

GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 15 JANUARY 2016
AT SCRUTINY ROOM, TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER**

PRESENT

Bolton Council	Cllr Andrew Morgan
Manchester CC	Cllr Ahmed Ali Cllr Angeliki Stogia
Oldham MBC	Cllr Colin McLaren
Rochdale MBC	Cllr Neil Butterworth Cllr Robert Clegg Cllr Sara Rowbotham
Salford CC	Cllr John Ferguson Cllr Jillian Collinson Cllr John Walsh
Stockport MBC	Cllr Wendy Wild
Tameside MBC	Cllr John Bell Cllr Gill Peet
Trafford MBC	Cllr Barry Brotherton Cllr Pam Dixon
Wigan MBC	Cllr John O'Brien (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE

Interim Mayor	Tony Lloyd
Trafford Council	Cllr Sean Anstee
GM PSR Team	Andrew Lightfoot
New Economy	Gemma Marsh
GMIST	Susan Ford
	Kerry Bond

15/60 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Alan Bury (Bolton); Ian Bevan (Bury); Matt Strong (Manchester); Cath Ball (Oldham); Julia Turner (Oldham); Susan Ingham (Stockport); John McGahan (Stockport); Maria Bailey (Tameside); Jonathan Coupe (Trafford); Edward Houlton (Wigan); Pam Stewart (Wigan).

15/61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Greater Manchester Employment and Skills Update
 Councillor Robert Clegg - Personal - Councillor Clegg declared an interest the as the Chair of Corporation at Hopwood Hall College.

15/62 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2015

The minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 11 December 2015 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 11 December 2015.

15/63 SCRUTINY POOL WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16 AND UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE SCRUTINY REVIEW

Susan Ford introduced the report detailing the work programme schedule for the coming months.

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled fro 13 May 2016 be cancelled.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree the contents of the work programme, noting the consolidated forward plan for GMCA and AGMA meetings for the next four months.
2. To agree that the meeting scheduled fro 13 May 2016 be cancelled.
3. To note that the transport update scheduled for February be deferred to a future meeting.
4. To agree to receive a report on Children Service Review to the meeting scheduled for 12 February 2016.

15/64 GREATER MANCHESTER DEVOLUTION UPDATE

Tony Lloyd and Andrew Lightfoot presented a report updating members on the additional freedoms and flexibilities awarded to Greater Manchester as part of a further Devolution Agreement, announced as part of the Spending Review announcement made on 25 November 2015.

This agreement reaffirmed the Government's commitment to maximising devolution to Greater Manchester over time and also identified a number of areas for further joint work including, housing, energy, employment support, apprenticeships and energy. The work programme contained in table 2 of the report summarises the key tasks to be undertaken to progress the key areas of work, prior to the development of a wider implementation plan which will cover all aspects of the devolution settlement to date. This plan will be considered by the GMCA in January.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

Q. *With regards to the health agenda, are we on schedule and receiving cooperation from government departments involved with the April 2017 timeline?*

A. The GMCA will require the ability to exercise health related functions from April 2016 to enable it to play a full part in health and social care devolution. It is proposed that this will be the way of providing for the GMCA to have the function that all local authorities have under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to take appropriate steps to improve the health of people who live in their area.

The Cities and Devolution Bill went through the report stage in the House of Commons on 7th December and went back into the House of Lords on 12th January, it is anticipated that it will receive Royal Assent within the next week. Further work is taking place on other additional powers required to implement devolution from April 2016.

Discussions have taken place with DCLG on the timetable for implementation of the Orders required. The first Order will create the GM Mayor role, and allow for the Mayor to exercise the functions of the PCC for the Greater Manchester police area. It also provides for the election of the Mayor in May 2017 for an initial three year term and removes the requirement for a GM PCC election in May 2016.

It is anticipated that the Order will be laid immediately after the bills Royal Assent to meet the timetable required to stop the PCC election. The Order requires the consent of GMCA and the 10 constituent Councils.

Q. *What resource is available and how will this, and future requirements be managed, due to local authority cuts?*

A. We are fortunate to be starting with an established AGMA resource, receiving significant contribution from the 10 local authorities and partners enabling the delivery the best possible outcomes from the funds awarded.

