

JOINT GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER 2016
AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Bury MBC	Cllr Roy Walker
Manchester CC	Cllr Ahmed Ali Cllr Zahara Alijah Cllr James Wilson
Oldham MBC	Cllr Colin McLaren (Chair)
Rochdale MBC	Cllr Neil Butterworth
Salford CC	Cllr Jillian Collinson Cllr David Jolley
Stockport MBC	Cllr Yvonne Guariento Cllr John McGahan Cllr Iain Roberts
Tameside MBC	Cllr Gillian Peet
Trafford MBC	Cllr Barry Brotherton Cllr Pam Dixon Cllr Michael Young

IN ATTENDANCE

GMCA	Andrew Lightfoot Jacob Botham
GMIST	Susan Ford Nicola Ward Emma Stonier

16/27 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs John O'Brien and Pam Stewart (Wigan), Cllrs Kevin McKeown and Debbie Newall (Bolton), Cllrs Garth Harkness and Cheryl Brock (Oldham), Cllrs Sara Rowbotham and Michael Holly (Rochdale) and Cllr John Bell (Tameside).

16/28 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed Councillors Wilson and Alijah to Scrutiny Pool and thanked Councillors Strong and Stogia for their previous work on behalf of the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool.

16/29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

16/30 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 9 September 2016 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the Minutes of the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 9 September 2016, with one minor amendment to note that Cllr Ahmed Ali sent apologies.

16/31 GMCA/AGMA SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

Members received a report to review and amend the Work Programme for the GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool for 2016/17.

Members were asked to consider the addition of an item to the Work Programme for December, on the pre-consultation for the refresh of the Greater Manchester Spatial Strategy.

A member asked that consideration be given to the impact of Brexit on the future of the Graphene Centre and other European Funded Projects for Science and Innovation and suggested that a report be brought to a future meeting. GMCA officers agreed to liaise with the University and report back at the November meeting of the Scrutiny Pool. GMCA officers requested that the member also provided clarification on the particular projects being referred to.

A member asked whether there were detailed delivery plans to deliver on the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. GMCA Officers will schedule items relating to delivery plans for the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool work programme post December 2016.

A member asked for clarity on the remit of the Scrutiny Pool in relating to Health and Social Care devolution. GMCA officers will provide a note to members which sets out the differences between the GM Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and the GMCA/AGMA Scrutiny Pool.

A member noted that the date for publication of the draft Spatial Framework is 20 October and public consultation will not be completed by November. Officers informed members that the consultation will be live when the report comes to Scrutiny.

A member asked whether feedback would be provided to the Scrutiny Pool following the Task and Finish Groups on Friday 14 October and Tuesday 18 October. Officers informed members that on the completion of Task and Finish Group work a report will be produced for members and in addition matters of specific interest will be reported back to Scrutiny Pool as appropriate.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note items for the 2016/17 Scrutiny Work Programme.
2. To note the progress with Scrutiny's Task and Finish work as set out in section 2.
3. To add GMS re-fresh consultation report to the forward plan for December 2016.

16/32 GMCA TRANSITION

Andrew Lightfoot, GMCA Deputy Head of Paid Service gave a presentation which provided an overview of the transition programme, highlighting key workstreams (governance and scrutiny, finance and resourcing, legal and integrated staffing structures) and areas of progress to date.

There has been significant work across all workstreams since the devolution agreements were signed. The election of a GM Mayor will take place on 4 May 2017 and the Mayor will take office on the 8 May. Secondary legislation is currently working its way through Parliament. From May 2017 the GMCA and the GM Mayor will assume a raft of new powers in areas such as policing, fire and planning. Work is currently underway to understand how current CA functions and associate bodies fit into the new arrangements.

The CA will remain a lean organisation within existing budgets and will have a number of integrated corporate business functions. The current locations of functions of the GMCA are dispersed, post 2017 the CA will have support staff in one administrative headquarters. From 8 May 2017 the GMCA will have approximately 2500 staff, the majority being the 2000 members of staff from the fire service, which includes 1600 uniform staff.

