

Proposed Dissolution of Stockport Town Centre West MDC

Stockport Town Centre West MDC Board, 20th March 2026

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2025, Stockport Council and GMCA confirmed their support for proposals from the Council and the GM Mayor to expand the area covered by the Stockport Town Centre West MDC to include the whole town centre, enabling a doubling of our housing delivery target from 4,000 to 8,000 in line with the Council's Strategic Regeneration Frameworks for the east and west of the town centre.
- 1.2 Although under legislation, it is possible for the GM Mayor to alter boundaries of the Mayoral development area in order to exclude some areas of land, there are no provisions within the legislation to extend a Mayoral development area.
- 1.3 Following engagement with MHCLG, it was confirmed that the technical legal mechanism for delivering the 'expansion' would be:
 - (a) designate the existing and expanded area together as a new Mayoral development area;
 - (b) establish a new MDC to cover this area; and
 - (c) disestablish the existing Stockport Town Centre West MDC.
- 1.4 Following the statutory standstill period, on 20 October 2025, the GM Mayor wrote to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government notifying him of his decision to designate the whole of Stockport town centre as a Mayoral Development Area and confirming the name of the new Corporation as the "Stockport Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation".
- 1.5 The Stockport Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation (Establishment) Order 2026 came into force on 23 February 2026, thereby establishing the new Stockport Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation. Now that this has occurred, the intention is to progress the dissolution of the Stockport Town Centre West MDC. This note sets out the process for dissolution and seeks support from the Board to move forward in this way.

2. Process for dissolution

- 2.1 The dissolution of an MDC in Greater Manchester is governed by the Localism Act 2011 Part 8, Chapter 2, as modified by the Schedule to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 ("The Act"). It is acknowledged that the dissolution of an MDC is a GM Mayoral function.

- 2.2 Provided there are no property, rights or liabilities vested in an MDC, the GM Mayor is able to request that the Secretary of State revokes the statutory instrument which established the MDC, which in this case is the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation (Establishment) Order 2019.
- 2.3 Once the Secretary of State receives such a request, they will prepare and lay the appropriate Order before Parliament under the negative Procedure. This means the Order will come into force and the MDC will be formally dissolved, subject to no motion from either House to reject the Order within a specified period, usually 40 sitting days.
- 2.4 The GM Mayor must then revoke the designation of the Mayoral development area for which the MDC was established.
- 2.5 Officers are in the process of verifying that there are no property, rights or liabilities vested in the MDC.
- 2.6 Once this is confirmed, it is proposed that the Board agree to write to the GM Mayor to confirm there are no property, rights or interests vested in the MDC and to confirm its support to the proposed dissolution of the MDC.
- 2.7 In the meantime, on the basis that the Stockport Town Centre MDC has now been established, it is proposed that no further business is transacted by the Stockport Town Centre West MDC unless required for audit or governance purposes. Accordingly, it is proposed that no business plan be developed for the year 2026-2027 nor should further board meetings be held, unless required for audit or governance purposes.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Board are therefore recommended to:
- 3.2 Confirm its support for the proposed dissolution of the Stockport Town Centre West MDC
- 3.3 Support the proposal (set out in paragraph 2.6) that the Board write to the GM Mayor once officers have confirmed that there are no property, rights or interests vested in the MDC to confirm its support for the dissolution of the Stockport Town Centre West MDC.