

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 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 Keith Cunliffe    |

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Rochdale | Councillor Janet Emsley   |
| Trafford | Councillor Joanne Harding |

**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                    | Louise Wyman          |
| Oldham                        | Lewis Greenwood       |
| Rochdale                      | Steve Rumbelow        |
| Salford                       | Ben Dolan             |
| Tameside                      | Steven Pleasant       |
| Wigan                         | Alison McKenzie-Folan |
| Office of the GM Mayor        | Kevin Lee             |
| TfGM                          | Kate Brown            |
| TfGM                          | Mike Renshaw          |
| TfGM                          | Steve Warrener        |
| TfGM                          | Simon Warburton       |
| GMCA                          | Simon Nokes           |
| GMCA                          | Julie Connor          |
| GMCA                          | Sylvia Welsh          |
| GMCA                          | Nicola Ward           |

## **GMCA 180/20            APOLOGIES**

### **RESOLVED /-**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor David Molyneux, Helen Lockwood and Jim Taylor.

## **GMCA 181/20            CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

### **White Ribbon Day**

The GM Mayor thanked members of the Combined Authority for marking White Ribbon Day which gave another opportunity to speak out against violence towards women and girls and re-affirm the GMCA's commitment never to condone any such abuse. Deputy Mayor Beverley Hughes added that the 25 November had been set aside as an international day to pursue the elimination of violence towards women and girls, but sadly this remained an global issue with over 45,000 reports of domestic violence in Greater Manchester alone. Great strides had been made in supporting women and girls, however the CA recognised that there was still work to do.

### **Tier Arrangements**

The new tier arrangements and subsequent restrictions would come into place from the 2 December following the recent lockdown period but would first be subject to a parliamentary debate. The GM Mayor informed the GMCA that he would be writing to MPs from across Greater Manchester on a number of issues relating to the proposals, including the need for a more balanced approach to business closures in tier, 3 that moved away from a blanket sectoral approach to targeting those premises which posed the most significant risk. There were growing concerns regarding about the cost to the hospitality sector and potential permanent closures of some businesses in the event they were unable to open for the winter period. The importance of a meaningful review of the tier system in two weeks time, as figures in Greater Manchester were at the fastest rate of decline compared to anywhere else in the country, and therefore the city-region should not be retained in a higher tier for any longer than necessary. There was a reported easing of pressure on the GM hospital system and a different trend in case numbers to other areas which were already to be placed in tier 2. Finally, it was clear that for those businesses in tier 3 areas, further financial support would be required. Receiving the same financial support across all tiers was illogical and unjustifiable and there needed to be some recognition of those thousands of jobs, not just in the hospitality sector, but throughout the supply chains, that had been disproportionately affected throughout this pandemic.

### **Commissioning in the NHS**

Councillor Richard Leese, Portfolio Lead for Health, reported that NHS England had recently published the Integrated Care Systems Consultation, which looked to create stronger partnerships arrangements with the NHS, providing a more prominent role for Primary Care services and the move towards a greater locality and neighbourhood focussed system. The consultation asked

stakeholders to look ahead over the next five years, and consider how devolution could further support ambitions for an integrated care system, including the potential joining of CCG, Acute and Primary Care budgets into a single funding pot that would be devolved to 'the lowest level' supporting a locality based approach. Through the creation of the CCG, further clinical leadership had supported a greater balanced governance structure, and therefore any new arrangements should set to strengthen this and ensure that there remained a voice for all.

The GM Mayor added that this consultation was indicative of the right direction of travel for the NHS, but that it was imperative that Greater Manchester ensured it remained inclusive and paved the way for a place-based approach across the whole system.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMCA further express its commitment to proactively supporting the White Ribbon Day standing up to eliminate violence towards women and girls.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor would be writing to Greater Manchester MPs on a number of points hoped to be considered as part of the parliamentary debate on the current Tier 3 arrangements for GM, including a more targeted approach towards high-risk businesses rather than a blanket approach to closures; the need for a meaningful review in two weeks' time in light of GM's case numbers current rate of decline; and a fair financial support package for businesses that remain in Tier 3 that was reflective of their continued loss of income.
3. That the recent publication of the Integrated Care Systems Consultation by Public Health England be noted, specifically its locality and neighbourhood focus which reflected the GMs place-based approach.
4. That further details on the integrated care system proposals would be considered by the GM Health and Care Partnership Board at its meeting in January 2021, following which a GM response would be submitted to Public Health England.

