

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 JULY 2022 AT THE
GMCA OFFICES**

PRESENT:

Bolton	John Walsh (Chair)
Bury	Nathan Boroda
Bolton	Hamid Khurram
Bolton	Champak Mistry
Manchester	Greg Stanton
Manchester	Mandie Shilton Godwin
Manchester	John Leech
Oldham	Colin McLaren
Rochdale	Umar Nasheen
Rochdale	Tom Besford
Salford	John Mullen
Salford	Jim King
Salford	Alex Warren
Stockport	Elise Wilson
Stockport	Amanda Peers
Tameside	Naila Sharif
Trafford	Barry Brotherton
Wigan	Joanne Marshall
Wigan	Kath Houlton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Stockport	Mike Hurleston
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA	Eamonn Boylan
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GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Alison Gordon
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins

O&SC 01/22 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

O&SC 02/22 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Julie Connor, Assistant Director, GMCA opened the meeting and invited nominations for the appointment of Chair. Councillor John Walsh was nominated and this was seconded.

Councillor John Leech expressed his concerns about the need for a Vice Chair of the Committee to assist the workload of the Chair.

RESOLVED /-

That Councillor John Walsh (Bolton) be appointed as the Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

**O&SC 03/22 MEMBERSHIP OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022/23**

The Committee was requested to note the membership of the Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year as below –

Members:

District	Name
Bury	Nathan Boroda (Lab)
Bolton	Hamid Khurram (Lab)
Bolton	Champak Mistry (Lab)
Bolton	John Walsh (Con)
Manchester	Greg Stanton (Lab)
Manchester	Mandie Shilton Godwin (Lab)
Manchester	John Leech (Lib Dem)
Oldham	Colin McLaren (Lab)
Oldham	Umar Nasheen (Lab)
Rochdale	Tom Besford (Lab)
Rochdale	Vacancy
Salford	John Mullen (Lab)
Salford	Jim King (Lab)
Salford	Alex Warren (Lib Dem)
Stockport	Elise Wilson (Lab)
Stockport	Amanda Peers (Lab)
Tameside	Naila Sharif (Lab)
Trafford	Barry Brotherton (Lab)
Wigan	Kath Houlton (Con)
Wigan	Joanne Marshall (Lab)

Substitutes:

District	Name
Bury	Mary Whitby (Lab)
Bolton	Nick Peel (Lab)
Bolton	Martin Donaghy (Lab)
Bolton	Marie Brady (Con)
Manchester	Paula Sadler (Lab)
Manchester	Linda Foley (Lab)
Oldham	Hazel Gloster (Lib Dem)
Oldham	Sam Al Hamdani (Lib Dem)

Oldham	Nazrul Islam (Lab)
Rochdale	Patricia Dale (Lab)
Salford	Mishal Saeed (Lab)
Salford	Stuart Dickman (Lab)
Stockport	To be confirmed (Lab)
Stockport	Rory Leonard (Lab)
Stockport	Mike Hurleston (Con)
Tameside	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
Tameside	Liam Billington (Con)
Trafford	Jill Axford (Lab)
Wigan	Charles Rigby (Lab)

RESOLVED /-

1. That the membership of the Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year be noted.
2. That the Committee would be provided with name cards at their next meeting.

O&SC 04/22

**MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL
DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and were requested to complete an annual declaration of interest form, which had been emailed to them by the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED /-

That the GMCA's Member Code of Conduct (Appendix A of the report) be noted.

O&SC 05/22

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were provided with the draft terms of reference GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee, noting that they would be formally approved at the GMCA on the 27 July 2022.

RESOLVED /-

That the Committee's draft Terms of Reference be noted.

O&SC 06/22

CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Chair's announcements or urgent business.

O&SC 07/22

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

O&SC 08/22

GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY - PROGRESS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the progress report on the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS).

The report provided an overarching view of the systemic issues that should be given due consideration and reflection, in order to drive change and actions in all parts of the system for the successful delivery of the GMS. There were some areas where the GMCA had little or no jurisdiction over delivery, however, could play a key influencing role in moving GM forward towards a shared set of ambitions.

The committee were advised that the report sought to provide an overview of the work that is currently underway at a Greater Manchester (GM) level and therefore were requested to select key areas of the GMS Performance Report to inform the future

Work Programme of the Committee. The GMS data dashboards were highlighted as key tool that the committee could also utilise to support scrutiny activity.

The need to build affordable low carbon housing to deliver on Greater Manchester's zero carbon 2038 target including the need to have sufficient funding to deliver on targets. Influencing GM's low carbon agenda and GM's Housing Strategy were therefore identified as future areas of work for the Committee.

Concerns on the impact of new infrastructure development on water supply and the need to utilise appropriate materials to reduce flood risk were also highlighted. Members were assured that GM had been working with the Environment Agency and United Utilities on sustainable water management and including seeking to build resilience to flood risk and impacts of climate change.

A member raised concerns regarding the poor quality of food and the resulting impact on health of GM residents. It was recognised that a systemic commitment was crucial to tackle food poverty in GM and such it would be useful for the Committee to have oversight of the work that has been commissioned to deliver on this piece of work.

In relation to transport, members asked whether there had been patronage forecasts undertaken to support the proposals to cap single fare journeys and day ticket prices. Officers agreed to report back to the Committee on the financial analysis undertaken.

