

In our first consultation we asked for your views on powers to improve the Fire Service in Greater Manchester through better integration and collaboration.

Greater Manchester currently has a joint Fire and Rescue Authority which oversees the work of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service around fire safety, fires and road traffic accidents.

The Fire and Rescue Authority is made up of 30 elected Councillors from the ten local authorities. It ensures the Fire Service is performing effectively and serving the best interests of the public and the local area. The Fire Authority is also responsible for setting its budget and precept (the set amount collected each year by the authority from residents in Greater Manchester through council tax).

We propose that GMCA take over the responsibilities of the Fire Authority in Greater Manchester. This would mean that the elected Mayor would be responsible for exercising fire and rescue functions but would delegate the operation of the service to a smaller fire committee of between 15 -21 members who will be local Councillors and the Chief Fire Officer.

The Mayor would be responsible for all strategy and would also keep certain functions such as those relating to the appointment of the Chief Fire Officer and the budget.

Fire fighting operations would not be affected by this proposal, the Chief Fire Officer will maintain control of day to day operational decisions.

We believe that these changes would improve how we deliver services and ensure that public money is used in the most effective way.

We believe that these proposed changes would;

- Improve the accountability of the Fire and Rescue Service through an elected GM Mayor.
- Allow Fire and Rescue to work more effectively with other Greater Manchester services to improve services for local people.
- Save public money by sharing corporate services such as human resources, finance and IT.

**Question 1. Do you agree or disagree that the Mayor takes responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Agree	<input type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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Greater Manchester currently has a joint Waste Disposal Authority made up of 19 elected members from nine local authorities. Wigan Council manages its own waste disposal and is not a full member of the joint Waste Disposal Authority.

The Waste Disposal Authority is responsible for dealing with the waste produced by

Greater Manchester with the aim of reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill. The Waste Disposal Authority is not responsible for waste collection which is managed by individual local councils.

We propose to integrate the powers of the Waste Disposal Authority into the GMCA. This means the GMCA, made up of representatives from the nine relevant local authorities, rather than the elected Mayor would be responsible for waste disposal functions. A Waste Committee would be appointed to oversee the operation of the service.

We believe that by integrating waste disposal services in to the GMCA we can make them more efficient, making them part of our wider plans to transform GM's services.

We believe that these proposed changes would;

- Improve the democratic accountability of waste disposal services through the GMCA
- Allow waste services to work more effectively with other GM services, for example our Low Carbon Unit, to improve services for local people.
- Save public money by sharing corporate services such as human resources, finance and IT.

This proposal will not affect waste disposal services in Wigan as Wigan Council will remain its own Waste Disposal Authority.

**Question 2. Do you agree or disagree that the GMCA takes responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority?**

	<b>Agree</b>		Neither agree or disagree		Disagree		No comment		
<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>			

In our first consultation we asked for your views on whether the GMCA should jointly share the powers that local authorities already have in relation to education, skills and employment and whether it should gain powers around apprenticeships and employment support held by the Secretary of State.

We would now like your views on whether the GMCA should gain more powers relating to education, skills and employment which are currently held by the Secretary of State.

The GMCA currently oversees adult skills and training in Greater Manchester but, if we had the additional powers currently held by the Secretary of State, we would also have responsibility for commissioning all adult skills training and education (for those over 19 years of age) in Greater Manchester.

Independent analysis has shown that Greater Manchester needs to plan for at least an extra 300,000 residents and create 220,000 new jobs over the next two decades. Using these new powers, the GMCA would be able to make sure that people living in

Greater Manchester have the right skills for the new local jobs being created.

