



# Greater Manchester All Party Parliamentary Group

**Chair** Lucy Powell MP  
**Vice-Chairs** Chris Green MP, Lord Goddard of Stockport, Baroness Morris of Bolton and Jim McMahon MP  
**Secretary** Jonathan Reynolds MP  
**Treasurer** Yasmin Qureshi MP

## AGM and The Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy 2.30pm, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House, House of Commons

### NON-VERBATIM MINUTES

#### ATTENDED BY

**Officers:** Lucy Powell MP, Chris Green MP, Jim McMahon MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP and Lord Goddard

**Members:** Tony Lloyd MP, Afzal Khan MP, Mike Kane MP, Jeff Smith MP, Mary Robinson MP and James Frith MP

**Speakers:** Rt Hon Greg Clark, BEIS and Sir Richard Leese, Greater Manchester Combined Authority

**In attendance for the Secretariat:** Gill Morris and Sam Popper

**A full list of attendees including observers is appended to these minutes.**

### GREATER MANCHESTER APPG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Election of Officers

The APPG's Officers were elected as follows:

- Chair: Lucy Powell MP
- Vice-Chairs: Chris Green MP, Jim McMahon MP, Lord Goddard of Stockport and Baroness Morris of Bolton
- Secretary: Jonathan Reynolds MP
- Treasurer: Yasmin Qureshi MP

#### Income and expenditure statement

These minutes have been prepared by DevoConnect who provide the secretariat function for the Greater Manchester All Party Parliamentary Group. If you have any questions, please get in touch via [appggm@devoconnect.co.uk](mailto:appggm@devoconnect.co.uk).

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The income and expenditure statement, which stated that the APPG had an income of £21,500 between 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018, all of which was spent, was approved and signed by the Chair.

### Confirmation of Secretariat

It was agreed that DevoConnect would continue to provide the Secretariat for the APPG, working closely with the Chair.

## THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

**The Chair, Lucy Powell**, welcomed attendees to the meeting, in particular the two speakers, the **Rt Hon Greg Clark**, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and **Sir Richard Leese**, Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor for Economy and Business and Leader of Manchester City Council.

**Richard Leese** began by pointing out that the Greater Manchester (GM) devolution deal was orientated around place with a strong evidence base, the Manchester Independent Economic Review (MIER).

The region's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) takes the same approach, with the foundations of evidence being gathered by an independent panel of experts, the Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review. Leaders are working closely with central government and stakeholders.

A key feature of the LIS is improving productivity, taking a granular analysis of the long tail of low productivity firms. It will study GM's supply chains with an exploration of the region's ecosystems. Skills are an important factor and account for 75% of the productivity gap between GM and London/ the SE. The Adult Skills Budget will be devolved from April next year.

A review of infrastructure is also taking place, examining amongst other things digital, transport, and new approaches. The panel is chaired by Diana Coyle, Professor of Public Policy at Cambridge University. It is due to report to GM and the Government in January.

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GM has a range of core competencies which complement those identified in the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review and have been noted in a recent Science and Innovation audit conducted at the request of Government. They include health innovation, advanced materials manufacturing, digital and tech strengths (creative and digital being the two biggest growth areas in the past last 4/5 years), and services.

GM is seeking 'good' growth with a commitment to be zero carbon likely to be accelerated very significantly from 2050 to the 2030s. This includes skills and investment in infrastructure, as well as a Good Employment Charter, using anchor institutions such as local authorities to set standards, and relentlessly improving housing, health and PSR. GM wants to work with all stakeholders to develop its strategy.

**Greg Clark** began his speech by noting the tremendous progress that Greater Manchester has made over the past few years. Since Greg was Minister for Cities, the prospects and policy agenda around cities have been pushed forward, despite some scepticism from Whitehall.

Initially this was through city deals, working with local leaders, universities and others. The MIER gave demonstrable evidence and showed commitment around e.g. extending the Metrolink. This was succeeded by a Growth Deal and then the Devolution Agreement.