The secondary legislation is made up of a number of bespoke orders including elections, overview and scrutiny, finance and a series of orders which cover specific powers for GM. Government has provided strong assurance that everything is on schedule and that there have been no slippages in the timings of legislation. The GM Mayor will be responsible for the fire budget and delegate other fire responsibilities to a Fire Committee. The GM Mayor

model is complex and binds the Mayor and GMCA. A revision of the GMCA constitution will take place to accommodate this.

The net budget for the CA will be £1.5 billion in 2017/18. Variations in existing organisation's in procurement, accounting and VAT will be addressed.

At the GMCA meeting on 30 September it was agreed to lease 25,000 square foot at Churchgate House as the central location for staff of the CA.

In the current form the CA only has 5 employees and currently terms and conditions for staff being integrated into the CA are being determined. Engagement is taking place with Trade Unions and staff within organisations in scope.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** Members queried the GMCA administration being cost neutral and asked whether Government costs will be devolved to GM?
- A.** It was explained that some of the powers are new statutory and regulatory powers that have not been delivered before. There are some elements which are straight transfers and programme costs are generally devolved with this. The GMCA will look to contain initial pressures and cost to GM, and then in the medium term it is possible there will be scope for greater efficiencies.
- Q.** Members queried how the GM Mayor will be directly questioned (i.e. akin to full council) and be held to account?
- A.** Members were informed that governance protocols are under development and that comments from Members as to what would work well would be welcome.
- Q.** Members queried how staff morale is kept up during the transition period and whether there would be any potential redundancies arising from the integration and consolidation of staff?
- A.** Members were informed that staff engagement has taken place through existing management structures, including face-to-face meetings. There were no anticipated compulsory redundancies but there would be some changes of locations and work remits. Transition meetings take place weekly with regular communications and FAQs circulated to HR leads within each organisation.
- Q.** Members queried whether there was the skill set in existence within GM for delivering on all the areas of devolution.
- A.** Members were informed that in some areas services were already being integrated to work on specific workstreams and that the staffing resource is already sufficient for delivering devolution. The resource base in existence is being looked at and any potential gaps are being identified. It should also be noted that under devolution there is no TUPE obligations around central government departmental staff.

- Q.** Members noted that devolution needed appropriate resources to enable the agenda to move forward. AGMA gives a positive start, but the future structure needs to give equality of opportunity for all. Ethical Procurement should also be something which is considered by the CA.
- A.** Members were informed that equality of opportunity and ethical procurement were aspirations for the CA and that there is no reason why policies for the CA will not be developed across these lines.
- Q.** Members asked whether the opportunity to scrutinise decisions prior to them being finalised would be more evident in future scrutiny arrangements.
- A.** Members were informed that Scrutiny Working Group were still in the process of producing a final report in relation to this and there would be opportunity to comment in due course.
- Q.** Members queried the reasons why Police personnel were not being transferred to the CA?
- A.** It was explained that the legal arrangements of GMP are not comparable to the Fire Service, and the Chief Constable is the corporation sole. However, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will transfer into the CA.
- Q.** Members asked whether the legislation prevented the GMCA being a larger CA, with the potential for other authorities to join.
- A.** Members were informed that this could potentially be possible in future, but that it would require legislative changes.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the key elements of the transition programme.
2. That a further Transition Update be provided to members in January 2017.

16/33 TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME

Members received a report which provided an overview of the Troubled Families Programme in Greater Manchester. The report highlighted how since the programme began in 2011 it had made a positive impact in all areas across Greater Manchester. There are currently 27,200 families who have been engaged with the programme, each having their own assigned key worker, plan and series of tailored interventions. The national evaluation of phase 1 would be published imminently, however the GM evaluation already shows a number of positive outcomes. Phase 2 (announced in 2014) offered a wider criteria set and alternative ways of measuring the programme's success.

