

## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2014**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Green – in the Chair  
Councillors Davies, Ellison, Hackett, Hacking, Karney, Moore, Razaq, Richards, Simcock, Smitheman, Stogia and Wilson.

Councillor Chappell, Executive Member for the Environment  
Councillor S Murphy, Deputy Leader of the Council  
Councillor Reid, Chair of the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee

Winnie Omotayo, Pupil at St Matthew's RC High School  
Hannah McCarrick, Pupil at St Matthew's RC High School  
Thomas McCartney, Pupil at St Matthew's RC High School  
Tobias Stringer, Pupil at St Matthew's RC High School  
Kevin Hogan, Headteacher of St Matthew's RC High School  
Rachel Walsh, Head of Vocational Education at St Matthew's RC High School  
Carys Halkett, North Manchester Schools Partnership Manager  
Lee Sale, Wates Construction

#### **Apologies**

Councillors Keegan, Manco, Ollerhead, Raikes and Shilton-Godwin

#### **ESC/14/17                      Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014 were submitted for approval. A member noted the Committee had asked for the Assistant Chief Executive (Communications, Customers and ICT) to look into how much it would cost to provide shared lighting for use in all the district centres. He told the Committee that there had been some misinformation in south Manchester on the Council's purpose in this. The Committee agreed to request that the Assistant Chief Executive (Communications, Customers and ICT) take action to correct this misinformation.

#### **Decision**

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting on 8 January 2014 and note the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Subgroup on 29 January 2014.
2. To request that the Assistant Chief Executive (Communications, Customers and ICT) take action to correct the misinformation on lighting that was communicated to residents in south Manchester.

#### **ESC/14/18                      Presentation on Key Developments in the Committee's remit**

The Strategic Director, Strategic Development provided the Committee with a presentation on the key developments in the city that come under the Committee's

remit. The key points of the presentation were:

- The city has a rapidly changing demographic and economy, and has over the last five years established a springboard for economic growth.
- Key ongoing developments bringing opportunities for jobs growth in the city include:
  - Spinningfields
  - First Street
  - St Peter's Square
  - NOMA
  - The Corridor
  - Manchester Science Park
  - Siemens Princess Road Campus
  - Etihad Campus
  - Central Park
  - City Council digital assets, such as the Sharp Project and the Space Project Gorton
  - Airport City Enterprise Zone
- Future developments that would bring further opportunities for jobs growth include:
  - High Speed 2 Piccadilly and Mayfield
  - Redevelopment of the ITV site
  - North Campus of the University of Manchester
- Key challenges over the next five years included working with partners to prepare for growth; the welfare reform agenda; and developing Manchester on the international market.

The Committee welcomed this presentation and felt that it described the very impressive work taking place to maximise the city's economic recovery from the recession. Members felt that the Committee's priority for the last few years had been focusing on how economic improvements at the city level could be translated to residents benefitting, for example by accessing the jobs that were being created, particularly in deprived areas. A member said that she did not feel there was a strategic link, drawing this high level economic improvement to residents and neighbourhoods.

The Deputy Leader told the Committee she was interested in carrying out a piece of work that looked at a particular area in more detail, to consider how the Council could engage with employers in that area to draw them together with local residents. She said Wythenshawe would be a good example of where to look at this, as the Enterprise Zone was providing huge opportunities, geographically close to very deprived wards. The Committee welcomed this idea, and asked the Chair to consider with the Deputy Leader and officers how the Committee could do this. The Strategic Director noted that the work with the Etihad Stadium was a good example of how businesses can act to benefit local people. The Etihad Stadium had built a training ground for local people, ensured their supply chain used local businesses and took a leadership role in the local community. He said that if a business got something out of the city, then it should put back in.

A member told the Committee about a scheme in Ardwick in which jobs that were

available locally were advertised in the local Job Centre first, before going to other Job Centres.

A member considered the role of the Committee in scrutinising this subject. He said that the Committee was right to speak up for vulnerable people, who might otherwise get left behind. He cautioned that the Council could not do everything, but could campaign for improvements and could be honest about what it could do.

