, enable training and skill development to increase the number of residents in employment.

The AMDZ would be focussed around two principal growth sites: Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre, including St Petersfield. The Ashton Growth Corridor presented a unique opportunity to focus on a cluster of growth opportunities which would build upon the investment of transport, digital assets and place planning to harness the opportunity presented by the allocation of a major employment site through Places for Everyone (PfE), the regeneration of the town centre which had surplus public sector owned land assets and the synergy between the two.

The cumulative impact of these sites would be to contribute to the objectives of the Greater Manchester Strategy and emerging PfE Joint Development Plan which sought to rebalance the Greater Manchester economy by accelerating the economic growth and competitiveness across the less prosperous areas of GM.

Councillor Ged Cooney was invited to comment on the project as the Leader of Tameside Council. He commented that the Mayor's consistent support for the

development of the east of the sub region was welcomed and it was felt that this would be a great example of real levelling up in an area where such investment from Government was long overdue.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the designation of a Mayoral Development Zone known as Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (AMDZ) be approved.
2. That the proposed area of the AMDZ, as indicated in the appendix to the report, be approved.
3. That the establishment of the AMDZ Board be approved and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM to agree appropriate representation on the Board, in consultation with Tameside Council.
4. That it be noted that the projects within the proposed AMDZ will aim to deliver sustainable forms of development that reflect and deliver the GM Strategy.
5. That the principles of the business case and development strategy for the MDZ, as set out in the report, be approved, noting that the AMDZ Board will refine these into the development of a business case, for the AMDZ in overseeing the delivery of the growth sites, for submission to a future meeting of the GMCA for approval.
6. That it be noted that the current funding resource will be from Tameside Council's unallocated Levelling Up Capacity Grant with GMCA providing support with officer time.
7. That future updates on delivery progress at AMDZ be submitted to the GMCA.

GMCA 199/23 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING TARIFF

Andy Burnham declared an interest in the report and vacated the Chair and left the room for the discussion.

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, GMCA Deputy Mayor, took the Chair for this item of business.

City Mayor Paul Dennett presented a report requesting that the ability to amend the Electric Vehicle charging tariff be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM, within approved limits, to allow for a more agile approach to remain competitive within the market.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the establishment of a floor and a ceiling price cap of 30% above the below the current EV tariff, as, set out in the report, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM to approve tariff charges within those limits.

GMCA 200/23 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 201/23 TRANCHE 3 BUS PROCUREMENT

RESOLVED /-

That the recommendations within the report be approved.