

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2023 AT MANCHESTER
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
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Bolton	Councillor Nadim Muslim
Tameside	Councillor Jacqueline North

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny	Julie Connor
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall

Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Julian Jackson
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Martin Lax
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

GMCA 223/23 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received from Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Councillor Ged Cooney (Tameside) & Sandra Stewart (Tameside).

GMCA 224/23 CHAIRS ANNOUCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, opened with an item of urgent business concerning the continued poor performance of Avanti West Coast Rail. The latest information available advised that 37 services serving Piccadilly had been cancelled and through the course of the week had been at a reliability level of 52%. In his view this was unacceptable at a time of year when many residents were seeking to travel, and it was also, again, inflicting severe damage upon the Greater Manchester economy at a key retail and hospitality moment in the year. He also suggested that in these circumstances, it was not acceptable that people were ‘crammed’ into the standard carriages whilst the first-class carriages remained quiet, and that trains departing Piccadilly and London Euston should be declassified when these reduced services were in place.

The recent good news that the English National Opera had chosen Greater Manchester as its new home as of 2029 was highlighted. Congratulations were expressed to the Culture teams at the GMCA, Manchester City Council and Salford

City Council who had put considerable work into making this a reality. This was a real vote of confidence in the cultural aspirations for the whole city region.

It was advised that a meeting of the Clean Air Administration Committee would be taking place the following week to consider the finalised plans for a non-charging investment led approach to a Clean Air Zone for the city region. It was stated that the approach being proposed would offer a fairer and more democratic approach for residents and would not punish them for not making changes that they could not afford to make. The approach would instead invest further into zero emission buses and taxis, with specific targeted interventions around traffic hotspots.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester added that it was also vital that continued lobbying took place with government regarding the closure of the current loophole that allowed Hackney Carriage licence holders, who obtained their licences in areas with looser restrictions on emissions and safety standards outside of Greater Manchester, to currently operate within the region.

The first meeting of the Employer Integration Board had taken place, which was overseeing the reform of technical education linked to the trailblazer devolution deal. It was an important week for this to have happened, as in the same week the House of Lords Education Select Committee had published a report, strongly endorsing the Greater Manchester Baccalaureate.

The Deputy Mayor for Police, Fire & Crime, Kate Green, provided an update on the launch event for the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Strategy.

It was advised that the government had announced a forthcoming review of rail infrastructure and that this would be led by former GM Local Enterprise Partnership Member Juergen Maier.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester referenced the latest update on the development of the proposed Liverpool to Manchester rail line upgrades. It was suggested that the path to HS2 alignment favoured by the Liverpool City Region would also be the most appropriate favoured path for Greater Manchester, as any other paths would likely result in at least a ten-year delay. It was made clear that discussions with government would continue to reaffirm Greater Manchester's position

that it should not contribute financially to a new rail station at Manchester Airport and reaffirm that the development of an underground station at Manchester Piccadilly was required.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the update on continued concerns around the performance of Avanti West Coast Rail be received.
2. That a request be made that all trains leaving, or travelling towards Manchester, fully declassify their 1st class carriages when offering a reduced service.
3. That the GMCA welcomes the vote of confidence shown in the city region's cultural aspirations with the announced relocation of the English National Opera to Greater Manchester from 2029.
4. That it be noted that the Clean Air Administration Committee would be considering the finalised plans for a non-charging investment led approach to a Clean Air Zone for the city region at a meeting on 20 December 2023, and, that with Government agreement, would offer a fairer and more democratic approach for all residents.
5. That a re-emphasis be placed on calls made to Government to ban 'out of area' working currently allowed on taxi licences to end the unfair and currently unmanageable approach to ensuring taxi emission standards were met within the region.
6. That the update on the House of Lords Education Select Committee's Report strongly endorsing the approach being taken to the development of the Greater Manchester Baccalaureate be received.
7. That the update by the Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities on the launch of the GM Violence Reduction Strategy be received.

8. That the update on the forthcoming review of rail infrastructure, to be led by Juergen Maier, be received.
9. That the update on discussions around the development of a new northern powerhouse rail connection, that would align the Liverpool City Region's and Greater Manchester's favoured path to HS2 links be received.
10. That it be confirmed that all discussions with Government on rail links will reaffirm Greater Manchester's position that it should not contribute to a new rail station at Manchester Airport and reaffirm the development of an underground station at Manchester Piccadilly was required.

GMCA 225/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

That there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any item on the agenda.

**GMCA 226/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER
2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 24 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 227/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 24 November 2023 be approved.

**GMCA 228/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 22 November 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 229/23 MINUTES OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE MEEETING
HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 23 November 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 230/23 APPOINTMENT TO THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED /-

That Councillor Ged Carter (Trafford) be appointed as a substitute member to the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

GMCA 231/23 COST OF LIVING AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Councillor Arooj Shah, Portfolio Lead for Equalities & Communities, and Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth, introduced the latest update on the cost-of-living pressures being faced by residents and businesses in Greater Manchester, and some of the measures being put in place by the GMCA and partners to respond.

Residents were continuing to feel the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis. The latest surveys indicated that most people still felt worried about the state of their finances.

Three in every ten Greater Manchester residents were now considered to be financially vulnerable and more people than ever were having difficulties managing their debts, with significant increases being seen in loans. Continuing high energy costs would continue to make the impact worse over the winter period.

There was disappointment that the government currently maintained a position which would see the Household Support Fund ceasing in 2024. It was agreed that all ten Greater Manchester authorities, together with the GMCA, would write to the government asking that they extend the period of the Fund for those households in most need.

