

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> November

Subject: GM Local Growth Plan

Report of: Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth and Tom Stannard Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth

---

### Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the Government requirement to produce a GM Local Growth Plan and to approve the draft plan developed in line with the Greater Manchester Strategy.

### Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to note and approve the GM Local Growth Plan (attached at Appendix 1).

### Contact Officers

Lisa Dale-Clough, Interim Director of Economy, Innovation, Culture and International

[Lisa.dale-clough@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.dale-clough@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

David Rogerson, Senior Principal Business Strategy

[David.rogerson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:David.rogerson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

## Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

### Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

*This report updates Members on the Government requirement to produce a GM Local Growth Plan. Members are asked to provide any feedback before approving the draft Plan.*

*The Local Growth Plan reflects the priorities and actions of the Greater Manchester Strategy and is therefore a rearticulation of the growth-specific elements of Greater Manchester's existing plans and strategies that are aimed at delivering growth to meet the Government's requirements.*

### Impacts Questionnaire

| Impact Indicator                                            | Result                                                | Justification/Mitigation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| Equality and Inclusion                                      | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Health                                                      | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Resilience and Adaptation                                   | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Housing                                                     | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Economy                                                     | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Mobility and Connectivity                                   | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Carbon, Nature and Environment                              | G                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Consumption and Production                                  |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
|                                                             |                                                       | The Local Growth Plan reflects the priorities and actions of the Greater Manchester Strategy and is therefore a rearticulation of the growth-specific elements of Greater Manchester’s existing plans and strategies that are aimed at delivering growth to meet the Government’s requirements. |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| Further Assessment(s):                                      |                                                       | Equalities Impact Assessment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                               |   |                                                                             |    |                           |
| G                                                           | Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term. | A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider. | R | Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider. | RR | Negative impacts overall. |

| Carbon Assessment                                      |                                                             |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Overall Score                                          |                                                             |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Buildings                                              | Result                                                      | Justification/Mitigation                                       |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| New Build residential                                  | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance         | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| New build non-residential (including public) buildings | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Transport                                              |                                                             |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Active travel and public transport                     | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access                      | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Access to amenities                                    | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Vehicle procurement                                    | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Land Use                                               |                                                             |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| Land use                                               | N/A                                                         |                                                                |                                                                        |                                                                     |  |
| No associated carbon impacts expected.                 | High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon. | Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon. | Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve. | Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts. |  |

## Risk Management

N/A

## Legal Considerations

The English Evolution and Community Empowerment Bill ('the Bill') will add new section 107L (1) to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 ('the 2009 Act') which will impose a statutory requirement on all Mayoral Strategic Authorities to prepare and publish a Local Growth Plan.

The proposed new section 107L (2) of the 2009 Act will require a Local Growth Plan to:

- i. Include an overview of the economic conditions of the area (including the main economic characteristics which are likely to influence current and future economic growth),
- ii. identify priorities for the economic growth of the area that are agreed with the Secretary of State, and
- iii. identify key projects for achieving economic growth in the area through private or public investment.

The Bill provides that the requirement under section 107L (1) to prepare and publish a local growth plan for the area may be met by the publication of a local growth plan *before* that section comes into force.

The Bill makes further provision for Local Growth Plans as follows:

- i. The Secretary of State may issue guidance to mayoral combined authorities in relation to local growth plans.
- ii. A mayoral combined authority must have regard to any such guidance in exercising their functions.

The guidance referred to above may include (but is not limited to) guidance about –

- i. who the authority might consult when preparing or revising the plan;
- ii. information to be included in the plan under section 107L (2) or the plan as revised;
- iii. the process for agreeing priorities for the economic growth of the area with the Secretary of State for the purposes of section 107L(2)(b);
- iv. the circumstances in which the authority may revise or replace the plan;
- v. the ways in which the authority may have regard to the plan when exercising its other functions.

Further, if the Bill becomes law, ‘relevant public authorities’ (to be defined in regulations made by the Secretary of State) must have regard to a shared local growth priority of a mayoral combined authority when—

- i. exercising, at the request of the mayoral combined authority, a function which could reasonably be expected to have an effect on that priority;
- ii. preparing a bid for public funding for an activity the objectives of which align with that priority;
- iii. preparing a statutory plan or strategy which relates to that priority.

The Bill is currently at the Report stage in the House of Commons. The GMCA must ensure that any Local Growth Plan it has published complies with any relevant legislative provisions once the bill becomes law.

