

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: Friday 27th March 2026

Subject: Economy, Business and International Programmes and Projects 2026/27

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

Following the approval of budgets to fund the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) at the GMCA meeting on the 13/2/26, this report sets out in more detail the proposed programmes and projects under the Economy, Business and International portfolio to be funded and delivered in the 2026/27 financial year. Together with Industrial Strategy Zone and Culture programmes, which sit outside of the scope of this report, these programmes and projects are essential to the delivery of the 'a great place to do business' workstream of the GMS and the associated commitments under the GMS Delivery Plan, as well as underpinning the delivery of other workstreams.

Recommendations:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the proposed economic and business programmes and projects and their respective provisional budget allocations as set out in the report for the 2026/27 Financial Year.
2. Note that, if approved, programmes and projects will then be managed through existing delegations within the Constitution.

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment

There are no specific equalities impact or carbon sustainability issues set out in this report. Any implications will be considered at programme/project level, prior to award.

Risk Management

Risk will be managed by the EICI Directorate's dedicated Programmes Team, with risk management systems in place for each programme/project, as well as forming part of the directorate's risk management process.

Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations set out in this report. Any legal implications will be considered at programme/project level, prior to award.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The report sets out the revenue implications for each programme/project, summarised in Section 4 - Economy, Business and International Programmes and Projects 2026/27 – Proposed Allocations Summary. The approval of budgets to meet these costs is set out in the background papers.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The report sets out the capital implications for each programme/project, summarised in Section 4 - Economy, Business and International Programmes and Projects 2026/27 – Proposed Allocations Summary. The approval of budgets to meet these costs is set out in the background papers.

Number of attachments to the report: 3

Background Papers

[GMCA Revenue and Capital Budgets 2026/27 Overview](#)

(GMCA, 13th February 2026)

[GMCA General Revenue Budget 2026/27: Delivering the Greater Manchester Strategy](#)

(GMCA, 13th February 2026)

[GMCA Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29](#)

(GMCA, 13th February 2026)

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

No

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) sets out a vision of “a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life”, providing detail on Greater Manchester’s story so far, the challenges and priorities for Greater Manchester, and how the seven workstreams will respond to these challenges through collective delivery over the next decade.
- 1.2. The GMS Delivery Plan sets out the priority system actions which will be delivered in support of achieving the GMS, with the overall success of the GMS requiring the effective and impactful delivery of the breadth of place-based and thematic actions.
- 1.3. The ‘a great place to do business workstream’ focusses on creating the right business environment, with the right support for entrepreneurs and businesses to start, innovate, expand and access new global markets. This includes supporting employers to attract and develop the talent they need, creating high-quality jobs that improve the lives of our residents, as well as driving economic growth. By creating the conditions for our frontier sectors to thrive, Greater Manchester will stay at the cutting edge of progress, and remain a great place to live, invest and do business.
- 1.4. The GMS Delivery Plan includes specific actions towards this vision, including: delivering an integrated business support offer, with co-ordinated delivery across skills, innovation and sector development; continuing support for inward investment; export support and sector internationalisation activity, and deployment of the Local Innovation Partnership Fund, mobilising the region’s universities and research institutes.
- 1.5. Following the embedding of Greater Manchester’s Integrated Settlement, multi-year funding allocations and the launch of the GMS and GMS Delivery Plan, the GMCA has taken a new approach to budget-setting. This approach brought together funding from the Integrated Settlement and Retained Business Rates to resource the implementation of the GMS Delivery Plan, a marked shift from previous approaches which were restricted by the parameters of individual funding streams with singular priorities.

1.6. On the 13th February, the GMCA approved high-level budget allocations to resource the implementation of the GMS Delivery Plan for the 2026/27 financial year.¹ This report sets out in more detail the proposed economic and business programmes and projects to be funded and delivered in the 2026/27 financial year, which are essential to achieving the following end states in the GMS Delivery Plan:

- Greater Manchester is one of the best places in the world to do business, with the right business environment and the right support to entrepreneurs and businesses to start, innovate, expand, scale up, and access global markets.
- Greater Manchester's productivity is above the national average and continues to increase at a faster rate, driven by focusing on the high potential growth opportunities of our frontier sectors.
- Greater Manchester has reached the level of other innovation-led, global second cities as an engine of innovation-driven economic growth.
- GM is a globally attractive investment proposition for businesses, with record levels of foreign direct investment including in GM's Growth Locations and priority sectors, based on global brand recognition,
- By 2030, our visitor economy will contribute £15 billion to the Greater Manchester economy.
- We have continued to build international connections for our global city region, attract global talent and events, and our international diplomacy work has continued to build effective partnerships with other cities around the world.
- Greater Manchester has a thriving social economy where social enterprises, co-operatives and community businesses of all sizes and sectors are supported to start up, grow and innovate on an equal footing with the private sector. and
- Delivery of strategic projects in employment, housing, town centres, and key infrastructure including innovation districts.

¹ See attached background papers.

2. Proposed Programmes and Budget Allocations

2.1. Local Authority ED&R Flexible Grant Funding

- 2.1.1. Previously multiple individual grants under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, in 2025/26 Local Growth and Place Flexible Grants have provided funding to each Local Authority to invest flexibly in local priorities, ensuring the best outcomes for each locality.
- 2.1.2. In 2026/27, it is proposed that Economic Development and Regeneration (ED&R) Flexible Grants will continue this approach. Each Local Authority will receive an individual funding settlement, affording them the flexibility to prioritise this funding across the functions set out in the ED&R pillar of the GMCA's Integrated Settlement, including improving business productivity, enabling job creation, unlocking floorspace, supporting public realm improvements, regeneration, and funding cultural activities.
- 2.1.3. The funding will support the 'a great place to do business' workstream of the GMS, in particular through providing support to local businesses, unlocking employment floorspace and enhancing local cultural offers, whilst the flexible nature of the grants will allow Local Authorities to prioritise funding to support their local GMS commitments. The funding will also contribute to achieving the outcomes targets set with government as part of the Integrated Settlement, with outcomes to be agreed with Local Authorities individually to reflect their proposed use of the funding.
- 2.1.4. Approval is sought for a total proposed funding allocation for Local Authority ED&R Flexible Grants in 2026/27 in the sum of £19,929,200, consisting of £11,190,200 revenue and £8,739,000 capital funding. Following consultation with Directors of Place, to support business planning and continuity, funding in 2026/27 will be allocated based on the existing methodology.²

2.2. Build A Business in GM Libraries

² The methodology and proposed 2026/27 Local Authority allocations are set out in Section 4.

2.2.1. The Build A Business in GM Libraries programme supports aspiring entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses through local library services. Each Local Authority has a dedicated Enterprise Officer, based in a local library, to provide 1-2-1 support and advice to entrepreneurs on starting, running and growing their business. A series of workshops covering business basics, marketing, customer insight and Intellectual Property are also delivered quarterly in each Local Authority, supported by access to a wide range of resources and events.

2.2.2. The programme supports the GMS by supporting start-ups across the city region, establishing solid foundations for future growth and creating a more inclusive business support ecosystem. Embedded in local libraries, the programme also contributes to the availability of support to residents directly in their communities. In 2025/26, the programme has supported more than 700 potential entrepreneurs and businesses to start and grow. It is proposed the programme continues in 2026/27, with further training provided to Enterprise Officers to enable them to offer advice and signpost residents to Greater Manchester's Adult Skills and employment support provision.

2.2.3. Approval is sought for a total funding allocation for Build A Business in GM Libraries in 2026/27 in the sum of £850,255 revenue funding, to be awarded as grant to Manchester City Council, who will continue to act as the Lead Partner for delivery of the programme across the city region.

2.3. Made Smarter Adoption North West

2.3.1. The Made Smarter Adoption programme supports manufacturers to adopt Industrial Digital Technologies to increase efficiency, productivity and competitiveness and drive economic growth. Through a delivery team of Technology Adoption Specialists and Organisational and Workforce Development advisors, the offer to businesses includes: support to identify business challenges and the appropriate digital solutions; assess and address skills needs and implement change management; funded internships to bring students with digital skills into the business, and access to grant funding to meet up to 50% of the cost of technology adoption projects.

