

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Resources Committee

Date: 12 July 2024

Subject: Transport Commissioner and Active Travel Commissioner Re-appointments

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

Purpose of Report

This report seeks support for the re-appointments of the Greater Manchester Transport Commissioner and the Greater Manchester Active Travel Commissioner and the award of new contracts until 30 April 2028.

Recommendations:

The Resources Committee is requested to:

1. Endorse the award of a new contract for Vernon Everitt as Transport Commissioner on the terms outlined in paragraph 2.7.
2. Endorse the award of a new contract for Dame Sarah Storey as Active Travel Commissioner on the terms outlined in paragraph 3.6.
3. Note the contract extensions of Vernon Everitt and Dame Sarah Storey on existing terms until the 31 July 2024, whilst the new contracts are procured.
4. Note that all Advisor appointees will be required to complete the GMCA Register of Interests and comply with GMCA policies and procedures.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

There are no implications arising directly from this Report

Risk Management

There are no risk management implications

Legal Considerations

There are no legal considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

See paragraphs 2.7 and 3.6

Financial Consequences – Capital

There are no capital finance implications

Number of attachments to the report: 2

Role profiles for the Transport Commissioner and Active Travel Commissioner

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

None

Background Papers

- GMCA Resources Committee Paper, Appointment of Transport Commissioner and Active Travel Commissioner, 25th March 2022
- GMCA Resources Committee Paper, Transport Commissioner Contract Extension, 29th September 2023

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

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

Bee Network Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The appointments of Vernon Everitt as Transport Commissioner and Dame Sarah Storey as Active Travel Commissioner were approved in March 2022, with the extension of the Transport Commissioner's contract subsequently approved in September 2023. On 1st May 2024 the Commissioners' existing contracts were further extended for a period of 3 months to 31st July 2024 to ensure continued delivery of services whilst re-appointment was considered.
- 1.2. Support is now sought for re-appointing both Commissioners until 30th April 2028, in line with the end of the current Mayoral term.
- 1.3. All Mayoral Advisors will be required to comply with GMCA policies and procedures under the terms of their contracts for services.

2. Transport Commissioner

- 2.1. It is proposed that Vernon Everitt is re-appointed to the position of Transport Commissioner for Greater Manchester, a role he has been fulfilling since 25th April 2022. Prior to his appointment as Transport Commissioner, Vernon was Transport for London's Managing Director for Customers, Communication & Technology. He is a renowned transport professional who sits as a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Transport for Wales.
- 2.2. The role of the Transport Commissioner is to advise the Mayor and Leaders on the delivery of the Bee Network - a high-quality, affordable and fully integrated transport system bringing together bus, tram, rail and highways networks.
- 2.3. The Commissioner works collaboratively with TfGM, the 10 local authorities and delivery partners such as Network Rail and supports the Mayor's engagement with HM Government to make the case for the necessary powers and resources to deliver the Bee Network.
- 2.4. Key responsibilities include providing insight and expert advice to the Mayor, Leaders, GMCA, TfGM and other delivery organisations on delivery of the Bee Network; working with the GMCA and TfGM to ensure there are effective mechanisms in place to deliver the Bee Network, and monitoring progress towards the delivery of the Bee Network, providing regular updates to the Combined Authority.

- 2.5. It is also proposed that the Commissioner will sit on the TfGM Executive Board, subject to the approval of the GMCA at its meeting on 12th July.
- 2.6. The proposed Role Profile is attached as Appendix A to the report.
- 2.7. The Transport Commissioner's services are proposed to be for 3 days a week (or equivalent hours during each weekly period) at a day rate of £650, with costs met from the Mayor's Transport budget. The Commissioner would continue to report directly to the Mayor and be supported by GMCA officers. The intention is that the new contract would commence on 1st August 2024 and run until 30th April 2028, in line with the end of the current Mayoral term.

3. Active Travel Commissioner

- 3.1. It is proposed that Dame Sarah Storey is re-appointed to the role of Active Travel Commissioner for Greater Manchester, a role she has been fulfilling since 9th May 2022. Prior to this, Dame Sarah was Active Travel Commissioner for South Yorkshire. She is also a Non-Executive Director at the Department for Transport and British Paralympic athlete.
- 3.2. The role of the Commissioner is to advise the Mayor and Leaders on the delivery of the Bee Network active travel mission - connecting every area and community in Greater Manchester, making it easy, safe and attractive for people to travel on foot or by bike for everyday trips and integrating cycling, wheeling and walking with other public transport modes.
- 3.3. The Commissioner works collaboratively with TfGM, the 10 local authorities and delivery partners such as Active Travel England and supports engagement with HM Government to make the case for the necessary powers and resources to deliver GM's active travel ambitions.
- 3.4. It is also proposed that the Commissioner will sit on the TfGM Executive Board, subject to the approval of the GMCA at its meeting of 12th July.
- 3.5. The proposed Role Profile is attached as Appendix B to the report.
- 3.6. The Active Travel Commissioner's services are proposed to be for 7.25 days per month (or equivalent hours during each weekly period) at a day rate of £600 per day, with costs met from the Mayor's Transport budget. This represents a reduction in hours and increase in day rate from the original contract terms, which were based on the Commissioner providing this service for two days per week at a day rate of

£500. The Commissioner would continue to report directly to the Mayor and be supported by GMCA officers. The intention is that the new contract would commence on 1st August 2024 and run until 30th April 2028, in line with the end of the current Mayoral term.