

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
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
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
Wigan	Councillor Jenny Bullen

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA - Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	James Binks
Oldham	Helen Lockwood
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Ben Dolan
Stockport	Pam Smith
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA 147/20 APOLOGIES

Resolved /-

That apologies be received and noted from Jim Taylor and Joanne Roney.

GMCA 148/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Chair's announcements or urgent business.

GMCA 149/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interests received.

GMCA 150/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA held 2 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 151/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 8 September 2020 be noted.
2. That the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Business, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 11 September 2020 be noted.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 12 September 2020 be noted.

GMCA 152/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held 8 September 2020 be noted.
2. That the appointment of Cllr Cox (Bolton) to replace Cllr Allen (Bolton) to the GMCA Audit

Committee be approved.

GMCA 153/20 MINUTES OF THE GM LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP – 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership held 8 September 2020 be noted.

GMCA 154/20 FINANCE UPDATE

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment introduced a report which provided an update on the financial implications of Covid 19 for GM Districts, the GMCA and TfGM.

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer provided further detail on the review of the GMCA core budgets and savings identified. Conversations with the Department of Transport regarding longer term funding for Metrolink continued given the current arrangement expired on the 23 October 2020.

The GM Mayor added that the Government announcement had confirmed that the annual budget would not take place this year, which may have an impact on the Comprehensive Spending Review, which was a concern for Local Government across the board.

Members welcomed the return of funds, with Officers confirming that work was already underway with Treasurers from across the GM Local Authorities to ensure these transfers could happen as soon as possible.

A) COVID FINANCES UPDATE

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the estimated financial impacts of COVID 19 on GM districts, GMCA and TFGM budgets be noted.
3. That the analysis of the position be noted for :
 - GM Waste Disposal Budgets
 - TFGM and Metrolink
 - Other GMCA budgets
 - Retained Business Rates pilot
4. That the return of a further £5m of GMCA reserves to the nine GM waste districts be approved.
5. That the return of £1m of GMCA funding from GMCA core budgets to or for the use of the ten districts be approved.

B) GMCA REVENUE UPDATE 2020/21

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the Mayoral General revenue outturn position for 2020/21 shows a breakeven position.
2. That it be noted that the Mayoral General – GM Fire & Rescue revenue outturn position for 2020/21 shows an underspend position of £2.946 million.
3. That the GMCA General Budget revenue outturn position for 2020/21 be noted, which shows a breakeven position.
4. That it be noted that the GMCA transport revenue outturn position for 2020/21 was in line with budget.
5. That the Waste outturn position for 2020/21 be noted and that the proposal to transfer estimated at £2.142m from reserves be noted.
6. That it be noted that the TfGM revenue position for 2020/21 was in line with budget after efficiency savings and transfers from reserves of £4.870 million.
7. That it be noted that appropriate adjustments to the 2020/21 budget will be included in the Quarter 2 revenue update.

C) GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE 2020/21

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current 2020/21 forecast underspend of £21.319m compared to the 2020/21 capital budget be noted.
2. That the addition to the 2020/21 Capital Programme of £1.9 million of costs, funded from the capital grant of £1.9 million that forms part of the £3.2 million of Emergency Active Travel (Tranche 1) funding, be approved.

D) GMCA TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2019/20

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 155/20

CULTURAL RECOVERY IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Councillor David Greenhalgh, Portfolio Lead for Culture, took Members through the report which outlined activity to date to support culture in GM, the national response to Cultural Recovery and presented a draft GM Cultural Recovery Plan for consideration. He praised the resilience that had been evident from the sector, however expressed significant concerns for the cultural industry in

the event that the guidelines and level of support was to remain the same for the remainder of this financial year.

The GM Mayor echoed these concerns and reported that the recent announcements from Government in relation to the future of the Job Retention Scheme sadly may not provide the support required for some businesses within the cultural sector.

