

## **THE CABINET**

### **MEETING, 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2014**

Councillor Morris	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Mrs. Thomas	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Adia	Executive Cabinet Member
Councillor Peel	Executive Cabinet Member

#### **Cabinet Members**

Councillor Bashir-Ismail	Community Services
Councillor J. Byrne	Culture and Youth
Councillor Cunliffe	Public Health
Councillor Chadwick	Highways and Transport
Councillor D. Burrows	Police and Community Safety
Councillor McKeon	Education and Schools
Councillor Peacock	Adult Social Care
Councillor Zaman	Development and Regeneration

#### **Other Members in Attendance**

Councillor Jones  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor A. Ibrahim  
Councillor Greenhalgh  
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough  
Councillor Cox  
Councillor Allen  
Councillor Hayes  
Councillor Richardson (as  
deputy for Councillor  
Parkinson)

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mrs. H. Gorman	Borough Solicitor
Mrs. V. Ridge	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Lewis and Parkinson

**21. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**22. MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE AND COMBINED AUTHORITY**

The Chief Executive submitted a report that detailed the key decisions taken by the AGMA Executive Board and Combined Authority on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 and 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2014.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

**23. GREATER MANCHESTER DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT**

The Chief Executive submitted a report that set out the implications for the Council of the recent agreement with Government to devolve functional and fiscal responsibilities alongside a staged approach to Greater Manchester (GM) governance arrangements.

The report outlined the importance of the emerging strategy and its role in shaping GM priorities, the proposed Governance

arrangements, and the relationship between Bolton Council, GMCA and a GM Mayor. The report highlighted those areas where there would be further opportunities for devolution in the future. The report also considered the resource implications for the next stages of the work to develop the necessary policy and legislative framework for devolution.

Members were reminded that on the 3rd November, 2014 the 10 Leaders of the Greater Manchester Local Authorities and the Chancellor of the Exchequer signed the Draft Greater Manchester Agreement: Devolution to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and transition to a directly elected Mayor (the Agreement) which had been negotiated between the Government and the GMCA.

The Agreement represented a major transfer of power and responsibilities from central Government to Greater Manchester alongside governance changes. It set out a road map that transferred functions and access to resources now and which could lead to Greater Manchester over time having influence, if not control, over all public spending within GM through a governance structure that provided strong leadership, whilst protecting the integrity and the existing role and functions of local authorities. The Agreement confirmed the move to an Appointed Mayor as the eleventh member of the GMCA as a transition to a directly elected Mayor in 2017 with a Cabinet of Leaders. The election of a GM Mayor would require new legislation.

Greater Manchester Authorities had been invited to submit comments on the principles underpinning the changes and the Agreement by the 15th January, 2014. The report to the Combined Authority that set out the principles and the Agreement itself were attached at Appendix 1. The report assessed the implications of the proposed changes, including the future relationship between the Council, GMCA and a Greater Manchester Mayor. Appendix 2 of the report provided a summary of the Devolution agreement and what it meant to Greater Manchester.

The Agreement had significant benefits for Bolton in supporting the delivery of key priorities as set out in the Council's Community Strategy. It would also set a secure long term framework for delivering growth and reform objectives across the City Region and position Greater Manchester at the heart of the economic revival of the North of England.

The Agreement included significant new responsibilities and powers that would directly support delivery of Bolton's priorities.

It was explained that, in order to secure greater levels of control and influence over new responsibilities and resources, Parliament had consistently demanded some form of directly elected leadership. It was stressed that this requirement would not change and without it Greater Manchester would not pass the test of direct accountability to enable it to take on central government functions.

The Agreement provided for a staged approach to governance change. The first step would see an Appointed Mayor as the eleventh member of the GMCA with executive powers but also with each of the eleven members having one vote each on strategic matters. This would require a change to the Statutory Order which could be completed as soon as possible.

This would lead to step two (which required a change in legislation), a directly elected Mayor who would chair a Cabinet of Leaders. It was envisaged that, subject to legislation, an election for the Mayor would take place in 2017. The intention would then be to increase further the levels of control and influence over all public spending in Greater Manchester, currently £22bn, with responsibilities being assumed from national government to enable local government and local members to better discharge their existing functions. This third step would be supported by consistently high level performance of the governance model over the coming years thereby delivering better outcomes for local people than would otherwise be the case.

