

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24th July 2024

Subject: A new Greater Manchester Strategy

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester and Portfolio Lead for Policy & Strategy

Purpose of Report

To provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the approach to developing the new Greater Manchester Strategy and seek views on the early proposed draft content for inclusion. Ongoing stakeholder engagement will further inform the content and the performance measures to be included in the updated GMS outcomes framework.

Recommendation:

O&S members are requested to review and comment on the proposed approach and outline content for the development of the new Greater Manchester Strategy.

Contact Officer:

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

An assessment will be undertaken for each of the activities set out in the GMS once developed.

Risk Management

The report sets out the approach and proposed content for the development of the new GMS and notes the increased role that it could play in bringing together the GM system to deliver GMS priorities. If such an approach is not adopted, there is a risk that GM may be less likely to achieve its ambitions.

Legal Considerations

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue

No direct financial decisions resulting from this paper

Financial Consequences – Capital

No direct financial decisions resulting from this paper

Number of attachments to the report:

None

Background Papers

The current GMS (2021) and progress reports can be found on the [About Greater Manchester](#) website.

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

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?

No

Bee Network Committee

N/A

1. Introduction / Background

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) is the overarching strategy for the whole GM system working together to achieve shared ambitions. The Strategy brings together the public, private and voluntary sector, convening the breadth of activities of GM thematic and place based plans and strategies.
- 1.2 The current GMS was adopted in 2021 as a ten year strategy for the whole of Greater Manchester. The first three year delivery cycle of the ten year strategy has now concluded.
- 1.3 In January 2024, a refresh of the current strategy was agreed. However, in recent weeks it has become clear that a more fundamental re-write of the GMS is required to reflect that we are now entering a new era, with a new Mayoral term, change in national Government, implementation of Single Settlement, and associated developments in Greater Manchester ways of working. It is important that the GMS is able to speak to this and also that it reflects the changes in the challenges and opportunities faced by GM now, compared to when the 2021 strategy was written directly post-pandemic.
- 1.4 It is therefore an optimal moment for GM to develop a more bold and ambitious strategy for the next ten years, with an updated context and narrative that speaks to GM's unique opportunities and system maturity. The new GMS will have a stronger economic lens, connecting GM's residents to growth opportunities and ensuring benefits are realised for all. It will also provide a platform for the articulation of our shared ambition and aspiration for the city region at a national and international level.
- 1.5 The GMS will continue to, and potentially play a greater role over coming years in bringing together the GM system, enabling collaborative and systemic working which can support the attainment of national, Greater Manchester and localities priorities. Constrained public service resources, means collectively GM needs to continue to

work smarter, achieving the added value collaborative working can bring, to deliver business, community and place priorities.

- 1.6 As the GMS represents the articulation of the collective ambition for the city-region, the GMS outcomes will set the context for decisions on how to spend the single settlement. The single settlement itself will be measured by outcomes agreed with Government, which have to be directly related to the national funding schemes from which the single settlement is derived. There is potential for the single settlement to incorporate more funding streams in future, which would enable even greater alignment with the all-encompassing GMS.
- 1.7 Extensive system engagement has been undertaken on the proposed approach and content for inclusion in the rewrite of the GMS, including regular engagement with Local Authority leads, business and VCFSE sector representatives. That engagement continues and further engagement sessions have been delivered with thematic partnerships and networks.
- 1.8 The new strategy will aim to create a narrative which captures the breadth of agendas delivered across the GM system, and will be written in a way which demonstrates the interconnected activities and interdependencies across policy and place activities required to deliver GMS. The contribution of policy areas will be captured along with the opportunity to highlight some delivery activity which will support the attainment of the shared outcomes.
- 1.9 It is intended that the new GMS will be developed over the summer, with a draft strategy presented to GMCA in early Autumn for adoption. to

2. Proposed content for new GMS

- 2.1 The proposed content for the strategy is below. This will be further developed over the coming weeks, responsive to feedback and ongoing engagement.

GMS proposed content:

Context – updated contextual narrative on developments, including updating opportunities and challenges for Greater Manchester.

The new GMS will have a stronger economic, inclusive growth and ‘opportunities for all’ narrative. The GMS will highlight our ability to deliver, maximising joint working and local agency / convening to deliver outcomes, and delivering effectively within the context of constrained resources.

GMS Ways of Working – restating and reaffirming commitment to GMS ways of working, seeking to ensure these are embedded in activities and that they support in the delivery of more efficient and impactful whole system working.

Missions / Priority Chapters – descriptive narratives which articulate the breadth of issues encapsulated under the GMS. These will tell the story of interconnected activities, across thematic agendas and places to deliver together against shared outcomes and ambitions.

To track progress for each of the sections there will be:

- a headline outcome(s);
- a basket of measures which speak to the mission / priority;
- a prioritised outcome(s), which is relevant to the wider system and requires commitment from across that system to working differently to shift the dial.

[This would include a rationale for how targeted activity could lead to improved outcomes and reduce variance and inequality].

Progress Reporting – separate annex reporting on key measures in the current (2021-24) GMS Performance Framework, structured across the Greener, Fairer and More Prosperous pillars, with link to updated performance dashboards.

2.2 This rationale will articulate the levers of change for each priority outcome, clearly identifying how GMS activity can bring about positive change, and the implications for how decisions are made over the prioritisation and targeting of resources. The priority

outcomes will align with the Single Settlement outcomes framework, and in the context of Single Settlement implementation, will contribute to a culture of increasingly evidence-based decision making.

3. Recommendation

3.1 recommendation appear at the front of this report.