

Audit Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021

This Audit Committee 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 Ahmed Ali - In the Chair
Councillors Clay, Lanchbury, Russell and Watson

Independent Co-opted members: Dr Barker and Dr S Downs

Also Present:

Karen Murray (Mazars) - External Auditor

AC/21/05 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2021 as a correct record.

AC/21/06 Accounting Policies

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer. The report provided an explanation of the Council's accounting concepts and policies, critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty that will be used in preparing the 2020/21 annual accounts. It also contains details of the new International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 on leasing that following deferral is now to be fully introduced by Local Government on 1 April 2022.

Decisions

1. The Committee approved the accounting concepts and policies that will be used in completing the 2020/21 annual accounts.
2. The Committee noted the critical accounting judgements made and key sources of estimation uncertainty.

AC/21/07 External Audit Update Report

The Committee considered the report of the Council's external auditors (Mazars) that provided an update on progress made in delivering its responsibilities.

The Council's external auditor introduced the report and made reference to the receipt of the Council's 2019/20 Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) submission, which was anticipated during the week and would enable the completion of the final element of our 2019/20 audit. The Committee was informed that the national WGA submission process had changed for 2019/20 and there have been significant difficulties with the HM Treasury system which have caused challenges and delays.

The Committee was informed that planning is underway for the 2021 audit preparations in conjunction with the Council's Accounts Team. The 2020/21 closedown of accounts required the Council's accounts to be available for public inspection by August 2021 and completed by the end of September. The tight deadline may mean there is potential delays in the completion of this work and a timetable will be developed as part of the audit planning work.

The Chair invited questions from members of the Committee.

A member referred to the possible failure to complete the external audit of the Council's financial statement and asked if this would have a detrimental effect on the Council and what reason would be given on the Council website for not completing this requirement by the statutory deadline.

The Committee was informed that it was the intention of the external auditor to complete the audit work to a national quality standard. The notice of non-completion of the audit work would explain the tight time constraints in place and the intention to ensure the completion of the work to a quality standard. The continued impact of remote working and the complexity of the Council's accounts make the external audit work very challenging. There will be no detrimental impact on the Council in not completing the external audit by the statutory deadline.

A member of the Committee asked what difference there would be to the Council's annual accounts in view of the covid19 pandemic and the introduction of business grants work and would there be any comparability with previous years accounts.

The City Treasurer reported that the structural aspects of the accounts would be the same. The Management element of the accounts would include some distortion and will require explanation on the types and levels of spending that is not usual compared to other years. The work involved in the administration of Business Support Grants during the covid19 pandemic would not require detailed auditing but will require explanatory note in the accounts.

The external auditor reported that although there was no requirement for the Business Support Grants to be included in the audit of accounts, there would be a requirement to include the various streams of external funding that had been processed as part of the grants system. This would be a significant job in pulling together information from the different grant sources with a value of £12million (approx).

Decision

The Committee noted the report and the comments received.

AC/21/08 Internal Audit Plan 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Head of Audit and Risk Management that sets out areas of proposed audit coverage for the year and the delivery of this plan will be reported to SMT and Audit Committee as part of regular audit reporting. The Committee was informed that the plan focuses on the first six months of the year and an update will be presented to the Audit Committee and the Senior Management Team in September to confirm the areas of planned focus through to March 2022.

The Committee was advised on some of the some of the key area within the 2021/22 plan that includes:

- the ongoing Covid19 recovery and response including the requirements of Government for assurance over programmes funded through grants; financial challenges and related budget savings required to be delivered by the Council;
- organisational change including the further development of health and care partnerships and the 'supercharging of the Manchester Local Care Organisation; as well as the re-integration of the Northwards ALMO into the Council;
- organisational development and improvement programmes including the Future Council programme, Race Review and the Better Outcomes Better Lives programme across adult services; and
- Change activity including major capital projects, ICT investment and workforce development.

The Chair invited members of the Committee ask questions/ comment on the report.

A member referred to the impact of covid on the audit plan and how the priority of audit work has changed as a result. Officers were asked what audit work would have been included under normal circumstances and was there any potential risk identified as a result of particular audit work not being included in the plan. Officers were also asked what will be the focus of the plan in the final six months of the municipal year.

It was reported that the plan would have included core systems work, development, probity work and assurance mapping with a focus on Children's Services and Adult Services.

