

## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11 March 2021**

#### **Present:**

Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Hacking, Johns, Raikes, Shilton Godwin, K Simcock and Stanton

**Also present:** Councillors: Leese, Richards and Stogia

**Apologies:** Councillor Green and Noor

#### **ESC/21/17 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 were approved as a correct record

#### **ESC/21/18 Wythenshawe Hospital Strategic Regeneration Framework**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which set out a proposed Strategic Regeneration Framework for the Wythenshawe Hospital Campus . The report also detailed the outcome of a public consultation exercise with local residents, businesses and stakeholders.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- The Framework envisaged the development of the Wythenshawe Hospital Campus and its environs as a sustainable health village over a 10 to 15 year period enhancing the Hospital whilst diversifying uses to include complementary commercial, leisure and retail set within a high quality, greener public realm;
- An overview of the key principles in relation to transport including public transport and servicing of the site; and
- Details on the consultation process and outcomes of the public consultation centred around:-
  - Enhancing the quality of health care facilities
  - Creating a welcome environment for all users, including accessible green space
  - Improved accessibility by foot, cycle and public transport
  - Expanding the type of land use, including complementary development that creates employment, key worker housing and step-down care facilities
  - Creating a sustainable health campus, which delivers on the Hospital Trust's commitment to be net Zero Carbon by 2038
  - Other considerations in relation to maximising benefits to local communities

The report would also be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17 March 2021.

The Committee heard from Councillor Rawlins, Ward Councillor for Baguley who spoke in support of the proposed Strategic Regeneration Framework.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:

- There was unanimous support for the proposals contained within the SRF, especially the proposal for a single point of entry for patients;
- There would be a need to ensure the issue of parking on local residential streets was addressed as the SRF progressed;
- It was hoped that the commitments around local employment would come to fruition in the future;
- The attempts to develop an improved walking and cycling infrastructure was welcomed;
- The focus on net carbon within the SRF was also welcomed;
- There was support for key worker accommodation on site as well as proposals for sensory gardens for patients;
- How satisfied were Officers with the overall level of response from the consultation that had taken place and how would engagement continue going forward;
- Was there any reason why there had been no reference to the use of Facebook as part of the consultation exercise, as this would have reached a much larger audience than just using Twitter; and
- Was there any potential conflict between the new SRF and the 2004 SRF for the broader Wythenshawe area.

The Director of Strategic Projects, Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) advised that the engagement had in the main been digital due to the restrictions the pandemic had had. However MFT had worked closely with the Council on the engagement for the proposals within the SRF to ensure this had taken place as best as possible in the circumstances across all aspects of the community. The response from this consultation had helped shape and revise the final SRF proposals. She also advised as plans developed a co-designed approach would be adopted with Assurance Group and Consultation Forum being developed as proposals progressed as well as engagement with specific groups. It was confirmed that MFT did use Facebook as part of the consultation exercise and would continue to use this social media platform for future engagement.

The Leader commented that in 2004, SRF's covered the entirety of the city, which included East Manchester at the time. This was because the Council had access to resource streams to enable it to tackle regeneration on a whole city basis. It was due to the impact of austerity and government cuts that prevented the Council from maintaining this level of regeneration and had to move to more localised SRF's.

## **Decisions**

The Committee endorse the recommendations to the Executive, as set out below.

- The Executive is recommended to note and comment on the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Wythenshawe Hospital Campus Strategic Regeneration Framework.

- The Executive is recommended to approve the Wythenshawe Hospital Campus Strategic Regeneration Framework and request that Planning and Highways Committee take the Framework into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications for the area.

### **ESC/21/19 Withington Village Framework Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which informed Members of the outcome of a public consultation exercise with local residents, businesses and stakeholders, on the draft Withington Village Framework.

Key points and themes in the report included:-

- Withington Village was a key District Centre in south Manchester which served the Withington and Old Moat population, providing a hub for the community and a range of services;
- The draft Framework identified a vision for the Village as a liveable place that met the needs of its diverse community;
- It built on its cultural, physical and heritage assets and sought to develop these further;
- New public spaces were proposed along with an improved street environment and movement for pedestrians and cyclists;
- The Framework was developed through a series of public workshops and stakeholder interviews held in 2019;
- An overview of the consultation process and consultation responses centred around:-
  - Movement in and around the village;
  - Public Space;
  - Heritage and Streetscape;
  - Governance Arrangements; and
- Next steps

The report would also be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 17 March 2021.

The Committee heard from Dave Payne, Chair of Withington Village Regeneration Partnership Group, who was supportive of the proposals within the report.

The Committee next heard from Councillor Wills, Ward Councillor for Withington and Councillor White, Ward Councillor for Old Moat, who both spoke in support of the Framework.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussion were:-

- Endorsing the report and welcoming the positive engagement between residents, local Members, the local Member for Parliament and officers to progress this work;

- Commenting that this represented an exemplar programme of resident engagement and community led initiatives to drive change and deliver improvements;
- The learning from the activity should be understood and used to inform projects and engagement activity in other wards;
- Noting that the proposals delivered a road map for the post Covid recovery;
- Welcoming the commitment to improving walking and cycling routes, adding that consideration needed to be given to reducing the use of advertising A boards outside of commercial properties;
- Consideration needed to be given to removing the guard rails between the pavement and the highway;
- Welcoming the proposals to improving the Copson Street area; and
- Whilst acknowledging and welcoming the level of community engagement were there any groups whose views it was felt were not fully represented.

The Strategic Lead Neighbourhoods advised it was recognised that further engagement work with young people was required to ensure their views were captured and taken into consideration as this work progressed, and consideration was being given to addressing this.