Members of the GMCA recognised the importance of the cultural offer, and the value that it brings to Greater Manchester. Furthermore, that it's longevity would be vital for the recovery and growth of GM over the next few years. However, there were concerns that Government's current regulations were significantly harming the sector and potentially causing permanent damage to its future. Members added that many cultural venues were beginning to open within the current guidelines, and these needed to be actively promoted in order to build back audiences and retain these spaces that have a clear impact on positive wellbeing.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the activity to date in Greater Manchester and across the UK to support the cultural sector be noted.
2. That the draft GMCA Culture Recovery Plan, as set out at Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
3. That it be agreed that Bury would have a further opportunity to be GM's Town of Culture in 2021.

GMCA 156/20 HOMELESSNESS COVID-19 UPDATE

The GM Mayor introduced a report which provided an update on the ongoing homelessness response to Covid-19. He recognised the phenomenal response across Greater Manchester, with a rapid mobilisation of effort across Local Authorities, the voluntary and community sector which had seen over 2000 people supported over the last 6 months. Notwithstanding that, more people had presented as homeless throughout this time, with the latest counts had identified 111 people, a third of which were newly homeless. In response to this, GM was expanding its temporary accommodation estate, introducing new mobile support services and looking for further measures to support people as we head into the winter months. There had also been an increase in begging activity across GM, with a more proactive and supportive approach introduced.

Recent funding from Government to provide 575 temporary accommodation places was welcomed, however this did not provide the 700 places that were initially requested, and to achieve Greater Manchester's wider ambition of 500 homes for the homeless by March 2021. It was clear that further support was needed from Government. On a more positive note, there would be 130 people to benefit through the 'Housing First' scheme over the next six months. The GM Mayor expressed concern regarding the continued impact on homelessness as economic pressures were building and the risk of redundancy across some sectors was increasing.

Members of the GMCA praised the system as a whole for how it had supported the homeless and rough sleepers over the past few months, and echoed concerns regarding the challenge ahead and the need for more resources to expand the temporary accommodation offer. Specifically, it was felt

that the benefit cap was disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, and that those with no recourse to public funds were being further marginalised.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the pressures on homelessness services and ongoing response activities be noted, and that the planned next steps be supported.
2. That a further detailed report on specific measures be submitted to the GMCA in November.
3. That it be noted that the GMCA would commit to collect, analyse and report on data to understand the impact of this work as an inequalities priority.

GMCA 157/20 GM ENVIRONMENT FUND UPDATE

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, took Members through a report which provided detail on the progress made against the GM 5 Year Environmental Plan, and sought approval for the next steps. He reported that the recent virtual Green Summit had been a successful event, which had demonstrated significant progress on all areas of this agenda, and showcased a wide range of interventions that had elevated GM's ambition to be a green city region and a prominent space.

Work would be progressed to ensure that speakers at future Green Summit events included a wider spectrum of representation of backgrounds in order to demonstrate GM's commitment to diversity and ensure that all communities were represented.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress made in developing the Greater Manchester Environment Fund since the publication of the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan be noted.
2. That the initiation of the Fund be approved and that authority delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, GMCA Monitoring Officer and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Green City region, to finalise the form and make-up of the Fund and GMCA's role within it.
3. That the Greater Manchester Environment Fund Briefing Note for publication (annex 1 to the report) be agreed.
4. That it be noted that the purpose of the fund was to stimulate investment to deliver positive environmental impact across Greater Manchester, the scale of impact will depend on the success of the fund managers in attracting suitable funds. Projects ultimately delivered by the fund will, inter alia, take into account equality and diversity considerations; the charitable nature of the fund will serve to underpin this aim.
5. That it be noted that the progress of the fund will be monitored by the Fund Board and be reported quarterly to GMCA and other partners.

