

## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair  
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Azra Ali, Andrews, Chambers, Connolly, M Dar, Evans, Grimshaw, Hilal, Hussain, S Judge, Rawson, Sheikh and Wills

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Rahman, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods  
Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children's Services

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Whiston and Wilson

### **CESC/22/07 Minutes**

The Chair requested that Councillor Grimshaw's apologies be noted for the January meeting.

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022 as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

### **CESC/22/08 Homelessness Update**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which set out the position of the Council's Homelessness Service in terms of how it supported local residents and how the emerging transformation programme was seeking to increase the prevention of homelessness, continue the reduction in rough sleeping, reduce the use of temporary accommodation and support residents, with a wide ranging variety of needs, including that of securing a place to call home.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- National, regional and local context;
- Homelessness Strategy and Partnership;
- Finance;
- Equalities and diversity; and
- Risks and issues.

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

- Comparisons with other core cities;
- Improving inclusion and diversity, including on the Housing Board, noting the high percentage of homeless people who were from ethnic minority groups;

- People, predominantly women and children, becoming homeless due to domestic abuse, while the perpetrator was able to remain in the family home;
- What percentage of homeless families were being placed outside the city;
- That homeless families were being dispersed to particular areas of the city with more affordable rents and the impact of this, for example, on rent levels, school places and access to NHS services;
- Whether a ward-level breakdown could be provided of where families were being dispersed to;
- Praise for the work of the homelessness team;
- To welcome the focus on preventing homelessness;
- What was being done to expedite support for tenants to secure accommodation following notice being given under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988;
- Support for homeless people with drug and alcohol addictions;
- People who were in overcrowded accommodation and hidden homelessness, for example, young people who were couch surfing;
- What was being done to support younger people, including those living with families where they were no longer welcome;
- That more needed to be done to provide suitable and affordable homes in the city, including social rented properties; and
- How the budget was split between those in temporary accommodation and those sleeping rough.

The Director of Housing Operations reported that the high number of people presenting as homeless in Manchester was not dissimilar to levels in London and other cities. He advised that people were approaching the Council at the point of crisis and that work was taking place to increase early intervention to prevent people from becoming homeless. He acknowledged the importance of increasing diversity across senior decision makers and when listening to the voices of local people. He advised that work would be taking place to address this over the coming months and offered to provide Members with further information. He advised that approximately 30% of temporary accommodation was outside of the city, due to the affordability of properties, but that the preference was to house people within the city and that this would be a focus within the transformation work. He acknowledged that at present temporary accommodation within Manchester was concentrated in particular areas and advised that this would also be looked at as part of the transformation work. He also drew Members' attention to the Housing Strategy which was being developed. He offered to provide Members with the requested ward breakdown. In response to the question about homeless people with drug and alcohol issues, he advised that investment during the pandemic had enabled services to engage with homeless people who had been difficult to engage with in the past and provide wraparound support to them, although there were concerns about how long the funding arrangements would be in place. The Strategic Lead (Homelessness) explained how the circumstances of the lockdown and the vastly reduced number of people going into the city centre had impacted on people living on or begging on the streets of the city centre, disrupting the way they had been living and persuading them to engage with services and enabling them to move on with their lives. She advised that discussions were taking place between different services and Greater Manchester Police to look at how this work could continue and how to prevent these people from falling back into a street-based lifestyle.

The Strategic Lead (Homelessness) informed Members about the work that was taking place to prevent and address domestic abuse, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and the funding that had been provided by the government to support the additional responsibilities that local authorities had under this new legislation. She advised that this work included support for the Sanctuary and Safe Space Schemes to enable victims of domestic abuse to remain in their own home. She reported that new contracts had been put in place with organisations so that, where victims did need to leave their home, they had access to support including housing, financial support and specific support relating to domestic abuse. She advised that, where a family had been given notice under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988, the Private Rented Sector Team was working to identify suitable alternative accommodation in the private rented sector to prevent the need for the family to go into temporary accommodation. In response to a Member's question, she reported that the figures on rough sleepers within the report were part of the national count and included rough sleepers anywhere within the city's boundaries, not just the city centre. She advised that the Council was working closely with Centrepoint to support young people affected by homelessness, including those struggling to live with family, those who were couch surfing and young people with more complex needs.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Housing Operations advised that there were families of various sizes who needed suitable accommodation. He acknowledged that it was a challenge to find suitably sized social housing and advised that the Council needed to be creative in working with the private sector to source suitable affordable homes. In response to a Member's question about the cost effectiveness of placing families outside of the city, he advised that this would be looked at as part of the transformation work.

The Deputy Leader advised that, although affordable housing and overcrowding were beyond the remit of the homelessness report, these issues, including the Housing Strategy, could be scrutinised at a future meeting of the relevant committee. In response to a Member's question about whether the Council should be using its influence to get partners to build more social rented housing, the Chair suggested that the Executive Member for Housing and Employment could be invited to a future meeting and that the Committee could look at areas where homelessness overlapped with housing.

The Chair thanked officers and voluntary and community organisations for their work in this area.

## **Decisions**

1. To request a ward-level breakdown of the areas of the city that homeless families are being dispersed to.
2. To request information on how the budget is split between those in temporary accommodation and those sleeping rough.

3. To note that the Director of Housing Operations will provide further information on diversity and inclusion, including in relation to the Housing Board.

### **CESC/22/09 Neighbourhood Directorate Budget 2022/23**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which stated that, following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25. The report set out the high-level position. Appended to the report were the priorities for the services in the remit of this Committee, details on the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers and the planned capital programme. The Committee was invited to comment on the proposals prior to their submission to the Executive on 16 February 2022.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Current budget position;
- Scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and budget reports;
- Next steps;
- Headline priorities for the services;
- Revenue Budget Strategy; and
- Capital budget and pipeline priorities.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods provided an overview of the financial position of the Council, including the uncertainty in future years. He highlighted some of the priority areas within the budget, including funding to address gender-based violence and funding to each ward to address their priorities. The Deputy Leader emphasised the Council's commitment to making Manchester a safe city for women and girls and outlined initial work taking place to address this.

The Executive Member for Children's Services informed Members about the proposal within the budget to invest more money in the commissioning of youth services, highlighting that 2022 had been designated as "Our Year", dedicated to the city's children and young people.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Housing Operations outlined work to monitor and address the effectiveness of Northwards Housing, particularly in relation to repairs. The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods advised that this related to housing management and that a report on this would be considered by the relevant scrutiny committee.

### **Decision**

To endorse the proposals which are relevant to the remit of this Committee.

### **CESC/22/10 Cultural Impact**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided information on the results of the 2020/21 Cultural Impact Survey which

demonstrated how severely the impacts of the pandemic had been felt within the culture sector. An update on workstreams related to the city's Culture Recovery Strategy outlined the role that culture could play in supporting Manchester's social and economic recovery, and the support needed to make this happen. Officers delivered a presentation which provided further detail on the results of the Cultural Impact Survey.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Cultural Impact Survey 2020/21;
- Manchester Culture Awards 2021;
- Cultural recovery;
- Zero carbon; and
- Cultural Consortium.

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

- Opportunities for young people, including work experience and apprenticeships in the culture sector;
- Improving access to the city's cultural offer, including to people from deprived communities;
- Promoting the city's cultural offer internationally;
- The use of digital platforms for cultural events and how prominent a role this was likely to play post-COVID;
- That culture should be considered in its wider sense, for example, street art;
- The culture should reflect the diversity of the city; and
- That residents should be asked how they felt about culture rather than relying on responses from organisations.

The Deputy Leader reported that access to and participation in culture had been a key focus over recent years and that, while there was further work to be done, significant progress had been made in this area. He drew Members' attention to previous reports that the Committee had received on this work. The Director of Culture advised that there were a number of cultural organisations that offered subsidised tickets, in addition to the city's free cultural content, but that the cost of public transport was a barrier for some people and that engagement officers were looking to provide an increased cultural offer in neighbourhoods.

The Director of Culture outlined the work taking place to introduce young people to careers in this sector, including through the Factory Academy and the MADE cultural education partnership. He advised that the culture sector in Manchester and the work taking place here was being promoted internationally, particularly in international professional networks, including hosting an international congress in Manchester through which it was hoped to increase international co-commissioning and international trade. He also informed Members about research being carried out about the music sector in Manchester. He reported that, during the pandemic, there had been a lot of interest in putting cultural events and content online and that this would continue, noting that this had enabled the sector to connect to people who might not come to cultural venues in the city centre; however, he advised that a lot of people were keen to get back into venues, citing that attendance at HOME had

returned to pre-pandemic levels, and, therefore, he did not envisage digital content replacing physical venues and events. In response to a Member's question, he outlined how the Cultural Consortium would enable a wider range of cultural organisations to be involved in the development of plans for the sector. The Principal Resources and Programmes Officer (Culture) reported that private sector organisations were invited to respond to the Cultural Impact Survey, advising that there was a challenge in getting a balance between gathering enough data for monitoring purposes from the organisations which had received funding and not asking for so much data that it deterred other organisations from responding.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Culture advised that cultural organisations in the city were responsible for less than 1% of the city's carbon emissions and that the majority of its carbon footprint was from transport and that public transport needed to be improved to address this. He informed Members that residents had been asked about culture as part of the research for the State of the City report and that further information could be provided in a future report to the Committee, if Members wished. He outlined the work taking place to improve diversity, particularly of the leadership of the cultural sector, following on from the findings of the study by consultants The Fifth Sector. In response to a Member's concerns that MADE did not reflect the diversity of the city, he advised that he would pass those comments to the leadership of MADE and provide a response.

The Deputy Leader acknowledged that the cultural sector in the city was not currently representative of the diversity of Manchester but advised that there was a commitment from the sector to improve this and that he hoped that the Committee would be able to see significant progress on this if they looked at this again in a year or two.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

[Councillor Azra Ali declared a personal interest as a Board Member of the Halle.]

## **CESC/22/11            Manchester Libraries Strategy Update**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the Library Strategy and presented future plans.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Delivering the Library Strategy during the pandemic and beyond;
- Contributing to achieving the zero-carbon target for the city;
- The positive impact of libraries on local residents and communities;
- Equality, diversity and inclusion;
- Examples of the range of services provided by Manchester libraries; and
- Archives.

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

- To note the high levels of satisfaction across the city from the Public Library User Survey and to recognise the excellent job that library staff were doing;
- To welcome the investment in library buildings;
- Cultural diversification of library stock; and
- What could be done to encourage library membership, particularly in deprived areas.

The Head of Libraries, Galleries and Culture informed Members that the service had done a lot of work in recent years to ensure that the library stock reflected the community that it was serving, that this would continue and that local residents would be asked what they wanted in their libraries. He highlighted the proposal to remove library fines, advising that this was a barrier to using the library for some people.

In response to a Member's question about Archives, the Citywide Services Manager informed Members that a new web catalogue of Manchester Libraries' archive would be launched within the next few months and he highlighted that Manchester was the northern hub for the 1921 census which enabled people to access it for free.

### **Decision**

To recognise the important role of libraries and the commitment of library staff and volunteers.

### **CESC/22/12 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.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.





## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair

Councillors Ahmed Ali, Azra Ali, Andrews, Battle, Connolly, M Dar, Evans, Grimshaw, Hilal, Hussain, S Judge, Rawson, Whiston, Wills and Wilson

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Rahman, Deputy Leader

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Chief Superintendent Mark Dexter, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Chambers

### **CESC/22/13 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022 as a correct record.

### **CESC/22/14 Highway Crime**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a summary of data and information related to policing roads in the city.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Statistics on people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions;
- The local strategy for road policing;
- Greater Manchester Police (GMP)'s key operations in relation to road policing;
- The work of the Road Safety Partnership;
- Initiatives that engage with road users; and
- Joint work involving GMP and the Council's Highways Service.

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

- Recognising the importance of this issue, noting the number of people killed or seriously injured on Manchester roads and residents' concerns that local roads were unsafe;
- That residents were most concerned about local residential roads, rather than the city's major roads;
- That residents wanted action to be taken more quickly when they raised concerns about the safety of local roads;
- That more action should be taken in response to community speed watch;
- To request further clarification on the increase in resources for the Roads Policing Unit;

- Concern that many Members and residents were not aware of some of the initiatives referred to, indicating that communications needed to be improved;
- The importance of transparency in what schemes would be considered and where, if funding became available;
- Whether this work would be placing more pressure on neighbourhood policing teams; and
- Could the statistics in the report be broken down to a ward level.

The Head of Network Management reported that the Council had previously had a larger road safety programme but this had been reduced as part of the wider budget cuts; however, he advised that this year £2 million had been identified to fund road safety schemes and that it was hoped that further funding could be identified for a further programme. He reported that the number of road accidents was reducing nationally and at a Manchester and Greater Manchester level and that positive work was taking place to improve safety. He informed Members about Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM)'s plans for a Road Danger Reduction Strategy and reported that the Council was reviewing speed limits across the city.

In response to a Member's question, Chief Superintendent Mark Dexter from GMP clarified that the second table within the report, under the title "OP Considerate - Number of reports by nature of report" related to reports where footage of an incident, from a vehicle's dashboard camera or a cyclist's helmet camera had been provided. He outlined how GMP, under Operation Considerate, was standardising the process for responding to this type of reporting and taking the opportunity to educate or prosecute drivers, as appropriate. He reported that from 2011 onwards funding for road safety and road policing had reduced, which had affected GMP's ability to support community speed watch, but that this was now changing. He advised Members that issues could be raised through local policing tasking meetings and that local police teams had capacity and capability to do some work on road safety on local residential streets, with the central Roads Policing Unit becoming involved to tackle more sustained or more serious road safety issues or those on major arterial routes. He advised that some incidents related to people who were normally law-abiding but had on occasion driven without due care and attention or slightly over the speed limit but that there was another group of recidivist offenders who were not insured and were also carrying out other offences, including using the car while carrying out these crimes. He reported that this group tended to create the most danger on the roads as this was a persistent behaviour and that targeting these offenders on the arterial routes would also improve safety on local roads as this group tended to drive in a dangerous manner wherever they drove. He informed the Committee that the number of police officers in the Roads Policing Unit was being increased from 60 to 120 and that the recruitment process had already started, with some recruitment taking place outside of Greater Manchester to recruit officers who already had the requisite skills. In response to a Member's question, he advised that this expansion of the unit would take GMP to just below the national average in terms of resources for this area of work.

