

ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES

DECISIONS MADE BY THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS MEETING ON THE 29th MAY 2009 AT LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE

Decisions published on 2 June 2009 and will come into force from 9 June 2009 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 new constitution. The address for the purposes of the schedule is that of the AGMA Secretary, c/o Wigan Investment Centre, Waterside Drive, off Swan Meadow Road, Wigan WN3 5BA; or by contacting d.fletcher@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/ccm/agma/AGMA_Agendas_and_Minutes/Executive/AGMA_ExecutivePapers20082009/May2009.en

ITEM 4 AGMA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – PROGRESS AND PLANS

John Early, Chair of the BLC submitted a report updating the Executive Board on progress made in agreeing terms of reference, establishing areas of interest and setting out a work programme for the BLC.

AGREED: 1. That a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Business Leadership Council be arranged for early July 2009.

2. That the AGMA Secretary write to the Chair of the BLC clarifying the position of a private sector majority on the Commission for the New Economy.

ITEM 5 STATUTORY CITY REGION & GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY

The Chief Executive, Manchester CC submitted a report informing Members of the progress on negotiations with Government regarding the pilot Statutory City Region and the related work on the preparation of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

The following points were made by way of amendments needed to the document:-

- More emphasis needed to be made about the key importance of future 14-19 interventions
- The assertions about poor levels of high level skilled graduates did not appear to reflect the evidence in the MIER. These statements needed to be reviewed, as did the language used in this section
- The section on housing needed to be strengthened and the 'ask' from Government more clearly defined

- The section on place needed to make more of the accessibility within the conurbation to green space and countryside

AGREED: 1. That subject to the amendments and strengthening proposed by Executive Board Members, the approach outlined in the report be endorsed.

2. That the minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool held on 8 May 2009 be noted.

ITEM 6 FORWARD PLAN

A copy of the Forward Plan was circulated for information.

ITEM 7 FUTURE JOBS FUND PROPOSALS

A report of the AGMA Chief Executives was submitted in respect of the above. The report also outlined two options for Members consideration –

- a) A substantially local approach with a relatively light touch City Region role, and
- b) A City Region led bid based on an agreed set of principles (for discussion).

Members were asked to note that there was a strong consensus from all AGMA Chief Executives that a City Region bid could provide real added value to the local programmes of delivery.

AGREED: Proceed on the basis of a City Region led bid with a report back to the next meeting giving details of the bid prior to submission.

ITEM 8 CLIMATE CHANGE AGENCY PROPOSAL AND ENERGY PLAN PROPOSAL

Two reports from the Environment Commission were submitted seeking to start to address two aspects of the energy and climate change agenda namely –

- a) Energy planning for Greater Manchester, and
- b) Establishing the Climate Change Agency (CCA) for Greater Manchester.

AGREED: -

1. That the recommendations of the Environment Commission concerning the development of a Framework Greater Manchester Energy Plan be endorsed.
2. To delegate oversight of the Plan's development to the Environment Commission.
3. To establish a Project Board to oversee the cross cutting Energy Plan, incorporating representation from Environment, New Economy, Transport, Planning and Housing Commissions and the BLC.

4. That the recommendations of the Environment Commission regarding the establishment of a Climate Change Agency be endorsed.
5. To delegate powers to Oldham MBC's Chief Executive to establish the Climate Change Agency as a Shared Administrative Structure, to act as an incubator for its further development.
6. That any necessary action to secure engagement, resources and funds for the development of the Plan and Agency as part of any City Region negotiations be endorsed.

ITEM 9 PLANNING & HOUSING COMMISSION: DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME & TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Planning & Housing Commission held its first full meeting on 11 May. At that meeting the Commission's Work Programme and Terms of Reference were considered. These were now brought to the Executive Board for ratification.

AGREED: 1. That the proposed role and terms of reference for the Planning & Housing Commission be approved.

2. That the proposed work programme be approved but with the recognition that the work programme will continue to be refined.

ITEM 10 TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE

Further to the report considered by the Executive Board in March, the Chief Executive Manchester CC and Clerk to GMITA submitted a report putting forward a proposed framework and timetable for a review of transport governance within Greater Manchester.

AGREED: That this matter be deferred to the next meeting (26 June) where a decision will be reached.

ITEM 11 CONGESTION PERFORMANCE AWARD FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

The Clerk GMITA submitted a report explaining that Greater Manchester receives payments from DfT's Congestion Performance Fund, designed to reward Authorities for outperforming their LTP congestion targets. The previous method of allocating these funds, based on a simple formula, was not effective in maximising the effect of schemes for tackling congestion.

This report proposed a more robust method for distributing funds, which aims to encourage the generation of effective scheme proposals, and fund the best of these. This method has been applied to the latest Tranche 2 CPF payments received, which are awaiting distribution. A suggested programme was described.

AGREED: 1. That the methodology for the distribution of Congestion Performance Award funds be approved.

2. That the suggested programme for Tranche 2 funds, as described in detail in Appendix B of the report, to enable distribution and implementation of these schemes be approved.

ITEM 12 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSIONS

The Head of the AGMA Policy Unit submitted a report requesting Members to consider how to replace elected Members, who for whatever reason were no longer able to serve on Commissions.

AGREED: 1. the Executive Board reconfirm the membership agreed in September 2008.

2. If for any reason an elected Member listed in Appendix 2 of the report can no longer serve on a Commission then he/she should be replaced by a new Member from the same Authority.

3. That if the Chair of any Commission has any concerns over non attendance - line with the resolution agreed in June 2008 - that he/she raises this with the Executive Board at their next meeting on 26 June 2009.

ITEM 13 COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS 2010 - 2015

The Head of the AGMA Policy Unit submitted a report briefing Members on proposed arrangements for seeking nominations to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) for 2010-2015 and proposed a method of identifying nominations from each of the political groups represented on the AGMA Executive Board; to be forwarded to the Regional Leaders Forum at 4NW.

AGREED: -1. To note the information on the CoR process included in the report.

2. To seek three nominations, one from each of the political groups represented on the Executive Board to be submitted to the Regional Leaders Forum.

3. To confirm these three nominations at their next meeting on 26 June 2009; provided that these nominations are accompanied by information regarding relevant experience or knowledge, or to explain the nominees commitment or motivation in becoming a member of CoR.

NB. Members are reminded that the reports can be viewed on the AGMA Website – www.agma.gov.uk

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.