

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2022  
AT THE GMCA OFFICES, TOOTAL BUILDINGS, OXFORD STREET,  
MANCHESTER**

**PRESENT:**

Bolton	John Walsh (Chair)
Bury	Mary Whitby
Manchester	Greg Stanton
Manchester	Mandie Shilton Godwin
Manchester	John Leech
Oldham	Colin McLaren
Oldham	Umar Nasheen
Rochdale	Tom Besford
Rochdale	Patricia Dale
Salford	John Mullen
Stockport	Mike Hurleston
Stockport	Elise Wilson
Stockport	Amanda Peers
Tameside	Naila Sharif
Trafford	Barry Brotherton
Wigan	Joanne Marshall

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham
Portfolio Leader, Economy, Business and International	Bev Craig

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA	Eamonn Boylan
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GMCA	John Wrathmell
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA	Liz Treacy
TfGM	Anne Marie Purcell
TfGM	Matt Bull
Ernst Young	Richard Barnes
Ernst Young	Andrew Mee

**O&SC 36/22**

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillors Nathan Boroda (Bury), Champak Mistry (Bolton), Ashley Dearnley (Rochdale), Alex Warren (Salford) and Jim King (Salford).

**O&SC 37/22**

**CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

Members were advised that there would be a change to the published agenda, the Committee would move into Part B after item 5 for consideration of item 11 in private on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

**O&SC 38/22**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest raised in relation to any items on the agenda.

**O&SC 39/22**

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 OCTOBER  
2022**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**O&SC 40/22**

**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.

**O&SC 41/22**

**BUS FRANCHISING - INDICATIVE PREFERRED  
BIDDER**

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 42/22 below refers)

**RESOLVED /-**

That the recommendations contained within the Item 11 report be agreed in full.

Members of the Committee welcomed the opportunity to consider these reports at a pre-decision stage and were impressed with the quality and detail of the process undertaken to select an indicative preferred bidder.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the recommendations in relation to franchise agreements for Wigan and Bolton to be considered by the GMCA at their meeting on the 25 November 2022 be noted, as below.

1. To note and agree the outcome of the process to procure a preferred service provider to operate the Bolton Large Local Service Contract and the Wigan Large Local Service Contract in Sub-Area A of the Scheme.
2. To note the proposed key contractual arrangements of the Bolton Large Local Service Contract and the Wigan Large Local Service Contract.
3. In relation to the Local Service Contracts required for the implementation and operation of Sub-Areas B and C of the Scheme:
  - a) To agree to commence the procurement process.
  - b) To agree to delegate to TfGM the authority to undertake and manage the procurement process on behalf of the GMCA subject to the following condition.
    - i. TfGM will recommend a preferred bidder in relation to each Local Service Contract; in relation to large Local Service Contracts the decision to award will be taken by the GMCA and in relation to small Local Service Contracts and contracts for schools the decision to award will be taken in accordance with the contract award delegations as set out in the GMCA Constitution.

4. To agree that in relation to Sub Area A TfGM will manage the implementation and operation of the Scheme and the Local Service Contracts awarded in relation to Sub-Area A following their award on behalf of the GMCA subject to the following conditions:
  - a. TfGM will manage the above contracts in accordance with the provisions of an agreed Protocol with the GMCA.
  - b. That authority to agree the final terms of the above Protocol and any other associated necessary legal agreements on behalf of the GMCA be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.
  - c. That authority to complete and execute the Protocol and any other necessary legal agreements be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.
  
5. To authorise TfGM to enter into the agreements referred to in section 4 of this report for the purposes of establishing and implementing the Residual Value Mechanism on behalf of the GMCA.

**O&SC 43/22                    GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY – ECONOMY FOCUS  
CREATING A MORE PROSPEROUS GREATER  
MANCHESTER (SECTION A) AND INNOVATION GREATER  
MANCHESTER AND THE INNOVATION ACCELERATOR  
PILOT (SECTION B).**

Councillor Bev Craig, Elected Portfolio Leader, Economy, Business and International introduced the item and provided an overview of the report.

The report under section A, provided Members with an overview of the strategy, policy and programmes that were underway to deliver against the commitments in the Greater Manchester Strategy. Whereas the report under section B, provided a specific update on the Innovation Accelerator pilot that was announced in the Levelling Up White Paper which was being delivered through a process of co-design with Government and Greater Manchester and was set to run in parallel to the GMCA Foundational Economy Innovation Fund.

