

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2020 AT BOLTON COUNCIL CHAMBER, 2ND FLOOR, BOLTON
TOWN HALL, VICTORIA SQUARE, BOLTON, BL1 1RU**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor David Jones
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

IN ATTENDANCE:

Tameside	Councillor Leanne Feeley
GM Transport Cttee	Councillor Mark Aldred

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA - Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Carolyn Wilkins
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Jim Taylor
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Claire Norman
GMCA	Ross Macrae

GMCA 36/20 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received and noted from Councillors Andrew Western (Trafford), Arooj Shah (Oldham), Sara Rowbotham and Janet Emsley (Rochdale) and Jenny Bullen (Wigan) and Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), Sara Todd (Trafford) and Pam Smith (Stockport) - Michael Cullen attending.

GMCA 37/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The GM Mayor paid tribute to Councillors Ray Bowker from Trafford and Councillor Christine Wild from Bolton who had both recently passed away with their funerals taking place on the day of this meeting. Members heard that Councillor Ray Bowker was a lifelong Timperley resident, elected in 1973 and serving Trafford Council with great distinction during his political career working on nearly every committee and receiving an MBE in 2002 for a lifetime of service to the community. Councillor Christine Wild had a strong passion for education and was the Executive Member for Children's Services for Bolton, serving as the Chair of the Governing Body for Sharples High School where she would particularly be remembered very fondly.

The GM Mayor proposed to table the Better Buses Fund Report as an item urgent at this meeting in order to progress submission to Government prior to the deadline of the 13 March 2020. It was also proposed that the Revised Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement for Waste Disposal Levy be taken as an urgent item due to the requirement that the methodology be approved before the levy be set.

The GM Mayor welcomed the recent announcement from the Prime Minister on the future of HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail with a move away from the initial North-South terminus project and a proposed move to a more integrated East-West North-South rail solution, which was something GM had been lobbying for. It was highlighted that there had been a commitment to set up a body called High Speed North to facilitate the East-West aspects of the project. GM would be pressing for an earliest possible timetable to achieve the project, but that this should be balanced with the need to work closely with the new body to assure designs were fit for purpose and avoid any future capacity issues. It was also reported that in the run up to the Budget the case would be made strongly for infrastructure investment at Manchester Piccadilly Rail Station for platforms 15 and 16. This was stated as an essential 'shovel ready project' which would benefit the whole of North of England as it would remove the pressures on the Castlefield Corridor bottle neck to ease trains passing through from other areas.

The GM Mayor and City Mayor of Salford called for a national lobby of Parliament on 25th February ahead of the budget in support of GM residents of high rise buildings experiencing extreme difficulties due to cladding being deemed unsafe. Residents were suffering hardships as a result was being laid with residents whilst also encountering difficulties in onward selling. The GM Mayor welcomed any additional Members who wished to travel to Westminster in support, stating that it was time recognition was given that unsafe cladding needed to be removed and that it was Government's responsibility to provide reassurance to residents on these matters.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the condolences of the GM Mayor and all members of the GMCA be extended to the families of Councillor Ray Bowker (Trafford) and Councillor Christine Wild (Bolton) whose funerals were taking place today.
2. That the following reports be considered as items of Urgent Business:
 - Better Buses Fund
 - Revised Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement for Waste Disposal Levy
3. That the recent announcement by the Prime Minister regarding HS2 and Northern PowerHouse Rail, with the establishment of High Speed North tasked to progress the work be welcomed.
4. That it be noted that Government would be pressed for the earliest timetable, recognising that the emphasis must be on delivering the right railway network to ensure that network capacity was future proof and was a North - South and East – West service for the North.
5. That it be noted that strong representations would be made to Government for the essential investment required at Manchester Piccadilly Rail Station, in particular in relation to platforms 15 & 16, which would deliver benefits by easing the Manchester bottleneck and allowing services to run more freely across the whole of the North of England.
6. That it be noted that on the 25 February 2020 the GM Mayor Andy Burnham and City Mayor Paul Dennett had called for a national lobby of Government to support the residents of Greater Manchester who are victims of unsafe cladding on residential buildings.
7. That it be noted that the High Rise Task Force would be publishing their report on 25 February 2020.

GMCA 38/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

That the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham declared a personal interest in relation to items 11 & 14 (GM Investment Framework Approvals).

GMCA 39/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 31 January 2020 be approved.