The cuts within authorities will have an impact to some extent but Leaders and Chief Executives are committed to the devolution deal.

Q. *Local Councillors need an assurance that they have a role to play.*

A. It has recently been proposed to improve the efficiency of the GMCA portfolio arrangements and increase strategic leadership capacity through the appointment of Deputy Portfolio lead members. Each portfolio area will have an overview of key priorities and areas of responsibility, there will also be a cross-portfolio role profile for deputy lead members.

GMCA and AGMA meetings are now being live streamed this will be rolled out to other strategic GM meetings, including Scrutiny Pool.

The role of local Councillors to liaise with local communities is important; a report being taken to a future GMCA meeting will be circulated to Scrutiny Pool members when available.

Q. What are your views on hotel bedroom tax?

A. We want Government to understand the merits of hotel bedroom tax that could be used to fund particular strategic initiatives. Under our current devolution deal, a business rate may be implemented by the elected mayor to enhance capacity of jobs, employment etc, this would need be agreed by the GMCA and LEP.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.
2. That the report, when taken to the GMCA be circulated to Scrutiny Pool members.

15/65 GREATER MANCHESTER EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS UPDATE

Councillor Sean Anstee and Theresa Grant presented a report updating members on employment & skills activity across Greater Manchester, including:

- Area Based Review
 - National reforms to post-16 education
 - GM Context
 - Progress update since instigation of the review on 21 September 2015
- Expansion of the GM Working Well Programme - Employment Devolution
 - Working Well Pilot
 - Jointly Commissioned Work Programme with DwP
 - Work and Health Programme – to replace the work programme at it's conclusion in April 2017
- Job Centre Plus (JCP)
 - One GM JCP district
 - JCP service delivery integration
 - GM Context
- European Social Fund (ESF)
 - ESF Calls: launched and in the pipeline
- Spending Review and Devolution opportunities
 - Employment
 - Skills
 - Apprenticeships

Q. How are demographic needs taken into account under the Area Based Review and is there pressure on resource as participation age increases?

A. The need of communities are to be considered within detailed analysis of provision across GM, recognising that raising participation age does have resource implications. We will be working collaboratively with primary and secondary schools to improve performance so that Post 16 education doesn't need to allocate as much resource to ensuring young people reach GCSE equivalent in english and maths.

Q. Has a business and apprenticeships needs analysis been carried out?

A. GMCA have commissioned New Economy, Oxford Economics & KPMG to carry out detailed financial modelling which will provide us with overarching GM forecasts by

sector and qualification level which will outline expansion and replacement demand, as well as provide in-depth information relating to growth opportunities for specific districts. This work is scheduled to be completed by 31st January 2016.

In the Spending Review it was announced that the Work Programme will not be re-commissioned, but would be replaced by a new Work and Health Programme, similar to GM's Working Well. The new programme will focus on long-term benefit claimants with a disability or health condition.

GM has been fully engaged with DWP to shape every stage of the new programme, it may also be decided to use its ESF to increase capacity in the new programme and extend eligibility to further cohorts.

Q. Is NEETS data tracked across the 10 authorities?

A. There isn't enough NEET analysis taking place, a more effective mechanism to track NEETS across GM boundaries is required.

Q. There has been a series of separate college workshops and NEET workshops, will these be linked?

A. Yes, they have been set up to follow the Area Based Review process, there are additional GM workshops to cover for example travel to learn, these all flow into the Area Based Review.

Q. There is a concern that a high percentage of children are not school ready, what can be done to address this?

A. The need to concentrate on early intervention and prevention is recognised, if we are to address the issue of children not being school ready.

We need to look at the children's aspect of devolution, taking best of provision to ensure that there is a service that is beneficial to all children across the GM districts.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.
2. That an update report including NEET, apprenticeships and Work & Health Programme commissioning be brought to a future meeting.
3. That a report on Children Service Review be brought to the meeting scheduled for 12 February.

15/66 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015/16

The schedule of meetings for 2015/16 was agreed as-

12 February 2016

11 March 2016 - hosted by Manchester Airport

8 April 2016

10 June 2016

All meetings will be held 1:00pm - 3:00pm at Manchester Town Hall except for the meeting scheduled for 11 March 2016.

Chair

