

The Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2016

Present: Councillor– Leese in the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Chappell, Flanagan, N Murphy, S Murphy, S Newman Priest and Rahman

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:
Councillors Akbar, Bridges, Manco and Stogia

Exe/16/051 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2016 as a correct record.

Exe/16/052 Free Travel Policy for Primary and Secondary Age School Pupils

A report submitted by the Director of Education and Skills described the response to statutory consultation on the implementation of the City Council's free travel policy for primary and secondary age school pupils. The most recent change to the policy was agreed in March 2015. It was agreed then that a new policy would be implemented on a phased basis starting in 2015/16 reception and year 7 pupils only (Minute Exe/15/039). Therefore the council was operating this new policy for children in reception class and year 7 and the former policy for children in all other year groups. The proposal now was to cease the phased implementation of the 2015 policy and apply it to all school-aged children who were to be accessing mainstream provision for the school year 2016/ 2017.

The report explained that consultation on the proposed changes to the implementation of the City Council's free travel policy had taken place between 25 January 2016 and 26 February 2016. An analysis of the responses to that consultation was appended to the report. Overall, of the 348 responses received, 44% agreed that the policy should apply to all year groups and 49% disagreed with the proposal.

We were also aware that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had also considered the report and had endorsed the recommendations being made in the report (Minute CYP/16/03).

Decision

To agree that the new policy agreed in 2015 is applied to all applicants for primary and secondary free travel passes in the school year 2016/ 2017, not just those applying within the reception, year one, year seven and year eight cohorts as would have been the case under the planned phased implementation. This will include all children who have been awarded a free travel pass under the previous policy.

Exe/16/053 Delegation of Executive Functions to Council Officers

A report was submitted seeking approval for the delegation of various executive functions to officers of the Council; those functions being recorded at Part 3, Section A of the Council's 2016 Constitution. The report also sought approval for the delegation to officers of the Council's various executive functions set out in Part 3, Section F of the Council's 2016 Constitution.

The report explained the legal powers available to the Leader and to the Executive to arrange for the exercise of and delegation of executive functions within the Council. We supported the proposed delegations.

Decisions

1. To note the decision of the Leader of the Council to exercise his power under Section 9(E) (2) of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) to delegate the discharge of all of the Council's functions to the Executive.
2. To delegate to officers the discharge of all of the Council's executive functions recorded at Part 3, Section A of the Council's 2016 Constitution as set out in the Council's Constitution presented to Council at its Annual Meeting on 18 May 2016.
3. To delegate to officers the discharge of all of the Council's executive functions recorded at Part 3, Section F of the Council's 2016 Constitution as set out in the Council's 2016 Constitution presented to Council at its Annual Meeting on 18 May 2016.
4. In relation to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers set out in Part 3 Section F of the 2016 Constitution, to agree that such delegations include those functions that are designated as "Executive Functions" and those functions that are designated as "General Functions" insofar as these are executive functions.

Exe/16/054 Capital Programme Monitoring 2015/16 – Outturn Report

The City Treasurer submitted a report to inform us of the outturn of capital expenditure and financing for 2015/16. The report also set out the variations between the 2015/16 outturn and the forecast of £242.5m in the previous monitoring report in February 2016 (Minute Exe/16/035). The Capital Outturn for 2015/16 had been £246.6m, broadly in accordance with the forecast made in February.

The report also explained where and how the 2015/16 outturn would have an impact on the three year Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Decisions

1. To note the outturn of capital expenditure for 2015/16 was £246.6m.

2. To note the changes to the outturn attributable to movement in the programme that occurred after the previous monitoring report to Executive in February 2016.
3. To approve the budget transfers between capital schemes to maximise use of funding resources available to the city council, as described in the report.
4. To note the decisions of the City Treasurer regarding the funding of capital expenditure in 2015/16.
5. To note the impact of final expenditure in 2015/16 on the revised Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2018/19.

Exe/16/055 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 – Outturn report

The City Treasurer submitted a report on the final outturn on the General Fund for 2015/16. It also outlined the final year-end figures for the Housing Revenue Account, showing the final outturn position for the HRA as an overall surplus of £3.993m. The report included details of service budget variances, and the requests for carry forward into the 2016/17 budgets some of the under-spent funds from 2015/16.