GMCA 40/20 GMCA REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2020/21 - OVERVIEW

Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources introduced a report which presented an overview of the proposed GMCA budgets for 2020/21 and summarised the position on The GM Mayoral General Budget/Precept Proposals, GMCA General Budget, GMCA Transport budgets including Transport Levy and Statutory Charge and the GM Waste Services Levy.

It was noted that this had been Steve Wilson's first budget since taking over from Richard Paver as the GMCA Treasurer, Members welcomed working with him.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the GMCA record its thanks to Steve Wilson (GMCA Treasurer) and officers of the GMCA Finance Team for their work in preparing the budget.

GMCA 41/20 GMCA MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET & PRECEPT PROPOSALS (KEY DECISION)

Councillor Richard Leese, Deputy Mayor took the Chair for this item of business, given the GMCA was considering the budget proposal from the GM Mayor.

The GM Mayor outlined the proposals for his General Precept for 2020/21 including Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service and set the context which had guided the approach to setting the levels of these proposals. It was acknowledged that Council tax was a regressive form of tax, and that increases had the potential to hit the poorest communities the hardest, a proposed precept increase had unfortunately been necessary in order to support public service priorities in the absence of increased Government funding support.

Members were asked to consider this proposal alongside the police precept which was £10 in line with Government guidance. It was highlighted that this commitment would enable a named neighbourhood Police Constable and a named PCSO for every local authority ward in each Borough within Greater Manchester. The GM Mayor reminded Members that following the police precept for 2018/19 had resulted in an accelerated recruitment process resulting in an additional 150 officers recruited so far.

The GM Mayor introduced the changes to The GM Mayor's general precept which were proposed as increase of £14 for a band D property and £10.88 for Bands A-B. The majority of the single biggest allocation of £6.65 per household was highlighted for the GM Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) with an aim to adopt a front-line approach. The precept increase would also allow for recruitment of an additional 108 firefighters. In response to previous concerns raised around crewing levels for GMFRS, crewing levels would be maintained at 5 for single pump vehicles, and 8 for double pump vehicles.

The GM Mayor highlighted the invaluable service provided by the emergency services, in particular the GMFRS response to the Cube Fire in November 2019.

Members were also advised that the proposal to merge fire stations in Bolton would be deferred to facilitate further consultation with Bolton Council and community leaders.

The GM Mayor acknowledged the financial challenges of the last few years, with available funds utilised as best as possible. It was stated that there was a need for Government to increase their support for crucial emergency services and that campaigning for this would continue.

Members heard that part of The GM Mayor's general precept would continue to support the process for GM bus reform, and also continue to fund the Our Pass scheme. The Bed Every Night scheme was also highlighted as receiving a modest contribution from the Mayor's general precept, and that Government would be lobbied to provide match-funding. It was noted that the Scheme had so far contributed to a 37% reduction in people sleeping rough across Greater Manchester.

Members echoed the views of The GM Mayor in expressing disappointment and frustrations at the insufficient levels of funding support from Government which had resulted in GM being required to increase precepts in order to fund its Emergency Services. Government needed to do more to assist with the challenges relating to high rise buildings which had created an industrial regulatory crisis. Members acknowledged the limitations of setting a 1-year budget during a period of uncertainty, and that there was a need to set a budget over longer periods. The Fair Funding Review had highlighting that northern local authorities were disproportionately losing significant funds.

Members asked The GM Mayor for a commitment around digitally enabled crime, both The GM Mayor and Deputy Mayor acknowledged that this was increasingly a more concerning issue. It was clarified that the response to Cyber Crime was constrained by national arrangements which were conducted by the Home Office Action Fraud, with limitations from local response due to the geographical nature of this crime. It was clarified that locally, GM had resources to assist victims and scam-busters that work with particularly vulnerable people. It was also noted that work had taken place to increase resilience in businesses for this risk. In relation to the child sexual exploitation element of this threat, The GM Mayor highlighted ongoing work with GMP's Chief Constable to fully resource Operation Green Jacket, and to explore the possibility of introducing more school based police officers.

