

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2024 AT BOLTON 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
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Eleanor Wills
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

GM Transport Commissioner	Vernon Everitt
GMFRS	CFO Dave Russel
GMP	Supt. Gareth Parkin

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Group Chief Executive Officer, GMCA, GMFRS & TfGM	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
Group Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny	Julie Connor
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale

Manchester  
Oldham  
Rochdale  
Salford  
Stockport  
Tameside  
Trafford  
Wigan  
TfGM  
TfGM  
TfGM  
GMCA  
GMCA  
GMCA

Paul Marshall  
Shelley Kipling  
Kuiama Thompson  
Tom Stannard  
Michael Cullen  
Harry Catherall  
Sara Todd  
Alison McKenzie-Folan  
Martin Lax  
Steve Warrener  
Peter Boulton  
Mark Atherton  
Sylvia Welsh  
Lee Teasdale

**GMCA 164/24      APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received from Steve Rumbelow (Rochdale), Councillor Nadim Muslim (Chair of GM Overview & Scrutiny Committee), Dame Sarah Storey (GM Active Travel Commissioner) & Warren Escadale (Chair of GM VCSFE Leadership Group).

**GMCA 165/24      CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, opened the meeting by reflecting on the recent government announcement through an inactivity white paper that Greater Manchester would be receiving £10m of support in the form of an inactivity trailblazer. This would go some way in providing a core infrastructure that in turn would also support the region's Live Well plan ambitions.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That an update on the announcement of £10 million of support from government in the form of an inactivity trailblazer, and how this in turn will support the region's Live Well plan be received.

**GMCA 166/24      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

That it be noted that Deputy Mayor Kate Green declared an interest in Item 15 (GM Investment Zone) in respect to her role as a Governor of Manchester Metropolitan University

**GMCA 167/24      MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 25 October 2024 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 168/24      MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 25 October 2024 be approved including:

- i.                    That the extension of delegations to the Group Chief Executive and associated changes to the terms of reference of the Resources Committee to be included within the GMCA Constitution regarding staffing matters to align with common practice in local government be approved.
- ii. That delegated authority be given to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to update the GMCA Constitution to reflect the changes.

**GMCA 169/24      GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES – 23  
OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 23 October 2024 be noted.

**GMCA 170/24      GMCA BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE MINUTES – 24  
OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Bee Network Committee held on 24 October 2024 be noted.

**GMCA 171/24      GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES – 22 OCTOBER 2024**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 22 October 2024 be noted.

**GMCA 172/24      GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of a GMCA Member to the GMCA Standards Committee and a GMCA Member to the Growth Company Board be deferred to the December 2024 meeting of the GMCA.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Yvonne Klieve to replace Councillor Paula Wakefield (Wigan) as a substitute member of the GM Police, Fire & Crime Panel be noted.

## **GMCA 173/24      BEE NETWORK UPDATE**

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, introduced the item, stating that GM was now approaching a significant milestone with bus franchising due to complete in one month's time with the commencement of tranche 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The GMCA had now successfully acquired the fleet required and driver availability was at a good rate. It was hoped that 2025 would prove to be the year in which travel patterns changed and that more people will leave the car at home and take advantage of the increasing scope and ticket packages available through a reliable affordable Bee Network.

Vernon Everitt, GM Transport Commissioner, and Steve Warrener, Managing Director TfGM, were then invited to provide a presentation on recent Bee Network updates. Points highlighted included:

- GM partners continued to work together to ensure that the Bee Network became a single trusted brand which supported the region's growing economy and connecting people to more opportunities.
- The Bee Network currently remained on time and on budget; was seeing increased bus usage and improved reliability; investing in new technologies; achieving record Metrolink patronage; hitting major Active Travel milestones; reducing ticket prices; and building modern facilities.
- It was highlighted that the 615 bus service from Wigan to Middlebrook was the first new bus service introduced under the Bee Network banner.
- Next steps were highlighted including the delivery of tranche 3 on time and on budget; more new safety officers being brought in across the network; continuing to make transport more affordable through a simplified structure; the commencement of phase 2 (rail integration of 8 lines into the network); and continuous improvement across the system.
- In terms of finances. The budget during the current year had been balanced by a small use of reserves and using capital funding to support service delivery. The recently announced £66m government funding for bus fares and bus services would go a long way to supporting funding requirements but still necessitated a small use of reserves at this time.

- Given that the usage of reserves was not sustainable on a long-term basis – the achievement of sustainability was a key business plan priority.

