

## **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 February 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of the The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Davies, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles, A Simcock, Stanton, Wheeler and Wright

**Also present:**

Councillor Leese, Leader  
Councillor N Murphy, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Skills  
Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

### **RGSC/21/9 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2021.

### **RGSC/21/10 Climate Emergency petition**

The Committee considered a petition, submitted on behalf of Climate Emergency Manchester, entitled “Respond to climate change with more democracy and more money”, which having received over 1,700, signatures requested the Council to establish a permanent “Climate and Environment Scrutiny Committee”, of equal standing to the existing six scrutiny committees and to make strenuous efforts to secure additional funding for climate action, including the use of some of its strategic reserves.

Ms Chloe Jefferies, representing Climate Emergency Manchester addressed the Committee setting out the rationale as to why she believed the Council should establish a 7th Scrutiny Committee, which included:-

- It was felt that the current Scrutiny arrangements were not working in relation to addressing climate emergency;
- The current Scrutiny Committee with oversight for climate emergency had a vast remit and there was insufficient time to address an issue on the scale of climate change with sufficient depth and detail;
- It was felt that the current approach to scrutinising climate change to date by the current scrutiny committees had been scattered rather than embedded;
- According to a Manchester Climate Change Agency report in 2020, a quarter of Manchester’s remaining carbon budget for the 21st century had been burned in

the space of just two years and the current arrangement were not keeping the city on track;

- It was felt that the Council's scrutiny arrangements had not been updated to reflect the complexity of climate change and growing area of Council activity which required transformative change and speed of action; and
- For scrutiny of climate change to be robust it needed to be central to the remit of a particular committee

The Leader was invited to respond to the points raised. In doing so he commented that:-

- In the main he supported the principles that had been raised by the petition and the comments made;
- The Council only accounted for approximately 2% of the city's emissions and had no statutory powers to require other parts of the city to act or scrutinise them;
- It was the purpose of the every part of the Council to make a contribution to tackle climate change;
- The demands on the current Neighbourhood and Environment Scrutiny Committee were too high to allow sufficient consideration of climate emergency;
- It was proposed that the balance of Scrutiny Committee remits would be reviewed, with the proposals that Homelessness would come under the remit of Communities and Equalities Scrutiny and that all Transport matters would be consolidated and placed under the remit of Economy Scrutiny;
- The above proposals would free up capacity for Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee to give more time to scrutiny of climate change and zero carbon; and
- It was envisaged that these proposals would come into effect as of the new Municipal Year and negate the need to establish a 7th Scrutiny Committee.

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

- Members were in support of the proposal to realign the remits of the Scrutiny Committees to allow greater scrutiny of climate change and zero carbon;
- It was proposed that in addition to the realignment of scrutiny remits, the Council renamed the current Neighbourhood and Environment Scrutiny Committee to Environment and Climate Change Committee, which would be the main committee to scrutinise issues such as environmental integrity, climate change, bio diversity and flooding;
- It was also felt that this should not preclude scrutiny of climate change by other Scrutiny Committees where appropriate to do so;
- It was suggested that the proposed changes to scrutiny remits were made as soon as possible;
- It was commented that perhaps consideration needed to be given to the remits of all Scrutiny Committees in order for them to remain relevant and respond to changing circumstances impacting on the council and the city;
- It was felt that investment in tackling climate change was essential to securing the long term future of the city;

- It was felt that the re-establishment of the Climate Emergency Sub Group needed to take place as soon as possible; and
- It was proposed that this Committee scrutinised the financial implications in tackling climate change as part of its future work programme.

Clarification was sought by Ms Jeffries as to what the recommendation of the Committee would be and what the next steps would be. The Leader advised that the determination of committee structure and scrutiny remits was a function of full council and the process that would be followed would be for proposals to be considered by the Council's Constitution and Nominations Committee with recommendations then made to full Council. He added that he would be supportive of this process being undertaken in time for consideration at the next meeting of the Council on 31 March 2021.

## Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Recommends to Council, via the Constitutional and Nominations Committee, that the existing Scrutiny Committee structure is reviewed with a view to a significantly greater emphasis being given to climate change and the environment more broadly, by an existing committee that is predominantly focussed on this.
- (2) Recommends that the review is undertaken and concluded in time for proposals to be considered at the Full Council meeting on 31 March 2021.

## **RGSC/21/11 Corporate Core Budget 2021/22 - final proposals**

Further to minute (RGSC/21/3), the Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor, which provided a further update on the savings proposals being proposed as part of the 2021/22 budget process which reflected any feedback from the November 2020 meeting.

The Leader advised that the changes contained in the report were either as a result of recommendations previously made by the Committee or where of such a minor nature that they did not significantly impact on the overall budget proposals.

Key points to note were:-

- The Core had identified proposed budget reductions of £6.281m, which required a reduction of c.115.1ftes;
- There were currently c.54 vacancies earmarked as contributing towards the overall reduction, with the remainder likely to arise from applications for the targeted Voluntary efficiency scheme;
- As at December 2020 the Directorate was forecasting a net overspend of £1.321m, this included COVID-19 related pressures of £5.969m, offset by in year savings and other mitigations of £4.648m;
- Coroners Service would have a backlog of jury cases in 2021/22 and the forecast cost implications of these was £131k, which had been included in the budget for next year;

- As part of planning for the May 2021 Elections additional costs would be incurred in order to ensure that the election is Covid secure. The estimated costs of this was c£113k and a one year budget increase was proposed to meet these costs; and
- An increase of 1.9% above inflation in Bereavement Services was proposed which would bring fees and charges in line with other local authority areas, and result in an additional £85k income per year.

A point raised by the Committee was that there was no reference to LGBT+ in the references to equality groups and it was requested that this be included.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer gave an assurance that this reference would be included.

### **Decision**

The Committee agree the savings proposals as described within the report and endorse these to the Executive.

### **RGSC/21/12 Capital Programme & Projects Review 2020/21**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on progress against the recommendations made by Local Government Association (LGA) external review of 2018, a summary of Internal Audit reviews on Capital Programmes and Projects since 2018 and the proposed plan for further external review and timeline.

Key points and themes included:-

- Detail of the recommendations made by the LGA Peer Review together with departmental responses;
- During the timeline between the publication of the LGA Review in 2018 and the drafting of this report Internal Audit had undertaken 21 reviews, covering the Our Town Hal project, the Factory, Highways and Capital Programmes to provide further assurances across the activities; and
- Details of a proposed plan for further external review of the capital programme and projects.

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

- It was requested that any review included the appropriate Executive Member and any other relevant Elected Members;
- Had consideration been given to employing apprentices or those on the kick start programme within Capital programmes;
- Why had benchmarking with Stockport and Sheffield been identified

The Deputy Chief Executive agreed that it would be crucial for the inclusion of the relevant Executive Member and other Members as part of any review. She added that at the point when the original review was undertaken, Sheffield had been

identified as a particular example of good practice and there was a similar rationale for Stockport.

The Director of Capital Programmes advised that there was apprentices in the service and there was career progression plan within the service to bring people through from lower grades.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report

## **RGSC/21/13 ICT update**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of ICT, which provided an update the progress in developing the Council's IT Strategy, the development of its Datacentre Programme, an update on LiquidLogic Programme (Social Care System) and an update on the Council's migration to Microsoft365.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- A draft ICT strategy was with the Deputy Chief Executive to review prior to going to SMT in February;
- The priority for ICT was the provision of fit for purpose, secure by design and resilient technology to enable improvements to the delivery of public services;
- An update on the ICT Data Centre migration from the Sharp site, which was at the last stage of the physical move, with an overall aim of achieving improved resilience and disaster recovery;
- An update on the LiquidLogic suite of social care products, which had been operational for 18 months;
- An update on the implementation of new LiquidLogic Adults, Children's and Early Help System;
- An overview of the financial savings achieved through the adoption of LiquidLogic;
- An update on the MS365 Collaboration Programme, including confirmation that all individual users were now migrated to Microsoft 365, amounting to 7,250 accounts;
- An update on the End User Device (EuD) Project; and
- ICT's response to the COVID crisis.

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

- Were the six outstanding shared mailboxes now migrated to MS365;
- Was the Council disposing of old ICT equipment in a responsible and sustainable way;
- It was recognised how well the Service had responded to the COVID crisis in providing staff with the necessary equipment to work from home;
- The teams involved in the successful MS365 and telephony migration were congratulated on the work that they had undertaken under the difficult circumstances the Council was operating under;

- It was suggested that within the new ICT strategy, reference needed to be made to addressing digital exclusion as part of any public facing system;
- Was there an ambition to move to more cloud based data centres rather than physical data centres;
- Was there any plans to recoup the overspend in delivering the implementation of the new LiquidLogic Adults, Children's and Early Help System;
- There was a need to recognise that Manchester's carbon footprint would increase with the arrival of GHCC in the city;
- Why had the Council moved from using Public-I to webcast its Scrutiny and other committee meetings;
- Was there any plans to migrate away from other software platforms that the Council was currently using, such as SAP and if so, what consideration would be given to compatibility with other software and partner;
- What value for money had been derived from the migration to Microsoft365; and
- An update on the future of Citrix was requested.

The Director of ICT advised that any equipment returned was initially assessed to see if it could be reallocated to other staff. If not consideration was given as to whether it could be provided to schools and young people and only as a last resort would they be disposed of for recycling. He confirmed that all of the outstanding shared mailboxes had now been migrated to MS365.

The Committee was advised that the move to the new data centres was the first step in moving to a cloud based storage and as part of the draft ICT strategy was to adopt a cloud first approach. In terms of the overspend with LiquidLogic, it was explained that the implementation of the case management system was significant and complex. The previous product was no longer supported and therefore the Council had had to move quickly in replacing the software. A number of the benefits of adopting LiquidLogic were also outlined.

The Deputy Leader acknowledged the point made around the impact to the city's carbon footprint and stated that there were also benefits that could be derived from the arrival of GHCC in the city's economy. In relation to the Council ceasing to use public-I for webcasting scrutiny and committee meetings, it was explained that this was due to budgetary issues but work was ongoing with Officers from Governance and Scrutiny Support to ensure a similar experience could be provided from the use of other platforms.

The Director of ICT advised that with each major software upgrade, the Council reviewed what lessons had been learnt to enable a smoother transition for future changes. He added that it was anticipated that future changes to the Council's software packages would be incremental and not on a similar scale to the recent migration to Microsoft 365. It was recognised that going forward, the integration and interconnectivity of various software systems was essential and this would be reflected in the new ICT Strategy.

The Committee was informed that at present, Citrix was still a supported channel for staff to access the Council's systems in a secure manner. It was envisaged that the reliance on Citrix would decrease in time with the roll out of the end user device program. In terms of value for money and benefit of Microsoft 365, it was reported

that the Council was starting to see the benefits of improved integration with other organisations and greater collaborative working.

**Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

**RGSC/21/14 Overview Report**

A 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.

A Member suggested that as part of the Committee's future work programme it should receive a further update on the progress of implementation of Council Motions.

**Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme subject to the above addition.





## **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 9 March 2021**

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**Present:**

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Davies, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles, A Simcock, Stanton, Wheeler and Wright

**Also present:**

Councillor Leese Leader  
Councillor N Murphy, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Richards, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration

### **RGSC/21/16 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2021 as a correct record.

### **RGSC/21/17 Proposed refresh of the Council's Social Value Policy and what Social Value has been derived during Covid-19 lockdown**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on the effects on the delivery of Social Value by the Council's suppliers resulting from the pandemic and set out proposals to reprofile the Council's priorities for the delivery of Social Value to more closely align the social value priorities to supporting the city's economic recovery and introduce further measures that would ensure that the commitment to addressing the climate crisis was reflected by the Council's suppliers.

Key points and themes in the report included:-

- The Council's approach to Social Value;
- How the pandemic had affected Social Value;
- Examples where the delivery of Social Value had continued and where contractors have had to significantly adapt or pause their social value provision in light of the pandemic;
- An overview of the proposed new Social Value Policy which included priority actions to support Manchester's recovery, expanding the Council's priority groups and environmental scoring in the evaluation of tenders; and
- The expected impact of the updated priorities.

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

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

- The proposal to move to a 30% Social Value weighting to all contracts as standard (20% social value and 10% zero carbon) was welcomed;
- What impact would the reduction in the Council's budget and staffing have on the ability of the Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team to deliver Social Value;
- How was the further priority aimed at addressing inequalities faced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) residents going to be achieved;
- What quantitative measures could be asked of employers to demonstrate that they were providing Social Value within their tenders;
- Did the Council hold any information on the percentage of businesses in the city that were owned or managed by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people and did the Council monitor what proportion of its contracts went to such businesses;
- It was questioned why Manchester's Social Value policy did not specifically reference the use of local supply chains in the same way the Greater Manchester Social Value policy did;
- It was suggested that the Ethical Procurement and Contract Management Scrutiny Sub Committee should play a role in monitoring the implementation on the refreshed Social Value Policy and that this should be reflected in the policy;
- Further information was sought on how the Integrated Alcohol and Drug Early Intervention and Treatment service with CGL, have continued to meet their social value environmental commitments;
- What happened to those individuals who were on Biffa's apprenticeship programme when they had to pause its apprentice programme due to the pandemic and could an assurance be given that the same number of formal apprenticeships would be delivered before the break in contract with Biffa;
- Was it possible to provide any detail on how the 10% Social Value weighting to zero carbon would be monitored and how much involvement would be expected of businesses to buy in to the climate change agenda;
- Would it be possible in the Policy to incentivise contractors to provide employment and apprenticeship opportunities at a very local level across the city;
- Would it be possible to monitor the outcome of social value from Council contracts in a similar way to how the Economic Dashboard is presented;
- Had any consideration been given to including reference to the Living Hours campaign in ensuring a good employment offer as part of the priority actions list; and
- It was suggested that the Committee received an update report on apprenticeship provision by the Council's top 10/20 suppliers to ensure that they were expecting to fulfil the commitments made.