A member noted that the Strategic Director had mentioned improving transport between Manchester and Liverpool and Hull, and asked what progress could be made on this. The Strategic Director said that the Chief Executive and Leader were leading the work to develop these links across the north of England, to build a coalition of support, however improvements to transport always took a significant amount of time.

The Committee thanked the Strategic Director for his presentation. The Chair asked members to contact her if they had ideas for items for the Committee to look into in more detail.

### **Decision**

To note the information contained in the presentation of the Strategic Director, Strategic Development.

### **ESC/14/19 Business Engagement with Education and Skills**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Education and Skills which provided an update on the links between businesses and schools in Manchester since the Committee last considered it in November 2013. The Committee welcomed to the meeting Winnie Omotayo, Hannah McCarrick, Thomas McCartney, Tobias Stringer, who were all pupils at St Matthew's RC High School. Members also welcomed from St Matthew's the headteacher, Kevin Hogan, the Head of Vocational Education, Rachel Walsh and the North Manchester Schools Partnership Manager, Carys Halkett, along with Lee Sale of Wates Construction. The Director of Education and Skills introduced the report and said that this work was particularly important in the context of the previous discussion on how Manchester residents can benefit from economic success in the city. One of the answers was ensuring that young people are equipped for the jobs that are available and working closely with businesses was part of achieving this.

The Committee then heard from the attendees from St Matthew's RC High School and Wates Construction who had taken part in the scheme. Ms Walsh explained that this was the fourth year of the partnership with Wates Construction and the partnership between the company and the school was key to its success. This year the scheme was on a bigger scale than previously, and included a World Away Day. The pupils from St Matthew's explained that this was held in the Factory Youth Zone and everyone had to put on t-shirts so they all looked the same. They spoke to businesses, including Wates Construction. He said it helped inspire young people to follow their dreams. They also told the Committee about their own aspirations. The Chair thanked the young people for attending and contributing today, and told them

that it was people like them that really mattered to them as councillors.

A member asked the pupils from St Matthew's if they had any tips for the councillors when discussing links between education and skills. One pupil said that it was important to show the steps to take to get to where they want to go, because small steps make it achievable. Mr Hogan said that a group of Manchester schools had established a company to develop links with businesses. Five schools, four in north Manchester and Parrs Wood High School, were trialling an employability passport, which used nationally recognised criteria. It was a record of activity related to employment and skills, such as the World Away day, which was on paper and online, and had the support of the Council. Ms Halkett told the Committee that there was a good working model in north Manchester, which matched strategic goals with practical activities. She said she sat on the strategic regeneration board and there was a flexible approach to matching needs in local businesses with local people, particularly through apprenticeships.

The Committee welcomed Councillor Reid, Chair of the Young People and Children Scrutiny Committee to the meeting. She told the Committee that in the past there had been the Aim Higher programme, which raised aspirations and introduced young people to new opportunities. She said this work with Wates Construction was very positive.

A member said that it was difficult to persuade parents that the digital sector is a viable career option because they do not understand how employment works within it, in that there are few permanent jobs, but many short term employment opportunities. People can interpret this as a lack of security, when it is in fact a growing sector. The Director of Education and Skills agreed that this was a challenge. He said some schools worked closely with parents on this, but it was not consistent across the city. There were some good examples, such as an enterprise programme with primary school children and their parents which prepared them and raised awareness, and code clubs in many primary schools.

A member asked Mr Sale whether Wates Construction got involved in projects like this because it fulfilled corporate social responsibility aims, or because it made sense from a business perspective. Mr Sale said Wates Construction worked with all large local authorities, and the work with St Matthew's was seen in the construction industry as groundbreaking. He said this work raised aspirations in young people, whether they entered the industry or not. He confirmed Wates Construction participated because it was good for business, and all sites engage with a social enterprise, and all large projects engage with a school.