We believe that these proposed changes could:

- Allow Greater Manchester to commission adult skills training and education to meet needs of local residents and employers.
- Help the GMCA's work to reduce unemployment
- Help raise the qualification levels of Greater Manchester people
- Help the GMCA to increase wage levels for local people

**Question 3. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals for Further Education, Skills and Employment Support?**

<input type="radio"/>	Agree	<input type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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## Transport

The GMCA is already the Local Transport Authority for Greater Manchester. Transport policies that affect the ten areas of Greater Manchester are set by the GMCA and its Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) Committee. For more information on the TFGM Committee please click [here](#)

Transport for Greater Manchester is the body that delivers the day to day operation of GMCA's transport functions, including:

- paying for bus services that are not provided commercially by bus operators - ensuring non-profitable services keep running where local people need them the most
- owning bus stations, shelters and stops in Greater Manchester
- providing travel information to passengers
- subsidising concessionary fares and free travel on buses, including paying to keep non-profitable services running where passengers need them most
- ensuring that local rail services meet local travel needs
- owning Metrolink
- promoting the use of public transport in Greater Manchester, to improve the environment and cut congestion
- delivery of major capital investment programmes
- installing, maintaining and managing traffic signals
- maintaining highway databases, surveys, modelling, analysis, appraisals and advice
- performance of highway routes, incident response and event management via the traffic control centre
- providing (in partnership) a shared analysis of strategic road safety and recommending interventions where they are required

We are proposing that the Greater Manchester Mayor has the power to determine bus routes in Greater Manchester through franchised bus services and also have responsibility for implementing a smart ticketing system, similar to London's Oyster Card, which would allow residents to travel using contactless payments.

The Greater Manchester Mayor would also oversee the registration of bus services, traffic regulation and would distribute grants to bus service operators. The GM Mayor would set out Greater Manchester's transport budget, which would need to be approved by a two-thirds majority of GMCA members. The GM mayor would also set out Greater Manchester's transport plan, which would need to be approved by a two thirds majority of GMCA members.

All other aspects of Greater Manchester transport, such as Metrolink, would remain the collective responsibility of the GMCA. It is proposed that the Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) Committee would become a joint committee of the Mayor alongside the current membership of the GMCA and the ten local councils.

We believe that these proposed changes would:

- Ensure that local transport plans and projects reflect the needs of local communities
- Provide more local control of bus routes, frequencies, fares, quality and accessibility standards
- Deliver a convenient and flexible smart ticketing system that works across transport types
- Improve the democratic accountability of transport services through the Mayor and the GMCA

**Question 4. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals for transport?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Agree	<input type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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**Question 4a. Why do you agree/disagree?**

We support the proposal, which principally relates to the Bus Services Bill currently going through Parliament and which would provide the option for combined authority areas with directly elected Mayors to be responsible for the running of their local bus services through a franchise model. This type of bus reform has been an aspiration for the Combined Authority for some time as a key component of a fully integrated transport strategy.

The GM devolution agreement signed in November 2014 by the 10 GM local authority Leaders, including Oldham's Leader, and Government included the provision for Greater Manchester to have more powers over routes and fares through bus franchising. At the present time, bus services are provided commercially and we have no control over them, although TfGM does provide support for a

network of socially necessary services which would otherwise be provided by operators on a commercial basis, but has a limited budget for this, which is getting smaller due to budget cuts. A smart ticketing system, similar to London's Oyster Card, would allow residents to travel using contactless payments and is something that is long overdue for Greater Manchester. In engaging with residents and community groups through, for example district executives and elected members, these issues come up frequently, particularly in respect of the changes that bus operators make to services that we are powerless to do anything about and that TfGM cannot justify as being subsidised.

**Question 4b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?**

As one of the constituent local authorities of the Combined Authority, we would expect these proposals to enable us through GMCA and the elected mayor to better meet the needs of our residents in terms of public transport provision, particularly bus services. At the present time we as a local authority and TfGM as the Local Transport Authority are limited in terms of the influence we have over bus services, with our only option in many cases being negotiation with the operator or a TfGM subsidy, which may be an option in some cases where a social need is identified.

The proposals can only offer an improvement on the current situation and are therefore supported.

## **Spatial Framework**

In our first consultation we asked for your views on whether the GMCA should have the power to create a Spatial Framework for Greater Manchester.

The Spatial Framework is a plan that manages the supply of land that we need for housing and employment across the city region.

We are now asking for views on whether the Spatial Framework should include maps so that we can be more transparent about our plan for land use across Greater Manchester. The maps will show what land is available for housing and/or employment.