Members were updated on general GMP resourcing. It was highlighted that there were 6660 Police Officers currently in place now, with 7000 projected by 2021 which was up from 6000 in 2017. It was stated that recent recruitment had been aimed to strengthen neighbourhood policing as front line officers had been particularly stretched by the impacts of funding cuts. Members heard that there had been an aim to improve engagement between the police and the public through interventions including the utilisation of digital channels such as live-functions for crime reporting. The police precept was also noted as supporting the appointment of an additional 40 police call handlers. The Deputy Mayor stated that a more detailed breakdown on the proposals included in the budget funded by the precept would be brought to a future meeting of the GMCA.

The meeting was advised that a named vote was required to approve the proposals for The GM Mayoral General Budget. Members voted on the recommendations as follows:

District	GMCA Member	
Bolton	Cllr David Greenhalgh	Not in attendance
Bury	Cllr David Jones	Agreed
Manchester	Cllr Richard Leese	Agreed
Oldham	Cllr Sean Fielding	Agreed
Rochdale	Cllr Allen Brett	Agreed
Salford	Mayor Paul Dennett	Agreed
Stockport	Cllr Elise Wilson	Agreed
Tameside	Cllr Brenda Warrington	Agreed
Trafford	Cllr Andrew Western	Not in attendance
Wigan	Cllr David Molyneux	Agreed

RESOLVED/-

1. That The GM Mayor's General budget for 2020/21, as set out in this report, together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates set out in Appendices 3 to 6 of the report be approved.
2. That the overall Mayoral General Precept of £90.95 (Band D) (an additional £14 on the current £76.95) comprising of £66.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept (an additional £6.25 for 2020/21 on the current £59.95) and £24.75 (an additional £7.75 for 2020/21 on the current £17.00) for other Mayoral General functions be approved.
3. That it be noted that it was proposed that The GM Mayoral General Precept for 2020/21 was part of a multi-year strategy for setting The GM Mayoral precept baseline which would be adjusted in future years as further Mayoral functions were covered by the funding raised.
4. That the following be approved:
 - i) the overall budget proposed for the Fire and Rescue Service, noting the changes in relation to Programme for Change
 - ii) the use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2021 are adequate
 - iii) the proposed capital programme and proposals for funding
 - iv) the medium term financial position for all functions covered by The GM Mayoral precept
5. That the budget for other Mayoral functions be approved, including the use of £0.5 million of Earnback grant to be used to support GMCA costs relating to bus related activity, including bus reform.
6. That it be noted that approval to set a Statutory Charge of £86.7 million as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population as at June 2018 was requested as part of the Transport Revenue Budget report elsewhere on the agenda.

7. That the use of reserves as set out in paragraphs 5.1 and at Appendix 2, paragraph 9.1 be approved.
8. That it be noted that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes would record the names of those Members voting for or against The GM Mayor's budget and precept proposals.
9. That the GM Mayor's commitment to providing a named Police Constable and Police Constable Support Officer for every ward in Greater Manchester be noted.
10. That it be noted that following a number of raised concerns, the GM Mayor had determined that the proposed merger of fire stations in Bolton be put on hold to allow for further consultation.
11. That it be noted that the GM Mayor would be asking Government to match fund the contribution made towards 'Bed Every Night' by the GMCA.
12. That the GMCA recorded its thanks to the people of Greater Manchester for their ongoing support to public services in recent times of austerity.
13. That in relation to the issue of cyber-crime, it be noted that the GMCA would seek to raise the issue again with the Home Office, as despite the implementation of a range of local measures, there was a need for increased capacity to ensure resources could meet this growing area of crime.
14. That it be noted that the GMCA would ask the Government to reaffirm its commitment to maintain the level and increase the length of term of Local Authority budgets to allow for longer term planning, and minimise further cuts to services.

GMCA 42/20 GMCA TRANSPORT REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21 (KEY DECISION)

Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources introduced the report which set out the transport related (GMCA) budget for 2020/21.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the issues affecting the 2020/21 transport budgets, as detailed in the report, be noted.
2. That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the levy, as set out in this report, for 2020/21, be approved.
3. That a Transport Levy on the district councils in 2020/21 of £105.773 million, as set on in paragraphs 3.2 – 3.5 of the report, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population as at June 2018, be approved.