2.3.2. Administered nationally by the Department for Business and Trade, GMCA have acted as the Accountable Body for the delivery of the programme in the North West since its inception. Now part of Greater Manchester's Integrated Settlement, the programme remains strongly aligned with local priorities set out in the GMS Delivery Plan, including an increasingly digital and data driven economy, and a comprehensive support offer for our frontier sectors.

2.3.3. In 2025/26 the programme will support over 100 businesses and match fund 19 investment projects. The programme directly contributes to the achievement of outcomes targets under the Economic Development and Regeneration pillar of the Integrated Settlement, including improving business productivity and creating jobs.

2.3.4. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for Made Smarter Adoption North West in 2026/27 in the sum of £948,059. This represents Greater Manchester's 'share' of the wider regional programme, with additional funding to be secured from the Department for Business and Trade for delivery outside of Greater Manchester. Continuing to deliver the programme at a regional level has significant benefits, including access to a wider range of specialists to support local business and savings through economies of scale.

2.4. Care Smarter Pilot

2.4.1. Building on the success of the Made Smarter model for manufacturing, this local Care Smarter Pilot will support adult social care providers to adopt digital technologies in their administration, as well as technology-enabled care solutions. The programme aims to support business resilience and productivity within the sector, improve conditions and opportunities for staff and increase retention, whilst also improving care outcomes for residents. In addition, the programme develops the adoptive capacity of the sector as a market for innovations developed within Greater Manchester's Health Innovation and Life Sciences Sector.

2.4.2. The programme will be designed and delivered in collaboration with the Adult Social Care Transformation team within NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care, ensuring the specific needs of the sector are prioritised, and embedding the support as part of the wider Transformation agenda. With a focus on change management, as well as introducing new technology solutions the programme will support providers with leadership and management and workforce development.

2.4.3. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for the Care Smarter pilot in 2026/27 in the sum of £512,500, to be deployed alongside existing budget for the pilot secured through Retained Business Rates. Unlike the Made Smarter Adoption programme, this pilot will only be delivered within Greater Manchester.

2.5. Innovation Navigator

2.5.1. The Innovation Navigator programme provides businesses access to highly specialist innovation support to accelerate the commercialisation of their innovations. Support is focussed on businesses operating in our frontier sectors, where Greater Manchester has the technological and sector strengths to create innovation-focussed clusters. As well as supporting businesses to develop commercialisation plans and facilitating access to the wider ecosystem, the programme also includes a flexible financial support fund to overcome financial barriers to progressing innovations.

2.5.2. By driving innovation-led growth in our frontier sectors, the programme enhances Greater Manchester's reputation for world-leading innovation and its ability to attract significant investment. This supports the GMS Delivery Plan commitment to increase R&D investment by £750m per annum and for Greater Manchester to have reached the level of other innovation-led, global second cities as an engine of innovation-led economic growth. The support the programme provides to access and navigate the innovation ecosystem underpins the success of wider investment in local assets, such as through the GM Industrial Strategy Zone and the Local Innovation Partnership Fund. The programme also supports the creation of highly skilled, high-quality jobs in our frontier sectors, with opportunities for residents across the city region.

2.5.3. Since its inception, the programme has supported more than 500 businesses to develop their innovations, awarding grants to 160 companies, bringing more than 100 new products and services to market, and creating over 100 jobs. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for the Innovation Navigator programme in 2026/27 in the sum of £4,500,000, with the intention to extend the existing contract for continued delivery.

2.6. GM Colleges Innovation Connector Network

2.6.1. The Greater Manchester Further Education Innovation Programme, currently funded by Innovate UK, increases the role of Further Education (FE) colleges in a local, place-based approach to innovation. The programme has established an Innovation Hub in each borough, located in the nine FE colleges and staffed by an Innovation Connector. The Connectors engage and support local SMEs around innovation and productivity, providing access to facilities, training, and support to navigate the innovation ecosystem, as well as opportunities to connect and collaborate.

2.6.2. The Innovation Connector Network will continue to support SMEs to innovate, establishing colleges as Innovation Hub with direct connections to local employers. The Network facilitates wider access to the innovation ecosystem, connecting businesses with the opportunities presented by local assets and our Growth Locations and building a culture of innovation-led growth across the city region's business base. If approved, in 2026/27, the programme will engage 1,500 businesses across Greater Manchester, refer 830 businesses into wider innovation and growth support, and integrate 400 employers into college skills provision.

