

## **ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES**

### **DECISIONS MADE BY THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS MEETING ON 26 FEBRUARY 2010 AT MANCHESTER COLLEGE, OPENSHAW CAMPUS**

#### **Decisions published on 2 March 2010 and will come into force from 9 March 2010 subject to Call-in, except for any urgent decisions.**

The process for call in of decisions is set out as an Appendix to this note, extracted from AGMA's constitution. The address for the purposes of the schedule is that of the AGMA Secretary, c/o Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, Wigan, WN3 5BA; or by contacting [j.gaskell@agma.gov.uk](mailto:j.gaskell@agma.gov.uk).

The reports detailed in this note can be accessed at the AGMA website via the following link:-

[http://www.agma.gov.uk/executive\\_board/executive\\_board\\_meeting\\_papers/index.html](http://www.agma.gov.uk/executive_board/executive_board_meeting_papers/index.html)

#### **1 CITY REGION GOVERNANCE**

The Board considered a report on the outcome of a review of governance under Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, including the results of the consultation exercise on a draft scheme, a business case prepared by KPMG, and further work undertaken in the course of the review. A final draft scheme for the establishment of a Combined Authority was also submitted for the Board's consideration.

The Board also considered additional resolutions proposed by GMITA and the AGMA Scrutiny Pool.

A number of members also stated that if the proposals to establish a combined authority, now before the Board, were not approved by any of the ten Councils, officers should prepare a report to the Board on the options for progressing combined governance arrangements open to the remaining authorities in relation to both economic regeneration and transport.

Following discussions the subsequent resolutions were put to a vote and agreed by 8 votes to nil, with Councillors Goddard (Stockport MBC) and Colledge (Trafford MBC) abstaining;

- a) That the name of the proposed Combined Authority be the "Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)";
- b) that the proposal to establish a Combined Authority would be likely to improve:
  - a) the exercise of statutory functions related to economic development, regeneration and transport in the area
  - b) the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area

- c) economic conditions in the area for the reasons set out in the review document;
- c) that the Final Draft Scheme at Appendix 4 to the report be approved subject to the words “and paragraph 15A below” being added after the words “Subject to the provisions of any enactment” in paragraph 15 of the Final Draft Scheme and the following words to be added as paragraph 15A;
- “The following matters will require the support of at least 7 members of the GMCA for approval:
- The adoption of the Sustainable Community Strategy (ie the Greater Manchester Strategy, the Greater Manchester Housing Strategy and other related strategies)
  - The adoption of the Multi-Area Agreement
  - The approval of the local economic assessment
  - The adoption of the Local Transport Plan and policies contained therein
  - The Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s annual budget
  - The setting of the transport levy
  - Approval of new schemes to be financed by the Greater Manchester Transport Fund
  - Borrowing limits, Treasury Management Strategy, the investment strategy and the capital budget
  - The acceptance of any proposed delegation of functions or budgets to the GMCA by the Secretary of State
  - Such other plans and strategies as are determined by the GMCA
- d) that the final draft scheme as amended at c above, should be recommended to the 10 district councils as a Final Scheme to be published and submitted to the Secretaries of State under Section 109 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and Section 82 of the Local Transport Act 2008;
- e) that the Executive Board gives the clearest possible commitment regarding the future role of the Joint Committee as set out in the Final Draft Scheme and, to this end, agrees that Chairs and Vice-Chairs should work with the Chair and Vice-Chair of GMITA on a draft scheme of delegation of powers by the Combined Authority to the Joint Committee for approval by the Executive Board and GMITA not later than June 2010
- f) that a Formal agreement be completed in the terms of the side letter tabled at the meeting which supplements paragraph 46 of the scheme relating to the support given by other authorities to an individual authority wishing to withdraw from the GMCA;
- g) that the proposals contained in paragraph 66 of the report for a review of scrutiny arrangements and support as endorsed by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool be supported;

- h) that the 10 authorities be requested to arrange for consideration of the review and the Final Draft Scheme as a matter of urgency following this meeting;
- i) that subject to all 10 districts consenting to their area being included in the Final Scheme, officers be authorised to prepare all necessary documentation for submission to the Secretaries of State;
- j) that progress reports be submitted to the Executive Board's meeting in due course.

2. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – CHESHIRE EAST

The Executive Board agreed in principle to admit Cheshire East to Associate Membership of AGMA

3. MANCHESTER SOLUTIONS STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Board AGREED to note the Draft Annual Report and Consolidated Statutory Accounts to be approved by the Manchester Solutions Finance & Audit Committee.

4. BUSINESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The Executive Board AGREED:

- The responses set out in the report to each of the fourteen recommendations contained in the Business Leadership Council's study: The Performance of Greater Manchester as a Business Environment for 'Large Domestic' Businesses.
- To request that the Commission for the New Economy, the Environment Commission and GMITA/GMPTE work directly with the Business Leadership Council in taking forward the study's recommendations in accordance with their respective responses to each of these.

