



AGMA Statutory Functions Committee

Date: 30 October 2024

Subject: Greater Manchester County Record Office and Greater Manchester Archives & Local Studies Partnership

Report of: Neil MacInnes, Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth, Manchester City Council, Sam Elliott, Head of Service, Bolton Council and Philip Cooke, Libraries and Archives Lead, Manchester City Council

Purpose of Report:

The Committee is asked to consider the progress of Archives+ and the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

Note the progress of Archives+ the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership

Contact Officers:

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Risk Management

No risks identified in the report – the report is an update for noting

Legal Considerations

There are no legal implications contained within this report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

No consequences relating to Revenue Finances – the report is an update, for noting

Financial Consequences – Capital

No consequences relating to Capital Finances – the report is an update, for noting

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Not appropriate

Background Papers

None

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

GM Transport Committee

Not appropriate

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Not appropriate

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO) is operated by Manchester City Council (MCC) on behalf of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA). GMCRO was opened by the former Greater Manchester Council (GMC) in 1976. Since 1986 GMCRO has since been supported by all AGMA districts and other joint AGMA authorities. GMCRO houses 4 miles of archives and seeks to identify, collect, preserve, and promote the widest possible public access to the documentary heritage of Greater Manchester in accordance with the statutory requirement of the Public Records Act 1958 and 1967, the Local Government (Records) Act 1962 and the Local Government Act 1972.
- 1.2 GMCRO was previously based at Marshall Street in Manchester City Centre and move to Manchester Central Library in early 2014 as part of a wider archive partnership called Archives+. Archives+ had made archives more accessible by creating exciting interpretive exhibition spaces to provide new ways for more people to discover the richness and relevance of archives, share their own stories and have a personalised experience of the City Region's history. Manchester's iconic Central Library reopened after a four-year closure in 2014, £50m transformation programme. Ten years later it is again the most visited public library in the United Kingdom. We celebrated the library's 90th anniversary this year of the opening of the library on 17th July 1934. GMCRO is a National Archives accredited Place of Deposit, and had its accreditation extended in 2023, being commended for its excellent facilities and its approach to engagement and partnership work. We received our accreditation certificate during a national TNA event to celebrate its accreditation scheme that was held at Manchester Central Library as Archives+ is considered to be such a model of best practice.
- 1.3 The Archives+ partners are the Northwest Film Archive (Manchester Metropolitan University), Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Trust (The University of Manchester), the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society and Manchester Histories.

1.4 In 2012 a feasibility study commissioned by AGMA recommended the creation of a formal Partnership to provide an overarching strategy and development. The Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership was established by Statutory Functions Committee in June 2012, with the Committee agreed to provide governance. It also agreed to create an officer group to lead the work of the Partnership and report to the AGMA Statutory Functions Committee. The Partnership consists of each local authority archive and local studies services in Greater Manchester, with the aim of achieving significant benefits through collaborating on service improvement and future sustainability. GMCRO provides strategic leadership to the partnership.

1.5 The Archives+ Partnership and GM Archives and Local Studies Partnerships (GMALSP) are held in high regard nationally as a model of best practice. Officers from our partnerships regularly speak at national archives conferences.

2.0 GMCRO and Archives+ - nine years on

2.1 Our Partnership

The Archives+ Partnership consists of the following organisations, which are located at Manchester Central Library

- + Manchester City Council – Libraries and Archives
- + Greater Manchester County Record Office
- + Northwest Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University (NWFA)
- + Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre (The University of Manchester)
- + Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society.
- + Manchester Histories

2.2 Archives + for everyone

Archives+ has pushed the boundaries of what archive services can do and how to engage. Each partner has their own knowledge and skills and working together, this enables us to offer an excellent service to Greater Manchester residents.

It is now nine years since Central Library re-opened following significant transformation. In the last 12 months, over 1.5 million people visited the library, an increase of over 10% on the previous 12 months.

As a focal point of the library, Archives+ has gone from strength to strength. Prior to the initiation of Archives+, each partner, not based at Central Library, reached only 15,000 people annually.