The Troubled Families programme has also had an impact on wider public service provision, and the Government have recognised its role in progressing other areas of work

and opportunities for embedding the programme into front line delivery across organisations.

The evaluation of phase 2 is currently underway and will review the impact the programme has had on 8,500 families in GM. Our own evaluation will look to provide further data in support of this work and provide a fuller picture in anticipation of a re-modelled funding stream to support the programme in the future.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** Members queried whether the successes seen in Manchester City Council were reflective of all the other 9 boroughs.
- A.** Members were informed that the overall feedback was that the programme had made a positive impact across GM, however there was a variance as the way the programme is delivered varies across the 10 boroughs.
- Q.** Members asked whether there were robust exit strategies in place for families when leaving the programme.
- A.** Members were informed that in all cases each family has a plan which includes an exit plan to identify other areas and sources of support. The re-referral rate is measured and currently this is not significant but will remain under observation.
- Q.** A Member noted that the success of the programme suggests that it should be sustained and continued.
- A.** Members were informed that a reinvestment model was being looked for the future in order that the programme can be continued past its current end date. The Life Chances fund is also being looked at as a potential funding stream.
- Q.** Members queried whether the outcomes in phase 1 and phase 2 were being used to inform future programmes. Additionally a member asked whether there was any indication of levels of intervention required increasing as thresholds for services have risen.
- A.** Members were updated that learning from the programme was regularly reflected upon and taken into consideration for other GM programmes. The intervention levels are difficult to ascertain as families are continually emerging, however noticeably some of the investment is shifting to early intervention to prevent families reaching the threshold for Troubled Families Programme.
- Q.** Members noted that the employment rate had not significantly increased in the lifetime of the programme.
- A.** It was noted that employment does remain a challenge, however within the Troubled Families Programme there are employment advisers seconded from the DWP who work intensively with families regarding getting back into work. Engagement and work with employers is also increasing.

- Q.** A member queried whether the centralisation of funding/resources would mean staff from the programme would also be centralised.
- A.** Members were informed that there was no intention to change the delivery model but to identify a sustainable re-investment funding model.

Resolved/-

1. To note the progress made on the Troubled Families Programme by Local Authorities across Greater Manchester and how it has acted as both a catalyst and working example of how GM is reforming its public services.
2. To endorse the proposals to potentially re-profile the drawdown of Troubled Families Monies in order that localities can invest more upfront in transformational activity that will make the programme a more sustainable model beyond the lifetime of the national programme.
3. To receive a report back to Scrutiny Pool following the evaluation of phase 2 of the programme and to include statistics from each of the districts within this report.

16/34 BREXIT MONITOR

Members were provided with the Greater Manchester Brexit Monitor, which was shared with the GMCA on 30 September 2016, for information.

Questions and comments from the Scrutiny Pool included-

- Q.** A member noted that the recent fall in the pound was not reflected in the report and asked whether this would have an impact on some of the forecasts included in the report.
- A.** Members were informed that since the report had been submitted to the GMCA the situation had progressed. The report is produced on a monthly basis and therefore is only accurate at the time of writing due to the regular changes in the economy.
- Q.** Members stated that it would be useful to have the views of companies who invested in the Greater Manchester region regarding Brexit.
- A.** Members were informed that there is an ongoing dialogue between investors and businesses and that if Members wished, a representative from the Manchester Growth Company could attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Pool or a session of a Task and Finish Group.
- Q.** A member asked whether there was any further information from the Government regarding the future of EU Funding.
- A.** Members were informed that there was a report being submitted to the GMCA at the end of the month, in relation to this issue.

Resolved/-

1. To be provided with a further update at the next meeting.

16/35 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016

11 November 2016	10 March 2017
9 December 2016	7 April 2017
13 January 2017	
10 February 2017	

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

CHAIR