The budget for 2015/16 had assumed a contribution from the General Reserve of £1,623m. The actual outturn position was for a contribution to the General Reserve of £2,370m, representing an under-spend across all budgets of £3.993m. However, the carry forward of some under-spends into 2016/17 and the creation of a Social Care Reserve would reduce the net contribution to the General Reserve to £0.064m, leaving the General Reserve balance as £25.550m. The under-spends that were recommended for carry-forward into the 2016/17 budgets were:

	£ 000	
Safeguarding and Improvement archives	50	Safeguarding and Improvement Unit was to move in the summer of 2016. Prior to that the service would need to archive many case records, care records child protection enquiry records.
Special Guardianship Assessments	54	To fund additional payments to existing staff to carry out assessments outside their current working hours.
'One' data system	40	To appoint 5 temporary employees to help clear the backlog on the 'One' data system.
HR/OD	81	To support two key technological enhancements (organisational modelling and mi people Self Service enhancements).
Growth and Business Support	40	To enable the Growth Company to draw down the equivalent ERDF match funding for Manchester, effectively doubling the value of funding.

Heaton Development Project	107	The project team had been established for a fixed period from 2015-2017. This was to contribute to the cost of running the project including salary costs for two posts.
Operational Property relocation funding	160	To meet the costs of relocation that were to fall in 2016/17.
Space Hive	60	This was for a grant payment to Future Cities Catapult to manage a 'pledge fund' on behalf of Manchester City Council via the crowdfunding platform – Spacehive.
Somme 100 event	317	A national commemorative event was to be held in Manchester on 1 July 2016. The funding for the event will be mainly through grant from Department for Culture, Media and Sport. This carry forward would meet costs in the agreed financial plan.
Piccadilly Gardens / Fountains	500	To contribute towards the costs of essential works.

The report also explained that some of the underspent funds from 2015/16 should be set aside as a provision against legal claims against the Council. We supported that proposal.

Decisions

1. To note the outturn position for 2015/16 as shown in the report.
2. To note the overall General Fund position for 2015/16 as outlined in the report.
3. To note the Housing Revenue Account position for 2014/15 as outlined in the report.
4. To approve the requests for carry forward of underspends as shown above.
5. To approve the proposed transfers to provisions of £438k following a review of the number of outstanding claims and historic average costs of settling claims.

Exe/16/056 Capital Programme - Proposed Increases

A report concerning requests to increase the capital programme was submitted. We agreed to recommend that the Council approve four changes, and we approved a further six changes under delegated powers. These ten changes would increase the capital budget by £17.81m (£12.29m in 2016/17 and £5.52m in 2017/18).

Decisions

To recommend that the City Council approve:

1. Libraries Programme - Refresh of Radio Frequency Identifier (RFID) Equipment. To increase the capital budget by £510k in 2016/17, funded by the use of borrowing.
2. Libraries Programme - Introduction of On-line Payments. To increase the capital budget by £30k in 2016/17, funded by the use of borrowing.
3. Libraries Programme - Upgrade to Customer Facing Furniture in Libraries. To increase the capital budget by £50k in 2016/17, funded by the use of borrowing.
4. Leisure Programme - Alexandra Park. To increase the capital budget by £48k in 2016/17, funded by the use of borrowing.

Under powers delegated, to approve:

5. Northwards Housing Capital Programme - Plymouth Grove Women's Direct Access Centre. To increase the capital budget by £399k (£379k in 2016/17 and £20k in 2017/18) funded by funded by; £100k revenue contributions to capital, £139k HRA reserves and £160k external grant funding from the Homes & Communities Agency.
6. Private Sector Housing Capital Programme - Disabled Adaptations Scheme. To increase the capital budget by £2,279k in 2016/17, funded by a net increase in the use of external grant funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
7. Private Sector Housing Capital Programme - Redrow Development. To increase the capital budget by £11,010k (£5,510k in 2016/17 and £5,500k in 2017/18) funded by matching capital receipts.
8. Adult Services Programme - Manchester Equipment and Adaptations Partnership (MEAP) Capitalisation of Community Equipment. To increase the capital budget by £350k in 2016/17, funded by a revenue contribution to capital.
9. Children's Services Programme - Education Capital Maintenance. To increase the capital budget by £3,075k in 2016/17, funded by the use of external grant funding from the Department of Education.
10. Environment and Operations Programme - Additional CCTV Enforcement Vehicle. To increase the capital budget by £59k in 2016/17, funded by the use of the Parking Reserve.

