

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AGMA STATUTORY FUNCTIONS  
HELD THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2025 AT THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE,  
103 PRINCESS STREET, MANCHESTER M16 6DD**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Tim Whiston	Manchester City Council
Councillor Aftab Hussain	Oldham Council
Councillor Frankie Singleton	Stockport Council
Councillor Leanne Feeley	Tameside Council
Councillor Catherine Hynes	Trafford Council

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sam Elliott	Head of Service, Bolton Council
Jenny Hollamby	Senior Governance and Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Philip Cooke	Libraries and Archives Lead, Manchester City Council
Neil MacInnes	Head of Libraries, Galleries and Culture, Manchester City Council
Marie Holland	Arts and Engagement Officer, Tameside Council

**SFC/01/25**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillor Nadeem Ayub, Councillor Dane Anderton, Councillor Peter Dean, Councillor Jilly Julian, Councillor Charlotte Morris, Councillor Paul Prescott and Councillor Hannah Robinson-Smith.

**SFC/02/25**

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED/-**

That Councillor Janet Emsley, Rochdale Council be appointed as Chair for the ensuing year.

**SFC/03/25**

**TO NOTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AGMA  
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE 2024/25**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the Membership for the 2024/25 municipal year be noted as follows:

<b>Member (Councillor)</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Substitute (Councillor)</b>
Nadeem Ayub (Lab)	Bolton	Akhtar Zaman
Charlotte Morris (Lab)	Bury	Vacancy
Tim Whiston (Lab)	Manchester	Leslie Bell
Peter Dean (Lab)	Oldham	Aftab Hussain
Janet Emsley (Lab)	Rochdale	Terrance Smith
Hannah Robinson-Smith (Lab)	Salford	Jack Youd
Frankie Singleton (Lib Dem)	Stockport	Jilly Julian
Leanne Feeley (Lab)	Tameside	Hugh Roderick
Catherine Hynes (Lab)	Trafford	Rose Thompson
Paul Prescott (Lab)	Wigan	Dane Anderton

**SFC/04/25**

**MEMBER'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL  
DECLARATION FORM**

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Member's Code of Conduct and to complete an annual declaration of interest form which would be published on the GMCA website.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the GMCA's Code of Conduct be noted.
2. That all Members complete an Annual Register of Interest Form.

SFC/05/25

## **TO NOTE THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

2024/25

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the Committee noted its terms of reference for the ensuing year.

SFC/06/25

## CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Members of the Committee, along with the Chair, expressed their sincere thanks to Officers for the informative and engaging tour of the Central Library, which took place prior to the commencement of the meeting.

SFC/07/25

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In respect of agenda item nine, Greater Manchester County Records Office and Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership, Councillor Tim Whiston declared a personal interest by virtue of him working as a Library Assistant for Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester M15 6BH.

SFC/08/25

## **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

HELP ON 2 OCTOBER 2023

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the Committee noted the minutes of the last meeting held on 2 October 2023.

SFC/09/25

# **GREATER MANCHESTER COUNTY RECORDS OFFICE AND GREATER MANCHESTER ARCHIVES AND LOCAL STUDIES**

Members considered a report presented by Neil MacInnes, Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture, Manchester City Council, Philip Cooke, Libraries and Archives Lead, Manchester City Council, Sam Elliott, Head of Service, Bolton Council.

The report outlined the progress of the Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO) and the Archives+ Partnership, based at Manchester Central Library. GMCRO, operated by Manchester City Council on behalf of AGMA, had been nationally accredited and praised for its facilities and engagement work. Archives+ had significantly increased public access to archives, with over 1.5 million visitors in the past year.

The Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership (GMALSP) has made strong progress in digital preservation, securing funding to equip all ten GM authorities with digital kits. A pilot project with the NHS was underway to transfer health records to local archives. A mobile digital kiosk had been rotating across authorities, showcasing local archive content and receiving excellent feedback.

Efforts to diversify collections had been a priority, with community engagement projects and a planned consortium bid to the Archives Revealed fund. The Assheton Collection, dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, was acquired with £100k in funding and was being preserved and used for educational engagement.

Each local authority had reported unique achievements. Bolton reopened its library and featured in national TV programmes. Bury received a grant for creative digital publications. Oldham was preparing for a new archive centre and had delivered several community projects. Rochdale relocated its service and launched outreach initiatives. Salford expanded access and digitised thousands of images. Stockport was preparing for a major move and had increased its digital presence. Tameside strengthened its volunteer programme. Trafford transformed its archive space and gained national media attention. Wigan earned re-accreditation and led dementia-friendly workshops.

Archives+ partners had delivered a wide range of exhibitions and events, including the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Central Library. The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Centre concluded a major heritage project and launched a new one focused on digital resilience. The North West Film Archive expanded its team and improved accessibility. The Family History

Society completed several large transcription projects. Manchester Histories hosted festivals and exhibitions and developed a well-being toolkit. Archives+ also supported major projects like the Piccadilly Radio archive and the Rashford mural collection.

Future priorities included enhancing diversity and inclusion, expanding digital access, and continuing collaborative events. Archives+ would also support ongoing digitisation, community engagement, and educational initiatives across Greater Manchester.

A Member asked about the recent cyberattack on the British Library, which had severely disrupted all systems and prevented users from accessing archives. Officers explained that each local authority operated its own systems and was therefore reliant on its own cyber security arrangements. In the case of Manchester City Council, funding had been brought forward since 2024 to strengthen its defences against cybercrime. Officers confirmed that cyber security had become a major priority for all councils. The British Library incident had been closely studied by local authorities due to the significant impact it had and the lessons it offered for improving resilience. The Chair asked and Officers agreed that cyber security be a feature at meetings to provide reassurance for Members.

A Member expressed appreciation for the tour of Manchester Central Library that took place prior to the meeting. The Member commented that while the accompanying report was informative, the tour provided valuable additional insight that could not be fully captured in written form. The visit had reinforced the importance of protecting and investing in the continued growth of the archive collections.

Given the value and insight gained from the tour of Manchester Central Library, it was agreed that arrangements would be made for a longer and more in-depth tour to take place prior to the Annual Meeting next year

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Committee noted the progress of Archives+ and the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Studies Partnership.

2. That the Head of Service, Bolton provide cyber security information at the next meeting.
  
3. That a longer and more in-depth tour of Manchester Central Library to take place prior to the Annual Meeting next year

**SFC/10/25**

**FOREVER MANCHESTER, GREATER MANCHESTER RELIEF  
FUND ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2023-24**

**RESOLVED/-**

That the report be received and noted.

**SFC/11/25**

**DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

That meetings take place twice a year in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference.