

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2021 AT BURY TOWN HALL, KNOWSLEY STREET, BURY**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Police Crime & Fire	
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA – Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Jon Dyson
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Neil Thornton
Salford	Peter Openshaw
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward
TfGM	Steve Warrener

GMCA 184/21 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED/-

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Andrew Western, Eamonn Boylan, Pam Smith (Caroline Simpson attending), Steve Rumbelow, Tom Stannard and Tony Oakman.

GMCA 185/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, led tributes following the recent death of former Bury Mayor and Council Leader, Councillor Mike Connolly. His role in securing the devolution deal for Greater Manchester was noted and his pride in Bury was fondly remembered.

Following the recent announcements in Government's Budget and Spending Review, Members of the GMCA noted their appreciation for additional funding that had been allocated to transport infrastructure growth and core support for local government. Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Salford and Ashton had all been successful in securing funding for local projects from the Levelling Up Fund. It was noted that the spending power for local government remained unclear but Members urged against increases in regressive taxation due to the consequences it would have for the poorest in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GMCA recognised the significant contribution to devolution made by Councillor Mike Connolly, formerly Leader of Bury Council who had sadly recently passed away, and that condolences be shared with his family, friends and colleagues.
2. That the GMCA welcomed the reference in this week's Government Budget to a 'London-style public transport system' for Greater Manchester and the allocation of funding to support specific projects across Greater Manchester through the Levelling-Up Fund. Recognising that this would only go a short way towards delivering the ambitions of Local Authorities, who had had their budgets significantly reduced over the last 11 years and that there should be further devolution to allow Local Authorities to determine their own local spend in line with local priorities in the future.
3. That it be noted, that the GMCA would be seeking to understand the budget announcement in greater detail.
4. That it be agreed that increased taxation was not acceptable as a means of funding for Local Authorities.

GMCA 186/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

GMCA 187/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on the 24 September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 188/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 24
SEPTEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on the 24 September 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 189/21 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE
PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership Board meeting held on the 22 September 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 190/21 MINUTES OF THE HOUSING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER &
7 OCTOBER 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 23 September 2021 & 7 October 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 191/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30
SEPTEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on the 30 September 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 192/21 MINUTES OF THE GM WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE HELD
ON 13 OCTOBER 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GM Waste & Recycling Committee meeting held on the 13 October 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 193/21 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT
COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Transport Committee meeting held on the 15 October 2021 be noted.

GMCA 194/21 GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

The GMCA Monitoring Officer took members through a report which updated several appointment changes received from GM Local Authorities in relation to GMCA Committees.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Andy Burnham and Andrew Western, as the GMCA member and substitute member on the TfN Board, and as the member and substitute member to the TfN General Purposes Committee be noted.
2. That the appointment of Cllr Nathan Boroda, Bury, to the Corporate Issues & Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed.
3. That the appointment of Cllr Lee-Ann Igbon, Manchester, to the GMCA Corporate Issues & Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed.
4. That the appointment of Cllr Samuel Rummer, Bolton to the GMCA Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee be agreed.
5. That the appointment of Cllr Mrs Hillary Fairclough as the Bolton substitute member on the GMCA be noted.
6. That the further extension of the appointment of Geoff Linnell, Co-opted Independent Member, to act as the Chair of the Standards Committee, and Nicole Jackson, Independent Person, to assist the Monitoring Officer and Hearing Panel in dealing with allegations that members of the GMCA have acted in breach of the GMCA's Code of Conduct, to 30 November 2022 be approved, and that Rule 11.5 be suspended for this purpose.
7. That the appointment of Cllr Nadim Muslim, Bolton, to the GM Waste & Recycling Committee be agreed.
8. That the appointment of Cllr Rabnawaz Akbar, Manchester, and Cllr Mudasir Dean, Bolton, to the Police & Crime Steering Group be noted.
9. That the appointment of Cllr Rabnawaz Akbar, Manchester, and Cllr Mudasir Dean (Cllr Nadim Muslim as substitute), Bolton, to the Police & Crime Panel be noted.
10. That the appointment of Cllr Tracey Rawlins, Manchester, and Cllr Adele Warren (substitute) Bolton, to the Joint Development Plan – Places for Everyone, be noted.
11. That the appointment of Cllr Nadim Muslim, Bolton, to the Air Quality Administration Committee be noted.
12. That the appointment of Cllr Nadim Muslim, Bolton, to the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee be noted.

13. That the appointment of Cllr Joanna Midgely, Manchester, to the Health & Social Care – Joint Commissioning Board be noted.
14. That the appointment of Cllr Gavin White, Manchester, and Cllr Adele Warren, Bolton, to the GM Work & Skills Executive be agreed.

GMCA 195/21 SOCIAL HOUSING DECARBONISATION FUND

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Leader for Green City Region, introduced a report which sought approval for the Combined Authority to bid for c.£15m Government funding from the 'Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund' from BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy), on behalf of Greater Manchester Local Authorities and registered providers.