4. That a Statutory Charge of £86.7 million, as set out in Part 4 of the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2019, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population as at June 2018, be approved.
5. That the use of reserves in 2020/21, as detailed in section 5, be approved.
6. That the position on reserves, as identified in the report, be approved.
7. That the proposal to drawdown £10 million of funding from retained Business Rates to fund the ongoing development of schemes and the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme, subject to the preparation and approval of a business case, be noted.
8. That it be noted that the report to GMCA on 7 October 2019 set out and explained the recommendation to the GMCA to approve proceeding to the next stage in the consideration of a proposed franchising scheme, following on from the work undertaken in connection with bus reform; and included a full assessment of how the GMCA could afford to make and operate the proposed scheme.
9. That it be noted that it was anticipated that the £17.8 million of contributions by Local Authorities as a proposed one off increase in the statutory contribution in 2020/21 referred to in section 4.4, would be held (in aggregate) by Local Authorities pending a decision by the GM Mayor as to whether to introduce bus franchising.
10. That the proposal to extend the Women's Concessionary Travel Scheme (WCTS) to a further cohort of women in Greater Manchester from 1 April 2020 be approved, noting that the estimated costs of c£300,000 are included in TfGM's 2020/21 budgets.
11. That the delegation of decisions required to ensure the delivery of the extension of the WCTS be approved, including any updates required to the Local Concessionary Travel Scheme. The delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the TfGM Director of Finance and Corporate Services, in consultation with the GMCA Treasurer.

GMCA 43/20 BETTER BUSES FUND (URGENT BUSINESS) (KEY DECISION)

The GM Mayor introduced a report which outlined the Better Buses fund set up by Government and the funding available.

RESOLVED/-

1. That Greater Manchester's intention to submit a statement of intent to DfT for £1.589,489 for supported bus services be approved.
2. That authority be delegated for the approval of the Greater Manchester approach, bidding criteria and submission of Statement of Intent to DfT by 13 March, to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources and Chair of the Greater Manchester Transport Committee (GMTC).

3. That it be noted that a further report would be submitted to a future GMCA meeting on other opportunities for Greater Manchester to apply for funding as part of the Better Deal for Bus Users programme.

GMCA 44/20 GMCA REVENUE GENERAL BUDGET 2020/21 (KEY DECISION)

Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources, introduced a report, which sets out the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) General budget for 2020/21.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the budget relating to the GMCA functions, excluding transport and waste in 2020/21, as set out in section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That the use of Retained Business Rates to fund the 2020 GM Mayoral election (£3.800 million); GM Spatial Framework (£1.045 million) and to continue to fund a number of other ongoing schemes for two further years, as set out in paragraphs 2.9 – 2.29 of the report, at a cost of £2.710 million per annum, be approved.
3. That District Contributions of £9.039 million, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.
4. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.

GMCA 45/20 REVISED LEVY ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY AGREEMENT FOR WASTE DISPOSAL LEVY (URGENT BUSINESS) (KEY DECISION)

Steve Wilson GMCA Treasurer, introduced a report which made recommendations to allocate the Waste Disposal Levy to the Greater Manchester Districts via a revised Levy Allocation Methodology. The change required unanimous support from all nine Districts which had been obtained.

RESOLVED/-

That the Revised Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement for Waste Disposal Levy be approved.

GMCA 46/20 GM WASTE BUDGET & LEVY 2020/21 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2023/24 (KEY DECISION)

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer introduced a report which sought Member comments on the budget and levy for 2020/21 and on the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for a further three year period to 2023/24.

Specifically. These plans were to be delivered by\;

- A total levy requirement for 2020/21 of £167.242m, which represents a 4.2% average decrease over 2019/20. At a District level the levy changes range from -2.3% to -6.6%;

- The MTFP then proposes levy charges of £164.982m in 2021/22, £168.296m in 2022/23 and £170.643m in 2023/24.

It was highlighted these proposals were to be considered alongside the base budget proposals 2020/21 in order to get formal confirmation of the revised allocation methodology for waste disposal.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the proposed revised budget for 2020/21, which was expected to be broadly in line with the approved budget after transfers from earmarked reserves, be noted.
2. That the proposed 2021/22 Trade Waste rate of £102.30 to allow forward planning by Districts be approved.
3. That the capital programme 2020/21 to 2023/24, as set out in Appendix A of the report, and inclusion of consequential revenue effects in the budget and levy from 2020/21, be approved.
4. That the budget and levy for 2020/21 of £167.242m (4.2% decrease) and allocation to Districts based on latest estimates of tonnages, including street sweepings be approved.
5. That the expected levy amounts of £164.982m, £168.296m and £170.643m in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 respectively be noted.
6. That the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy and Reserves be noted.