We believe that this proposed change would:  
- Make Greater Manchester's joint plan for land use more accessible and transparent

**Question 5. Do you agree or disagree with our Spatial Framework proposal?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Agree	<input type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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**Question 5a. Why do you agree/disagree?**

A map/plan is essential to show how and where the allocation of housing and employment numbers are distributed.

**Question 5b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?**

Without a plan, it will not be possible to visualise how and where the allocation of housing and employment numbers are distributed therefore it is essential that the Spatial Framework should include maps.

## Overview and Scrutiny

As part of our review of decision-making and governance we are reviewing the arrangements we have for scrutinising the work of the Mayor and the GMCA.

During our review we considered two different options for effective scrutiny. The first was to have a single overview and scrutiny committee with sub committees.

The second was to have a number of separate overview and scrutiny committees - each having a distinct area of responsibility (such as employment, fire, housing or

planning) alongside a general committee which would consider issues outside of those areas.

Following consideration of each option we are proposing that we proceed with the second option - creating a number of themed overview and scrutiny committees. Membership will reflect the political balance of the ten Greater Manchester councils.

However, we believe that the overview and scrutiny needs of the GMCA may change over time and, as a result, we should allow flexibility to adjust our overview and scrutiny committee if required.

We believe that these proposed changes would:

- Ensure decision-makers at a Greater Manchester level are effectively held to account
- Ensure that issues or decisions affecting Greater Manchester are investigated thoroughly to improve the quality of the GMCA's work

**Question 6. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals regarding overview and scrutiny committees?**

<input type="radio"/>	Agree	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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**Question 6a. Why do you agree/disagree?**

We welcome the move to themed Scrutiny committees, as we believe this provides a greater opportunity for backbench Members to scrutinise, challenge and question GMCA leaders and the Mayor on their decision- and policy-making. We however think that an overarching Scrutiny Committee will be needed to manage the programme of the themed committees.

We also welcome the flexibility to adjust the themes over time to meet GMCA scrutiny needs.

**Question 6b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?**

We welcome the opportunity for more Members to participate in the Scrutiny process and the opportunity to cover a wider range of topics, issues and policy and activities.

We recognise that this approach will result in additional work required.

## Equalities

Equality lies at the heart of everything that GMCA seeks to achieve - from shaping a city-region that recognises the value and the needs of all of its residents, to delivering services that improve the life opportunities of our most vulnerable people.

GMCA will ensure through its own constitutional arrangements that appointments to its committees have regard to diversity and gender balance (as well as political and geographical balance).

Our current approach to equality relies upon the existing equality frameworks on the 10 constituent Local Authorities and key partners which play a significant role in delivering our priorities. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires these bodies to undertake equality analysis of all of its current and proposed functions.

By utilising this approach and integrating consideration of equality and good relations into our day-to-day business we continue to pay due regard to the three aims of the general equality duty which are the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

GMCA proposes that the Equality Act 2010 is amended to include GMCA within the definition of public authority and that equality safeguard within the act are extended to Members working on behalf of GMCA.

### Question 7. Do you agree or disagree with our equalities proposals?

<input type="radio"/>	Agree	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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### Question 7a. Why do you agree/disagree?

It is not that we either agree or disagree with either the statement or intent of



the GMCA; the question is more how the GMCA intend to achieve what they are setting out in the statement. For example:

- How do the GMCA intend to **ensure** that appointments to committees have regard to diversity and equality given that the pool of people eligible for those positions is itself limited in terms of diversity?
- The GMCA states that its approach is 'relying upon the existing equality frameworks of the ten authorities'. How does the GMCA intend to ensure that these frameworks are fit for purpose and that all authorities are currently complying with the PSED?
- In addition to relying upon the existing equality frameworks within the local authorities the GMCA also states that it will pay due regard through 'integrating consideration of equality and good relations into our day-to-day business'. What is the GMCA's own framework for doing this? How does it intend to embed equality considerations into its own systems and processes?
- In widening the definition to apply to combined authorities the GMCA will also be putting itself under the duty to publish service and workforce data as well as set equality objectives for the authority. How does the GMCA plan to fulfil these duties given its remit across the ten boroughs?