2.3 A sense of ownership

Archives+ is something people want to be part of. Community groups are constantly depositing their archive collections and holding exhibitions in Central Library. The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah's Heritage Lottery Funded Coming in from the Cold project has increased engagement with community groups relating to ethnic minority community groups, and increasing diversity of collections and engagement from minority communities is an ongoing priority.

3. Greater Manchester and Local Studies Partnership over the last 12 months

3.1 GMALSP Action Plan 2020-2023

GMALSP partners have continued to work effectively together, for the benefit of all 10 GM authorities.

3.1.1 Digital Preservation

The GMCRO Digital Preservation Archivist supported all partners to ensure they are approaching digital preservation in an effective manner. Some authorities have reduced the risks around digital records in recent years by storing records on backed-up server space provided by GMCRO. Our Digital Preservation work has progressed significantly this year. GMALSP were successful in their bid to The National Archive's Resilience Fund. We received £13,622 to purchase necessary equipment to process digital archives for long term storage. We have created two 'Greater Manchester Digital Kits' which each contain a laptop, floppy disk reader, cd drives, internal hard drive docking station, memory card reader and write blocker as well as a 2TB Hard Drive for each authority archive. The laptop has lots of open-source software loaded to it which collect vital metadata about digital collections. The project started in April 2024, giving each authority the kit for some time and receive training enabling them to start to process their digital collections. Oldham and Stockport have benefitted so far with the other authorities receiving it before April 2025. At the end of the project a celebration will be held at Manchester Central Library where GMALSP can reflect on how digital preservation has improved through this project

and where we can go next. The kit can then be booked out to use by each authority archive as and when required.

3.1.2 Health Records

GMALSP has been selected by The National Archives as their national pilot to maximise the amount of health records being transferred to Places of Deposit – Greater Manchester County Record Office and most GM archives services are Places of Deposit. In January we hosted a workshop attended by our archives services and NHS information officers. This has led to plans for an increased number of health records to be transferred and TNA are currently writing guidance and support notes as a result of the project.

3.1.3 Digital Kiosk

In 2023 we purchased a kiosk which displays audio-visual clips from our archives to be used in each authority. In 2024 it has been travelling between each authority, with relevant content to that area loaded on each time it moves. By the end of 2025, customers of every authority will have benefitted from a few months with the kiosk. Feedback has been excellent with residents fascinated by clips of Greater Manchester and their specific authority.

3.1.4 Increasing the diversity of our collections

The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre and Educational Trust have provided support to organisations across the region and country. This has intensified the need for each GMALSP's archives to be able to tell the story of its Global Majority residents and communities. Ensuring our collections more closely represent Greater Manchester's current communities remains a key priority for all GM Archives services.

3.1.5 GM Lives Replacement

GM Lives, which is the web portal for GM Archives, is not fit for purpose, and for a number of years we have been investigating an alternative solution to showcase GM Archives in a much more effective, customer focused way. Using our Greater Manchester Library Management System contract, three GM Authorities are live or will be soon with their Archives catalogues. It is possible more authorities will follow in 2025; at which time a web portal will be developed to provide access to a joint catalogue to all authorities archives that are on the system. This will be funded by the New Burdens funding received by GMCRO from The National Archives.

3.1.6 Assheton Collection

In 2023, we raised £100k to purchase the Assheton Collection and to run engagement sessions using the material. The funding has been secured from National Lottery Heritage Fund, V&A Purchase Fund, Friends of National Libraries and the Manchester Central Library Development Trust. The Assheton Collection is of historical importance, and is the oldest Greater Manchester Archives collection, including material from the 12th Century. The archives relate to the Assheton family of Middleton and also includes material relating to Bury. Material from the collection is currently being re-boxed and preserved. The engagement sessions will take place before March 2025 and will include sessions with schools in Middleton, Bury and Manchester. A video describing the collection and its importance is here: <https://youtu.be/IVLrYIF5SY4>.