2.6.3. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for the GM Colleges Innovation Connector Network in 2026/27 in the sum of £1,000,000. This would allow the continuation of the programme for a further financial year.

2.7. Support for the Social Economy

2.7.1. The Support for the Social Economy programme was developed in response to the 2021 report of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission, which recommended that GM should create a Community Wealth Hub to support and grow co-operatives, mutuals, social and community enterprises, staffed by people from the co-operative and community sector who understand the market.

2.7.2. The GMS Delivery Plan includes a specific commitment to supporting a thriving social economy, including ensuring support for social enterprises, co-operatives and community businesses are supported on an equal footing to private sector businesses. This commitment recognises the role of the sector in driving inclusive economic growth, delivering a range of vital local services, and tackling inequalities across the city region.

2.7.3. Co-operatives UK deliver the 'Our Business' platform, providing the social economy with a Knowledge Hub, Community, Directory, and access to local support, while 10GM provide tailored support for the sector through Local VCSE Infrastructure Organisations in each borough to address gaps in support provision. The continuation of both programmes is essential to meeting the commitments for the sector set out in the GMS Delivery Plan, recognising its foundational role in people's day-to-day lives and delivering the Live Well agenda. As well as supporting inclusive growth and tackling inequalities, the programme continues to strengthen the social economy, creating high-quality jobs in socially minded businesses and generating significant value to local communities.

2.7.4. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for the Support for the Social Economy programme in 2026/27 in the sum of £907,500, with the intention to extend the existing contracts for continued delivery.

2.8. GM Good Employment Charter

2.8.1. The GM Good Employment Charter is a voluntary membership and assessment scheme which aims to raise employment standards across all sectors and geographies of Greater Manchester. Supporters commit to improving practice across all areas of good employment, while Members have met the Charter's full membership criteria, creating an extensive community of likeminded employers who work with one another to share good practice and influence peers within their sector.

2.8.2. The Charter improves business productivity by promoting fair, equitable and high-quality employment, benefitting employees across Greater Manchester, including in the foundational economy, with a specific commitment in the GMS Delivery Plan to significantly expand membership in the sectors of the economy where work is most insecure. Its role is acknowledged in the Get GM Working Plan and is central to achieving Pledge 16 of the GMS to support all employers in the city region to pay the Real Living Wage by 2030.

2.8.3. The Charter currently has more than 150 Members and 1,000 Supporters, covering more than 220,000 employees in Greater Manchester. The requested funding would allow for the continued delivery and expansion of the Charter for a further financial year, with at least 200 new Supporters and 30 new Members.

2.8.4. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for the GM Good Employment Charter in 2026/27 in the sum of £800,993.

2.9. Access to Innovation Capital

2.9.1. If approved, this programme will provide early-stage innovation funding, aimed at improving the supply of innovation capital to diverse, early-stage businesses, bridging the 'equity gap' for SMEs struggling to access the finance needed to grow. Capital will be deployed alongside private investors at a ratio of at least 4:1, for a total investment of £5m, stimulating the local investment landscape. The programme will also seek to attract capital from other sources, such as the British Business Bank.

2.9.2. The programme supports the 'a great place to do business' workstream of the GMS, improving access to finance for business growth, increasing investment in our frontier sectors and creating high-quality jobs. The programme will have an increased focus on investment in companies with diverse ownership, including those with female and racially minoritised founders.

2.9.3. Approval is sought for a total budget allocation for the Access to Innovation Capital programme in 2026/27 in the sums of £1,000,000 capital and £500,000 revenue.

2.10. International Promotion and Inward Investment

2.10.1. Greater Manchester's activity promotes the city region to national and international audiences as a place to visit, meet, study and invest. This includes delivery of the Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan to increase visitor numbers, developing a pipeline of successful conference bids and attracting nationally and internationally significant events with significant economic impact, as well as the marketing and communications strategy for Greater Manchester's frontier sectors. This activity supports the delivery of the GM International strategy and attracts business, investment and talent from across the globe. Continued delivery is essential to achieving the commitments in the GMS Delivery Plan, including to be the most visited city region outside of London, increase the economic impact of the visitor economy to £15 billion, and firmly establish Greater Manchester as one of Europe's top 10 visitor destinations.