Exe/16/057 Housing Affordability in Manchester

Of fundamental importance to the continuing economic growth of the city was the provision of homes that are affordable to Manchester residents across a range of incomes. The Strategic Director, Strategic Development submitted a report that

examined how affordable housing was currently defined, developed and delivered in Manchester, setting affordable housing within the context of the city's general housing market. The report considered affordability for home buyers and also those renting in the public and private sectors.

The report set out the achievements of Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) funding programmes to develop affordable homes. Manchester had been successful in attracting funding for this type of traditional affordable housing. Along with both public and private sector partners, over 2,600 new affordable homes had been delivered in the previous five years, predominantly for rent. However, in the same period just over 1,300 social rented homes had been lost to Right to Buy, demolition or Right to Acquire. That gave a net gain of 1,300 new affordable homes.

The report introduced an alternative view and approach to affordability, linking income to the cost of buying and renting a home within the city. It explained that by applying that principle to future housing requirements the Council could begin to match residents with a range of products that would support them into good quality affordable homes for sale and rent.

This report set out the challenges and complexities around the affordability of housing in Manchester and explained why the Council had the opportunity to redefine its approach. This redefinition would address new-build housing and also the existing 68,000 social and affordable homes that are owned by the City Council and its Registered Provider partners. It would allow the Council to consider what role those 68,000 homes could play in our future housing market and our devolved health and social care agenda.

In order to help with the redefinition of the Council's approach a set of key principles had been developed as a basis for discussion and consultation with residents, key partners and associated organisations. The proposed key principles were:

- Affordability of housing in Manchester should be linked and aligned with household income. As a principle housing costs should not be more than 30% of a household's gross income.
- There should be spatial and geographical considerations in the provision and type of homes that meet our affordability thresholds across the city to help maintain mixed communities and balanced housing markets.
- New build social and affordable rented housing should only be developed for specialist and supported housing, replacement homes lost through right to buy, demolition or estate regeneration with the overall aim of maintaining the current quantum of social housing in the city.
- There should be a wide range of tenure blind 'affordable' options for residents in the city, including market sale and rent. We should seek to direct and support those who can afford it, into those homes.
- We should consider, where appropriate, our Registered Provider and Council owned affordable housing as an incentive and reward for reducing dependency.
- We should offer secure tenancies to those residents with long term dependencies where affordable housing will link into a wider health and social care package, reducing costs on the public purse.

- We should make the most efficient use of our existing social housing stock including:
 - re-provision where stock is poorly designed or the wrong type; and
 - adopting a more flexible approach to tenancies e.g. use of fixed term tenancies to enable a review of the need for a secure tenancy.
- We need to review the use of our planning powers, policies and affordable housing requirements to ensure that we can continue to develop a sustainable housing market that provides for those who work in our economy whilst sustaining the attractiveness of the market to investors.

The report proposed that officers consult with a range of residents and stakeholders across the city to test and develop the principles set out above. A report would then be presented to set out a refreshed policy approach to the provision of homes that meet the “affordability” thresholds defined in the report. We endorsed the key principles that had been put forward and supported the proposed public consultation.

We were aware that a recent meeting of the Economy Scrutiny Committee had also considered the report where the committee had endorsed the recommendations it contained (Minute ESC/16/22).

Decisions

1. To approve the principles contained in Section 4 of this report and authorise officers to consult with residents and stakeholders on the development of a new approach to housing affordability as described in the report.
2. To note the commitment in section 2.18 of the report to develop a strategy and plan to bring forward new development of social and affordable housing that seeks to maintain the current quantum of social and ‘affordable’ homes with a further report to a future Executive on the details of how this will be achieved.

Exe/16/058 Draft Hot Food Take-Away Supplementary Planning Document

In July 2015 we had instructed officers to begin work on a Supplementary Planning Document to manage the impact of hot food takeaways, specifically assessing impact on centres and health (Minute Exe/15/069). The Deputy Chief Executive, Growth and Neighbourhoods now submitted a report seeking approval to consult on a Draft Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The report explained that the development of the draft Supplementary Planning Document had been informed by:

- national and local policy
- comments received
- evidence from a district centre survey
- the Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy 2010-2013.
- ‘Our Manchester – The Manchester Strategy 2016’

Since 2009, the surveys of district centres had shown a gradual increase in the numbers of hot food takeaways, and this development had the potential to reduce the vitality and viability of centres. An excessive proportion or concentration of hot food

takeaways could change the character of centres, leading to units being closed during the day and generating significant activity, noise and odours through the evening and at night. Manchester was also facing a considerable challenge related to obesity and associated health problems. Childhood obesity in Manchester was well above the national average, with 39% of school-year 6 children being overweight or obese, compared to 33% nationally. Whilst an effective response to this challenge demands action in many areas, measures that manage access to unhealthy food were likely to be beneficial as part of an overall approach. Public Health England had urged local planning authorities to use their powers to limit access to hot food takeaways in particular.