6. That it be noted that the diversity of speakers will be progressed further for next year's event.

GMCA 158/20 FUNDING BID – GREEN HOMES GRANT: LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, introduced a report which outlined proposals for a combined Greater Manchester bid of £4.7m Government funding from the 'Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery' Phase 1 Fund. This scheme would be specifically targeted at low income households and would actively contribute to lowering carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency in a significant number of homes across GM.

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be noted that a bid of £4.7m was submitted by GMCA to the Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery fund early September 2020.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA should be the accountable body for the bid on behalf of GM Local Authorities.
3. That, in the event of a successful bid, authority be delegated to Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, to:
 - sign an MOU/contract agreement with BEIS to receive grant funding of circa £4.7m for domestic energy efficiency retrofit programme; and
 - spend the awarded grant funds with EON and GM Registered Providers via an OJEU compliant framework and supply chains
4. That it be noted that, if delivered as envisioned, the programme will save in the order of 36,000 tonnes carbon emissions over 20 years. The focus of the programme will be for those citizens on low income, living in energy inefficient homes. The programme would therefore support the alleviation of fuel poverty in over 500 properties in Greater Manchester, with outcomes measured and monitored on a monthly basis.

GMCA 159/20 GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE ACCORD – INVESTMENT IN VCSE SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillor Allen Brett, Portfolio Lead for Community, Cooperatives and Inclusion, introduced a report which presented an investment proposal for adoption from April 2021.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the work undertaken to review GMCA investment with VCSE organisations in the light of the evolving GM policy context be noted.
2. That the investment proposal contained at section 3 of the report be approved, and approval be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead and Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Community, Co-operatives and Inclusion Portfolio Leader, to award grant agreements, subject to final agreement of GMCA budgets for 2021/22 onwards.

GMCA 160/20**ESTABLISHING A GM RACE EQUALITY PANEL**

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Portfolio Lead for Age-Friendly Greater Manchester & Equalities, presented a report that provided an update on the recent listening exercise across Greater Manchester and asked the GMCA to consider a proposal to establish a GM Race Equality Panel. She reminded Members that the issue of inequalities had been evident prior to Covid, however the pandemic had further demonstrated how certain equality groups were being disadvantaged. Following a series of engagement sessions in 2019, it was agreed that there should be two further equality panels established, one to focus on race equality and the other to focus on faith based equality issues. Over July/August 2020 there had been a further set of listening exercises undertaken including over 300 representatives and had identified specific areas of focus for each of the panels.

The Mayor thanked all those involved in developing the proposals for the Panel and added that this was a key part of Greater Manchester's response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the work to date, including responses received to the recent listening exercise, be noted.
2. That the establishment of the Race Equality Panel, including the allocation of a budget of £50,000 per annum for a VCSE Race Equality Partner to support the work of the Panel, commencing in the current financial year, be approved.

GMCA 161/20**GREATER MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY REFRESH**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, took Members through a report which summarised the background and context of the one year refreshed Greater Manchester International Strategy. The strategy had been developed in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Partnership and key stakeholders including the Greater Manchester Local Authorities, and was recently reviewed by the Growth Board. Although an initial three year refreshed document was planned, it was felt that in the current climate that a 12 month strategy was more appropriate which could sit alongside the Living with Covid Plan, that focussed on innovation, economic prosperity and supporting GM to build back better.

The GM Mayor added that this was an important piece of work, and crucial to Greater Manchester's recovery from Coronavirus, and that the city region's international presence was recognised amongst ministers and would continue to be a major opportunity going forward.

Members encouraged officers of the GMCA to discover ways to build on the relationships with other areas of the world through the cultural links that were already evident. Furthermore, that the importance of developing GM's logistical infrastructure such as the waterways and rail network would be imperative to the success of future trade relationships and economic growth.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the refreshed Greater Manchester International Strategy be approved.
2. That the development of relationships with countries with which GM has a strong cultural links, such as Bangladesh, be progressed.
3. That the importance of the development GM's unique infrastructure assets to support logistics and address congestion, be recognised as integral to GM ambition to build back better and aligned to the green economy.

