

Jonathan Brearley

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Sent via email to: Jonathan.Brearley@ofgem.gov.uk and cc: RIIO3@ofgem.gov.uk

Date: 26 August 2025

Subject: Support for Collaborative Streetworks ODI-F Inclusion in RIIO-3 GD3

Dear Jonathan, further to my letter dated 13 May 2025, I am writing to reaffirm Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) support for the inclusion of the Collaborative Streetworks ODI-F in RIIO-3 GD3, as proposed in Ofgem's draft determinations for Cadent.

This proposal aligns directly with the ambitions of the Greater Manchester Strategy 2025–35, which sets out a vision for a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life. Our strategy commits to fixing the foundations of life—shelter, safety, mobility, opportunity, and support—through collaborative, place-based infrastructure delivery. The Collaborative Streetworks incentive is a critical enabler of this vision, supporting our goals for healthy homes, safe and strong communities, and a transport system fit for a global city region.

The Greater Manchester Strategic Infrastructure Board (SIB) which includes representatives from United Utilities, SP ENW, Cadent, the Environment Agency and Transport for Greater Manchester has identified collaborative infrastructure coordination as a priority for unlocking inclusive growth and accelerating delivery. The Board provides senior leadership and advocacy to ringfence resources, overcome barriers, and direct activities that support strategic alignment across utilities, transport, housing, and digital infrastructure.

Since our last correspondence, GMCA has made significant progress in preparing to assume the role of central coordinator from April 2026. This includes:

- Establishing a pilot programme to align multi-utility interventions in strategic locations.
- Advancing our geospatial data capabilities through MappingGM and ESRI environments, with scope to replicate the GLA's Infrastructure Mapping Application.
- Conducting a gap analysis comparing GMCA's readiness with the Greater London Authorities Infrastructure Coordination Service (ICL) confirming our ability to meet the minimum requirements for coordination, monitoring, and evaluation.

- Engaging with stakeholders including TfGM, United Utilities, ENWL, and Cadent to identify early-stage investment data and collaboration opportunities.

These efforts are embedded within the Greater Manchester Integrated Pipeline, a coordinated programme of infrastructure investment aligned to our developing 10-Year Growth Plan underpinned by an Infrastructure Plan. The pipeline brings together transport, energy, housing, digital, flood risk and water management priorities to support inclusive growth and net zero transition. It is designed to maximise the impact of public and private investment by sequencing delivery, unlocking strategic sites, and enabling efficient permitting and trench sharing.

We have been engaging with Cadent since 2024 and the GMCA is well placed. Our existing governance structures, including the Strategic Infrastructure Board, provide the necessary oversight and leadership to drive delivery. We are also developing Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) and data-sharing protocols to facilitate secure collaboration.

We believe the ODI-F incentive will unlock measurable benefits in Greater Manchester, including reduced disruption, improved efficiency, and enhanced public value. Without a price control incentive, GMCA's ability to convene and coordinate stakeholders would be significantly constrained, limiting the scale and impact of collaborative working.

We therefore urge Ofgem to retain the Collaborative Streetworks ODI-F in the final determinations and to work with GMCA and Cadent to define the incentive's operational parameters, including exposure, rates, and regional eligibility criteria. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and contribute to the development of the implementation framework ahead of the final determination this autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Simpson', followed by a period.

Caroline Simpson

Group Chief Executive

GMCA, GMFRS & TfGM

Peter Emery

Chair Greater Manchester Strategic Infrastructure Board