

ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES

DECISIONS MADE BY THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS MEETING ON 29th OCTOBER 2010 AT BURY TOWN HALL

Decisions published on 2nd November 2010 and will come into force from 10th November 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

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

1. COMBINED AUTHORITY/GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (Item 5)

The Executive Board received a verbal report from Sir Howard Bernstein, Chief Executive, Manchester CC which updated Members on recent developments regarding the confirmation by Government that Greater Manchester's bid for a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had been successful.

Councillor Matthew Colledge, Leader of Trafford Council also reported that Government approval for the Combined Authority bid should be announced shortly

2. PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM – DELIVERY OF AGMA'S IMPROVEMENT & EFFICIENCY AGENDA (Item 6)

The Executive Board received an update on the progress of work undertaken on the review of AGMA's improvement and efficiency work since the last update on 24th September and AGREED:

1. To note the activity undertaken since the last report on 24th September
2. To receive a further report on progress at the meeting of the AGMA Executive on 26th November.

3. PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME (Item 7)

The Board considered and agreed the proposed work programme for the Commission for the forthcoming year. No items were identified which would be exempt from the process of potential referral back to the Executive Board

4. BUSINESS RATES – TAX INCREMENTING FINANCING (Item 9)

The Executive Board considered a report explaining the Government's intention to introduce Tax Increment Financing and which put forward a strategy aimed at securing maximum investment returns for Greater Manchester through a place-based approach to funding to deliver long term growth

The Board AGREED:

1. To endorse the strategy proposed in the report in principle, subject to further work being brought back to the Executive Board to clarify the implications for individual AGMA member districts
2. To authorise Officers to continue to engage with Government Officials in the active pursuit of this strategy and
3. To request officers to report back on this issue as soon as possible.

Cllr Merry asked that his reservations on the approach as set out in the report presented be minuted.

5. REVIEW OF AGMA SECTION 48 GRANTS SCHEME (Item 10)

The Executive Board considered a report on the current operation of the AGMA Section 48 Grants Scheme and AGREED:

1. That a strategic review of the scheme is commenced this year with a view to reporting back its findings and recommendations in February 2011 to the Executive and that the review is overseen by the AGMA Chair and Vice Chairs.
2. That officers take early steps to write to all existing recipients of grant support to explain that a strategic review will proceed and while its outcome cannot be determined now, it is likely to result in funding support for many organisations being significantly reduced, or withdrawn altogether; and that they should address alternative funding support options over the next year.
3. A budget standstill position for all S48 clients for the first three months of 2011/12 pending the outcome of the review.

6. AGMA BUDGET PROPOSALS 2011/12 AND REVIEW OF JOINT AUTHORITY BUDGETS (Item 12)

The Executive Board AGREED:

1. A series of actions for AGMA funded functions and their budgets in 2011/12 and 2012/13 as follows:-

for 2011/12 budgets

- a. For functions listed under the Sub Regional capacity & Legacy headings in the report to deliver savings of 10% in their 2011/12 budgets (estimated to realise approx £500k),
- b. For any such savings to be reinvested in order to achieve the twin objectives of aligning District contributions more closely with AGMA's shared objectives and to enable the delivery of new governance arrangements at no extra cost,
- c. a further report confirming the proposed savings for reinvestment to be considered by the Executive Board in November 2010,
- d. For AGMA's Business Management Group to be tasked with designing the realignment of budgets and their application to delivery of the new governance arrangements with proposals to be considered by the Executive Board in December 2010; and
- e. Separately, rationalising Economic functions into a more integrated business model; given the new governance proposals and reductions in NWDA funding.

For action in 2011/12 and implementation in 2012/13

- f. For a review to be carried out of the 1986 legacy Units (as detailed in the report) with a view to:-
 - potential mergers/sharing of back office functions
 - examining the potential for these Units to provide other functions currently carried out at a district level, thereby producing economies of scale and saving local resource; and
 - g. for savings as a result of the rationalisation of Transport Funding as detailed in the report to be identified and considered by the Executive Board/Combined Authority in advance of budget setting for 2012/13.
2. That the Scrutiny Pool to be involved in a parallel process of member overview and scrutiny of these actions
 3. that Joint Authorities be required to set budgets which would result in 0% growth - or lower following the overview by Executive Board members
 4. That the arrangements for Executive Board member overview of Joint Authority budgets, be as follows:-

<u>Police:</u>	Manchester	Rochdale	Tameside
<u>Fire:</u>	Oldham	Salford	
<u>ITA</u>	Bury	Trafford	Wigan
<u>Waste</u>	Bolton	Stockport	
<u>Marketing Manchester</u>	Manchester	Salford	

5. and that further reports be brought to the Board for its consideration over the coming months as set out below:-

November 28, Stockport	Initial Budget proposals from Joint Authorities & Marketing Manchester Proposed savings from existing budgets of AGMA funded functions; for reinvestment
December 17, Rochdale	Proposals for realigning budgets of AGMA funded functions
January 28, Oldham	Final decisions on Joint Board budgets after Executive Board overview and input from Scrutiny Pool for ITA Final confirmation of district contributions for AGMA related functions in 2011/12

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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.