



1. BUSINESS SUPPORT, ENGAGEMENT & SERVICES



The Mayor's statutory executive duties:

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- **Chair of Greater Manchester Combined Authority**
 - GM Strategy
 - GM Spatial Framework
 - Business Support
 - Local skills commissioning
 - Devolved Health & Social Care budget - £6bn
 - **Deliver role of Police & Crime Commissioner**
 - **Responsible for GM Fire and Rescue service**

Points to Note:

Business rates retention:

- **Manchester is serving as the pilot for 100% business rates retention, allowing authorities to build financial capacity to reform services and invest in economic growth.**
- **Authorities will be incentivised to increase local tax bases by ensuring long-term rewards from growth, as they will be able to fully retain any growth in business rates income.**
 - Could this lead to a prioritisation of new business premises over housing?
- **Last year the Institute for Fiscal Studies warned that there will be “significant winners and losers” after 100% rates retention is introduced.**
 - Whilst the move does not represent an increase in funding, business rates baselines will be reworked to ensure more deprived authorities do not suffer. According to reports, “the GMCA Treasurer is now satisfied that the arrangements in place will ensure that the ten districts involved cannot be any worse off through participation in the pilot.”

Questions:

- Do you feel the existing bodies accurately represent the business community of GM? Could the upcoming mayor improve on this?
- Do you feel that businesses have enough of a democratic voice in decision making?
- Do you struggle with procurement processes?
- How do you feel about business rates retention? Will there be enough transparency around how these funds are used?

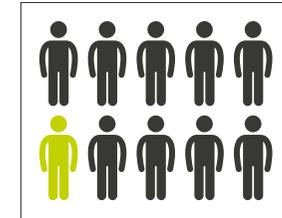


2. SKILLS

The Mayor's statutory executive duties:



- **Responsible for local commissioning of skills provision through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) including the newly devolved adult skills budget.**
 - Devolution of the 19+ Adult Skills budget will be phased in, with full devolution by 2018/19.
 - Greater Manchester will receive control of the Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE).



Points to Note:

- In 2015 1 in 10 GM residents had no qualifications.
- **“Our ambition is to create an integrated employment and skills eco-system, which has the individual and employer at its heart, and that better responds to the needs of residents, business and contributes to the growth and productivity of the GM economy.” - GMCA**
- The cost of worklessness and the impact of low-pay in GM has now reached over £2billion – GMCA
- Last year the Institute for Fiscal Studies warned that there will be “significant winners and losers” after 100% rates retention is introduced.

Objectives:

- Increase economic growth by aligning skills with localised labour market needs
- Boost productivity by raising skills levels
- Increased employer engagement to increase the responsiveness of the skills system to economic needs
- More effective linking of skills system to other public services
- Increased innovation through greater scope for local experimentation – “laboratories of democracy”

Questions:

- How can the mayor help realise the objectives above?
- How can the mayor use the new powers to improve the relationship between business and the skills system?
- In July 2015 the government produced its Productivity Plan, is such a plan needed for GM?



3. INFRASTRUCTURE

The Mayor's statutory executive duties:



o **Responsible for effective delivery of the devolved transport budget, including:**

A new franchised bus service (subject to consultation) • Implementation of smart ticketing • Devolution of rail stations across GM

Points to Note: The Bus Services Bill

- o **Hope to be passed before the elections in May.**
- o **Would allow Combined Authorities to franchise bus services to operators whilst maintaining control - achieving a London-like network.**
 - Operators act as one - simplified fares, one route planner, one timetable, more consistent service.
 - 31% of households in GM have no car
 - An estimated population rise of 3million will lead to around 600,000 more trips on GM's transport networks everyday by 2035
 - Transport for Greater Manchester estimates the cost of congestion in the region to be £1.3billion each year
 - The mayor will oversee progress on Crossrail North (Northern Powerhouse Rail)
- o **Aims to radically improve journey times between Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield and Hull**



Questions:

- The region is experiencing a wave of road and transport changes, are there adequate contingency considerations taking place? Have you been affected by temporary congestion issues as a result?
- Are there more effective ways of moving high volumes of commuters and freight through and around the city centre?
- How can the mayor maximise the economic benefits of HS2?
- Does the development of Crossrail North (Northern Powerhouse Rail) need to be sped up to complement delivery of HS2?
- Is there a need for a GM digital strategy early in the mayor's term, as the region looks to claim its stake in this growing sector?
- Does GM need to lead the way and put itself above the government's targets for high-speed broadband?
- Aside from smart ticketing, what else could be done to make GM's public transport more effective and easy to use?
- What is the mayor's role in working with other local administrations, elected mayors and combined authorities across the North of England to deliver the Northern Powerhouse?



4. PLANNING

The Mayor's statutory executive duties:



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- Power over strategic planning including a new Community Infrastructure Levy
 - Responsible for the mayoral Development Corporation
 - Chair, jointly with the housing minister, the Greater Manchester Land Commission

Points to Note:

- The Combined Authority estimates that GM requires at least 227,000 more homes by 2035 to support a 3million new residents, but is targeting 400,000.
- Around 2.5million m2 of new office space will be delivered by 2035, mostly in the city centre
- More than a quarter of the development proposed in the Spatial Framework is on current green belt land - lifting protections for the first time since the 1980's.
 - Greenbelt covers 47% of Greater Manchester
 - The proposed net reduction is 8.2%, leaving 43% of GM land as greenbelt after new additions in Salford, Wigan and Rochdale.

Questions:

- Many strategies have been released - housing (Spatial Framework), transport (Vision 2040) for example - but do they overlap or complement effectively?
- Does the Spatial Framework go far enough? Does the mayor need to reassess the issues?
- How can the mayor help alleviate housing shortages in the region and reach the targets set out in the GMSF?
- Are we prioritising the wrong sorts of housing? Could the mayor take steps to ensure developers can build the type of houses people really want?
- A number of proposed projects look to drastically alter the city's skyline and raise concerns over the city's heritage. Should the mayor take a larger role in ensuring that growth works for the city?



5. TRADE

The Mayor's statutory executive duties:



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- Whilst having no statutory duties for trade the Chamber and its members believe the mayor will have a crucial role to play on the international stage post-Brexit in ensuring that overseas trade and inward investment continue to develop and in maximising the growth of the airport and other international access points.

Points to Note:

- Sadiq Khan has made efforts to boost London's international trade standing including meeting Indian business leaders; visiting Montreal, Chicago and New York; and launching the "London is Open" campaign.
- Only around 1 in 10 Greater Manchester firms export goods or services – around half of the national average.
 - 27% of GM manufacturers export – a key export sector
- GM's key growth sectors - such as digital, health innovation, financial and professional services – are those that are most engaged with international markets.

Questions:

- The Chamber often plays a lead role in hosting inward trade delegations, is there an opportunity for increased Chamber collaboration with the mayor on this front?
- Is there a need for a region-wide pro-investment campaign in order to boost Manchester's standing on the world stage and encourage overseas investment?
- Is Manchester currently filling its potential for hosting major international conferences and events?
- To some Manchester is still seen as a weekend city, does this need to change?
- Would a night czar work for Manchester?