

JOINT GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2016
AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Bolton MBC	Cllr Kevin McKeon Cllr Debbie Newall
Bury MBC	Cllr Roy Walker Cllr Stella Smith
Manchester CC	Cllr Angeliki Stogia
Oldham MBC	Cllr Colin McLaren
Rochdale MBC	Cllr Michael Holly
Salford CC	Cllr David Jolley
Stockport MBC	Cllr Yvonne Guariento Cllr John McGahan
Tameside MBC	Cllr John Bell Cllr Gillian Peet
Trafford MBC	Cllr Barry Brotherton Cllr Pam Dixon Cllr Michael Young
Wigan MBC	Cllr John O'Brien (Chair) Cllr Pam Stewart

IN ATTENDANCE

GMCA	Cllr Richard Leese
NEW ECONOMY	John Holden
GMIST	Susan Ford Nicola Ward

16/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Morgan (Bolton), Cllr Cheryl Brock (Oldham), Cllrs Neil Butterworth and Sara Rowbotham (Rochdale), Cllrs Jillian Collinson and John Walsh (Salford).

16/22 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair thanked members for attending, and reminded members to give their apologies if they are unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED/-

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

16/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16/24 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2016

The Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 12 August 2016 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 12 August 2016.

16/25 SCRUTINY POOL WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

Members received a report on the Work Programme for the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool, which also included a forward plan of reports being brought to the GMCA and AGMA Executive Board.

Members were asked to note the progress of each of the Scrutiny Task and Finish groups as set out in section 2 of the report.

A member queried whether there could be regular progress reports on the GM Strategy (GMS) performance framework. Officers reminded the Pool that the GMS Performance Report was an annual iteration, however regular updates on the key performance indicators could be shared and in addition specific areas of the GMS could be brought forward for detailed scrutiny.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny work programme.
2. To note the progress with each of the Scrutiny task and finish groups.
3. To include updates on the GMS key performance indicators within the work programme.

16/26 BREXIT IMPLICATIONS FOR GREATER MANCHESTER AND INTERNATIONALISATION

Sir Richard Leese, GMCA Portfolio Holder for Economic Strategy introduced a report which updated members on the work underway to understand the full implications of Brexit on Greater Manchester and the development of an appropriate policy response.

He identified that there are some long and short term issues and specifically referenced the risk of reduction in EU funding particularly for research and investment. He also raised the potential impact for recruitment, trade and investment for companies in GM and social policy issues including the risk of increased hate crime.

GM Leaders have discussed the key priorities for minimising the impact of Brexit which will include a revised International Strategy to review the placement of EU directives and responsibilities and to ensure that GM continues to have market access both in Europe and worldwide. The GMCA will also be looking at the future funding options for programmes which are currently funded by the EU to ensure that the benefits of these programmes remain evident for Greater Manchester.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** Members queried the cost of Brexit to GM figure of £350m, and how this was calculated?
- A.** It was explained that this is a close approximation of funds in the current 6 year European Structural Funds Investment Plan programme (the exact amount is dependent on the Euro's exchange rate). This figure doesn't include funds that GM could access from other European programmes for example Horizon 2020. Officers reminded the Pool that the financial modelling of Brexit's impact will be dependent on the future negotiated relationship between Britain and the EU.
- Q.** A member commented that not all regulations are imposed by because of EU directives, sometimes the UK has decided to enhance the European regulations. Therefore we need to lobby to ensure that the UK's post Brexit regulatory regime does not disadvantage British companies.
- A.** Officers reported that there are discussions ongoing with businesses regarding rules and regulations and current information indicated that the existing regulations will be lifted to the UK and then issues will be dealt with as and when required.
- Q.** Members urged that GM also communicate the positive impact of Brexit and ensure that we do not miss out on the opportunities that are being offered. A member

reported that there had been an increase in the FTSE 250 post Brexit, but this data was not included in the report.

- A.** Officers urged members to be aware that financial statistics are constantly changing and that the reported data is lagged due to monthly reporting cycles. They further reported that it will only be once Brexit actually happens, that the full impact will be understood.
- Q.** Members expressed concern that trade negotiations should be undertaken concurrently with the wider Brexit negotiations and not deferred.
- Q.** A member asked what GM programmes will not be able to secure their EU funding?
- A.** It was reported that recent Government announcements stipulate that only those programmes which have signed contracts before the Autumn Statement will be guaranteed to receive their EU funding. Therefore GM will be trying to progress both the Northern Powerhouse and Evergreen 2 programmes as rapidly as possible to begin the contract before this deadline.
- Q.** Members urged that GM should give out an accurate and positive message regarding Brexit to reduce myths and rumour. Some sectors are reporting business growth in trade and employment opportunities.
- A.** Officers re-iterated that some sectors were doing well post Brexit but reported that other sectors were not doing as well. Currently there has been no change to trade as Britain is still a member of the EU, but there are anticipated changes to tariffs that will have a more adverse effect across UK trading.
- Q.** A member commented that the Brexit Monitor was a useful document for elected members as asked whether it could be shared on a regular basis. It was also suggested that this information should be more publically available.
- A.** Officers agreed that the regular report which will be prepared on a monthly basis for the GMCA should also be shared with the Scrutiny Pool. Officers offered to look at ways for wider publication of the Brexit Monitor.
- Q.** Members asked officers if they could identify any current EU rules and regulations that when they are repatriated that could be devolved down to GM rather than to Whitehall. And, if any are identified to ensure that these are included in negotiations with Central Government. One example, is that sometimes it is time consuming to ensure that qualifications gained outside the UK recognised here (and visa-versa), and this can restrict students when work opportunities, and could ultimately act as a drag on economic growth.
- A.** It was reported that attracting highly skilled labour remains a priority for GM and ensuring we have access to the international labour market will form some of the discussions which are already underway regarding Brexit. GM has a strong track record for successful lobbying within Government and will look to maximise all opportunities that Brexit could bring. GM Leaders are committed to building confidence in GMs economic position now and in the future.

- Q.** Members expressed concern regarding the increased levels of hate crime since the Brexit announcement and the increased divisions amongst communities. Members questioned whether there was any support from Government to help GM build community cohesion?
- A.** At the meeting of the GMCA in July the Chief Constable spoke of the increased levels of hate crime. Efforts to address community cohesion requires action from all GM Local Authorities and partner organisations as issues are more often on a local community level.
- Q.** Members further urged that GM should keep publicising our strengths, economic growth, and future aspirations to continue to encourage investment from across the globe. Some members reported a loss in confidence in the UK following the decision to leave the EU and this could have an impact on attracting students, professionals and businesses to GM.
- A.** Members were assured that despite the period of uncertainty, that GM are committed to strengthening links across the UK for Greater Manchester now and in the future.
- Q.** Concerns regarding the imposing of trading tariffs between the UK and other countries in Europe were raised.
- A.** Officers reported that many businesses see the rules and regulations of importing and exporting a larger issue than the potential imposing of tariffs.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report.
2. That the Scrutiny Pool receive the Brexit Monitor at each meeting for information.

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