Chief Superintendent Mark Dexter acknowledged the point about improving communications about road safety initiatives, which he advised should be promoted through neighbourhood teams and community groups. He advised that social media communications were mainly via Twitter but that he would take on board a Member's

comment that active community groups tended to use Facebook rather than Twitter, as well as communicating the initiatives through Greater Manchester councils and local meetings. He agreed with a Member's comment that information should not just be communicated via social media. The Head of Network Management reported that information was communicated to Members via the Members' dashboard and the Highways Bulletin and that more information could be included on road safety. The Chair expressed concern that some Members were not aware of the Members' dashboard. The Head of Network Management advised that he would look into this.

In response to a Member's question about off-road bikes, including quad bikes, Chief Superintendent Mark Dexter outlined the approaches GMP used to address this issue and some of the challenges this presented, for example, the risks involved in chasing someone on a quad bike, who was often young, not wearing a helmet and not trained in using it. He also responded to issues relating to motorbikes, advising that the no-pursuit policy for motorbikes had been abandoned, outlining the circumstances where pursuit might be used, and reporting that helicopters and drones could also be used where appropriate. He advised that he would take back to GMP Members' strength of feeling about the issues that bikes were causing in their wards. In response to a Member's comment about dangerous cycling by cyclists working for takeaway delivery companies, he advised that he would take this issue forward and look at what could be done to address this, working with the companies concerned and through education and enforcement. He informed the Committee about the work taking place to take pressure off neighbourhoods policing teams.

The Head of Network Management reported that a record was kept of all requests for road safety schemes and that his service also undertook an analysis to understand where there were hotspots across the city and that this information was used if funding opportunities arose. A Member commented that it would be useful for Members to be told that the Council had a record of the request for a scheme in a particular area and that, should funding become available, it would be introduced, so that they could communicate this to residents.

In response to a Member's concerns that road safety measures would only be put in place on a road after there had been a fatality or serious collision rather than listening to local knowledge, the Head of Network Management reported that the Council did not currently have funding for highway improvement schemes; however, he acknowledged that accidents were under-reported and agreed that basing decisions solely on these figures was not always the best approach, that the local community was often aware of how dangerous a road was and that, when funding for these schemes was available, decisions on where to place them should be based on risk. In response to a Member's comments, he assured the Committee that, before any road safety schemes were taken forward, his service would engage with neighbourhood teams and Ward Councillors.

In response to a Member's question, Chief Superintendent Mark Dexter advised that GMP had a unit dedicated to tackling the criminal use of cars and stolen cars, which also had an effect on road safety. He advised that GMP's Intelligence Data Bureau was being reformed and this improvement would enable data to be provided at a ward level in future. In response to a Member's question, he reported that GMP had

been involved in approximately 600 police pursuits within the last year which had, sadly, resulted in a few fatalities, which were subject to national scrutiny and governance, including by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

The Chair thanked officers and Chief Superintendent Mark Dexter and asked the Chief Superintendent to pass his thanks onto GMP officers for the work they did.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CESC/22/15          One Year Extension to the Our Manchester Voluntary & Community Sector (OMVCS) and Development Fund Grants Programmes 2022/23**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Reform which summarised the approach to extending the grant funding arrangements in place with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations currently funded through the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) and Development Fund Grants Programmes. The paper presented the process and timescales for this extension throughout the 2022-23 financial year.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- The process timeline;
- The extension proposal form, which asked funded organisations to answer a series of mandatory questions; and
- The RAG rating of organisations and actions where there were concerns.

The Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) informed Members that the Council intended to undertake a co-design process with key stakeholders over the next year in relation to a further Our Manchester VCS Fund running from 2023 to 2026, subject to budget approval. He suggested that the Committee receive a report on this in the next municipal year.

In response to a Member's comment about how the Council was measuring the funded organisations against zero carbon targets, the Policy and Programmes Manager reported that a light touch approach was being taken as this had not been a specific requirement in the original fund but that he expected the refresh of the scheme to reflect the Council's commitments on zero carbon. In response to a Member's question, he informed the Committee how the organisations that had been awarded funding had been monitored to ensure the money was being spent in the way it was intended, while allowing some flexibility, for example, for some services to be delivered online during the pandemic. In response to a Member's request that the organisations' quarterly monitoring reports be scrutinised by the Committee, the Chair advised that it was not appropriate for the Committee to carry out contract management but that these reports could inform the content of future reports to the Committee.

Committee Members raised a number of questions which related to the forthcoming review of the Fund, including how organisations, particularly smaller grassroots groups, which were not currently in receipt of funding could access funding in the next round, how these groups could be supported to get into a position where they were able to successfully bid for funding, how social enterprise organisations could access the fund, Members' involvement in the review and ensuring that black and Asian communities benefited from the fund.

The Deputy Leader advised that the State of the Sector report provided some of the information Members were interested in and that this would be circulated to the Committee. He reported that he would arrange sessions for Members to input into the review of the fund. The Chair welcomed that Members would be able to contribute to the review.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CESC/22/16 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.

Members noted that this was Councillor Hacking's last meeting as Chair of the Committee and thanked him for his work over the last four years.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.



## **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 February 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Davies, Hacking, Hitchen, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, B Priest, Robinson, Simcock, Wheeler and Wright

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader  
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment

**Apologies:** Councillor Rowles

#### **RGSS/22/07 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022 as a correct record.

#### **RGSS/22/08 Corporate Core Budget Report 2022/23**

Further to minute (RGSC/21/46), the Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor, which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- Overall, the settlement announcement was towards the positive end of expectations and it was expected that mitigations in the region of £7.7m, as previously identified, would be sufficient to balance the 2022/23 budget;
- The budget assumptions that underpinned 2022/23 to 2024/25 included the commitments made as part of the 2021/22 budget process to fund ongoing demand pressures as well as provision to meet other known pressures such as inflation and any pay awards (estimated at 3% from 2022/23);
- Whilst this contributed to the scale of the budget gap it was important that a realistic budget was set which reflected ongoing cost and demand pressures;
- The focus would now be on identifying savings and mitigations to keep the Council on a sustainable financial footing; and
- It was proposed that budget cuts and savings of £60m over three years would be developed for Member consideration which equated to just under 12% of 2022/23 directorate budgets. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences.

The Leader advised that whilst there was no major changes to the proposed budget following the report in November, a decade of austerity had resulted in £420 million having been removed from the Council's budget, resulting in a 15% reduction in spending power compared to a national average of 2.4% and if Manchester had had the national average applied to its budget, it would have a further £85 million in its budget today.

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

- The Council found itself in a situation of uncertainty with just having a one year settlement, forcing it to make preparations for massive reductions in budgets which could have been avoided if the Council had received a longer Finance Settlement;
- The Committee applauded the commitment by the Council to continue to provide Free School Meals during school holidays to those who were entitled to free school meals attending schools and early year settings;
- It would be useful to receive more stringent proposals regarding the capital investment to support carbon reduction measures on the Council's corporate estate at a future meeting;
- What progress had been made on the potential naming rights for The Factory and what guarantee was there that the loan to The Factory Trust, provided by way of grant, underwritten by the Council's MIF reserve would be repaid;
- Assurance was sought that in identifying a suitable naming rights partner, the Council would ensure its reputation would not be adversely impacted;
- More information was requested on the HR/OD service redesign saving proposals;
- Had there been any indication whether there would be any associated administration costs to help support the Government's announcement that people would get a £150 council tax rebate in April to help with the cost of energy;
- Was there any indication yet on what the pay award for staff will be yet;
- With the increase in energy and food costs, was the Council expecting an increase in the number of residents that struggled to pay their Council Tax; and
- Were the proposed savings associated with operational property as a result of the Council exiting leases of office space or the sale of council owned buildings.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that there was a report being considered by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee that set out the details of the investments made to date into the Council's climate change agenda which supported the Action Plan and proposals for additional investment in the next financial year.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that work was underway in terms of fundraising for The Factory. The partner to assist in finding a suitable naming rights partner had been procured and was working closely with the Council and commercial discussions were underway. The proposal of the loan was to underwrite any cashflow issues from the reserves that was funding the future grant for MIF, which was a deliberate decision to avoid a cost to the Council. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer assured the Committee that comments made by this committee previously in relation to the naming rights had been taken on board



and there was a strong ethical policy that sat alongside the agreements. The Leader emphasised this point, advising that she chaired The factory Board, which received regular updates in terms of how money was being spent as well as the progress being made around the naming rights.

In relation to the proposed HR/OD service redesign saving proposals, it was explained that in terms of the Corporate Core, there were two sets of savings, one being the adjustment to the vacancy factor and the other being through staffing changes as part of a service redesign which would be completed in quarter 4 of 2021/22.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that negotiations on the staff pay award were still taking place and a decision in the percentage increase had not concluded. In terms of the £150 council tax rebate, it was confirmed that there would be new burdens funding, but the allocation had not yet been determined.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that it was difficult to determine what the impact of rising energy and food costs would be at this stage. Those on lower incomes did receive financial Council Tax support and the service also provided additional support around helping those getting into financial difficulty. In relation to the proposed savings associated with operational property, the Council was exiting two office buildings within the city centre.

## Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Endorse the budget proposals.
- (2) Endorse the recommendations that the Executive:-
  - Note the development of the funding agreement set out in Appendix 1.
  - Support the initial underwriting of the Factory Trust fundraising costs by way of a grant agreement, to be met from the Council's existing MIF reserve and reimbursed when fund raising is received, and delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor to finalise the grant agreement, including any conditions for drawdown and repayment.
  - Approve lease arrangements with delegation to finalise the details to Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor.
  - Continue the support to families to provide free school meals for the 2022 Easter Holiday at £15 per pupil per week. Vouchers will be distributed to households on a pupil basis via schools. This will be funded in line with the arrangements set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
  - Note the Chancellors announcement on the proposal for a £150 council tax rebate for all band A-D properties.
  - Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Leader of the Council the finalising the detail of the administration of the council tax 'rebate' £150 payment.
  - Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in conjunction with the Leader of the Council responsibility for designing and implement the discretionary support scheme. The scheme will be reported back to March Executive.

## **RGSS/22/09 Housing Revenue Account 2022/23 to 2024/25**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which set out the details on the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2022/23 and an indication of the 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- The HRA Budget Position for 2021/22, which as of December 2021, was forecasting that net expenditure would be £11.621m lower than budget, inked to delays in capital projects;
- Although the expenditure is lower than originally forecast, it is still more than the annual income and the forecast in-year deficit of £5.073m will be drawn down from the HRA reserve
- The Budget Strategy 2022/23 - 2024/25,
- The management of Housing Stock and the implications of “Right to Buy” on rental income;
- Details of the various budget assumptions;
- A proposed 4.1% increase to dwelling rents and garage rents
- A proposal to establish a £200,000 hardship fund to support vulnerable tenants; and
- The Reserves Forecast 2022/22 to 2024/25

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

- Whilst welcoming the proposed hardship fund, what was the timeframe for the distribution of these funds;
- Would the hardship fund be available to just Council housing tenants or for also other social housing tenants;
- PFI housing partners should be encouraged to contribute to the hardship funding;
- In relation to investment proposals, was there scope in the budget for any additional HRA council housing;
- Was there any indication from Government of additional funding to assist in the retrofitting of existing properties to achieve zero carbon targets, either direct to Manchester or via the Combined Authority;
- What lobbying was taking place to address the need for further government funding to deliver more social rent homes in Manchester and when was the current round of this policy going to be reviewed;
- How many properties associated with the operational overspend of £0.947 where council properties;
- Clarity was sought on the proposed heating tariffs;
- What was the current level of bad debt and consequently how had it been determined that the ongoing forecast requirement was 1% for the life of the plan;

- What was the capital expenditure on fire safety and what was anticipated to be the level of spend required to meet legislative requirements and the cost of going beyond this requirement to meet any potential future changes in legislation;
- What funding was being allocated on the decent homes programme, with reference around improved kitchen and bathroom facilities

The Director of Housing Operations advised that the process for distributing the hardship fund would be finalised over the coming weeks using the established mechanisms in place for welfare support use during the Covid crisis.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment confirmed that the hardship fund would only be available to tenants in council owned housing stock (Northwards) and those in Council controlled housing stock, including tenants who resided in properties within the two PFI schemes. Other Registered Providers were also establishing their own hardship funds to support their tenants

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment advised that the current budget outlined the two housing schemes and also investment in existing stock in terms of air source heat pumps, thermal insulation and triple glazing and improving existing stock to net zero carbon standards. Further capital outlay into further housing stock was an ambition of the HRA to deliver on the Council's priorities in delivering social rent homes in north and east Manchester.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment advised he would look into when the current policy on government funding for more social rent homes was to be removed. He added a lot of work had taken place on safety improvements to towers blocks and money was set aside on the HRA to continue this work. In addition, he reported that Greater Manchester had been successful in receiving £10.5 million to help with the retrofit works. Details of how this was to be distributed were yet to be announced but Manchester would be lobbying strongly to get a fair share of this.

The Head of Finance agreed to provide details following the meeting on the number social HRA properties that were contributing to the operational overspend. He also advised that as the increase in gas prices was at present unknown, Officers had outlined a range of various pricing models to give an indication of what the increase could potentially be and was based on the volume of consumption against price. He also agreed to confirm why the pay by point of sale for Northwards 2/4 Blocks was not proposed to increase in comparison to other schemes.

The Committee was advised that in relation to bad debt, there had been an underspend for the last few years as the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit and the pandemic had been lower than originally forecasted. Therefore, the business plan had been adjusted for 2022/23 onwards. The forecast provision for bad debt in 2021/22 was around 0.65% of rental income, and so the ongoing forecast requirement of 1% for the life of the plan was a 0.5% reduction from the previous assumption in the business plan. The collection rates and level of bad debts would be kept under review

The Director of Housing Operations advised that the majority of capital programme spend over the last two years had been on fire safety and compliance. In terms of the Asset Management priorities, these had been focussed on decent homes, re-roofing, widow replacement and replacement of kitchen and bathrooms. He agreed to provide the Capital Programme to members of the committee for information.

## **Decision**

The Committee note the report.

### **RGSS/22/10 Strategic Communications three-year strategy and service priorities**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Strategic Communications that provided an update on the Council's three-year communications strategy, to be adopted from April 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The communications priorities for 2022/23;
- The social media strategy implemented in 2021; and
- Example of the monthly evaluation template.

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

- Did staff from the team work at weekends to deliver messages via social media, noting the importance of accurate civil contingency messaging;
- Was social media used to encourage residents to respond to consultations and used as a platform for people to submit detailed considered responses;
- Would there be the ability for members of the public to upload photographs online when reporting issues or making a request for service to the Council;
- More information was requested on the work of the translation service and calling for the need to promote the work of this service, particularly noting their work in supporting residents during the pandemic;
- Noting that the issue of digital exclusion was an issue for many residents across the city; and
- Did the service work with the Revenues and Benefits Unit.