#### **GMCA 182/20            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **RESOLVED /-**

There were no declarations of interests received.

#### **GMCA 183/20            MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD 30 OCTOBER 2020**

#### **RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 30 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

#### **GMCA 184/20            MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2020**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 November 2020 be noted.
2. That the minutes of the meeting of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 November 2020 be noted.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Business, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 November 2020 be noted.

**GMCA 185/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE - 20 NOVEMBER 2020**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the Minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 20 November 2020 be noted.

**GMCA 186/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 19 NOVEMBER 2020**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Standards Committee meeting held on 19 November 2020 be noted.

**GMCA 187/20 GMCA APPOINTMENTS**

That the nomination of Councillor John Leech (Manchester) to the GMCA Scrutiny Committee Substitutes Pool be approved.

**GMCA 188/20 BUS REFORM**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, updated members on the aspiration of GM Local Authorities and the GMCA to improve the quality and integration of the bus network. The options following an independent assessment were set out in the Covid Impact on Bus Franchising report, recommending that franchising was the best option for reforming the bus market in GM, and it further proposed to undertake a formal consultation on the outcomes of this report between the 2 December 2020 – 29 January 2021. The Chancellor has also indicated his commitment to fund the bus reform agenda, notwithstanding that further conversations with Government would be welcomed.

Overall Members supported the proposals for the consultation to commence, however there were some concerns regarding the current financial climate and the lack of actualised funding from Government to progress this agenda. It was clear that a 'do nothing' approach would also have cost implications, however, Members were clear that this cost should not be borne by Local Authorities or ultimately residents. Members were acutely aware that over the long term, without

significant reform, the cost of subsidising the bus network was likely to increase and under the current arrangements, the GMCA had very little control over these increasing costs. Greater clarity on the liabilities and implications for pursuing bus reform were important to be ascertained alongside the consultation period.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the contents of the Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising Report – November 2020 (Appendix 1) be noted.
3. That the contents of the Independent Auditor’s Assessment of the Transport for Greater Manchester’s (TfGM) Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising Report dated 19 November 2020 (Appendix 2) be noted.
4. That the publication of both the Independent Auditor’s Assessment of the Transport for Greater Manchester’s (TfGM) Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising Report and the Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising Report be approved.
5. That the proposed funding arrangements and mitigations, as set out in the report, be approved.
6. That the mitigating responses to a downside risk scenario, as set out in Section 3 of the Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising Report, be noted.
7. That it be agreed to proceed with the Proposed Franchising Scheme by undertaking a public consultation, which would commence on 2 December 2020 and end on 29 January 2021.
8. That the Proposed Franchising Scheme, as proposed to be modified following the consultation that ended in January 2020 and in accordance with the report (Appendix 3) be approved, for the purpose of the recommended consultation.
9. That TfGM be instructed to carry out all tasks necessary to carry out that consultation on behalf of the GMCA.
10. That it be noted that a further report will be submitted to the GMCA on the outcome of the consultation.
11. That it be noted that the report has been exempt from call in under the provisions of Part 5, Rule 16 of the GMCA constitution.

#### **GMCA 189/20 HOMELESSNESS REPORTS**

The GM Mayor introduced a suite of reports which provided an update on the ongoing homelessness response to Covid-19 and informed the GMCA that there would be a further briefing on the arrangements that have been implemented across GM to support those who were homeless over the winter period, and to launch the Homelessness Prevention Strategy for 2021.

The challenge of homelessness and rough sleeping still remained evident, with 106 people sleeping on the streets, at the last count, a significant number of which were clinically vulnerable. In addition to this, 1000 households remained in emergency accommodation, and 3,600 households in statutory accommodation, many of which included children living in temporary accommodation. Members recognised that there had been significant progress in addressing the homelessness crisis, and thanked partners for their efforts to support schemes including 'A bed every night' and the Governments Rough Sleeper Programme. The provision of safe, sustainable accommodation remained a key priority, and Members welcomed the work on the young person's pathfinder to identify the wider determinants to homelessness and look to build a stronger network of prevention support from the grass roots upwards. The likely increase of demand on Local Authorities, as a result of more people becoming at risk of, or homeless was recognised, and therefore it was imperative to put in place a system that was fit for purpose and ready to support people.

