

**MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2016 AT LEIGH SPORTS
VILLAGE, LEIGH**

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| GM INTERIM MAYOR | Tony Lloyd (in the Chair) |
| BOLTON COUNCIL | Councillor Cliff Morris |
| BURY COUNCIL | Councillor Mike Connolly |
| MANCHESTER CC | Councillor Richard Leese |
| OLDHAM COUNCIL | Councillor Jean Stretton |
| ROCHDALE MBC | Councillor Allen Brett |
| SALFORD CC | City Mayor Ian Stewart |
| STOCKPORT MBC | Councillor Sue Derbyshire |
| TAMESIDE MBC | Councillor Kieran Quinn |
| TRAFFORD COUNCIL | Councillor Sean Anstee |
| WIGAN COUNCIL | Councillor Peter Smith |

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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| GMFRA | Councillor David Acton |
| GMWDA | Councillor Nigel Murphy |
| TfGMC | Councillor Andrew Fender |

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

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| Margaret Asquith | Bolton Council |
| Mike Owen | Bury Council |
| Howard Bernstein | Manchester CC |
| Carolyn Wilkins | Oldham Council |
| Steve Rumbelow | Rochdale MBC |
| Jim Taylor | Salford CC |
| Eamonn Boylan | Stockport MBC |
| Sandra Stewart | Tameside MBC |
| Helen Jones | Trafford Council |
| Donna Hall | Wigan Council |
| Andrew Lightfoot | GM Director of Public Service Reform |
| Mark Hughes | Manchester Growth Company |
| Simon Nokes | New Economy |
| Adam Allen | Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner |

Clare Regan
Pete O'Reilly
David Taylor
Andrea Hefferan
Steve Warrener
Liz Treacy
Richard Paver
Julie Connor
Paul Harris
Bridget Aherne
Ross MacRae

Office of the GM Interim Mayor
GM Fire & Rescue Service
GMWDA
GM Fire & Rescue Service
TfGM
GMCA Monitoring Officer
GMCA Treasurer
) Greater Manchester
) Integrated Support Team
) Integrated Support Team
)

21/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Richard Farnell (Rochdale), Theresa Grant (Trafford), Steven Pleasant (Tameside).

22/16 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

GM Air Quality Management Area Review (Minute Ref 30/16)

The Chair explained that he had allowed this item as urgent business in order for a revised Air Quality Management Area for Greater Manchester to be considered at the earliest opportunity.

23/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

24/16 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2016

The minutes of the GMCA meeting, that was held on 29 January 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 29 January 2016 as a correct record.

25/16 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS OF GMCA

Consideration was given to a report of Julie Connor, Head of the Greater Manchester Integrated Support Team, which set out the Forward Plan of those strategic decisions to be considered over the next four months.

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions as set out in the report.

26/16 GMCA PORTFOLIOS

Consideration was given to Leader portfolio arrangements following the resignation of Jim McMahon, Oldham MBC.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree that the GM Interim Mayor assumes the Transport portfolio until the June 2016 Annual Meeting.
2. To agree that Councillor Jean Stretton assumes the GM Communications portfolio until the June 2016 AGM.

27/16 NORTHERN POWERHOUSE – INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC REVIEW

Councillor Richard Leese, Portfolio Lead for Economic Strategy, presented a report which provided an update to GM Leaders on the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review and the development of a Northern Powerhouse Economic Narrative. An update on wider developments with the Northern Powerhouse, including initiatives from UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the National Infrastructure Commission, HMT, and Business North was also presented.

He pointed out that that the Independent Economic Review would provide the strategic context for the ongoing work of Transport for the North in terms of creating a strong evidence base for the Northern Transport Strategy. It also provides the evidence base for why schools are so important to achieving our skills and employment challenges..

RESOLVED/-

1. To note progress with the development of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review and that they will be asked to feed into the development of the Northern Powerhouse economic narrative.
2. To note the wider developments with the Northern Powerhouse, as set out in the report.

