

Together we can achieve more

“To provide a place where prosperity is enjoyed by the many, not the few”
That was the vision set out by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) in a recent groundbreaking summit.

Over 400 representatives came together from all ten Greater Manchester authorities to discuss the Greater Manchester Strategy and the importance of working together to deliver better outcomes for all our residents.

The Greater Manchester Strategy is a series of priorities based on the Manchester Independent Economic Review (MIER). Jonathan Kestenbaum, one of the lead economists who worked on the project, was present at the summit to explain the importance of the review and some of the challenges faced by large cities.

In order to achieve the eleven strategic priorities set out by the Greater Manchester Strategy, all ten councils must work together. The priorities focus on reducing deprivation, increasing opportunities and collaborating for a greener and more sustainable future. For more detail visit www.agma.gov.uk

As well as discussing the matter in hand, the delegates were challenged by an interactive quiz which tested just how much they knew about the Greater Manchester Strategy. Questions included: ‘How much does AGMA and its partners spend on services?’ Over 69% of delegates correctly answered £2.3 million. In the light of this figure, a resounding 92% of delegates agreed that a joint approach to service delivery was by far the best.

The timing of the summit was crucial. Investing time at the beginning ensures the opinions of all ten councils are taken on board and everyone is clear about the part they can play. It was left to guest speaker, Helen Bailey from HM Treasury to applaud the work being done at a regional level and provide the context for the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.

Now more than ever, the strategy’s success depends upon people working together to tackle long-standing problems of deprivation - poor housing and environment, low skills and high levels of worklessness and low aspirations. The commitment shown to Greater Manchester by the leadership and the delegates couldn’t have been clearer. 93 percent of attendees felt they had learned from the summit and said they would re-address their priorities as a result.

AGMA is working towards:

- Improving housing and transport
- Increasing skills levels and retaining talent
- Expanding our economic base and international connectivity
- Working in a sustainable low carbon way
- Ensuring each and every child has the best start in life