The Head of Strategic Communications responded to the comments and questions by advising that colleagues did work at weekends; however he noted the specific concerns raised by the Member regarding the recent flooding events and advised that he would look into this following the meeting. He commented that the team worked closely with the local Neighbourhood Teams to assist them with the delivery of key messaging and communications. He advised that clear English and the approved accessibility standards were used in the delivery of communications, adding that they did work with the Revenues and Benefit Unit.

The Head of Strategic Communications recognised the importance of the translation service in delivering this work, particularly during the pandemic and the work underway across the city to address health inequalities, adding that they were

integral to the successful delivery of front-line services. He further made reference to their work when helping support recent arrivals to the city, most recently from Afghanistan. He advised that there were over 200 languages spoken in the city, and the service engaged with local sounding boards to ensure the service responded to the needs of the residents in the city. He suggested that the Committee might wish to consider scheduling a specific report on the work of the translation service.

The Head of Strategic Communications stated that all direct correspondence from residents to the Council via social media was monitored and where appropriate referred to the relevant teams for attention or action. He stated that digital conversations across a range of platforms were reviewed to understand the nature of these conversations that were relevant to the organisation. With reference to consultations, he advised that these had to comply with specific legal guidance.

The Head of Strategic Communications spoke on the issue of digital exclusion and made reference to the range of information and advice that was provided off line. He further discussed the work to improve digital access with both schools and the libraries service. In addition, he mentioned the relationships established with local health providers as a means of strengthening the reach from the Council to vulnerable groups.

The Head of Customer Services advised that the implementation of the RBDXP system, due to be implemented from the summer of 2023 to replace the Council's current CRM system would allow for residents to upload photographs, noting that the current system did not support that function. He further added that this would also be linked to a GPS system to assist with the accurate identification of locations where there was a request for service. He further advised that the possibility of sending a response photograph to demonstrate what action had been taken would be explored.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

### **RGSS/22/11 Future Shape of the Council – Digital, Estates, Ways of Working and ICT strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the Future Shape Programme including an update on Development of the ICT Strategy and the Estates Strategy (linked to how we worked) and how they related to the programme.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The Future Council programme objectives and overview of workstreams;
- An overview of the digitally integrated council workstream;
- The role of ICT in the successful delivery of the programme, along with progress to date on the draft ICT Strategy and future target operating model for the service; and
- The role of Estates and ways of working in the successful delivery of the programme.

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

- Whilst supporting the ambitions described it was important to recognise that many residents experienced digital exclusion, as a result of a range of reasons and the need to ensure that residents could contact the Council through traditional methods, such as via a telephone call;
- Noting the importance of reliable WIFI and appropriate devices to ensure staff could undertake their work in an appropriate and safe manner, with particular reference to the important work of Social Workers;
- Information was sought as to the delivery and nature of Social Value as part of this programme of work;
- What security measures were in place for devices, such as laptops that staff were now asked to bring with them to allow them to work in offices and remotely; and
- Requesting that a briefing note be circulated to members of the Committee that described the discussions and agreements reached regarding staff health and safety considerations and mobile working.

The Head of Customer Services recognised the comments expressed regarding the need to maintain the provision of face-to-face appointments and telephone contact as a means for residents to contact the Council. He stated that these would continue to be provided. He advised that the programme described would improve all channels of communications. The Leader commented that in the previous two years the contact centre had taken in excess of 400,000 calls each year and suggested that this would be captured in future update reports to provide an assurance to the Committee.

The Director of ICT stated that he recognised the importance of WIFI for staff, including Social Workers, to enable them to undertake their duties. He described that services and sites, such as district offices where Social Workers were located would be prioritised as part of the implementation plan, noting the global supply issue that had hampered the delivery of the project, however he advised the Committee that this issue had been escalated with the supplier.

The Director of ICT stated that Social Value would be delivered through the contracts awarded in the delivery of this programme, with an emphasis on the Year of the Child. The Leader stated that a more detailed report on the delivery of Social Value across this and a range of projects could be provided for consideration at a future meeting.

The Director of ICT commented that a briefing note could be provided to all Members regarding the proposals for the IT arrangements in the Members work room. The Deputy Leader stated that a fixed PC would be available for Members in the work room.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer informed the Committee that a significant amount of work had been undertaken with Health and Safety colleagues to ensure the devices and laptop bags selected for staff were appropriate and all devices were encrypted, adding that the laptops also replaced the traditional landline, and that where required the appropriate devices were used, such as using mobile phones for Social Workers.

## **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Recommends that a briefing note be circulated to members of the Committee that describes the discussions and agreements reached regarding staff health and safety considerations and mobile working.

## **RGSS/22/12 Overview Report**

The Committee considered the report by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fall within the Committee's remit and an update on actions resulting from the Committee's recommendations. The report also included the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

Following a comment from a Member, the Chair asked that an update to the outstanding recommendation, detailed at section one of the report 'Monitoring Previous Recommendations' be provided.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the Committee's Work Programme.





## **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 March 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Hitchen, Lanchbury, B Priest, Robinson, Simcock and Wheeler

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment

**Apologies:** Councillor Davies, Rowles and Wright

#### **RGSS/22/14 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022 as a correct record.

#### **RGSS/22/15 Housing Services Advisory Committee March Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) and Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update to the Committee on the proposed new governance arrangements in respect of the Council Housing Stock.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- The new advisory committee was intended to provide oversight of the housing management and maintenance services (formerly Northwards ALMO);
- The advisory committee would make a significant contribution to empowering tenants and ensuring that North Manchester residents helped shape and hold to account the Council's Housing Service; and
- Set out the responses to the RAGOS recommendations of December 2021.

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

- Would meetings of the Northwards Housing Service Advisory Committee be held in public;
- Would papers for such meetings be made available to all Councillors with Northwards Housing properties in their wards;
- What were the quorum arrangements for these meetings;
- Recognising the number of response from tenants, this engagement and interest needed to be built upon and harnessed; and

- Consideration needed to be given to establishing Neighbourhood Panels to capture local tenant voices that could then feed into the Northwards Housing Service Advisory Committee.

The Director of Housing Operations advised Members that meetings of the Northwards Housing Service Advisory Committee would be held in public, in North Manchester at the request of the tenants. He confirmed that the quorum would be five, comprised of resident and elected members. He confirmed that the papers for these meetings would be shared with all elected Members with Northwards Housing properties in their wards. He advised that the recruitment for the co-opted Member was currently ongoing. In response to a specific question, he confirmed that if the number of Council managed properties increased these proposed governance arrangements would be reviewed.

The Executive Member advised that he did not wish to duplicate work and structures that already existed across neighbourhoods and he did not wish to appear to be prescriptive in how the Advisory Committee operated. He commented that it would be appropriate to ask that the Advisory Committee consider how the wider resident voice was best captured and fed into the Committee, noting the need to capture the diversity of views of all tenants. He advised that information on how this had been progressed would be reported in any future update report to the Committee.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

## **RGSS/22/16 Manchester City Council Peer Review and Action Plan**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive that described that Manchester City Council had requested a Corporate Peer Review from the Local Government Association (LGA) which had taken place from 30 November to 3 December 2021.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- The overall feedback from the peer reviewers was very positive for both the Council and the city;
- The peer review report highlighted seven areas for improvement that align with the Council's existing Corporate and Business Plan priorities;
- An action plan had been drafted to address these issues; and
- A follow-up visit for the peer reviewers to check in on progress will be arranged for September 2022.

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

- Welcoming the many positive findings of the review;
- Noting that the strength of scrutiny in Manchester was recognised and the Committee paid tribute to all of the officers who supported this important function;
- The need to measure progress and outcomes against the action plan;

- The need to ensure that all staff, regardless of grade were aware of the ambitions of the action plan and their role in delivering this, adding that this needed to be explicit within the actions;
- Welcoming the commitment to address poverty and inequalities; and
- Paying tribute to all staff working across the Neighbourhood Teams and recognising the important work they deliver on behalf of the residents of the city.

The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform advised that the action plan would be shared more widely with partners, including the Our Manchester Investment Board and all managers within the Council would discuss the plan and the key themes with staff and would inform the ongoing 1 to 1's with staff. This would further inform the approach to wider staff development initiatives.

The Leader welcomed the positive comments from the Members and paid tribute to the officers who had facilitated the peer review. She commented that the review had been undertaken in the spirit of a critical friend and they had identified many strengths and positive examples of progress and leadership by the Council to improve outcomes for residents, especially in the context of the budget restraints. She stated that the Council had been identified as being able to adapt and respond positively to challenges. She commented that one of the findings was that the Council needed to talk more positively and promote the many positive initiatives and improvements we had delivered, noting this was very unusual for a peer review to recommend.

The Leader stated that the strength, arrangements and approach to scrutiny in Manchester had been recognised as very positive, noting that scrutiny presented a robust challenge to the Executive.

The Leader commented that it was understood that the work to address inequalities and adverse health outcomes was a strand of work that cut across all aspects of the work of the Council, adding that this was informed and strengthened by the work undertaken with Professor Michael Marmot. She advised that progress against this work to reduce inequities and improve outcomes for residents was captured in the State of the City report and she recommended that each of the scrutiny committees would continue to monitor progress of the action plan throughout the year, adding that consideration would be given to include targets and reports outcomes.

The Leader stated that consideration would continue to be given as to how the Capital Programme Budget aligned to neighbourhood priorities.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

## **RGSS/22/17 Progress Made With Council Motions Over Last 24 Months**

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor that provided an update on the progress made in respect of motions that have been passed before Manchester City Council over the last 2 years.

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

- Recommending that an annual report on the Progress Made With Council Motions be submitted to the Committee for consideration;
- The annual report should be circulated to all Members of the Council; and
- Noting that motions passed at Council had influenced Government policy and had articulated the concerns and issues experienced by Manchester residents.

The Leader commented that consideration would be given as how to best to capture all of the activities that arose following the passing of a Council motion, mindful of the difference between officer activity and political activity.

The City Solicitor advised that further information on the recent Spiking motion would be circulated following the meeting.

### **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and recommends that an annual update report is submitted for consideration at an appropriate time.

### **RGSS/22/18 Overview Report**

The Committee considered the report by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fall within the Committee's remit and an update on actions resulting from the Committee's recommendations. The report also included the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

The Chair noted that the new Chair and Committee would hold a work programming session at the meeting in May, the first meeting of the new municipal year to consider the Work Programme. Noting the comments and requests for future reports when the Committee considered the previous agenda items.

### **Decision**

The Committee note the report and agree the work programme, noting the above comments.

### **RGSS/22/19 Vote of thanks**

The Committee recognised that this would be the last meeting that Councillor Russell would attend in her capacity as Chair. Members wished to place on record their appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the work of the Committee.

## Health Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair  
Councillors Appleby, Curley, Hussain, Leech, Monaghan, Newman, Reeves, Riasat and Richards

#### Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment  
Sir Richard Leese, Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board for Greater Manchester  
Dr Manisha Kumar, Executive Clinical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)  
Dr Raja Murugesan, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning  
Ed Dyson, Executive Director of Strategy & Deputy Chief Accountable Officer, MHCC

### HSC/22/07 Minutes

#### Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 as a correct record.

### HSC/22/08 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 had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting. The presentations provided an update on COVID-19 activity that included the latest available information on data and intelligence.

Key points and themes in the presentation included:

- The latest headline figures for the 7 days ending 2 February 2022;
- An update on the vaccination programme with particular reference to the vaccine coverage, vaccine equity, the 12–17 year old programme and the Overseas Pilot;
- Information on the Communications and Engagement Plans; and
- Pregnancy and COVID-19 and the related targeted engagement work.

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

- Welcoming the report and acknowledging the information that had been provided surrounding pregnancy following the discussion at the previous meeting;
- What was the approach to ensuring those vulnerable residents who required a fourth vaccination were being contacted;
- What advice was being given to enable care homes to safely manage any outbreaks of COVID-19;

- Noting that the vaccination rates in Manchester were low compared to the national data;
- The need to promote and emphasise the message of the wider social responsibility of receiving the vaccination;
- The need to publicise people's experience of suffering with COVID who had not taken up the offer of a vaccination;
- Were Further Education settings included in the communications strategy, adding that work needed to be done to challenge the myths surrounding pregnancy and the vaccination amongst young people;
- Thanking the officers within the Neighbourhood Teams for their continued good work and support they continued to provide to local communities; and
- The need to use trusted voices on social media to disrupt myths surrounding COVID-19 and the vaccination.

The Director of Public Health advised that if an outbreak of COVID occurred in a care home setting each home would be supported to manage the outbreak appropriately, using all of the national guidance.

The Executive Clinical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning acknowledged the comments raised regarding the promotion of the vaccination both in terms of social responsibility and using lived experiences as a lever to encourage people to come forward. She added that any promotional and educational campaign would require sensitivity when using an individual's personal experience to articulate the impact of COVID-19 on both families and individuals.

The Executive Clinical Director further advised that there was an audit underway of GP records to identify those vulnerable patients who would be eligible for a fourth jab, adding that if Members had concerns about an individual, they should encourage them to contact their GP surgery. She further commented that this exercise also assisted with ensuring that all Learning Disabled citizens were supported to obtain their vaccination in an appropriate setting for them.

The Director of Public Health advised that following this exercise of auditing GP records a bench marking exercise could be undertaken to more accurately report on how Manchester compared to other comparative areas on the rates of vaccinations. The Executive Clinical Director added that the work being delivered as part of the Overseas Pilot would also contribute to the accurate recording of the levels of vaccinations within the city.

The Head of Strategic Communications stated that Colleges were included as part of the wider communications strategy, however he would enquire if the specific issue raised by a Member surrounding pregnancy was included. He commented that it was important that the person delivering the message was a trusted voice. He stated that the Council's Communications Tool Kit was shared with trusted community groups and Sounding Boards.

The Head of Neighbourhoods stated that officers continued to engage with residents at local neighbourhood events, including specific COVID vaccination events to understand the reasons and barriers as to why they had not come forward sooner, and this learning and intelligence was collected and reflected upon.

## Decision

To note the presentation and to pay tribute to all staff, including those across the Neighbourhood Teams and partners working to address COVID-19.

### **HSC/22/09 Health and Social Care - Adult Social Care and Population Health Budget 2022/23**

Further to minute (HSC/21/45) the Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Adult Social Services and Director of Public Health which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- The finance settlement was towards the positive end of forecasts and no actions beyond those outlined in November were required to balance next year's budget;
- The settlement was for one year only and considerable uncertainty remained from 2023/24;
- A longer-term strategy to close the budget gap was being prepared with an estimated requirement to find budget cuts and savings in the region of £60m over the next three years;
- £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences;
- A description of the Adult Social Care Priorities;
- An overview of the Manchester City Council Adult Social Care Budget and Manchester Local Care Organisation aligned budget; and
- The capital budget and pipeline priorities.