3.2 Here are highlights of each individual authority's archives services:

3.2.1 Bolton

Bolton Library & Archive service reopened in the newly refurbished and transformed Bolton Central Library in January 2024. The new positioning of the Bolton History Centre has attracted new users, and the service has seen an increase in archive productions. An episode of 'Who Do You Think You Are?' featuring Paddy McGuinness was researched and filmed at the archives and the History Centre has recently been used as filming location for another episode.

We have hosted multiple events with different themes which have opened up the archives and local studies service to a wider audience.

3.2.2 Bury

Bury Archives successfully bid for The National Archives Research and Innovation Grant in October 2023, receiving £5000. - <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/grants-and-funding/research-and-innovation-grants/current-projects>. The details of the project is: *"Bury Archives is full of fascinating information that they want as many people as possible to know about. To increase people's engagement with these collections they will be working with local artists to breathe new life into their collections. The outcome of this will be multiple creative digital publications, inspired by their collections, that will be freely available via Bury Libraries BorrowBox platform."*

3.2.3 Manchester – See Archives+ section in 4.1

3.2.4 Oldham

Oldham Local Studies and Archives is moving into its new archive centre in 2025. Much of the work carried out over the last 12 months has been in preparation for moving the collections and developing the service delivery, working with the construction company, The National Archives, and colleagues from across the Northwest archives.

A pop-up service point was set up within Oldham Library in March 2024, and new users have accessed our resources as a result of us being in the library.

In November 2024, we retained our provisional Archive Service Accreditation at the mid-point review, receiving praise from The National Archives' assessors for progress made in core service areas during a period of staffing changes and a brought forward relocation of the collections.

The Records at Risk-funded 'Capturing the Coliseum' project was delivered successfully between February and July, with born-digital records catalogued and metadata created that will make this important collection more accessible to the residents of Oldham. In April and May, the archives officer worked with the Community Champions at the Northern Roots Urban Farm and Eco Park in the town to develop heritage research skills on a NLHF community engagement project. The 'One Seven Five' exhibition celebrating the 175th anniversary of Oldham becoming a Metropolitan Borough opened in June and included material from the archive and local studies collections, such as the council's first minute book. The archives officer has given talks and tours in the exhibition, including events delivered with Audio Description and British Sign Language support.

3.2.5 Rochdale

Rochdale Local Studies Centre re-opened at its new location in October 2023, the move from Touchstones to Sparth Community Centre went smoothly. The GMALSP sound kiosk was positioned in Rochdale for our re-opening. The kiosk was loaded with clips related to Rochdale, as well as other material from the Northwest Sound Archive. The kiosk also included a Touchstones podcast, which highlighted what we offer as a service and detailed some of the wonderful books and archives we have in our collection.

We have tied in with the reopening of Rochdale Town Hall, hosting Town Hall volunteer workshops and sourcing material from our unique Town Hall archive, some of which is now on permanent display in the magnificent building. We have also taken part in outreach activities as part of Touchstones 'Collections on Tour' programme and attended Rochdale Feel Good Family Picnics in various parks across the Borough.

3.2.6 Salford

We have been working toward providing better access to our collections, along with modernising how visitors can access these important resources. Our Digital Salford volunteers continue to scan our collection of around 70,000 images, with some 30,000 now scanned. This year saw the photographing of some 200 volumes of rate books from our collection, to be included on Find My Past along with the other GM authority archives records.

Our most important achievement this year was through the additional staff hours provided by both the Council and Salford Community Leisure. This has enabled us to provide drop-in access to the library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, meaning researchers no longer need to book on these days, as well as opening the library for drop in on a Saturday afternoon every four weeks for researchers who cannot access our service on weekdays. These have been immensely popular, with between fifteen and twenty visitors for each four-hour session.

3.2.7 Stockport

Work is ongoing on Stockroom, the new town centre premises, with a projected opening date of Spring 2025. The new development will increase footfall significantly for the Heritage and Archive service, as it will be located at the heart of the Merseyway shopping centre.

