

COUNCIL

Proposal to amend the constitution of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jim McMahon, Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region

Officer Contact: Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive (Ext: 3542)

4th February 2015

Reason for Decision

At the meeting on 17 December 2014, Council received a report on the Devolution Agreement negotiated between the Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). This agreement set out the additional powers and responsibilities that will be transferred to Greater Manchester (GM). It also outlined the required reforms to Greater Manchester's governance system which include the adoption of an elected mayor for Greater Manchester by "early 2017". Pending the necessary primary legislation and as a transitional measure, the agreement committed that "*steps will be taken to amend the Combined Authority order to create an eleventh leader as Chair who will be the appointed Mayor until a Mayor is elected.*"

The Secretary of State is now consulting on a draft Order which would give effect to the agreed transitional measures, and views are sought by 13 February 2015 on the proposals in the attached consultation paper and draft Order.

Recommendations

1. That the constitutional amendments to the Combined Authority as set out in the draft order and Annex A of the consultation document are endorsed.
2. That authority is delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive to respond formally to the consultation questions posed following discussion at the meeting.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 A Devolution Agreement has been negotiated between the Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). This agreement sets out the additional powers and responsibilities that will be transferred to Greater Manchester (GM). It also outlined the required reforms to Greater Manchester's governance system which include the adoption of an elected mayor for Greater Manchester by "early 2017". Pending the necessary primary legislation and as a transitional measure, the agreement committed that *"steps will be taken to amend the Combined Authority order to create an eleventh leader as Chair who will be the appointed Mayor until a Mayor is elected."*
- 1.2 The Secretary of State is now consulting on a proposal to make an amending Order that would provide for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to have an eleventh member who would be the Chair of the combined authority. This Order will make the necessary amendments to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 to provide for the creation of the eleventh member of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, as agreed in the devolution agreement, who will be known as the Interim Mayor.
- 1.3 A copy of the consultation document, including the draft order, is attached as the appendix to this report.
- 1.4 The statutory consultees are the metropolitan district councils of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan; and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- 1.5 In addition the Secretary of State considers in this case it is also appropriate to consult:
 - the local enterprise partnership concerned – "Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership" and
 - the Business Leadership Council.

The Secretary of State will also have regard to any comments received from members of the public and others.

2.0 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

2.1 Annex A and the draft order contained with the consultation document set out a number proposed amendments to the constitution of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. These cover the following areas:

- Membership
- Chair of the Combined Authority
- Executive Arrangements
- Remuneration
- Proceedings

2.2 Views on the constitutional amendments are sought as part of the consultation process. In addition the following three questions are posed as part of the consultation:

Question 1 – do you consider that enabling an additional board member to chair the Combined Authority would in the circumstances of Greater Manchester be likely to improve the provision of transport in the area and its effectiveness and efficiency, the provision of economic development and regeneration in the area, or the economic conditions in the area? And if so, in what regards?

Question 2 – how do you consider an additional board member may impact on the identities and interests of local communities and on securing effective and convenient local government?

Question 3 – do you have any comments on the proposed constitutional arrangements as set out in Annex A and the draft Order?

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That the constitutional amendments to the Combined Authority as set out in the draft order and Annex A of the consultation document are endorsed.

3.2 That authority is delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive to respond formally to the consultation questions posed following discussion at the meeting.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The details of the Devolution Agreement have been presented to Oldham Leadership Board.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 Whilst there are no specific financial implications arising from the proposed constitutional amendments, the Devolution Agreement provides Greater Manchester access to a range of funds for services such as transport and housing. This will have significant financial impact on the region as a whole. At this stage it is not possible to determine the direct availability of resources for

Oldham as the detail has still to be worked through. However, every effort will be made to ensure that the financial benefits for Oldham are maximised.

- Anne Ryans

6.1 Legal Services Comments

6.1 A statutory order is required to give effect to the proposed arrangements.

- Paul Entwistle

7.0 Cooperative Agenda

7.1 The new Oldham Plan sets out the ambitions for a co-operative borough and will require continued close and effective working to deliver them. There will be strong partnership working through a reconstituted Greater Manchester Combined Authority to provide support and secure the best deal for Oldham from the devolution opportunities. There is a need for strong, democratic engagement ensuring that residents are as informed and involved as possible at every stage of planning, implementation and delivery.

- Jackie Wilson

12.0 Human Resources Comments

12.1 N/A

13.0 Risk Assessments

13.1 N/A

14.0 IT Implications

14.1 None

15.0 Property Implications

15.1 None

16.0 Procurement Implications

16.1 None at this stage

17.0 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

17.1 None

18.0 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

18.1 None at this stage

19.0 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

19.1 No

20.0 Key Decision

20.1 No

21.0 Key Decision Reference

21.1 Not applicable

22.0 Background Papers

22.1 GMCA report and Devolution Agreement dated 3 November 2014

23.0 Appendices

23.1 Proposal to amend the constitution of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority: DCLG January 2015