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, welcomed the presentation and reflected upon the Bee Network entering its 'Phase 2' after the implementation of the multi-modal structure on 23 March 2025. This window up to early 2028 would be where focus would shift to the integration of the eight rail lines into the Network , and therefore confirmation was sought that this phase would carry the same level of momentum with the establishment of a clear timeline in collaboration with the rail networks detailing when each step in the process was expected to take place. The Greater Manchester Transport Commissioner confirmed that confirmed dates would be established in the new year with a similar programme to that which had been in place for the successful bus franchising.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That it be noted that the timelines for GM Rail Integration into the Bee Network will be confirmed in the new year.

#### **GMCA 174/24      VISION ZERO FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, introduced a report sharing the final Vision Zero Strategy and Action Plan for Greater Manchester (GM) and provided an overview of GM wide road safety initiatives, which formed part of the Action Plan.

The item opened with the showing of a video produced as part of road safety week. The video highlighted the impact of dangerous driving through interviews with the family of Frankie Jules-Hough, who together with her unborn daughter was killed in an incident on the M66 where the perpetrator had been found to be driving at speeds of over 120mph whilst filming his actions on a mobile phone. Thanks, and condolences were expressed to the family of Frankie for their bravery in engaging with this project.

Peter Boulton, Network Director Highways, TfGM stated that there had been 10,000 killed or seriously injured on the roads of Greater Manchester in the past 10 years. With 799 of these being in 2023, and 45 of those 799 sadly resulting in fatalities. Vision Zero was about the families and friends of GM not suffering life changing injuries on the region's roads. It was about creating safe and attractive streets to encourage people to walk and cycle, improving health and air quality. It was about removing disruption from the road network to support the reliability of the Bee Network. It was also about addressing the sheer cost resulting from these accidents which currently ran into the region of £500m per year. The Strategy had been developed by the Safer Roads GM Partnership and brought together organisations from the whole of GM.

Deputy Mayor Kate Green, paid tribute to Dame Sarah Storey for being the driving force behind the implementation of Vision Zero and supporting elements such as the school streets initiative. It was stated that whilst there were detractors who stated that zero deaths on the roads of GM could never be achieved, this absolutely had to be the goal the region aimed for, as a single death on the roads was too many. The Deputy Mayor also highlighted the £1m Vision Zero innovation fund launched earlier in November. Partners were being encouraged to come forward with proposals relating to the fund.

Chief Fire Officer, Dave Russel (GMFRS), expressed his thanks to the team at TfGM for the delivery of the Strategy and welcomed the heavy emphasis placed on public engagement. He advised that GMFRS now attended more road traffic accidents than fires in the region, this shift in operational workload was particularly pronounced. The action plan presented a real opportunity for the region but would require a step change in collaboration to be fully realised.

Superintendent Gareth Parkin (GMP) stated that GMP officers would be pushing hard on this initiative. It would be challenging but it was absolutely the right thing to do and must be strived towards. Road traffic incidents were one of the worst things for officers to have to deal with, not just in terms of attendance at the time, but also in the sheer impact upon families after the fact, as evidenced in the video shown at the meeting. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, made reference to a repeated complaint received from GM residents, which related to food delivery cyclists, who

were increasingly adopting anti-social and indeed dangerous tactics, cutting over pavements and through red lights, without lights and without reflective clothing. This needed to be reconsidered in the new year with the development of an appropriate code of practice similar to that developed in London.

Councillor Tom Ross welcomed the Strategy and noted that it made reference to another devastating loss of life in the region – Marcus Simmons-Allen, who had only been 18 years old, was killed in an accident by a driver travelling at around twice the speed limit in Broadheath near Altrincham, causing an unimaginable impact upon his family and friends.

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien stated that the Bee Network Committee would be treating the Vision Zero Strategy as a key part of its work load going forwards, and expressed thanks to all first responders who attended road traffic accidents, and the amazing levels of dedication they had to what was an extremely emotionally demanding role.

As phase 2 of the Bee Network commenced, alongside rail integration, highways would also need to be high on the agenda, as roads began to flow better through active travel there would also be the opportunity to work on better standards of driving.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMCA record its thanks to the family of Frankie Jules-Hough for their bravery and support for the Vision Zero Strategy.
2. That condolences be expressed to the family of Marcus Simmons-Allen
3. That the contents of the Vision Zero Strategy and Action Plan be noted.
4. That the final Vision Zero Strategy and Action Plan and the formal adoption of a Vision Zero ambition for GM, where no one will suffer death or life changing injuries on our roads, be approved.
5. That the launch of the £1m Vision Zero Innovation Fund earlier in November be noted.