The Chair in moving the recommendations stated that it was important that if approved the Licensing Committee, in addition to the Planning and Highways Committee take the framework update into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications for the area.

## **Decisions**

The Committee:-

- (1) Endorse the recommendations that the Executive:
  - Note and comment on the outcome of the public consultation on the draft Withington Village Framework.
  - Approve the Withington Village Framework and request that Planning and Highways Committee and Licensing Committee take the framework update into account as a material consideration when considering planning applications for the area.
- (2) Request that the Executive note the views of the Committee inasmuch that Members feel this project should be held as an example of good practice for future projects.

## **ESC/21/20 Greater Manchester 2040 Transport Strategy and City Centre Transport Strategy 2040**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which updated Members on the refreshed Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, and accompanying Five-Year Delivery Plan and Local Implementation Plans, and the City Centre Transport to 2040.

Key points and themes in the report included:-

- The Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 sought to deliver a vision for 'World class connections that support long-term, sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all';
- The provision of high-quality transport services was vital to deliver the diverse and distinctive economy ensuring connections and opportunities for residents and businesses across the city;
- The Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 specifically identified the need to meet a zero-carbon target by 2038 at the latest
- The updated City Centre Transport Strategy would need to provide the capacity needed to underpin growth and support the creation of new jobs in the city; and
- Detail on the significant engagement and consultation that had taken place on the City Centre Transport Strategy.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussion were:-

- Welcoming the reports and supporting the strategies, in particular the City Centre Transport Strategy to 2040;
- Supporting the key principals and prioritise of the City Centre Transport Strategy 2040 to reduce carbon emissions and deliver sustainable travel;
- Consideration needed to be given to reducing carbon emissions from goods and freight vehicles;
- Noting that the City Centre Transport Strategy 2040 had been developed in consultation with local Members and residents, noting that the co-design workshops had been well attended by residents and the feedback was very positive;
- What arrangements were in place to provide scrutiny and oversight of the delivery of these strategies;
- Noting that the delivery of these strategies was an opportunity for securing employment and training;
- The Streets for All scheme needed to be rolled out across all wards in Manchester to support and encourage active travel into the city centre;
- Consideration needed to be given to the issue of the security of active travel, especially for journeys undertaken in the evening; and
- An update was sought as to the approach taken to the location of Mobility Hubs, recognising the impact this could have on residential areas.

The Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure advised all district centres had a local implementation plan to support active travel. She described that to ensure this work was delivered at pace all funding opportunities, including the recently announced levelling up scheme would be applied for to accelerate this activity.

The City Centre Growth Manager described that a location in Ancoats was being considered as a location for a Mobility Hib, adding that it was recognised that that appropriate consideration needed to be given as to their location. She further commented that officers continued to work with the Highways Department to minimise and mitigate against the impact of any displacement of vehicles on residential areas close to the city centre.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport informed the Committee that scrutiny and oversight of the delivery of these strategies would be undertaken by the Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Salford Council. She described that the strategies had Key Performance Indicators so that progress against delivery could be reported and measured.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport paid tribute to the residents and local Members for their contribution in developing the City Centre Transport Strategy. She commented that residents supported the ambitions to deliver a cleaner, greener and less congested city. She made reference to the schemes delivered on Deansgate and in the Northern Quarter and the good practice and lessons learnt from these schemes would inform the delivery of additional schemes, working with local residents, local Member and partners, including TfGM and the taxi trade.

The Chair in concluding this item made reference to the importance of positive and meaningful engagement with residents and local Members when planning and delivering schemes.

## **Decisions**

The Committee;

- (1) Note the refreshed Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040, the final Our Five Year Transport Delivery Plan (2021-2026) and Local Implementation Plan for Manchester.
- (2) Note the final draft of the City Centre Transport Strategy to 2040.
- (3) Request that the Executive take on board the points raised by the Committee in relation to the City Centre Transport Strategy 2040

## **ESC/21/21 Economy COVID19 Sit Rep report**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which provided a further update of the current situation in the city in relation to COVID-19 and an update on the work progressing in Manchester in relation to areas within the remit of the Committee.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- Was the Council's Industrial Strategy be renamed given the demise of this terminology at a national level
- Was the Council concerned that as people returned to the city centre, this would increase the volume of motor journeys into and out of the city and what consideration was being given to mitigate this;
- What was the latest position on the Kickstart programme and how was youth unemployment and unemployment amongst those 50+ going to be monitored.

The Leader advised that the Council had always developed long term strategies that would be moulded to suit particular circumstances and the Council would adapt to the

new circumstances. There was concern in relation to increase car use as lockdown eased, which was big discussed at a GM level as to how to mitigate this as it was acknowledged it would be a challenge in the short term. He added that Bus operators were expecting to return to 90% of pre-COVID services as schools returned and that the majority of businesses were planning on a phased return to work for their staff.

The Director of Inclusive Economy advised that the Kickstart programme was on a slow uptake nationally and discussions with government and businesses were taking place to see how this could be improved. In terms of youth unemployment it was reported that the figures were levelling off and the latest labour force survey had identified a small decline. The over 50+ group was starting to rise and there were discussions with DWP taking place to have a place based focus in targeting employment programmes.

The Strategic Director – Growth and Development commented that the Council was focussing on a safe and COVID secure return to the city for businesses. There was also a lot of interest in the lateral flow testing arrangements that would need setting up. She added that here was some useful guidance that was being produced and shared, refereeing the Manchester Arena, on how to safely reopen which had been shared with business communities.

## **Decisions**

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Thanks the Officer involved in the work of the Economic Recovery Group

## **ESC/21/22 Overview Report**

The report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

## **Decisions**

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Agrees that the Chair liaises with Officers in relation to the work programme for the Committee's first meeting in the new Municipal Year.