

EXTRACT

THE EXECUTIVE

MEETING, 1ST FEBRUARY, 2010

Councillor Morris	Leader of the Council – Strategy and External Relations
Councillor Adia	Children's Services
Councillor Bashir–Ismail	Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Councillor Peel	Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regulation
Councillor Kay	Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity
Councillor Ibrahim	Environmental Services
Councillor Murray	Looked After Children
Councillor Sherrington	Adult Services
Councillor Mrs Thomas	Corporate Resources and Health

Non-Voting Members

Councillor White
Councillor Spencer
Councillor J. Walsh
Councillor Ashcroft
Councillor Shaw
Councillor Morgan
Councillor Mrs. Fairclough
Councillor Hayes
Councillor D. A Wilkinson
Councillor Mrs. Ronson

Officers

Mr. S. Harriss	Chief Executive
Mr. S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Mr. A. Eastwood	Director of Chief Executive's Department
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mr. M. Cox	Director of Environmental Services
Mr. D. Grogan	Assistant Director Building Schools for the Future
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs Brierley and J. Byrne.

Councillor Morris in the Chair

73. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 18th January, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Mrs Thomas in the Chair

77. CITY REGION GOVERNANCE – A CONSULTATION ON FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS IN GREATER MANCHESTER – A RESPONSE

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report that set out a consultation framework for the proposed future arrangements for city region governance in Greater Manchester as promoted by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities.

The underlying objective had been to ensure that future City Region governance arrangements, including transport, should enable the 10 local authorities to work effectively together and make the decisions necessary to improve the economic and social well-being of the Manchester City Region, its people and businesses through measures and joint actions. An additional element had been a desire to improve both the transparency and accountability of decision-making processes.

The enactment of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (LDEDCA) in November, 2009 provided a single framework for a formal review of governance in relation to economic development, regeneration and transport.

AGMA had agreed that, if the current Executive Board's role was to become the primary accountable body for transport as well as for economic development, regeneration, planning and housing in the greater Manchester area, then this would lead to the creation of a Combined Authority (CA) under the terms of the LDEDCA.

Substantial progress had been made in agreeing the basis of and terms for devolution of powers from Government to Greater Manchester through the City Region Pilot arrangements. AGMA had consequently agreed a Draft Scheme as a basis for consultation with the 10 districts, GMITA and other stakeholders, as part of a governance review.

The Council's response was required by 15th February, 2010 and it was noted that a Final Draft Scheme would be prepared and submitted for approval to the AGMA Executive Board at the end of February, 2010 with such Scheme being submitted to the 10 districts for each to determine whether to proceed to prepare and publish a Final Scheme for a Combined Authority.

Any decision to prepare and publish a Final Scheme for submission to the Secretary of State would require authorities to conclude that the establishment of a Combined Authority would be likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions relating to transport and economic development and regeneration in the area as well as improve economic conditions and the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area.

It was proposed that, once agreed by the district councils, the Final Scheme would be published and submitted to the Secretary of State requesting him to make a Parliamentary Order by mid March.

The Chief Executive had undertaken a presentation to all members of the Council and the consultation document had been discussed at the Corporate Resources PDG on 28th January, 2010 and members had requested that the key advantages and potential risks be submitted to the Executive which was circulated.

Following further discussions the Leader of the Council circulated a series of recommendations.

Resolved – (i) That the Executive notes the documents “City Region Governance – a consultation on future arrangements in Greater Manchester” including a draft scheme for the establishment of a combined Authority (CA).

(ii) That, without prejudice to the consideration of the outcome of the further work to be completed as part of the review under part 6 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, AGMA’s view be endorsed that the work which has been undertaken so far, as part of the review, supports the establishment of CA in Greater Manchester on the basis that it would be likely to improve:

- (a) the exercise of statutory functions relating to economic development, regeneration and transport in the area;**
- (b) the effectiveness and efficiency of transport in the area; and**
- (c) economic conditions in the area.**

(iii) That it be noted that work has been commissioned by AGMA from KPMG to produce a business case examining the relative benefits of a CA compared to alternative options.

(iv) That the Executive agrees with the proposals in the draft scheme, in particular:-

(a) the establishment of a CA with responsibilities for economic development, regeneration and transport subject to any of the 10 districts being able to withdraw from the arrangements following a review at 5 yearly intervals;

(b) the establishment of a joint committee of the CA and the 10 district Councils to assume responsibilities for the exercise of transport functions specified in the draft scheme;

(c) the proposed area of the CA;

(d) the proposed naming of the CA and the Joint Transport Committee as the Manchester City Region Authority (MCRA) and the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC) respectively;

(e) the membership of the proposed MCRA and TfGMC;

(f) the proposed voting arrangements;

(g) the proposed functions of MCRA and TfGMC providing the functions delegated by the Council to the TfGMC are only in relation to the operation of the Urban Traffic Control system and the powers devolved by Central Government;

(h) the proposed scrutiny arrangements;

(i) the proposals relating to the current GMPTE and in particular, the proposals to integrate into it various specified Transport Units and then re-name it Transport for Greater Manchester Executive; and

(j) any other issues raised in or by the consultation document;

subject to the Leader of the Council undertaking further discussions with the opposition leaders and being authorised to determine any further issues raised in relation to the above prior to the Council submitting its comments.

(v) That the Chief Executive be authorised to consider the responses to the consultation, the Business Case produced by KPMG and other evidence emerging on the review and together with Chief Executives of other Authorities, which are party to the

review, to prepare reports setting out the conclusions of the review and a final draft scheme for submission to the February AGMA Executive Board.

(vi) That the Leader be authorised to consider the conclusions of the review and to approve (with or without modifications) any final draft scheme presented to the February AGMA Executive Board.

(vii) That the conclusions of the review and final scheme agreed by the AGMA Executive Board will be submitted for approval to a special meeting of the Council to be held in early March.