

ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES

DECISIONS MADE BY THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS MEETING ON THE 27 MARCH 2009 AT LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE

**Decisions published on 31 March 2009 and will come into force from 7
April 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/AGMAExecutivePapers20082009/March2009.en

ITEM 2: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2009

AGREED: That the minutes be approved.

ITEM 4 TOWARDS PATHFINDER CITY REGION STATUS

The Chief Executive Manchester CC and the Chief Executive, EDES Commission submitted a note discussing potential additional information and proposals which the AGMA Executive Board might wish to propose, in discussions with Government Ministers over the coming period, in support of Greater Manchester's proposition to be a pathfinder city region.

The Chair very briefly commented on his recent meetings with government Ministers and tabled correspondence received from Liz Meek, Regional Director GONW.

AGREED: That the report be accepted as the basis for moving forward and that the proposals are taken into account as part of the discussions on proposed City Region status.

ITEM 5 TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE

Further to the report considered at the Executive Board in January 2009 the Chief Executive, Manchester CC submitted a report on the question of a transport governance review within the terms of the Local Transport Act.

The process proposed in the report was for there to be three stages of which the first stage would be for officers to produce, for approval of the ITA and the AGMA Executive Board, a detailed paper outlining the terms of reference of any review. These would relate to the need to strengthen the contribution that transport makes to the economic and social well being of the area, incorporate an objective analysis of the delivery and governance options - and

any other options which the ITA and AGMA may determine - for detailed consultation with local authorities and other stakeholders, including the Business Leadership Council. The paper would be produced by the Chief Executives Wider Leadership Team, which included the Chief Executive of the GMPTE, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of AGMA and Chair and Deputy Chair of the ITA. The intention would be to submit it to the first meetings of the ITA and AGMA in the municipal year 2009/10.

Cllr Bob Bibby, on behalf of Conservative and Liberal Democrat Leaders commented that the report as a whole was premature and could not be accepted/agreed by them. Further preparatory work was required.

AGREED: That the proposal to commence a review of transport governance be not agreed at this stage. Officers would prepare a report for the next Executive Board meeting setting out suggested Terms of Reference for any possible future review; and other preparatory work; before any further decisions were taken on this issue.

ITEM 6 PLANNING AND HOUSING COMMISSION – SELECTION OF NON LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

The Head of the AGMA Policy Unit submitted a report in respect of the above.

AGREED: That the selection of the following five candidates for membership of the Planning and Housing Commission be endorsed –

Simon Bedford – Head of Economic Development, Drivers Jonas
Jane Healey Brown – Associate Director, Arup
Joe Isle – Strategic Development Director, Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd
Ian Munro – National Housing Federation
Julie Spinks – United Utilities.

In respect of the selection of non Local Authority members to the Environment Commission it was AGREED that this be dealt with by e-mailing the list of candidates to the 10 AGMA Leaders for approval.

IT was also AGREED that the minutes of all Commission meetings should be circulated to Leaders, Chief Executives and Members of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool as soon as possible after their meetings.

ITEM 7 AGMA SCRUTINY POOL – PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ORGANISATION 2009/10

The Head of the AGMA Policy Unit submitted a report advising Members of the Executive Board on how the new AGMA Scrutiny Pool proposed to operate for municipal year 2009/10; following a presentation on the current state of play in terms of AGMA's governance arrangements which was made at their meeting on 13 March 2009.

The report also set out some specific points which the Scrutiny Pool wished to propose to the Executive Board as a result of their discussion at their meeting on 13 March.

The pool was aware of the role which groups of Leaders on the Executive Board played in scrutinising each Joint Authority's budget proposals each December/January. It was agreed that the Executive Board be asked whether the Scrutiny Pool could contribute to this task by carrying out some 'pre-scrutiny work' on Joint Board proposals at an earlier stage. Pool members believed that such a role could be used to inform and support individual Leaders when they came to carry out the scrutiny role in December/ January each year.

AGREED: 1. That the proposals for future organisation of the AGMA Scrutiny Pool in 2009/10 be noted.