In terms of continued business impacts, high prices within supply chains and energy costs still caused significant concern. It was encouraging however, that in spite of the challenges being faced, businesses in the region were still signing up to become real living wage employers, and to the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the renewal of the latest assessment and emerging response and views given on the next steps in that response be noted.
2. That the signing of a letter drafted on behalf of all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to Government to extend the existing Household Support Fund offer for those most in need be agreed.

GMCA 232/23 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – RENEWING OUR VISION

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, presented a report highlighting the development of a document, 'Renewing Our Vision' which set out how the GMCA was proposing to update its Local Transport Plan vision. This was a high-level document which would be used to engage with stakeholders during the development of the refreshed Local Transport Plan. One of the key elements of this was the 'right mix' target, which referred to journeys undertaken around the city region by public transport

or by active travel. There was a proposal to go further than previously, with the target now above 50%.

The importance of the establishment of Local Bee Network Committees was emphasised, this would aid in creating a collaborative approach to investing in the right places and more choices for residents.

Mayor of Greater Manchester, stated that in his position as the Chair of the Rail North Committee, he has made rail station accessibility issues a standing item at the top of every single agenda. Full commitment to lobbying government for devolved funding to allow the region to implement schemes improving disability access at rail stations was also reaffirmed.

Councillor Mark Hunter noted that the report did not contain a commitment to extend the Metrolink network to Stockport, but rather emphasised the maintenance of the current network. It was advised that the Rapid Transport Strategy was due for publication in the new year and that this would set out plans around potential Metrolink extensions. Any comments raised through the forthcoming round table between the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Stockport business leaders would aid in informing the development of the Strategy.

Councillor Nadim Muslim provided feedback on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee emphasised that the right mix would mean different things in different areas and that a 'one size fits all' approach to this would not be appropriate, and that it would be important to take on board any lessons learnt from the implementation of recent infrastructural initiatives such as cyclops junctions when planning future infrastructure.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the development of a Greater Manchester's transport vision as part of a refreshed Local Transport Plan be noted.
2. That the 'Renewing Our Vision' stakeholder engagement document be approved.

3. That the comments raised by Councillor Nadim Muslim on behalf of the Greater Manchester Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
4. That Greater Manchester reaffirms its commitment to lobbying Government for devolved funding to allow the region to implement schemes improving disability access at rail stations.
5. That it be advised that the Rapid Transport Strategy due for publication in the new year would set out plans around potential Metrolink extensions, and that comments raised through the forthcoming round table with Stockport business leaders would aid in informing the approach.

GMCA 233/23 GMCA STATEMENT OF INTENT FOR DELIVERY OF GMCA ENERGY COMPANY OBLIGATION (ECO4) AND GREAT BRITISH INSULATION SCHEMES

Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, provided an update on the progress made in delivering energy efficiency programmes to residents. Seeking approval for the latest GMCA Energy Company Obligation (ECO4) and Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) Flex Statement of Intent (Sol) Version 5 (V5) which set the Local Authority Flexible Eligibility criteria for these funding schemes in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress made to date in delivering ECO4, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, and the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Project in Greater Manchester be noted.
2. That the centralised management of ECO4 and GBIS Flex by the GMCA for the whole of Greater Manchester be approved.
3. That the GMCA ECO4 and GBIS Flex Statement of Intent V5 (Annex 1) be approved.

4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to sign the Statement of Intent on behalf of the GMCA.
5. That the numerous long term significant positive impacts on health and wellbeing, jobs and skills, and carbon reduction, through an increase in home energy efficiency and a reduction in fuel poverty, identified in the Sustainability Assessment, be noted.

**GMCA 234/23 UKSPF PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL BUSINESS INTERVENTION
E23**

Councillor Nazia Rehman presented a report outlining the background and proposal for a £0.5m proposal for experimental business support to directly tackle the inequalities element of E23. The report sought the approval for the strategic fit and deliverability of the proposal.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for the £0.5m experimental programme of business support to directly tackle inequalities be noted.
2. That it be agreed that the proposal was a strategic fit with the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and was deliverable, as set out in this report.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Economy and Inclusive Growth and Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment, to agree the procurement method and subsequent award of contract(s) worth up to £0.5m.

**GMCA 235/23 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK
REQUEST FOR DELEGATION**

Councillor Nazia Rehman presented a report seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Office, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding previously approved by the Combined Authority, for the period 16th December 2023 to 25th January 2024.

RESOLVED /-

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 16th December 2023 to 25th January 2024.
2. That it be noted that any recommendations approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

**GMCA 236/23 INVESTMENT IN NEW MECHANICAL SORTING
INFRASTRUCTURE**

Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, presented a report that set out proposals for investment in recycle sorting infrastructure that would meet the requirements of the national Resources and Waste Strategy for consistency of collections (now referred to as Simpler Recycling) and to enable the collection for recycling of additional materials at the kerbside.

RESOLVED /-

That the options appraisal be noted and the recommended approach for the future investment in recycle sorting infrastructure be approved.

GMCA 237/23 PROVISION OF FUTURE WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES

Councillor Tom Ross, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, presented a report that made a number of recommendations for the future provision of waste disposal services from 2026.

Councillor Nadim Muslim was invited to provide feedback following the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the item. Points raised included that the Committee recognised that the current contract was performing particularly well in terms of landfill diversion and household recycling rates, and that the Committee commended the social value of the renew hub at Trafford Park.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That approval be given for the initiation of discussions with the current contractor to extend the WRMS and HWRCMS contracts in accordance with contract clauses.
3. That the comments raised by Councillor Nadim Muslim on behalf of the Greater Manchester Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

GMCA 238/23 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 239/23 PROVISION OF FUTURE WASTE SERVICES

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 237/23)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 240/23 LAND ACQUISITION – MANCHESTER

RESOLVED /-

That the recommendations in the report be approved.