The service has stopped offering a public service for the last few months to enable staff to prepare items for the move through rationalisation and repackaging, processing uncatalogued items and some light touch conservation work. The service's digital presence has increased through the use of social media campaigns, improving existing catalogue records and adding items to our digital assets. We have used the digital kit purchased via the GMALSP consortium, outlined in 3.1.1, to help with this.

The Find My Past scanning programme recommenced recently and all of the team attended a Red Rot workshop run by the GM Conservator which has been very useful.

3.2.8 Tameside

Tameside Local Studies Library and Archives Centre has continued to develop and strengthen its volunteer programme. The service currently supports 22 volunteers who have contributed 1,457 hours over the past financial year. Notable accomplishments include cleaning over 1000 documents belonging to the Stamford Estate collection and helping to improve access to information through the completion of a database containing the names of soldiers who died in the First World War, collated from various newspapers. They have significantly contributed to the service by handling tasks that would otherwise be unmanageable alongside daily operations. Volunteers have also provided feedback on the benefits that they have received stating '*volunteering at the centre is very rewarding and educational, it is great way to feel involved with local history*' and '*I enjoy giving something back and meeting new people.*'

3.2.9 Trafford

Trafford Local Studies & Archive's 75th Windrush anniversary celebrations included a commemorative blue plaque unveiling for legendary calypso singer Lord Kitchener (real name Aldwyn Roberts) at his former residence in Stretford. The event included several speakers and a special steel pan performance, a Caribbean buffet and a special author talk by Lord Kitchener fictional biographer and 2022 TS Eliot poetry prize winner Dr Anthony Joseph in Old Trafford. A special exhibition featuring items on loan from the BBC Film Archives, Lancashire County Cricket Club, National Jazz Archives and personal collections was on display at the Local Studies centre, with an online exhibition featuring articles about the history of Windrush.

3.2.10 Wigan

In March 2024, the National Archives awarded us Accredited status for the second time and congratulated the team on 'delivering a service which works effectively in all areas'. We relaunched a programme of reminiscence workshop which takes archive collections to care homes to inspire memories. These have proven popular and we have run nine sessions so far.

2024 is the 50th anniversary of Wigan Borough, and the Archives service has been central to the Council's marking of this date. We have contributed material to, and helped curate, a new exhibition space in Leigh called 'Forward, Together' which showcases the borough's recent history through art, photography and audio-visual material. The exhibition is co-curated with Wigan and Leigh College students. We have created a series of five oral histories from residents who remember the change. Our research into the evolution of the Wigan crest has influenced the redesign of the Council's logo.

We have run a successful programme of work placements, hosting eighteen young people this calendar year, and have benefitted from over 1,500 hours of volunteer time from 50 active volunteers in the past quarter.

4. Archives+ over the last 12 months.

4.1 This has been another very successful 12 months for the Archives+ partners who are based at Manchester Central Library, individually and as a partnership. The partnership have worked together for several events and exhibitions, including anniversaries of Manchester Central Library. In March, all Archives+ partners held a joint event to celebrate 10 years since re-opening and on 17th July we celebrated the 90th birthday of the library, which was attended by many people in their 90s including somebody who was present at the original opening of the library on 17th July 1934.

4.2 This has been a particularly rich year for Archives+ exhibitions, including Central Library exhibition to celebrate its 90th anniversary, Greater Mancunian photo exhibition, Manchester Voices (analysing the accents of Greater Manchester), the various exhibitions in the Manchester Histories Hub, Rochdale Canal posters and the current exhibition on Polish heritage from the Polish Consulate.

4.3 The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust (AIUET) concluded its National Lottery Heritage Funded (NLHF) project, 'Coming in from the Cold', which collected and made accessible previously hidden histories of Greater Manchester's communities. This project has made the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre (AIURC) one of the largest collections of Global Majority community history in the UK. The project ended with a showcase event and an exhibition developed in collaboration with some of the community groups.

In April, AIUET began a new NLHF funded project, 'Community Led Collecting: Fit for the Future', aimed at improving digital resilience and accessibility of collections.