GMCA 47/20 GMCA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 – 2022/23 (KEY DECISION)

Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources, introduced a report which provided an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority capital expenditure programme for transport and economic development and regeneration functions.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the revisions to the 2019/20 capital forecast, as set out in Appendix A and detailed within the report, be approved.
2. That the capital programme budget for 2020/21 and the forward commitments, as detailed in the report and in Appendix A, be approved.
3. That it be noted that the capital programme was financed from a mixture of grants, external contributions and long term borrowings.
4. That it be noted that provision has been made in the revenue budget for the associated financing costs of borrowing.

5. That expenditure of £0.80 million for the Albert Street, Hollinwood (Oldham) Growth Deal 2 Minor Works scheme, as set out in section 7 of the report and Appendix B, be approved.
6. That it be noted that the capital programme would continue to be reviewed, with any new schemes which had not yet received specific approval but were included within the programme would be the subject of future reports.

GMCA 48/20 GMCA REVENUE BUDGET UPDATE 2019/20 (KEY DECISION)

Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources, introduced a report which set out the GMCA General budget for 2020/21.

RESOLVED/-

1. That The GM Mayoral General forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20, which showed an underspend against budget of £1.3 million, be noted.
2. That The GM Mayoral General – Fire forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20, which showed an underspend against budget of £2.468 million, be noted.
3. That the GMCA General budget forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20, which showed an underspend against budget of £0.128 million, be noted.
4. That the Transport forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20, which was in line with the budget, be noted.
5. That the GM Waste forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20, which was in line with budget, be noted.
6. That the TfGM forecast revenue outturn position for 2019/20, at paragraph 4.1 of the report, be noted.
7. That the use of £1.5 million from reserves to support transport scheme development, as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report, be approved.
8. That the increase to the GMCA General budget of £0.633 million, as detailed in paragraphs 3.6 – 3.8 of the report, be approved.
9. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, to transfer loans from GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (GMHILF) to GMCA where this was required to provide the necessary headroom within the GMHILF to meet commitments in excess of the funding provided by MHCLG, as detailed in paragraphs 3.9 – 3.14, of the report.

GMCA 49/20 TROUBLED FAMILIES FUNDING (KEY DECISION)

The GM Mayor introduced a report which provided an update on the position of the troubled families funding for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the allocation of Troubled Families funding for 2019/20 to all GM districts in line with the previously agreed process be agreed.
2. That the announcement of a further year's funding for the Troubled Families Funding for 2020/21 be noted.
3. That a similar process for managing the 2020/21 allocation of Troubled Families funding through the GM Reform Investment Fund in line with the devolved arrangements agreed with Government be approved.

GMCA 50/20 GMCA CULTURE FUND BENEFICIARIES 2020/21 (KEY DECISION)

Cllr David Greenhalgh, Portfolio Lead for Culture, introduced a report with proposals for organisations to be funded from the new GMCA Culture Fund 2020-2022. This process was highlighted as being important in fulfilling GM's equalities duties, improving diversity of the portfolio and potential audience diversity with minimal negative impacts on any one organisation.

Members heard that the portfolio sees the support of 35 organisations across all 10 GM districts included for the first time, and a particular, an increase in provision for Salford, Wigan and Tameside. It was highlighted that 13 new organisations have been included, incorporating literature for the first time and further increased provision for carnival arts. It was stated that the proposed increase in funding available to the GMCA Culture Fund would create a strong new portfolio of GM cultural organisations recognising the important role of culture across many aspects of the GM Strategy such as the benefit to health and wellbeing. Members heard that this presented a significant opportunity for GM to work strategically with Arts Council England as this 2 year strategy aligning GM with the Arts Council funding stream.

The GM Mayor highlighted the historic investment that GM had committed to cultural organisations, and that this work would put GM in a strong position benefiting from wider economic benefits from strong cultural investment and enhance eligibility for Arts Council Funding. It was specifically highlighted that this package benefits all boroughs.

Members welcomed the report, and noted the importance of culture, arts and creativity to GM in aspects such as place making and creating communities where people wanted to live. The Salford City Mayor also reassured Members that culture was an integral part of the Plan for Homes, Jobs and Environment and also embedded through The GM Mayors Town Centre Challenge. The proposals presented a collective way-forward that was a step-change, focusing on future-working in a collective way. Members commented that this work linked to digital creativity and its importance moving forward. The recognition that arts and culture was across the city region in all districts was welcomed, and Members agreed the importance

that smaller organisations were supported and nurtured. It was highlighted that the funding stream could help to serve as a legacy, to both the existing centres of excellence such as Bury's current Town of Culture status.