Members discussed the approach to audit recommendations, in particular those recommendations that remain overdue for 12 months. The suggestion was made that the current period should be increased to 18 months to allow sufficient time for outstanding recommendations to be implemented or where necessary follow up work before being submitted to the Audit Committee. Reference was also made to the integration of Northwards Housing (ALMO) and the importance of ensuring that there is capacity to undertake internal audit of not only the process of integration but also the organisation itself.

The Committee was informed that the proposal to increase the implementation period up to 18 months would be taken on board. With reference to the Northwards Housing it was reported that discussions were ongoing regarding the continuity of the current

outsourced provision during the period of transition. The ongoing audit of the organisational aspects such as repairs and maintenance did need to continue. The second half of the Audit Plan from September would address how the audit function could be best applied.

A member of the Committee made reference to the time provided by the external audit providers for Northwards Housing and the comparison of the time to be allocated by the internal audit function. Officers were asked for this information be included in the audit plan report to be submitted in September including what areas of the ALMO service were to be audited.

A member asked for more detail regarding the assurance title on the areas of focus in the audit plan in view of the size of the areas of service involved.

The Committee was informed that the second half of the year had not been scoped at this point and further breakdown and detail would be identified as the year progressed for inclusion in the Audit Plan report in September.

A member referred to the work identified for the next six months and asked if there is a broader area work on assurance mapping on connecting that work to the risk register.

The Committee was informed that assurance mapping would develop more as the year progresses and this would become more apparent over the next twelve months.

Decision

The Committee approved the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22, subject to the amendment of the period of time allocated for overdue recommendations be increased from 12 months to 18 months.

AC/21/09 Internal Audit Service Development Update

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management that provided a summary of the key areas of Internal Audit focus over the last twelve months, the planned future strategy for audit within the Council and the areas of planned service change in terms of innovation and structure. These included:

- Internal Audit During 2020/21;
- Internal Audit Strategy;
- Organisational Change and Partnerships;
- Innovation in Approach;
- Structure and Capacity.

The Committee was also informed that the Audit activity and other sources of assurance from 2020/21 will be used to inform the Annual Opinion for consideration by the Committee in April. The report also provided context for the Annual Plan that the Committee have approved to provide a clear direction of the work to be covered over the first six months of the year.

The Chair invited members of the Committee to ask questions.

A member asked the Head of Internal Audit and Risk if this is a direction that would have been taken even without the current circumstances and could those areas identified have been addressed quicker. Also, has the Council's external auditor been involved in the process or had some oversight.

The Committee was informed that the timing of the proposals was opportune in terms of wider changes to look at how the audit service works and evolve the service. The external auditor can be included in the process to provide comment.

A member proposed that officers within Internal Audit be thanked for the positive manner in which they have worked over the past year to benefit the residents of Manchester. In noting, this reference was also made the Organisational Change and Partnerships referred to in the report and the scale of the work involved and resources required to undertake this, in view of the reduced staffing and finances available to the Council.

A member referred to the schedule of meetings of the Committee and the importance of ensuring that the Risk Register report is submitted to the June meeting of the Committee.

The Committee was informed that meetings were programmed for the year and a work programme would be produced to project work and development across the year.

A member referred to the future replacement of the SAP system and how long this could take due to the importance and reliance on the system. Also, was the use of data sets as used by other local authorities, something Manchester will use and develop and is the consolidation of audit resources across GM something that is being considered.

It was reported that the Council will start to use data sets in different ways such as the National Fraud initiative for payments made to reduced duplicate payments. Birmingham City Council used data sets and had been for a number of year and would be consulted on its uses. The Committee was also advised that collaboration work had been discussed with other Councils in the Data Protection Service.

The City Treasurer reported that there are different components within SAP and therefore there is not an absolute end date set for its replacement. In preparation, work is underway as part of a change programme over the next two years, as parts of the system reach end of life. Other considerations include the cost of licences and what will best meet the future needs of the Council.

A member referred to the work of the Audit Service in core services such as Adult Services and Children's Services and asked officers if there is confidence in the Management Assurance Framework to enable Internal Audit to begin to pull back from those areas.

The Committee was informed that the Management Assurance Framework provided managers within the authority with a system that can be tested to help provide confidence and will provide a level of assurance with their arrangements, although the Internal Audit Service will be available to provide support where needed.