A member asked what impact the programme had on the curriculum. Ms Walsh explained that St Matthew's delivered a BTEC in construction, which had been developed in conjunction with Wates Construction. She said that each of the cohorts taking part in the schemes had benefited more widely than just construction as they had improved in other subjects, including maths and English.

The Committee welcomed the work taking place between St Matthew's and Wates Construction and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The Committee asked whether they would be interested in presenting this to a meeting of full Council, which

they were happy to do, and asked the Chair to liaise with officers to look into this. The Committee also suggested that some individual members could act as mentors for the young people. Mr Hogan told members that they would be welcome to visit the school to see what the programme looked like in more detail.

### **Decision**

1. To ask the Chair to liaise with officers to look into presenting the programme between St Matthew's RC High School and Wates Construction to a meeting of full Council.
2. To recommend that individual members of the Committee could act as mentors to the young people.

### **ESC/14/20                      Recommendations of the Environmental Sustainability Subgroup**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) which set out the proposed programme for responding to the recommendations of the Environmental Sustainability Subgroup, which were endorsed by the Economy Scrutiny Committee and the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee at their March 2014 meetings. The Chair told the Committee that at the previous meeting, members had asked for a report from officers which set out how the impact of each of the recommendations would be measured.

Councillor Stogia, who chaired the Subgroup for the second half of its meetings, said the report laid out the recommendations and actions well, but was disappointed that the measures were not SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time limited) and that a number of the deadlines proposed were a while away. She noted that some of the responses indicated that the Council was waiting for others to act before progress could be made, but felt that Manchester should be leading the way. She added that ward coordination should be involved to help members lead. She suggested that the Committee should ask for this report to be brought back and for officers to make the actions to be taken for the recommendations much more robust.

The Executive Member for the Environment told the Committee that the report had also been submitted to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee the previous day, and it had also asked for the timescales to be brought forward where possible. She said it had also asked for more dates for the carbon literacy training and asked for it to be held directly before a committee meeting in order to maximise attendance. She agreed that some of the timescales could be brought forward. She added that the two most important things that came out of the Subgroup's investigation were the relationships that had been developed and the focus on what councillors can do, rather than officers. The Environmental Strategy Manager clarified that there were a number of actions that needed to be taken up at the Greater Manchester, rather than city, level in order to be effective. But he agreed that Manchester should not be held back by this.

A member said that it was not made clear how councillors could carry out an audit of activity in their ward. The Executive Member for the Environment said that the

Subgroup found that councillors have lots of knowledge about what is going on in their wards and were better placed than officers to find out. A member suggested that it would be helpful for members to have some training on best practice, how to promote good work in a local area and how to work with local organisations. The Executive Member for the Environment welcomed this idea, and said it was often difficult to capture what went on in a local area as it was often reliant on one or two active individuals. She said there was some good practice in place, such as using cash grants in a targeted way. She also clarified in response to members comments that the report reflected one very small part of the work taking place on the environment, most of which was reported to the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee asked officers to submit a further report to a future meeting to update the actions that had been proposed to respond to each of the recommendations to address the concerns raised in the meeting, in particular to introduce SMART targets.

### **Decision**

1. To request a further report to a future meeting to update the actions that had been proposed to respond to each of the recommendations to address the concerns raised in the meeting, in particular to introduce SMART targets.
2. To request that training is arranged for members on best practice, how to promote good work in a local area and how to work with local organisations.

### **ESC/14/21            Overview Report**

The Committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided a summary of the key decisions due to be taken that are relevant to its remit, an update on actions taken as a result of recommendations and the current work programme. The report included the latest Real Time Economy Dashboard.

The Committee noted that its next meeting would be dedicated to the economic impact of medical research. This was a result of an item at the January 2014 meeting of the Committee, and members asked for the presentation and minutes from that meeting to be circulated ahead of the July 2014 meeting.

### **Decision**

1. To agree the work programme.
2. To request that the presentation and minutes from January 2014 are circulated to members ahead of the next meeting.

### **ESC/14/22            Work Programming**

### **Decision**

To send any suggestions for the work programme to the Chair, and delegate decisions over the work programme to the Chair.