

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT:**

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester & GM Deputy Mayor	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Salford	Jim Taylor
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
Youth Task Force	Diane Modahl
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Claire Norman
GMCA	Ross Macrae
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

**GMCA 133/20**

**APOLOGIES**

**Resolved /-**

That apologies be received and noted from Eamonn Boylan (Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM).

The GM Mayor commended the collaborative approach of the GMCA, putting the health of Greater Manchester's residents foremost. He reported that there had been a consensus amongst Leaders for the additional measures to be removed from households in Wigan and Stockport, however as cases of Covid had increased significantly and rapidly in Trafford and Bolton they had written to the Health Secretary to ask that measures remain in these areas. Although this was not an easy decision, it was felt to be the right one, as there were currently no alternative measures on the ground to help keep cases low.

Members of the GMCA reported a further unified GM position that the continuation of blanket restrictions over the longer term was not acceptable, as their effectiveness was diminishing with confusion about the application of restrictions. The volatility in case numbers, combined with the inconsistent application, was undermining confidence in the national strategy. Further conversation need to be progressed Government on a new approach for GM, with a move towards an exit strategy for GM underpinned by the development of a GM proposition for test and trace and self-isolation delivered locally was now crucial. In order to achieve effective and sustained reductions in infection rates, this new phase should be driven by Local Authorities, based on clear data from local test and trace interventions, supported by a significant increase in testing, working with businesses and communities to raise awareness and stronger enforcement.

Officers across GM were urgently working on a resourcing proposal for submission to Government, which will include a request for financial support for those residents who need to self-isolate.

The letter to the Health Secretary reiterated the need to remove the additional restrictions on beauticians, soft play and other leisure facilities in GM immediately to avoid any further unnecessary damage to the GM economy and ensure a level playing field for those industries across the conurbation.

The focus now needs to be on managing the impact of Covid-19, within the wider context of the general health of GM residents to ensure a balanced and proportionate approach. It was agreed that a robust outbreak management plan would be key to managing the continued fluctuations in cases supported by a balanced and holistic approach to people's lives, driven by the Local Authority who were in the best position to address the needs of residents..

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of Councillor Brian Shaw (Trafford) to the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee be approved.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor had written to the Health Secretary advising that Bolton and Trafford were opposed to the lifting of the current restrictions in response to the rapid increased numbers of positive tests in those districts.
3. That it also be noted that the letter to the Health Secretary also sought agreement to move to a pathway to replace the restrictions in all parts of GM as soon as practically and safely as possible with targeted, hyper-local intervention similar to those that have been successful in Oldham, together with the commitment of resources to support: intensive, hyper-local test and

trace interventions; a significant increase in testing, including asymptomatic people; work with business and communities to raise awareness; and stronger enforcement where necessary.

4. That the Government be advised that the GMCA want to move to a GM wide exit strategy from the current blanket restriction approach and that Government should support Local Authorities to move to a new phase of local control and balanced targeted interventions that are data led.
5. That the required level of control and resources should be made available from Government to allow Local Authorities to implement these interventions.
6. That the announcement by the Health Secretary today to retain the current restrictions in place in Trafford and Bolton, in response to the rise in infection rates be welcomed.
7. That it be noted that Government has confirmed the planned release of restrictions in Stockport.

**GMCA 135/20            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

There were no declarations of interests received.

**GMCA 136/20            MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD 31 JULY 2020**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA held 31 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 137/20            MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD 14 AUGUST 2020**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the GM Transport Committee held 14 August be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor will raise the issue of reinstating train services between Rose Hill, Marple and Manchester Piccadilly with Northern Rail.

**GMCA 138/20            TOWN HOUSE PROJECT**

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Leader of Tameside Council, showcased the recently opened 'Town House' project that had been designed to support people who identified as homeless, and had been named after a local resident Pauline Town who was a key local ambassador for the area. The project was one of a series of assets in the area to support the homeless, and provided a range of wrap around care and support through the community hub approach. The facility operated in partnership with a number of agencies, including the local parish of St Annes and Stronger Together Tameside, and had been in receipt of significant donations from residents and businesses. As a

result of these interventions, Tameside had seen an 86% reduction in homelessness, which was the most significant reduction in England and most importantly, providing a new beginning, away from the streets, for many people.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the 'Town House Project' in Tameside be recognised as an exemplar of people focussed holistic interventions through its community hub approach in collaboration with a range of agencies.
2. That the GMCA record its thanks to Vanessa Rothwell and John Gregory for their leadership in the creation of the project, and to all the residents and businesses who have donated items to help get the project started.