If successful, the funds from this bid would help social housing providers to install decarbonisation measures, with over 1000 social homes being supported to achieve an EPC rating of C or above for their energy efficiency. Members were supportive of the bid, which reflected Greater Manchester's retrofit ambitions and was timely in light of the country-wide ambitions being currently highlighted COP 26 summit. However, concerns were raised regarding the extent of the retrofit challenge compared to the level of funding on offer. It was noted that homes currently being built would need to be retrofitted in around a decade's time, so acceleration in the rate of retrofitting and an increase in the funding on offer was required.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be agreed that the GM Local Authorities should collectively bid for c.£15m of Social Housing Decarbonisation funding.
2. That it be agreed the GMCA should be the accountable body for the bid on behalf of GM Local Authorities and Registered Providers.
3. That, subject to a successful award, authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Solicitor to contract with BEIS to receive and defray the funds to partners and procured delivery partner(s).
4. That it be noted that the equalities impact from this proposal will be managed via utilising delivery companies with robust equality policies, and the environmental outcome is to substantially reduce the carbon emissions from in excess of 1000 social housing homes across Greater Manchester.

GMCA 196/21 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME (PHASE 3) 2021

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Leader for Green City Region, took Members through a report which outlined the latest opportunity presented by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and detailed Greater Manchester's ambition to seek substantial funding from Phase 3 of the scheme. Approval was sought (subject to a successful bid) to receive and expend c.£20-40m funding from Salix Finance, a Non-Departmental Public Body, to undertake low carbon retrofit projects on public buildings across Greater Manchester. The awards would be announced in November 2021 with a delivery timeframe of 12-36 months (85% within 12 months).

Members were reminded that Greater Manchester had been successful in obtaining £1m in revenue and £78m of capital under Phase 1 of the same scheme. As a result of the previous Phase 1 funding, 150 public buildings had been decarbonised across Greater Manchester. There was clear recognition across the GMCA for the progress that had been made so far.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the opportunity to bid for circa £20-40m of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding from Salix (NDPB) be noted.
2. That, subject to a successful bid, the receipt and defrayment of these funds either directly or via GM Local Authorities be agreed and authority delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Solicitor to sign all necessary legal agreements.
3. That it be agreed to top slice from the capital grant to underpin the GMCA's cost of coordinating and project managing the scheme. The scale of the top slice will be confirmed on receipt of the grant.
4. That it be noted that the equalities impact from this proposal will be managed utilising delivery companies with robust equality policies, and the environmental outcome is to substantially reduce the carbon emissions from our public buildings in Greater Manchester.

GMCA 197/21 GREATER MANCHESTER TOWN OF CULTURE 2022

Councillor Martyn Cox, Portfolio Leader for Culture, took Members through a report which provided an update on GM's first Town of Culture, Bury, where activity had been delivered in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing widescale delivery in 2020. The report also set out a proposal for GM's second Town of Culture in 2022.

Greater Manchester's first Town of Culture, Bury had delivered a hybrid programme of events, including the Head for the Hills festival and the online United We Stream music event which was viewed across the globe. It was noted that £50,000 of investment had returned £150,000 in additional funds for the programme, showcasing the success of the scheme. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of Bury Council, thanked Members for their support over the past two years and highlighted the positive impacts of Bury's Town of Culture status, which would have a lasting legacy in the borough.

Members praised Bury for its work and emphasised the importance of the cultural offer within Greater Manchester. It was noted that the Town of Culture for 2022 was hoped to be announced in early December 2021.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for a second GM Town of Culture to be delivered in 2022 be approved.
2. That a programming budget from the agreed GMCA Culture Fund of £50,000 be approved for awarding to the GM Town of Culture 2022 in 2022/23 to support programming and delivery.

3. That the timescale process set out in Section 4 of the report be approved.

GMCA 198/21 GREATER MANCHESTER'S BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Portfolio Lead for Transport, took Members through a report which sought approval to submit to Government and publish Greater Manchester's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The Plan had been produced in response to the Government's National Bus Strategy, which required all English Local Transport Authorities to produce and publish a BSIP by the end of October 2021. The BSIP aimed to improve the overall offer to bus customers, was aligned with GM's plans to introduce a franchised bus network from 2023 and would start to deliver the Bee Network vision for a London-style, integrated, accessible and inclusive transport network.

It was highlighted that Greater Manchester was uniquely placed as it could guarantee improvement and a return on investment compared to other city regions because of its bus franchising plans. Funding to support the BSIP had the potential to be life-changing for residents who would be able to take advantage of opportunities across the conurbation thanks to low fares and better transport links. It was noted that having fewer cars on the roads and a net-zero bus fleet would further contribute to Greater Manchester's 2038 zero carbon target and that Greater Manchester could become a template for other city regions in time.

All Members commended the work and ambitions contained within the BSIP and many emphasised the importance of buses in the public transport system, especially in districts that did not yet have Metrolink connections. It was also noted that an improved bus network could help to reduce inequalities within the city region and officers were asked to work with a range of groups to make sure that the Customer Charter represented all Greater Manchester residents.

