

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 November 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Good, Ogunbambo, Rawson, Sheikh and Wills

Also present:

Councillor Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Shilton Godwin, Lead Member for Active Travel

Superintendent Chris Downey, Greater Manchester Police

Sarah Paul, Homelessness Prevention Lead and Strategic Lead for Community

Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS 3), GM Probation Service

Stuart Tasker, Assistant Chief Officer, GM Probation Service

Apologies: Councillors Appleby, Doswell and Whiston

CESC/23/44 Interests

Councillor Azra Ali declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in item 6 – Community Safety Partnership Overview.

CESC/23/45 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 October 2023, be approved as a correct record.

CESC/23/46 ACES European Capital of Cycling 2024

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview and sought the committee's endorsement to the Executive of Manchester's bid to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- The content of Manchester's bid, which was joint between Manchester City Council, MCRactive, TfGM, British Cycling, Marketing Manchester and GLL;
- The commitments made by partners for 2024, should Manchester's bid be successful;
- The communications plan, including a bespoke campaign brand; and
- The outcomes and legacy should Manchester's bid be successful.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- Noting the great facilities for cycling within Manchester, including the National Cycling Centre and indoor BMX track;
- Whether any activities would be undertaken to widen access to cycling to certain communities such as LGBTQ+ and ethnic minorities;
- The stigma around young people on bicycles and antisocial behaviour;
- The impact of illegal parking and flooding on cycling infrastructure, and how this would be addressed;
- Whether the proposed commitments would still be achieved if Manchester's bid was unsuccessful;
- The activities and events that would be held in 2024 should Manchester be successful in its bid;
- Whether new walking and cycling routes were part of scheduled works already or if these were dependent on a successful bid;
- Current issues with the Bee Bike cycle hire scheme; and
- Expressing hope that Manchester's bid to become European Capital of Cycling 2024 was successful.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport explained that the Council had been approached by ACES Europe to submit a bid to become European Capital of Cycling for 2024 as a result of the Council's investment in cycling with partners. She explained that Manchester was home to the British Cycling and the Great Britain Cycling team at the recently refurbished National Cycling Centre. She stated that the Council had received investment of £70 million in recent years to deliver high-quality cycling infrastructure on highways and there was a strong network of volunteers, partners and local groups which worked to expand cycling participation through Bikeability courses, cycling coaching in schools and inclusive cycling programmes and events. She highlighted that Manchester's bid aligned closely with the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and investment plan, Making Manchester Fairer and the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. She explained that, if successful in its bid, the Council aimed to achieve a long-lasting legacy for cycling in Manchester and to transform and enhance the city's cycling offer.

The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery explained that all members had received a copy of the bid document which was submitted to ACES Europe in August 2023 and that a follow-up delegation had visited Manchester in September to look at different examples of cycling within the city. He stated that the bid consortium included representatives from the Council, British Cycling, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), MCR Active, Marketing Manchester, GLL and Cycling UK and community and voluntary organisations had also been involved in the bid process. He explained the benefits that being accredited would bring, such as cycling development, raising the profile of Manchester, community engagement and wellbeing, business opportunities and potential access to new funding, opportunity to share best practice with other European cities and extensive media and PR opportunities. He stated that the Council hoped to learn the outcome of the bid in December and that, if successful, a detailed programme of actions would be developed with partners.

The Chair invited the Lead Member for Active Travel to make representations on this item. She emphasised the health benefits of cycling and stated that this bid would be a great opportunity for residents to recognise the growing network of cycling infrastructure in the city and to be inspired to take up cycling.

In response to members' queries, the Director of Neighbourhood Delivery recognised that there were some barriers to cycling within certain communities and that there was a stigma around young people on bicycles engaging in antisocial behaviour. He highlighted the significant investment into cycling infrastructure and explained that the Council would work with partners to expand community-focused initiatives in 2024, including making cycling an integral part of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme. Members were advised that there were links with LGBTQ+ and ethnic minority communities already and that this could be explored further in the delivery plan.