The Leader commented that the Council would need to reorganise itself in light of the budgetary challenges it faced in order to be as fit for purpose as it possibly could, with the resources restraints it had. It was recognised that the delivery of a number

of services in the short term, not just Social Value would be challenging. The Deputy Chief Executive added that the delivery of Social Value was not solely the responsibility of the Integrated Commissioning and Procurement team.

It was explained that the employment of local businesses had always been a Social Value priority of any tender but had not necessarily been segmented beyond opportunities for young people and the proposal to address inequalities faced by BAME would ensure the Council lived up to the standards expected of it and would ensure the Council had BAME friendly approaches in its tender process.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement advised that proposals put forward by a supplier as to how they intended to deliver Social Value would be encompassed in Key Performance Indicators for the contract and then monitored over the management of the contract to ensure these indicators were met. He also advised that the Council did not currently monitor what proportion of its contracts went to businesses in the city that were owned or managed by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people but acknowledged that this was something that was possibly needed going forward. He also stated that there was currently a process underway to look at potential software packages to monitor how social value could be captured across the Council. There was also no data available to indicate what percentage of businesses in the city were owned or managed by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people.

The Leader commented that it would not be appropriate to reflect in the policy what the Committee determined that its Sub Group should scrutinise, but acknowledged that if it was minded to keep an overview of monitoring the implementation on the refreshed Social Value Policy, then the Sub Committee would be appropriate to do so. In terms of local supply chains, he advised that this was inherent in many of the Council contracts with suppliers as this was one of the key ways in which suppliers were able to deliver Social Value and added there would be no issue in specifying this in the Council's policy rather than it be inherent.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement agreed to provide further information to the Committee after the meeting in relation to how the Integrated Alcohol and Drug Early Intervention and Treatment service with CGL, had to meet their social value environmental commitments. He also added that he would speak to Biffa in relation to their apprenticeship programme and provide a response to the Committee in due course.

It was explained that it was endemic in delivering Social Value that if recruitment was taking place, that this would be in areas of deprivation and amongst those furthest away from the job market first. In relation to monitoring the climate change objectives and proposal, it would need to be proportionate to the scale of the contract.

The Leader advised that if there was the capacity to collect and monitor the social value data in real-time then the Council could look at producing something akin to the Economic dashboard. He also advised that the Council was a signatory to the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter which covered more than the living wage and this was the basis to be judging good employment on otherwise there would be inconsistencies with other approaches being taken.

## Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Endorses the recommendations to the Executive, subject to the following:-
  - that the refreshed Social Value Policy has a stronger emphasis on the use of local supply chains and a focus on charitable giving to local charities as well as those listed in the report.
  - that the priority actions in reference to employment opportunities explicitly refers to the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter.
- (2) Agrees to receive a future report on apprenticeship provision by the Council's top 10/20 suppliers to ensure that they were expecting to fulfil the commitments they had made.
- (3) Recommends that the Council explores the possibility of maintaining a register of businesses in the city that are owned or managed by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people and businesses owned or managed by women as suppliers to the Council with a view to fully understand what proportion of our suppliers come from these backgrounds.

## RGSC/21/18 Estates Strategy

### Decision

The Committee defers consideration of this report to its meeting in May or June 2021 in order for the report to be updated with more up to date information to enable a well-informed discussion.

[Councillor Wright declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as she is a member of the Executive of Manchester Trades Union Council which is presently pursuing a Community Asset Transfer from the Council and left the meeting before the consideration of this item.]

## RGSC/21/19 Post transfer governance-Council Housing service

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Housing and Residential Growth, which provided a summary of the proposals for governance of the Housing service after it transferred from Northwards to the Council in July 2021.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Details of tenant engagement that had taken place, ensuring that there was a wider range of engagement with more diversity and proper representation;
- Consideration of the level of decision making that the proposed Housing Board should have;
- The proposal that once transferred, the housing management and maintenance service would be governed by elected members and tenants, building on existing tenant engagement processes;

- The Board's role and purpose, which would be similar to that of the Board of Northwards currently as it relates to housing functions, delivery and performance; and
- Timescales for formal implementation.

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

- It was requested that the six Elected Member positions on the proposed Board were appointed to from Councillors who had Northwards properties within their wards;
- There was concern that the proposed Board would not have direct operational responsibility for the housing service and essentially would be an advisory board;
- It was felt that the transition would need to be carefully managed so that tenants did not feel they were being ignored;
- It was suggested that the use of independent professional members on the Board, who could provide advice to tenants and Elected Members should be considered;
- There was a discussion about the merits of independent membership of housing boards, and concerns were raised about the potential for conflicts of interest to arise for Elected Members, particularly in the absence of independent members;
- There was concern that the proposed balance of the Board, with only four tenant representatives downplayed the tenants' voice and it was suggested that there should be an equal number of tenant seats on the Board to Elected Members;
- Confirmation was sought that meetings including all Councillors with Northward tenants in their wards would continue; and
- It was suggested that when the shadow board arrangements concluded, scrutiny should have an opportunity to review how effective it had been.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration confirmed that the Elected Member positions on the proposed Board would be appointed to from Councillors who had Northwards properties within their wards. She added that a key priority over the last 12 months and also going forward would be ensuring tenants had a say and direct impact in the shaping of their service. Any structures would be developed in partnership with tenants through an independent organisation (Shelter) to ensure that they felt that their voice was being heard and listened to.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that part of the work programme being developed with Shelter would seek to increase the accreditation of the 26 Tenants and Residents Associations. A new Leaseholders Group would be created along with a Sheltered Housing Group and Editorial panel, to ensure all publications that were issued were tenant filtered and co-written.

The Leader commented that the proposals in the report had been discussed at a number of meetings and had been supported by Elected Members with Northwards tenants in their wards. He added that regardless of the membership the proposed Board would provide significant direction to how Northwards was managed. He

commented that it would be appropriate to review the governance arrangements once the transitional phase had concluded.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration agreed to consider the Committee's suggestion for the use of independent professional members on the Board as part of further deliberations with tenants, Elected Members and Shelter as to how this could be delivered. She added that regular meetings with Elected Members with Northwards tenants in their wards would continue to take place and agreed that if the Committee wanted to review the effectiveness of the arrangements that were being put in place between now and July then a report could be provided to a future meeting

### **Decision**

The Committee supports the creation of a Northwards Housing Board but in doing so asks the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration to take on board the points raised around Independent Members on the Board by the Committee.

### **RGSC/21/20 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.

It was noted that a small number of previous recommendations were still outstanding responses and that these were now getting on for being 12 months old. It was also noted that as this was the last meeting of the Municipal Year, the Chair would liaise with Officers in relation to the work programme for the Committee's first meeting in the new Municipal Year

### **Decisions**

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Requests that Officers look to provide responses to the outstanding recommendations at the earliest opportunity.
- (3) Agrees that the Chair liaises with Officers in relation to the work programme for the Committee's first meeting in the new Municipal Year.

## Health Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair  
Councillors N. Ali, Clay, Curley, Doswell, Hitchen, Holt, Mary Monaghan, Newman O’Neil, Riasat and Wills

**Apologies:** None received

**Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Ilyas, Assistant Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Igbon. Member for Hulme ward  
Councillor Ahmed Ali, Member for Rusholme ward  
Councillor Akbar, Member for Rusholme ward  
Dr Manisha Kumar, Executive Clinical Director Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)  
Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Caribbean and African Health Network  
Donna Miller, BHA for Equality  
Sharmila Kar, Director of Workforce and Organisation Development MHCC and Co-Chair CHEM  
Jackie Driver, Strategic Lead: Inclusion, MHCC

### **HSC/21/07                      Minutes**

The Chair requested that Councillor Riasat be recorded as being in attendance at the previous meeting.

**Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021 as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

### **HSC/21/08                      COVID Health Equity Manchester (CHEM)**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Workforce and Organisation Development, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) and the Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Manchester City Council/MHCC that reflected on how the pandemic had affected different communities in the city and the actions being taking to reduce disparities in severe disease and death for those ‘at risk’ communities.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Describing the identified Covid risk factors;
- Analysis of Manchester hospital data;
- Known Covid infection rates in Manchester;
- Geographic and economic considerations;
- The objectives of CHEM;
- The purpose and remit of the CHEM programme; and
- An update on the Manchester bid for the Community Champions Fund, a fund made available to support people shown to be most at risk from COVID-19.

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

- Noting that the report highlighted the health inequalities and outcomes and the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 had on BAME and disabled citizens, residents in vulnerable situations and areas of socio-economic deprivation;
- Noting the failure of the government to acknowledge or respond to the issues described;
- Manchester had recognised the issue and was actively responding to this;
- Providing examples of the fear experienced by BAME residents as a result of COVID-19;
- Noting the valued and important role of the many Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) groups;
- Recognising the importance of Covid Community Champions and all activity to meaningfully engage with the different communities that existed across the city;
- Consideration needed to be given to raising awareness regarding COVID-19 and offering appropriate advice for those residents living in multigenerational households;
- Consideration needed to be given as to how myths surrounding the COVID-19 vaccination were addressed so as not to perpetuate them, especially when using social media;
- Consideration should be given to utilising the lessons learnt from previous Public Health campaigns, such as the smoking cessation campaign to support this activity;
- Were all groups and existing established communities engaged with, such as young people, East European, South Asian and Carers;
- Noting the recent media attention that had been given to the Marcus Rashford campaign, consideration should be given to replicating this approach to promote the vaccination programme;
- The existing relationships that existed between social landlords and their tenants should be utilised to promote the vaccination, noting the importance of using all existing trusted relationships in this activity;
- Noting the importance of building and maintaining trust with local communities; and
- Was vaccination take up data available at a ward level.

The Committee welcomed Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Caribbean and African Health Network who stated that they were working with CHEM and key trusted community contacts to promote this work. He stated that the BAME community had experienced



racism and inadequate health experiences over many years that had resulted in a mistrust of services. He stated that by working in partnership, sharing local knowledge and experience they were collectively seeking to address this and improve the experience and health outcomes for BAME citizens. He described that a number of webinars had been delivered that had been well attended, hosted by GPs from the BAME community to discuss the issue of the vaccination. He informed the Committee that these had provided credible and evidence-based information to those attending and addressed the many misconceptions surrounding the vaccination, adding that the feedback obtained indicated these events had been very successful.

The Committee then welcomed Donna Miller, BHA for Equality who supported the comments from the previous speaker by recognising the importance of being honest and transparent so as to develop trust and confidence in services amongst BAME citizens. She described the importance of credible, competent and trusted figures in the community to deliver this message, noting that this included faith leaders, schools and local GPs. She described that BHA also worked closely with the local CCG to articulate the voice of the BAME community.

The Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Co-Chair of the Covid Health Equity Group acknowledged the comments regarding the need to ensure the messenger is as important as the message and appropriate consideration was given to this when seeking to engage with the many different community groups. She described that it was understood that digital platforms and social media were not always the most appropriate medium to reach groups, noting that other methods, such as direct phone calls, using the appropriate language had been used to reach out to people. She further described that they were working closely with the local Neighbourhood Teams and welcomed any information or support that Members could offer as she acknowledged that Members had relationships and contacts with local groups that could be utilised to support this important work.

The Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Co-Chair of the Covid Health Equity Group thanked the Committee for all of their constructive comments and support for the work that was being undertaken. She stated that all of the issues and suggestions raised to progress this work would be taken away from the meeting and discussed by the group.

The Director of Workforce & Organisation Development, MHCC & Co-Chair of Covid Health Equity Group stated that this would be an ongoing, long term piece of work that included activities and projects to ensure all community groups, including young people, carers, the Chinese and East European community were included and consulted, adding that it was recognised that different groups experienced different health outcomes and had different needs. She stated that an Impact Report would be produced and reported to the Committee at the appropriate time that would evidence and report on this activity.

The Director of Workforce & Organisation Development, MHCC & Co-Chair of Covid Health Equity Group further advised the Committee that vaccination take up data was being collated and analysed that would inform appropriate targeted campaigns. The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing stated when available this information would be shared with local Members.

In concluding this item of business, the Chair on behalf of the Committee acknowledged the importance of this work and thanked all of the officers and the VCSE guest for attending. He stated that the scale and challenge of this work was recognised, and the Committee would welcome a progress report at an appropriate time.

