**Greater Manchester: Governance and Devolution**

*Governance*

Greater Manchester has a track-record of civic leadership and partnership working, which delivers real benefits for those who live, work, study, visit or do business in the city region.

Our governance is built on over 30 years of collaborative working between the 10 local authorities which make up Greater Manchester. In 2011 the local authorities established the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) as a body to formally collaborate through, with responsibilities which now include Transport; Economic Development, Regeneration and Housing; Policing; Fire and Rescue; Health; and Waste Disposal. Andy Burnham was elected as the first Mayor of Greater Manchester in 2017 and is the chair of the GMCA with the 10 leaders of Greater Manchester’s local authorities acting as his cabinet.

The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership also sits as an integrated part of Greater Manchester's governance arrangements, offering private sector insight, guidance and challenge to the development of GM's strategic agenda in partnership with the GMCA. Uniquely, our devolved health and social care arrangements also mean that the NHS in Greater Manchester is also part of our single governance system. And finally, we have recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the community, voluntary, and social enterprise organisations which brings the sector into these governance arrangements.

Our integrated governance system is the most advanced of any city in the UK. It means that the 10 councils, the Mayor, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the NHS, transport, the police and the fire services, and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors are all working to a single strategy supported by the institutional capacity to deliver. It enables us to pool resources, to streamline decision-making and, most importantly, to deliver impact that improves people’s lives.

*Devolution*

Devolution means we’ve already taken control of spending and decisions in huge areas affecting people’s lives including transport, health and planning. We have agreed six devolution deals with Government (see chart below) and now make decisions on how over £8bn of public money is spent in Greater Manchester each year.

Key elements of devolved arrangements include:

* the only place with fully devolved Health & Social Care funding, covering the entirety of the £6bn annual spend across the city region.
* a £900m deal over 30 years to ‘earn back’ additional tax revenue generated as a result of additional local investment in infrastructure.
* public transport responsibilities, enabling smart ticketing and Mayoral control of bus franchising will allow the development of the GM transport system, similar to the London delivery model.
* control of the £100m adult education budget. We have recently agreed to enhance this through a new strategic partnership with the Department for Education aiming to improve the performance of the entire education, skills, apprenticeship and careers advice system.
* control over local employment programmes. Our Working Well programme takes a unique whole population approach to health, skills and employment and will support 50,000 people to get into and progress in work.
* the only Combined Authority developing a single planning framework, which will provide a plan for housing, employment and infrastructure for the city-region for the next 30 years.
* a ‘single-pot’ fund which provides a pool of almost £1bn to invest in transport, education and training, and local growth infrastructure. We also have decision-making powers in relation to European Funding, with over £45m invested in the past year.
* over £600m of investment funds under management across housing, business and commercial property which are addressing market failures in the private sector funding landscape.
* the only Combined Authority in the country with responsibility for Fire & Rescue, Policing and Waste.

Combined, our strong and integrated governance and years of collaboration mean we now have devolved and established delivery mechanisms, with more funding, freedoms and flexibilities than other UK city region.

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