

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024 AT STOCKPORT TOWN
HALL**

PRESENT

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Bolton	Councillor Nadim Muslim
--------	-------------------------

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 Director of Governance & Scrutiny	Julie Connor
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Carol Culley
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Mark Robinson
Salford	Tom Stannard

Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sarah Saleh
Wigan	Sonia Halliwell
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA 01/24 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received from Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Alison McKenzie-Folan (Wigan), Joanne Roney (Manchester), Sara Todd (Trafford) and Steve Rumbelow (Rochdale).

GMCA 02/24 CHAIRS ANNOUCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, opened with the sad news of the passing of Sir Tony Lloyd MP, recalling his many years of immeasurable public service in the region. Sir Tony had first been elected as a Trafford Councillor in 1979, before going on to serve as the MP for Stretford, Manchester Central and Rochdale. Additionally, he served as the first Police & Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester and also served as the region's interim mayor, being a key architect in laying the foundations for what Greater Manchester had become today. Condolences were sent to Sir Tony's family, and his constituency staff at this time.

Those present reflected on their memories of Sir Tony. How he served in politics as 'the best of us' and had an unwavering ability to bring people together, both across the political sphere and within the communities he served, and how he supported others in growing their confidence with a sincere empathetic heartfelt and human touch often missing nowadays. It was commented that "if politics has a moral centre – it looks like Tony Lloyd".

Deputy Mayor Kate Green was invited to provide an update on the latest developments in concluding the Baird Review of women and girls in custody suites in Greater Manchester. The investigation process had now been completed and the

development of the final report had now begun. This would involve several stages including legal and due diligence checks, as well as sharing the findings with the relevant complainants. It was critical that they were made aware of what was going to be in the report in advance. Whilst a precise timeframe could not be placed upon this process – it was aimed to have the report published before the close of the current mayoral term.

The Mayor advised that National Holocaust Memorial Day would be taking place on Saturday 27th January with events taking place throughout the region's boroughs. It was advised that the GMCA had held a deeply moving event on Wednesday 24th January – with particular thanks expressed to Falinge Park High School students who were involved in this event.

RESOLVED /-

1. That tributes and reflections from members on the passing of Sir Tony Lloyd MP be noted and that condolences be sent to his family and constituency staff at this time.
2. That all who wished to leave their condolences on the passing of Sir Tony Lloyd MP be invited to do so via the [Rochdale Council](#) website.
3. That the Deputy Mayor's update on the progress of the Baird Review be received and noted.
4. That the events taking place throughout the region to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January be noted.

GMCA 03/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

That there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any item on the agenda.

**GMCA 04/24 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER
2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 15 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 05/24 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER STANDARDS
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 15 December 2023 be approved.

**GMCA 06/24 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 13 December 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 07/24 MINUTES OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 14 December 2023 be noted.
2. That the commencement of the new regular weekly reports on Bee Network performance through social media channels be acknowledged.

**GMCA 08/24 MINUTES OF THE GMCA WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2024**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Waste & Recycling Committee meeting held on 17 January 2024 be noted.

**GMCA 09/24 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20
DECEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Clean Air Administration Committee meeting held on 20 December 2023 be noted.

GMCA 10/24 MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET AND PRECEPT PROPOSALS

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, presented a report setting out his proposals for the Mayoral General Budget and precept for 2024-25 for consideration by the members of the GMCA. Unique amongst Mayoral Combined Authorities, the proposals being made included a significant element for the Fire Service which had previously fallen to the GM Fire and Rescue Authority to determine.

It was advised that the police precept consultation process had just concluded and that the Mayor's request for a £13 annual increase would be considered by the GM Police, Fire & Crime Panel on Tuesday 30th January. The challenges faced in terms of police funding stemmed from a below inflation increase in funding received from the Home Office in late 2023, with the expectation that PCC's would seek an increased precept. This was similar to the situation faced in terms of fire funding, and hence why a £5 annual increase would be sought for the functions previously covered by the Fire & Rescue Authority.

It was fully understood that increasing precepts in a time when the cost-of-living-crisis was still very much active was a difficult thing to do and was not a decision taken lightly. Due to this, the Mayor would not seek an increase in the precept for other Mayoral general functions.