## **Decisions**

The Committee;:

1. Note the disproportionate impact that COVID-19 has on BAME and disabled citizens, residents in vulnerable situations and areas of socio-economic deprivation, and progress to date on tackling these disproportionalities.
2. Endorse the recommendation that respective partner organisations prioritise supporting the objectives of this programme as part of their response to Covid.

## **HSC/21/09                      Adult Social Care and Population Health Budget 2021/22**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive Manchester Local Care Organisation and Executive Director of Adult Social Services that detailed the service and financial planning and associated budget strategy work that was taking place for adult social care with partners across the health and care system.

It detailed the identified and proposed opportunities to make savings in 2021/22 aligned to the remit of the Health Scrutiny Committee, to support the City Council to achieve a balanced budget in 2021/22.

The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to it being considered by Executive.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Describing the 2021/22 Budget proposals in the context of the 2021/22 Budget;
- Providing a background and context;
- Information on the Covid-19 pandemic and the Adult Social Care (ASC) Improvement Programme, noting the context and impact on ASC;
- Identified budget pressures and efficiency proposals; and
- An overview of the Better Outcomes Better Lives programme.

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

- Clarification was sought on the overall total reduction in the Public Health budget since 2016;
- Consideration needed to be given to describing what was meant by the term wellbeing services in future reports;
- Stating that the government had repeatedly failed to adequately fund Adult Social Care over a period of many years;

- Noting that the funding cuts imposed upon the city had impacted most on the poorest residents who already experienced the worst health outcomes; and
- That despite these continued cuts Manchester had sought to defend the most vulnerable residents across the city.

Officers informed the Committee that the impact on Manchester's public health funding was a £8.652m reduction by 2019/20 and provided the year on year reduction figures. The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing stated that whilst there had been a reduction in the funding from central government there were no proposals to reduce public health services.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing stated that the government must adhere to the promise made at the beginning of the pandemic that they would reimburse the Council for the additional costs incurred as a result. She further stated that the government had repeatedly failed to adequately fund Public Health and Social Care over a period of many years, however despite this Manchester had responded to protect the most vulnerable residents in the city and would continue to do so.

### **Decision**

The Committee note the report and endorse the budget proposals as described to the Executive.

### **HSC/21/10            COVID-19 Update**

The Committee considered the joint presentation of the Director of Public Health and the Executive Clinical Director Manchester Health and Care Commissioning that provided an update on COVID-19 activity that included the latest available information on data and intelligence; information on Variants of Concern in Manchester and the response to this; an update on the Manchester COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and testing and contact tracing.

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

- The Committee expressed their confidence and appreciation to teams responding to deliver surge testing in central/south Manchester;
- Noting the need to reassure local residents at this time and praising the response of local Neighbourhood Teams in providing advice and support to both local residents and Members;
- What was being done to ensure that people who worked in these areas, but did not live in the area were tested, including those in household bubble arrangements;
- Was the surge testing in central/south Manchester available to local business owners and their employees;
- Were young people and housing providers involved regarding supporting the promotion of the vaccination programme;
- Noting that there had been some concern expressed regarding the advice given to housebound residents and the timing of their vaccination;

- Noting that due to the Primary Care Network arrangements some residents had been offered appointments for a vaccination some distance from their home address;
- Providing a positive example of a GP working with local asylum seekers;
- Stating that those who were destitute or not registered with a GP should not be excluded from receiving a vaccination;
- Information on the vaccination should be available in different languages; and
- What was the approach taken by GPs to ensure that unused vaccinations were not wasted.

The Director of Public Health responded to questions by stating that it was important to reiterate that at this stage there was no evidence that vaccines were less effective against the existing Kent variant and he encouraged all to continue to attend an appointment for their vaccination. He said that various teams, including Youth Services, local Housing Providers and Early Years Teams were actively engaged with work to promote testing and vaccination, adding that this work was complimented by a comprehensive communications strategy.

The Director of Public Health confirmed that the surge testing in central/south Manchester was available to local businesses and employees. He further acknowledged the comment regarding the issue of household bubbles and informed the Committee that an approach to this was to be discussed and agreed.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC stated that for those residents who had not attended or taken up the offer a vaccination appointment they would be contacted, including a telephone call and the take up rates would continue to be monitored. She commented that the take up rate of the vaccination overall was very good.

In relation to housebound patients and the issue raised by Members, the Executive Clinical Director MHCC advised that the issue had arisen as a result of the physical management of the vaccination and the challenges this had presented to administer it safely. She stated that a process had subsequently been agreed to ensure that the vaccination could be delivered in a clinically safe manner and work was currently underway to vaccinate anyone who might not have received it.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC acknowledged the comment made regarding Primary Care Network arrangements and appointment offers by stating this was acknowledged and work was underway to address this by offering vaccination appointments in a range of different settings. She stated that it was important to raise awareness of the vaccination and encouraged all to take up an offer as a way to combat COVID-19 and work was underway with a range of VCSE organisations to promote this and engage with citizens. She further stated that all citizens should be encouraged to register with a GP as it was important for all aspects of their health.

In regard to the question regarding unused vaccinations the Executive Clinical Director MHCC advised that the approach was that no vaccination should be wasted once the vial had been opened and practices would be responsible for managing their reserve list.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing praised the work that was being delivered across the city on behalf of the residents.

**Decision**

The Committee notes the report and pays tribute to all of the staff and volunteers involved in this important activity.

**HSC/21/11                      Overview Report**

A 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.

**Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.



## **Health Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair  
Councillors N. Ali, Clay, Curley, Doswell, Hitchen, Holt, Mary Monaghan, Newman O’Neil, Riasat and Wills

**Apologies:** None received

**Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Ilyas, Assistant Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Russell, Member for Northenden ward  
Dr Manisha Kumar, Executive Medical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)  
Karen Connolly, Chief Executive, Saint Mary’s Hospital  
Dawn Pike, Director of Nursing, Manchester Royal Infirmary  
Caroline Davidson, Director of Strategy, MFT  
Veronica Devlin, Chief Transformation Officer, MFT

### **HSC/21/12 Minutes**

**Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021 as a correct record.

### **HSC/21/13 COVID-19 Update**

The Committee considered the joint presentation of the Director of Public Health and the Executive Clinical Director Manchester Health and Care Commissioning that provided an update on COVID-19 activity that included the latest available information on data and intelligence.

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

- How successful had the door knocking been to encourage residents to get tested during the mass testing exercise;
- Had there been any delays in schools obtaining test results for pupils returning to schools;

- Noting the two week delay in obtaining the results of testing for Variants Of Concern and the potential impact this could have on infection rates;
- What work was being done with the local Universities to ensure the safe return of students;
- Noting the key stages and dates of the roadmap announced to ease the lockdown restrictions;
- The Committee paid tribute to all staff and volunteers for delivering the vaccination programme, with particular reference to the Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre;
- Members provided personal accounts of their positive experience when receiving the vaccination;
- The importance of engaging with and encouraging the uptake of vaccinations amongst specific groups such as the traveller community, asylum seekers and others who may not be registered;
- What activity was being undertaken to ensure that all housebound residents received the vaccination; and
- Noting the relationship between social and economic deprivation and the need for appropriate consideration being given to the location of vaccination sites.

The Director of Public Health responded to questions by stating that the door knocking undertaken as part of the mass testing exercise had been undertaken by Council staff and partners and had been very successful in encouraging residents to take a test, he further stated that whilst this work was very labour intensive it had provided an opportunity to speak and engage with residents and the learning from this would inform future engagement and communications work.

The Director of Public Health commented that the key dates and lifting of measures announced to ease the lockdown would continue to be closely monitored to understand the impact of these on infection rates. He stated that the delays between the dates would allow for any impact to be understood prior to the implementation of the next stage. He stated that he was not aware of any issues relating to school testing and the time taken to obtain the results, however if Members were aware of any issues to alert him to this. He further stated that he shared the concern raised by the Member regarding the delays in the testing for Variants of Concern and he continued to escalate these concerns.

The Director of Public Health stated that regular meetings were held with the local Universities to plan for the return of students, including the provision of Covid secure arrangements to deliver learning. He advised that the advice to students was to test prior to returning to their place of study and then again when they arrive in the city, adding that the testing site at the Armitage Centre would be retained.

The Executive Medical Director MHCC stated that positive work was underway with partners to engage with specific community groups, such as asylum seekers and travellers to promote and facilitate the take up of the vaccination. She stated that using trusted community figures and voices would help support this activity and overcome barriers that existed. In addition, she described that a pilot project was being developed to specifically address the issue of non-registered residents, using



the learning obtained both nationally and internationally. In response to a specific question regarding Eastern European residents raised by a Member she stated that she would look into this following the meeting.

The Executive Medical Director MHCC informed the Members that individual GP practices were now responsible for contacting and following up the vaccination of housebound residents who had not been vaccinated, and if there were any incidents where this was not happening Members should contact her directly. She further commented that the ability of residents to access vaccination centres was understood and the move now was to offer the vaccination at the resident's GP practice in addition to the mass vaccination centres.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and presentations.

### **HSC/21/14 Better Outcomes, Better Lives**

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Interim Deputy Director Adult Social Services that provided an update on Better Outcomes, Better Lives, the Manchester Local Care Organisation's transformation programme for Adult Social Care, which commenced in 2021 and built on work to integrate health and social care (ASC) in Manchester, the ASC improvement programme and other transformation initiatives delivered in recent years.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Diagnostic work to design the programme;
- The scope of the programme including the detail of the individual workstreams;
- The outcomes to be achieved; and
- Feedback on progress to date.

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

- Noting the importance of this work and the role of scrutiny in monitoring progress;
- Noting the significant challenge to achieve the identified savings in the period described;
- The need to measure and regularly report progress and outcomes; and
- The importance of embedding this work with other Council strategies and plans to ensure a system wide approach to deliver community assets and strengths.

The Interim Deputy Director Adult Social Services responded by stating that this was an ambitious and challenging programme of work to deliver improved outcomes and achieve the identified savings. She said this was a long term plan that would reduce need rather than defer need and help support the delivery of the appropriate and correct care at the correct time.

The Interim Deputy Director Adult Social Services said that this work would be delivered jointly with health partners and would be embedded in the wider

programme of public sector reform that sought to bring services together and see them delivered in neighbourhoods. She commented that the wider determinants of health were understood, and this would inform the approach taken.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing informed the Committee of the budget context that had informed this approach, noting that this was as a result of a period of continued under funding, budget cuts and austerity. She described that despite this Manchester had chosen to invest in Adult Social Care and focus on supporting vulnerable citizens and delivering improved outcomes. She stated that this approach would be supported by the Local Care Organisation and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning and she concluded by paying tribute to all staff working in the delivery of Adult Social Care.

The Chair stated that the Committee would continue to monitor the delivery of this work and a future report would include information on how staff were being upskilled to support this programme.

### **Decision**

To note the report and presentation.

### **HSC/21/15 MFT COVID-19 Related Service Changes**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust that described the changes to services that had been necessary to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on patients accessing services at MFT. In particular this included detail regarding changes to women's services and the early plans for addressing the backlog in elective care that had developed over the past 12 months.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Providing an introduction and background;
- The activities to create capacity in order to meet the demand for treating patients with COVID-19;
- Describing the changes that were made to the way in which services were delivered in order to reduce the spread of the virus and comply with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance;
- An update on Women's Services; and
- Impact and recovery.

Councillor Russell, Member for Northenden ward addressed the Committee. She sought an assurance on the delivery of women's services. She further stated that any equality impact assessments should take into consideration public transport and travel times, commenting that residents already facing disadvantages should not be disadvantaged further by any changes to service delivery.

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

- The Committee paid tribute to all staff working at the hospital sites for their work and dedication in treating patients during the pandemic;
- Noting that many patients would have chosen not to take up elective procedures due to concerns surrounding Covid, would these patients be contacted and followed up;
- Was anticipated that waiting times for procedures would increase as people who had delayed seeking treatment for health conditions during the pandemic began to present;
- The comprehensive MFT recovery plan should be shared with the Committee at the appropriate time; and
- An update was sought as to the delivery of the Walk In Centre at the Manchester Royal Infirmary site.

Karen Connolly, Chief Executive, Saint Mary's Hospital informed the Members that community midwifery services and hospital appointments had been reinstated to the pre pandemic arrangements and there was no reduction in the offer. She added that the changes that had been introduced to ensure appropriate infection prevention and control measures were in place. She further stated that the service provided at the Wythenshawe site was an improved offer as there was 24/7 access to emergency surgery and diagnostic services.

Dawn Pike, Director of Nursing, Manchester Royal Infirmary stated that whilst the announced road map for easing restrictions would inform the recovery plan there were still unknowns, such as ongoing advice and guidance regarding social distancing to be announced and this would need to be taken into consideration and inform all recovery planning,

Dawn Pike, Director of Nursing, Manchester Royal Infirmary informed the Committee that follow up calls were being made to patients who had declined elective procedures during the pandemic. She advised that this contact would continue with advice and reassurance given as to the measure taken to address patient safety so that patients could make informed decisions. She added that videos had also been produced to demonstrate the Covid safety measures that had been introduced.