Decisions

1. The Committee noted the report on the proposals for development of the Manchester Internal Audit Service and to receive further updates and reports in April 2021 (Annual Opinion) and September 2021 (Updated Internal Audit Strategy, QAIP and Annual Audit Plan) and the comments received.
2. To thank the officers of the Internal Audit service for the work they have undertaken over the past year under difficult circumstances that has benefitted a large number of the residents of Manchester.
3. To provide an update on Outstanding Audit Recommendations to the next meeting of the Committee.

(Note: Dr Barker informed the Committee that through he is employment by Manchester University and is the line manager to the Interim Deputy City Treasurer's husband but had never met the Interim Deputy City Treasurer.)

Health and Wellbeing Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021

This Health and Wellbeing Board 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 Richard Leese, Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children's Services
Vicky Szulist, Chair, Healthwatch
Dr Tracey Vell, Primary Care representative - Local Medical Committee
Dr Vish Mehra, Central Primary Care Manchester
David Regan, Director of Public Health
Dr Denis Colligan, GP Member (North) Manchester Health and Care Commissioning
Rupert Nichols, Chair, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Ruth Bromley, Chair Manchester Health and Care Commissioning
Mike Wild, Voluntary and Community Sector representative
Kathy Cowell, Chair, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Geeta Wadhwa, GP Member (South) Manchester Health and Care Commissioning

Apologies:

Bernadette Enright, Director of Adult Social Services
Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Children's Services
Dr Murugesan Raja, GP Member (North) MHCC
Katy Calvin-Thomas, Manchester Local Care Organisation

Also in attendance:

Dr Manisha Kumar, Medical Director, MHCC
Peter Blythin, Executive Director, Workforce and Corporate Business (MFT)
Dr Sohail Munshi, Manchester Local Care Organisation
Dr Cordelle Ofori, Consultant in Public Health Medicine

HWB/21/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2020 were submitted for approval.

Decision

To agree as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 27 January 2021.

HWB/21/06 Manchester Local Prevention and Response Plan: March 2021 Refresh

The Director of Public Health submitted a report and plan setting out a refresh of the Local Prevention and Response Plan that was first published in June 2020. The refresh builds on the Manchester COVID-19 Twelve Point Plan which is updated on a monthly basis.

The Plan submitted is set out to show the read across the themes contained in the original plan and incorporates new developments, such as the vaccine roll out and responding to Variants of Concern. Several case studies are included and the learning from these will inform future planning. These include the outbreaks within the student population, Storm Christophe, Evacuation of a Complex Setting During Outbreak and the introduction of mass testing (Operation Eagle), which has helped to inform local and national policy. The plan also included a summary of the Vaccine Equity Plan and initial forward plan for exiting lockdown which is aligned to the national Roadmap was also included.

The Plan was submitted to Public Health England on 12 March 2021.

The Chair invited questions from members of the Board.

Reference was made to the work that has been undertaken by the thousands of people throughout the course of the pandemic to ensure the safety and health of Manchester residents.

The Chair indicated that discussions had started on arrangements later in the year to enable residents from across the city to say thank you and acknowledge this essential work.

Decision

The Board noted the report and Plan.

HWB/21/07 Operation Eagle Report

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided information on the work of the multiagency team which he has led to respond to cases of Covid19 Variants of Concern, identified in Manchester in February 2021. The Board was informed that responding to Variants of Concern is a key part of the government's four tests for moving through the roadmap out of the pandemic.

In introducing the report the Director of Public Health also gave a presentation supported by Dr Manisha Kumar, Medical Director (MHCC) to outline the work that was undertaken to set up, manage and monitor Operation Eagle to respond to Variants of Concern in the city.

The presentation provided background on Operation Eagle, the approach taken and key messages, actions undertaken, outcomes, key learning and our future approach to managing Variants of Concern.

The Director of Public Health referred to two outbreaks of Variants of Concern in areas of the city (Moss Side (including: Hulme, Whalley Range and Fallowfield) and Moston) and the quick action taken by a number of organisations that involved knocking on doors, testing, and genomic sequencing between 5 February and 3 March. The outcomes of the operation have provided a rich source of intelligence for use in the event of a further outbreak and has demonstrated the positive response from the local community through the engagement of organisations and individuals. From the testing and subsequent genomic sequencing undertaken, those individuals testing positive have isolated. Work has been ongoing with Public Health England and regular contact has been maintained with the media with the key public health message that the vaccine continues to offer the best protection against Corona19 virus. The Board was informed that the knowledge and experience gained from Operation Eagle has been used to inform other areas that are experiencing outbreaks of variants.

