

# Investing in Greater Manchester transport 2014/2015



# GMCA

GREATER MANCHESTER  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

[www.agma.gov.uk](http://www.agma.gov.uk)

## Transport investment and funding

Improving transport is a key priority for GMCA. This year, GMCA will receive an average of £73.31 per person in Greater Manchester from the transport levy on Council Tax. The total amount which GMCA will receive is the same as for 2013/14. However, because it includes a budgeted increase of 3% in the funding of the Greater Manchester Transport Fund there is a reduction of 3% in funding for the rest of GMCA's operating costs.

Total expenditure on transport activities by GMCA is budgeted to be £305.1 million in the 2013/14 financial year and £313.4 million in 2014/15. The majority of this spending is undertaken by TfGM on behalf of GMCA.

## Delivering value for money transport improvements

GMCA is committed to delivering a better, more integrated and efficient transport system. Long term investment is provided through the Greater Manchester Transport Fund, which is financing the Metrolink extensions, Interchange, Bus Priority and other transport schemes across the conurbation.

In order to maintain this vital long term investment in the context of severe funding constraints across local government, further efficiencies and cost savings have been identified. These include significant reductions in TfGM's operating expenditure and reductions in the subsidised bus service and accessible transport budgets.

## Spending on transport

GMCA/TfGM's expenditure falls into the following principal areas.

	2013/2014 (£ million)	2014/2015 (£ million)
Concessionary fares – all modes	68.2	69.3
Supported bus services	34.6	31.8
Accessible transport	5.4	5.4
Passenger services, facilities & support	39.0	35.8
Grant funded costs	8.9	6.0
Rail support	64.3	71.8
Finance costs	84.7	93.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>305.1</b>	<b>313.4</b>

## Concessionary fares

The current range of concessionary fares includes:

- Free off-peak bus, local rail and Metrolink travel for older people.
- Under 16s – half fare at all times on bus and Metrolink when using an igo pass.
- Over 16s still in full-time education – half fare on bus, rail and Metrolink between home and school/college.
- Free off-peak travel for disabled people on bus, rail and Metrolink and half fare on bus, rail and Metrolink before 9.30am.
- Free travel for Concession Plus pass holders on bus, rail and Metrolink at all times.

**Supported bus** - Most of Greater Manchester's bus services are operated on a commercial basis by private companies. TfGM currently subsidises around 20% of bus services, which are socially necessary but that bus companies are unwilling to operate commercially. TfGM also funds:

- Yellow and standard school bus services.
- Local Link services.
- Free Metroshuttle bus services in Bolton, Manchester and Stockport, with the support of district authorities.

**Accessible transport** - TfGM funds Ring and Ride, a door-to-door minibus service using accessible vehicles and is for people of all ages who find it difficult to use ordinary public transport. TfGM also provides Travel Vouchers for people with serious walking difficulties or who are registered blind and who are unable to use conventional public transport.

**Passenger services** - TfGM has the primary role in planning, investing in, co-ordinating and managing transport services and infrastructure schemes across Greater Manchester. TfGM operates and maintains 22 bus stations and interchanges, as well as Travelshops and Cycle Hubs. TfGM is also responsible for over 12,000 bus stops and 4,400 bus shelters and is a key provider of public transport information.

**Grant funded costs** - This includes funding for a range of initiatives across Greater Manchester including a Travel Choices programme, enabling Community Transport, a Commuter Cycling project and investment in Smart Technology to enhance travel information.

**Rail support** - TfGM passes on Department for Transport rail funding to Northern Rail, and it also provides direct funding for certain rail services in Greater Manchester.

**Finance costs** - include the cost of borrowings (repayments and interest) undertaken to deliver the major transport capital programmes for Greater Manchester. This includes the costs of funding historic infrastructure developments, as well as schemes funded through the Greater Manchester Transport Fund. The current level of transport investment across Greater Manchester is unprecedented, and represents the largest public transport investment programme outside London.

## Investing in transport

GMCA/TfGM receives the following funding to provide for its expenditure.

	2013/2014 (£ million)	2014/2015 (£ million)
Levy on district councils (council tax)	198.1	198.1
Funding from reserves/third parties	32.1	36.2
Rail grant (DfT)	65.9	73.1
Other grants (DfT)	8.9	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>305.1</b>	<b>313.4</b>

**Levy on districts councils** - TfGM receives funding from several sources to provide for the transport expenditure outlined above. The largest part of its revenue funding comes from a levy on the ten Greater Manchester local authorities via the council tax. In total, this accounts for £198.1 million in 2014/15.

**Funding from reserves/third parties** - In addition, financial reserves and contributions from third parties will provide a further £36.2 million which is used, primarily, to support further transport investment through the Greater Manchester Transport Fund.

