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## **LEADER**

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Strategy, External Relations, Strategic Budget, Public Service Reform, Partnerships with Public, Private and Voluntary Sectors at a Strategic Level, Corporate Support Services, Financial Services and Budget Development, Registration Services and the Coroner's Service:-

### **TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023**

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Councillor Cox    | - Executive Cabinet Member – Leader |
| Councillor Peel   | - Major Opposition Spokesperson     |
| Councillor Hayes  | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson     |
| Councillor Grant  | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson     |
| Councillor Heslop | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson     |

#### **Officers**

- |                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mr. L. Fallows | - Director of Corporate Resources |
| Ms. H. Gorman  | - Borough Solicitor               |
| Mrs. V. Ridge  | - Democratic Services Manager     |

#### **44. GMCA DEVOLUTION DEAL – PROPOSED NEXT STEPS**

The Chief Executive submitted a report which sought agreement for the Council to enter into the memorandum of understanding for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that The Trailblazer Deal was announced in the Levelling Up White

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Paper in February, 2022 and over Spring and Summer 2022, the GMCA had led the development of proposals to Government, which were submitted in early summer 2022.

The report advised that GM Leaders agreed to place proposals into four high-priority areas (transport, work and skills, housing and regeneration, funding and accountability) where officers were asked to prioritise agreeing ambitious reforms and a second tranche of other areas (e.g. environment, digital, health) where officers were asked to look to agree positive steps forward for GM.

The final version of the Trailblazer Deal was announced in the Governments Budget last week and was to be considered at the GMCA meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. The Deal set out a range of clear and ambitious commitments which would see further powers devolved from government to the GMCA or GM Mayor in the areas of Funding and Accountability, Transport, Housing, Skills and Employment with further work in relation to powers regarding the environment, culture, digital and data, public services and the economy.

It was explained that The Trailblazer Deal only committed the Council to accept enabling legislation and regulations to be prepared and all of the constituent members of the GMCA were required to enter into a memorandum of understanding for these proposals to move forward and form enabling further legislation and regulations. The Executive Cabinet Member was also advised that further reports would be brought forward for consideration by a Policy Development Group, the Cabinet and full Council as necessary later this year.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also informed that, due to the nature of the negotiations and the need for immediate action it would not be possible to call in this decision for scrutiny pursuant to rule 17 (m) and the Chair of the Corporate and External Issues Scrutiny Committee had been consulted with and informed of the reasons for the urgency.

**The Executive Cabinet Member AGREED to enter into the memorandum of understanding for the Greater Manchester**

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**Combined Authority Trailblazer Devolution Deal, as detailed in the report now submitted.**