RESOLVED/-

1. That a budget of £8.6m over 2 years from April 2020 for the GMCA Culture Fund to fund the balanced portfolio of applications detailed within the Part B item of this report be approved.
2. That the list of organisations detailed within the Part B item of this report, to be funded by the GMCA Culture Fund be approved and that it also be agreed that the report be made public within one month of this meeting.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead Chief Executive and Portfolio Lead for Culture, to enter into grant funding agreements with the organisations, and for the amounts, listed in the Part B report.
4. That it be agreed that a report would be submitted to GMCA over the following months that would set out a new sustainable approach to the funding of GM's culture organisations from 2022.
5. That the list of organisations detailed within the part B report to be funded by the GMCA Culture Fund 2020-2022 be approved.
6. That the GMCA record its congratulations to Bury on becoming the first Town of Culture for Greater Manchester.
7. That the GMCA record its thanks Councillor David Greenhalgh (Portfolio Lead for Culture), Alison McKenzie-Folan (Lead Chief Executive for Culture) and officers within the cultural team at the GMCA for their work on this agenda.

GMCA 51/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND – 2019/20 UPDATE REPORT

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, introduced a report which informed the GMCA of the position the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund at 30 September 2019, i.e. the mid-point of the current financial year.

RESOLVED/-

That the position of the GM Housing Investment Loan Fund at 30 September 2019 be noted, specifically that there had been no requirement for GMCA to account for any impairments as a result of the performance of the Fund.

GMCA 52/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND (HILF) – RECOMMENDATIONS (KEY DECISION)

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, introduced a report which sought GMCA approval of applications to GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (HILF) as detailed in the reports recommendation.

Members heard that the HILF had approved £300 million as of the middle of the current financial year. Members were reminded that the HILF was launched in March 2015 and that the GMCA and Local Authorities had underwritten 80% of the loans fund for which there had been no impairments to date. It was stated that by 30 September 2019, 49 loan offers had been made. Members heard that encouragement had been given to develop activity across GM rather than focussing on schemes those located in the city centre. The HILF was noted as supporting the GM Housing Strategy to tackle empty homes and rogue landlords. Members were further updated that out of 5500 units delivered, 91% of these had been on brownfield land, with the HILF continuing to support town centre regeneration.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loans, as included in the table below be approved, as detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report:

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
Built Homes Ltd.	Hebron Street	Oldham	£0.810m

2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements in connection with the loan recommended at 1.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Planning, Housing & Homelessness, to approve projects for funding in the period 15 February 2020 to 26 March 2020.

GMCA 53/20 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK APPROVALS (KEY DECISION())

Councillor Richard Leese, Deputy Mayor took the Chair for this item of business

Cllr David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Investment & Resources, introduced a report which sought GMCA approval for a loan to Sharp Futures Manchester C.I.C. The report detailed that investment would be made from recycled funds and also provided an update on James Briggs Limited.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the funding application for SharpFutures Manchester C.I.C. (loan facility of £250,000) be approved, and progressed to due diligence.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the company, 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 investment at 1. Above.

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader for Investment and Resources, to approve funding requests for projects for the period 15 February 2020 to 26 March 2020, in the absence of a GMCA meeting at the end of February and approve any urgent variations on amounts and terms for already approved loans.
4. That it be noted that any recommendations approved under the delegation would be subject to the usual due diligence processes and would be reported to the GMCA Authority at the next available meeting.
5. That the update on James Briggs Limited be noted.

GMCA 54/20 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

GMCA 55/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND – RECOMMENDATIONS

This item was considered in support of the Part A - GM Housing Investment Loans Fund Recommendations (minutes reference GMCA 52/20)

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 56/20 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK APPROVALS

This item was considered in support of the Part A - GM Investment Framework Approvals (minutes reference GMCA 53/20)

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 57/20 GMCA CULTURE FUND 2020-2022 PROPOSED PORTFOLIO

This item was considered in support of the Part A - GMCA Culture Fund Beneficiaries 2020/21 (minutes reference GMCA 50/20)

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.