



Greater Manchester All-Party Parliamentary Group

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

Q&A with Mayor of Greater Manchester FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 14:00-16:00, UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

NON-VERBATIM MINUTES

ATTENDED BY:

Officers: Lucy Powell MP, Chris Green MP, Jim McMahon MP, Jonathan Reynolds MP

Members: Debbie Abrahams MP, Rt Hon. the Lord Bradley, Mike Kane MP, Afzal Khan MP, Liz McInnes MP

Apologies: Graham Brady MP, David Crausby MP, Kate Green MP, Yvonne Fovargue MP, Andrew Gwynne MP, Ivan Lewis MP, Lisa Nandy MP, Lord Jim O'Neill of Gatley, Angela Rayner MP, Jeff Smith MP, Lord Stunnell, Graham Stringer MP, William Wragg MP, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP.

In Attendance for the Secretariat: Julie Hilling, Gill Morris, Sam Popper and Ross Cathcart

A full list of attendees including stakeholders is appended to the minutes

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1. Closed discussion between GM Parliamentarians and the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham
2. Open session: Q&A with GM Mayor and GM Parliamentarians

Lucy Powell MP, Chair of the Greater Manchester APPG thanked the GM Mayor and the present Parliamentarians for their attendance at the Q&A

Andy Burnham thanked the University of Salford, DevoConnect and the sponsors (United Utilities and Greater Manchester Housing Providers) of the GM APPG for organising the meeting.

Lucy Powell MP welcomed questions from the floor, including on:

Housing

- What the effects of welfare reductions would be on social housing and what could be done to tackle homelessness? (**Lee Sugden, Chief Executive, Salix Homes; Greater Manchester Housing Providers**)
- The importance of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework?

Response from Mayor Andy Burnham

- The GMSF is important and is being re-drafted, led by Salford Mayor Paul Dennett. It needs revitalise town centres and deliver affordable, quality housing.
- Devolved powers, such as Mayoral Development Corporations, can help.
- He is aiming to eradicate rough sleeping by 2020, with the Mayor's Homelessness Fund standing at £50k already.

Responses from Parliamentarians

- 2016 Welfare to Work Act has made issue worse, particularly for young people under 21. She cited the Scottish Social Security Commission. (**Debbie Abrahams MP**)
- Housing is a common issue for constituents; urban sprawl is not the answer; high density social housing should be explored. (**Chris Green MP**)
- GMSF does not have support locally in present format. Better use of brownfield sites would be needed. Stamp Duty, worth £76m a year in GM could be devolved. Housing benefit costs exchequer £300m a year in region. (**Jim McMahon MP**)

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Health and advice services

- The proposals to ask for ID in the NHS, and the potential consequence that asylum seekers might be charged for receiving care.
- How LGBT data on service providers could be better used?
- What the Mayor's plans were for advice services?
- How unpaid carers' lives could be improved?

Response from Mayor Andy Burnham

- Offer to discuss the NHS charging issue with Jon Rouse, Chief Officer of GM Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Many homeless people are transgender, more work could be done.
- Social prescribing initiatives are helpful on advice.
- Carers are neglected. Social care reform should consider carers' needs with users.
- New relationship with the voluntary sector, want to expand the sector's MoU with the GMHSC Partnership to one with the wider region. Suggestion of 5/10 year contracts for sector.

Responses from Parliamentarians

- CAB support for disabled people and PIP recipients essential. **(Debbie Abrahams MP)**

Transport

- What the Mayor's plans were for transport?
- How access and affordability of transport, and its connections to jobs, culture and leisure services, can be improved?

Response from Mayor Andy Burnham

- Bus services are the backbone of public transport, and need to be provided in public interest, with a 'growth model'. Half price bus travel for 16-18 year olds shows that this can be done collaboratively with service providers.
- Would seek clarity from Gov't on electrification of TransPennine link. Crossrail for the North should be the priority over Crossrail 2. TfN important body.