Finally, Mayoral Strategic Authorities are required to meet their public sector equality duty, as required by the Equality Act 2010, in carrying out their duties related to Local Growth Plans and contracting authorities (as defined by the Procurement Act 2023) should secure

social and economic value which supports delivery of the national missions, taking into account priorities in local and regional economic growth plans where available.

Pending the coming into force of any new legislative provisions, the proposed Local Growth Plan is not a statutory document. Further consideration of legal implications will be required at appropriate stages of development and implementation of these plans to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Bill should the provisions referred to above become law.

#### **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

**N/A**

#### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

**N/A**

#### **Number of attachments to the report:**

**N/A**

#### **Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**N/A**

#### **Background Papers**

- [The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#)
- [GM Local Industrial Strategy](#)
- MHCLG Guidance on Local Growth Plans: [Guidance for Mayoral Strategic Authorities on developing Local Growth Plans - GOV.UK](#)
- English Devolution Bill White Paper – [English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill - Parliamentary Bills - UK Parliament](#)
- GMCA Briefing on English Devolution Bill – included as a background paper
- Greater Manchester Strategy: [Greater Manchester Strategy](#)

#### **Tracking/ Process**

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution No

#### **Exemption from call in**

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? No

#### **Bee Network Committee**

**N/A**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**N/A**

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Government publicised the requirement for MSAs to develop Local Growth Plans with the announcement that the National Industrial Strategy was being developed in Summer 2024. This positioned Local Growth Plans by Government as a key instrument for linking the National Industrial Strategy to activity in city-regions/MSA regions.
- 1.2 The other Government initiative that framed the need for Local Growth Plans was the Growth Mission. The key measure of the Growth Mission is for the UK to have the 'highest sustained growth in the G7 – with more people in good jobs, higher living standards, and productivity growth in every part of the United Kingdom.'
- 1.3 Early conversations between GMCA and Government Officials on the Local Growth Plan took place Summer-Autumn 2024, with government (MHCLG primarily) sharing with MSA regions a data pack on key economic factors and sector mixes in their area, and discussions about potential shared Government-MSA priorities in each plan.
- 1.4 Mayoral-Ministerial engagement and engagement with the Industrial Strategy Council has also taken place - via the UK Mayors group - which has focused on the links between the growth driving sectors in the National Industrial Strategy and different places, and cross-cutting barriers to growth, including skills and transport investment.
- 1.5 The Deputy Prime Minister wrote to each Mayor earlier in the year, confirming an outline scope for their Local Growth Plan. As per all Local Growth Plans this covered the sector priorities in the National Industrial Strategy. Greater Manchester's letter included housing and transport; skills and employment and innovation as areas where shared priorities with Government could be developed.

# **2. DEVELOPMENT OF GM LOCAL GROWTH PLAN**

- 2.1 Government recognises that Greater Manchester has a mature existing landscape of plans and strategies in place that are driving growth in the city-region. Therefore, the GM Local Growth Plan is an opportunity to bring out their major elements into a government-facing document - to make it easy for Government to engage with us on the National Industrial Strategy and the wider Growth Mission.

2.2 The draft Local Growth Plan (attached as annexe) is therefore a rearticulation of the growth-specific elements of Greater Manchester's existing plans and strategies that are aimed at delivering growth to meet the Government's requirements – see other reports at the 28<sup>th</sup> November GMCA meeting for examples.

2.3 The Plan brings together the key elements from Greater Manchester's existing plans signposting:

- How the Greater Manchester Strategy sets out GM's plan for local growth.
- The established evidence base in GM on the opportunities and barriers to growth.
- How the Investment Pipeline sets out GM's priorities for investment.
- How GM's sector plans, agreed at the September 2025 GMCA meeting, that build from the existing GM Local Industrial Strategy, capture GM's plans for sector growth.
- How the GM Innovation Plan links the leading R&D in GM's universities with business growth, including through the new Local Innovation Partnership Fund announced by the Government.
- How GM's nationally leading GM Business Growth Hub provides a clear single coordination point for business support in GM that links national and locally funded programmes aimed at boosting growth.
- How GM's International Strategy has provided the framework for strengthening and focussing our city-region's strategic and economic relationships with similar city-regions and places with links to our industries and communities.
- How GM's residents will be supported to contribute to and benefit from growth, including signposting to the Get GM Working Plan that DWP and DFE has requested.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

3.1 Subject to approval by Leaders, the Plan will be published on the GMCA website in a fully formatted and accessible design.

3.2 The Plan will be accompanied by a short evidence pack which informs the Plan and that signposts to Greater Manchester's longstanding economic evidence base in the Independent Prosperity Review and MIER along with recent data updates.