The Chair invited questions from Members of the Board.

Reference was made to valuable work that had taken place within communities and it was acknowledged that this was the result of the efforts and inspiration of those in the community and multi-agency neighbourhood teams. The collective response in dealing with the outbreaks has demonstrated how the system has worked and this has been aided through the clear leadership provided by the Director of Public Health in bringing those elements together.

The Chair referred to the localisation of test and trace and its effectiveness in dealing with the outbreaks, which the Council had made the case for in the early stages of the pandemic. The delay in moving to localised test and trace had also wasted considerable resource and time in getting to this stage. The Board was informed that the allocation of £35 billion for test and trace nationally would have addressed the entire funding deficit for local government for the year, many times over.

The Chair referred to the effective analysis of variants and the pace of Public Health England in producing genomic sequencing and asked officers on the extent of the transmissibility of the new variants, also how virulent the variants may be and vaccine resistant.

The Director of Public Health informed the meeting that there was currently no evidence to show that the new variants are becoming dominant and the genomic sequencing will continue to help in providing further data. The UK Kent strain was becoming more dominant in parts of Europe, other strains were not indicating dominance but the continued testing and sequencing is crucial in tracking spread and mutations of the virus.

A member of the Board referred to the progress in vaccinating the population and potential variants that the vaccine may not be as effective against resulting vaccinated patients becoming infected by the dominant strain. Officers were asked how would a situation like that impact on the opening of services and parts of society and this been considered.

The Board was reminded of the information presented by the Chief Medical Officer regarding the four key tests which would need to be met before proceeding through the government's plan to relaxing restrictions and the importance of maintaining a high level of vigilance on a fast-moving virus. The use of frequent testing would help inform and determine the advice on current levels of restriction.

Decision

The Board noted the report.

HWB/21/08 Vaccine Equity Plan

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health and the Medical Director (MHCC) that presented the Vaccine Equity Plan. The Plan aims to improve vaccination coverage amongst people in Manchester, based on current data, in order to address inequalities. It focuses on narrowing the gap between population groups with lower vaccine coverage and the rest of the population. The plan complements the Vaccination Programme's communications and engagement plan to increase coverage with the support of the COVID Health Equity Manchester programme (CHEM). The Plan also focuses on short to mid-term actions, which support the on-going invitations for vaccination through the JCVI Cohorts, whilst acknowledging that some of the issues underpinning low coverage are long-standing, not new to COVID-19 and require a long-term plan. This includes the proactive and targeted design of vaccination service offers and engagement approaches, informed by data and intelligence and supported by monitoring and evaluation.

The Board received a presentation from the Medical Director (MHCC) to provide an update on the delivery models used for the Plan. In addition, Dr Cordelle Ofori, provided an overview of the city-wide strategic approach being taken to provide the vaccine. The presentation addressed: targeting equalities, deprivation cohorts – non digital engagement methods, ward coverage – targeting low uptake, headline figures – effective notification of cohorts and the hard to contact, targeting sectors of the population to increase confidence in the vaccine, targeting coverage in gender and ethnicity to increase uptake, take up by people with a learning disability, targeting people with a serious mental illness, use of vaccination 'pop-ups', understanding the reasons for declines in take up of the vaccine, action to improve coverage. The Board was informed that the reasons for non-take up of the vaccine and vaccine hesitancy are numerous and work is ongoing to address this.

The Chair invited member of the Board to ask questions.

Reference was made to the work being done to target the whole population which has required in many instances one to one engagement and the use of patient list through PCNs. The vaccination of cohorts 10-12 would use a national system approach and officers were asked if there is a plan to address the instances where the individual is still considering whether to take up the offer of a vaccine.

It was reported that the national booking system addressed the whole population however, PCNs can choose to continue to make offers for vaccination to the local population and it was important the patients understood that it was one offer being

made. Arrangements will need to be in place to work with groups, such as the student population, in preparation for September and adapt plans accordingly.