The Active Travel Lead (Infrastructure and Environment) acknowledged issues with the Bee Bikes GM cycle hire scheme and advised the committee that a recovery plan had been developed with TfGM and was having a positive effect with an increase in the number of bikes available. He stated that there would also be changes to the cycle docking stations and locking mechanisms to reduce the risk of theft and damage.

The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery also noted that issues regarding traffic enforcement in cycle lanes had been raised by members. He stated that the Council would continue to monitor hotspot areas and that this would form part of a long-term plan to change behaviour. The Council would continue to undertake enforcement against lane contraventions and keep lanes clean.

The Interim Lead for Leisure, Events and Specialist Markets stated that the key areas of focus for activity in 2024 were highlighted in the bid document and explained that the Council had a strong collaborative engagement with cycling stakeholders on both a community and a professional basis which would continue should the bid be unsuccessful. She stated that targeted work would be undertaken with key priority areas and recognised that the bid would be utilised as a catalyst to undertake further work. The Council continued to invest in cycling infrastructure, including a dedicated sweeper for cycle lanes.

Emphasis would also be placed on lifestyle changes during 2024 with a range of schemes and campaigns, including New Years resolutions, bike maintenance and building confidence on bicycles. The committee was also assured that there would be a citywide campaign and that all wards would have a programme of activities.

In response to a query regarding whether new walking and cycling routes were part of scheduled works already or if these were dependent on a successful bid, the Active Travel Lead (Infrastructure and Environment) stated that the major highways scheme in Ancoats and New Cross were part of the Victoria North Eastern Gateway development. It was further clarified that no additional capital funding would be

received with the accolade of European Capital of Cycling but that it would enhance the Council's ability to promote highways schemes and the opportunities they could provide.

In closing the item, the Chair thanked officers for their work wished them luck with the bid.

Decision:

That the committee endorses the recommendation to the Executive for Manchester's bid to become ACES European Capital of Cycling for 2024.

CESC/23/47 Community Safety Partnership Overview

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership which provided an update on the implementation of the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to Community Safety Partnerships and the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25;
- Tackling neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour, particularly in student neighbourhoods;
- Safety of women and girls;
- Keeping children and young people safe;
- Early intervention and prevention, including trauma responsive interventions;
- Tackling serious harm and violence, including modern slavery and the RADEQUAL community campaign;
- The initiatives funded for 2023/24;
- Tackling drug and alcohol driven crime;
- Work to change offender behaviour; and
- The work and aims of the Community Safety Partnership's Achieving Race Equality Task and Finish Group.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- What work was being undertaken to strengthen cohesion in communities where tensions may be rising as a result of conflict in the Middle East;
- Noting the work of RADEQUAL and the influence that disinformation (false information deliberately spread to deceive people) could have on young people;
- Expressing disappointment in the way that changes to Greater Manchester Police's (GMP) Student Safe operation were communicated to members;
- Expressing concern over staff turnover within GMP's Neighbourhood Policing teams;

- The membership of the Safety of Women and Girls Steering Group and how members were appointed;
- What work was being done, beside nighttime patrols in the city centre, to ensure the safety of women in the nighttime economy and to implement Unite the Union's 'Get Me Home Safely' campaign;
- What work the Council's Youth, Play and Participation service were undertaking in south Manchester to dissuade young people from engaging in violence;
- Noting that 90% of people managed by Probation in Manchester were in settled accommodation following release from prison between January and March 2023, and querying what happened to the remaining 10%;
- How Greater Manchester's performance in placing prison-leavers in settled accommodation after their release compared to other areas in England;
- Requesting further clarification on the unmet need within CAS3;
- Noting the seriousness of modern slavery and exploitation through international sponsorship schemes;
- The capacity to house all prison-leavers in Manchester;
- Whether accommodation for prison-leavers was in one locality or spread across the city;
- What was being done to address reoffending amongst young people; and
- Whether earlier intervention was required to address youth crime.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained the key priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, including keeping children and young people safe, early intervention and prevention, addressing drug- and alcohol-related harms and cross-cutting themes such as addressing disproportionality in services.