The [Industrial Strategy White Paper](#) sets out four 'grand challenges', parts of the national economy where there is global appetite and the country has strengths:

- Future of mobility
- Clean growth
- Ageing society
- AI and the data economy

There is a national productivity puzzle, the challenge one of disparity. Many of these features are present in GM such as skills – parts of GM have talent but not requisite competencies; improving urban transport systems outside of London; and developing the business environment to be 'insurgent'.

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Ultimately a productive economy means an innovative economy that embraces technology and reflects upon what works. The UK Industrial Strategy resonates with the ambitions of Greater Manchester.

He then announced the joint [Progress Statement](#) between the Government and Greater Manchester on the GM Local Industrial Strategy – one of the first across the country. Early work has focused on two areas:

- **Ageing society**: building on health and social care devolution in GM, creating a test bed for innovative products and technologies, trialling new neighbourhood-scale models to support ageing, piloting a new model of independent support and helping the over 50s get back to work.
- **Clean growth**: to deliver on the GM ambition to become carbon neutral at least a decade earlier than 2050, taking a place-based, whole system approach to energy supply and demand; reducing transport emissions; retrofitting homes and commercial buildings; and establishing a GM Clean Growth Productivity Programme.

It also explores the skills opportunity and creating a symbiotic relationship with business and civic leadership. GM is an exemplar to the rest of the country.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Jonathan Reynolds**, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, asked whether the region has the major levers available compared to e.g. the US, where cities can invest and earn back through fiscal revenues.

**Mike Kane**, MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East, suggested that closing the gap between tax take and public spend was necessary to have real economic prowess. Manchester Airport a good example. How can we close the gap and be more commercially minded?

**Tony Lloyd**, MP for Rochdale, noted that other boroughs do not have the same assets, one priority for NE GM being the internal transport structure. Central government needs give long-term commitment to finance and work closely with LAs.

**Jim McMahon**, MP for Oldham West and Royton, said that devolution risks exacerbating current discrepancies between richer and poorer areas in the region. Affordability,

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efficiency and accessibility of transport, terrible in North Manchester, are important. The removal of bus subsidies has led to a million miles a year lost in bus services.

Jim also criticised the fragmented education system, with only some areas being devolved. When residents of Oldham progress, they leave. The quality of life is not good enough.

**James Frith**, MP for Bury, queried whether further education's role is being overlooked in regional and national IS.

**Mary Robinson**, MP for Cheadle, called for progress on the GM Spatial Framework, with minimal green belt take and investment in transport and delivery of the GMSF as soon as possible.

**Richard Leese**, in response, said success must be judged by people's lived experience. The regeneration of East Manchester took 30 not 20 years, nevertheless demonstrable progress. The city's population – which is getting younger as the country gets older- has increased by 148,000 over the last 10 years. Deprivation in Wythenshawe has gone.

He also said that quality of place is now the biggest driver of economic growth – skills, transport and housing. The Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit found that Trafford was the most inclusive district. On education, GM is having positive dialogue with DfE. LIS has given a framework.

Richard also said that GM needs greater public sector funding. Viable ways towards land value capture. Ultimately Treasury either must fund GM or give it the tools to fund itself.

**Greg Clark**, in response, said that devolution gives significant levers, assets and opportunities – which many areas are desperate to have. The concept of gainshare is the biggest breakthrough, advancing money and receiving proceeds, creating a connection between local growth and income. There has been progress on the local growth agenda from the days where local growth was deemed impossible (if one area grew more another must have grown slower to fit OBR's national forecasts).

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There are significant differences between parts of GM. Job opportunities created in one borough can give opportunities to people in neighbouring boroughs. Better opportunity now that things are run at GM level.

The thirty-year devolution funds are revolutionary considering the Treasury normally works on at most 5-year plans. Areas are then able to use their assets to lever in private sector investment.

A big part of the skills challenge is in bigger employers. Sheffield provide good example regarding education. Nevertheless, GM needs to be offering positive manifesto prospectus and be as strong as it is on promoting investment to win powers for the region. Achievements have come on basis of demonstrated practice, not theoretical exercises.

### Other comments and questions included:

**Jon Corner**, City of Salford, who remarked on the Digital Talent Pipeline in Manchester. Focus on 'talent', not 'skills' important for digital world.