Dawn Pike, Director of Nursing, Manchester Royal Infirmary described that the Walk In Centre had continued to operate during the pandemic, commenting that the number of people presenting had reduced during the pandemic, however the numbers were now at pre pandemic levels. She said that the marquee referred to by a Member had been installed to ensure correct patient social distancing was maintained.

Caroline Davidson, Director of Strategy, MFT stated that work to understand levels of pent up demand was underway to inform the recovery planning, including work with GP practices, noting this was being done across Greater Manchester.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing reassured the Committee that in addition to the work of MFT a significant amount of work to address the wider health recovery programme across the city was underway and was a key element of the Manchester Partnership Board.

## **Decision**

The Committee note:

1. The changes to hospital services necessitated by the COVID pandemic;
2. The arrangements regarding the creation of COVID-secure environments and measures to mitigate the impact on patients; and
3. The details regarding the changes made to women's services across MFT hospital sites.

### **HSC/21/16 City Health - Manchester Urgent Primary Care Hub Rebrand Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Medical Director Manchester Health and Care Commissioning that provided an update report following the agreement at the meeting on the 1 December 2020 that the City Health provision, formerly the WiC (Walk In Centre) was rebranded to Manchester Urgent Primary Care Hub and patients were encouraged to call before they attended.

The report described that a summary of the reasons why the changes were made had been sent out to stakeholders via a briefing with the clear message that the service remained open and that the changes being adopted were to maintain patient safety and continuity of service provision to support urgent Primary Care and the wider system.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Providing an introduction and background;
- COVID-19 Impact and Service Adjustments;
- Data on the activity by month;
- Advice to vulnerable residents; and
- The service rebrand and revised model.

The key point that arose from the Committee's discussions was: -

- Noting the importance of this offer within the city centre, an assurance was sought that there was no intention to close this facility.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC confirmed that there was no intention to close this facility, however appropriate consideration would be given to manage patient flow and access safely and appropriately.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **HSC/21/17 Overview Report**

A 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.

The Chair recommended that he write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express the Committee's disappointment and objection to the 1% pay rise offered to nurses who had delivered vital front line services and care during the pandemic. The Committee unanimously supported this recommendation.

A Member commented that this was the Chair's final meeting and wished to place on record the Committee's gratitude to Cllr Farrell.

### **Decisions**

The Committee;

1. Note the report and agree the work programme;
2. Recommend that the Chair write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to express the Committee's disappointment and objection to the 1% pay rise offered to nurses who had delivered vital front line services and care during the pandemic; and
3. Thank Cllr Farrell for his work as Chair of the Committee.



## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Stone – in the Chair  
Councillors Abdullatif, Alijah, Chohan, Cooley, Hewitson, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid and Wilson

#### **Co-opted Voting Members:**

Ms S Barnwell, Parent Governor Representative  
Ms Z Derraz, Parent Governor Representative  
Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

#### **Co-opted Non Voting Members:**

Mr L Duffy, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative  
Ms J Fleet, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor McHale

### **CYP/21/06 Minutes**

The Chair informed the Committee that the Executive had agreed with the Committee's views on the proposed revised parenting commission and that this budget proposal would not be taken forward. He also informed Members that, as agreed at the last meeting, he had written to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education but, as yet, he had not received a response.

### **Decision**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021.

### **CYP/21/07 Update on Schools and Settings and their Response to COVID-19**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided a further update on the impact of COVID-19 on schools and settings in the city. The report also provided some information collected during the autumn term from children and young people about the impact of COVID-19. The report outlined the support that continued to be provided to schools and settings and also to families through the use of the winter COVID grant. The report stated that through the learning and

education system children were informed and understood environmental issues and the negative impact of carbon; promoting safe and healthy lives.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Numbers of positive cases of COVID-19;
- Numbers of children on site;
- Early Years settings;
- Lateral Flow testing;
- Remote learning;
- Safeguarding;
- Mental health and wellbeing;
- Free School Meals during term time;
- COVID winter grant; and
- Children and young people's views and COVID.

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

- To recognise the important role that the Council had been playing in supporting schools during this time;
- Engagement with remote learning, including how this was being monitored and how lack of engagement was being addressed;
- Children attending school during lockdown, including the level of demand for places;
- Request for a breakdown by ethnicity of children who had tested positive for COVID-19 and were having to self-isolate;
- Were nurseries reluctant to offer places to new children in the current situation and were some children, therefore, unable to access Early Years provision;
- The COVID winter grant;
- Concern about inconsistency between schools about staff being on site and that teachers were being treated differently from other schools staff; and
- The inappropriate use of laptops provided to pupils, that the cost to individual schools of purchasing software to prevent this was very expensive and whether the Council could facilitate a large-scale purchase of this software at a lower cost.

A Member who was a Primary School Teacher Representative outlined the challenges schools had faced regarding the number of children who were eligible to access on-site learning during lockdown, advising that headteachers had had to make difficult decisions, taking into account the needs of vulnerable children and staff safety. She also informed Members how children learning at home were being supported by schools, including schools loaning laptops, helping parents to access Google Classroom on a range of devices, providing paper copies of work where necessary, monitoring how families were managing with remote learning, having screen free days and providing certificates and postcards to pupils to help to motivate them. She highlighted that children were still receiving an education during this period and that the area that they would most need to catch up on post-lockdown was their social and mental well-being.



The Director of Education advised that most schools had been able to meet demand for on-site places for the children of critical workers but that there were four schools where the level of demand had been very challenging and headteachers had had to make decisions, taking into account a number of factors, for example, that staff also had to provide remote learning to pupils who were not on site and the number of staff who were able to come into school each day, as some were Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and some had to self-isolate. She reported that schools were offering on-site provision for vulnerable children, including those who they had identified as not having coped well with being at home during the first lockdown and those who could not access remote learning. She confirmed that schools were monitoring whether pupils were accessing remote learning and that some pupils had been asked to come back on site because they were not accessing the remote learning. She advised Members that the data on the number of pupils who had tested positive for COVID-19 was provided by Public Health and that she would ask whether it was possible to provide this information broken down by ethnicity.

The Director of Education reported that a high number of private, voluntary and independent sector early years settings in the city were open and that she was not aware of any issue with children getting places but that she would look into this. She advised that early years settings would be experiencing the same issues as schools in terms of staff availability and that there were strict staff to children ratios in this sector.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education reported that arrangements had been put in place for COVID-19 tests for staff at schools and settings in the area where the COVID-19 variant of concern had been identified. In response to another question, she informed the Committee that there was no update as yet on the plans for summer examinations, including vocational qualifications.

The Director of Education informed the Committee that a reminder had been sent out to schools earlier this week about the COVID winter grant and how they could refer families for this and that her service would continue to remind staff, schools and settings about this. The Deputy Director of Children's Services reported that 291 payments had been made from this fund, in relation to 422 children. He advised that the grant system had only been in place for two weeks but that he supported work to re-publicise this. In response to a Member's question, the Executive Member for Children and Schools confirmed that the COVID winter grant could be used to help families with obtaining internet access.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools reported that the Council had been meeting regularly with trade unions which represented teachers and other schools staff and that the issue of equal treatment between different staff groups had been raised. He informed Members that the Council had made clear its position that all staff should be given equal consideration and that, where staff were able to work from home, they should be allowed to; however, schools had highlighted the additional difficulties they were facing due to more children being on site during this lockdown than during the first lockdown. He reported that trade unions could contact the Council's HR specialist advisers who were liaising with schools regarding any issues.

In response to a Member's question on the use of Lateral Flow Tests in secondary schools and colleges, the Director of Education reported that the Department for Education was supplying these directly to schools, along with guidance on their use. She advised that schools were currently using these to test staff and that some were using them to test pupils who were coming on site but that schools did have some concerns about the logistics of the testing once they had high numbers of pupils on site. In response to a question about childminders, she informed the Committee that children who were with childminders during the day would be expected to access remote learning from their school, as they would if they were at home with their family. She reported that she would look into the issue raised about centrally sourcing software for laptops provided to children and young people to ensure that they were not accessing inappropriate material.

### **Decision**

To thank schools staff and officers in the Directorate for their hard work and to ask the Strategic Director for Children and Education Services and the Director of Education to pass on the Committee's thanks.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest as the parent of a nursery-age child who did not have nursery place.]

### **CYP/21/08 Children and Education Services Budget 2021/22** **CYP/21/09 School Budget 2021/22**

The Committee received two reports of the Strategic Director for Children and Education Services. The first report provided updated Children and Education Services 2021/22 budget proposals that reflected the feedback and decisions from the scrutiny and Executive meetings that were held in January 2021. The second report provided a summary of the confirmed Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation from the 2021/22 settlement announced on the 17 December 2020 and the budget allocation across individual school budgets and the Council's retained schools budgets which was reported to the Schools Forum on 18 January 2021.

The main points and themes within the Children and Education Services Budget report included:

- Background and context;
- Revenue Strategy;
- Directorate Revenue Budget 2021/22;
- Our Corporate Plan and Business Plan;
- Impact on Workforce, Residents, Risk Management and Legal Considerations; and
- Consultation.

The main points and themes within the School Budget report included:

- DSG 2021/22 settlement;
- Distribution of the grant across educational establishments and Council retained budgets; and

- High needs pressures.

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

- To thank the Executive for taking on board the Committee's concerns about the proposal for the revised parenting commission and to welcome that this proposal had been removed;
- Concern about the longer-term impact of the pandemic on the Council's budget and on children and families;
- Trends in terms of the number of Looked After Children (Our Children) and the associated costs of placements; and
- The impact of the proposed cut to funding for interventions to support the improvement of maintained schools.

The Strategic Director for Children and Education Services informed the Committee that none of the proposals were without risk but that officers had tried to manage and mitigate that risk and were working within a clear strategy of early intervention and improved, targeted commissioning to avoid higher costs later on. He advised that it was difficult to predict future trends, particularly the long-term impact of COVID-19, and that relatively small changes in the number of children who were Looked After, particularly those requiring external residential provision, would have a large impact on the budget. He informed Members that significant savings had already been made due to a reduction in the number of Our Children who were placed in external residential provision. He reported that, since the start of the pandemic, there had been an increase in requests for Early Help and lower level interventions and that steps were being taken to strengthen this area which, he advised, should help to prevent the escalation of needs to the point where statutory intervention was required. He outlined how the budget from the decommissioned Families First service had been reinvested to strengthen early intervention. He suggested that the Committee scrutinise the service's work on the key areas of early intervention, prevention and care planning over the next 12 to 18 months to assess how much impact this work was having. He advised that the number of children becoming Looked After had decreased and that this was likely to be because the service's strategy was working; however, he recognised that there were unknown factors, particularly with so many children not being in school, although he advised that schools were working very hard to engage with children who were not in school and that decisions had been taken to enable vulnerable children to attend school during lockdown.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education clarified that the proposal at 4.36 in the report related to interventions where there was a concern about a maintained school and did not affect the grants which schools received to fund work around subjects such as Physical Education and Music.

## **Decisions**

1. To thank the Executive for taking on board the Committee's views about the proposal for the revised parenting commission.

2. To express concern at the current financial situation which necessitates these budget reductions and the lack of certainty over the Council's future position and to note that it is hoped that next year the Council will be able to set a longer-term budget to enable the service to plan more effectively for the longer term.

[Ms Samantha Barnwell declared a personal interest as a member of the Manchester Parent Carer Forum.]

### **CYP/21/10 Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

The Chair drew Members' attention to the items on the agenda for the March meeting. He informed the Committee that he would not be standing for re-election in May so the March meeting was due to be his last meeting. On behalf of the Committee, a Member thanked the Chair for the way he had chaired the Committee over the previous three years.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.

## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Stone – in the Chair  
Councillors Abdullatif, Alijah, Cooley, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid, Sadler and Wilson

#### **Co-opted Voting Members:**

Ms S Barnwell, Parent Governor Representative  
Ms Z Derraz, Parent Governor Representative  
Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

#### **Co-opted Non Voting Members:**

Mr L Duffy, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools  
Amanda Shah, Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Chohan, Hewitson and McHale  
Ms J Fleet, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

### **CYP/21/11 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021.

### **CYP/21/12 COVID-19 Update Including the Wider Opening of Schools and Colleges**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided a further update on the impact of COVID on schools and settings in the city. It reported that schools and colleges were looking forward to welcoming back all of their children and young people and focused on the wider reopening of school and colleges from 8 March 2021 which was announced by the Prime Minister on 21 February 2021. The report gave a brief outline of the Government guidance in relation to wider opening and support for education recovery; information on how this was being implemented by schools and colleges and the support provided by the Local Authority.

The Director of Education provided the Committee with an update which included:

- The re-opening of primary schools to all pupils;
- The re-opening of secondary schools to all pupils, including testing of pupils for COVID-19;
- The rules of the wearing of face coverings in schools; and
- Education recovery.

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

- What steps were being taken to ensure that the buses children were using to travel to school were COVID-secure;
- To recognise the work of the Director of Education and her service, headteachers and school senior leadership teams in the way the re-opening of schools to all pupils had been managed;
- The positive impact on children of being able to return to school;
- Secondary and college students self-testing for COVID-19; and
- Education recovery.

