

A spokesperson for Weis Group said: "The application has been made for the Court to review GMCA's latest decision to lend a further £120m to the Renaker Group.

While we cannot comment on the case itself, from publicly available information it appears that following the proposed loans recently approved by GMCA, these will bring total overall lending to Renaker by GMCA and its affiliates to £745m at state subsidised lending rates, although full disclosure of the terms of the latest loans remains outstanding.

Following the intervention of the Information Commissioner, we have had sight of the lending agreement between the Secretary of State for Levelling up and Manchester City Council / GMCA.

This case will examine whether there has been manifest breaches of the lending terms, including unusual overexposure to one entity. Under commercial lending norms the best practice for lenders is not to exceed 10% of its loan book to one borrower or group. In this case, from the information made available, it seems that this figure is closer to 70%.

It will also examine the judiciousness of such unprecedented loans, given Renaker has made the case at planning committee that all of its schemes are "unviable" and do not meet market standard profits tests.

The National Audit Office has confirmed it will review the matter following the outcome of the proceedings.

We are encouraged by the support from many in the Manchester investment community in our quest. We are optimistic that this process will go some way in obtaining the transparency the City so needs. It is about time."