### **10a Homelessness Covid-19 Update**

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the standards developed in the Second Wave Homelessness Covid-19 Preparedness Plan to be upheld across Greater Manchester be noted and agreed.
2. That the GMCA commit to meeting the funding gap for the existing A Bed Every Night provision (20/21) with £300,000 of Mayoral Precept.
3. That the option to expand A Bed Every Night Covid-safe emergency accommodation capacity for people sleeping rough using £300,000 of Mayoral Precept be agreed.
4. That it be noted that the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, and Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, would be undertaking a press briefing later this afternoon on Greater Manchester's arrangements to support people experiencing homelessness during Winter 2020.

### **10b Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme**

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the allocation of funding from the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme be noted.
2. That the capital and revenue delivery plans and allocated spending be noted.
3. That that proposed spending, as detailed within the report, be approved and that authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer Steve Wilson, in consultation with Portfolio Lead, Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, to approve minor amendments.

### **10c Reform Investment Fund – GM Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathfinder Project (Key Decision)**

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That approval be given to release £663,000 from the Reform Investment Fund in order to launch a Young Person's Homelessness Prevention Pathfinder in response to the additional support needs created by Covid-19.
2. That the offer from Wigan Council to be involved in the Pathfinder programme be welcomed.

#### **GMCA 190/20 GM INDEPENDENT INEQUALITIES COMMISSION**

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Portfolio Lead for Age Friendly Greater Manchester & Equalities, introduced a report which provided an update on progress with the establishment of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission, designed to address long term systemic inequalities that had been made further evident through the Covid-19 pandemic. The Independent Inequalities Commission was chaired by Kate Pickett (University of York), supported by a panel of experts and looked to shift the balance into proactive actions removing inequalities from sectors including education, skills and employment. To prioritise their work, the commission were looking for areas where they could add the most value and build on from the listening exercises undertaken earlier this year. This work had already begun to highlight how all recovery activity in GM must be inclusive and designed to meet the needs of those most vulnerable.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the arrangements for the Independent Inequalities Commission be endorsed.
2. That it be noted that the Commission would submit a further to the GM Mayor and the GMCA on its findings in Spring 2021.

#### **GMCA 191/20 EXTENSION TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTAND (MOU) WITH THE CENTRE FOR AGEING BETTER**

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Portfolio Lead for Age Friendly Greater Manchester & Equalities, took Members through a report which reviewed the scope of the shared ambitions between the GMCA and the Centre for Ageing Better, achievements of this strategic partnership to date, and the areas of focus if the three year extension was to be approved.

There had been significant progress on this agenda as a result of the creative thinking and expertise from the Centre for Ageing Better, and in February 2020 the Strategy was refreshed including six key strategic priorities that addressed the cumulative disadvantages of ageing. It was felt important that this partnership should continue as there was already new joint work underway to identify barriers for older people and bring about change that would continue to highlight GM as an exemplar for age friendly city regions.

Members of the GMCA recognised the strong partnership and welcomed the extension of the MOU, in particular its contribution towards the Local Industrial Strategy was noted, in that it had a key role in ensuring accessible, adaptable, affordable and safe housing was available to support people living independently as long as possible.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That a three-year extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of a Strategic Partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Centre for Ageing Better be approved.
2. That in support of the MOU, the membership of the GMCA in the Housing Made for Everyone (HoME) Coalition be supported and that engagement of GMCA in the work of the Good Home Inquiry, commissioned by the Centre for Ageing Better, be noted.
3. That the oversight of delivery of the agreement by the Ageing Hub Executive Group, on behalf of the Portfolio Lead Age-Friendly and Equalities and the Ageing Hub Partnership be endorsed.
4. That it be noted that the cross-cutting nature of achieving successful delivery of the ambitions set out in the MOU and the impact of the specific shared projects will require clear governance links to and contributions from the Reform Board, Growth Board and Tackling Inequalities Board and the integration of this work across the strategy, policy and delivery functions of GMCA and the work of Greater Manchester's local authorities.