The Director of Education reported that she had contacted Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and asked for written assurance of the measures in place to ensure the safety of children travelling to school by bus. She offered to share their response with the Chair, once she had received it, to which the Chair agreed, stating that he would share it with the rest of the Committee. She explained that, if a pupil self-tested at home as positive for COVID-19, they would have to self-isolate but also be given a PCR test through a testing centre before they would be classed as a positive case. She advised that she could circulate a table of information which explained what would happen following the test result, depending on the circumstances. In response to a Member's question, she explained that, after learning how to carry out the COVID-19 test at school, if a pupil still struggled to carry it out at home, schools could still provide on-site testing for these pupils. She confirmed that her service was monitoring the level of consent to testing at schools across the city and, in areas where it was low, working with schools, the Communications Team and Neighbourhood Teams to encourage parents and pupils to participate in the testing.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education advised that part of education recovery could include summer schools and it was likely that individual schools would have discretion over this but that on site summer schools did not necessarily need to be run by school staff and other providers could be brought in.

In response to a Member's concerns that some schools were not putting in place the same level of safety measures for teaching assistants as they were for teachers, the Executive Member for Children and Schools advised that the Council had communicated clearly that all school staff should be given the same level of consideration and explained how the Council was working with trade unions and schools to address these issues.

## **Decision**

To note that the Director of Education will share TfGM's response, once she has

received it.

### **CYP/21/13 School Governance Update**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which outlined the support and future planned developments that the Council would provide to assist with fostering effective school governance across the city including governor recruitment, governor training, development and resources.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Governor recruitment;
- Diversity of those applying for Governor roles; and
- Governor support.

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

- To thank officers for their work and to thank the volunteers who took on roles as School Governors;
- To welcome that Governor recruitment was continuing during the pandemic, using virtual interviews, and that more Governors were being recruited from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups and to ask what had been done differently which had resulted in more applications from these groups;
- Work to fill vacant Governor posts; and
- Request for ward level information on Governor vacancies to enable ward co-ordination work to assist with filling these vacancies.

The School Governance Lead advised that it was likely to be a range of factors which had resulted in an increase in applications from BAME communities, including increased prominence of the vacancies on the Manchester Jobs website, increased presence on social media, people working from home during lockdown, national campaigns and word of mouth in communities. She advised that her team would be monitoring this, looking at the application process in more detail and also looking at retention rates. She welcomed the opportunity to work with Members and stakeholders at a ward level to fill vacancies. In response to a Member's question, she outlined the plans to develop a focus group on how to improve recruitment of and support for Parent Governors. She also informed Members that her team supported Governors from maintained schools and academies and offered assistance with Governor recruitment to different types of schools.

### **Decision**

To thank the School Governance Lead and all those involved in the recruitment of Governors for their work.

## **CYP/21/14 Responding to the Needs of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and the Children of Manchester who are Affected by the European Union Settled Status Scheme**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which summarised the offer and outcomes being achieved in relation to Our Children (Looked After Children) who were affected by European Union Settled Status (EUSS), Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and all children in care who were not British Nationals.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Health needs of UASC;
- Education of UASC;
- Managing risk;
- Accommodation for UASC;
- Leaving care;
- European Union Settled Status (EUSS) Scheme; and
- Our Children who were not British Nationals.

Amanda Shah from the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) welcomed the pledge that the Council had made 2020 to all children in care and care leavers in Manchester affected by Brexit immigration changes and the work which had taken place to support these young people, which she advised had provided a positive model for other local authorities. She emphasised the need to support young people who did not meet the deadline for the EUSS Scheme in June 2021 and would be in the UK illegally from 1 July 2021. She highlighted the section in her report, appended to the main report, which suggested the following update to the pledge:

*'To our children in care and care leavers, learning from our support to children and young people affected by Brexit immigration changes, we will:*

- *Identify all our looked after children and care leavers with insecure immigration status*
- *Commission legal advice so they can be supported to make the most appropriate immigration applications and challenge immigration refusals*
- *Support those who are eligible to apply for British citizenship*
- *Continue to provide access to leaving care services'*

The Executive Member for Children and Schools thanked Ms Shah and Council officers for their work. He emphasised the need to prioritise young people who had been refused settled status. He supported the proposed updated pledge and embedding thinking about immigration status in permanence planning for young people.

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

- Support for the proposed update to the pledge;



- Concern for the children who did not meet the deadline for the EUSS Scheme and to welcome the work to support them;
- That Members should campaign on this issue;
- Waiting times for Home Office decisions on young people's immigration status;
- Reasons for young people's immigration applications being declined;
- To note the important role foster carers were playing in supporting these children and young people; and
- How Ward Councillors could find out about cases in their ward and intervene to support young people's immigration cases.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services advised that there were confidentiality issues in sharing personal information about young people with Ward Councillors but that young people could be made aware of Ward Councillors as a source of advocacy support.

Amanda Shah explained that a lot of the delays in relation to the EUSS Scheme were in getting to the point of submitting an application because the way it was set up made it difficult for children with disrupted life histories, and this was exacerbated by the pandemic. She advised that young people could be rejected on the grounds of eligibility or suitability, the latter relating to youth offending. She informed the Committee that the GMIAU was about to produce a report on the situation for UASC in Manchester and the delays in decisions on their cases due to the pandemic. She welcomed that it appeared that a move to remote interviewing for their asylum claims would be taking place as she advised that delays for these young people had had a serious negative effect on them, particularly on their mental health. In response to a Member's question, the Service Lead outlined how mental health support was provided to young people supported by her service, in partnership with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). She also outlined how young people were supported through life story work, work to enable them to get a basic understanding of the legal process and structures in place in the UK and help to find family members around the world.

## **Decisions**

1. To support the updated pledge outlined in the appendix to the report.
2. To note that Members of the Committee will campaign for the interests of these young people, supporting them through both their Council work and their political work.

## **CYP/21/15 Lyndene - Re-modelling and Next Steps**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an overview of plans for Lyndene Children's Home to be repurposed to provide outreach help and support alongside a short break package; thus enabling children and young people to remain within or move back to their family environments (parents or foster care) as well as providing close family support during this time.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Proposed funding model;
- Needs of children and their families/carers;
- Service model;
- Proposed timeline; and
- Progress.

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

- Governance arrangements, including the importance of families being part of the governance structure and how Councillors could be involved;
- The challenges for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) transitioning to adult services and plans to support this group; and
- Would Lyndene be subject to Regulation 44 visits.

In response to a Member's question on placement figures, the Executive Member for Children and Schools advised that the Corporate Parenting Panel received regular reports on this but that updates on this could be provided to a future meeting of this Committee, to which the Chair agreed.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services informed the Committee that children and young people and their families had been involved in the design of this service and that the Council was committed to them continuing to have a voice in the running of the service. He advised that the service would be subject to regular scrutiny, including political scrutiny through this Committee scrutinising the service's effectiveness. He informed Members that his service was working with adult services to improve transitions and recognised that planning for children and young people should not end at a certain age and that planning should include considerations about transition to services for adults. He suggested that the Committee might want to consider a report on the work to improve transitions for young people who would continue to require support into adulthood at a future meeting.

The Strategic Commissioning Lead (Children's Services) informed the Committee that work was taking place to commission accommodation for young people aged 17 and over to support their transition to adult services. She reported that a listening workshop was also being held to understand some of the issues that arose with the transition to adult services.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services advised that the provision at Lyndene would be registered with and regulated through Ofsted and would receive Regulation 44 visits. He reported that his service would be recruiting Regulation 44 visitors, including Councillors, to carry out this role. He advised that Lyndene was part of the Council's SEND Offer and its performance would also be monitored through the SEND Board.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education confirmed that there had previously been proposals for a similar provision at the Grange School's site but

that there had been a number of challenges regarding this, in particular registering the site to provide that offer when it was also a school, and that the space was now being well used as a sixth form provision for the Grange, which included training in living independently.

A Member who was on the panel for the Lyndene Project, as a member of the Manchester Parent Carer Forum, reported that parents of children with SEND felt strongly that they wanted their children to be supported within the city, in preference to a residential placement outside of Manchester. She advised that the work on Lyndene had been a co-production, involving parents, and that, as long as families continued to be involved in this way, this project would continue to move in the right direction. She thanked the Strategic Commissioning Lead and her team for their work.

### **Decisions**

1. To request that figures on placements for Our Children be included in a future report.
2. To receive a further report on Lyndene in 12 months' time.

[Ms Barnwell declared a personal interest as she was on the panel for the Lyndene Project, as a member of the Manchester Parent Carer Forum.]

### **CYP/21/16 Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

In response to a Member's question about the music service at One Education, the Executive Member for Children and Schools advised that discussions were taken place between the Council, trade unions and One Education about this. The Chair requested to be kept informed of this. A Member requested that the Committee receive a report about One Education. The Chair advised that the Committee had previously received a report on One Education and that he would discuss the timing of a future report on One Education after the meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that this was his last meeting and thanked officers, Committee Members and the Executive Member for Children and Schools for their work, as well as the teachers, headteachers and children of Manchester. Members thanked Councillor Stone for his contribution to the Committee over many years and the way he had chaired the Committee over the previous three years. The Chair also thanked Councillor Madeleine Monaghan for her work, as this was also her last meeting. Councillor Monaghan thanked the Committee for their passion and commitment to the children and young people of Manchester.

**Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme, subject to the above comments.

## **Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair  
Councillors Appleby, Butt, Flanagan, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lynch, Lyons, Sadler, White and Wright

**Apologies:** Councillors Azra Ali and Razaq

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods  
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure  
Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport  
Councillor Shiekh, Assistant Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

### **NESC/21/08 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 as a correct record.

### **NESC/21/09 Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget Proposals 2021/22**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an updated Neighbourhoods Service 2021/21 budget and set out the proposed savings proposals, this reflected any feedback from both the November 2020 and January 2021 Scrutiny committee.

The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to it being considered by Executive.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Describing the 2021/22 budget pressures;
- Outlining the 2021/22 savings proposals as part of the wider £50m savings required by the Council;
- Describing that the Neighbourhoods Directorate had identified an initial £6.683m saving in 2021/22 increasing to £7.376m by 2024/25 across the Neighbourhoods Directorate; and

- To minimise the impact on residents and neighbourhoods, all opportunities for maximising external income sources were considered and the overall Directorate proposals includes £5.985m of increased income generation.

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

- Noting that the government had failed to keep to the promise made at the start of the pandemic that local authorities would be reimbursed for the additional costs incurred;
- Noting that the additional budgetary pressures experienced was in addition to a number of years of budget cuts and austerity; and
- Welcoming the reported levels of recycling, noting the city had achieved our highest overall levels of recycling (40%) and lowest levels of residual waste over the last 10 years, noting this achieved savings to the Council via the waste levy.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods welcomed the improvements achieved across the city in relation to recycling rates. He stated that the ambition is to target work to help further increase these rates, however noted the challenges to achieve these ambitions without adequate funding by the government.

The Chair in concluding this item of business expressed her gratitude to all officers and the Executive Members for their work to deliver and protect services on behalf of the residents of the city in extremely challenging circumstances.

## **Decision**

The Committee endorse the proposals presented within the report to the Executive and Council.

## **NESC/21/10 Homelessness Directorate Budget and Savings Options 2021/22**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Homelessness that provided the high-level budget context and priorities for Homelessness across 2021/22 and was an update to the report presented to Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny 13 January 2021, which had been used for the development of savings proposals 2021/22 and investment requirements to fund population driven and other budget pressures.

The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to it being considered by Executive.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- The report set out a one year budget for 2021/22, however the longer term implications had been considered and those were considered in the Council's medium term financial planning;
- The report had been updated to reflect the Comprehensive Spending Review and Financial Settlement for the City Council which had resulted in a reduction in the Homelessness savings target of £0.5m;

- Describing the Budget Strategy for the Homelessness Service;
- Describing the uncertainty of short-term funding, noting that 2020/21 Homelessness budget is supported by significant non-recurrent one-off funding;
- Providing an overview of the Service Transformation Programme and the savings proposals;
- The approach to savings would be based on the proposed Service Transformation Programme which gave a strategic direction and framework to services, based on a focus of outcomes and partnerships; and
- An update on the Covid-19 response and Everyone In, externally commissioned homelessness services and homelessness management.

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

- Noting and welcoming the commitment to continue funding the Everyone In programme beyond March 2021; and
- What support was being offered to those citizens accessing the Everyone In programme to support them into suitable accommodation'

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure stated that despite the promises made to Manchester and all other local authorities that financial assistance would be made available to support councils to accommodate homeless people during the pandemic this had not been provided. He described this as a failure of government, however despite this Manchester had responded to the situation and sought to support the most vulnerable residents in the city in a dignified and appropriate manner and he reiterated his call upon the government to fund Manchester appropriately and fairly.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure described the challenge to plan and deliver innovative schemes and programmes to tackle homelessness due to the short term approach and piecemeal funding arrangements provided to local authorities, stating that long term appropriate levels of funding was required.

The Director of Homelessness stated that the Everyone In programme had allowed for the delivery of wrap around support services to be provided to homeless people with the intention to support people into appropriate housing solutions, including commissioned supported accommodation. In reply to a specific question regarding staffing he informed the Committee that the FTE reduction saving identified would be achieved through either voluntary severance or retirement.