6. That the GMCA record its thanks to Dame Sarah Storey for her support in driving forward the implementation of the Vision Zero Strategy and the School Streets initiative.
7. That it be noted that the development of a code of practice to address safety issues arising as a result of food delivery cyclists will be progressed in the new year.
8. That the GMCA record its thanks be to all first responders at road traffic accidents for their admirable dedication to what was an extremely emotionally demanding job.
9. That the importance of highways priorities within phase 2 of the Bee Network and wider active travel ambitions be noted.

#### **GMCA 175/24      IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GM VCFSE ACCORD**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Communities & Equalities, presented a report which provided an update on the work that is currently taking place across Greater Manchester, including the implementation of the VCFSE Fair Funding Protocol, agreed by the CA in October 2023.

A huge amount of progress had already been made, with VCFSE sector representatives “at the table” in many places where important decisions were made across the NHS Health and Social Care, GMCA and Transport for Greater Manchester partnerships. The sector was playing a strong role across all the commitments and thematic areas of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), and improvements had been made in support for the sector’s workforce, in communication, in partnerships and in service delivery.

However, at the current time there was huge pressure on both public budgets and the resources available for VCFSE activities, and recent months had seen significant developments that would affect future delivery. The VCFSE Accord and its associated workstreams had built capacity across the sector, but it was important that the commitment by the GMCA and its constituent local authorities was strengthened if

VCFSE organisations were going to continue to play their vital role in GM's communities and ambitions.

Work was ongoing between VCFSE leaders and public partners to explore the sector's role in the refreshed GMS and in Growth and Reform, including the delivery of flagship missions such as Live Well, the Bee Network, MBACC and Housing First. It was proposed that a further paper is brought to the CA for consideration early in 2025 which would describe a series of strategic undertakings in partnership with the VCFSE sector, which would be implemented through the VCFSE Accord.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the progress update and the next steps, as outlined at section 4, of the report submitted, be noted and that a further report be submitted to the GMCA for consideration early in 2025.
2. That an invitation should be extended to the Chair of the GM VCFSE Leadership Group to attend future meetings of the Combined Authority.

#### **GMCA 176/24 FIVE YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN 2025-2030**

Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, presented the penultimate draft of the next Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan (2025-30) for approval, and provided an overview of the process undertaken to develop the Plan, plus the next steps prior to publication and launch in December 2024.

Councillor Ross noted highlights from the current plan. These included over £123m of investment in retrofitting nearly 10,000 homes; over £120m retrofitting public buildings; £26m invested in delivering renewable energy; 750 trees planted; 100km of new cycling infrastructure developed; and over 100 new electric buses delivered.

The report included a recent climate change risk assessment which painted a grim picture of the challenges that would be posed by climate change without further mitigation.

The revised plan built upon previous ambitions and aimed to ensure that everyone in GM had a healthy, low carbon, nature rich environment in which to live well, prosper and grow.

Councillor Tom Ross conveyed some of the comments raised when the Plan had been considered by the GM Overview & Scrutiny Committee recently. These included the need for a positive narrative throughout the plan to engage the public on the benefits; language that was concise, clear and understandable to all residents; highlighting the benefits of nature and carbon capture; and that the tone be focussed on encouraging residents to take their own actions on this agenda.

Members highlighted the continuing areas of concern around landfills. Particularly the consistently poor performance and quality of Pilsworth South Landfill between Bury and Rochdale, with many residents seeking for this site to be closed following the conclusion of the current contract. It was stated that reducing the need for landfills as much as possible was a key area of importance and the GM Waste & Resources Strategy would be considering alternative ways forward.

Members noted the read through from the Environment Plan into Spatial Planning and it was highlighted that there was a need to revisit the Waste & Minerals Plan ,as the existing plan was not up to date and would require consideration through AGMA.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan, as contained within Annex 01, of the report submitted, be approved.
2. That the development process and next steps for its' professional design, publication and launch at the Green Summit on 9<sup>th</sup> December be noted.
3. That the Greater Manchester Climate Risk Assessment, as a technical appendix to the Plan (Annex 02), be noted.
4. That it be noted that the co-benefits sustainability assessment of the Plan was positive.

5. That the comments highlighted from the GM Overview & Scrutiny Committee consideration of the Plan be noted.
6. That the ongoing position in relation to the Pilsworth South Landfill be noted.
7. That the need to revisit the Waste & Minerals plan be noted and that this will be considered to AGMA in the new year.

## **GMCA 177/24      GM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Councillor Mark Hunter, Portfolio Lead for Children and Young People, presented a report providing an update on a selection of strategically significant work areas.

A significant amount of work had taken place in this space, and it was the intention that early in the new year an update would be brought to the GMCA on early years SEND education and Be Well in particular.

The statement of intent by the new government to tackle profiteering within the children's residential market by demanding greater transparency over the profits made within this space was welcomed. There was an ambition to expand the regional care co-operative model – of which GM was one of two pathfinder areas. There was also an ambition to drive up foster and kinship care which was very welcome.