The GMCA would remain responsible and receive additional powers for business support, skills, complex dependency and

health and social care. On public service issues the GMCA members and the Mayor would each have one vote and policy would be agreed by a majority vote.

The directly-elected Mayor would be responsible for the new powers in relation to transport, planning, housing and policing (and with them the role currently covered by the Police and Crime Commissioner). The Mayor would however be required to consult the GMCA Cabinet on his/her strategies, which the Cabinet may reject if two thirds of the members agreed to do so. The GMCA Cabinet would also examine the Mayor's spending plans and would be able to amend those plans again if two-thirds of members agreed to do so. The statutory spatial framework would require the approval of a unanimous vote of the Cabinet. The decisions of the Mayor and the Cabinet would be scrutinised by the GM Scrutiny Pool.

The principles that supported the relationship between Greater Manchester and the local authorities would continue to underpin the way that the new model operated. The total emphasis had been on a transfer of powers from national government to Greater Manchester and the relationship between the local authority Leaders who formed the Mayor's Cabinet and the Mayor would protect the integrity of local authorities, whose functions would remain unchanged.

Members were also advised that the Corporate Resources, Strategy and Budget Policy Development Group considered the report at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and agreed that the following be included in the Council's submission to the Combined Authority:-

- 1.To seek clarification that the GM Devolution deal could not be changed unilaterally in the future and that GM would not be bound to aspects of the deal e.g. Elected Mayor in isolation;
- 2.That scrutiny arrangements need to be reviewed and strengthened in relation to the Combined Authority and Elected Mayor;

3. The arrangements for reporting back the decisions/deliberations of the Combined Authority and its various bodies need to be reviewed and improved;
4. That the wider involvement of local authority members in the governance of the Combined Authority was an important development for the next stage of GM Devolution; and
5. That the issue of the basis upon which the Elected Mayor could be removed from office in the event of serious misconduct be considered.

**Resolved – (i) That the Cabinet endorses the principles which have guided Greater Manchester’s approach to devolution and governance changes, as set out in the attached report to the GMCA.**

**(ii) That the Cabinet welcomes the Devolution Agreement and the significant switch in powers and access to resources it represents which will have a positive impact on those who live and work within Bolton and Greater Manchester.**

**(iii) That the proposed changes in governance including an appointed Mayor as the eleventh Member of the GMCA as a transition to a directly Elected Mayor for Greater Manchester be supported.**

**(iv) That the balance between new powers to be vested in the Combined Authority as well as new powers to be vested in the directly elected Mayor who will be the Chair of GMCA and accountable to the Cabinet of Leaders in the exercise of those powers and to the Mayor and the Cabinet being subject of scrutiny by the GMCA Scrutiny Pool be noted.**

**(v) That the proposed governance arrangements reflect the circumstances within Greater Manchester which has a long track record of collaboration amongst the local authorities and with business.**

**(vi) That the Government and the range of local stakeholders be notified that Bolton Council and Greater Manchester will remain fully committed to greater fiscal devolution and to working with other UK City Regions and**

**London in particular to make the case for this over the coming months.**

**(vii) That the GMCA be recommended to conclude the statutory review of the Governance arrangements as soon as possible to enable a final scheme to be submitted to the Secretary of State as a pre-requisite to the changes being made to the Statutory Orders to give effect to the transitional arrangements.**

**(viii) That the views of the Corporate Resources PDG and any other relevant views raised by members at the Council's meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 be included in the formal response to the Combined Authority.**

**(ix) That the Council be recommended to agree that Bolton formally approves the principles contained within the Devolution Agreement and to request authority to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to respond formally to the GMCA consultation on devolution in the terms set out in this report; and to finalise on behalf of the Bolton Council, the Council's response to the final terms of the Governance arrangements including the terms of the Statutory Order.**

**(The meeting started at 4.00 p.m. and finished at 4.25 p.m.)**