Therefore, the policies set out in the draft SPD sought to limit additional hot food takeaways within centres, proposing that no further takeaways be given permission where this use already occupied 5% of the units within the particular district centre. A copy of the draft SPD was appended to the report.

The report proposed that there should be a three month consultation period where representations could be made suggesting alternative approaches and other amendments. The Council would invite representations from stakeholders, interest groups, businesses, organisations and members of the public.

We were aware that a recent meeting of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee had also considered the report where the committee had supported the recommendations it contained (Minute NESC/16/03). At that meeting members of the Committee had made comments about the exemptions proposed in the draft SPD, and also on the litter and dis-amenity that hot food take away outlets could generate. The situation in the city centre was also referred to, where litter from take-away food was also considered to be a significant problem. We noted the views of the committee on these matters.

Decision

To approve public consultation on the Draft Hot Food Takeaways Supplementary Planning Document attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Exe/16/059 Piccadilly Basin Strategic Regeneration Framework

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking the endorsement in principle of a draft Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for Piccadilly Basin. The extent of the 5.9ha area included in the draft framework was shown on a map appended to the report. The purpose of the Framework was to help to guide development in the area in a way that reflects its physical and locational characteristics, supports future growth and complements existing developments in adjacent neighbourhoods. The draft framework sought to further enhance the offer in Piccadilly through the creation of a high quality city centre neighbourhood that would transform the image of this area. It would create a vibrant and distinctive residential, office, retail and leisure accommodation, well connected to the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The framework was summarised in the report. Overall the framework would seek to deliver around:

- 1,083 Residential Units; and
- 24,639 sq m commercial / retail and leisure floorspace.

For the residential units, the intention was to bring forward apartments for sale or to rent through Belgravia Living Group but with Town Centre Securities continuing to own and run the estate. The development of the area would be implemented over five phases.

The report proposed that public consultation be undertaken on the draft framework, and we agreed.

Decisions

1. To endorse in principle the draft Piccadilly Basin Strategic Regeneration Framework, as summarised in Section 4 of the report.
2. To request the Chief Executive undertake a public consultation exercise on the draft SRF with local residents, businesses and other stakeholders, and report back to a future meeting on the outcome.

Exe/16/060 New Islington Marina

English Partnerships (EP) had led on the delivery of the initial phases of redevelopment of New Islington, in particular in letting and managing contracts for the construction of the Marina. EP was subsumed into the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) when it was created in 2011. In recent years the HCA had passed responsibility for the stewardship of public sector assets and estate management to the Council. A report submitted by the Strategic Director, Strategic Development, explained that a range of defects in the core infrastructure associated with the New Islington Marina had become evident, and that these required further specialist investigation and remedy. These issues primarily related to the raised water level in the Marina causing seepage onto adjacent development sites and sink holes on the promenade. There was also a defective sewer that required decommissioning.

The report explained the remedial works that would be necessary to address all the problems that had been identified. The report requested the approval of a capital budget of £350,000 to cover all costs associated with the initial enabling works. This would take the work up to the point where a contractor could be appointed to undertake the first phase of remedial works. The programme of further work that would be needed would be developed once more detailed estimates had been prepared for each aspect of the remediation.

The report explained that officers were in discussions with the Homes and Communities Agency to establish arrangements whereby the Council's costs for the remedial works would be recovered in full from the Agency.

Decisions

1. To note that a number of defects have come to light associated with core infrastructure within the New Islington Marina that require immediate attention.
2. To approve a capital budget of £350,000 to allow the delivery of essential enabling works associated with works to the canal arm in the New Islington Marina.
3. To note that further requests for capital funding would be made once a fully costed work programme for the wider Marina was available.
4. To note that problems identified relate to core infrastructure delivered by English Partnerships (now the Homes and Communities Agency) and that Council officers were in discussions with the Homes and Communities Agency to establish arrangements whereby the costs of remedial works are recovered in full by the City Council.