With regards to the Innovation Accelerator pilot, it was reported that the pilot had commenced in April 2022 followed by an open call for projects over Summer 2022. Over 60 projects were shortlisted, and 22 projects were submitted in a final application to Innovate UK. Project applications had undergone an assurance process and notifications would be issued to successful projects by December 2022. As part of the next stage local areas would then be invited to take final decisions on projects that would be funded. This process would be led by local areas with support from Innovate UK. Members were advised that projects would be notified of outcomes in early 2023, with funding released to begin delivery from 1st April 2023.

Members welcomed the reports and thanked officers for their effort that had been put into progressing this piece of work.

Given the scale of economic challenges GM was facing, it was noted that the portfolio area would need to evolve a broader plan for GM's long-term economic recovery, prosperity, and resilience, as well as continuing the focus on growth and productivity improvements that were the focus of the Industrial Strategy. As part of this period of reflection, Members of the Committee were asked for their areas of prioritisation. Members welcomed the period of reflection to gain a stronger understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in GM's economic portfolio and ensure that the relevant plans were reflective of Greater Manchester's current landscape.

Members welcomed the approach of a codesigned Accelerator Pilot, it was seen significant in being able to draw down available Government funding that was essential for delivery.

The Prosperity Review highlighted that the transition to a carbon neutral economy was a global challenge, but Members acknowledged GM's ambition to have the potential to drive mission-based innovation to attract investment into new green industries and bring direct benefits to residents from quality-of-life improvements.

It was noted that whilst the Prosperity Review identified many strengths in Greater Manchester's education and skills system but recognised that it remained fragmented, however, through the Local Industrial Strategy a range of sector specific skills training activity had been introduced, targeted at sectors with skills shortages and forecasted growth.

Members felt that there was a need for the decision-making bodies such as the Innovation Greater Manchester Board to be reflective of the communities that GM represents. Officers explained the challenges associated with a limited pool to draw from and advised of the considerable amount of work that had been done to ensure that the opportunities translate into economic benefit for all parts and communities of GM.

The need for regional connectivity to maximising inward investment opportunities was highlighted. The challenges to improving connectivity given the significant disinvestment were noted. Officers explained that HS2 and the Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) Programme remained crucial to the future prosperity of GM and the North, acting as a catalyst for the regeneration and sustainable growth objectives of the city region. The Committee were informed that a meeting had been scheduled with the Secretary of State for Transport and the Metropolitan Mayors to further consider current heavy rail connectivity issues.

In relation to managing potential conflicting priorities between GM, Local Authorities and Central Government, the Committee were assured in GM's pragmatic approach to shifting the angle of their approach to keep conversations with Government progressing and the ability to continually evidence clear deliverables for economic growth. Portfolio lead roles were also recognised as key in ensuring all parts of Greater Manchester benefitted from new economic policy initiatives and that there was support for Local Authorities to unlock potential new growth sectors.

**RESOLVED /-**

**In relation to the overview report on a ‘Creating a more prosperous Greater Manchester’:**

1. That the activity underway, and the assessment provided by the Greater Manchester Strategy six-month review process be noted.
2. That it be noted that the long-term framework for activity under the economy portfolio – the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy – was currently being refreshed, and this process would facilitate a review of policy, investments and programmes that support the ambitions in the GMS for a more prosperous Greater Manchester.

**In relation to the Innovation Greater Manchester and the Innovation Accelerator Pilot:**

That it be noted that the innovation accelerator was expected to have direct positive impacts on equality and inclusion, health, resilience and adaptation, economy, and mobility and connectivity. There were also expected to be indirect positive impacts on carbon emissions.

**O&SC 45/22            GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER**

**RESOLVED /-**

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**O&SC 46/22            WORK PROGRAMME & FORWARD PLAN OF KEY  
DECISIONS**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for the forthcoming months be noted.

**O&SC 47/22**

**FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**RESOLVED /-**

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

- Wednesday 14 December
- Wednesday 25 January
- Wednesday 8 February
- Wednesday 29 March

Signed by the Chair: (to be printed off and signed by the Chair at the next meeting)