The Assistant Chief Officer of GM Probation Service provided an overview of the service and reiterated the benefits of working closely with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), as part of unification between the National Probation Service and Community Rehabilitation Companies in 2021, in establishing a local service and enabling local commissioning. He acknowledged that three probationary units within Greater Manchester had been assessed as 'requiring improvement' by HM Inspectorate but advised members that the service's level of integration had been highlighted as an example of good practice.

The Strategic Lead for CAS3, GM Probation Service, explained that this accommodation was funded by the Ministry of Justice and was available to prison leavers. This was undertaken through commissioning with GMCA and there were 159 beds across Greater Manchester, with 54 beds in Manchester. She explained that the service worked closely with the Council, who had identified a provider for accommodation and support services. Members were informed that there was a process involved to approve addresses and locations of this accommodation and that the individuals placed in accommodation also required approval by the Probation Service, GMCA and GMP.

She further stated that 513 prison leavers had been accommodated in Manchester since June 2021. The accommodation was transitional and available for 84 nights, during which the Probation Service worked to identify move-on accommodation in collaboration with the Council and support providers, On the Out.

In response to members' queries, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) acknowledged that the conflict in the Middle East was concerning for some communities and explained that Operation Wildflower was underway through the Community Safety Partnership to work with GMP to understand tensions and identify areas for response. She stated that there was also a significant amount of work underway to raise awareness of and address hate crime.

The committee was also advised that work was ongoing in schools to safeguard children and young people who may be troubled by conflict in the Middle East.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) recognised that changes to GMP's Student Safe operation were not communicated in the best way, and this had been fed back to GMP. She advised that the Council's Neighbourhood teams were working closely with GMP to understand the changes and the rationale behind them, to continue the partnership work of this operation within Neighbourhood teams and to ensure that any future changes to safety operations were communicated more appropriately.

The Superintendent, GMP, confirmed that he would relay this feedback to colleagues and stated that Student Safe was an expensive operation. He advised that GMP was enhancing its Neighbourhood Policing teams across North, Central and South Manchester to continue delivering these services at a lower cost.

In response to a member's concern over staff turnover in Neighbourhood Policing teams, the Statutory Deputy Leader advised that this would be best directed to senior officers within GMP.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that the Safety of Women and Girls Steering Group included a range of partners and was chaired by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Joanna Midgley.

With regards to the work being done to ensure the safety of women in the nighttime economy, members were informed of the Good Night Out Guide, premises being accredited in the safety of women and girls and a range of other options were being discussed by the Safety of Women and Girls Steering Group.

The Parks Lead explained that Leeds City Council had recently undertaken research into the safety of women and girls in parks with their partners and highlighted three key areas for green and open space providers to focus on to improve senses of safety and security within these spaces. This included the availability and visibility of staff and clear entrance points and inclusion of women and girls in decision-making. She stated that a brief audit had been undertaken as a result of this research which found that many of these findings were already in place in Manchester's parks.

She also highlighted the work taking place on intersectionality around women and girls, including supporting partners to host the Black Girls Hike nature festival in Platt Fields and the Adventure Festivals, which gave women and girls the opportunity to participate in events that they were typically underrepresented in.

In response to a question regarding work in South Manchester to discourage young people from engaging in serious violence, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that support was targeted to challenging areas where crime and antisocial behaviour was high. She stated that work to develop an early intervention and prevention offer across North, South and Central Manchester was underway and expertise from STEER had recently been implemented in the south of the city. Funding for the wider youth offer was also available.