## **GMCA 192/20 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME (KEY DECISION)**

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, introduced a report which outlined the opportunity presented by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for GM to seek substantial funding for public building retrofit projects. If the bid was to be successful, GM would receive £40-80m of funding from Salix (a non-departmental public body) to undertake low carbon retrofit projects on approximately 156 public buildings across Greater Manchester and potentially stimulate further growth. Feasibility studies had already been completed, and if successful schemes would be required to be delivered by September 2021.

The GMCA expressed its thanks to colleagues from across all GM Local Authorities for developing a suitable programme of works involving a range of partners, and confirmation of the outcome of the bid was anticipated late December.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the opportunity to bid for circa £40-80m of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding from Salix (NDPB) be noted.
2. That, subject to a successful bid, the receipt of and defrayment of these funds either directly or via GM Local Authorities be approved and that authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Monitoring Officer to sign all necessary legal agreements.
3. That it be noted that Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer approved in October, under delegated powers, the receipt of circa £1m grant from Salix (NPBD) to be utilised on feasibility studies on low carbon retrofit assessments of public buildings to support this bid.



4. That it be noted that equalities impact from this proposal will be managed via utilising delivery companies with robust equality policies. The environmental outcome is to substantially reduce the carbon emissions from approximately 156 public buildings in Greater Manchester.

**GMCA 193/20 NATIONAL WASTE AND RESOURCES STRATEGY**

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, took Members through a report which provided an overview of the draft National Waste and Resources Strategy, potential implications for waste collection and disposal and a draft timetable for implementation. The second phase of the consultation was now underway, and GM would be providing a response, however, it was important that the GMCA kept a watching brief over these potential implications that would have to be delivered across GM.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the potential impacts for waste collection and disposal be noted.
2. That the proposed scenario modelling agreed with district waste officers be noted.

**GMCA 194/20 MONTHLY ECONOMIC REVIEW**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy, provided the GMCA with the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard, within which potential significant economic challenges were detailed for the short, medium and long term future. From the 2 December 2020, GM would be placed into Tier 3 restrictions, which would have further impacts on the hospitality sector predominately and was not sustainable. Members urged for a meaningful Government review at the earliest opportunity, and that in the meantime Local Authorities continue to support businesses as much as possible and signpost them to the range of support also on offer from the Growth Company.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard be noted.

**GMCA 195/20 GREATER MANCHESTER PREPARATIONS FOR EU EXIT AND ANALYSIS OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POINTS BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy, introduced a report which provided an update on the coordination of activities across Greater Manchester to prepare for the end of the transition period from the EU on the 31 December 2020 and the introduction of a points-based immigration system from the 1 January 2021 including the possible implications for GM. The report also highlighted the work underway on the Greater Manchester International Strategy and how it sought to respond to issues arising from the EU exit, along with identifying opportunities for continued joint working between GM and individual EU nations.

The EU exit was clearly on businesses radar and was fast approaching, and they were continuing to gain further understanding of supply chains and set up systems to better manage stock levels.

The new points-based immigration system would require migrants to seek sponsorship from UK employers in advance and have a confirmed minimum salary of £25,600 to enable their move to the UK. This would be a minor adjustment to those migrating from outside of the EU, but a significant change for those who have previously moved freely to the UK from other EU countries, which was anticipated to have the most impact on the labour market for low skilled / low paid jobs.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the work underway by the GM Brexit Readiness Group to understand the impacts arising from EU exit and to coordinate responses across the city-region be noted.
2. That the work underway on the GM International Strategy and ongoing partnership working with EU nations to develop GM opportunities in the future be noted.
3. That the analysis undertaken of the points-based immigration system to be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 be noted.
4. That it be agreed that a further update on Greater Manchester preparations for EU exit be submitted to the December GMCA meeting.

#### **GMCA 196/20                    GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION ONE YEAR REVIEW**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy, introduced a report which updated the GMCA on the Implementation Plan for the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy which was noted as critical to the pace of recovery for GM and would be a platform for future investment to be built upon. The report was an annual review against all actions, one year after its initial approval and evidenced its integrated thread across GM and Local Authority policies. It further recognised the radical impact of Covid on the GM economy, and to fully understand this, an initial impact assessment had been undertaken against each action. In year 2, the Implementation Plan would prioritise areas for rapid intervention including the creation of good quality jobs and ways to protect the long term growth of the GM economy.