The Chair stated that the work of the homelessness team and all of the voluntary organisations working across the city was important and valued in addressing homelessness and supporting vulnerable citizens in Manchester.

## **Decision**

The Committee endorse the savings proposals identified to the Executive.

## **NESC/21/11 Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the significant progress that has been made in delivering the Climate Change Action Plan over the last 10 months despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A detailed update on all the actions contained within the Plan with data and visual images where available was appended to the report.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Providing an introduction and background to the Plan, noting that Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 which recognised the need for the Council, and the city as a whole, to do more to reduce CO2 emissions and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change;
- Providing an overview of the Action Plan that was structured in five sections / workstreams;
- An overview of the established governance arrangements;
- An overview and update on the progress to date;
- Emerging priorities for 2021/22;
- Funding arrangements; and
- Listing those action that required accelerating due to the impact of COVID-19.

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

- Welcoming the report and commenting that the quality and presentation of the data and information presented was comprehensive, concise and accessible;
- How many staff and Councillors had completed the Carbon Literacy training to date;
- How many wards had received specific climate change related events;
- Was there a zero carbon advertising strategy;
- What work was being undertaken with local schools regarding meals to promote meat free days and the sourcing of local produce;
- How much of the carbon reduction reported against Council buildings was as a result of the decarbonisation of the national grid;
- Were there any more possible savings from the replacement street lighting;
- Noting the data reported for street lighting and the operational fleet, why was there a difference between quarter 1 and 2 compared to the previous year;
- Noting the impact of Covid on levels of homeworking was consideration being given to how staff would be working in the future and how buildings would be used post pandemic;
- What work was being done to engage businesses on the issue of climate change;
- Would climate change be addressed in the Local Plan;
- What work was undertaken to ensure all building developments across this city were sustainable and supported the carbon reduction ambitions of the city;
- When would the additional waste fleet vehicles be in service;
- A Member requested that information on the Newton Heath Project be shared with the three Miles Platting and Newton Heath councillors following the meeting;



- Requesting an update on the call on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) to divest from fossil fuels;
- Would local ward councillors be involved with the planned cycle and walking routes for Wythenshawe;
- Noting that it was reported that the Civic Quarter Heat Network would initially run on gas, some of which was green gas, would consideration be given to using alternative sources of energy in the future;
- Were there any additional or alternative sources of funding to support the retrofitting of homes to enable the necessary level of retrofitting by 2038;
- Information was sought on the recruitment and role of the Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers that were being recruited;
- Welcoming the information on the Tree Action Plan;
- Clarification was sought as to the reasons for the air travel reported; and
- Following the UK's exit from the European Union could Manchester continue to bid for European funding to support environmental projects.

The Chair invited Cllr Wright to update the Committee on the changes proposed to scrutiny arrangements that had been discussed and proposed at the recent meeting of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Wright stated that it had been recommended that the remits of all six scrutiny committees would be reviewed with the intention of having one committee that was dedicated to climate change and the environment. This proposal was to be progressed and finalised in March. The Committee noted and welcomed this update.

In response to the questions, the Director of Policy, Performance and Reform informed the Members that to date a total of 961 staff (including 45 Councillors) had completed the Carbon Literacy training. He stated that it was anticipated that the silver accreditation status would be achieved as there were an additional 150 members of staff scheduled to undertake the training. He noted that the delivery of this training had converted to being delivered online during the pandemic.

In response to the number of events delivered in wards, the Head of Neighbourhood Management stated that to date, noting the restrictions due to the pandemic, events had been held across fourteen different wards, that had been attended by over 300 people and the intention was to continue with the work post Covid. She further stated that, in addition to those specific events, events had been held in three other wards that had included environmental and climate change elements. The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods commented that to date 41 separate environmental community projects had been supported through the dedicated Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

The Head of Neighbourhood Management reported that two of the three Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers had been recruited and that these staff had the necessary skills and experience to work with diverse local communities and existing networks and to support the local Neighbourhood Teams.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that work was being developed with schools and partners around a range of environmental issues, including those raised by the Member. She further stated that consideration was being given to reviewing the staff workforce strategy and the travel policy in

recognition of the changes to working patterns as a result of Covid. She stated that it was important to recognise that a 'one size fits all' approach was not appropriate and that it was important to maintain a visible presence within the city and across neighbourhoods.

The Head of Corporate Estates and Facilities added that the 9% carbon reduction from Council building emissions was due to the decarbonisation of the national grid, however the new ways of working would allow for a review of the use of the estate with a view to making further savings, commenting that some buildings that had closed during Covid, such as libraries would reopen at an appropriate time. With reference to the Civic Quarter Heat Network he stated that consideration would be given to exploring the opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of the energy centre once a stable operational point had been achieved.

The Head of Corporate Estates and Facilities stated that the emissions from streetlights had reduced due to the programme of upgrades to more energy efficient LED fittings. The fleet emissions had reduced due to both upgrading to electric vehicles and a reduction in journeys during the pandemic.

The Strategic Lead City Centre Partnerships informed the Committee that a review of the 27 new electric refuse collection vehicles would be undertaken to inform the roll out of additional vehicles to the fleet, taking into consideration all options. In response to the specific question regarding air travel she confirmed that the flights reported were booked by Children's Services and were to assist with the repatriation of people and were not for staff travel.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement stated that the contract for external advertising had recently been awarded and although there was no specific clause relating to the advertising subject matter and climate change, the contract stipulated that the service vehicles would be electric and the actual sites were designed to collect rain water to clean the screens.

The Director of Licensing and Building Control described that the review of the Local Plan was an opportunity to embed and strengthen the climate ambitions for the city, however Members were reminded that the Core Strategy, adopted in 2012 already contained a robust framework to address climate change. She further described that this existing framework, as part of the planning process, was evidenced in the planning reports and these standards were applied to all developments.

The Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships advised the Committee that the Climate Change Agency reported on city wide carbon budgets and this data was produced annually, however the Council did monitor and report its own progress against this target. In regard to the issue of retrofitting, he stated that the Council had continued to bid for all funding that had been made available, however he acknowledged that significant investment was required from the government to deliver the ambitions as described in the plan. He stated that direct lobbying of Government was being undertaken by senior officers on this specific issue as part of the wider Economic Recovery and Investment Plan, noting that this would also contribute to the local skills and employment ambitions.

In answer to a question regarding the skills for a zero carbon economy work, the Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships stated that the Work and Skills team had been working on the emergency food response and on Covid business grants so had not been able to make as much progress as they would have liked. However, he informed the Committee that Green skills would be a key element of the Work and Skills Strategy that would be refreshed later this year. He further advised of an Our Town Hall green skills event for Manchester secondary schools scheduled for April.

In response to the specific question regarding access to European funding streams following the UK's exit from the European Union, the Strategic Lead Resources and Programme confirmed that the Zero Carbon Cities project that ran from 2019 to 2022 would not be affected as the funding had already been awarded. He stated that the deal allowed for continued access to funding streams, such as the new Horizon Europe programme.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the Council sought to influence and lead on the issue of climate change with business partners through a range of mechanisms, such as the Manchester Climate Change Partnership, the Business Sounding Board and City Co. She said this activity was also supported and complimented by the Manchester Climate Change Agency.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport informed the Committee that the Wythenshawe Walking and Cycling scheme was currently in development and invitations had been sent to all appropriate Members inviting them to join her to cycle the route as an opportunity to obtain Members' feedback.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport stated that she shared the disappointment and frustration of Members regarding the failure of the GMPF to respond to the calls to divest from fossil fuels and support the carbon reduction ambitions of the Council. She stated that in collaboration with her equivalent colleagues across Greater Manchester she would continue to lobby on this issue, adding that the GMPF had been invited to attend a Greater Manchester Green City Board meeting that had been scheduled. She commented that pension funds in other areas of the country had given an undertaking to divest from fossil fuels and urged GMPF to follow this example.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport concluded by stating that she had welcomed the comments and questions from the Committee. She stated that she was keen to work closely with the format of the new scrutiny committee. She described that despite the enormous challenges experienced as a result of the pandemic the work to deliver the Climate Change Action Plan had continued as a priority. She paid tribute to all of the officers involved, stating that the same officers had been involved in additional activities to support residents.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport stated that awareness of the importance of the environment had been highlighted during the pandemic and it was important to build upon and embed this across all activities as the city began the process of recovery post pandemic, including skills, employment and health. She concluded by stating that despite comments regarding climate change from the government this had not been followed by decisive actions and the

government needed to adequately fund Manchester to support delivery of our ambitious plan.

The Chair in conclusion expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Committee to the Executive Member and all officers for their continued commitment to delivering the Climate Change Action Plan during a very challenging period. She stated that the issue of climate change and carbon emissions was the responsibility of all residents across the city.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

[Councillor Flanagan declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as a family member was employed at Manchester airport.]

### **NESC/21/12 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.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.

## **Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair  
Councillors Azra Ali, Butt, Flanagan, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lynch, Sadler, Whiston, White and Wright

**Apologies:** Councillors Appleby and Razaq

**Also present:**

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure  
Councillor Richards, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration  
Councillor Midgley, Assistant Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration  
Andy Brown, CEO Citizens Advice Manchester  
John Ryan, Manager, Shelter Greater Manchester

### **NESC/21/13 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 as a correct record.

### **NESC/21/14 Update on evictions in the Private Rented Sector and the impact on the homelessness service**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Homelessness that described that at the time of reporting, it was too early to fully understand the demand that would impact on the homelessness directorate due to the lifting of the eviction moratorium. The eviction moratorium had been extended to the 31 March 2021, subject to review, and therefore evictions would not commence until the 14 April at the earliest. This report indicated that demand would increase within the 2021/22 financial year and listed the factors that would impact upon the level of demand.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Providing an introduction and background to the Moratorium Legislation;
- An overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the levels of homelessness experienced in Manchester;
- A description of the demand on, and capacity of the service;
- Data on the numbers of people in temporary accommodation;

- Analysis of the potential levels of demand on Homeless Services and the mitigation; and
- Information on the Debt Respite Scheme, a new statutory scheme that would commence on 4 May 2021.

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

- Members expressed their appreciation to the Executive Member, officers and all partner agencies in working to support the most vulnerable residents in the city;
- Every opportunity should be utilised in getting key messaging regarding advice and support available to homeless people or those at risk of homelessness out into local communities, including the use of digital advertising screens and banners on schools' railings; and
- Noting the issue of digital exclusion and the need for residents to access advice in a number of ways;
- The need to acknowledge the issue of hidden homelessness and young people;
- How many people were accommodated in dispersed accommodation and how was this split across Manchester and Greater Manchester; and
- What was the approach to inspecting temporary accommodation to ensure they were of the correct standard.

The Committee heard from Andy Brown, CEO Citizens Advice Manchester, who stated that during the Covid pandemic the number of enquiries to their service regarding homelessness had risen by 12% and the number of enquiries from people in the Private Rented Sector had increased by 46%. He stated that it was anticipated that these figures would continue to increase. He advised that they had developed a proactive communications and engagement strategy to raise awareness of the changes in legislation regarding evictions, stating that this work was closely aligned to the work and campaigns by Shelter. He further stated that advice workers engaged with landlords to ensure that any tenants experiencing problems were signposted for appropriate advice at the earliest possibility, in addition the housing related legal advice was still being offered at the courts. He described that Covid had presented challenges and restrictions on how advice had been provided however they had worked to maintain a presence in local community settings, such as providing dedicated video advice kits for residents to access. He commented that as staff continued to be vaccinated the intention was to reinstate face to face advice sessions.

The Committee then heard from John Ryan, Manager, Shelter Greater Manchester. He reiterated the comments of the previous speaker regarding increased levels of demand on the service, in particular in relation to unlawful evictions. He stated that in response to Covid the advice offered was predominately via telephone and commented that this had been very successful. He stated that Shelter also maintained a presence at the courts to offer advice and were seeking to continue engagement with landlords to provide early intervention and advice to avoid crisis situations occurring.

In response to a question from the Chair who asked the invited guests what the Council could do to best support the work of both Shelter and the CAB, Andy Brown, CEO Citizens Advice Manchester stated that an extension of two years to the

existing contract with the Council to deliver advice services in Manchester would enable them to continue and develop their work in Manchester. The Committee endorsed this proposal and the Chair stated she would write to the appropriate Executive Member, the Deputy Leader and the Chair of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee to propose an extension of two years to the existing contact with the CAB to deliver advice services in Manchester.

The Interim Director of Homelessness described that the priority for the service was delivering preventative work, including working with landlords to negotiate solutions and to encourage residents to seek appropriate advice prior to their situation getting to a crisis point. He stated the service worked closely with a range of partners across the city and were members of the Advice Forum that strengthened the relationships between partner organisations and shared experience and learning.

The Strategic Lead Homelessness stated that the Everyone In programme and A Bed Every Night scheme had witnessed the accommodation of over 500 people in Covid secure accommodation with the intention to support people into appropriate housing solutions. She further commented that the service had established relationships with Centrepoint to deliver advice and support to young people in an appropriate setting.