The Strategic Lead for CAS3, GM Probation Service, explained that the national target for people managed by Probation to be in settled accommodation following release from prison was 90% and that a trigger plan would be implemented where this figure reduced to 80%. She explained that Greater Manchester was high performing in national figures, although there was evidence of a decline which she attributed to the current climate. She stated that the Probation Service met with 'negatives' – those not placed in settled accommodation upon release – on a monthly basis and further explained that those deemed 'neutral' could be being housed in other establishments such as Home Office accommodation.

In response to queries from the Chair, the Strategic Lead for CAS3, GM Probation Service, clarified that there were currently 54 bedspaces in Manchester which were spread across the city. She reiterated that this accommodation was only available for 84 nights and that work to identify move-on accommodation would be undertaken during this time. This could include trying to reintegrate a prison-leaver with family or identifying priority need for housing through the Council. She further stated that funding was available to the Council through the government's accommodation for ex-offenders' scheme which linked to the development of CAS3 and provided rent, a deposit and incentive to landlords to agree a tenancy with someone who had left prison in the previous 12 months.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that there were many youth providers in Manchester which provided a range of support and safeguarding measures for children. It was acknowledged that by engaging with youth services and participating in the activities they organise, children and young people would be less likely to take part in antisocial behaviour and crime as they would not be on the streets. She also acknowledged that support and trust took time to develop between young people and providers including the Council and where necessary, information was shared between partners to ensure appropriate support was provided.

In response to a query regarding whether earlier intervention was required to address children becoming involved in crime at a younger age, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) endorsed this and explained that pre-natal support was already

in place in some circumstances to ensure that families had the support in place for children to grow up happily and healthily.

In closing the item, the Chair thanked officers and guests for their attendance and commended the many organisations working together in Manchester to tackle the most challenging issues and to achieve better outcomes for residents.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. expresses concern over staff turnover within GMP's Neighbourhood Policing teams and asks that this is addressed in the Crime and Policing item at January's meeting;
3. requests further information on where accommodation for prison-leavers is located in Manchester;
4. requests that the next update on the Community Safety Partnership include detail on outcomes, deliverability of priorities and objectives and how this could be monitored going forward.

CESC/23/48 Serious Violence Update

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview of progress made in developing Manchester's approach to tackling serious violence.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Serious Violence Strategy 2022-2023;
- The Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) Strategic Needs Assessment 2023;
- An overview of serious violence in Manchester;
- Hotspot areas;
- Links between serious violence and deprivation;
- Serious violence amongst and against young people;
- Interventions and early indications of impact and outcomes; and
- An overview of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection on serious youth violence, which was undertaken between September and October.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- Requesting clarification on which protected characteristics as listed under the Equality Act 2010 were likely to be disproportionately affected by serious violence, with figures and statistics;

- Requesting further information on the work of the Peace Together Alliance and SAFE taskforce;
- Noting the importance of early intervention and querying what work was being undertaken with those already involved in serious violence;
- Whether data on homicides within the city was based on a month-by-month comparison;
- Highlighting the important early intervention and prevention work being undertaken by voluntary groups in local communities;
- Responses to crime and serious violence in communities and in the media;
- Whether a communications plan was in place to reduce fear and to highlight work to reduce instances of serious violence;
- How GMP positively communicated updates on serious violence incidents;
- What early intervention and prevention work was being undertaken specifically with young people; and
- The importance of the role of housing providers in early intervention and prevention.

The Statutory Deputy Leader acknowledged some serious incidents of violence in Manchester in recent months, particularly involving young people as both victims and perpetrators, and he emphasised that one instance of serious violence was one too many. He stated that it was important to intervene early and to provide hope, aspiration, and positive activities for young people. He also noted that the vast majority of young people in Manchester did not engage in violence and that the Serious Violence Strategy and the Community Safety Partnership would work to reduce violence in the city.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) explained that the report provided an update on progress with the delivery of the Serious Violence Strategy, including current performance and key statistics on serious violence in Manchester and detailed the significant investment which had been given to the work of the Community Safety Partnership and the Violence Reduction Unit from a range of funding sources. She also informed the committee that the Partnership's response to serious youth violence was recently subject to a Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) and the outcome of this would be published on 30 November 2023 with a report to this committee in January 2024.