A member referred to non-take up of the vaccine, for the reason that the place allocated was not in an area a person knows and they may decide to wait until an offer is made at a place closer to their home. Reference was also made to people who may have a learning disability but considered themselves as living a normal life and had received an offer of vaccination because they fall within a vulnerable category and may feel conflicted if they take up the offer. Officers were asked if the importance of taking up the vaccine is conveyed to those groups.

It was noted that patients some may have lost confidence in going to the local sites offered because did not want to go outside. The use of pop up sites in convenient places is useful as well as the use of GP surgeries and pharmacies. The advice for those with a learning disability is to take up the offer of the injection when it is offered to ensure the widest possible coverage of the population.

A member referred to the importance of recognising the location of where a vaccine is provided and how this mattered to sections of the population and the need to achieve a localised balance provision in the next phase of the roll out. The comment was also made on the work of inclusive health provision across the city to target groups that may not be registered with GPs and how the use of mobile vaccination stations could offer a vaccine to those people living outside of the national system.

It was reported that arrangements for the vaccination of people who are not registered and may be difficult to contact, will require good communications and messaging with a clear explanation on when and where a vaccination get be obtained.

Officers were asked what the level of take up of the vaccine is by health and care workers in view of the need to protect patients.

The Board was informed that the MFT has vaccinated 60,000 people (2400 of which are staff, 5090 of which are care staff). All health and care staff are encouraged to take up the offer of a vaccination.

Decision

The Board noted the report, presentation and the comments received.

HWB/21/09 Vaccination Programme Revised Governance arrangements

The Director of Public Health that outlined recent changes made to the governance arrangements for the Covid Vaccination Programme. The Board was informed that arrangements for vaccination will be required for vaccination in the city going forward and the report provided a description of the arrangements.

A member asked if an inclusive health peer group could be included in the structure of the proposed Vaccination Partnership Board to represent groups that are not registered with a GP.

It was reported that a Health Equity Structure already exists for the purpose of engaging with a range of individuals, groups and communities. The next phase of the Vaccine Equality Plan is working to engage the hard to reach groups. The infrastructure in place can also help to benefit those groups and communities and a wider health equality approach and vaccination delivery.

A member asked how formalising this arrangement into future structures in view of changes to the structures of the NHS.

The Chair welcomed the implementation of the plan and positive impact it is having across the communities. The Board was informed that the Health and Care Partnership would meet on Friday 26 March 2021 and will initiate system-wide facilitated conversations that will provide opportunity to input on current services and future structures.

Decisions

1. The Board noted the establishment of a Vaccination Steering Group (VSG) and related reporting lines.
2. The Board approved the establishment of a Vaccination Partnership Board (VPB).

HWB/21/10 Manchester Single Hospital Service - Update On Current Position

The Board considered the report of the Executive Director, Workforce and Corporate Business, and Group Director of Facilities and Estates (MFT) that provided update on the progress of the Manchester Single Hospital Service (SHS) Programme.

The report provided an outline of the work being undertaken to complete the proposed acquisition of North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) by Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT).

The Board was informed that the transfer is on target to take place on 1 April 2021. The route of the plan would be a commercial transaction ahead to the dissolution of the Pennine Acute Trust. The hospital would continue to provide a business as usual service for patients and staff. The developments and improvement planned for the site would then take place including a multi-storey car park to free up land for other proposed developments.

The Chair welcomed the transfer and proposed improvement that will benefit the residents in the north of the city. The joint working arrangements of the partners involved has resulted in a successful outcome that will have community benefits.

(Councillor Leese left the meeting at this point and Councillor Craig took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.)

Decisions

1. The Board noted the current position within the Manchester Single Hospital Service Programme.
2. The Board congratulated the team involved in the transfer of the hospital and the staff at North Manchester General Hospital for their continued commitment.

HWB/21/11 Manchester Child Death Overview Panel 2019-20 Annual Report

The Board received the report of the Consultant in Public Health and Chair of the Manchester Child Death Overview Panel. The Manchester Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) is a subgroup of the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (MSP) and reviews the deaths of children aged 0-17 years old (excluding stillbirths and legal terminations of pregnancy), that are normally resident in the area of Manchester City.

In line with the Child Death Review: Statutory and Operational Guidance (England) published October 2018, the CDOP has a statutory requirement to produce a local annual report which provides a summary of the key learning and emerging trends arising with the aim of preventing future child deaths.