**GMCA 139/20                    GREATER MANCHESTER LIVING WITH COVID RESILLIENCE PLAN**

The GM Mayor introduced the final draft of the Greater Manchester Living with Covid Resilience Plan which detailed how, in anticipation of a vaccine, GM would support people to return to work, schools and make steps toward an economic recovery. The Plan sought to address all types of impacts on people's lives, and learn lessons from each phase to enable GM to build back better. It detailed a list of deliverables, with the lead agencies identified for each, and assessed each impact against social, economic and environmental factors. The Mayor added that this was a strong foundation on which to approach the next set of challenges, and it was right for GM to have such a plan in place.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Living with Covid Plan be agreed, and support be given to its implementation as a system wide driver for change and improvement.
2. That it be agreed that all GMCA reports include recommendations that assess and identify the impact of the proposal on inequalities, environmental and financial issues in relation to the topic. This would be supported by a commitment to collect, analyse and report on data, including community intelligence, to understand that impact.
3. That, building on the recommendation above, it be agreed to develop a mechanism to utilise the established and developing partnership governance for the Age-friendly and Equalities Portfolio to support system wide responses. This would include actions to address equalities issues identified and unresolved through the above assessment process.
4. That it be agreed to adopt minimum targets or standards for each locality or neighbourhood that would support the effective targeting of resources across all GMCA activity. This would ensure that there is an ongoing recognition that address inequalities in all communities is fundamental to the whole of Greater Manchester being able to achieve its collective ambitions.

Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Children & Young People presented a report which set out initial ideas around a Young Person's Guarantee for those aged 11-30 in Greater Manchester during and following the pandemic. This work further supported the Life Ready agenda by bringing together coherent commitments from education, business and health, setting out the opportunities and messages that were there for young people and young adults to continue to prosper and was the result of ongoing work to deliver on the commitments and recovery plans for the GM Children & Young People's Plan, under the direction of the GM Children's Board and the work of the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel.

To add value to this collaboration, a Youth Task Force for GM had also been developed to help GM drive forward the Young Person's Guarantee in respect of its design, development and delivery. The Task Force was chaired by Diane Modahl and has multi-agency representation, working closely with the Youth Combined Authority (YCA) and wider youth groups to better understand the views and concerns of young people from across Greater Manchester. The Youth Task Force would further strengthen the scope of Guarantee, ensuring its offer and entitlements reflect what young people have told us. It would also provide GM with an overarching framework for the delivery of opportunities for young people, bringing together key initiatives such as 'Our Pass' and our expanding mental health support.

Diane Modahl, Chair of the Young Person's Task Force, added that the vision for the Young Person's Guarantee was focussed 'no one should be left behind' and that it would be shaped by the young people's advisory group who had been selected from over 90 applications to be diversely representational of young people between 11-30 years old in Greater Manchester.

The GM Mayor added that this was ground breaking work was vital to support young people to raise their voices, shape future services and address any disparity that Covid-19 may have caused to their generation.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the approach to the emerging Guarantee be agreed.
2. That the implementation of a 'youth task force' be agreed.

The GM Mayor introduced a report which provided an update on the proposed approach for the allocation of the £2,249,016 grant received from the Department for Education for Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport. Members of the GMCA were reminded that this proposal included services that go beyond the GM boundary in transporting pupils to educational establishments.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the approach being adopted to allocate the £2,249,016 grant received by Greater Manchester from the Department for Education for 'Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport' be noted.

