

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

**MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
RECONVENED MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2014 AT
MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Mike Connolly
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jim McMahon
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	Ian Stewart
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Iain Roberts
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith (in the Chair)

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Police and Crime Commissioner	Tony Lloyd
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Donna Hall	GMCA Secretary
Howard Bernstein	GMCA Head of Paid Service
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Sean Harriss	Bolton Council
Mike Kelly	Bury Council
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Linda Fisher	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Theresa Grant	Trafford Council
Adam Allen	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Julie Connor)
Sylvia Welsh) Greater Manchester
Julie Gaskell) Integrated Support Team

159/14 APOLOGIES

Councillor Sue Derbyshire

160/14 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reminded Members that the meeting had been reconvened to enable the GMCA to consider as urgent business the latest detail on the Greater Manchester Devolution Agreement with Government.

161/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

162/14 GREATER MANCHESTER AGREEMENT: DEVOLUTION TO THE GMCA AND TRANSITION TO A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR OF GREATER MANCHESTER

The Combined Authority received a report from Sir Howard Bernstein, Head of Paid Service, setting out proposals for a staged approach to the evolution of Greater Manchester (GM) governance arrangements, in return for the devolution of significant additional functional and fiscal responsibilities by Government.

In addition the report sought formal endorsement of a Devolution Agreement, negotiated between the Government and the GMCA, which sets out the additional powers and responsibilities to be transferred to GM in return for governance changes, involving an Appointed Mayor as the lead member of the GMCA and as a directly elected Mayor as part of a Cabinet of Leaders through new legislation.

Chief Executives and supporting officers were thanked for the work undertaken over previous months in progressing negotiations with Government to this point.

Members were informed that the proposals were subject to agreement by the GM Local Authorities and a statutory consultation. It was critical that local authority councillors were provided with clear information, understood the process and the proposed Agreement Government, with detailed information to be prepared to assist the process and support where required.

In discussion Members agreed that local councillors need to be provided with clear and concise information about the proposals and in particular what the financial implications for GM are. In this regard all Leaders should be kept updated on the detail.

The Chair reminded Members that the proposed Agreement included safeguards to ensure that Greater Manchester's interests were protected.

RESOLVED/-

1. To endorse the following principles which have guided GM's approach to governance changes and its approach to devolution:

- a) GM should continue to position itself at the forefront of the debate about fiscal and functional devolution given the ambitions it has to continue to grow the GM economy and to reform public services. GM should be at the heart of the economic revival of the North of England to remain key to re-balancing the national economy.
- b) GM's ultimate ambition should be to exercise significant influence, if not control, over all public spending in Greater Manchester which currently is estimated at £22bn per annum. The focus of this policy approach should be on responsibilities being assumed from National Government to enable local government and local members to be better able to discharge their existing functions. It was accepted however that this overall ambition will take some years to achieve.
- c) In this context, a Road Map is required to enable new functions and fiscal responsibilities to be transferred from National Government for discharge at GM level building upon the existing Combined Authority model which has a track record of achievement in GM.
- d) New arrangements are proposed to strengthen the relationships between local authorities and the GMCA, and between the GMCA and Chief Executives. An agreed set of governance protocols set out the core relationship between the GMCA, local authorities and partners: what the GMCA does for localities and what local authorities bring to the GMCA and AGMA.
- e) Governance change is also necessary if GM is to achieve its devolution ambitions. It is right that if we are to become responsible for more national functions and resources there must be direct accountability for the way these new responsibilities are discharged. It is also the case that if we are to commence the delivery of a Road Map we need additional political and executive capacity to embrace new opportunities now which are possible without new legislation.
- f) In return for significant additional responsibilities GM should move as soon as possible to a full-time appointed Mayor becoming the 11th member of the GMCA and the development of the Cabinet model involving all Leaders with clear portfolio responsibilities. This will require delegation of appropriate powers to the full-time appointed Mayor and to Portfolio Leaders to underpin accountability and efficiency. It will also require the appointment of a full-time Head of Paid Service, in addition to full-time Section 151 and Monitoring Officers.
- g) In return for legislation in the next Parliament on new functional responsibilities and access to resources, GM should commit itself to a directly elected Mayor who will Chair the CA and a Cabinet including 10 Leaders with portfolio responsibilities. This will require new powers to the directly elected Mayor and other powers to the GMCA.
- h) This evolutionary approach will enable GM to strengthen leadership and executive capacity in the quickest possible time, absorb the potential for enhanced responsibilities in the short term and create the platform for maximum devolution over time.

2. To endorse the Greater Manchester Agreement: Devolution to the GMCA and the transition to a directly elected Mayor, as set out in Annex B to the report, which sets out the additional powers and responsibilities (and budgets) which will be delivered by Government in return for the governance changes GM will be obliged to deliver.
3. To invite all GM authorities, the GM LEP and the BLC to submit comments on the above principles and the Devolution Agreement by the 15th January 2015.
4. To authorise the Head of Paid Service, in conjunction with the GM Wider Leadership Team, to bring back a further report at the end of January 2015 on the comments received and to enable the GMCA to finalise more detailed proposals, which will be the subject of a public consultation and submission to the Secretary of State seeking his support for the laying of the necessary Orders to give effect to the transitional arrangements as soon as possible.

Chair