The Strategic Lead Homelessness informed the Committee that there were currently 1704 families in dispersed accommodation, with approximately 500 of these in accommodation in Greater Manchester with the rest remaining within the city. She stated risk assessments were undertaken with each case and the service worked closely with other teams such as education and children's services. She further informed the Committee of the approach taken to inspecting temporary accommodation, noting that during the pandemic contact had been maintained via telephone. Inspections of empty properties in readiness for re-letting had been undertaken during the period of Covid19 adding that the inspections process for occupied properties had recently been risk assessed to ensure the service can be stepped back up now for occupied properties.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure stated that work was currently underway to develop a document that describes the pathways and sources of advice and interventions that were available, and this would be shared with Members when this was available. In response to comments raised regarding digital exclusion he commented that this was acknowledged and all opportunities for providing advice and information were considered, such as libraries and other community settings.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure stated that it was a failure of the government to adequately fund the service to address the issue of homelessness. He stated the funding that had been made available to local authorities had been piecemeal and short term, stating that long-term adequate funding was required to adequately plan and deliver services. He further stated that the government had failed to adequately support the low paid and self-employed during the pandemic, all of which contributed to financial insecurity experienced by residents. In addition, he said there was the issue of the hidden homeless that the government failed to acknowledge. He stated that he continued to make the case

that it was local authorities with their knowledge, network and experience that were best placed to respond to the issue of homelessness.

The Chair in concluding this item of business paid tribute to all staff and partners in the VCSE (Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise) sector for their dedication in supporting some of the most vulnerable residents of the city.

### **Decision**

The Committee recommend that the Chair write to the appropriate Executive Member, the Deputy Leader and the Chair of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee to propose an extension of two years to the existing contact with the CAB to deliver advice services in Manchester.

### **NESC/21/15 Housing Allocations Policy**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director, Growth and Development that described the work undertaken to deliver the new social housing allocations scheme on time despite Covid-19 pressures. While noting that the new scheme had not yet been in operation long enough for impact to be assessed, the current housing register position was consistent with the new scheme working as intended.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Providing the context and evidence as to why the Allocations Scheme had needed to be reviewed;
- The objectives in undertaking the review;
- Information on revising the Manchester Move IT system, migration of applications and subsequent training;
- An update on the approach adopted to communications; and
- Impact of pandemic and current position.

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

- Noting the issue of digital exclusion experienced by many residents was it possible for residents to nominate a person to place proxy bids for properties on their behalf;
- Were staff engaging with local Registered Housing Providers to obtain regular feedback on the implementation and experience of the new system;
- Could Members be provided with information on how to use and navigate the system so they could advise residents if approached on the matter; and
- Recognising the significant amount of work that had taken place to deliver the new system and thanking the Executive Member, the Assistant Executive Member, officers and partners for delivering this project.

In response to the specific question regarding proxy bids, the Housing Access Manager stated that there was the ability to do this within Manchester Move and



further information on this function would be forwarded to the Member following the meeting,

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration paid tribute to all staff involved with the delivery of the new system, despite the challenges presented by Covid. She advised the Committee that demand on the service remained high and it was anticipated to increase, noting the discussion on the previous agenda item. She described that there had been an increase of 1500 entries onto the register, with 900 of these applications in the highest priority banding emphasising the importance of targeting a scarce resource for the most vulnerable, commenting that the high need compared to the low turnover of available housing.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration stated that in response to this Manchester was committed to delivering new affordable housing across the city and made reference to the schemes that were in development, all of which was regularly reported to the Economy Scrutiny Committee. She added that work on these projects had continued despite Covid and it was anticipated that they would exceed the target set to deliver affordable housing. She further advised that the Council would be establishing a housing company to build more much needed social and affordable housing by maximising Homes England grants and utilising council owned land.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration stated that information would be recirculated to the Members regarding navigating the online system, adding that the Frequently Asked Question section on the Manchester Move website was particularly helpful.

The Assistant Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration stated that she also wished to pay tribute to all of the staff across all partners who had worked to implement the Manchester Move system, adding that that this had involved a significant amount of IT work and data migration. She informed the Members that a number of online training and awareness sessions on the new system had been delivered that had been attended by a range of VCSE groups, commenting that these had proven very successful. She stated that an evaluation of the new system and policy would continue to be monitored to measure outcomes against the objectives and ambitions of the new allocations scheme, adding that the Housing Access Board was a forum in which the views and experience of Housing Providers could be obtained.

## **Decisions**

The Committee;

1. Note that the ability to draw any reasonable conclusions about the effectiveness of the new scheme from the 12-month interim evaluation due at the start of 2022 will be affected by the continuing pandemic and the special measures put in place for the most vulnerable; and
2. Note that the effectiveness of the new scheme will best be evaluated by the planned evaluation after 24 months, at the start of 2023.

## **NESC/21/16 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.

The Committee noted that this would be the last formal meeting of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee and that the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee would convene in May. Noting that the remit of the Committee would change, the new Committee would hold a work programming session at its first meeting planned for 27 May 2021. The Chair commented that she would speak with officers following this meeting to consider scheduling appropriate items of business for the May meeting in addition to the work programming session. Members of the Committee endorsed the Chair's proposal.

### **Decision**

Subject to the comments above, to note the report.

## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Green, Hacking, Johns, Noor, Raikes, Shilton Godwin and Stanton

**Apologies:** Councillor K Simcock

**Also present:**

Councillor Leese, Leader  
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure  
Adele Reynolds, Principal Skills Manager, Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
Nichola Wallworth: Industry Skills Intelligence Lead, Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
Lisa O'Loughlin, Principal and Deputy Chief Executive The Manchester College/LTE Group  
John Thornhill, Chief Executive LTE Group

**ESC/21/08 Minutes**

**Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2021 as a correct record.

**ESC/21/09 Growth and Development Directorate Budget - Final Proposals 2021/22**

Further to minute ESC/21/2 (Growth and Development Directorate Budget Proposals 2021/22), the Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which provided a further update on the savings proposals being proposed as part of the 2021/22 budget process which reflected any feedback from the November 2020 meeting.

The Leader advised that that the changes contained in the report were either as a result of recommendations previously made by the Committee or where of such a minor nature that they did not significantly impact on the overall budget proposals. He made the Committee aware that the proposal to reduce the number of posts on Planning and Building Control was being reviewed as there was concern that this proposal would result in a loss of income. It was planned that the outcome of this review would be reported to the Executive on 17 February 2021.

Key points to note were:-

- As at December 2020 the Directorate was forecasting a net overspend of £2.965m, this included Covid-19 related pressures of £5.527m, offset by in year mitigation of £2.562m;
- The Covid-19 pressures are made up of a combination of £4.523m reductions in income and increased cost pressures of £0.992m;
- The main loss of income had arisen within the Investment estate due to tenants not being in a position to pay their rents because their business has been impacted by Covid-19;
- In addition to the income reductions, there have been increased costs with the main costs being in respect of supporting the Corporate response to supporting the City's most vulnerable residents, this was forecast to cost net c.£0.783m in the current financial year; and
- As part of the ongoing work seeking to mitigate the above pressures in year forecast savings of £2.562m had already been identified, this was largely due to staff savings because of vacant posts and reduced running costs across all services.

The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to it being considered by Executive.

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

- It was welcomed that the concerns raised by the Committee at its previous meeting had been taken into account in the budget proposals;
- Whilst acknowledging the budget constraints the Council faced, it was disappointing to see that the Council would have to end its support to My Future ILM and the impact this would have on the ability to coordinate skills, training and employment support offered at a local level; and
- It was proposed that the views of the Committee in regard to the changes to the budget savings associated with Planning and Building Control be taken into account as part of the service redesign that would be taking place.

The Leader commented that it would be important for local government to continue lobbying central government to take a devolved approach to skills and employment programmes with the capacity to join these up with national programmes, in order to ensure the best outputs and value for money.

## **Decision**

The Committee agree the saving proposals as described within the report and endorse these to the Executive.

## **ESC/21/10 Skills and Adult Education: Overview and Context**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Inclusive Economy that provided an overview of the supply and demand of skills and adult education in the city. The report provided an overview of the city's skills shortages and challenges and on the impact of Covid-19 on skills provision and labour market

requirements. It also provides an update of some of the national and regional policy responses and commissioning, which are to support local delivery in responding to these challenges and opportunities

The key points and themes included:-

- Describing the pre-pandemic labour market growth and demand;
- Describing pre-pandemic labour market and skills in Manchester
- Impact of the Covid pandemic on Manchester's labour market and demand for skills;
- Residents most affected by the changes of labour market;
- Additional skills challenges and opportunities;
- National policy response to skills and labour market issues; and
- Responding to skills challenges and opportunities through local funds, programmes and initiatives

The Chair recommended that this report be considered in conjunction with the following presentation, following which she would invite comments and questions on both items from the Members.

### **ESC/21/11 GM Digital 'Economic Growth – ensuring an appropriate talent pipeline'**

The Committee received the presentation of the Skills Intelligence Lead (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) provides an oversight on how the Combined Authority is ensuring an appropriate talent pipeline for the economic growth of the city region.

Having regard for the presentation and previous report some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- Was that funding to address the digital skills gap being made available by central government enough;
- Welcoming the focus on retrofitting, commenting that when describing this activity an explanation should be provided so that this term was understood by the lay reader of these reports;
- Recognising the importance of smaller business outside of the city centre, what support was being offered to support them to upskill;
- The need to encourage and support women in this activity;
- How was this work being promoted;
- The need to continue retain graduates in Manchester, noting the particular challenge that Covid had presented;

The Director of Inclusive Growth stated that the scale and ambition of the programme and the funding made available to deliver this was a challenge, commenting that the true scale on the unemployment rates across the city are yet to be realised as the furlough scheme still existed. She advised that support was available to smaller business to upskill intelligence obtained from MIDAS and the Business Hub would enable relationships and dialogue to develop around the issue of skills and

development. She further acknowledged the comments made regarding the challenges and barriers experienced by women in the labour market and stated that this continued to be monitored and consideration given to appropriate support.

The Director of Inclusive Growth advised that she acknowledged the importance of retaining graduates in Manchester, noting that the numbers of students enrolled compared to those actually living in Manchester was different as a result of the pandemic. She advised that discussions were ongoing with the Universities to explore opportunities for linking graduates with local SME's, noting that often their ability to recruit was more agile compared to larger organisations. In response to comments regarding different employment sectors she stated that Manchester was committed to the Living Wage and work was underway for all of Greater Manchester to adopt the Living Wage.

In response to comments made regarding digital inclusion the Director of Inclusive Growth directed Member to the report that was submitted to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee meeting of 3 December 2020 that provided an update on the digital inclusion challenge within Manchester, the impact of Covid on those who were excluded and the initiatives that were being developed in aim to scale up efforts to tackle the challenges.

The Principal Skills Manager at Greater Manchester Combined Authority stated that whilst the scale of the ambition and funding available was a challenge, noting that only £20m had been allocated nationally, discussions were ongoing and would continue with the Department for Education to discuss alternative funding options. She stated that it was acknowledged that the terminology and pathways for digital roles could be off putting and they were working closely with industry to clarify the employment pathways and job descriptions, and this in turn informed the awareness training and supported events provided by the Job Centre Plus and Careers Service. She further advised that specific targeted work was undertaken with particular groups, including the over 50s who had traditionally felt excluded from such initiatives and training opportunities.

The Principal Skills Manager at Greater Manchester Combined Authority further advised that a Greater Manchester Digital Inclusion Task force had been established to drive this activity, however noted that it was recognised that linking local residents to the local offers and opportunities in the localities was central to achieving the ambitions and promoting and progressing digital transformation across all sectors.

The Industry Skills Intelligence Lead stated that a total of sixty thousand homes per year would need to be retrofitted to achieve the target set for Greater Manchester and meet its carbon reduction ambitions. She advised that in addition to larger construction companies discussions were underway with both local smaller and sole traders to discuss the options for upskilling to meet this demand. She commented that it was important to ensure that businesses were confident that this work would materialise and it to their benefit to recruit, train and upskill their work force to deliver the retrofitting work as previous experience following government announcements had resulted in a degree of scepticism within the sector. In addition to engagement with employers discussions were also underway with the various skills and training

providers so that they could adequately plan for and embed the required training for both existing construction workers and new recruits to the industry.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and presentation.

### **ESC/21/12 Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) update**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of MAES that provided information on MAES performance in 2019/20, the challenges of COVID-19 and the impact on residents in 2019/20 and 20/21 academic years and the service response and how this will affect future delivery.

The key points and themes included:-

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information on the Centres that were open between September 2019 to March 2020;
- Information on the Centres that were closed between March 2020 and September 2020 and how the service had adapted in order to meet the needs of its learners;
- Centres open September 2020 - December 2020 and January 2021 lockdown;
- Information on new programmes developed in response to the Covid pandemic and its existing priorities;
- An overview of Performance and Funding 19/20;
- Information relating to Digital Inclusion;
- ESOL Advice Service; and
- Future delivery and priorities.

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

- Was the scale of the provision delivered by MAE sufficient to meet the demand;
- What access was available to refugees and those without recourse to public funds;
- How had staff responded to delivering online classes; and
- Was engagement with employers still ongoing to support and facilitate employment and training opportunities.

