

AGMA
ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES

GREATER MANCHESTER PLANNING AND HOUSING COMMISSION

Date: 9 October 2024

Subject: Local Levy 2025/26

Report of: Jill Holden, Greater Manchester Flood and Water Management Programme
Manager

Purpose of the report

The North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee raise a Local Levy to support local priorities for addressing flood risk. This report provides a briefing to the Planning and Housing Committee (PHC) to consider the Local Levy percentage increase scenarios being proposed as set out in section 2.0 and agree GM's position. The GM NW RFCC members representing the GM partnership will be asked to vote on the percentage increase at the full Committee on 18th October.

Recommendations

PHC members are asked to consider the proposal as set out in section 2.0 and agree GM's position on an increase above the baseline from 1% - 4%. GM NW RFCC members representing the GM partnership will be asked to vote on the percentage increase at the full Committee on 18th October.

Contact Officers

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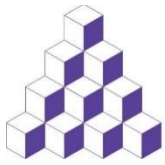
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NW RFCC) is 1 of 12 RFCC's across England. Greater Manchester (GM) is represented at the NW RFCC by 3 members and is one of 5 partnerships.
- 1.2. RFCC's raise a Local Levy to support local priorities for addressing flood risk and coastal erosion. This is in addition to receiving funding from central Government (FCRM Grant-in-Aid). The Local Levy provides an invaluable resource to enable the RFCC to set its own local agenda, to address priorities to best effect whilst maximising funds available from all sources to manage flood risk. The Local Levy also provides a resource to help fund local flood risk priorities including schemes which better protect people and property.
- 1.3 In recent years the RFCC has provided large contributions to major schemes, without which they may not have happened including Radcliffe and Redvales and Rochdale and Littleborough.
- 1.4 Equally important are the smaller contributions for locally important schemes, the partnership 'Quick Win' funds (£100k per partnership), and studies to support development of more robust scheme proposals and associated funding bids. Unlike many other public finances, Local Levy balances can be carried forward across financial years and earmarked for use in future years, providing great flexibility to respond to evolving needs.
- 1.5 In excess of £10m Local Levy money is either already spent or allocated to GM across the 6-year (2021/22 – 2026/27) FCERM programme. This includes funding to RFCC Bus Plan projects, Quick Win fund and some resource support.

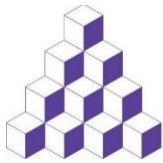
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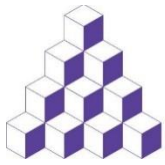


- 1.6 The Local Levy is agreed by the RFCC on an annual basis at its October meeting. Arrangements for agreeing the rate to vote for may vary between partnerships but normally each local authority is asked to:
- Consider the range of rate options (see section 2.0).
 - Decide what rate they wish to support, bringing the decision back to the next strategic partnership meeting.
 - Agree a majority consensus for the partnership.
- 1.7 PHC supports GM RFCC members by providing a platform to engage politically with all 10 districts, to agree a collective position and provide direction for Flood and Water Management.
- 1.8 PHC members need to consider the percentage increases being proposed as set out in section 2.0 and agree GM's position .
- 1.9 GM RFCC members, Cllr. Cooney, Cllr. Quinn and Cllr. Cusack will be asked to discuss GM's position at the NW RFCC Finance and Business Assurance Subgroup on 4th October and vote at the full Committee on 18th October.

2.0 LOCAL LEVY 2024/25

- 2.1 Local Levy can be carried over to future financial years, creating a reserve which at its peak was ~£12m at the end of 2022/23, reduced to ~£10.5m at the end of 2023/24 and forecast to reduce to ~ £7m at the end of 2024/25. Once the reserve reduces further, the RFCC won't be able to consistently provide the same level of investment as it currently does.
- 2.2 The income of around £4.5 million each year still allows for a significant level of ongoing investment across the North West but the scale of the programmes in 2023/24 and 2024/25, which exceed the annual income by £1.6m and £4.0m

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respectively, demonstrates the continued demand for Local Levy investment into the future.

- 2.3 The RFCC fully appreciates the wider and significant pressure on local authority budgets, as a result of COVID, inflationary pressures and ongoing competing priorities, but even in this context the flood risk management Local Levy only represents a very small element of the levies paid by local authorities. The collective benefits from those Local Levy payments far outweigh the size of individual authorities' contributions.
- 2.4 The amount of Local Levy raised from each Local Authority is based on the Council Tax base for Band D equivalent properties which is believed to be a fair and equitable basis for the calculation.
- 2.5 The options being proposed are 1% to 4% increase to the 2024/24 baseline. Below sets out the rate that would result from increases of 1% to 4%.

Local Authority	2024/25 Council Tax base (Band D equivalent)	(Baseline) 2024/25 Levy	2025/26 1% increase	2025/26 2% increase	2025/26 3% increase	2025/26 4% increase
Bolton	£80,001	£159,558	£1,596	£3,191	£4,787	£6,382
Bury	£57,409	£114,499	£1,145	£2,290	£3,435	£4,580
Manchester	£134,938	£269,128	£2,691	£5,383	£8,074	£10,765
Oldham	£59,380	£118,431	£1,184	£2,369	£3,553	£4,737
Rochdale	£76,722	£116,676	£1,167	£2,334	£3,500	£4,667
Salford	£98,397	£153,019	£1,530	£3,060	£4,591	£6,121
Stockport	£98,397	£196,248	£1,962	£3,925	£5,887	£7,850
Tameside	£64,723	£129,089	£1,291	£2,582	£3,873	£5,163

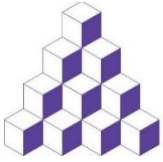
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Local Authority	2024/25 Council Tax base (Band D equivalent)	(Baseline) 2024/25 Levy	2025/26 1% increase	2025/26 2% increase	2025/26 3% increase	2025/26 4% increase
Trafford	£79,362	£158,284	£1,583	£3,166	£4,749	£6,331
Wigan	£97,900	£195,257	£1,953	£3,905	£5,858	£7,810
Total	Not applicable	£1,610,186	£16,102	£32,205	£48,398	£64,406

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