The GM Mayor added that the Local Industrial Strategy was key to improving the employment offer for everyone, ensuring good quality, high standard jobs. It was important that this document was reviewed on a regular basis, but it would also be helpful to have some further clarity from Government as to how the UK Shared Prosperity Fund could support its ambitions.

Members echoed these concerns, and further added that greater clarity on the future of the Local Growth Fund would also be welcomed. In the latest Comprehensive Review there had been no mention of the devolution of these funds to allow for sub-regions to design their own investment proposals, nor any inflation on the Shared Prosperity Fund or any equivalent to previous match funding opportunities. The relationship between the Levelling Up Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund also remained vague, and concerns were raised in relation to the £20m cap on the levelling up

fund which restricted its ability to support substantial projects. This approach seemed to contradict strategic regional investment and was a concerning direction of travel.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the progress so far to implement the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy, how activity was being adapted in response to the impacts of COVID-19, and the priorities for the following year, be noted.
2. That the Year 2 Milestones (Annex 3) be agreed.
3. That it be noted that a further update will be submitted to the GMCA in November 2021 to review progress in Year 2 and agree the Year 3 (2021/22) milestones.
4. That it be agreed that further clarity from Government on the position of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was required as soon as possible.

**GMCA 197/20**

**GREATER MANCHESTER THE KEY ROUTE NETWORK REVIEW**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, took Members through a report which reviewed the current GM Key Route Network to ensure its full alignment with the Department for Transport's recently introduced Major Road Network. As there were 626km of strategic roads currently maintained by Local Authorities in GM, it was useful to align these to enable a greater focus on crucial roads and enable access to more funding from the National Roads Fund.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the proposed alignment of the Key Route Network with the Major Road Network, as published by the Department for Transport, be approved.
2. That the proposed additions to the Key Route Network (Appendix 1), extending the Key Route Network by 29.7km be approved.

**GMCA 198/20**

**HS2 PHASE 2B WESTERN LEG DESIGN REFINEMENT CONSULTATION – GM RESPONSE APPROACH**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided an overview of the proposed approach to responding to the HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg Design Refinement Consultation. This review offered an opportunity to look again at the proposals and identify whether any of the changes could further reduce costs. Included was the relocation of the rolling stock depot to Crewe, changes to the network around Manchester Airport and some additional changes around Manchester Piccadilly train station.

The GMCA noted that these proposals did not affect the large-scale proposals which were still on the table regarding additional underground platforms at Manchester Piccadilly station. Members reported that a recent briefing regarding improved services to Sheffield had further strengthened

the investment case for these proposals. Furthermore the Green Book Review (2020) had set out Government's commitment to consider such schemes under its revised arrangements.

In relation to the tunnel from the Airport to Manchester Piccadilly, the current proposals for vent shafts in the Birchfield Road area had been met with serious opposition from residents and local councillors as they would have a negative impact on local amenities including a primary school, and a number of alternative locations had been put forward.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM to approve the final response to the consultation.
3. That the residents of Birchfield Road, in their request for an alternative site for the vent shafts, that would not negatively impact local amenities and primary school be supported and included in Greater Manchester's response.

**GMCA 199/20 THE MAYOR'S CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND (MCF) - FINANCIAL APPROVALS (KEY DECISION)**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which sought funding approvals to ensure the continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for walking and cycling. There had been significant progress to date, with a steady flow of projects and 56 schemes now having had their delivery costs approved.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the agreed Mayor's Cycling and Walking Fund delivery priorities across GM and the prioritised first phase for the programme (Appendix 1) be noted.
2. That £2.82 million Mayor's Cycling and Walking funding for the Manchester Beswick (Phase 1) and Chorlton (Phase 4) schemes be approved, in order to secure full approval and enable the signing of a delivery agreement.
3. That the release of up to £2.74 million of development cost funding for the four Mayor's Cycling and Walking Fund schemes be approved.