GMCA 162/20 MONTHLY ECONOMIC RECOVERY UPDATE

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, introduced the monthly economic update, which included the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard. In the current climate it would be even more important to regularly monitor this data to ensure that the GMCA was aware of forthcoming challenges, including the significant increase in people claiming benefits since March to 140,000 residents across GM and the potential for further claimants as a result of the conclusion the Job Retention Scheme. The recent announcements from the Chancellor were broadly welcomed, however concerns remained for those who were already unemployed, and those who were self-employed and specifically in the hospitality, cultural and aviation sectors.

It would be imperative for GM to remain ambitious and continue to lead the way in supporting residents whilst making a case to Government for the relevant resources and powers to support its residents, especially in the uncertainty of any Comprehensive Spending Review announcement.

Members of the GMCA added that public confidence would be key to re-building the economy, and that sharing information about new investments into the sub region would help to give a clear message that investors had confidence in the potential future economic growth of GM.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard be noted.
2. That it be noted that GM remained confident and ambitious, with the continuation of lobbying for support and interventions for residents.

GMCA 163/20 THE MAYORS CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND

The GM Mayor introduced a report detailing the funding requirements in order to ensure continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for walking and cycling.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the agreed MCF delivery priorities across GM and the prioritised first phase for the programme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

2. That £6.9 million MCF funding for the Stockport Bramhall Park to A6 Major Scheme be approved, in order to secure Full Approval and enable the signing of a Delivery Agreement.
3. That the release of up to £2.6 million of development cost funding for the two MCF schemes, as set out in the report, be approved.

GMCA 164/20 LOCAL GROWTH DEAL (1,2 AND 3) – SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE AND EXPENDITURE APPROVALS

The GM Mayor took Members through a report which provided an overview of progress on the delivery of the Local Growth Deal Programme, tranches 1, 2 and 3.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the good progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Major Schemes programme be noted.
2. That the good progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Minor Works and Additional Priorities programmes be noted.
3. That the good progress made in relation to the Non Transport Skills Capital and Economic Development & Regeneration (ED &R) programmes be noted.
4. That the payment of grants of £1.819 million to Bolton in relation to the delivery of the SBNI Bolton Delivery Package 5 Phase 3 scheme be approved.
5. That the expenditure approvals for phased delivery of the remaining SBNI 2020/21 works not exceeding £6.036 million be approved, subject to agreed Growth Deal governance.
6. That the expenditure approval for delivery of the first phase of the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration 2020/21 works, not exceeding £1.355 million be approved, subject to agreed Growth Deal governance.

GMCA 165/20 TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GMCA, GM HOUSING PROVIDERS AND GM HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, presented the draft tripartite agreement which provided further significance to the important relationship that the GMCA and GMHSCP (GM Health and Social Care Partnership) have with housing providers as key active partners in delivering GM priorities in the heart of a number of communities. From the 25 housing providers across GM, there had been 8000 new homes built over the last five years and the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy and Housing Strategy further recognised the key role that housing plays in people’s health and wellbeing.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the draft Tripartite Agreement between GMCA, GM Housing Providers and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership be approved.
2. That it be noted that an official launch and signing event will be arranged over the forthcoming weeks.

GMCA 166/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a number of applications to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund seeking the GMCA’s approval.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loans as detailed below, be approved:

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
Bricks & Soul Trading Ltd	Various	GM wide	£0.750m
Newco SPV (an MCR Property Group Company)	Wharf Road, Altrincham	Trafford	£6.397m
Jubilee Way Estates Ltd	Bury Magistrates Court	Bury	£3.948m

2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

GMCA 167/20 EXCLUSION OF THE 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 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 168/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: This item was considered in support of the Part A – GM Housing Investment Loans Fund – Investment Approval Recommendations (minutes reference GMCA 166/20)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

1.