Reference was made to the Greater Manchester Pledge, an agreement between the 10 Greater Manchester authorities on the spending conditions for the use of agency social workers. The latest data available suggested that in 9 of the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities had been a particularly successful initiative. This also put Greater Manchester in a very strong position for national plans that were due to commence soon.

Reference was made to the recent issues at Tameside Council's children's services. The workforce challenges they had faced were fully recognised and how this had impacted their adherence to the Greater Manchester Pledge. Reassurance was provided to Tameside colleagues that the fellow Greater Manchester local authorities and the GMCA were committed to working with them to get them back in line with the

Pledge. Tameside representatives welcomed the support received from across Greater Manchester during this period and highlighted that there had been a new appointment to the role of Director of Children's Services who would contribute to making a significant improvement in the service offer at the authority.

Project Skyline, the ambitious project to develop ten new children's residential care homes continued at pace, with properties now starting to be acquired by preferred providers.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the updates on the Children and Young People's Programme be noted.
2. That the proposal to extend the existing travel offer for care-experienced young people up to age 25 be endorsed, subject to funding being identified and approved as part of the Transport Budget setting process.
3. That it be noted that an update on early years SEND education would be submitted to the GMCA in the new year.
4. That the update received on Children's Services at Tameside be noted, with thanks expressed to partners across the region for their recent support.
5. That the Mayor of Greater Manchester approved the proposal to extend the existing travel offer for care-experienced young people up to age 25, subject to funding being identified and approved as part of the Transport Budget setting.

### **GMCA 178/24      GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT ZONE**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business & Inclusive Growth, presented a report setting out investment zone project allocations for 2025/26 in detail.

Members were reminded that this stemmed from the £80m in grant funding for Advanced Manufacturing & Materials over the five years between 2024/25 and

2028/29. The programme also permitted Greater Manchester to retain the growth in Business Rates with no reset over 25 years on two sites totalling 600 ha.

The GMCA was now preparing a profile for the £17.76 million of grant funding available for the second year of the programme, in anticipation of this being signed off by government between January and April 2025.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the proposed approach be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Group Treasurer and the Economy Portfolio Chief Executive and Leader, to negotiate with Government and agree project allocations in each financial year to 2028/29. An annual programme update will then be provided to the GMCA setting out project progress, risks, and the impact of the funded interventions.

**GMCA 179/24      GREATER MANCHESTER ONE NETWORK CONNECTIVITY  
PARTNER PROCUREMENT**

Councillor Nicholas Peel, Portfolio Lead for GM Digital, presented a report setting out progress on Greater Manchester One Network implementation and summarising the outcome of a tender process to extend One Network to include connectivity services for sites that are not served by the GM Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) and GM One Network.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That approval be given to the GMCA entering into the contract with Telent for GM One Network Connectivity Managed Services Partner services valued at up to £3m to enable services that provide connectivity to more sites, creating an agreement that can be drawn on for the benefit of partners in GM One Network (at their cost); noting that orders under the contract will be subject to the governance set out in the report and decisions in accordance with the Constitution.

**GMCA 180/24      GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 2 2024/25**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report informing members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority financial position at the end of September 2024 (Quarter 2) and forecast revenue outturn position for the 2024/25 financial year.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the forecast position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be noted.
2. That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £80k funded from Mayoral reserves towards spend on mayoral priorities (para 3.2) be approved.

**GMCA 181/24      GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE QUARTER 2 2024/25**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 2024/25 capital expenditure programme.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the current 2024/25 forecast of £581.8m compared to the previous forecast of £636.3m be noted.
2. That the addition of £0.3m National Highways funding to the 2024/25 capital programme to design and deliver a further 23 bus stop upgrades in Oldham, Tameside and Manchester, as outlined in section 2.7.5, as part of the Bus Infrastructure programme be approved.

**GMCA 182/24      GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK,  
CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report seeking approval of an equity investment of up to £300k to Shopblocks Limited

and two investments through GMCA's Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Investment Fund, GM Advance, alongside an update on the loan to Sustainable Ventures (North) Limited.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That an equity investment of up to £300,000 to Shopblocks Limited be approved.
2. That an equity investment of £250,000 to MolyMem Limited be approved.
3. That an equity investment of £150,000 to Wull Technologies Limited be approved.
4. That the update on the loan to Sustainable Ventures (North) Limited be noted.
5. That authority be delegated to the Group Treasurer in consultation with the Group Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above investments, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the investments, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investments noted above.

**GMCA 183/24      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 184/24      GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (GMCA 182/24).

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report be noted.