

Greater Manchester Business Board Governance Assurance Statement

March 2024

GM Business Board is evolving into a new model, fully integrated with GMCA that will ensure Greater Manchester can be as ambitious as possible, maintaining a strong business voice at the heart of Greater Manchester and maximising economic growth across the city region.

Our approach is already highly integrated and represents a unique partnership model of GMCA/Business Board leadership through a shared vision for the city region as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy, GM Local Industrial Strategy and GM Economic Vision.

Given this level of integration, the approach to transition is one of evolution that has provided an opportunity to put in place new arrangements.

Our new Business Board is an effective public-private partnership that harnesses the insight, experience and expertise of the private sector to add value to key Greater Manchester agendas, setting a clear direction of travel and building productive relationships with partners.

We have placed the views of employers at the highest level of Greater Manchester policy by giving the Business Board Chair the right to attend and speak at GMCA meetings and inviting the Chamber of Commerce to join the new Board.

We have maintained our approach of an open and transparent recruitment process and refreshed our board membership to ensure we have the right mix of skills and experience to deliver this vision and continue to reflect the breadth of Greater Manchester's industrial sectors and the diversity of its people.

The Board published its Annual Delivery Report this year which highlights our progress in achieving these priorities in 2022/23 along with the Annual Delivery Plan setting out the key actions and performance indicators required to realise our future ambitions.

The Board recognises that it works on behalf of all the people of Greater Manchester and understands that different people bring different ideas, knowledge and perspectives.

The Board explored the key issues and challenges of race equality and equity in a workshop to understand how it could use its business experience and expertise to shape Greater Manchester's response and promote greater diversity and inclusion.

The Board remains fully committed to transparency and accountability with all relevant information published on both the GMCA and Business Board websites along with a commitment to respond to any FOI requests.

The Business Board Chair regularly attends the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the most recent update being in October 2023.

The Business Board website provides details of current Board membership, the refreshed Local Growth Assurance Framework, the Terms of Reference, Governance Assurance Statements, key project updates and links to the publication of financial information.

The Board continues to act with integrity as set out in our Code of Conduct in line with the Nolan Principles for standards in public life. The Board is covered by GMCA's complaints procedure and is also included in the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy.

The Business Board recognises the potential for Board members to have a conflict of interest in decision making and a key principle of our assurance processes is that all Board members must declare any interests relating to agenda items at every meeting.

The Board published a Register of Interests updated on a six-monthly basis along with separate Gifts & Hospitality and Expenses Registers updated as necessary.

Lou Cordwell OBE
Chair, GM Business Board

Simon Nokes
Chief Executive, GM Business Board