**GMCA 200/20 BUDGET REPORTS**

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer, took Members of the GMCA through a suite of reports in relation to the budget for 2021/22, including the financial implications of Covid-19, the latest position in relation to retained business rates pilot scheme, an update on the capital expenditure programme and information on the forecasted revenue outturn position at the end of September 2020.

In relation to the impact of Covid, the figures included in the report were based on the latest returns to DHCLG and included some of the impact of the second wave of cases which had seen a cost increase to Local Authorities and an overall shortfall of £398m across GM Local Authorities, TfGM and GMCA budgets for 2020/21. This figure also expected funding from Government to cover the loss of fare box revenues for Metrolink.

The second paper reported on the second year of the retained business rates retention pilot and sought the GMCA's approval to progress seven schemes at a cost of £15.9m. To date, there had been £16.7m returned to GM Local Authorities, however there were no further returns expected this year. Each of the previously agreed schemes would be reviewed against slippage, non-completion or potential reduced costs and any further funds would be returned to Local Authorities as appropriate.

Members queried whether match funding had been confirmed for schemes in the pipeline and the GMCA Treasurer confirmed that this was still to be determined, but once confirmed an update would be provided.

In relation to the proposed Unified Architecture scheme, Members requested further information before being able to progress any approval decision.

#### **20a COVID UPDATE**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the estimated financial impacts of COVID 19 on GM districts, GMCA and TFGM budgets be noted.

#### **20b BUSINESS RATES UPDATE (KEY DECISION)**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the latest position against the approved investments from the retained business rates reserve be noted.
3. That the proposed seven additional schemes at a cost of £15.9m be approved.
4. That the return of the residual funding of £16.7 to the 10 Greater Manchester Authorities on the proposed basis be approved, final details to be confirmed between the GMCA Treasurer and the District Treasurers.
5. That the proposals for ongoing monitoring of business rates investments be noted and that the use of any further slippage be submitted to the GMCA for approval with priority placed on supporting businesses and district's financial positions.

6. That further information on the proposed scheme by Unified Architecture be provided to Councillor Richard Leese in order to give further assurance as to its potential delivery.

#### **20c CAPITAL UPDATE 2020/2021 (KEY DECISION)**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the current 2020/21 forecast increased spend of £19.710 million compared to the 2020/21 capital forecast approved at the September 2020 GMCA meeting be noted.
2. That the addition to the Capital Programme of the retrofit element of the Clean Bus Fund project (part of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Programme) with a current forecast expenditure of £3.4 million in 2020/21 and of £12.0 million in 2021/22 be approved.
3. That the up to £4 million for #SafeStreetsSaveLives, funded from the earmarked reserves for revenue contribution to capital be approved and that it be noted that capital allocation in the programme for Mayor's Challenge Fund will be reduced by up to £4 million.
4. That the transfers to Districts of Pothole and Challenge funding totalling £20,899 million be approved.

#### **20d REVENUE UPDATE 2020/2021**

##### **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 GMCA General Budget revenue outturn position for 2020/21 shows a breakeven position.
3. That it be noted that the Mayoral General – GM Fire & Rescue revenue outturn position for 2020/21 shows an underspend position of £4.003 million.
4. That it be noted that the Waste outturn position of breakeven for 2020/21 following the approval of proposals by the GMCA on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 25<sup>th</sup> September and the agreement in principle to refund the Districts for the levy adjustment that will be paid to GMCA as a result of increased tonnages
5. 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 £1.6 million.

**GMCA 201/20            GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK: CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVALS (KEY DECISION)**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which sought approval for investment into Commercial and Northern Limited (Bank North) and Tootoot Limited (Tootoot) from re-cycled funds. The first loan was to a small GM business unable to access other funds, and the second to a GM Tech Solutions firm developing software to address safeguarding, bullying and harassment.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the funding application for Commercial and Northern Ltd (investment of £1,250,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
2. That the funding application for Tootoot Ltd (investment of £80,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above companies, 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 investments at 1 and 2 above.

**GMCA 202/20            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.

**GMCA 203/20            GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK: CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVALS**

Note: This item was considered in support of the Part A – GM Investment Framework: Conditional Project Approvals (minutes reference GMCA 201/20)

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be noted.

- 1.