**Jo Walby**, Mustard Tree, asked why previous strategies re the skills gap and productivity haven't worked, and how SMEs should support people with no skills?

**Lynn Collins**, TUC North West, commented on the 'bitty' nature of devolution. Opportunity to do things differently through co-design and co-production but Government's commitment questionable.

**Victoria Merton**, Peel Group, asked how green infrastructure (which is often deemed an 'extra') fits into the IS?

### CONCLUDING COMMENTS

**Richard Leese** said that, on recruiting talent, arguably the Northern Quarter does more than anything in the Industrial Strategy. There has been some success in previous strategies – there are now a far higher proportion of people with level 4 skills. Nevertheless, still too many people with no skills.

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Green and blue infrastructure are important; the overarching GM Strategy does state the importance of these. The GMSF is a tool that should directly address these.

**Greg Clark** said that investors go to GM because of successful digital talent pipeline and reliability of skills of the workforce. The challenge is to spread skills to those that don't have them at the moment.

New requests for devolved powers should be made on a practical basis, making a case that can't be refused – not a constitutional argument.

GM and city-regions across country have gained prominence, recognised as good places to live and work and central to country's economic and social success. Increase in funds available from BEIS are going from £9bn to £12bn a year.

**Lucy Powell** thanked Greg in particular and Richard Leese, all stakeholders and everybody that attended the meeting for an insightful discussion.

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday 28th November 2018 on Apprenticeships, Education and Skills with the APPG for London from 14:00 – 15:00 in the Macmillan Suite of Portcullis House.*

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## Attendee List

Full Name	Organisation
Lucy Powell MP	<i>Greater Manchester APPG</i> <i>Chair</i>
James Frith MP	Bury North
Chris Green MP	Bolton West
Mike Kane MP	Wythenshawe and Sale East
Jim McMahon MP	Oldham West and Royton
Mary Robinson MP	Cheadle
Jeff Smith MP	Manchester Withington
Jonathan Reynolds MP	Stalybridge and Hyde
Tony Lloyd MP	Rochdale
Afzal Khan MP	Manchester Gorton

Lord David Goddard

Paul Addison	Siemens
Samantha Atherton	MAG
Andrew Bazeley	Fawcett Society
Kady Billington	Office of Kate Green MP
Tom Bloxham	Urban Splash
Andrew Carter	Centre for Cities
Lynn Collins	TUC
Rob Cookson	LGBT Foundation
Jon Corner	The Landing
Nick Cumberland	Homes England
Anna Dixon	Ageing Better
Jonathan Drake	Salix Living
Alan Ferns	University of Manchester

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Cath Green	GMHP
Simon Greenhalgh	LTE Group
Jane Healey Brown	Arup
Michael Henson	Turner & Townsend
Julie Hilling	Former MP
Gaynor Kenyon	United Utilities
Emily King	Guinness Partnership
Deborah McLaughlin	Capita
Victoria Merton	Peel
Jonny Morgan	ENWL
Charlotte Morris	University of Salford
Simon Nokes	GMCA
Simon Nunn	NHF
Kevin Peel	Office of James Frith MP
Bryn Phillips	Shelter
Margaret Rowe	University of Salford
Maudie Spurrier	Client Earth
Jim Taylor	Salford Council
Natalie Turner	Ageing Better
Matt Whiteley	HIMOR

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Lucy Powell MP	<i>Greater Manchester APPG Chair</i>
James Frith MP	Bury North
Chris Green MP	Bolton West
Mike Kane MP	Wythenshawe and Sale East
Jeff Smith MP	Manchester Withington
Graham Stringer MP	Blackey & Broughton

Lord David Goddard

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Emily King	Guinness Partnership
Deborah McLaughlin	Capita
Victoria Merton	Peel
Jonny Morgan	ENWL
Charlotte Morris	University of Salford
Simon Nokes	GMCA
Simon Nunn	NHF
Kevin Peel	Office of James Frith MP
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Margaret Rowe	University of Salford
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Jim Taylor	Salford Council
Natalie Turner	Ageing Better

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