The Head of MAES described that the Covid had highlighted the issue of digital exclusion and issues surrounding low digital skill and confidence experienced by learners. She stated that over 700 lap top devices had been loaned to learners, in addition to data packages and learners are now required to undertake an introduction to digital skills module prior to learning.

The Head of MAES stated that the issue of funding to meet the increasing demand presented a significant challenge, noting that the demand on the service would continue to increase. She advised that lobbying for appropriate levels for funding would continue.

The Head of MAES described that the pandemic had accelerated the Digital Learning Strategy and all staff had adapted well to the new model of delivery. She stated that to support this experienced staff had supported colleagues, in addition to the support offered by their IT department. She stated that this had allowed for a consistent quality offer to be delivered to all learners. In regard to employers, she advised that this engagement was still ongoing, albeit in a virtual setting noting the importance of maintaining these relationships was recognised.

The Area Adult Education Manager, MAES informed the Members that they worked closely via the ESOL Advice Service with a range of VCSE organisations across the city to support and direct refugees to the most appropriate provider.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure stated that the pandemic had highlighted a number of inequalities in addition to the digital exclusion, such as the ability to access a quiet and appropriate place to study in the home. He advised the Adult Education had been underfunded for many years and he called upon the government to recognise the scale of the demand and adequately fund the provision in Manchester.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

### **ESC/21/13 The Manchester College Strategy and Performance Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Principal and Deputy Chief Executive The Manchester College/LTE Group that provided an update on The Manchester College's progress, performance and contribution to Manchester's work and skills outcomes since the last report to the Economy Scrutiny Committee in 2019.

The key points and themes included:-

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Update on performance against 'College 2020 Strategy';
- 'College Vision 2025 Strategy' and associated curriculum strategy;
- The Centres of Excellence Property Strategy;
- Learner outcomes performance 2019/20;
- In-year learner progress 2020/21; and
- FE policy and future strategic challenges.

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

- Congratulating both the staff and students for their achievements despite the challenges presented by the pandemic;
- What was being done to ensure the wellbeing of staff at the College; and
- Were employers still engaged with the College to support and facilitate employment and training opportunities.



The Principal and Deputy Chief Executive, The Manchester College/LTE Group paid tribute to both the staff and students at the college and informed the Committee that staff wellbeing was paramount and staff had been supported in a number of ways to help and support them deliver their work. She described that this had been achieved by organising staff coffee mornings, ensuring staff had regular breaks and flexible working patterns where possible. In addition to this regular information relating to Covid safety was communicated to staff.

The Principal and Deputy Chief Executive, The Manchester College/LTE Group stated that relationships with employers had been maintained, and the methods of work experience delivery had been adapted in response to the pandemic.

## **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Support the proposal that the LTE Group and the Council submit a collaborative response to the consultations associated with the FE White Paper and the LTE Group's commitment to progressing Phase 2 of its Estates Transformation Strategy.

## **ESC/21/14 LTE Estates Strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development and the Chief Executive, LTE Group that provided an update on the delivery of the LTE Estate Strategy, during which leading edge facilities would be developed for post-16 education and skills training serving Manchester and the wider Greater Manchester (GM) Area.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Progress on developing the strategy and its implementation;
- An overview of the existing LTE estate;
- An update on the City Centre Campus development;
- An update on the Openshaw Campus development, currently the College's largest site;
- Information on the progress to date with surplus site disposals;
- An update on completed asset disposals and those currently in progress;
- The associated social value benefits for Manchester residents; and
- Delivery of an improved College and UCEN curriculum strategy and vision to 2025.

The Committee was invited to consider and comment on the report prior to it being considered by Executive.

A key point that arose from the Committees discussions were: -

- When considering disposal of assets due regard should be given to achieving the maximum community value so as to enhance economic, social and environmental outcomes and improvements for neighbourhoods.

The Chief Executive, LTE Group advised the Committee that prior to the disposal of any asset the Group undertook pre discussion with the Growth and Development Team to ensure that any proposals were aligned with the strategic vision, values and ambitions of the Council, and these discussions would then inform the proposals brought forward by developers.

The Leader said he welcomed the LTE group's approach to delivering high quality education and training, he stated that this would benefit residents from all wards in the City. The Chair stated that local Members should be involved with any discussions regarding the development of the estate.

## **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Request the Executive take account of the comments made, particularly around the need for balance and ongoing conversations in relation to the Fielden campus.

*[Councillor Hacking declared and personal and prejudicial interest in this item as he is a Board Member of LTE Group and Chair of one of its divisional subsidiaries. He left the meeting during consideration of this item].*

*[Councillor Johns declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as his employer previously received funding from the LTE Group].*

## **ESC/21/15 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:-

- If available could comparative data on the levels of cycling and walking data be provided; and
- Further information was sought on the proposal to extend the eligibility criteria for additional restriction grant scheme and which groups could benefit from this.

The Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure stated that the extended scheme was aimed to support those business that had previously been excluded, including taxi drivers, cultural and tourism related businesses. In response to the question regarding comparative data relating to levels of journeys undertaken by cycling and walking this would be provided following the meeting.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

**ESC/21/16 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.

**Decision**

The Committee note the report and agree the work programme.



## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

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

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**Present:**

Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Hacking, Johns, Raikes, Shilton Godwin, K Simcock and Stanton

**Also present:**

Councillor Leese, Leader  
Councillor Richards, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration  
Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

**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 insomuch 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 Hub, 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.

## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021**

**This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair  
Councillors Andrews, Battle, Chambers, M Dar, Doswell, Douglas, Evans, Grimshaw, Hitchen, Kirkpatrick, Rawson and Russell

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Murphy, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods  
Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure  
Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Collins and Moore

### **CESC/21/07            Minutes**

The Chair informed the Committee that the public meeting about the Peterloo Memorial had been arranged for 3 March 2021. He advised that it would have an independent Chair and would be made as accessible as possible.

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2021 as a correct record.

### **CESC/21/08            Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget Proposals 2021/22**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an updated Neighbourhoods Service 2021/21 budget and set out the savings proposals under the remit of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, reflecting any feedback from both the November and January scrutiny committees.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Neighbourhoods Directorate background and context;
- Neighbourhoods revenue budget strategy;
- Capital strategy;
- Workforce implications;
- Equality, diversity and inclusion;
- Public consultation; and

- Our Corporate Plan.

The Chair drew Members' attention to point 2.6 in the report which outlined the Directorate's commitment to Zero Carbon Manchester and reducing carbon throughout all programmes of work. He welcomed this and advised that the Committee would be looking at how this was being delivered.

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

- Whether the funding Sport England had made available to local authorities who partnered with external providers to deliver leisure services would be sufficient and, if not, would this affect leisure provision;
- Were there plans in place for the re-opening of leisure facilities, in particular to attract back previous members and users;
- Whether Members could see the results of the public consultation which related to the Committee's remit before the consultation results were considered by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 1 March 2021;
- The potential savings of c£155,000 which could be achieved within Leisure Services from 2022/23 through economies of scale work across Greater Manchester;
- Whether the library and leisure facilities being used as COVID-19 testing centres were receiving any income from the government for this; and
- Highlighting proposals to extend Hough End Leisure Centre and welcoming that the Council was continuing to invest in leisure facilities.

The Head of Parks, Leisure, Youth and Events advised the Committee that the Council expected to receive a decision from Sport England about its allocation from the funding available within the next week or so. He reported that, while the £100 million funding which was to be shared across the country was not adequate, the Directorate had not factored this money into its budget for this financial year but did expect to receive approximately £1.3 million. He advised Members that this covered the period from December 2020 to March 2021 and that the Council would be making the case for the government to provide additional funding to cover the period from April 2021 to the end of the next financial year. In response to a Member's question, he reported that all the funding was being provided to local authorities who could then distribute it to their leisure operators as they saw fit.

The Head of Parks, Leisure, Youth and Events confirmed that his service was working with the Council's main leisure operators, GLL and SLM, regarding a recruitment campaign for when leisure facilities could re-open and had offered them additional resources to support this. In response to Members' questions, he advised that plans would include free and discounted activities and he clarified that the increased level of commercial income referred to at point 3.14 in the report would come from new activities, not by increasing the cost of existing services.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure expressed concern that the support from the national government was not sufficient, considering the challenges the leisure sector was experiencing during the pandemic, and advised that the Council was continuing to make the case for further support. He also highlighted the

important role that parks had played during lockdowns, advising that increased usage had placed additional pressures on parks but that the restrictions had affected the ability to generate income from parks.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) reported that she would ensure that consultation results which were relevant to the remit of this Committee were shared with Committee Members.

In response to a Member's question about Equality Impact Assessments (EIA), it was agreed that this would be discussed under the following item on the agenda.

The Head of Parks, Leisure, Youth and Events informed Members that there were 12 different leisure operators working across Greater Manchester, as well as the organisation Greater Sport and some bodies for individual sports which were based in the city, and that efficiencies could be achieved by sharing resources, particularly back office resources such as Human Resources advice and financial functions. He reported that the costs incurred through the use of sport and leisure venues as testing or vaccination centres were being recovered.

### **Decision**

To note that the Committee's comments will be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive on 17 February 2021.

### **CESC/21/09            Equalities Update**

The Committee received a report of the City Solicitor which described the process for and the role of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) in the budget process for 2021-22. It outlined how this process had been evolved from previous years as well as highlighting how the service planning and business planning processes had also evolved, to ensure that equality considerations were more fully embedded. The report gave a high-level overview of some of the EIAs linked to the 2021-22 budget proposals.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Assessing inequalities in the budget process;
- Equalities in service and business planning;
- The Equality Duty in the Equality Act 2010; and
- The initial assessment of budget related EIAs.

The Chair informed Members that he would discuss with the Chair of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee how the work of the Race Equality Working Group would be scrutinised.

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

- When had something been changed as a result of the EIA process;
- Concern that mental health was not mentioned and how had that been considered in the process;

- How the level of deprivation in different wards was taken into account in the EIA process; and
- Whether EIAs could be produced earlier in the process for future budgets to inform the discussion on the proposals.

The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform drew Members' attention to appendix 2, which included examples, in particular from Children's Services, where mitigations had been put in place to address inequalities in impact which had been identified through the EIA process. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager informed the Committee how his team provided quality assurance support to services, including to identify equality impact which was not immediately obvious, and that part of the review of the process would be to formalise the team's role in this. He advised Members that the purpose of EIAs was to inform the decision-making process and that his team was working with services to support the completion of EIAs in a timely way. In response to a Member's question, he confirmed that poverty would continue to be included as a characteristic in the Council's EIAs. He advised that mental health fell within the protected characteristic of disability and that his team would need to do some work with services to ensure that they were considering mental health as part of their EIAs and to strengthen this as part of the review.

The City Solicitor reported that the review of the EIA process would include ensuring that assessments took place earlier in the budget process so that concerns and mitigations could be explored at an earlier stage. She informed Members that she would take forward the issue raised about mental health and, as part of the review of the EIA process, ensure that mental health considerations were incorporated into the process. She advised the Committee that EIAs were undertaken on the basis of protected characteristics rather than on a ward basis but that an analysis was taking place of the cumulative impact where particular groups were identified as being impacted by a number of the proposals and that that would have some geographical impact; however, she reported that she would take away the issue raised about a ward based analysis as part of the review.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **CESC/21/10      Residents and Communities Recovery Situation Report Summary**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a summary of the Residents and Communities recovery workstream.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Residents at risk;
- Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on communities and adults;
- Digital inclusion;
- Mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people;
- Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VSCE) sector; and



- Equalities.

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

- To thank all those involved in the work relating to the new variant of COVID-19 identified in the city;
- Praise for the way the roll out of the vaccine was being managed in the city and for all those involved;
- To recognise the essential role that Neighbourhood Teams had played during the pandemic; and
- Concern about people not self-isolating and that the funds in the Test and Trace support payment scheme discretionary fund were not sufficient.

The Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing agreed with the Member's comment about the Test and Trace support payment scheme and advised that residents were also being directed to other sources of support. She praised the work of staff in the Neighbourhoods Directorate, who were continuing to provide essential services during the pandemic while also expanding their skillset to support the work relating to COVID-19. She informed Members about an item on Health Equity which had been discussed at the most recent meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee and about work to ensure that different communities, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups and disabled people, could access the vaccine and had the right information to make decisions about being vaccinated. In response to a Member's request for a breakdown of data related to COVID-19 by ethnicity, she advised that she would circulate the report on Health Equity from the Health Scrutiny Committee's meeting to Members of this Committee. She advised that data on the take-up of vaccinations had just been received that week and would be made available to Council Members shortly.

## **Decisions**

1. To note that the Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing will circulate to Committee Members the report on Health Equity which was considered at the most recent meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee.
2. To ask the Chair to write to the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and the Head of Neighbourhoods on behalf of the Committee recognising the work of their service during the pandemic and to ask that the Committee's thanks be passed on to their staff.

## **CESC/21/11          Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report 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.

The Chair advised that he would discuss with officers the agenda for the next meeting, taking into account reports that Members had requested.

**Decision**

To note the report.