**Rail grant** - The Department for Transport provides a rail grant to TfGM, which is budgeted to be £73.1million in 2014/15; the vast majority of which is passed on to Northern Rail.

**Other grants** - TfGM has been successful in securing capital and revenue funding from the national Local Sustainable Transport and Cycle City Ambition Funds. £6.0 million of this revenue funding will be spent in 2014/15.

## Progress in 2013/14

- New Metrolink lines have opened to East Didsbury, Ashton and Oldham town centre and work continues to progress on new extensions to Rochdale town centre (due to open in spring 2014) and Manchester Airport via Wythenshawe. A new stop has been opened at Queens Road; work has begun on a second Metrolink line through Manchester city centre; and plans for the Trafford Line Metrolink extension are being progressed. 31 new trams have been added to the fleet during the year, and 18 of the old trams retired from service.
- Significant progress has been made on four new town centre, state-of-the-art transport interchanges. A brand new facility opened at Rochdale in November 2013 and work is now underway in Altrincham, Bolton and Wythenshawe.
- Work has started on the 4.5-mile Leigh - Ellenbrook guided busway as part of a wider scheme to enable fast, frequent and reliable bus travel and cross-city bus services.
- A new commuter cycling hub has opened in Ashton, with further hubs planned for Trafford, Wigan, Oldham and Stockport and the new interchanges at Altrincham and Bolton. Hundreds of people across GM have benefitted from cycle training, Learn to Ride and Bike Maintenance sessions.
- Funding has been secured for new environmentally friendly hybrid-electric buses, and to upgrade engines on some older Yellow School Buses to cut down on harmful emissions.

## Looking ahead

GMCA and its Transport Committee are committed to delivering further improvements to Greater Manchester's transport infrastructure and services. Our key priority remains to improve, integrate and promote low carbon, sustainable public transport and active travel in Greater Manchester. This will help to support economic prosperity and provide better access to employment, education, training, and public services. We will continue to invest in new, much-needed transport infrastructure and will work to secure the maximum value from existing infrastructure and services. Further priorities include:

- Delivering 'Get me there', the new smart ticketing system for Greater Manchester; a new electronic way of paying for and using public transport that will make it easier and more flexible to get around. 'Get me there' will be introduced first on Metrolink in 2014, with bus services planned to be included in 2015 and local rail services in 2017.
- Ensuring Greater Manchester secures the maximum benefit from the investment into High Speed Rail and the Northern Hub rail programme.
- Working with partners to make the highway network in Greater Manchester as efficient as possible.
- Maintaining a tight control of capital and revenue budgets and contracts in relation to the ongoing construction of major transport schemes.

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) comprises the leaders of the ten local authorities in Greater Manchester. It co-ordinates economic development, regeneration and transport to support Greater Manchester's economic performance.

GMCA receives most of its funding for transport from a levy on the local authorities, which is collected through council tax. GMCA also funds other Greater Manchester-wide functions, including business support, tourism and marketing.

## Transport for Greater Manchester Committee

A joint committee of GMCA and the ten local authorities, Transport for Greater Manchester Committee comprises 33 councillors from across Greater Manchester. It advises GMCA on transport policy and funding, and scrutinises the work of TfGM and operators which provide public transport services.

## Transport for Greater Manchester

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) carries out the transport policies of GMCA and the TfGM Committee and is accountable to those bodies. TfGM owns the Metrolink tram network, which is operated on TfGM's behalf by MRDL, part of the RATP Group.

TfGM works with bus and rail companies and with Greater Manchester's local authorities to improve the transport network. TfGM is also responsible for managing traffic signals, provides traffic and road safety information, and is working towards a more co-ordinated strategic highway network.

TfGM helps to connect people to places by providing them with the information and choices they have to make their journeys, from public transport, to walking, and to cycling.

## Further information

GMCA and the TfGM Committee meet regularly in public. Detailed information on the 2014/15 budget and associated transport matters can be found online at:

[www.agma.gov.uk](http://www.agma.gov.uk)  
[www.tfgmc.gov.uk](http://www.tfgmc.gov.uk)

Further information on the work of TfGM, and comprehensive local travel information, can be found at:

[www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)

Alternatively, for any additional information, please write to:

**Sir Howard Bernstein**  
**Head of Paid Service**  
**GMCA**  
**PO Box 532**  
**Town Hall**  
**Albert Square**  
**Manchester**  
**M60 2LA**

For information on public transport or to request the information in this leaflet in another format, such as Braille, Large Print, audio CD or in other languages, please phone Traveline on **0871 200 22 33**.

Calls to 0871 200 22 33 cost 10p per minute from a BT landline. Mobile and other networks may charge an additional tariff. Lines are open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.