2.10.2. In 2025/26, our international promotion activity is on track to attract more than 50 conferences to Greater Manchester with a total economic impact of £75m, deliver promotion campaigns with an economic impact of £13.2m, and drive more than 4m visitors to destination websites.

2.10.3. Our inward investment activity focusses on engaging foreign-owned companies to identify and promote opportunities for relocation and expansion in Greater Manchester, working to embed them in local economies, supply chains, innovation ecosystems, and the skills system. The attraction and expansion of foreign-owned companies, particularly in our frontier sectors, drives investment, creates high-quality employment opportunities, enhances industry clusters and the local innovation ecosystem, and drives demand for the infrastructure created through our Growth Locations and the GM Good Growth Fund. This activity is essential to achieve Pledge 16 of the GMS to maintain Greater Manchester's position as the leading inward investment region in the UK, outside of London.

2.10.4. In 2025/26, our inward investment activity is on track to secure more than 50 FDI projects, creating more than 2,500 jobs with a projected £158m additional GVA growth. This activity will also result in the generation of an additional £3.5m in business rates.

2.10.5. Approval is sought for a total revenue budget allocation for International Promotion and Inward Investment activity in 2026/27 in the sum of £6,350,000.

2.11. Business Growth

2.11.1. Direct support for businesses to grow and increase their productivity and create good jobs is coordinated and delivered through the GM Business Growth Hub across the city-region. GM Business Growth Hub is both Greater Manchester's designated business support organisation and the vehicle through which national Government's support for businesses is also channelled locally.

- 2.11.2. The support offered by GM Business Growth Hub is a key enabler of Pledge 16 of the GMS, creating the conditions for people and businesses to succeed and unlocking a new form of economic growth. The GMS Delivery Plan includes a specific commitment to the continued delivery of an integrated business support offer. GM Business Growth Hub's offer will ensure all residents and businesses have access to advice, support and space to start and grow their businesses, with specialist support for our frontier sectors to maximise opportunities for economic growth, including those presented by our Growth Locations and GM Good Growth Fund. Through supporting businesses to create jobs and develop their workforce, delivery also supports the 'creating a clear line of sight to high-quality jobs' workstream. The GMS Delivery Plan includes a specific commitment to facilitate employer's access to bespoke packages of skills provision, with a focus on developing technical and higher skills to create better employment opportunities for residents.
- 2.11.3. If approved, in 2026/27 it is anticipated that the GM Business Growth Hub will respond to 15,000 enquiries, engage with more than 9,000 businesses, and provide in-depth support to 2,000 businesses and entrepreneurs. GM Business Growth Hub's activity will also deliver against the targets set for Economic Development and Regeneration through the Integrated Settlement Outcomes Framework, including through improving business productivity and creating jobs.
- 2.11.4. Approval is sought for a total revenue funding allocation of £16,200,00 to GM Business Growth Hub to support the ongoing delivery of business support services in 2026/27. This will allow GM Business Growth Hub to continue their current offer to residents and businesses for a further year, with flexibility to continue to improve delivery and respond to emerging growth opportunities and challenges.

3. Local Authority Overview

3.1. The proposed programmes and projects all operate across each of the ten Local Authorities. If the programmes and projects outlined above are approved, each of the ten Local Authorities can expect:

- An individual capital and revenue settlement under the Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grant Funding, with the flexibility to prioritise this funding across the functions set out in the ED&R pillar of the GMCA's Integrated Settlement, including improving business productivity, enabling job creation, unlocking floorspace, supporting public realm improvements, regeneration, and funding cultural activities.
- A dedicated Enterprise Officer, based in a local main library, providing 1-2-1 support and advice to entrepreneurs on starting, running and growing their business through the Build A Business programme. A series of workshops covering business basics, marketing, customer insight and Intellectual Property are also delivered quarterly in each Local Authority, supported by access to a wide range of resources and events.
- Support for local manufacturing businesses to increase resilience, productivity and competitiveness through the Made Smarter Adoption programme, with access to Technology Adoption Specialists and Organisational and Workforce Development Advisors, as well as match-funded grants for technology adoption projects. Some businesses will also be able to benefit from further support under the Made Smarter Graduate programme, part of the Industrial Strategy Zone.
- Support for local Adult Social Care (ASC) providers through the Care Smarter Pilot, adapting the Made Smarter model to support technology adoption for administration and technology-enabled care.
- A dedicated Innovation Advisor working within each Local Authority to identify and engage businesses innovating across Greater Manchester's frontier sectors. These businesses will then benefit from specialist commercialisation support, facilitating access to our wider innovation ecosystem, including from our research-intensive universities and other local and national assets.
- An Innovation Hub based in their local FE college, staffed by an Innovation Connector, providing support to local businesses to access and navigate the innovation ecosystem and to engage with college skills provision, with additional AI training also available for businesses and residents.

