

Date: 8 April 2020

Subject: Covid 19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Stock

Report of: Steve Wilson, Treasurer, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report requests that Combined Authority Chief Executive exercise his emergency powers contained in the GMCA Constitution Part 3 Section F paragraph 3.1, to take action which is required as a matter of urgency in the interests of the GMCA, in consultation (where practicable) with the Chair of the GMCA and Portfolio Holder for Finance, to approve the ordering of PPE stock for use across Greater Manchester as part of the response to the COVID 19 emergency.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA Chief Executive is requested:

1. To approve the purchase of supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to support the delivery of critical services across GM including adult social care, primary healthcare, other council services, GMP services, GMFRS services and any other priority uses across GM.
2. To Approve the use of retained business rates funding to underwrite the cost of the PPE stocks to GM in the event that national funding is not provided to cover these costs
3. To delegate authority to the PPE Sub group Chair and the GMCA Treasurer to finalise all arrangements including the onward distribution to GM districts
4. To approve the above decisions as urgent and the seeking of exemption from call-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Risk Management – see paragraph 2

Legal Considerations – see paragraph 4

Financial Consequences – Revenue – see paragraph 5

Financial Consequences – Capital – it is not anticipated that there will be any capital consequences

Number of attachments included in the report: none

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution	Yes
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?	Yes, there is an urgent requirement to put arrangements in place as soon as possible to support staff responding to Covid – 19.

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 In response to the Covid-19 emergency and the increased demand for PPE across GM and internationally, a GM PPE sub group has been established reporting into the Tactical Co-ordination Group (TCG). The group is chaired by Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive, Rochdale Borough Council and Chief Officer NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale CCG and was established to look into acquiring PPE from a broad range of sources in order to meet local need.

1.2 The key functions of the group are to provide a strategic lead on:

- Supporting existing supply chains
 - Identification of existing routes of supply
 - Business support to protect these routes and support potential increase in supply
- Identification of new supply chains
- Brokering of new supplies of PPE into GM
- Planning and prioritisation of allocations of GM stock if sourced
- To understand GM public services current and projected shortfalls in PPE
- To identify any barriers to the effective response to the pandemic related to PPE and work to remove them
- To liaise with other groups where relevant including
 - Logistics Cell
 - Situation Cell
 - Health coordination Group
 - LA Civil Contingencies Chief Officers Group
- To share issues and consider consistency of approach where relevant
- To collate financial issues for advocacy to central government

1.3 The work to source PPE has identified five main routes which are :

- National NHS Supply Chain Deliveries – Predominantly to Acute NHS Providers
- Supply from the National Pandemic Stockpile
- Supply from the National Supply Disruption Service (NSDS)

- Private sector sourcing locally and internationally
- Local provision through repurposing by manufacturers

1.4 The sub group has been supported by a task force which has consisted of people from across the GMCA, NHS, GC (including MIDAS), Fire Brigade and individual local authorities, to quickly identify demand, gaps in supply and look at fast-tracked solutions.

1.5 Originally this team was established to look at local authority services that weren't covered under national provision as is meant to be the case with the NHS and care homes covered under CQC, however, during the last few weeks it has become clear that all of these areas have seen shortages or lack of supply and therefore the above team has looked to plug gaps across the whole system and build up supply as best it can.

2. Deliveries from National Stockpiles

2.1. Following the establishing of the GM PPE sub-group, and thanks to tireless efforts from procurement staff in the GMHSCP, the GMFRS and the AGMA procurement hub GM has been successful in securing two significant deliveries from the national pandemic stockpile.

2.2. Deliveries were received into the GMFRS training centres in Manchester and Bury on 29th March and 6th April respectively and included the following items

PPE Item	Quantity Delivered	Weeks of supply
Medical Surgical Mask	486,000	1.25
Face masks FFP2	4,800	N/A
Protective gloves	1,680,000	2
Aprons	624,000	1.5
Goggles (washable) (Frames)	66,000	16
Lenses for goggles	162,000	12

2.3. The items described above are delivered free of charge to GM and have been split into 12 portions for onward distribution across GM. The City of Manchester received two portions to reflect the relative size of the district, one portion was held back for GM wide services including GMP, GMFRS and the GM Homeless service and one portion each was shipped to the remaining nine districts.

2.4. In addition to the pandemic stock we have also placed two direct orders through the nominated National Supply Disruption Service (NSDS) wholesalers which has been distributed directly to the GM districts and contained the following items:

PPE Item	Quantity Delivered	Price per item	Total Cost	Weeks of supply
Medical Surgical Mask	300,000	0.18	£54,000	<1

3. Other sourcing of PPE Stock

3.1. In addition to the above supply routes, and recognising the fragility and poor reliability of these routes we have continued to attempt to source through other routes. As can be seen by the tables above the deliveries received so far, whilst significantly higher than other parts of the country outside of London, only represents two weeks stock for the adult social care system and significantly less of the wider community requirements including primary care.

3.2. So far the following items have been secured through these routes

PPE Item	Quantity Delivered	Price per item	Total Cost	Weeks of supply
Medical Surgical Mask	140,000	0.75	£105,000	<1
Protective gloves	1.773m	0.03	£48,746	2
Aprons	200,000	0.02	£3,664	1
Shoe covers	22,000	0.01	£325	4
Hand Sanitiser	3,970 5l bottles	5.00	£19,850	3

3.3. The costs of these orders, which total £231,585, can be underwritten by the additional funding allocated to the GMCA for the COVID 19 Response which is £564k

3.4. Whilst the cost of the additional face masks within the above items was higher than the NSDR stock it has been benchmarked against other suppliers including national UK stock purchased for the Fire Service and is competitive in the current market. Furthermore the supplier of these products is able to supply higher volumes as a price of £0.56 per mask.

4. Further sourcing of PPE Stock

4.1. The stock identified above is expected to run out during the week commencing Monday 13th April or before therefore urgent further deliveries are required to provide certainty of supply over the next couple of months.

4.2. A new NHS on line ordering system will go live on 8th April but there is limited confidence that this will deliver the immediate requirements for Greater Manchester.

4.3. The GM PPE task force has identified the following additional orders which it now wishes to consider.

Supplier	Delivery date	Masks	Price / Mask	Order Value
Lindum	16/04/2020	3,000,000	£ 0.56	£ 1,680,000
Brookebourne	09/04/2020	400,000	£ 0.46	£ 185,000
TSL	20/04/2020	2,000,000	£ 0.41	£ 816,000
Arco	30/04/2020	1,300,000	£ 0.55	£ 715,000
Total / Average		5,700,000	£ 0.50	£ 3,396,000

4.4. Approval is sought from the GMCA Chief Executive under emergency powers to underwrite the costs of the orders identified above and any further orders agreed by the GMCA Treasurer and the GM PPE Sub Group chair from the retained business rates budget up to a maximum value of £5m.

5. FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES – REVENUE

4.1 The financial revenue consequences are outlined above

6. FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES – CAPITAL

5.1 There are no anticipated capital consequences arising from this decision.

6. REASONS FOR URGENCY AND EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN

6.1 This approval is proposed in order to provide immediate assistance to those working in front line services on this pandemic.