## Greater Manchester Cyber Security Advisory Group

### Academic Chair Expressions of Interest

April 2023

### Purpose

This paper sets out the process that invites applications for the Academic Chair of the Greater Manchester Cyber Security Advisory Group (CAG).

### Context

The Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham and the combined authority together with industry leaders have established a bold aim for Greater Manchester, namely for:

**“Greater Manchester** **to be recognised as a leading global digital city region and top five in Europe”.**

This ambition is firmly embedded within the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy and the Greater Manchester Blueprint and is placed at the heart of economic recovery post-COVID19 as well as a recognised driver for building economic recovery, resilience and growth.

### About the Cyber Advisory Group

The purpose of the CAG is to ensure that economic growth relating to cyber security is maximised in Greater Manchester and the wider North, and that the cyber resilience of the city region is enhanced.

Specifically, it guides and informs the activities within the GM Cyber portfolio of activities, be a means through which new opportunities are identified and progressed, and ensure relevant connections are made across to the other activities with the GM Digital portfolio and more widely outside Greater Manchester.

CAG reports to the GMCA Digital Steering Group and brings together representatives of the relevant part of the cyber ecosystem in Greater Manchester. Specifically, it:

* Provides aspirational input into the design of GM Cyber activities and capabilities
* Initiates, evaluates and prioritises opportunities
* Monitors the performance of individual work areas
* Aligns activities across the sector in Greater Manchester
* Reviews and supports the resolution of GM Cyber risks and issues.
* Provides a means a representing the sector in Greater Manchester to wider stakeholders including Government.
* Raises awareness of priorities, activities and progress across GM by championing the programme.
* Escalates opportunities and risks or issues to the GM Digital Steering Group.

Activity is focused on activities and opportunities across four key themes. This will be reviewed in the content of the new GM Cyber Strategy, due to be published shortly:

* Innovation
* Skills and talent
* Collaboration
* Social impact

There are roles & responsibilities that are specific to certain board positions:

* Academic chair:
	+ To attend and chair the group
	+ To attend the GM Digital Steering Group
* Industry chair:
	+ To stand in for the chair in the absence of the chair

The Academic Chair and Industry Chair are responsible to act as the outward spokespeople of the CAG, raising its profile within and outside of Government and cluster groups in order to maximise the impact of its work.

The Chairs are responsible for reporting actions and concerns to the GM Digital Steering Group. The CAG reports to the GM Digital Steering Group and the Terms of Reference for the CAG will be approved by the GM Digital Steering Group.

The CAG and Chairs are supported by the Digital team at GMCA.

### Length of term for academic chair and industry chair positions

The Academic Chair is selected from a non-commercial background and serve a two-year extendable term, limited to three years to ensure renewal and refreshment of ideas.

The Industry Chair will be selected from Industry and serve a one-year extendable term to ensure flexibility and focussed impact.

### Ways of Working

CAG meets every two months. Dates will be set in advance by the Academic Chair, Industry Chair, GMCA Chief Information Officer and the GMCA Digital Innovations and Partnership Lead.

The chairs and GMCA Chief Information Officer may invite guests appropriate for the agenda.

Recorded actions of the meeting will be distributed to all members.

A quorum of five members is required to hold an advisory group meeting and to pass decisions.

### Process for agreeing a new Academic Chair

With the retirement of the previous Academic Chair, this position is now open and the CAG has agreed that the process for agreeing a new Academic Chair should be open and transparent.

The process consists of two parts:

* Applications for the Academic Chair post from interested individuals.
* Assuming there is more than one, a selection activity involving a sub-set of members from the Group, led by the Industry Chair and GMCA.

It is sincerely hoped that academic colleagues with ties to digital security from across the GM Cyber ecosystem will apply for this post.

Individuals interested in taking up the position of Academic Chair, are asked to submit a short response (less than two sides A4 in total) to the following questions.

Responses should be submitted to beena.puri@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

Questions:

1. Please summarise your knowledge and experience in digital security?
2. What do you see as the key cybersecurity challenges facing the UK and what do you think is Greater Manchester’s role in addressing them?
3. What do you see as the role of the Greater Manchester Cyber Security Advisory Group in shaping the future of cybersecurity across the UK and how would you work with GMCA and the co-chair to lead the group to achieve that vision?
4. If you became chair of the CAG what be your priority areas of focus for the first 6-12 months?
5. What key activities do you feel can help raise the profile of Greater Manchester’s cyber ecosystem and develop the strengths within the region?