5. AGMA RESPONSE TO NW REGIONAL STRATEGY (RS2010) PART 1 CONSULTATION

The Executive considered a draft response to the NWDA on the content of the draft Part 1 consultation for the Regional Strategy (RS2010). Following an RS2010 consultation event held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February at the City of Manchester stadium, there were some proposed amendments to the draft response previously circulated.

Consequently the Executive Board agreed to delegate to the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Board to approve the amendments before submission to the NWDA.

6. REVIEW OF IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Executive Board AGREED:

- that the AGMA Procurement Hub and SpendPro continue to operate and that a fair mechanism for funding should be developed.
- that the Procurement Hub be integrated with the Collaborative Services Programme Office, under one Director
- that the responsibility for the Procurement Hub remains with Trafford, the sponsor authority
- that a further report detailing the financial implications of funding the Unit through an invest to save process be brought back to the Executive Board for consideration
- to review the location of the Collaborative Services Programme Office/Procurement Hub
- that Manchester in their Regional role, continue to lead on the Procurement Improvement within individual authorities

7. NHS REFORM AND THE CITY REGION

The Executive Board considered and AGREED;

- to note the involvement of Local Authorities to date in considering options at a LA/PCT level for the reform of community service provision
- that they did not believe the reforms went far enough in realising the potential for greater integration and strategic fit between the commissioning roles of the NHS and Local Government at appropriate spatial levels.
- that a Task and Finish Group of AGMA Members and Officers together with representatives of NHS North West and the Association of GM PCTs be established to examine both the strategic fit of the emerging PCT proposals and the wider opportunities for NHS/AGMA collaboration both in commissioning and, where appropriate, delivering services at a range of spatial levels from the Neighbourhood to the sub-region
- that the Task and Finish Group be jointly led by AGMA, the Health Commission and NHS and be given three months to complete this work and report back to the June meeting of AGMA Executive with an options paper for Members' consideration
- to welcome the agreement of the Secretary of State for Health to chair a sub-regional leadership seminar on 15th March 2010 as an important opportunity to further develop NHS/AGMA collaboration.

8. MINIMUM UNIT PRICE FOR ALCOHOL

The Executive Board AGREED the recommendation of supporting strongly in advocating nationally and locally for a minimum unit price for alcohol of 50p.

9. UPDATE IN RELATION TO COMMISSION FORMALISATION AND SELECTION OF NON-ELECTED MEMBERS

It was AGREED to appoint the six non-elected members as originally sent to the Fire Authority representative and the Public Protection Commission and that this non-elected membership be reviewed after 12 months.

10. AGMA SCRUTINY PANEL

The Executive Board agreed to note the following:

- i) Minutes of AGMA Scrutiny Pool – Environment, Spatial and Economy Panel held on 12 February 2010 attached
- (i) Minutes of AGMA Scrutiny Pool – Governance, Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Panel held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010
- (ii) Minutes of AGMA Scrutiny Pool held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

11. DIG GREATER MANCHESTER, ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT UPDATE

The Executive Board AGREED to the recommendation of a revised proposal for an AGMA wide archaeological project as proposed by the Centre for Applied Archaeology at Salford University and that Dig Greater Manchester continues in a scaled down form using only already committed AGMA funding.

12. AGMA ENGAGEMENT

The Executive Board AGREED in principal to the outline plan and for officers to progress more detail and present a report with budget implications for consultation.

**APPENDIX**

**EXTRACT FROM SCHEDULE 4 OF NEW AGMA CONSTITUTION**

- 5.1 Members of the scrutiny pool appointed under these arrangements will have the power to call in any decision of the Board.
- 5.2 When a decision is made by the Board the decision shall be published, including where possible by electronic means, and shall be available from the address specified in Paragraph 24.1 of this operating agreement normally within 2 days of being made. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to send electronic copies of the records of all such decisions to all members of the pool within the same timescale.
- 5.3 That notice will bear the date on which it is published and will specify that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 5 working days after the publication of the decision, unless 5 members the scrutiny pool object to it and call it in.
- 5.4 During that period, the Secretary shall call-in a decision for scrutiny by a joint meeting of pool members if so requested by any five members from the pool, and shall then notify members of the Board of the call-in. The Secretary shall call a joint meeting of pool members on such date as he/she may determine, where possible after consultation with the Chair of the pool, and in any case within 15 working days of the decision to call-in.
- 5.5 If, having considered the decision, the joint meeting of pool members is still concerned about it, then it may refer it back to the Board for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns. If referred to the Board they shall then reconsider within a further 15 working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.
- 5.6 The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken by the Board is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call in process would seriously prejudice the Board's or the public's or an individual's interests. The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public shall state whether in the opinion of the decision making person or body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in. The Board must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.