Decision

The Board noted the report and its recommendations and its recommendations.

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Planning and Highways Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 18 March 2021

This Planning and Highways meeting was a meeting 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 Curley (Chair)

Councillors: Shaukat Ali, Nasrin Ali, Andrews, Y Dar, Davies, Flanagan, Hitchen, Kamal, Leech, Lovecy, Lyons, Madeline Monaghan, Riasat, Watson and White

PH/21/15 Supplementary Information on Applications Being Considered

A copy of the late representations that were received in respect of application 126927/FH/2020, since the agenda was issued. Additional late representations had been received in respect of the Tree Preservation Order (7 Brunswick Road, Manchester, M20 4GA).

Decision

To receive and note the late representations.

PH/21/16 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2021 as a correct record.

PH/21/17 126927/FH/2020 - 9 Norman Road, Manchester, M14 5LF - Rusholme Ward

This application relates to the erection of two storey side and part two, part single storey rear extension to provide additional living accommodation.

The Planning Officer introduced the application and informed the Committee that the supplementary information referred to an amendment on the application relating to the length of the ground floor rear extension that projects 6 metres and the first-floor rear extension that projects 3 metres.

A speaker addressed the Committee to object to the application on behalf of local residents and the Rusholme and Fallowfield Civic Society. The Committee was

asked to consider that the building of semi-detached houses is not listed but is of significant interest to the area and have been family homes. The size of the proposed extension is considered to be too far and beyond permitted development rules. The impact of the extensions on the neighbouring properties will be significant. The loss of greenery around the properties will be detrimental for the character of the area. Families and extended families are welcomed in the area to develop existing properties, but within the planning rules.

The applicant addressed the Committee on the planning application.

The chair invited members of the Committee to ask questions.

A member referred to an image of the application document of the front aspect of the properties concerned that included a political party sign and gave an assurance that the image would not have any involvement in the consideration of the application and should not be visible in the image.

The Planning Officer noted the matter and gave an assurance that political signs would not be included in images. The Committee was advised that the application has been substantially amended to address concerns including the size of the rear extensions. It was considered that there was sufficient distance to apply the extension and this was within the permitted development rules for a large property.

A member referred to the use of online maps and images and requested that a site visit would be helpful for the Committee to view the properties in view of the range of views that have been submitted. This was supported by other members of the Committee.

Councillor Davies moved a proposal for the Committee to undertake a site visit. Councillor Lovecy seconded the proposal.

Decision

To agree to defer consideration of the planning application to allow a site visit to be carried out by the members of the Committee.

PH/21/18 Objection to Tree Preservation Order JK/4/12/2020 – 7 Brunswick Rd, Manchester, M20 4GA – Withington Ward

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Planning, Building Regulations and Licensing relating to the background and issues involved in the making of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on 4th December 2020 and to recommend the confirmation of this Tree Preservation Order. The Committee was requested to consider 4 objections made to this order and 14 representations in support of the TPO. This relates to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on a mature Oak tree (T1) within the rear garden of 7 Brunswick Road, Manchester, M20 4GA.

The Planning Officer informed that Committee that additional information had been received and outlined this to the Committee.

The spokesperson representing objectors to the proposed TPO addressed the Committee. Reference was made to the images of the tree and the inability to see the tree from the street. The surrounding properties have a view of the tree and believe the tree has a negative impact on amenity. It was reported that negotiations with the applicant had not achieved a positive outcome regarding the maintenance of the tree. It was considered that the increase of TPO's on trees may have a negative outcome on existing trees where a property is for sale and would be more attractive without a large tree in its grounds.

The applicant addressed the Committee.

The Planning Officer reported that the tree had been assessed and is considered to have high visual amenity and forms part of the landscape character of the area. Agreement had been reached with the owner on the pruning to reduce shading in neighbouring gardens.

A member stated that the recommendation for confirming the TPO was clear and if not agreed may result in the tree being pruned back to the boundary.

Councillor Andrews moved the recommendation to approve the application.
Councillor Shaukat Ali seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee agreed that the City Solicitor be instructed to confirm the Tree Preservation at 7 Brunswick Road, Manchester M20 4GA, under Section 199 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and that the Order should cover the tree as plotted T1 on the plan as detailed in the report submitted.