In response to members' queries, the Strategic Lead (Community Safety) confirmed that she would share the additional information requested. Regarding ongoing work to support those already involved in serious violence, she explained that support and protection was a key element in the Serious Violence Strategy and that a range of interventions were available. Early intervention and prevention were a key focus as a result of feedback from communities, but it was important to work with those already in the criminal justice system or engaging in criminal activity. The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) stated that the Council worked closely with Youth Justice to enable support and collaborative working and there had been investment for the Another Chance and Shift schemes to continue offering avenues for support to young people involved in or influenced by crime.

In response to a query regarding data on homicides, the committee was informed that the data within the report referred to homicides, attempted murder, and section 18 offences (wounding or causing grievous bodily harm with intent), which were the offences that the term 'serious violence' covered. It was confirmed that there had been an annual reduction of 12%, which was welcomed.

The Statutory Deputy Leader acknowledged that the media did not always relay positive news stories of the work being undertaken to address serious violence. He stated that the Council communicated success with local community and voluntary groups and partners and helped to reassure residents.

In response to a query from the Chair, Supt Chris Downey of GMP acknowledged that fear of crime was often a driver of crime. He explained that the police used certain phrases, such as 'isolated incident' or 'targeted attack', in their communication to provide reassurance and clarity. He also informed the committee that meetings were convened between the police, other emergency services and partners including the Council which aimed to identify where communication should be directed and what actions needed to be taken following an incident. GMP would also email the Council's Community Safety team to provide an overview of any incidents, which could then be shared with members and staff.

The Strategic Lead (Community Safety) reiterated feedback from residents which placed great importance on early intervention and prevention to reduce serious violence. The Serious Violence Manager advised the committee that there were designated officers within the GMP locality teams – North, South, and Central – who were responsible for identifying children and young people named as suspects in criminal acts which may not go through the full criminal justice process. These children and young people would then be screened with safeguarding, early help and children's social care teams to understand if any additional support was required. It was also confirmed that housing providers were involved in this.

In closing the item, the Chair welcomed the work of the Council and local and voluntary organisations to make communities in Manchester safer.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. requests clarification on which protected characteristics as listed under the Equality Act 2010 were likely to be disproportionately affected by serious violence, with figures and statistics;
3. requests further information on the work of the Peace Together Alliance and SAFE taskforce; and
4. requests further detail on 'hotspot areas' of serious violence in the city.

In opening the item, the Chair advised the committee that items 8 and 8a would be considered together and the committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an overview of the Council's updated budget position for 2024/25 and a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which outlined the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers.

Key points and themes within the reports included:

- An estimated budget shortfall of £46m was expected in 2024/25, £86m in 2025/26, and £105m by 2026/27;
- This gap would reduce to £1.6m in 2024/25, £30m in 2025/26 and £49m by 2026/27 after the application of approved and planned savings and the use of c£17m smoothing reserves in each of the three years;
- The indicative medium-term financial position;
- A review of emerging pressures and budget assumption had been completed and provision made to address these where unavoidable, including inflation and pay awards;
- The planned public consultation on proposed council tax levels and savings and cuts measures;
- Next steps in the budget process;
- Providing an overview and information on the priorities of the Neighbourhoods directorate;
- The services under the remit of this committee;
- The base budgets for each service area for 2023/24;
- Current financial pressures and ongoing high inflation rates meant it was necessary to revisit the initial assumptions and identify further savings options for consideration whilst protecting service delivery;
- Noting that a temporary reduction in the annual £40k contribution to the security measures for the Christmas Markets whilst Albert Square is unavailable would be re-introduced once the markets return to Albert Square;
- A proposal to reduce libraries' book fund budget by £30k to £0.65m per annum;
- Government grants and the income they provide;
- Workforce implications, including reviews of vacant posts;
- Future opportunities;
- The indicative medium-term budgets by service area; and
- The indicative medium-term budgets by type of spend/income.