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Responses from Parliamentarians

- Legacy of underinvestment in North England. However current Government investing, e.g. M60 improvements and Liverpool/Manchester electrification. Bi-modal rolling stock needs serious consideration, along with opportunities for better data use. **(Chris Green MP)**
- Service operation times make public transport use impossible for some shift workers; non-city centre elements of transport vital too. **(Jim McMahon MP)**

Skills and workforce

- What can universities do to widen participation?
- How can universities help grow the future workforce?
-

Responses from Parliamentarians

- Area wide review of FE in place. Skills and transport both need improving. **(Mike Kane MP)**

Response from Mayor Andy Burnham

- Brexit makes skills an urgent issue.
- Productivity gap in North is due to poor skills and transport. UCAS Apprenticeships system planned, along with contract rewards committing employees to NHS.
- In GM, 12,000 start school not ready. Refocusing public sector on early years.

Other topics raised

- Broadening debate from just transport to wider infrastructure including utilities. Water and wastewater, including flooding, challenge that needs addressing. **(Gaynor Kenyan, Corporate Affairs Director, United Utilities)**
- Cuts to the police force [suggestion of future GM APPG on this topic]. **(Afzal Khan MP and Liz McInnes MP)**
- IT and Digital [suggestion of future GM APPG on this topic]. **(Liz McInnes MP)**

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3. Summary and discussion on subjects for future meetings

Mayor Andy Burnham

- GM APPG a useful discussion, suggestion that it is repeated regularly.
- GM's devo deal deeper than any other, with a sense of momentum. Region can lead change in the country. MEN Arena bombing shows strength and purpose of region.

Lucy Powell MP, Chair of the Greater Manchester APPG

- Will plan a mix of GM APPG meetings in London and Greater Manchester.
- GM APPG is committed to building collaboration and cooperation among Parliamentarians, the Mayor and other key leaders in the city-region.

The meeting closed with the Chair thanking all present for attending the meeting, in particular MPs, the Mayor, the University of Salford and DevoConnect for organising the meeting.

A full list of attendees is appended overleaf

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Name	Organisation
Rt Hon. Andy Burnham	GMCA
Chris Green MP	House of Commons
Jim McMahon MP	House of Commons
Lucy Powell MP	House of Commons
Jonathan Reynolds MP	House of Commons
Debbie Abrahams MP	House of Commons
Rt Hon. the Lord Bradley	House of Lords
Mike Kane MP	House of Commons
Afzal Khan MP	House of Commons
Liz McInnes	House of Commons
Conrad Astley	University of Salford
Simon Bennett	Abellio Bus
Mike Blackburn	Greater Manchester LEP
Alison Bunn	British Legion
Ross Cathcart	DevoConnect
Jason Challender	University of Salford
Geoff Clark	Johnnie Johnson Housing
Sue Clarke	Alzheimer's Society
Sandra Coleing	Stockport Homes Group
Bernadette Conlon	Start in Salford
Jon Corner	The Landing
Ed Cox	IPPR North
Sarah Darch	EY
Charlie Deane	Bury College
Kevin Fitzpatrick	BBC Radio Manchester
Geraldine Flanagan	Stockport Citizens Advice Bureau
Chris Fletcher	Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
Liam Gregson	Northern Housing Consortium
Matt Harrison	Great Places

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Jeremy Hinds
Patsy Hodson
Bruce Holborn
Richard Houghton
Helen Jones
Steve Kay
Gaynor Kenyon
Bethany Keys
Karen Laithwaite
Prof. Helen Laville
Paul Lawler
Kevin Lee
Ross MacRae
Guy Mason
Emma Meehan
Gill Morris
Martyn Moss
Jackie Njoroge
Simon Nokes
Prof. Sheila Pankhurst
Jason Prince
Sam Popper
Jo Purves
Margaret Rowe
Susan Riley
Arooj Shah
Tom Skinner
Lucy Smith
Andrew Snowden
Lynne Stafford
Simone Spray
Samuel Stafford

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British Legion
Adactus Housing Group Ltd
University of Salford
Office of Mike Kane MP
United Utilities
University of Salford
Riverside Group
Manchester Metropolitan University
Co-operative Bank
GMCA
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Co-operative Bank
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University of Salford
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Tameside Citizens Advice Bureau
Office of Jim McMahon MP
Greater Manchester Poverty Action
Northern Powerhouse Partnership
University of Salford
Gaddum Centre
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James Stevens
Lee Sugden
Michael Taylor
Katie Teasdale
Tom Togher
Jo Walby
Lizzie Walmsley
Eleanor Watts
Alex Whinnom
Mike Wilde
Estelle Worthington

Home Builders Federation
Salix Homes
Manchester Metropolitan University
National Housing Federation
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