

JOINT GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12 AUGUST 2016
AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Bolton MBC	Cllr Debbie Newall
Bury MBC	Cllr Roy Walker
Manchester CC	Cllr Ahmed Ali
Oldham MBC	Cllr Cheryl Brock
Rochdale MBC	Cllr Neil Butterworth Cllr Michael Holly
Salford CC	Cllr David Jolley Cllr John Walsh
Stockport MBC	Cllr Iain Roberts Cllr Yvonne Guariento Cllr John McGahan
Tameside MBC	Cllr John Bell
Trafford MBC	Cllr Barry Brotherton
Wigan MBC	Cllr John O'Brien (Chair) Cllr Pam Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE

GM Interim Mayor	Tony Lloyd
GMCA	Howard Bernstein Liz Treacy
GMIST	Rebecca Heron Susan Ford Nicola Ward

16/12 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kevin McKeon and Andrew Morgan (Bolton), Cllrs Stella Smith and R Skillen (Bury), Cllr Angeliki Stogia (Manchester), Cllrs Harkness and McLaren (Oldham), Cllr Sara Rowbotham (Rochdale), Cllr Jillian Collinson (Salford), Cllrs Kevin Welsh and Gill Peet (Tameside) and Cllrs Michael Young and Pam Dixon (Trafford).

16/13 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair thanked members for attending, but commented that low attendance remained an issue for the Pool. He urged all members that if they were unable to attend to notify GMIST of their apologies as soon as possible.

RESOLVED/-

That GMIST monitor attendance at GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool meetings and report back to the Chair.

16/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in respect to any item on the agenda.

16/15 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL MEETING HELD ON 10 JUNE 2016

The Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 10 June 2016 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 10 June 2016.

16/16 SCRUTINY POOL WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

A report detailing the outcomes of the Work Programming Session held on 8 July and a draft work programme for the Scrutiny Pool was submitted. Members were reminded that this was a live document and would be subject to change as items suggested by members will be brought for scrutiny at timely opportunities.

Members were also informed that the recommendations from the Employment and Skills Task and Finish Group had been submitted to the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Board and were well received. Officers were working with the Portfolio and Chief Executive Lead to pick up all recommendations and would be using an action tracker to ensure actions could be monitored and reported back regularly to the Pool.

Two Task and Finish Groups have been suggested for 2016/17, the first is a review of the GMCA communications strategy and its impact on local residents. The Pool appointed Cllr Angeliki Stogia as Chair, and formally endorsed the scope of this Task and Finish Group.

Cllr Neil Butterworth presented an idea for the second Task and Finish Group which was to investigate GM's work around energy and activities to reduce carbon emissions. He expressed concern regarding the perceived lack of investment in this area, and shared his hope that a review may accelerate GM towards its carbon reduction target.

The following members expressed an interest in joining this Task and Finish Group – Cllr Brock, Cllr Roberts, Cllr McLaren and Cllr Ali. Expressions of interest from other members of the Pool were invited.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the work programme and items identified for future meetings in 2016/17 be noted.
2. To endorse the GMCA Communications Task and Finish Group.
3. That GMIST circulate an email to the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool regarding the Task and Finish Group on GM Energy and that all members are invited to indicate their expressions of interest.

16/17 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which provided an update on each strategic priority of the Greater Manchester Strategy. Following comments from Scrutiny members in 2015 the report has been designed to be more user friendly and highlight the key data in relation to all areas of the performance framework.

He expressed his collective thanks to officers across GM who are delivering the objectives of the GMCA, and attributed an element of the success to the unique level of partnership working. Work in the areas of Early Years, Justice Rehabilitation and Health & Social Care Integration had been transformatory and data within the report echoed this. He also reported areas which needed an increased focus to ensure targets could be met, including work around Low Carbon and Business Growth.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** A Member suggested that the data could appear mis-leading as a range of data sets with different date had been used which did not allow for comparative analysis.
- A.** Officers agreed that the data needs to be comparable and as up to date as possible. Officers offered to review the data sets and reporting timescales used in the report, specifically those in the summary / infographic pages.
- Q.** Members were concerned that the salary data had shown no increase, and as a result GM was not performing as well as the UK average. It was suggested that comparable data should look at similar cities rather than UK as a whole.