Exe/16/061 Medieval Quarter Masterplan

The Medieval Quarter of the City Centre is in close proximity to the city's retail hub and the Salford City border. It is rich in cultural and historical significance including Manchester Cathedral, Chetham's School of Music and the National Football Museum. A report submitted by the Chief Executive explained that there were a number of issues with the current environment and public realm within the Medieval Quarter: many heritage assets being obscured; no sense of arrival at the Cathedral; the Cathedral being disconnected from Chetham's; and the historical waterfront was poor and inaccessible. To address these, a draft masterplan had been developed to provide an enhanced setting for the area's assets.

The draft masterplan was summarised in the report. The main elements of it were:

- A new park on the River – celebrating significant people and events in the story of Manchester and creating new pedestrian routes, reinstating linkages along Hunts Bank.
- Improving the setting and connectivity of Manchester Cathedral – including creating a new setting for the Cathedral main entrance; linking the Cathedral and Chetham's via an integrated visitor experience and reinstated Apple Market; and uncovering the historic riverfront.
- Chetham's – integration of the proposed visitor experience and of the 'Firsts Ditch' archaeological site into the wider Medieval Quarter landscape.
- Redefining and Updating Cathedral Gardens – with new defined spaces, sheltered external seating for the Corn Exchange, and external areas for the National Football Museum.
- Victoria Station - an improved arrival route into the city from Victoria Station, including updated formal gardens in front of Chetham's.

The overall costs of the public realm proposals within the masterplan were estimated at £10.8m. The first phase of any works would be focused on Victoria Street and these were expected to cost £3m. Those works included:

- the removal of existing roads, pavements, finishes and lighting in the area, together with the diversion of services where required;
- making good of the river wall;
- the provision of new hard (natural stone), soft landscaping and the planting of 12 new willow trees;
- a significant allowance (£715,000) for new public art; and
- new street furniture, signage, lighting and servicing.

For this first phase, the Council would be able to contribute £2m from the original funding approved for the Irwell River Park scheme with Salford and Trafford Councils.

The report also explained that the demolition of the former Palatine Buildings on Victoria Street was a key requirement of the overall planning and redevelopment of Chetham's School of Music. The City Council was in negotiation with Chetham's to take a long lease of the Palatine Buildings site following demolition, to enable the implementation of a comprehensive public realm scheme. The land was to be transferred to the Council on a peppercorn lease which would contain a restrictive covenant limiting the use of the land for the purpose of open space for the benefit of the public.

The meeting was addressed by Mr Steve Roman of the Friends of Manchester Peace Garden. Mr Roman advocated including into the masterplan a proposal to recreate the Manchester Peace Garden somewhere within the Medieval Quarter, for the development of the masterplan to include consideration of the best site of the Peace Garden within the area covered by the Masterplan. In particular he asked that the site of the Apple Market be considered as the most suitable place to re-establish the garden that had previously been part of St. Peter's Square close to the Town Hall.

In response to Mr Roman's request an undertaking was given that whilst no promise could be given that the Peace Garden would be recreated in the Medieval Quarter, officers would be asked to seek to resolve the future location of the Peace Garden and report the resultant outcome of that at the same time as the outcome of the consultation on the draft masterplan.

Decisions

1. To note the proposals set out within the draft Medieval Quarter Masterplan as summarised in Section 4 of the report.
2. To authorise the Chief Executive to undertake a public consultation exercise on the Masterplan, with the outcomes reported at a later date.
3. To approve the costs estimated for the proposals included within the Masterplan.
4. To recommend to Council an increase to the capital budget of £2.0m for 2016/17, funded by Capital Fund from the residue of funds from the Irwell River Park scheme which were previously allocated to the Capital Fund.

5. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive and Head of Development, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Members, to finalise the terms for the lease of the area comprising the footprint of the former Palatine Buildings.
6. To ask that officers develop proposals for the future location of the Peace Garden and report the resultant outcome of that at the same time as the outcome of the consultation on the draft masterplan.

Exe/16/062 Decisions of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Decision

To receive and note the Decision Notice of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 18 March 2016 and 29 April 29 January 2016.

Exe/16/063 Decisions of the joint meeting of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive Board and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Decision

To receive the Decision Notice of the joint meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the AGMA Executive Board on 18 March 2016 and 29 April 29 January 2016.