**GMCA 142/20                    RECOVERING FROM COVID-19 AND TACKLING INEQUALITY: SOCIAL VALUE & PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

Councillor Allen Brett, Portfolio Lead for Community, Cooperatives and Inclusion, introduced a report which presented a set of proposals to support Greater Manchester to build back better from the impact of Covid-19, including tackling inequality by updating the city region's existing Social Value Policy with a refreshed set of priorities for the Social Value Framework, containing priority actions linked to public procurement.

The GM Mayor added that this was a key element to GM's Good Employment Charter, and would be able to contribute to an improvement in working practice standards.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the refreshed Greater Manchester Social Value Framework be agreed.
2. That the link between the Framework and public procurement in Greater Manchester be endorsed.

**GMCA 143/20                    GM CO-OPERATIVE COMMISSION**

Councillor Allen Brett, Portfolio Lead for Community, Cooperatives and Inclusion, introduced a report presenting the final Report of the Commission, which was published in January 2020, and an update on subsequent progress which has been made to implement the recommendations of that Report.

Councillor Allen Brett also expressed his thanks to the Commission for their work to date in pursuing a GM approach to cooperatives. He added that cooperatives had the ability to play a key role in post Covid recovery, and that a clear tender process would be central to the success of any new cooperative.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the recommendations contained within the Report of the Greater Manchester Co-operative Commission be endorsed.
2. That the GMCA confirm its commitment to be involved in implementing the recommendations.
3. That it be agreed to look for ways as to how the recommendations within the report might be applied across all Greater Manchester local authority areas, and through the work of the GMCA.

4. That the GM Cooperative Commission Delivery Plan be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

**GMCA 144/20                    APPROVAL OF THE VARIATION TO THE WORKING WELL WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME CONTRACT**

Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships, took Members through a report which provided information on the expected process for utilising the additional funding allocated from the Department Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop the variation to the Working Well and Health Programme contract.

Working Well Light was scheduled to commence in October 2020, and would support 13,200 residents into employment through a personalised package of support as part of GM's economic recovery response.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the proposed variation to the Working Well Work and Health Programme in order to expand the scope of delivery to support those recently unemployed be approved.

**GMCA 145/20                    THE MAYORS CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND (MCF)**

The GM Mayor introduced a report which sought approval for funding to ensure the continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for Walking and Cycling, specifically two schemes in Stockport requiring full approval, and another five schemes across GM that required development approval.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the MCF delivery priorities across GM and the prioritised first phase for the programme be agreed.
2. That £3.1 million MCF funding for the Stockport Gillbent Road and Heaton's Cycle Link schemes be approved, in order to secure full approval and enable the signing of a delivery agreement.
3. That the release of up to £1.9 million of development cost funding for the five MCF schemes be approved.

**GMCA 146/20                    GM HOUSING LOANS INVESTMENT FUND 2019/20 UPDATE REPORT**

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, presented a report to the GMCA on the position the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund to 31 March 2020.

The GMCA was advised that the fund continued to support GM in delivering its housing ambitions of 10,000 homes, to be delivered over the next ten years. To date 67 loans have been approved, to the value of £508.3m, 37 of these loans being for developments outside of the business districts. To further support SME house builders, a small loans fund had been established for amounts up to £2m, with 32 successful loans completed to date. £5m equity from the Housing Investment Loan Fund had also been invested in the Social Housing Sustainable Fund to deliver an additional 80 social housing units, in addition to a range of other social housing schemes supported by the GMCA.

The report further detailed that 5500 units had been developed on brownfield land, in support of the GMCA's commitment to brownfield preference policy. Furthermore, the fund has supported a number of town centre re-generation schemes including, £5m for Stockport Interchange and £4m for Rochdale's Riverside phase two schemes.

The GM Housing Strategy makes clear ambitions including the delivery of affordable housing, bringing back empty homes and tackling rogue landlords and a delivery team had now been established to enact the pledges within the Strategy.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the position of the GM Housing Investment Loan Fund as at 31 March 2020 be noted, specifically that there has been no requirement for GMCA to account for any impairments as a result of the performance of the Fund.
2. That it be noted that discussions with Government were ongoing to vary the terms of the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund agreement and provide further funds to GMCA and/or remove the requirement for funds to be handed back at year-end, and therefore maintain and increase the Fund's capacity to support the delivery of new homes.

1.