Key points and themes that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- Acknowledging the 13-year period of austerity and the Local Government Association's warning that local authorities were facing a £4bn funding shortfall;
- Noting ongoing inflationary pressures and the advantage that a Fair Funding Settlement would provide;
- Expressing concern with the proposed £30k cut to the book fund budget;

- The impact of inflation on the Council's income stream;
- Highlighting the additional burden placed on the Homelessness service as a result of the government's plan to provide 7 days' eviction notice to asylum seekers in temporary accommodation;
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis increasing demand for Council services and support whilst the Council's budget was being cut at the same time;
- The financial implications of cuts to homelessness grants, such as the Afghan Resettlement Funding; and
- Requesting further breakdown of the budget allocated to tackle crime and disorder.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) provided an overview of the key points within the reports and explained that the Neighbourhoods directorate had a net budget of £66m with 1364 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts. The Head of Finance reiterated the process for approving the budget and advised the committee that a report on the government's Autumn Statement would be considered at Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee in December 2023 and final proposals following public consultation would be provided to each Scrutiny Committee in February 2024 for final approval by Full Council in early March.

The Statutory Deputy Leader emphasised that the report included officer proposals for the 2024/25 budget and that Executive Members would lead on these proposals once considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committees.

The Deputy Leader reiterated the comments of the Statutory Deputy Leader and stated that local authorities across the country had lost 27% of their spending power as a direct result of cuts to local government funding imposed by central government. She explained that Manchester had been disproportionately affected due to levels of need and deprivation and what she stated as the unfairness of cuts and the ideological choices of government. The committee was informed that, had the Council received the average cut in funding, there would be an additional £70m to spend on residents and services. She highlighted that some local authorities in England were facing bankruptcy and stated that Manchester was not in such a position due to the careful financial management of officers, who she commended, but acknowledged the precarious financial situation that the Council found itself in as result of inflationary pressures and the cost-of-living crisis.

In response to concerns raised regarding the proposal to reduce the book fund budget, the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) recognised the impact of this and that the book fund had been reduced in previous budgets. He explained that making budget cuts was not an easy decision and that reducing the book fund budget seemed to be the least impactful in comparison to closing libraries or reducing staff numbers. The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery explained that the book fund budget was used to purchase both physical copies, e-books and online subscriptions. He advised that if the proposed cut was approved, officers would look to cut less-used subscriptions in the first instance.

The Head of Finance stated that there had been implications on a range of services as a result of rising inflation rates, which were not anticipated. Examples of this included commissioning costs in social care and in housing. He explained that the report included forecasts on inflation rates and this would be reviewed throughout the year.

In closing the item, the Chair acknowledged that the Council had lost 27% of its budget since 2010 and stated her belief that the government systematically ensured that cities like Manchester were disproportionately targeted for their political allegiance. She also placed on record her thanks to Council officers for their work in making and implementing difficult financial decisions.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. expresses concern with the proposed £30k cut to the book fund budget and requests detail on how the impact of this cut might be mitigated for service users and what the year-on-year cuts to this budget have been;
3. requests that the Neighbourhoods directorate 2024/25 budget report in February 2024 includes information on any plans to mitigate the financial implications of cuts to homelessness grants, such as the Afghan Resettlement Funding; and
4. requests that the Neighbourhoods directorate 2024/25 budget report in February 2024 provides further breakdown of the budget allocated to tackle crime and disorder.

CESC/23/50 Overview Report

The committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained a list of key decisions yet to be taken within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

Members noted that there was only one substantive item listed on the committee's work programme for December. The Governance and Scrutiny Team Leader endeavoured to identify any additional reports which could be brought forward to that meeting.

The Overview Report also included a briefing note for information on the RBDxP programme, in response to a recommendation made previously by the committee for further information on this. Several comments were made on this, which would be passed onto the relevant officers.

Decision: That the report be noted, and the work programme agreed.