The Centre and Education Trust saw increased demand for anti-racism and Black/Global Majority History resources, with a significant increase in archive use by students, academics and community groups, both in guided workshops and through independent study. We have worked in-depth with youth groups and schools and will be expanding our youth-focused initiatives in the coming year.

In the last year we have delivered a full engagement programme. Highlights included Black History Month-related activity, which began with an online consultation exercise on how Black histories are commemorated and celebrated, followed by an event for young people. This has resulted in the creation of a Black History Manifesto which was launched this October. <https://www.racearchive.org.uk/working-ethically-with-black-histories-a-manifesto/>

The AIUET continued to support and participation in sector-wide EDI and anti-racism in collections and organisational development work, continuing its partnership with the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) to deliver a grants programme as part of the Welsh Government's Anti-racism plan. They were also commissioned to support the North West's Doctoral Training Partnership Consortium) to develop its strategy to embed EDI and to work ethically with Global Majority communities in research, and to contribute to The National Archives' Archive Accreditation framework review in relation to embedding EDI more robustly in the national standards.

4.4 The Northwest Film Archive has welcomed three new members of project staff over the last year, funded by the BFI National Lottery Heritage Fund - two new Development Officers and a new Accessibility Officer started. All three posts are looking at how the NWFA collection reflects the diversity of the NW region, working with local communities to improve representation in, and access to, moving image heritage for under-represented groups. The Development Officers have been working on a full audit of all NWFA's current holdings, to identify gaps in the collection, and to uncover collections that have potential for inspection, acquisition and/or cataloguing and reinterpretation. They have been reviewing NWFA

cataloguing and indexing processes, in consultation with community groups and colleagues across the sector; and identifying areas for targeted audience and collection development activities. The Accessibility Officer is focussing on how the collection reflects the lives and experiences of disabled people and developing ways of improving access for disabled and neuro-divergent users to their moving image heritage.

Access work in the year included participating in the 10th Anniversary celebrations for Archives+, and the 90th birthday of Central Library, showcasing our service and creating a special compilation of films from the collection.

Finally, NWFA footage was used by Sofia Coppola in December to promote the much lauded Chanel Fashion Show in Manchester, promoting the archive and the city to an international audience.

4.5 In addition to running the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society helpdesk at Manchester Central Library, the Society continued to work with Archives+ and local bodies to make more records available. The society's experience of handling large projects has made several large projects possible. This year the society completed the transcription of 11,189 employees details from Horwich Locomotive Works; indexed 6,696 names from admission registers of Chetham's Hospital; transcribed and indexed eight Catholic baptism registers for the Salford diocese, now available as downloads in the Society shop and completed transcription of letters from WW1 servicemen associated with the Zion institute.

The large project of indexing Mother's maiden names for births registered at Manchester Register Office is nearly complete.

Current large projects include a project in partnership with the Manchester Museum of Transport to transcribe records of an estimated 30,000 employees and the transcription of announcements from early Manchester newspapers with over 76,000 now completed. New projects include the Admission Register for Bolton Royal Infirmary.

4.6 Manchester Histories this year ran its biannual Manchester Histories Festival which featured a range of events, including the Open Mic Extravaganza, "It Started with a Seed" International Storytelling Festival with Manchester Met. The ever popular Histories & Heritage Marketplace was held at Manchester Central Library from June 7-9. These

events celebrated Greater Manchester's rich and diverse histories, engaging over 1,000 attendees. The popular Celebration Day included the Histories & Heritage Marketplace, bringing together over 50 museums, archives, and projects.

Throughout the year, Manchester Histories Hub at Central Library has promoted heritage and well-being through workshops and community engagement, such as with the Victoria Square elders group. The hub also hosted exhibitions like International Mother Language Day, attracting over 600 visitors. Upcoming projects include creative sessions on the Tootal scarf's history and the Migration Stories Northwest exhibition, exploring migration histories from the Roman period to today.