2. That, as a trial, Scrutiny Pool Members assist the Leaders in scrutinising one of the Joint Authorities.

ITEM 8 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 DRAFT GUIDANCE – RESPONSE TO DfT CONSULTATION

The Head of the GM Joint Transport Team submitted a report providing Members with an overview of the main issues of the Local Transport Plan 3 Guidance and sought approval for a response to the four consultation questions asked in the draft guidance.

The Chief Executive, Manchester CC referred to recent announcements in respect of the Mottram-Tintwistle Bypass and informed the meeting that following a number of meetings with various organisations a potential alternative alignment had emerged. He stressed that this scheme was still being evaluated and would be subject to the thorough review that all the proposed GM transport schemes were being subjected to as part of the prioritisation process.

Cllr. David Goddard, Leader of Stockport MBC queried the discussions which had taken place on Mottram-Tintwistle and sought reassurance that this would not pre-empt the review of all Greater Manchester schemes and priorities which was due to be considered by the Executive Board in April. In response it was re-iterated that any potential realignment would be subject to the same rigorous review as all other transport schemes. A report on the prioritisation of all GM transport schemes would be submitted to the April meeting.

AGREED: That the report and the responses to the consultation as part of a joint GMITA/AGMA response be approved.

ITEM 9 ATLANTIC (OCEAN) GATEWAY

A report of the AGMA Chief Executives was submitted commenting on, and outlining issues for consideration, the Ocean Gateway concept launched by Peel on the 5 September 2008. It described "Peel's proposed £50 billion investment strategy for the North West of England to be phased over the next few decades".

Cllr Susan Williams, Leader of Trafford considered that in places the tone of the report was too negative. As a result the recommendations were amended and the following were AGREED:-

- 1) _AGMA acknowledged that there are some opportunities arising as a result of the Atlantic Gateway concept which have the potential to support the Manchester City Region Growth agenda
- 2) These opportunities need to be explored and evidenced in the context of the emerging GM and Regional Strategies
- 3) More detailed evidence needs to be made available in order that the concept of the Atlantic Gateway is better defined and understood
- 4) AGMA will work constructively with Government Office, the RDA and other agencies to develop an evidential base to ensure that the concept is appropriately defined, and bring forward aspects of the overall concept which promotes and complement city region regeneration priorities.
- 5) The NWDA should commission an economic, environmental and social cost benefit analysis of the concept and emerging proposals to:
 - maximise long-term sustainable economic growth
 - understand the impacts (positive and negative) that pursuit of the concept could have on the abilities of the city-regions to drive overall regional growth
 - assist in ensuring public investment/intervention is better aligned and appropriately targeted

ITEM 10 REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY PARTIAL REVIEW – GYPSIES, TRAVELLERS AND TRAVELLING SHOWPEOPLE ACCOMMODATION – AGMA RESPONSE

The Chair of GM. Planning Officers Group submitted an update report on the Partial Review of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West (RSS), particularly the issue relating to the future accommodation pitch requirements for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Members commented that in the first instance those sub-regions and authorities who did not make any provision or whose provision was substantially below what it should be should take priority and make provision before those areas that already did make adequate provision.

It was also suggested that the issues relating to Travelling Showpeople were different and should be re-visited and reconsidered.

Also that there should be a phased delivery across the North West, with appropriate provision being made first in those areas/sub-regions that currently made no provision.

AGREED: That the proposed AGMA response to 4NW appended to the report be amended to reflect the views of Members present.

ITEM 11 BENEFITS TO AGMA COUNCILS FROM THE HALLE ORCHESTRA

The Chief Executive Stockport MBC submitted a report explaining the revised arrangements regarding benefits on offer to AGMA Councils from the Halle.

AGREED: To explore with the Halle a scheme for free tickets for deprived communities in place of free tickets for children.

ITEM 12 NWIEP – STATEMENT OF COLLABORATION

A report of the AGMA Policy Unit was submitted detailing a 'Statement of Collaboration' agreement ratified by the Member Board Chair and Partnership Management Board Chair of the NWIEP, to be followed by ratification at each of the five Sub-Regions by each of their Local Authority Council Leaders and Chief Executives, and wider public sector partners. This had been developed in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance on Mutual Aid.

AGREED: That the Chair of the AGMA Executive Board sign the Regional/Sub Regional Statement of collaboration on AGMA's behalf.

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

Any further information please contact –

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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.