28/16 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS UPDATE

Members received an update from Councillor Sean Anstee, Portfolio Lead for Skills, Employment and Worklessness on employment and skills related issues, including an update on the GM Work and Skills priorities that have been developed using GM's vision and ambition around the creation of an integrated skills and employment system and took into account the implementation of the various GM devolution deals.

In addition, information was presented on various employment and skills activities, including the Area Based Review, European Social Fund (ESF) Work Programme Co-commissioning and the Working Well Expansion.

Leaders noted that they were invited to sign the Working Well Pledge at the rise of the meeting.

In response to an enquiry, it was noted that Job Centre Plus was now operating on a Greater Manchester footprint.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the information set out in the paper, in particular the ten GM work and skills priorities set out in Annex 1.
2. To note that Members were invited to sign the Working Well Pledge document, as set out at Annex 2 to the report, at the rise of this meeting.

29/16 EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING ISSUES UPDATE

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment Strategy and Finance, presented a report which provided an update to the GMCA on the progress to date and associated issues with the Greater Manchester European Structural Investment Plan (ESIF) and the progress to date on securing Intermediate Body (IB) status for Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the update on EU funding issues.
2. To grant authority to the Portfolio Lead for Investment to make urgent representations to Ministers as needed in seeking early resolution of the issues, and if necessary to seek a meeting.

30/16 GM AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA REVIEW

The GM Interim Mayor presented a report which sought approval from GMCA to declare a revised Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for Greater Manchester based on the extant level of exceedances of 35 micrograms per cubic metre and above. He added that the GM Strategy would be publically launched very soon.

RESOLVED/-

Members are requested to approve the declaration of a revised AQMA based on exceedances of 35 micrograms per cubic metre and above, as set out in the report.

31/16 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Sue Derbyshire, Portfolio Lead for Planning and Housing, presented a report which sought the approval of GMCA for a GM Housing Fund loan of £42.5m, in line with the agreed governance process for the GM Housing Fund, to WB Developments (Salford) Ltd for the delivery of its scheme at Wilburn Street Basin, Ordsall Lane (Salford), involving the construction of 491 residential units in four blocks occupying a 2.4 acre site next to the River Irwell where the cities of Manchester and Salford converge.

It was noted that planning consent for this scheme was obtained in November 2014.

RESOLVED/-

1. To grant approval of a GM Housing Fund loan of £42.5m, in line with the agreed governance process for the GM Housing Fund, to WB Developments (Salford) Ltd, as set out in the report.
2. To recommend to Manchester City Council that it prepares and effects the necessary legal agreements in accordance with its approved internal processes.

32/16 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Councillor Kieran Quinn presented a report which sought conditional approval from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to grant project funding loans to Sofaworks (£1,250,000) and littleblackdress (£1,000,000). Members noted that these loans will be made from recycled Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and Growing Places monies.

Members noted that further details of the projects are included as a more detailed report, considered in the confidential part of the agenda (Item 14) due to the information relating to the business affairs of the applicants

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree that the project funding application by Sofaworks, (loan of £1,250,000) be given conditional approval.
2. To grant authority to the Lead Chief Executive for Investment Strategy and Finance and the Combined Authority Treasurer to review the recommendations of the Chief Investment Officer in relation to the commercial terms of the proposed funding of the loan at 1) above and to agree the commercial terms;

3. To agree that the project funding application by littleblackdress (loan of £1,000,000) be given conditional approval and progress to due diligence;
4. To delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the transactions, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loans at 1) and 3) above.

33/16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

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 item of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

34/16 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor Sue Derbyshire presented a report which provided further details on the proposed GM Housing Fund loan of £42.5m to WB Developments (Salford) Ltd for it Wilburn Street Basin development.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report.

35/16 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Councillor Kieran Quinn presented a report which provided them with further detail on the funding applications from Sofaworks and littleblackdress.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report.