Councillor Nadim Muslim was invited to feed back the comments raised at the GM Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the proposals. The Committee fully understood the difficulties involved in the latest round of budget setting across the public sector and appreciated that the proposals made did show restraint and could be justified. The Committee did raise concerns about Home Office legislation reimplementing 28 day evictions and the potential impact on homelessness.

Members expressed continued concern about the lack of government funding into local authorities, and that the recent announcement of £600m extra national funding was a sticking plaster over an increasing crisis and did represent a long-term sustainable solution to the many issues being faced.

Members noted the impact of the increasing homelessness being seen across the region and welcomed the Mayor's continued commitment to A Bed Every Night. However, the increases seen in the need for temporary accommodation were reaching a point of severe unsustainability, with an increasing number of children having to be placed in these types of accommodation. It was considered vital that the Renters Reform Bill, issues around no-fault evictions and the local housing allowance uplift were resolved to begin to address this crisis.

RESOLVED /-

1. That approval be given to the Mayor's proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept by £5 to £112.95 (for a Band D property) comprising of:
 - i. Functions previously covered by the Fire & Rescue Authority – Precept of £81.20 (£5 Increase).
 - ii. Other Mayoral general functions – Precept of £31.75 (no increase)

2. That the GMCA was given the opportunity to note and comment on:
 - i. The overall budget proposed for the Fire & Rescue Service.
 - ii. The use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2025 are adequate.
 - iii. The proposed Fire Service capital programme and proposals for funding.
 - iv. The medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service covered by the Mayoral precept.
3. That the GMCA was given the opportunity to note and comment on the detailed budget proposals for other mayoral functions.
4. That the GMCA was given the opportunity to note and comment on the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report.
5. That the process for submitting any written comments to the Mayor in line with the legal process and timetable described in this report be noted.
6. That it be noted that at the GMCA meeting on 9 February 2024 there will be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final baseline funding settlement.
7. That the comments raised by the Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
8. That the challenges presented by the below inflation increase in home office funding for both police and fire be noted.
9. That concerns that the current government funding package offered does not represent a long-term solution to the many issues faced within local authorities be noted.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, presented a report containing the draft strategy for Vision Zero including the key features and targets for 2040. The report underlined the current picture, highlighting the key aims and objectives of the strategy, and sought to gain approval of the draft from members.

The Mayor also highlighted the changes seen in Greater Manchester Police's addressing of road safety issues over the past few years – with an increase in the number of new speed cameras and a much more visible presence on the region's roads. 852 people were killed or seriously injured on the roads of GM in 2022 (64 of which were deaths) and this was an unacceptably high number.

It was important to be clear that this was not an 'anti-motorist' strategy as some may look to perceive it – if the strategy was to be successful it would not only make all forms of transport safer – it would also help ensure that traffic also flowed better for all users, including motorists. The strategy was "not anti-car, but pro-road safety".

Councillor Nadim Muslim was invited to feed back the views of the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was advised that the Committee fully agreed that there was a need for this strategy and that every one road death in GM was one too many. The Committee hoped that the acceleration of this work could take place as soon as practicably possible. The Committee expressed concern that speed cameras could only be installed after a series of road deaths in a location and hoped that GM could begin to use its own criteria. It was also noted that speed and traffic calming measures that worked in some locations were not applicable to every location and that local knowledge should be used in adopting the best approach.

Members sought assurances that the strategy would be taken to individual authorities to be considered by their own scrutiny functions to ensure wider member engagement. It was advised that the strategy was deliberately broad rather than prescriptive at this stage so that stakeholders and the public could take part in shaping a final strategy that works best for the region. A detailed action plan would be drawn up that would include significant engagement with elected members ahead of the wider consultation.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the comments on the content of the draft strategy be noted.

2. That the draft Vision Zero Strategy and the commencement of a period of engagement with stakeholders and the public be approved.
3. That it be noted that a supporting Action Plan will be developed and brought to the GMCA following the period of stakeholder and public engagement on the strategy.
4. That the comments raised by the Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

GMCA 12/24 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT PLAN

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth presented a report detailing the contents of the Investment Plan which related to the investment approach to support inclusive growth across Greater Manchester, including the things that needed to be done to drive inclusive growth in GMs key sectors and 10 Local Authorities over the next 10-15 years.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Investment Plan set out in this document and the receiving of periodic updates be approved.
2. That the Investment Milestones as set out in Annex 1 be agreed.
3. That the Investment Principles set out in Annex 2 be agreed.
4. That the boundaries proposed for the GM Investment Zones and GM Growth Zones as set out in Annex 3 be approved.