Members were told that children's school buses would remain an integral part of the network, with the BSIP including proposals for reduced fares for school children. TfGM's commitment to inclusivity was highlighted in response to concerns about the Customer Charter and it was further noted that the BSIP included proposals for additional Travelsafe officers on the network.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the level of ambition and proposals being put forward as part of Greater Manchester's Bus Service Improvement Plan be endorsed.
2. That the publication and submission to Government of the Bus Service Improvement Plan be approved.
3. That the development of the Customer Charter be undertaken with representatives from all user and non-user groups to ensure that all qualitative aspects of customer experience can be included.
4. That in developing the Customer Charter, a minimum level of service for all communities in Greater Manchester be considered as a fundamental element of the offer.

GMCA 199/21 GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE

GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Portfolio Lead for Transport, took Members through a report which provided an update on the progress in developing a set of minimum licensing standards for taxis and private hire vehicles in Greater Manchester. Specifically, the report outlined the recommendations that officers would be making for Stage 2 (vehicles) of the standard proposals.

Emphasis was placed upon the purpose of the vehicular standards which was to make it easier for passengers to identify safe taxis and private hire vehicles. The concerns of the industry were noted and consequently it was agreed that the deadlines within the report would be adjusted to permit greater flexibility.

Members welcomed the report's ambitions and were supportive of the amended deadlines, noting that the industry had played a vital role during the pandemic and should be supported during the transition to the minimum licensing standards and the standards set by the Clean Air Plan. It was also recognised that creating a uniquely white fleet would help residents to identify safe taxis and private hire vehicles and distinguish between those from Greater Manchester and those from out-of-town operators who had not been required to adhere to the same level of standards in relation to both driver and passenger safety.

RESOLVED /-

That the progress of the Minimum Licensing Standards workstream be noted and the proposals at Stage 2 of the recommendations be endorsed with Local Authorities using best endeavours to meet them.

GMCA 200/21 GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, took Members through the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and provided an overview of activity related to the Economy portfolio, including the implementation of the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy.

The Dashboard presented a positive forecast for the economy and an overall improvement for businesses, however it was noted that there would need to be continued close monitoring to ensure that businesses remained properly supported. The report also referenced the ongoing work on InnovationGM, which was a distinctive Levelling Up bid for research and development within Greater Manchester. A further update was provided relating to the Good Employment Charter, and it was hoped that new members would join the Charter after being assessed in November 2021. The formal launch of the Greater Manchester Living Wage City Region was announced for 15 November 2021 and Members of the GMCA were invited to the launch event.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision be noted.
2. That it be noted that all members of the GMCA will be invited to the forthcoming launch of 'GM – A Living Wage City Region' on the 15 November 2021.

GMCA 201/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FUNDS

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Investment and Resources introduced a report which provided an overview of the GMCA's achievements in managing investment in commercial property, residential development and businesses within Greater Manchester.

Overall, £900 million had been invested and the figure continued to grow. £575 million had been invested into residential development, helping to build nearly 8000 homes in Greater Manchester. Major projects supported by the Fund had created 9000 jobs.

Members congratulated the success of the Fund and noted that such investment in GM was crucial. Additional figures were highlighted, including £15 million investment into Social Impact Funds, and £63 million investment which had specifically supported SME developers. It was noted that over £28 million had been generated by investment, which helped to deliver homes in Greater Manchester and support businesses in the region.

RESOLVED /-

That the report setting out the successful achievements of the funds be welcomed and further noted that the investment funds would continue to provide valuable investment for Greater Manchester residents into the future.

GMCA 202/21 GREATER MANCHESTER BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND – REALLOCATION OF TRANCHE 2/ADDITIONAL 10% MONIES

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Leader for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a report which sought approval to reallocate funding from two sites that were unable to progress through the approved timescales. The report also sought approval to enter into individual grant agreements with the respective parties, if reallocation was to be approved.

It was noted that Greater Manchester had received a total investment of £96.9 million to deliver on its brownfield-first priorities. Project timescales were agreed at the outset of the process, but two projects were unable to meet those deadlines. The alternative projects in Bolton and Manchester had been identified by moving through a priority list and would deliver over 500 homes, with a proportion of those being affordable homes.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of grant funding to those sites set out within Section 2 of the report be approved.

2. That it be agreed that the GMCA enter into individual Grant Agreements for the Brownfield Housing Fund associated with the recommended sites.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to agree the final terms of all necessary agreements.

**GMCA 203/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK,
CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Investment and Resources introduced a report which sought approval for an investment from the GMCA into the Growth Investment Fund, which would be made from recycled funds.

RESOLVED /-

1. That an investment of £1 million into the Growth Investment Fund be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above Fund, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of investment, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals, and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investment noted above.

GMCA 204/21 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 205/21 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT
APPROVAL**

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of agenda (Minute GMCA 203/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair: