

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 14 August 2024

Subject: Appointment of Vice Chair for the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Gillian Duckworth, GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer

Purpose of Report

To provide all the relevant information to enable the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider whether they wish to appoint a Vice Chair.

Recommendations:

The GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the report and whether they wish to appoint a Vice Chair.

Contact Officers

Nicola Ward, GMCA Statutory Scrutiny Officer & Deputy Head of Governance

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

N/A

Risk Management

None

Legal Considerations

None

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Allowance payment as outlined in the report.

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

N/A

Tracking/ Process

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

Yes / 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?

Not a key decision

Bee Network Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At their meeting on the 24 July 2024, members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested a report to assist them in determining whether an appointment of a Vice Chair of the Committee was required.
- 1.2 This appointment is not a legal requirement, both the Combined Authorities Scrutiny Order¹ and the GMCA Constitution only reference the appointment of a Chair, but the Constitution further states that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may choose to appoint a Vice Chair, however, the Vice Chair should also be an 'appropriate person'.
- 1.3 An 'appropriate person' means:
- a person who is not a member of a registered political party of which the Mayor is a member;
 - or, where the Mayor is not a member of a registered political party, a person who is not a member of a registered political party which has the most representatives among the members of the Constituent Councils on the GMCA or, where two or more parties have the same number of representatives, a member of either of those parties.
- 1.4 This report outlines points for consideration.

2 Role of a Vice Chair

- 2.1 There is no specific role for a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee set out in the Combined Authorities Scrutiny Order or in the GMCA's Constitution, however, the most common aspects of the role in other Committee structures include –
- Deputising for the Chair in their absence
 - Acting as a sounding board for the Chair, providing support and advice

¹ [The Combined Authorities \(Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees\) Order 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)

- Assisting in governance responsibilities or sharing tasks with the Chair.

2.2 Under the GMCA's scrutiny model, the Vice Chair would be asked to deputise for the Chair in their absence at Committee meetings and attend pre-meets. There would be no further expectations on the role, i.e. the Constitution does not allow for the Vice Chair to approve urgent decisions.

2.3 The Vice Chair would have the same level of privileges as a Committee member (and as the Chair also does) with no casting vote, no ability to bring forward items for call-in without the support of two other members and access to information in line with the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

3 Remuneration

3.1 In November 2022, the GM Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) undertook a review of allowance payments for GMCA Overview & Scrutiny members. Although it was not within their terms of reference for this review, the IRP decided to make a recommendation on the remuneration for a Vice Chair, should the Committee decide to make an appointment in the future. Their recommended allowance payment was agreed by the GMCA (16 December 2022) at £4,035. In line with all other allowance payments, this would be index linked.