Minutes of the meeting of the GMCA Resources Committee held on Friday 26 January 2024

Present:

Andy Burnham	Mayor of Greater Manchester
Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Bury
Councillor Bev Craig	Manchester
City Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford
Councillor Mark Hunter	Stockport
Councillor Tom Ross	Trafford

Also present:

Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM
Andrew Lightfoot	GMCA Deputy Chief Executive
Gill Duckworth	GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer
Steve Wilson	GMCA Treasurer
Julie Connor	GMCA Director, Governance & Scrutiny
Kevin Lee	Mayor of Greater Manchester's Office
Nicola Ward	Statutory Scrutiny Officer

RC/28/23/4　　　　Apologies

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor David Molyneaux (Wigan).

RC/29/23/4　　　　Chairs Announcements & Urgent Business

There were no Chairs Announcements or Urgent Business.

RC/30/23/4　　　　Declarations of Interest

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

RC/31/23/4　　　　Minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 24 November 2023

Resolved/-

That the minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 24 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

RC/32/23/4   Growth Location Resources – PMO and Delivery Team

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM introduced a report which sought approval for two posts within the Core Investment & Delivery Team to support growth location activity. It was acknowledged that the current team was undersized in order to provide the support needed to Local Authorities across Greater Manchester to bring forward investment schemes.

A grant from DHLUC would cover the costs of these posts for a two-year period, however, it was felt important to advertise these roles as permanent in order to attract the best talent. In response to a question regarding the sustainability of these posts, the Chief Executive confirmed that the GMCA central budget would assume the ongoing costs for these posts after the first two years. Members suggested that following the completion of a number of successful schemes there would be a case to put to DHLUC for future revenue funding to support the realisation of future aspirations.

Members of the Committee felt that the growth in this team was vital to ensure the necessary acceleration of delivery but urged that these additional resources be allocated in line with the GM Investment Plan and that they remain flexible to support Local Authorities to bring forward schemes as appropriate. It was also commented that these roles should not complete the work of Local Authorities, but instead add value and encourage simultaneous acceleration at a local level to ensure equitable development across the conurbation. As a result, there may be a requirement to amend relevant CA accountability structures.

The team currently was made up of five officers, and members queried as to whether the addition of two roles would be sufficient to meet the requirements. Officers were content that there would be adequate resources to deliver against the current strategy, but that this may require variation in the future.

It was commented that the added value of Stockport MDC had already been made evident through a collaborative approach to deliver ambitious place-based regeneration, with each partner having a clear and recognised role. Such approach has already been called for in other areas, further emphasising the necessity for these additional posts.

Resolved /-

1. That the creation of a new Assistant Director - Place Post – new role be approved.

2. That the creation of an additional Delivery Manager Post based on existing Delivery Manager role be approved.

3. That in recognition of the significant role of the Core Investment & Delivery Team, that consideration should be given to any required changes to GMCA accountability structures.

RC/33/23/4   Head of Data and Enterprise Architecture Role

Andrew Lightfoot, Deputy Chief Executive GMCA took the Committee through a report which sought approval for the establishment of, and appointment to, the post of a Head of Data & Enterprise Architecture within the GMCA structure. Although this would be a net saving to the service, this would be consumed by service pressures including increased licensing costs and cyber security interventions.

Resolved /-

That authorisation be given to the GMCA Chief Executive to progress the establishment of a Head of Data & Enterprise Architecture (Senior pay-scale SM6 (£69,889 - £78,314)) post and agree that the current postholder be assimilated into this role.