Members felt that there was some dissidence between commitments 1 and 4 in the GMS, as developers were already putting forward planning proposals before the Places for Everyone guidelines had been finalised and also ahead of any commitment to low carbon house building standards, therefore there was a concern that these homes would require retrofitting in future years. Officers explained that although there were initiatives to encourage low carbon building standards to be followed, that further Government support would be needed in order to entice developers to meet these requirements.

The cost-of-living crisis was highlighted as a key driver for poverty; therefore, the Committee noted the need to encourage employers to improve employment standards and to adopt the real living wage to mitigate the impact on GM residents. It was noted

that the Committee would welcome the opportunity to review the Good Employment Charter and the Local Industrial Strategy at a future meeting of the committee.

Regarding commitment 4 of the GMS, members were concerned that there was no mention of plans to use hydrogen as a sustainable future fuel, nor the scale of tree planting required to meet Greater Manchester's targets. Officers informed the Committee that there were Local Area Energy Plans currently being developed for each Local Authority, and that such issues could be addressed at the next meeting where a carbon focussed agenda had been suggested.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress report, the systemic issues identified and possible GM responses and further dialogue with Government in support of the attainment of the Greater Manchester Strategy shared outcomes and commitments be noted.
2. That the following key areas of the GMS Performance Report be considered in relation to the future Work Programme of the Committee:
 - Good Employment Charter
 - Low Carbon
 - Flood Risk and Water Management
 - Housing Strategy
 - Local Industrial Strategy
 - Food Security
3. That the next meeting of the Committee be focused on reviewing the Greater Manchester Strategy's ambitions to **'create a carbon neutral Greater Manchester by 2038, with better air quality and natural environment'**.
4. That it be noted that there was a further information session for members on the Greater Manchester Strategy scheduled for 10 August 2022.

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which replaces previous EU funding through ERDF and ESF, offering GM an indicative £83m over the next three years.

As introduced in the Levelling Up White Paper, the primary goal of UKSPF was to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, while recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the Covid pandemic. It was recognised as a real opportunity to do things differently and that this ambition would be achieved across the following three Investment Priorities:

- Communities and Place
- Local Business
- People and Skills

Included within the proposals was an outline submission for an Investment Plan, within which, 11 broad areas of activity had been identified as a foundation for evidencing the required outcomes for GM.

A discussion took place around the size of the fund in comparison to previous settlements, and it was noted that the UKSPF allowed significant flexibilities, including better monitoring and performance management of schemes and would be broadly comparable across the three years, noting some overlap with current funding in years one and two.

Concerns were raised around the short timescales to develop an investment plan and the constraints around the programme of spend. Members were advised that a pipeline of schemes would be developed once the plan had been submitted to Government, and as such the Investment Plan was focused on a limited number of interventions that had been developed with stakeholders which would ultimately allow GM to retain maximum flexibility on how the funding was spent. Officers confirmed that there were currently no national targets around interventions.

The proposed level of investment was questioned by members, in light of significant disinvestment over recent years, some of the areas it would need to impact would likely take 10-20 years to see real change. The Committee also asked whether there were any areas previously funded through EU funds that could not be included within UKSPF. It was confirmed that the new funding model actually gives GM more flexibility to determine where it is spent and a greater level of control to drive performance. Currently the future of the fund at the end of the initial three years was unknown, and members recognised that amidst this uncertainty there was a key requirement for effective performance monitoring, to which the Overview & Scrutiny Committee could contribute. The need to push Government to recognise the need for a longer-term settlement and to provide clarity on expectations post the 3-year funding period was raised, as was the risk of any claw back of funds. Officers confirmed that the UKSPF monies needed to be fully spent within the three-year timeframe and that efforts would be made to minimise the risk of any potential clawback.

The current state of the high streets in GM were highlighted as a concern, and it was therefore appreciated that UKSPF has a significant focus on community and place that presented the opportunity to restore and improve high streets through a partnership approach with stakeholders including the protection of heritage assets across GM.

In response to a member's query regarding the split across the 10 GM local authorities, it was reported that the allocation was to be indicatively agreed as soon as possible to allow Local Authorities to identify projects for priority delivery.

Councillor Elise Wilson offered to be engaged with the process outside of the Committee meetings and she suggested that it would be useful for the Committee to receive regular updates to allow Committees members the opportunity to evaluate and shape the delivery of the UKSPF in line with other investment proposals to make the most of available resources.

The Committee were advised that the final version of the Implementation Plan would be considered at the GMCA meeting at the end of October. It was therefore requested that the Implementation Plan be brought to the GMCA Overview Scrutiny Committee in September 2022 to allow the Committee the opportunity to review the plan.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the high-level Greater Manchester UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and next steps for its consideration be noted.
2. That regular briefing sessions be provided to allow members to influence this piece of work where appropriate and that the Implementation Plan be brought back to the September meeting of the committee in advance of consideration by the GMCA in October 2022.

O&SC 10/22

FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

Consideration was given to a report that provide the Committee with the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix A).

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That members be invited to submit areas for consideration for the Work Programme via email.

O&SC 11/22

FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED /-

That the following dates for the rest of the municipal year be noted:

- Wednesday 24 Aug 1-3pm
- Wednesday 28 Sept 1-3pm
- Wednesday 26 Oct 1-3pm
- Wednesday 23 Nov 1-3pm
- Wednesday 14 Dec 1-3pm
- Wednesday 25 Jan 1-3pm

- Wednesday 22 Feb 1-3pm
- Wednesday 29 Mar 1-3pm