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

- The need to explicitly articulate the demand on the Adult Social Care budget and the services that the Council is statutory responsible to deliver, in the context of continued austerity and budget cuts;
- The need for a fair, long term financial settlement for the city;
- The budget should be used to address the recognised health inequalities within the city;
- The Government was in denial of challenges faced by the NHS;
- Paying tribute to the Deputy Leader and officers and NHS partners for their continued commitment to protecting the most vulnerable residents within the city; and
- Was there any possibility of further additional one off funding sources.

In response to comments the Director of Finance (MLCO) stated that there were no further additional one off sources of funding, adding that the integrated approach to

the budget ensured that there was an appropriate use of the budget and resources available.

The Deputy Leader commented that whilst the overall settlement announcement was towards the positive end of expectations, this did not constitute being a good settlement and the Council had lost over £400m from its budget since 2010. If the Council had received the average level of cuts in funding, this year it would have at least £85m in its budget. The Council was also still dealing with the legacy of the COVID pandemic and the promise from government that it would compensate local authorities with whatever they needed. She added that it was not possible to undo a decade of cuts with a settlement in one year that was not as severe as anticipated and looking beyond next financial year there was significant worries which meant that the Council needed to continue its call for fair and sustainable funding.

The Deputy Leader commented that whilst the settlement was better than anticipated, the Council still faced a very challenging three year budget position. In 2022/23 the Council would be using the last of its commercial income reserve to help balance the budget and there was a remaining budget gap of approximately £37m in 2023/24 and £58m in 2024/25. As the settlement announcement was for only one year, the Council was facing increasing uncertainty with proposals around fairer funding reforms and the implications of these.

The Deputy Leader commented that the ASC budget accounted for 35% of the Council's overall budget as it was required to provide statutory services and the settlement provided no additional funding for increased demand in ASC. She stated that a fair, sustainable plan was needed in order to plan effectively so as to provide essential services for Manchester residents.

The Chair welcomed the inclusion of addressing climate action within the Population Health Team's priorities for 2022-23. She further commented that the Committee would schedule an item on the Work Programme to consider the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Better Outcomes, Better Lives programme.

## **Decision**

The Committee note the report and endorse a recommendation that the Executive approve these budget proposals.

### **HSC/22/10 An Introduction to the Impact of Climate Change on Health and Healthcare in Manchester**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided an introduction to climate change in Manchester and the city's ambitions and activities to date. The report provided an overview of the impact that climate change was having, and was predicted to have in the future, on the health of Manchester's residents and the potential impacts on healthcare services and facilities in Manchester.

Key points and themes in the report included:



- Providing an introduction and background, noting that in July 2019, Manchester City Council declared a Climate Emergency which recognised the need for the Council, and the city as a whole, to do more to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change;
- Noting that the Our Manchester Strategy set out the commitment that *‘Manchester will play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change’* and the subsequent Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 and its four headline objectives;
- Providing an overview of the reports published recently that had emphasised the link between climate change and its impact on health;
- Recognising the need to consider vulnerability as well as hazard and exposure to climate change if we were able to gain a full appreciation of the risk;
- Discussing the implications of extreme weather events and the activities in Manchester to mitigate against these;
- Noting that air pollution presented a significant public health problem and describing the activities in Manchester to mitigate against this, including an update on the introduction of the Clean Air Zone;
- Providing a discussion on the relationship between food and climate and providing an overview of the work of the Manchester Food Board;
- The relationship between mental health and climate change; and
- Health Care System and Services and the steps taken to reduce emissions.

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

- Welcoming the establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Climate Change Advisory Group, and noting the partners involved in this group;
- Recognising the impact that poor air quality had on health outcomes, particularly for young people and elderly residents;
- The need to acknowledge the harmful effects of particulate matter when considering air quality;
- The need for air quality data to be easily accessible; and
- That a report on the climate change action plans of the local NHS Trusts be considered at an appropriate time, noting that this should include the consideration given to improving the existing estate.

Dr Raja Murugesan, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning advised that he was a member of the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership. He advised that the priority for the NHS currently was post COVID recovery, and this included a green and sustainable recovery with climate change as a consideration of all decision making. He further commented that the harmful effects of particulates and poor air quality was recognised and understood.

The Head of Environment, Planning and Infrastructure advised that the issue of poor air quality was being addressed at a Greater Manchester level, in addition to the Council’s active travel plans and wider connectivity plans for the city, with particular reference to the planned improved public transport links to the Manchester Airport site. He further commented that air quality monitoring data was available on the Greater Manchester Clean Air website.

The Director of Public Health stated that the Manchester Public Health Annual Report 2018 was dedicated to the issue of air quality and would be recirculated to Members following the meeting and that air quality data continued to be monitored and reported. He suggested that a specific report on air quality could be provided to a future meeting for consideration.

The Executive Member for Environment advised that all Members had been involved in the production of their ward Climate Action Plans, noting that the relationship between climate change and health outcomes was understood. She further advised that the Council's Climate Change Action Plan and the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 would be refreshed, and health considerations and specific actions would be incorporated. She further advised of local campaigns with schools to promote clean air and other environmental initiatives that had been supported by Neighbourhood Teams, adding that it was the intention to roll out the School Streets initiative across the city. She further advised the Committee that a report on the work of the Manchester Food Board had been considered by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee at their meeting of 13 January 2022.

The Chair noted that this was the first time a substantive report on health and climate change had been considered by the Committee. She stated that consideration would be given to scheduling further detailed themed reports on this important issue, noting the various specific issues that had been discussed at the meeting, such as the opportunity to consider the climate change action plans for each of the NHS Trusts in Manchester.

The Chair further stated that the relationship between health and climate change was an important issue and supported the inclusion of the specific work stream within the Marmot Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equality and Dignified Lives to address this.

The Deputy Leader stated that the importance and immediacy of addressing climate change was understood. She stated that she supported the Chair's comments regarding future, deep dive reports on specific issues relating to climate change and health, adding that she would discuss this further with the Chair.

## **Decision**

The Committee recommend that the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Environment, agree the topic and scope of future quarterly reports on the issue of health and climate change, such as of interest such as air quality and food. These reports are to be included on the Work Programme and scheduled for consideration at an appropriate time.

[Councillor Appleby declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this item as she is an employee of the Manchester College]

## **HSC/22/11 The Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Strategy & Deputy Chief Accountable Officer, MHCC that provided an update on the establishment of a

Greater Manchester Integrated Care System / Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Manchester Locality Board.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Subject to legislation passing through parliament, Integrated Care Systems (ICS) would be established in England from 1 July 2022;
- The report described the four aims of the ICS and the national core building blocks of an ICS;
- Greater Manchester would witness a shift from the Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) arrangements to a new Greater Manchester ICS and Integrated Care Board (ICB);
- Integrated Care Board would take on the functions of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) which would be disestablished on the 30th June 2022;
- Manchester City Council and NHS leaders had both contributed to the developing GM ICS and ICB arrangements and worked to develop locality arrangements for the City of Manchester;
- Describing the arrangements and function of the Manchester Partnership Board, noting that it would comprise of political, clinical and managerial leadership;
- Sir Richard Leese had been appointed Chair designate of the Greater Manchester ICB along with two non-executive directors; and
- An update on the refreshed Manchester Locality Plan which would ensure that local priorities continued to be delivered during the transition to the new arrangements in 2022/23.

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

- Recognising the sound foundations that had been established within Manchester to continue to support the continued integration of health and social care to deliver the best health outcomes for Manchester residents;
- Did the Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board recognise the concerns expressed that the model would present an opportunity for privatisation of the NHS;
- Who would be responsible for the commissioning of dental services, noting the importance of commissioning preventative dental services;
- Would the new model be more transparent and accountable in its decision making process;
- The need to address the issue of staff recruitment and retention, recognising that this was a local and national issue;
- The need to improve the physical infrastructure of the health service estate, noting that this also related to the climate change report that was on the meeting's agenda;
- The Board needed to reflect the diversity of the city; and
- The need to recognise the significant impact the previous two years had had on staff working in the NHS to respond to the pandemic and any reorganisation needed to be managed sensitively with support offered to all staff impacted by change.

The Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board stated that the proposed Manchester Locality Plan model and governance arrangements were a positive development to deliver improved health and care. He stated that this built upon the established and trusted relationships across partners in the city. He advised that he recognised the comments raised regarding the privatisation of services, however commented that he did not share these concerns. He further addressed the question regarding transparency and accountability by advising that the establishment of the Locality Boards as part of the GM Operating Model and governance arrangements would be accountable to both the Council and the ICB. He further commented that there would be increased public engagement as the model became established and encouraged local Councillors to be the voice of their residents also.

The Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board stated that the wider determinants of health were fully recognised and the Marmot Beacon Indicators would be used as a measure to report progress and outcomes, adding that he remained committed to addressing health inequalities in Manchester and the wider city region.

The Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board acknowledged the comments regarding the estate infrastructure, adding that he had undertaken a number of visits to various sites and witnessed the challenges. He commented that the NHS had been significantly underfunded for a number of years and required appropriate funding from central government. He further recognised the comments regarding the issue of recruitment and retention of staff and the challenge this presented, adding that work was ongoing to best manage and work with existing resources.

The Chair Designate of the Integrated Care Board stated that the removal of competition between local NHS Trusts was a positive improvement, adding that there was now a duty for them to collaborate.

The Executive Director of Strategy & Deputy Chief Accountable Officer, MHCC acknowledged the comments made regarding staff wellbeing during the organisational changes. He commented that this was fully appreciated and recognised.

The Executive Director of Strategy & Deputy Chief Accountable Officer, MHCC referred to the discussion regarding the provision of dental services and noted that the Committee had considered this item at their meeting of 8 September 2021 (see minute ref HSC/21/35). He advised that currently NHS England commissioned dental services, however the legislation did allow for the commissioning of certain functions to be delegated to the ICS.

The Deputy Leader thanked the officers for the report and recognised the significant amount of work that had been undertaken to progress this work. She reiterated the point that Manchester had already established strong partnership working across the city to integrate health and care services. She commented that all partners continued to demonstrate their stated commitment to addressing health inequalities and that the Marmot Beacon Indicators would be used to measure outcomes and progress.

## **Decision**

To note the report and recommend that an update report be included on the Work Programme and scheduled for consideration at an appropriate time.

### **HSC/22/12 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**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.



## Health Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair  
Councillors Appleby, Curley, Hussain, Newman, Reeves, Riasat and Richards

**Apologies:** Councillor Monaghan

#### Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Reid, Ward Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey  
Dr Manisha Kumar, Executive Clinical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning  
Jay Patient, Be Well Service Manager, Big Life Group  
Ian Green, PCN Coach, Big Life Group  
Steve Quinlan, Link Worker, Big Life Group  
Lynne Warburton, Pathways CIC  
George Ramsay, citizen of Manchester  
Gaynor Heaton, citizen of Manchester

### HSC/22/13 Minutes

#### Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 as a correct record.

### HSC/22/14 Living Safely and Fairly with Covid

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health and the Medical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning that described that following recent national announcements the Director of Public Health, council colleagues and other partners had been developing the local Manchester Living Fairly and Safely with Covid draft plan. This draft plan had been circulated to Members for consideration in advance of the meeting.

Key points and themes in the plan included:

- Summary of our Covid-19 response so far;
- Covid-19 Inequalities;
- Epidemiology, including possible future scenarios;
- National Living Safely with Covid-19 Strategy key information;
- Building a shared understanding of what 'living safely and fairly with Covid-19' meant for Manchester – our approach, what we would do and inequalities considerations;
- Local Governance arrangements;
- Our 12-point plan for Living Safely and Fairly with Covid-19 in Manchester; and
- Resource requirements.

The Committee further considered the joint presentation of the Director of Public Health and the Medical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning, that had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting that provided an update on COVID-19 activity.

Key points and themes in the presentation included:

- The latest headline figures for the 7 days ending 1 March 2022; and
- An update on the vaccination programme with particular reference to actions taken by Neighbourhood Teams to increase uptake across Wards, vaccine breakdown by ethnicity, case studies and feedback.

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

- To welcome the local Manchester Living Fairly and Safely with Covid draft plan, noting that it included actions to address inequalities and fairer access to services;
- Welcoming the information relating to the newsletter and the inclusion of the trusted voice that had been used to promote the vaccination in local communities, adding this model needed to be rolled out across other areas;
- Noting the prevalence of Covid cases in Manchester and how this could be related to increased social mixing and testing behaviours;
- Was there capacity within the existing teams to respond to any future wave of a Covid variant;
- Noting the removal of free testing and the importance of recognising that Omicrom was still present;
- Were Officers confident that Care Home settings were supported to manage any future outbreaks;
- Further information was sought on the Pakistani Sounding Board.

The Director of Public Health advised that the relaxation of the national restriction rules and the subsequent increase in social mixing would result in an increase in positive cases, adding that the vaccination was the best way to protect people from serious illness. He advised that following the decline in testing the team were now reliant on ONS (Office for National Statistics) data, noting that there were challenges associated with how this data was reported. He advised that the intention was to establish a bespoke local system to accurately monitor infection rates. He advised that a further national announcement was expected in the week commencing 21 March 2022 regarding the provision of LFT testing for vulnerable people, adding that all hospital staff; social care staff and hospital patients continued to be tested. In response to the questions raised regarding Care Homes, he stated that any patient to be discharged into a care home from a hospital was tested and good relationships had been established in Manchester to respond quickly and effectively to any outbreak in a Care Home setting. He further added that this area of work and locally developed response would be subject to a peer review as it had been recognised nationally as good practice.

The Public Health Consultant advised that the Health Protection Team and the Response Hub would be retained in the event they were required as a result of a further wave or variant. She stated that when not in a response mode these teams



would continue their work on wider health protection projects. She commented that the local helpline would be retained to offer advice and guidance to both residents and schools.

The Consultant in Public Health Medicine provided a response to the comment raised regarding the Pakistani Sounding Board by stating that it had been the decision of the members of the Board who had agreed to extend the Board to include members of the South Asian population. She added that following discussions, it was decided to establish a specific Pakistani Sounding Board which was established last year.

The Deputy Leader stated that the Manchester Living Fairly and Safely with Covid draft plan was a comprehensive document that reflected and built upon the learning and good practice developed over the previous two years. She paid tribute to everyone involved in the production of the plan and supported the work described to address inequalities. She reiterated her call to Government for a fair, sustainable funding plan to ensure that the city could deliver on its ambitions for the city and improve the health outcomes for all Manchester residents.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **HSC/22/15 Future Delivery of Social Prescribing**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided an overview of delivery of social prescribing in Manchester.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an outline of how the Be Well service worked;
- Examples of good practice in the delivery of social prescribing;
- Highlighting case studies of the benefits of the service for Manchester residents;
- A summary of the findings of the independent evaluation of Manchester's Prevention Programme, and other social prescribing initiatives currently being developed and delivered within both Manchester and Greater Manchester; and
- Describing the next steps in developing and delivering Manchester's social prescribing and wellbeing support provision within the context of the Population Health Covid-19 Recovery Plan and Manchester's Wellbeing Model.

The Committee further received a presentation from Jay Patient, Be Well Service Manager, Big Life Group that provided an overview of:

- The aims and values of the Be Well Service;
- Access;
- Pathways within Be Well;
- Progression within service since initial commissioning;
- Outcomes;
- Examples of good practice; and

- Aims for 2022.

The Committee then heard from George Ramsay and Gaynor Heaton, residents of Manchester. Both spoke eloquently of their experience of engaging with the Be Well service. They articulated the circumstances which led them to engage with the service and the range of positive outcomes that they had achieved as a result. The Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked both contributors for attending the meeting and sharing their experiences.

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

- Recognising the important work of the Be Well service and paying tribute to all of the staff involved;
- What work was being done to support BAME residents;
- Noting that the number of males accessing the Be Well service was relatively low and what was being done to address this;
- Were Coaches Trauma Informed trained and how would they support an individual who was neurodivergent (defined as differing in mental or neurological function from what was considered typical or normal);
- Stating that the term 'disparities' should not be used when referring to health outcomes, adding that the term 'inequalities' was the preferred term and this was supported by Professor Michael Marmot; and
- Noting that from April 2020, 10 of Manchester's 14 PCNs had made formal arrangements for Big Life Group to employ and manage their social prescribing link workers, how would the patients of the 4 that had not made the formal arrangement access social prescribing opportunities.

Jay Patient, Be Well Service Manager, Big Life Group advised that there were many positive examples of where informal support groups had been developed that had built upon local connections and resilience, making particular reference to the South Asian Woman's Group in Longsight. She further clarified that the data in the presentation for the number of referrals for Central and South were combined. In regard to the point raised regarding the relatively lower number of male referrals to the service she advised this was recognised and consideration was being given as to how best promote this service and target the male audience. She further added that they would review the literature that was provided to encourage the take up amongst the male population. The Consultant in Public Health Medicine commented that this gender disparity was reflected across the wider health service and this was not unique to the Be Well service.

Jay Patient, Be Well Service Manager, Big Life Group further advised that the Coaches were from a wide variety of different professional and ethnic back grounds with a broad skills set. She stated that they were Trauma Informed trained. She added that they had established relationships with specialist providers and services to refer anyone who was identified as neurodivergent to ensure that they were signposted to the most appropriate source of support.

The Consultant in Public Health Medicine stated that people could be referred to the Be Well service from other services and not just GPs, adding that the 4 PCNs that had not made formal arrangements for Big Life Group could still refer a patient if they

felt it was appropriate. She further commented that it was anticipated that referrals to and demand for this service would increase, noting the impact of the pandemic and other recent global issues on people's mental health. She stated that consideration needed to be given to how this service could be commissioned in future years and build upon the success reported.

In concluding this item of business, the Chair reiterated the Committee's appreciation to all of the invited guests for attending the meeting and sharing their personal experiences. She stated that the Committee would be inviting a future update report on the service with particular reference to any environmental programmes that were offered, noting the important relationship between green spaces and mental health.

## **Decision**

To note the report and presentation and recommend that a future update report is added to the Committee's Work Programme for consideration at an appropriate time.

### **HSC/22/16 The Gorton Hub**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Lead Neighbourhoods, Sarah Lake, Integrated Neighbourhood Lead for Gorton and Levenshulme (MLCO) and the Head of Corporate Estate and Facilities Management that provided an update on the Gorton Hub, a new Health and Care Hub in the heart of Gorton.

The Hub would provide a real opportunity to make a significant improvement in the management and delivery of public services through co-location and integration within a modern, innovative and efficient environment.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing how the Hub would provide an opportunity to make a significant improvement in the management and delivery of public services through co-location and integration within a modern, innovative and efficient environment;
- Progress with the partnership working underpinning the integration of services in the Hub;
- Construction and property update; and
- Noting that the Hub was due to open in October 2022.

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

- What areas would this provision serve and would all elected Members concerned be regularly informed regarding the development of this site;
- How would the success of this model of service delivery be assessed; and
- This positive model needed to be replicated across the city.

The Strategic Lead Neighbourhoods advised that this site would serve residents from the Gorton, Longsight, Levenshulme and Clayton & Openshaw wards, adding that meetings with those ward Members would be convened. He advised that the success of this development would be assessed across three strands, first being a range of Key Performance Indicators to be agreed to measure progress against wider health

determents, the second against improvements in bringing partners together in the Hub, and third, the benefits realised through the land released from the colocation of services. He stated that this would be reported to the Committee at the appropriate time along with a general update on the delivery of the Hub.

The Committee heard from Councillor Reid, Ward Councillor for Gorton and Abbey Hey. She provided a background to the development and the challenges that were presented as a result of the pandemic. She reassured the Committee that despite this and other challenges the site was being progressed with very positive relationships being established with all the multi-agency partners who would eventually occupy the site. She stated that she supported a recommendation that the Committee continue to receive regular progress reports on this project.

### **Decision**

To note the report and recommend that a future update report is added to the Committee's Work Programme for consideration at an appropriate time.

### **HSC/22/17 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 Chair recommended that other than the Covid-19 update report the May 2022 meeting would be dedicated to the annual Work Programming Session.

### **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, noting the above comment.

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

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Reid – in the Chair  
Councillors Abdullatif, Alijah, Bano, Benham, Collins, Foley, Hewitson, Lovecy, McHale, Nunney and Sadler

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

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative

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

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Rahman, Deputy Leader  
Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children's Services  
Councillor Hitchen, Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath  
Lorraine Ganley, Director of Nursing and Professional Lead, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)  
Ben Aspinall, COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Lead, MLCO

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Cooley  
Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford  
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

#### **CYP/22/08                      Minutes**

#### **Decisions**

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022.
2. To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Ofsted Subgroup held on 24 November 2021 and 19 January 2022.

#### **CYP/22/09    An update on families residing in both bed and breakfast accommodation and homeless accommodation outside of the city boundaries, and the impact on schools and transport**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services and the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which set out the collaborative work undertaken by the Homeless Service and Children's Services to support families who were impacted by homelessness.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Background information;

- School and travel;
- Support for families;
- Reducing the use of bed and breakfast and out of city placements;
- Prevention;
- Apex House as a model;
- Placing families directly into dispersed accommodation;
- Nightly rate accommodation;
- Private Rented Sector;
- Domestic Violence and Abuse;
- Refugee Transitions Outcomes Fund (RTOF); and
- Transformation Programme.

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

- Who funded school transport when a homeless family was moved to a different area;
- The impact on families of living in temporary homeless accommodation and the impact on children of having to leave their area and move elsewhere;
- The importance of intervening early, when families first started struggling to pay their rent, and the roles housing providers and schools could play in this;
- Concern about the impact of rising costs of living and private landlords increasing rents;
- Concern about insufficient housing stock in the city;
- Concern about families in overcrowded housing who were not classed as homeless;
- People, predominantly women and children, becoming homeless due to domestic abuse, while the perpetrator was able to remain in the family home;
- Consideration about the safety of refugee families when allocating housing, for example, if racist, anti-refugee groups were active in the area; and
- To request more information on nightly rate accommodation.

The Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath highlighted how unaffordable rents were for people on the minimum wage. She expressed concern at the length of time that people were in dispersed temporary accommodation. She also expressed concern that people who were found housing in the private sector still did not have secure long-term accommodation, if they only had a six-month secured tenure. She reported that homeless people from other areas were being placed in temporary accommodation in her ward, whereas people from her ward who had become homeless were being placed elsewhere. She advised that consideration should be given to the needs of displaced families and the needs of and impact on the host community. The Chair suggested that figures on homeless families being placed in their ward could be provided to Members through Ward Co-ordination, noting that this disproportionately impacted on certain wards. She also expressed concern about the children who were being moved out of their communities and the impact of that.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Housing Operations informed the Committee that the Private Rented Sector Team was working to source permanent

accommodation for homeless families in the private sector and to prevent families from becoming homeless through engagement with landlords and families, including providing incentives. He confirmed that links were being made with schools and other services, especially in relation to early intervention to prevent homelessness. He acknowledged Members' comments about the challenges facing families placed in bed and breakfast accommodation, advising that the average length of stay was 20 days but that this was still too long and that the transformation programme aimed to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation. In response to the comments from the Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath, he advised that a mixed model, using both social rented and private sector accommodation, was needed but that housing had to be of good quality with a reputable provider and appropriate for the family. In response to a Member's comments about a specific case in her ward, he offered to provide a response outside of the meeting, if she provided him with further details.

The Director of Education reported that, if a child had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), the Council had a statutory duty to fund home to school transport, which could be a taxi or a school bus. If a child did not have an EHCP, she advised that the Council would pay for a travel pass, if required due to distance, although she advised that she was aware of some cases where schools were arranging to collect the child from home, particularly where a family was temporarily being accommodated further away.

The Strategic Lead (Homelessness) informed Members that the Council funded an advice contract which could assist people who were struggling to pay their rent and that there would be a campaign to encourage people to get advice at an earlier stage before they have built up rent arrears. She encouraged Members to promote this to residents at their advice surgeries. She confirmed that there was a clear process for the placement of refugee families which took into account the safety of the area.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services drew Members' attention to previous items that had been brought to the Committee about domestic abuse and advised that he would discuss with the Director of Housing Operations the issue raised about perpetrators remaining in the family home, while the partner and children had to leave.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Housing Operations reported that Apex House had been more successful than other accommodation in finding settled homes for the families placed there.

The Strategic Lead (Homelessness) informed Members that nightly rate accommodation was where a family was accommodated in a property on an emergency basis, which was paid for on a nightly rate, and that this was being used to reduce the use of bed and breakfast. She advised that her service had just started trialling moving people who presented as homeless directly to temporary accommodation rather than placing them in a bed and breakfast first. In response to a Member's question, she outlined how the Homeless Floating Support Service worked with a range of partners including Early Help, schools and GPs to support families in dispersed temporary accommodation.

The Deputy Leader reported that the transformation process was at the early stages and that he wanted to come back to the Committee in a couple of years' time to show the improvements that had been made in keeping families closer to their communities. The Chair advised that the Committee would continue to monitor this.

### **Decision**

To receive a further report in 6 months' time.

### **CYP/22/10 Children and Education Services Directorate Budget 2022/23**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Children and Education Services) which stated that, following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23, the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25. The report set out the high-level position. Included in the report were the priorities for the services in the remit of this Committee. Appended were details of the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers and the planned capital programme as well as information on the 2022/23 Dedicated Schools Grant. The Committee was invited to comment on the proposals prior to their submission to the Executive on 16 February 2022.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Summary of Council budget;
- Current budget position;
- Scrutiny of draft budget proposals and budget report;
- Next steps;
- Children and Education Services context;
- Budget overview;
- Dedicated Schools Grant; and
- Capital budget.

The Executive Member for Children's Services drew Members' attention to the budget reports which had been submitted to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee which included proposals for additional funding for youth services and for Free School Meals over the Easter holidays respectively.

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

- To what extent the budget had taken into account the need for more special school places;
- Funding for improving the condition of school buildings, including school-based Early Years provision;
- To welcome the focus on carbon reduction around schools and to recognise the additional benefits of investing in reducing carbon, such as lower energy bills and improving children's well-being;



- Whether the Council had considered asset transfers for buildings which had previously been Council-run daycare provision but were now commissioned to other providers;
- Concern about home to school transport putting additional pressure on the Children's Services budget, as outlined in the report; and
- Concern about the national insurance increase referred to in the report.

The Director of Education reported that school places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) were funded by the Department for Education (DfE) through the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant, which would be increased by £10 million next year. She informed Members about additional special school places which had recently been created and about plans for more to become available from next year. She advised that the Council had a capital maintenance grant each year to assist schools with significantly expensive maintenance issues, such as a new roof or boiler, and so had an understanding of the condition of school buildings; however, she drew Members' attention to proposals to undertake condition surveys of school buildings which, she advised, would formalise this knowledge and enable the Council to plan work for the future. She reported that the DfE was going to be making some funding available for new school buildings and that these conditions surveys would help the Council to provide evidence to the DfE about why some of this funding should be awarded to Manchester. In response to a question from the Chair, she confirmed that the Council only had statutory responsibilities in relation to the maintenance of the buildings of local authority-maintained schools, not academies.

The Executive Member for Children's Services confirmed that a range of different options were considered for buildings used for Early Years daycare provision. He suggested that the Committee might want to receive a report on the condition surveys that were due to be carried out on schools and Early Years buildings, once the work had reached an appropriate stage.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services highlighted the approach that had been taken to budget savings, which had focused on preventative work and cost avoidance rather than cutting services. The Chair welcomed the way that this approach had worked in recent years in reducing costs through early intervention to prevent children and young people from entering the care system.

## **Decision**

To endorse the proposals outlined in the report.

## **CYP/22/11 Annual Virtual School Head's Report**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an overview of the work that had been undertaken, through the Corporate Parenting Partnership, during 2020-21 to promote the education, employment and training of the Children and Young People in the care of Manchester (referred to as Our Children and Young People), Manchester Care Leavers, Previously Looked After Children who attended education settings within Manchester and Young People supported by the Youth Justice Service.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Key educational headlines for children and young people;
- Attendance at education settings; and
- Key high-level priorities for the Virtual School.

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

- Praise for the work of the Virtual School;
- Access to educational psychologists and training for teachers;
- How Manchester compared with other core cities, for example, in relation to the number of Our Children who were in education, employment or training post-16;
- Whether data was available broken down by ethnicity;
- Our Children and Young People who had Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND);
- The Virtual School's new duties in relation to children and young people with a social worker; and
- What was being done to inform teachers about the work of the Virtual School.

Following a Member's comments about young people becoming involved in crime and serious youth violence, the Chair reported that the Committee had previously visited Wetherby Young Offender Institution and Barton Moss Secure Children's Home. She suggested that the Committee visit them again, as a joint visit with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. She suggested that the Committee consider bringing a joint report on knife crime, in conjunction with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services highlighted how the use of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) in Youth Justice had improved young people's engagement with education, employment and training.

The Executive Member for Children's Services informed the Committee that a Youth Justice Peer Review had taken place towards the end of 2021 and that they had been very impressed by the work being done in Manchester.

The Virtual School Head reported that the Virtual School commissioned additional educational psychology time for consultation, advice, guidance and training for teachers. She informed Members that the Pupil Premium was paid to schools termly on receipt of a satisfactory PEP outlining how the money would be spent and that additional funding could also be provided to schools, where it was needed, including for staff training to support the needs of the child. In response to a Member's comments about exclusions, she reported that figures for fixed term exclusions for Our Children were currently higher than they wanted it to be but reducing and that permanent exclusions of Our Children were very rare. She drew Members' attention to the Inclusion Strategy which her service had been involved in developing and confirmed the service's aspiration to reduce the number of fixed-term exclusions.

The Virtual School Deputy Head (Post-16) reported that Manchester compared favourably to other core cities, its statistical neighbours and other Greater Manchester authorities in relation to the number of Our Children who were in Employment, Education or Training (EET) post-16. She informed Members that the Virtual School undertook PEPs for those who were not in EET and she outlined how they worked to maximise opportunities for these young people. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that preventing exclusions post-16 was challenging as the Virtual School was not always informed beforehand but that using the designated teacher model had enabled them to develop stronger relationships, find out about issues earlier on and make alternative suggestions to prevent exclusion.

The Virtual School Deputy Head advised that they collected data on the ethnicity and gender of the children and young people as well as whether they had SEND through the PEP process, that this was monitored and that data could be provided. She also informed Members about training that was being provided to carers, including in relation to SEND, and about the post-16 pilot, which included training colleges and Leaving Care Workers on SEND, as well as attachment and trauma. She reported that the Virtual School provided challenge to schools if they were not recognising that a young person was likely to have SEND and responding appropriately.

The Virtual School Head advised that her team was well known to designated teachers and that it was the designated teacher's responsibility to work with other staff within their school. She highlighted the launch of the Virtual School's website and outlined how they were informing schools about the Virtual School's new duties in relation to children and young people with a social worker.

The Chair reminded Members that all Councillors were Corporate Parents and invited to the meetings of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

## **Decisions**

1. To arrange a visit to Wetherby Young Offender Institution and Barton Moss Secure Children's Home, in conjunction with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.
2. To further discuss bringing a joint report on knife crime, in conjunction with the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.

## **CYP/22/12 COVID-19 Update**

The Committee received a report of Assistant Director of Education which provided an update on the return of children and young people to education following the Christmas break and the arrangements in place in schools and colleges to report and manage COVID-19. The report had a particular focus on the bespoke offer to increase uptake of the vaccine in children and young people aged 12 to 15 and address inequalities therefore reducing disruption to children's education and learning.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Main changes to guidance for schools from January 2022;
- Vaccinations;
- Positive cases in Manchester schools; and
- School attendance.

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

- Concern about lower take-up of COVID-19 vaccines in more deprived areas and in some demographic groups;
- The benefits of "Covid chat" and the role older pupils and members of the community could play in having conversations and answering questions about the vaccination; and
- Why more private schools had received the vaccines first.

The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that the Council had been working with health service colleagues to identify and address barriers to the vaccination of children and young people, highlighting capacity for school immunisation and how consent was gathered. He outlined some of the steps being taken to improve take-up, including a bespoke offer for each school, as well as an out of school offer, alongside an adult offer, and improved communications, including in community languages.

Ben Aspinall, COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Lead from MLCO, explained that the initial school immunisation programme had had to be introduced very quickly, that all Manchester schools had been contacted to ask when this could be timetabled in and that those who had responded first had been scheduled first. In relation to schools where a lower percentage of pupils had taken up the offer of a vaccine, he outlined the work taking place to address this, engaging with the schools, community leaders and the wider community and highlighting the offer for pupils to be vaccinated at other vaccination sites in the community, if they had not been vaccinated when the vaccination service was at their school. In response to a Member's comments about the electronic process for parents giving their consent ("e-consent"), he advised that, while it was quick and easy for some, having listened to stakeholders, schools were now being given the option to use e-consent, paper-based consent forms or a combination of the two.

The Chair expressed concern that anti-vaccination campaigners were also affecting the take-up of the MMR vaccine and advised that the Committee would continue to look at child health, in conjunction with the Health Scrutiny Committee.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **CYP/22/13 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 welcomed the new Co-opted Member, Mr Cleworth.

**Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.



## Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair  
Councillors Chohan, Flanagan, Foley, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Lyons, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin and Wright

**Apologies:** Councillors Holt and Lynch

#### Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment  
Samantha Nicholson, Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency

### **ECCSC/22/06          Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 as a correct record.

### **ECCSC/22/07          Neighbourhood Directorate Budget 2022/23**

Further to minute (ECCSC/21/27) the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- The settlement was for one year only and considerable uncertainty remained from 2023/24;
- A longer-term strategy to close the budget gap was being prepared with an estimated requirement to find budget cuts and savings in the region of £60m over the next three years;
- £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences;
- An overview of the headline priorities for the service;
- A description of the Neighbourhoods Revenue Budget Strategy;
- A description of the Capital budget and pipeline priorities; and
- A description of the Climate Change Priorities and Investment.

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

- Noting that the Government had failed to adequately fund the Council and they needed to be held to account;

- Supporting the reported Climate Change Priorities and Investment;
- Whilst recognising the varied work and initiatives delivered by officers to tackle climate change and support communities, more needed to be done to publicise this work and communicate this positive work with both residents and Members;
- The need to improve air quality across the city, making reference to those issues caused as a result of poor traffic flow and cars idling;
- The continued call for the Council to act as a catalysis and influencer to escalate the activities and actions needed to address climate change;
- The need to scrutinise the cost effectiveness of the Council's financial contribution to the Manchester Climate Change Agency; and
- Calling for the continued, long term funding of the Climate Change Officer posts.

In response to questions, officers clarified the capital spend reporting that had been presented, the rating of Carbon Literacy training, adding that this training was now mandatory for all staff and information relating to the Cargo Bikes referenced within the report.

In considering the budget proposals, a Member recommended an amendment. He recommended that a Capital Budget of £1m be established for the Executive Member for Environment, with this budget specifically used to support work and initiatives to tackle air pollution across the city. He recommended that this budget could be funded by levying a Section 106 charge of £1000 for all new build homes for sale in Manchester (excluding social housing and a reduced charge for affordable housing).

This recommendation was supported by the Committee.

A further recommendation was proposed that funding be provided to permanently fund the Climate Change Officer posts. This recommendation was supported by the Committee.

## **Decisions**

The Committee recommend that the Executive;

1. Establish a Capital Budget of £1m for the Executive Member for Environment, with this budget specifically used to support work and initiatives to tackle air pollution across the city. This budget could be funded by levying a Section 106 charge of £1000 for all new build homes for sale in Manchester (excluding social housing and a reduced charge for affordable housing).
2. That funding be provided to permanently fund the Climate Change Officer posts.

## **ECCSC/22/08      Refresh of Manchester's Climate Change Framework 2020-25**

The Committee considered the report of the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership that provided a progress update on the refresh of Manchester's Climate Change Framework 2020-2025.



Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing that the Framework refresh was to establish more detailed and quantified data around the actions the city needed to take to reduce its direct, energy related emissions and stay within its carbon budgets;
- The work to better understand and address indirect emissions;
- The Framework would also include an update on research to move the city forwards on climate adaptation and resilience;
- The recent research on the intersection between addressing health inequalities and climate action;
- The consultation process; and
- Next steps, noting that the refreshed Framework was expected to be completed in the first quarter of the new financial year (April-June 2022) and launched in quarter two (July-Sept 2022).

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

- The need for Councillors to effectively scrutinise the work and outcomes of the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Partnership;
- How were the progress against the carbon emissions targets and carbon budget for the city reported;
- The need to reiterate the urgency of the climate emergency;
- The need to communicate with residents the scale of the challenge and the need for immediate action;
- Noting the scale of the challenge to adequately insulate homes across Greater Manchester and the need for the government to fund this, particularly in the context of increasing fuel and energy prices;
- The need to include consideration of carbon emissions from transport and not restrict consideration of this subject area to Nitrogen Dioxide (No2) emissions; and
- The need to galvanise and progress actions across the city at speed and scale to mitigate the impending climate disaster, using all levers and influence available to the Council.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency informed the Committee that the progress against the city's carbon budget was reported annually via the annual report that is produced and presented to the Committee. She advised that it would not be possible to produce a meaningful quarterly update due to the complexity of the data reporting and the lags in the data release from a number of sources. She described that the refresh of Manchester's Climate Change Framework 2020-2025 would articulate the scale of the challenge and establish actions against the targets.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency agreed with the comment regarding the importance of communicating with all residents the need to take immediate responsibility and actions to address carbon emissions. She advised that it was important to recognise that people would have a range of different motivations to implement personal behavioural change, so there was not a 'one size fits all' approach to achieve this. She described that they did have a Community

Engagement Programme that was designed to work with and support different community groups on a range of climate change projects. She further made reference to the work of the Youth Board as means of strengthening engagement and communications.

The Executive Member for Environment commented that she noted the comments regarding carbon and transport emissions and advised that a briefing note to Members would be provided following the meeting that described the plans and actions to address this.

The Chair concluded this item of business by paying tribute to all staff working to address climate change. She stated that she recognised the scale of the challenge and the capacity within the Climate Change Agency and Partnership, noting an international global response was required. She further called upon the Government to adequately fund activities to tackle climate change, noting that the larger polluters in the country needed to be prioritised.

The Chair further paid tribute to the Members of the Committee for their continued engagement and scrutiny of the climate agenda, noting that they articulated the voice of residents across the city on this important issue. She commented that the scrutiny process had helped inform and shape the Council's response to addressing carbon emissions and would continue to contribute to the city to becoming zero-carbon by 2038 at the latest.

### **Decision**

The Committee note the report.

### **ECCSC/22/09      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 note the report and agree the work programme.

## **Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair  
Councillors Chohan, Flanagan, Foley, Hassan, Holt, Hughes, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin and Wright

**Apologies:** Councillors Good, Jeavons and Lyons

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment

### **ECCSC/22/10          Minutes**

In considering the minutes of the previous meeting the Committee noted that as part of the Council's budget setting it had been agreed to permanently fund the Climate Change Officer posts.

A Member informed the Committee that the funding for the Climate Change Youth Board would be ending and she called for the continued funding of this Board.

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 as a correct record.

### **ECCSC/22/11          Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan, including annual update and a report on the Tree Action Plan**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that provided the annual update on the delivery of the Green and Blue Implementation Plan together with information on the delivery of the Tree Action Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing the relationship of the Green and Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy to other Council strategies and action plans;
- The objectives and long-term vision of the Strategy;
- Governance arrangements and G&BI stakeholder Group;
- The contribution the strategy had in relation to the Climate Emergency and Social Inclusion and Equality;
- An overview of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan refresh;
- Describing the Greater Manchester IGNITION Project and the GrowGreen Project;
- The G&BI Implementation Plan 2021 Delivery highlights by Objective; and

- The G&BI Implementation Plan Refresh and Future Priorities.

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

- Welcoming the clear and detailed report and requesting that an easy read version was produced to ensure this was accessible to all residents;
- Welcoming the inclusion of 'Objective Three: Improving access and connectivity for people and wildlife, focusing on: Green routes – neighbourhoods and travel routes';
- Noting that trees planted in residential streets had caused damage to the pavements as the roots had grown, and consideration needed to be given to using the planting technique adopted in Albert Square to reduce this damage;
- An exercise should be undertaken to understand residents' access to green space, calling for equity of access to quality green space for all residents;
- Equitable access to quality green space needed to be considered in conjunction with active travel schemes;
- Welcoming the inclusion of the Bee Line information that was included within report;
- Recognising that planning policies and developments were key to the delivery of quality green space;
- Priority should be given to delivering green schemes in those wards that had historically not benefited from such schemes, adding that officers should support residents and interested community groups to bid for all available funding to deliver green schemes;
- Noting that the recent IPCC report stressed the importance and urgency to address climate change;
- The need to engage local schools on the issue of green and blue space, as part of the wider issue of climate change to influence behaviour change;
- A strategy was required to ensure that all Registered Housing Providers across the city took responsibility for managing the green spaces they were responsible for, noting that the approach adopted was currently inconsistent across the city;
- Consideration needed to be given to promoting the benefits of grass verges as a way of supporting bio diversity and this needed to be communicated so they were not used for car parking;
- Residents and community groups should be encouraged, with the support of local Neighbourhood Officers, to take responsibility for local green spaces,
- An assurance was sought that appropriate consideration had been given to flood risk management as part of the Victoria North development;
- The communications strategy needed to be reviewed to ensure that all of the many positive examples of green initiatives, including those delivered by local business were celebrated as these could then inspire others to replicate or consider what they could do;
- Consideration needed to be given as to which employers we used in the report as positive examples of green infrastructure and employment;
- More information was sought on the approach to allotments, noting work needed to be done to stop the use of harmful pesticides in these locations;
- A ward map of all green spaces and land ownership should be provided to all local Neighbourhood Teams;

- Noting that both Manchester University and the Manchester Metropolitan University had volunteers available to assist with community groups establishing environmental projects; and
- The correct species of tree should be used for the identified location and consideration needed to be given as to how tree planting could support and enhance active travel schemes.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing welcomed the comments from the Committee. She stated that a review of the Core Strategy and Local Plan would be undertaken, and the views of the Committee would be used to inform these reviews. She advised that an audit of open spaces would be undertaken, and this would also consider factors such as access, quality and barriers. She stated that they did work with developers to maximise the delivery of green schemes and provided examples of these, noting that this also included the instalment of green walls and roof top gardens. She further commented that allotments were considered as part of the Parks Strategy however these sites would be captured as part of the open space audit. She further noted the comment regarding the use of the Airport as an example and reassured the Committee that there were many other positive examples that could be used in future reports.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that consideration would be given to providing ward based maps that mapped green space, however she advised that difficulties arose when identifying land that was privately owned. She added that this information would be shared with the relevant Neighbourhood Teams.

In response to an invitation from a Member for a representative from Planning and Building Control to be present at the planned Manchester Earth Summit 2022 conference, the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing committed to sending a representative to the event.

The Senior Policy Officer stated that he would circulate the Principles of Tree Management document to all Members for information, commenting that this document described the approach to street trees, adding that he would discuss the specific issue raised by the Members following the meeting. He further advised that the Tree Action Manchester programme did consider trees and green space in a wider context, such as the recognised health benefits. He further advised that the Our Rivers Our City would progress the work with blue infrastructure in collaboration with key partners.

In response to a specific question asked by a Member the Tree Officer stated that there was no policy of not planting hard standing trees, however the focus recently had been to prioritise soft scaping.

The Senior Policy Officer stated that the Biodiversity Net Gain legislation would be reviewed at a Greater Manchester level to ensure the best outcomes for Manchester could be achieved by adopting the correct policies as a result of this legislation.

The Executive Member for Environment stated that she welcomed the IPCC report and noted the key messages. She stated that she would be meeting with officers to

review a wide variety of work through this lens. She advised that she would circulate a summary of the IPCC report to Members following the meeting. She further commented that she would speak with her other Executive Member colleagues to address the issues raised by Members that cut across different remits, noting the comments regarding Housing Providers and support available to the VCSE sector to bid for funding to support green projects. She further recommended that an update report on the Bee Network is submitted for consideration in the new municipal year.

The Executive Member for Environment commented that she would speak with Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment with the view to arranging a briefing for Members on the Victoria North development, adding that work had been undertaken with the Environment Agency to consider flood risk management as part of the development planning.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCSC/22/12      Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Services - Future Delivery**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that described that the management of household waste is one of the key functions of the Local Authority and was a service of significant importance to every resident of the city. It was recognised that the current cleansing service standards were inconsistent across the city and did not meet the expectations of Members and residents. The future delivery arrangements for the service needed to ensure that the additional investment identified within the budget generated the maximum return and improvement.

The current contract for waste collection and street cleansing expired in 2038 but had two extension periods (2023 and 2031). As part of the commissioning cycle, the Council had reviewed the priorities for the next period and considered which delivery model could achieve these and Best Value.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and the Policy Framework background;
- An overview of the GM Refuse & Recycling Contract (Pre-2009)
- Information relating to the Greater Manchester Waste Levy;
- An overview of the current service;
- Performance information and feedback;
- A description of the Resources & Waste Strategy (RaWS) for England (2018);
- Service Improvement and the Service Improvement Programme Timescales, noting that this was subject to final approval;
- The delivery model;
- Conclusions and the decision making process; and
- The continuation of the contract with Biffa had been assessed as the most effective option.

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

- Requesting Quarterly update reports on the Waste and Recycling Service, including Biffa performance data;
- The need to monitor activities such as the collection of side waste from communal containers;
- A strategy was required to ensure that all Registered Housing Providers took responsibility for managing and removing waste from all of the spaces they were responsible for;
- A report was requested that described the implications of Household Waste and Recycling Centres' policies and incidents of flytipping;
- Consideration needed to be given to the timely issuing of licenses for the positioning of skips on highways and the lifting of parking restrictions to allow reputable waste management companies to access locations to remove waste;
- More needed to be done to improve recycling rates, noting the impact this could have on carbon emissions and further promotion of the circular economy;
- The sweeping of cycle lanes needed to be improved and be future proofed to manage the demand on this service as more active travel schemes were delivered;
- The need to recognise that the types of waste issues experienced were different in different wards and a 'one size fits all' approach was not appropriate, adding that meetings should be convened with ward Members to understand their specific issues and challenges experienced;
- The staff behaviours of Biffa crews needed to improve to ensure they delivered the levels of service that was expected;
- CCTV should be used to identify perpetrators of fly tipping in hot spots, noting that this would also assist with any subsequent convictions;
- More needed to be done to promote the bulky waste collection service, particularly to residents living in apartment blocks;
- The Customer Relationship Management (CRM) needed to be improved to give both Members and residents confidence when reporting issues relating to waste and fly tipping;
- Noting that it was national Food Waste week;
- Consideration needed to be given to delivering targeted waste and recycling campaigns during specific faith celebrations; and
- Seeking an assurance that a representative from the service would be present at the planned School and Climate Action Conference in June.

The Strategic Lead, Waste Recycling and Street Cleansing supported the recommendation to provide quarterly progress reports, adding that the issues raised relating to side waste in communal bin areas, staff behaviours and the cleansing of cycleways were included within the Service Improvement Plan.

The Strategic Lead, Waste Recycling and Street Cleansing accepted the invitation for a representative from her service to attend the School and Climate Action Conference, adding that Biffa did engage with schools on the issue of waste and recycling. She stated that all channels of communication and engagement needed to be utilised to influence behaviour change.

The Strategic Lead, Waste Recycling and Street Cleansing commented that a review of the bulky waste collection service would be undertaken to understand further the use of this service with the intention to optimise its use. She informed the Committee that the replacement of the CRM system was underway, and her service had been involved in the ask of the new system so as to address the issues identified by the Members and deliver an improved system. She commented recycling rates needed to improve adding further that more needed to be done to promote the circular economy with an emphasis on repair and reuse. She added that more needed to be done to promote and connect residents to these opportunities, adding that this would be a key action to progress.

The Director of Commercial and Operations commented that investment had been made into CCTV systems to tackle fly tipping, adding that the operation of CCTV was subject to specific legal guidance.

The Executive Member for Environment stated that she was committed to improving the service by working with Biffa and the delivery of the Service Improvement Plan. She stated that it was everyone's collective responsibility to reduce the incidents of littering and the appropriate management of waste.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCSC/22/13      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 Chair noted that the new Chair and Committee would hold a work programming session at the meeting in May, in the first meeting of the new municipal year to consider the Work Programme. Noting the comments and requests for future reports when the Committee considered the previous agenda items.

### **Decision**

The Committee note the report and agree the work programme, noting the above comments.

### **ECCSC/22/14      Councillor Igbon**

The Committee recognised that this would be the last meeting that Councillor Igbon would attend in her capacity as Chair. Members wished to place on record their appreciation for her dedication and commitment to the work of the Committee.



## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor H Priest – in the Chair  
Councillors Bayunu, Doswell, Farrell, Moore, Noor and Raikes

**Apologies:** Councillor Johns, Shilton Godwin and Stanton

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader  
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment  
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment  
Brian Henry, Head of MAES  
Lisa O’Loughlin, Principal and Deputy Chief Executive: The Manchester College/LTE Group  
John Thornhill, Chief Executive LTE Group

#### **ESC/22/05 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2022 were approved as a correct record.

#### **ESC/22/06 Growth & Development Directorate Budget 2022/23**

Further to minute (ESC/21/53), the Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided a further update on the saving proposals being proposed as part of the 2022/23 budget process.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Following the Spending Review announcements and provisional local government finance settlement 2022/23 the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2022/23, a gap of £37m in 2023/24 and £58m by 2024/25;
- Overall, the settlement announcement was towards the positive end of expectations and it was expected that mitigations in the region of £7.7m, as previously identified, would be sufficient to balance the 2022/23 budget;
- The budget assumptions that underpinned 2022/23 to 2024/25 included the commitments made as part of the 2021/22 budget process to fund ongoing demand pressures as well as provision to meet other known pressures such as inflation and any pay awards (estimated at 3% from 2022/23);
- Whilst this contributed to the scale of the budget gap it was important that a realistic budget was set which reflected ongoing cost and demand pressures;

- The focus would now be on identifying savings and mitigations to keep the Council on a sustainable financial footing; and
- It was proposed that budget cuts and savings of £60m over three years would be developed for Member consideration which equated to just under 12% of 2022/23 directorate budgets. In addition, £30m of risk-based reserves had been identified as available to manage risk and timing differences.

The Leader advised that whilst there were no major changes to the proposed budget following the report in November, a decade of austerity had resulted in £420 million having been removed from the Council's budget, resulting in a 15% reduction in spending power compared to a national average of 2.4% and if Manchester had had the national average applied to its budget, it would have a further £85 million in its budget today.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) commented that the 2021/22 budget process had included £393k savings in respect of holding/deleting 11 posts in planning and building control. Whilst the service redesign was expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2022, it would take time to implement the changes and recruit to all the posts. To allow for service delivery, and succession planning it was necessary to amend the structure and invest in some areas, therefore it was anticipated that ongoing savings of c£150k would be realised from reduced staffing costs across planning and building control. This would require alternative savings of £243k to be identified and delivered in 2022/23.

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

- There was concern in relation to the ability to effectively ensure the enforcement of illegal planning if it was still proposed to reduce the number of staff within planning and building control;
- Was it possible to have a breakdown of the proposed savings at a ward or neighbourhood level;
- What opportunities had been identified from the review of Council assets to help tackle the level of savings needed in future years; and
- Had there been any work undertaken around the anticipation of additional costs and pressures on the service as the Council emerged from the impact of covid.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) commented that the original saving of £393k had been identified through existing vacant posts and through the forthcoming service redesign, additional resource would be added to the service to ensure it operated effectively. She also advised that due to the nature of the work of the Directorate, it was difficult to break this down to a ward or neighbourhood level as a large part of the Directorate's budget was made up from staff costs who worked across the city. It was proposed that a more detailed overview of the work of the team could be provided for Members.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment acknowledged the need to improve how the work of the Directorate was reported back to ward members on work in their respective wards.

In terms of Asset Management, it was reported that this was something that the Directorate was actively looking at and a Strategic Asset Management Plan would be implemented this year which would look to ensure that the assets held by the Council across its Development, Operational and Commercial estates were used to maximise the benefits to the city.

The Leader commented that there had been a number of areas as part of the wider budget setting process that had been looked at as to how they would likely be impacted as the Council emerged from the impact of covid, such as the discretionary support the Council had been able to give to residents and the support to businesses. She added that the current competitive environment for government funding was not helpful and was not a long term sustainable approach.

## **Decisions**

The Committee:-

- (1) Note the forecast medium term revenue budget position.
- (2) Endorse and recommend that the Executive approve the budget proposals.
- (3) Propose that as part of the Committee's Work Programme setting meeting in May 2022, it receives a report that provides a detailed overview of the Directorate and the teams that sit within it.

## **ESC/22/07 Manchester Work and Skills Strategy Refresh**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Inclusive Economy that provided an update on the development of a new Work and Skills Strategy for Manchester, to replace the previous version which had reached the end of its life.

Key points and themes in the report and accompanying presentation included:

- Providing a context and background;
- The new strategy used the Our Manchester Strategy themes as a structural framework;
- The Work and Skills Strategy would support a range of other city strategies;
- An overview of research and engagement; and
- The timetable for the delivery of the new strategy, noting that this would be presented to Executive for approval in May/June 2022.

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

- Every attempt should be made to ensure all opportunities for employment and retraining were provided to Manchester residents;
- Training opportunities needed to be available to people who were already in employment but wanted to expand their skills set or retrain;
- An exercise should be undertaken to map how this strategy intersected with a range of other Council strategies and identify key priorities;
- Welcoming the inclusion of the real living wage and every lever the Council had should be used to ensure more employers across the city paid this;
- Requesting that papers relating to the work of the Work and Skills Board be circulated to members of the Committee for information;
- The need for parity of esteem between academic and vocational pathways as part of the careers advice service;
- The need to breakdown silo working and encourage improved relationships between the Department of Work and Pensions and Department for Education to ensure that people received the most appropriate support and employment and training pathways;
- The need to promote and articulate the positive experiences and outcomes that could be achieved via an apprenticeship programme;
- The need to recognise that the Digital Inclusion Teams to improve digital skills amongst priority groups, particularly the over 50s, was too prescriptive and needed to address skills gaps and digital behaviours amongst younger people also;
- Supporting the work to address economic inequality and requesting more information on the Poverty Impact Assessment; and
- Would the consultation on the first draft of the strategy include face to face consultation.

The Director of Inclusive Economy stated that entry level jobs and apprenticeships in the Council were ringfenced for Manchester residents. She stated that all levers and spheres of influence were used by the Council to encourage employers and other anchor institutions to support this programme and to pay the Real Living Wage, particularly in the foundation employment sector, supported further by the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter and using the Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver this programme.

She described that the Our Town Hall Project had delivered a range of good quality work experience opportunities and suggested the Committee might wish to receive a more detailed report on this subject area at a future meeting. She further described that the relationship between good employment and mental health was understood, and this had helped inform the Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester strategy in line with the recommendations of Professor Michael Marmot that aimed to address a range of inequalities.

The Director of Inclusive Economy advised that consultation on the first draft of the strategy would include face to face consultation. She further advised that key partners were engaged with the Work and Skills Board and she would consult with the Chair on

how best to relay the work of the Board to the Committee, recognising that this would be of interest to Members.

The Director of Inclusive Economy further noted the comment regarding the importance of promoting the many positive aspects of apprenticeships and work was ongoing with schools to ensure the parity of esteem was achieved when delivering careers advice. Recognition was also made to the reference regarding digital skills and behaviours, she advised that this was included in the strategy with the ambition being to ensure all was done to ensure people were ready and equipped to enter the world of employment.

Lisa O'Loughlin, Principal and Deputy Chief Executive: The Manchester College/LTE Group informed the Members on their work to address digital skills and digital access, particularly in the support offered to learners in response to the challenges to online learning that presented during the pandemic.

The Strategy and Economic Policy Manager stated that work was underway to map the intersection between the different strategies and once this exercise was completed this information could be shared with the Members. He further commented that the Poverty Impact Assessment information could also be shared with the Committee once this exercise was completed.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment stated that the promotion of apprenticeships needed to be a continual programme of engagement and communication to articulate the many positive experiences and promote this as an attractive pathway into employment. He said the strategy would be delivered in collaboration with a number of partners in the city that included employers and local businesses.

## **Decisions**

The Committee recommend;

- (1) Recommend that the Director of Inclusive Economy, in consultation with the Chair, agree how the work of the Work and Skills Board is periodically shared with the Committee for information outside of the formal meeting structure.
- (2) Recommend that a report on the delivery of work and skills through the Our Town Hall Project is included on the Committee's Work Programme for consideration at an appropriate time.

## **ESC/22/08      LTE Group Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Principal and Deputy Chief Executive: The Manchester College/LTE Group and the Chief Executive LTE Group that provided an update on key areas of activity.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- 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 2021;
- Progress update and next steps on LTE Group estates and infrastructure plans including site disposals; and
- Progress on apprentice provision via Total People.

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

- Welcoming the progress reported, in particular in relation to the gender balance of learners and the number of employment placements provided; and
- What support was offered to learners who transitioned from Community Hubs into the Centres of Excellence.

Lisa O'Loughlin, Principal and Deputy Chief Executive: The Manchester College/LTE Group stated that the College had strong, well established relationships with employers that had assisted with securing good quality work experience placements. She stated that whilst COVID-19 had impacted on this she was confident that this would remain, adding that they were seeking to improve the two week placement offer. She further described that their learners were very diverse, and they were regarded as a trusted provider across the city. She stated that the Manchester College worked to challenge and remove the barriers experienced by young people accessing quality employment, noting that they had witnessed an increase in the numbers of females entering the construction industry.

Lisa O'Loughlin, Principal and Deputy Chief Executive: The Manchester College/LTE Group stated that there was a programme established to support learners to orientate and familiarise themselves as they transitioned to the centres of excellence. She further noted that numbers of SEND learners were increasing year on year.

## **Decision**

The Committee note the report.

## **ESC/22/09 Manchester Adult Education Service**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Inclusive Economy and Head of MAES.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- An introduction and background, noting that the vision for MAES continued to be 'To deliver inspirational adult education that connects Manchester's adults to their potential, their community and their future';
- The response to COVID-19;

- MAES performance in 2020/21; and
- The skills challenges in the city.

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

- Noting the resources needed to deliver the work and ambition of the service at scale for the benefit of Manchester residents.

The Director of Inclusive Economy commented that the central government funding to deliver adult education had reduced by over 40% during the previous ten years. She described that despite this challenging environment the service remained committed to improving opportunities for residents. She advised that it was recognised that the physical infrastructure of the estate needed to be improved, and monies from the Shared Prosperity Fund would support this. She commented that the Greenheys Adult Learning Centre had been identified as a priority site. She further advised that MAES would continue to strengthen and build upon their relationships with local employers and the Job Centre Plus to promote this offer recognising that they were a visible and trusted provider that were rooted in local communities.

The Director of Inclusive Economy also discussed the wider engagement work that was delivered collaboratively with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE). The Chair recommended that a report on this work with the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector be added to the Committee's work programme for consideration at a future meeting.

The Head of MAES informed the Committee that the intention was to increase the Level 3 provision for adults, noting that it was recognised that there was a need for this.

## **Decision**

The Committee:-

- (1) Recommends that a report on the MAES External Review is provided to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.
- (2) Recommends that a report on the work delivered in partnership between MAES and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector is provided to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.

## **ESC/22/10 Update on COVID-19 Activity**

The Committee considered a 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.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

### **ESC/22/11 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.

In response to a question from a Member who enquired when a report on purpose-built student accommodation would be submitted for consideration, the Chair advised that this would form part of discussion on the wider Housing Strategy. She advised this would be considered in the new municipal year.

## **Decision**

The Committee note the report and agree the work programme, noting the recommendations arising from consideration of the previous agenda items.



## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor H Priest – in the Chair  
Councillors Bayunu, Doswell, Farrell, Moore, Noor, Shilton Godwin and Stanton

**Apologies:** Councillor Johns and Raikes

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader  
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment  
Councillor Newman, Ward Councillor for Woodhouse Park  
Tim Hawkins, Chief of Staff, Manchester Airports Group  
Jan Bramall, Chief Financial Officer, Manchester Airports Group  
Andrew Dixon, High Speed Rail Programme Coordinator

### **ESC/22/12 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 were approved as a correct record.

### **ESC/22/13 Manchester Airport**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure that provided an update on the role of Manchester Airport in the economy of the city; the current economic situation of the Airport following the impact of COVID-19; and the next steps in the economic future for the Airport.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Describing the position of Manchester Airport in the local economy;
- Current economic situation of Manchester Airport;
- Employment, recruitment, and training opportunities at the Airport;
- An update on Airport City, an Enterprise Zone with the capability to provide 5 million sq. ft. of offices, hotels, advanced manufacturing, logistics facilities and retail space;
- Airport future challenges and opportunities.

Further to the report the Committee also received a presentation from the Manchester Airports Group (MAG).

Key points and themes of the presentation included:-

- Describing the impact of COVID on MAG traffic;
- Financial performance pre-COVID;
- Financial estimates, COVID and recovery period;
- Passenger recovery data;
- Focus areas for 2022;
- An update on the Manchester Transformation Programme;
- Opportunities for Greater Manchester, including the Airport Academy and the support to local communities; and
- The path to Net Zero Aviation.

The Chair read from a prepared statement from Councillor Nunney, Ward Councillor for Woodhouse Park who had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend. His statement referred to the issues experienced by local residents that related to inconsiderate parking and associated litter, the loss of green space and poor air quality associated with both vehicles and aircraft.

The Committee then heard from Councillor Newman, Ward Councillor for Woodhouse Park who addressed the meeting on behalf of himself and his fellow ward Councillor, Councillor Sarah Judge. Whilst acknowledging the positive economic benefits that the airport brought to the area he also spoke of the adverse impacts that were frequently experienced by local residents. Councillor Newman spoke of the inconsiderate and anti-social car parking practices on the public highway, both by individuals attending the airport, taxi drivers and rogue car parking firms operating in the area. He further referred to issues of speeding and noise from vehicles and the use of 'rat runs' that further contributed to poor air quality experienced by local residents. He stated that local elected Members had successfully lobbied the airport to introduce measures to mitigate the impacts described, making reference to a resident parking scheme and localised traffic calming measures and he paid tribute to the positive engagement experienced when liaising with the management team at the airport.

He further made reference to the positive community engagement programmes that the airport had delivered over the previous years that had benefited both local older residents and school children. He further called for the need to ensure that the training and employment opportunities associated with the site benefited the local population and consideration needed to be given as to where recruitment events took place to ensure local residents benefited from these opportunities. He stated that public transport links needed to be improved to the site and he called for additional apprenticeship and training opportunities across the site for local residents. He concluded by stating that on balance local residents did support and welcome the airport and he further commented upon the financial contribution MAG made to the Council to enable it to deliver important services on behalf of Manchester residents.

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

- Noting the increasing cost of fuel could adversely impact the number of people flying if prices increased;

- Stating that there was a tension between increased passenger numbers and the need to address carbon emissions;
- The need to improve public transport links to the airport site, including cycling, noting the need for these at all times of the day due to the nature of shift patterns and to ensure that residents across the city could benefit from employment opportunities at the site;
- Car parking at the airport was expensive and would this be reviewed, noting that this could mitigate some of the issues of inconsiderate parking of vehicles experienced by local residents;
- Noting the need for future green skills and jobs, did MAG engage with the existing educational and research institutions in Manchester;
- Noting the conversation that emerged regarding the appropriate use of language and value of, when discussing the different levels of jobs and not to pit the economy against the environment; and
- The need to ensure that MAG was promoted as an attractive employer that delivered training and job progression opportunities.

Tim Hawkins, Chief of Staff, Manchester Airports Group responded to the comments and questions raised by advising that MAG remained committed to achieving net zero by 2038 and aviation to be net zero by 2050. He stated that MAG was taking a leading role in the development and management of sustainable aviation fuel. He stated that this presented the opportunity to develop links with local research institutions and deliver the related employment and skills opportunities. In regard to passenger numbers and issues relating to future variants and travel restrictions that all impacted on the financial viability of the business, he advised that MAG were working closely with both the Department of Transport and the Department of Health to plan and model for any potential future variant wave, using the lessons learnt from the previous years on the efficacy of travel restrictions. He further recognised the potential impact of rising fuel prices and the subsequent rising costs on air travel, he said that this situation continued to be closely monitored, adding that aviation fuel was purchased a year in advance by operators. He further recognised the issues raised regarding the challenges of public transport links, particularly as the site is a 24-hour operation. He said that they did engage with local operators on the issue and referenced the scheme that was operated to facilitate Stansted airport and that options to replicate this subsidised model were being discussed with local operators in Manchester. With regard to the issue of car parking at the site, he commented that car parking was integral to the business model and the pricing structure was reviewed to consider the correct balance was struck between supply and demand.

Jan Bramall, Chief Financial Officer, Manchester Airports Group discussed the issue of training and employment opportunities at the site. She described that the Airport Academy offered free training programmes. Upon completion, participants were guaranteed an interview with the airport. In 2019, 435 people from in and around Manchester gained employment at the airport as a result of the Academy's support. She stated that MAG were committed to a policy of 'grow your own talent' and they worked closely with the Trade Unions to ensure the jobs offered were attractive across the

piece, noting that this approach also helped with the retention of staff in the very competitive jobs market, noting the previous comments regarding the challenge presented by working shift patterns. She advised the Committee that MAG was committed to the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter. She further referred to AeroZone, the state-of-the-art education centre on its campus. She stated that this inspired young people and challenged young people to consider the different range of career options and training opportunities available across the industry. She described that this was promoted via a range of mediums and encouraged all Councillors to promote this offer with their existing networks.

The Director of Inclusive Economy said she would encourage MAG to become a Real Living Wage Employer and to support the plans to make Greater Manchester a Living Wage City Region, to ensure that employees across all 10 boroughs are paid a real Living Wage and offered good contracts and working conditions.

In terms of the specific request for data and information relating to the numbers and geographical breakdown of people attending outreach and employment promotional events and the numbers of anticipated job creation would be provided to Members following the meeting.

The Leader stated that she endorsed the comments regarding the appropriate use of language when referring to the different types of employment across the city. She further acknowledged the issues and challenges that arose from the existing fragmented public transport network, noting that the recent announcements relating to bus services would help address the issues described.

## **Decision**

To note the report and presentation.

## **ESC/22/14 Manchester Housing Allocations Policy**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Growth & Development that provided an update on the Housing Allocations Policy Review.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- Manchester's current statutory social housing allocations scheme was implemented in November 2020;
- In addition to the planned full evaluation after 24 months, it was agreed that an interim evaluation should be undertaken after 12 months;
- An overview of the scheme evaluation and analysis; and
- Noting the impact of COVID-19, the evidence to date was that the scheme was working as intended with no unexpected outcomes.

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

- Did all of the Registered Providers in Manchester apply the same policy when allocating properties, noting that this needed to be consistent and equitable;
- What was the approach to dealing with repairs during the pandemic;
- Comparative figures would be informative in future reports;
- What was the criteria for residents wishing to secure a property in a neighbouring authority and did neighbouring authorities have the same or similar letting policies to Manchester;
- What was the approach to housing refugee's and asylum seekers.

The Director, Housing and Residential Growth informed the Members that the issue of outstanding repairs due to the pandemic was a national issue, commenting that only emergency repairs had been undertaken during that time. He commented that this situation was beginning to normalise and plans were developed to deal with the back log, noting that the impact on void property turnaround times was understood.

Officers informed the Committee that all Registered Housing Providers have similar policies and applied the same choice-based lettings system, noting that the vast majority of lettings are to those residents in Bands 1 and 2. Officers stated that the demand on the service far outweighed the supply of available appropriately sized properties, and the turnover of properties was low, adding that the notion of low demand in Manchester was not true. Officers further advised that Manchester applied a two year residency criteria, adding that neighbouring authorities would have similar criteria, commenting that this made it difficult for residents to secure properties in other boroughs. The Chair asked that the residency criteria for all neighbouring boroughs be circulated to Members for information.

The Director, Housing and Residential Growth stated that there was ongoing collaboration and dialogue with all Registered Provers in the city via the Housing Access Board, adding that there was also a regular audit of lettings undertaken to provide an assurance that the correct process and priorities were applied.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment stated that he was confident that the scheme was working as intended, noting that priority was given to supporting the most vulnerable in the city, including the homeless and those victims of domestic violence. He described that demand for housing still outweighed supply and the city required more affordable housing and social housing. He stated that work was ongoing to respond to this demand and the Housing Strategy would be submitted to the Committee for consideration. He stated that the Government needed to do more to support the city to deliver more affordable housing. He further informed the Committee that under occupancy was an issue and work was being progressed to address this so as to release larger properties, making reference to the Extra Care and Age Friendly schemes that were being delivered.

The Leader provided an update on the housing of refugees and asylum seekers, adding that Manchester had responded well in welcoming and supporting asylum seekers

however improved arrangements and support from the Home Office was required, noting that an announcement was expected on the emerging situation in the Ukraine.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and recommends that the residency criteria for all neighbouring boroughs Housing Policy be circulated to Members for information.

### **ESC/22/14 HS2 Phase 2b Western Leg - Environmental Statement Consultation & Hybrid Bill Petitioning Response**

The Committee were invited to consider and comment on the report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) that informed the Executive about the deposit of the HS2 hybrid Bill in Parliament on 24 January 2022; the public consultations on the Environmental Statement (ES) and Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) for the Bill; and outlined the Council's proposed response to these consultations. The report further outlined the key areas on which the Council was proposing to petition against the hybrid Bill, subject to the approval of Council on 4 March to submit a petition.

Key points and themes of the report included:-

- An introduction and background to the HS2 Crewe-Manchester hybrid Bill;
- HS2 Crewe-Manchester hybrid Bill Environmental Statement;
- Describing the key themes and issues identified;
- Immediate next steps;
- Next steps on the wider HS2 programme; and
- Conclusion.

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

- Supporting the ambitions of HS2 to deliver wider connectivity with the North, however calling for the Government's immediate attention to, and due consideration given to the concerns raised by Manchester;
- Supporting the call for an underground, through platform at Piccadilly train station to accommodate HS2 and meet the capacity needs;
- Noting that the proposals offered to Manchester would not be acceptable in London;
- The current HS2 proposals were contrary to the many ambitions and policies that city had to address issues such as improving active travel; addressing carbon emissions; protecting the heritage of the city and supporting biodiversity;
- Further detailed information was required from HS2 on the mitigation proposed to protect Northenden and Didsbury from flooding following the installation of the Withington Golf Club vent shaft;
- The proposed vent at Fallowfield Retail Park, Birchfield Road would adversely impact local residents; and
- The consultation events delivered by HS2 had not been satisfactory.

The Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure commented that all of the concerns expressed by the Members would be articulated in the submission to Government. She stated that they had lobbied HS2 and the Department for Transport on these and other issues as described in the report over a number of years without satisfactory response.

The Leader commented that this was an opportunity to deliver improvements and deliver the ambitions of Northern Powerhouse Rail to deliver a truly connected network, however the current proposals fell short of delivering on the ambitions for Manchester. She stated that the issue of capacity needed to be adequately addressed, adding that this could only be achieved with the installation of an underground, through platform at Piccadilly train station.

### **Decision**

The Committee endorse the recommendations that the Executive:

- (1) Note the deposit in Parliament of the HS2 Crewe-Manchester hybrid Bill and the accompanying ES and EQIA.
- (2) Note and comment on the proposed contents of the City Council's submission in response to the consultations on the HS2 Crewe-Manchester hybrid Bill ES and EQIA.
- (3) Note Council approval to submit a petition to object to aspects of the HS2 Crewe-Manchester hybrid Bill and comment on the proposed areas for the City Council's petition, and
- (4) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director – Growth & Development, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport, to finalise the responses to the HS2 Crewe-Manchester hybrid Bill Environmental Statement and EQIA and submit to DfT.

### **ESC/22/15 Update on COVID-19 Activity**

The Committee considered a 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.

The Chair stated that she welcomed the reported increase in footfall at both the King Street and St Ann's Square locations; she paid tribute to the work delivered through the Good Jobs Project and the Connect with Us digital roadshow, noting the choice of venues to deliver these was welcomed.

### **Decision**

The Committee notes the report.

### **ESC/22/16 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.