In collaboration with Dr. Erin Beeston and Archives+, the hub developed a heritage and well-being toolkit for older people, aligning with Greater Manchester's Creative Health Strategy. The toolkit offers step-by-step guidance for group activities using historical resources, aiming to boost confidence and community connections.

4.7 The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People were successful in their bid to the Wellcome Trust in 2021, in partnership with Archives+, to catalogue, digitise and make accessible their Disabled People's Archive. The project continues and highlights of the collection are now available at: <https://disabledpeoplesarchive.com/in-the-archive/>.

4.8 In 2023, Archives+ was awarded £99.5k from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop a new website for the Manchester Local Image Collection and to digitise 10,000 more images using local volunteers. The project which will be completed by the end of 2025 is well underway with a team of volunteers digitising 1000s of photographs with the new website due to go live in early 2025. This will enable a wide range of historic photographs of Manchester to be showcased and made accessible in one place for the first time.

4.9 The Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) was awarded over £200,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for its Throwing Open the Concert Doors project. As the digitisation partner on the project, Archives+ has digitised over 1,600 concert tapes, trained 5 digitisation volunteers (two of whom are now working in heritage) and hosted several events for local community groups in the sound studio at Central Library. The project is now on track to digitise over 1,800 tapes by December 2024, 130% of the original target.

4.10 In 2021 we took in material, now called the Rashford collection, that was the public response to the criticism Marcus Rashford received after he missed a penalty in Euro 2020. Messages of support were posted on his mural on a wall in Withington. We retrieved and preserved this material and have started to engage people with it, including children from Beaver Road Primary School. We plan more engagement over the next few years. <https://manchesterarchiveplus.wordpress.com/2024/05/20/marcus-rashford-mural-tributes-school-visit/>



4.11 Manchester Central Library has been awarded over £100,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Manchester Libraries Trust for a new archive project which will digitise and transform access to the library's large Piccadilly Radio archive, starting in January 2025. Piccadilly Radio was Greater Manchester's pioneering independent commercial radio station when it launched in 1974. The station, which was based at Piccadilly Plaza, holds a very special place in the hearts of several generations of people from around Greater Manchester for its output of news, features, music, sport and drama covering the city region. The project will train up volunteers to help with digitising, describing, and curating the unique archive and will work with the Manchester Digital Music Archive, the Manchester Hip Hop Archive and a local community radio station to run skill-building workshops which will re-use the audio in creative ways. Since the project's announcement, the library has taken in over 600 tapes from former Piccadilly Radio staff that had been stored in offices and attics into the library's secure vaults for safekeeping. https://www.manchester.gov.uk/news/article/9534/piccadilly_radio_archives_turn_digital_with_99k_national_lottery_grant

4.12 Archives+ have supported several partner organisations with successful National Lottery Heritage Fund Bids over the last year. The George House Trust received £151k to celebrate 40 years of HIV activism in Greater Manchester. The project will result in their archive being preserved, made accessible with engagement activities. Manchester Histories & Queer Up North have been awarded £248,500 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This funding, with additional support from the Granada Foundation, will preserve and celebrate the Queer Up North (QUN) festivals held between 1992 and 2002. Both of these projects will be included in Manchester Central Library exhibition programme over the next couple of years.

5. Future Priorities

5.1 Future Priorities for GMALSP

5.1.1 A workshop was held with all GM authorities in February 2023 to decide on the priorities for the 2023-26. The priorities for the next 12 months include the items below.

- **Diversity and Inclusion and contemporary collecting.** Ensure we make our archives more representative of the diverse populations within Greater Manchester. Consider a consortium bid to The National Archives, Archives Revealed funding stream, around increasing the amount of material relating to diverse populations and cataloguing of those collections. Diversify our volunteer base and increase the diversity of audiences. Develop approaches to contemporary collecting, working together on certain collections for example Local Authority records, Health Records etc.
- **Digital by Design.** We will continue to work with partners to digitise our collections and make them available online, through several authorities going live with Archives web catalogue and a GM Archives catalogue being produced.
- **Digital Preservation.** GMCRO is supporting each of the 10 authorities to reduce the risks to their archives including digitally preserving material using the kit purchased through the TNA resilience fund bid outlined in 3.1.1. We also plan to update documentation regarding digital preservation, including preserving Council records.