**Question 7b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?**

Oldham Council's approach to equality and diversity is compliant with the legal duties – and more. In line with our co-operative council ethos and Ethical Framework we are committed morally - as well as legally - to promote fairness, respect and working together. We will continue to operate in line with our current approach, flexing it to meet the requirements which devolution brings.

If there is to be an extra demand on the ten authorities in terms of helping the GMCA meet its own equality duties then we would ask that consideration be given to the amount of extra work that could be put upon districts, particularly given the ongoing funding reductions across all areas.

**If you have any further comments to make, please use the box below.**

Oldham Council agrees that the Greater Manchester Mayor takes responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority however, in order for minority political groups across Greater Manchester to be engaged, we would like to see a review of the political balance of the said committees, in order for this broader engagement to take place.

## About you

Who are you/who do you represent?

<input type="radio"/>	A member of the public
<input type="radio"/>	A business
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	A public bodies e.g. Local authorities, CCGs, Fire and Rescue, Police etc.

<input type="radio"/>	Other
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What is the name of your business?

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

What is the nature of your business?

Local Authority

What is the name of the public body you represent?

N/A

Please state

What is your home postcode? e.g. M40 2LA

OL9 1UG

What is the postcode of the business, organisation or body you represent? e.g. M40 2LA

OL9 1UG

We would like to ask you some questions about yourself. These questions are optional, you do not have to answer, but in doing so you will be helping the Greater Manchester Combined Authority ensure that the views collected through the consultation represent the views of the resident population. All responses will remain confidential.

What is your gender?

<input type="radio"/>	Male	<input type="radio"/>	Female	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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Do you identify with the gender you were assigned at birth? (e.g. male or female)

<input type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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What is your age?

<input type="radio"/>	Under 16	<input type="radio"/>	40 to 64 years	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="radio"/>	16 to 25 years	<input type="radio"/>	65 to 74 years		
<input type="radio"/>	26 to 39 years	<input type="radio"/>	75+ years		

What is your ethnic origin/background?

<input type="radio"/>	Black Caribbean	<input type="radio"/>	Pakistani	<input type="radio"/>	White and Asian
<input type="radio"/>	Black African	<input type="radio"/>	Roma / Roma Traveller	<input type="radio"/>	Other Mixed Origin
<input type="radio"/>	Black British	<input type="radio"/>	Vietnamese	<input type="radio"/>	Other African

<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	Bangladeshi	<input type="radio"/>	White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	<input type="radio"/>	Other Asian
<input type="radio"/>	Chinese	<input type="radio"/>	White - Irish	<input type="radio"/>	Other Black
<input type="radio"/>	Indian	<input type="radio"/>	White - Gypsy / Irish Traveller	<input type="radio"/>	Other White
<input type="radio"/>	Kashmiri	<input type="radio"/>	White and Black Caribbean	<input type="radio"/>	Other
<input type="radio"/>	Middle Eastern	<input type="radio"/>	White and Black African	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

<input type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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Please use this space if you would like to give more information.

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I would describe my sexuality as:

<input type="radio"/>	Lesbian	<input type="radio"/>	Bi-sexual	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="radio"/>	Gay	<input type="radio"/>	Heterosexual / Straight	<input type="radio"/>	Other

Please specify

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Do you identify with any religion or belief?

<input type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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<input type="radio"/>	Christian (Including Church of England / Catholic / Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	<input type="radio"/>	Sikh	<input type="radio"/>	Any other
<input type="radio"/>	Buddhist	<input type="radio"/>	Jewish		

<input type="radio"/>	Hindu	<input type="radio"/>	Muslim	
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Please state

What is your relationship status?

<input type="radio"/>	Single	<input type="radio"/>	Life-partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer to say
<input type="radio"/>	Married	<input type="radio"/>	Civil partnership	<input type="radio"/>	Other

Please state

Do you have caring responsibilities? If yes, please tick all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of a disabled adult / adults (18 and over)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of a child/children (under 18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of older person / people (65 and over)		