**GMCA 13/24 GREATER MANCHESTER BROWNFIELD PROGRAMME –
YEAR 2 & 3 METHODOLOGY AND ALLOCATIONS**

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing presented a report seeking approval for the allocation of the remaining £115m from the three year £150m Brownfield programme that is part of the 2023 Devolution Deal. The allocation had been determined by the methodology set out within the paper.

It was advised that work was taking place to ensure that of the minimum 7000 homes hoped to be built by 2025/26, at least 25% would be available as genuinely affordable homes at social rent levels and there would also be a significant focus on the continued provision of net zero/additional environmental benefits.

It was agreed that the pace at which the region was able to deliver on the development of brownfield sites was exemplary and a true embodiment of the vision of levelling up. With this in mind, the Mayor and Councillor Cooney would write to the government to make clear how successful the region was at delivery in this area, and that further funding would conclusively deliver the outputs sought by government at a pace beyond that seen in the rest of the country.

RESOLVED /-

1. That approval be given to the methodology for prioritising schemes in Year 2 and Year 3 of the Brownfield programme, as set out in Section 2 and Appendix 1.
2. That approval be given to the allocation of the remaining £115m of the overall £150m funding devolved to GMCA.
3. That approval be given to the utilisation of up to £500k from Brownfield grant overage payments to contribute to the revenue funding requirements of delivering the programme.
4. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, acting in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer, to effect the necessary legal agreements

for the individual grants between the GMCA and grant recipients, as set out in Appendix 2.

5. That Mayor Burnham and Councillor Cooney will write to government to update on its strength and ability to deliver on brownfield projects, and that further funding would deliver the outputs sought by government at a pace beyond the rest of the country.

GMCA 14/24 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report seeking approval to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loan detailed in the recommendation below.

The loans and equity investments would deliver the development of 41 apartments and 19 townhouses on the site of the former Probation Centre in Victoria Park, Manchester, and the loan would support a SME developer to bring forward the redevelopment of a brownfield site, with a Section 106 agreement in place for 12 of the new homes to go forward for discounted market sale at a discount of at least 20% and ringfenced for sale to key workers or those on low incomes.

RESOLVED /-

1. That approval be given to GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loan detailed in the table below, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report;

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
Britannia Victoria Ltd	Victoria Park Probation Centre	Manchester	£9.632m

2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

GMCA 15/24**GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, presented a report seeking approval for a loan to HM Pasties Ltd – a company that worked closely with ex-offenders to help bring them into employment. The loan would be made from recycled funds and would fund expansion at a new larger location.

RESOLVED /-

1. That approval be given for a loan of up to £300,000 to HM Pasties Ltd.
2. That authority be delegated 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.

GMCA 16/24**TFGM SENIOR APPOINTMENTS**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM presented a report seeking approval to recruit to the role of Chief Network Officer, TfGM, which will be a member of the Executive of TfGM; and to appoint to the role of TfGM Managing Director, on an interim basis, in line with the proposals agreed by the GMCA Resources Committee in relation to the recruitment of a Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for GMCA.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the disestablishment of the role of TfGM Chief Operating Officer and the creation of and recruitment to a new role of TfGM Chief Network Officer be noted and approved.
2. That authorisation be given to the commencement of a recruitment process of the TfGM Chief Network Officer.

3. That approval be given to the use of a recruitment executive search agency to provide independent support to the process.
4. That approval be given to the appointment of Steve Warrener as Interim Managing Director, in addition to his substantive role of Finance and Corporate Services Director, pending further discussions with the incoming Group CEO.
5. That approval be given to the appointment of the role of Chief Network Officer as a member of the TfGM Executive to replace the Chief Operating Officer and retain the Finance and Corporate Services Director as a member of TfGM Executive in the renamed joint role of Interim Managing Director/Finance and Corporate Services Director.
6. That it be noted that the Director General has been consulted on the content of this report.

GMCA 17/24 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 18/24 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT
RECOMMENDATION**

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 14/24)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 19/24

GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 15/24).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.