- **Engagement, Advocacy and Events.** Ensure archives services use local, regional, national, and international commemorations, celebrations and events to increase the profile of archives and increase audiences.

5.2 Future Priorities for Archives+

- Archives+ partners will continue to work together, coming together particularly for resident engagements, events, and exhibitions.
- The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre (AIURC) will continue the National Lottery Heritage Funded 'Community Led Collecting: Fit for the Future' project, aimed at improving digital resilience and accessibility of collections. They will continue their anti-racist and educational work which is more relevant than ever following the recent riots this summer.
- The Greater Manchester County Record Office will continue to use its fully equipped sound recordings digitisation studio, that enables us to deliver digitisation projects and raise income from engagement and digitisation projects. We will continue to share Greater Manchester's neglected and fragile sound recordings more widely online and using exhibition kiosks across Greater Manchester. This includes the RNCM digitisation project mentioned in section 4.9 and the Piccadilly Radio project mentioned in section 4.11.
- NWFA is continuing its BFI National Lottery Screen Heritage project. This is designed to improve accessibility to moving image heritage, working directly with disabled and neuro-diverse people, and increasing fully accessible content for all users.
- The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society will continue to operate the family history helpdesk in Manchester Central Library and work with Archives+ Partners and other local bodies to preserve records. The project to digitise the employment records held by the Transport Museum continues to be the cornerstone of the society's project programme.
- ManchesterHistories will continue to use the histories and heritage hub at Central Library to host exhibition, hold events and deliver a series of workshops. Upcoming projects include creative sessions on the Tootal scarf's history and activities relating to the current exhibition - Migration Stories Northwest exhibition, exploring migration histories from the Roman period to today. Manchester Histories will roll out the toolkit that allows staff and volunteers to deliver activities with heritage resources to improve well-being. The toolkit can be used in libraries,

community & care settings across GM. Projects include Queer Up North and Rocket 2030.

- The Disabled People's Archive will continue detailed cataloguing of the collection., alongside digitisation, transcription and more public outreach and supporting Archives+ events.

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress of Archives+ and the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership.

Appendix 1: GMALSP Action Plan 2023-26

Action no.	Workstream Priority	Action	Who	Status
1	Contemporary collecting / Digital	Produce guidance / process for collecting Council Records	MO / RH	
2	Contemporary collecting / Digital	Implement the process for collecting Council Records	ALL	
3	Digital	Use the Digital Preservation server space set up by Manchester	MO / ALL	
4	Digital	Draft bid to TNA Resilience Fund to create digital server space to help with digital preservation in each authority	MO	
5	Contemporary collecting / Digital	Progress TNA Pilot project to transfer relevant records from NHS to Places of Deposit in GM	DG / HK / MO / PC / TNA rep – MG	
6	Contemporary collecting / Digital	Take forward Newspaper audit and project, and digitisation proposal from Ancestry/newspapers.com	PC / MW / AC / JB / DM / RH	
7	Diversity in workforce	TNA apprentices project. Support TNA with bid, and host 2 apprentices if successful	PC / HK / JH	Bid unsuccessful. Work with TNA to evaluate and re-submit if possible
8	Events and Advocacy / Contemporary	Identify bid writing skills across the consortium and develop a bid writing 'team'	PC / JW	

	collecting / Digital			
9	Events and Advocacy / Contemporary collecting / Digital	Submit joint bids and maximise income when opportunities arise – e.g. TNA Resilience Grant	ALL	
10	Events and advocacy	Joint celebrations – linking with partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manchester Histories 24 (celebration of universities) ○ BBC Archives ○ Ongoing Libraries / Museums events ○ Local and Communities History Month ○ LGA 1974 	PC / DG / JH / DM	