- Support for the local social economy, including social enterprises, co-operatives and community businesses, who deliver a range of vital local services, drive inclusive growth and tackle inequalities in the city region. This includes access to the Our Business platform, and tailored support provided by 10GM through local VCSE infrastructure.
- The continued delivery of the GM Good Employment Charter and accreditation for new Members and Supporters, increasing the number of employees covered by the Chartered, with a particular focus on membership in underrepresented.
- Delivery of a wide range of promotional activity, promoting Local Authorities and the city region as a place to visit, meet, study and invest. This includes delivering against the Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan to increase visitor numbers, developing a pipeline of successful conference bids and attracting nationally and internationally significant events with significant economic impact, as well as the marketing and communications strategy for Greater Manchester's frontier sectors.
- Delivery of inward investment activity focussed on engaging foreign-owned companies to identify and promote opportunities for relocation and expansion in Greater Manchester, working to embed them in local economies, supply chains, innovation ecosystems, and the skills system. This will be particularly focussed on GM's Growth Locations and priority sectors, based on global brand recognition.
- Access for local businesses and entrepreneurs to a comprehensive, integrated support offer through the GM Business Growth Hub. This includes responding to enquiries, digital tools and regular events, workshops, as well as Key Account Management of the city-region's most strategically important and high-growth potential businesses in each Local Authority. Specialist support is also available in areas such as Access to Finance, Decarbonisation, Leadership and Management, Internationalisation and Social Impact, as well as across our frontier sectors. Each Local Authority will also have several dedicated roles within the Hub:
 - A Strategic Account Manager, working with Local Authorities on aligning provision with local priorities, and identifying and engaging businesses in each area.
 - An Enterprise Advisor, supporting local start-ups and the self-employed.
 - A Workforce Development Advisor, with a focus on current and future skills requirements and areas such as apprenticeships, T-Levels, work placements and strong employment practices.

4. Economy, Business and International Programmes and Projects 2026/27 – Proposed Allocations Summary

Programme	Allocation
Local Authority ED&R Flexible Grant Funding	RDEL £11,190,200 CDEL £8,739,000 Total £19,929,200
Build A Business in GM Libraries	RDEL £850,255
Made Smarter Adoption North West	RDEL £948,059
Care Smarter Pilot	RDEL £512,500
Innovation Navigator	RDEL £4,500,000
GM Colleges Innovation Connector Network	RDEL £1,000,000
Support for the Social Economy	RDEL £907,500
GM Good Employment Charter	RDEL £800,993
Access to Innovation Capital	RDEL £500,000 CDEL £1,000,000 Total £1,500,000
International Promotion and Inward Investment	RDEL £6,350,000
Business Growth	RDEL £16,200,000

4.1. Local Authority ED&R Flexible Grant Funding

- 4.1.1. Following consultation with Directors of Place, if this activity is approved, funding in 2026/27 will be allocated to Local Authorities based on the existing methodology to support business planning and continuity.
- 4.1.2. The existing methodology relies on formulas set by UK Government in the original allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The use of this methodology in 2026/27 ensures continuity for Local Authorities, minimising changes to the amount of funding each area receives.
- 4.1.3. The proposed Local Authority allocations for 2026/27 are set out in the table below:

Local Authority	26/27 Funding
Bolton	£1,988,593
Bury	£1,791,650
Manchester	£3,072,680
Oldham	£2,171,726
Rochdale	£1,262,423
Salford	£1,663,283
Stockport	£1,379,526
Tameside	£1,702,414
Trafford	£1,151,792
Wigan	£3,745,113
Total	£19,929,200