- A.** Tony Lloyd reminded members that the data regarding salaries was not an average, but a median (mid-point) indicator. However, there remained some inequalities between employment groups and further ambition regarding the diversification of the economy would ensure increased employment remains a priority for GM.
- Q.** A member queried the data in relation to the numbers of affordable homes in Greater Manchester as residents are unaware of what the GM Housing Strategy means for them. The report indicated a 5% reduction in affordable homes which does not support GM's ambitions within the Strategy.
- A.** Officers recognised this as an area of priority for GM, but highlighted that this data does not include the outcomes of the GM Investment Fund which had been secured in July 2015 and would result in 15,000 new units and also the success of the empty homes programme bringing properties back into use.
- Q.** The report highlighted that 1/3 of children in GM are not achieving a good level of achievement. Members questioned as to whether the Troubled Families programme had been successful and what evidence there was of its impact.
- A.** Tony Lloyd reported that the Troubled Families programme had been more successful in GM than other areas, and offered to provide data to members of the Pool. However, there remain more un-skilled and under-skilled people in GM than the UK average and there needs to be continued expansion of the programme to ensure the greatest impact across all of its workstreams.
- Q.** Following the last question, another Member reported that although 4/10 children in GM are not school ready, 8/10 are achieving national averages at the end of Primary School, this is evidence of the success of schooling in GM and should be reported within the Performance Report.
- A.** Tony Lloyd thanked members for their reminder that GM is constantly changing and developing, and that a reflection on progress across the GMS would be a really useful way of evaluating outcomes.
- Q.** Members highlighted data within the report that evidenced where GM were falling behind expectations, specifically in house building, jobs growth, business continuity, and crime levels. They questioned whether data within the report could include how GM is improving year on year or comparable data with other areas rather than monitoring against UK average, and whether more detail on the narrative could help to build a sense of the current climate within GM.
- A.** Tony Lloyd recognised that the baseline can be an issue when measuring performance, as GM's baseline can vary from other comparative data. The report however does ensure that GM remain focussed on the areas which are falling behind expectations through using factual information. The data should also be seen in light of the current political, social and economic climate, and perhaps the narrative could illustrate this further.
- Q.** A member suggested that the GMCA needed to use local knowledge and data to ensure its strategy reflected the needs of local people.

- Q.** Members further reported that there are some anxieties surrounding the GM Spatial Framework and that communications regarding its objectives and current status could be improved. Press coverage needs to be accurate and controlled to reduce false information starting rumours.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the Greater Manchester Strategy Performance Report.
2. To provide data on the outcomes of the Troubled Families programme in Greater Manchester at a future meeting.
3. That GMIST review the comments from members with regards to how the GMS Performance Report can be improved.

16/18 REFRESHING THE GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGIC APPROACH

Members received a report of Tony Lloyd, Interim Mayor for Greater Manchester regarding the proposals for a refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy. He reminded the Pool that this strategy was published in 2013 and since that time there have been numerous political and social changes. Great Britain's referendum result to leave the EU brings further challenges for GM and a new landscape for economic growth.

The refresh will allow opportunity for a look back as to what GM has done well, the objectives which have been achieved, the targets which have not been achieved and the tools and framework needed to support further ambitious growth.

Sir Howard Bernstein, Head of the Paid Service for the GMCA informed the Pool that devolution to Greater Manchester offers wider capacity for achieving its aspirations than ever before. There is substantial work happening across GM to understand how the different challenges faced by communities can be addressed.

The Autumn Statement also promises to be an important staging post for the priorities of GM going forward. GM Leaders remain clear that there should be a pro-active agenda post Brexit to ensure all essential requirements are included in a settlement between GM and the EU. There are a number of issues to be addressed to ensure that GM assure for growth.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** Members felt that the success of GM to date has been built upon a successful track record of delivering. GM should be recognised as a key player in Europe and included in discussions for negotiations post Brexit.
- A.** Tony Lloyd commented that there was a good analysis of the impact of Brexit in the report and that the refresh of the GMS would be a timely opportunity to reflect on what is known and what is aspired for GM. Resilience will also feature in a revised strategy.

- Q.** Members welcomed a future report on the impact of Brexit on GM and its Internationalisation Strategy at the next meeting of the Pool, as local discussions regarding trade and employment links are already beginning.
- Q.** A member questioned the delivery of current EU funded programmes in Greater Manchester.
- A.** Sir Howard Bernstein reported that negotiations are already underway regarding the future of EU programmes in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report and endorse the proposal to revisit and refresh the Greater Manchester Strategy.
2. To receive a report on the impact of Brexit to Greater Manchester and its Internationalisation Strategy at the next meeting of the Pool.

16/19 THE GMCA ORDER CONSULTATION

Members received a report of Tony Lloyd, Interim Mayor for Greater Manchester on the proposed new powers for the GMCA and Mayor post 2017.

The report detailed proposed governance arrangements for all bodies which would be part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority including Fire, Waste and Scrutiny.

Members had been invited through their own Local Authority to contribute towards the online consultation, but this report provided another opportunity to review the considerations before the Order is submitted to Government.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** A member queried whether once the Mayor is elected, if he/she is able to override the Order and determine their own arrangements.
- A.** It was reported that the Order will be established by Secondary Legislation and can not be changed outside of Parliament. The Order will determine which functions are the responsibility of the Mayor and which are the responsibility of the GMCA.
- Q.** Members questioned how the nomination process will work for a Fire Committee and Scrutiny Committee.
- A.** Officers informed the Pool that the Mayor will be responsible to approve appointments to the Fire Committee but that appointments to the Scrutiny Committee will remain the responsibility of the GMCA.
- Q.** Members urged that the GMCA should advocate and challenge equalities and discrimination in all of its work, and strive for inclusivity within its future governance proposals.

RESOLVED/-

That comments from the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool are fed into the GMCA Order Consultation.

16/20 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016/17

8 July 2016	13 January 2017
9 September 2016	10 February 2017
14 October 2016	10 March 2017
11 November 2016	7 April 2017
9 December 2016	

All meetings will be held 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Manchester Town Hall unless otherwise advertised.

CHAIR

