

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022

Present:

Councillor Hitchen - In the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Benham, Connolly, Evans, Hilal, Johnson, H Priest, Rawson, Whiston, Wills and Wilson

Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

Apologies:

Councillors Chambers and Iqbal

CESC/22/17 Minutes

Decision

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

CESC/22/18 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.

A Member requested that the Committee continue to look at homelessness during the new municipal year. The Chair advised that there would be work programming session after the meeting and that Members could discuss then how this would be planned into the Committee's work programme.

The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the list of key decisions yet to be taken and asked officers for an update. In relation to the key decision on the provision of a transport service for the Manchester Schools Swimming Programme, the Commercial Manager (Neighbourhoods) advised that this was currently out for procurement. The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) advised that she would check the current position in relation to the Security Services Contract and the Framework Agreement for the Provision of Temporary Accommodation for People with No Recourse to Public Funds and ensure that updates on key decisions were provided in future.

Decision

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

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022

Present:

Councillor Simcock – in the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Davies, Good, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles and Wheeler

Apologies: Councillor Kirkpatrick

RGSC/21/19 Minutes

Decision

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

RGSC/21/20 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 Committee noted that it would be discussing the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year in further detail in a private session following the meeting, and that an updated work programme reflecting this discussion would be circulated as normal in the papers for the next meeting.

Decision

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

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022

Present:

Councillor Simcock – in the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Davies, Good, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles and Wheeler

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

RGSC/22/21 Minutes

Decision

The Committee approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022 as a correct record.

RGSC/22/22 Revenue and Benefits Update

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the activity of the Revenues and Benefits Unit as set out in the October 2021 Scrutiny Report, including details of Covid schemes and cost of living schemes delivered by the service.

Key themes in the report included:

- An overview of Benefits administration, including Council Tax Support and the management of the Welfare Provision Scheme and other discretionary schemes;
- The financial support provided as part of the Test and Trace scheme;
- The financial support provided by the Household Support Fund scheme;
- The financial support provided by the Energy Grant Scheme; Performance in the collection of council tax and how the Council balances collection, whilst working in an ethical way and supporting those residents on a low income; and
- Performance in the collection of business rates, including the financial support provided to businesses through various Business Rates Reliefs and grants.

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

- Was it possible to provide any indication as to how many families and businesses had been supported by the Council's approach to helping those in need;
- It was noted that there were no properties within the Private Rented Sector within Manchester that offered properties for rent close to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate and it was deeply worrying that there had been no uplift in April 2022;

- Was there any significant variations between Council Tax bandings and the uptake in direct debit payments of Council Tax;
- What percentage of applicants were approved in relation to the Welfare Provisions Scheme;
- In relation to the pilot with Oasis Centre in Gorton, what have been the learning outcomes for wider implementation;
- Had there been any occasion where the Council had managed to collect Council Tax at a rate of 95% or more;
- Clarification was sought on how the Council was preventing the £150 Council Tax rebate being paid to those residents with a second home;
- A question was asked on how quickly 'U' banded properties became classified;
- Clarification was sought as to whether Enforcement Agents were bailiffs and how likely was the trial on attachments to earnings to be extended;
- Was there any indication as to how many business the city were lost due to them not fitting the criteria set by Government for its Business Support Scheme; and
- Was there any specific reasons for the low uptake of the CARF funding.

The Head of Corporate Assessments advised that it was difficult to give a precise number as to how many people had been supported as many people had been affected by a range of pressure. He advised that it would be possible to provide a high level figure of the number of households that had received support. The Head of Corporate Revenues advised that the position was similar in relation to business rate support, insofar that it would be possible to provide a figure on how many businesses had received support and the amount of money paid out by the Council, but it would not be possible to provide more detail as to how many businesses had been saved from collapsing.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented that it would be fair to acknowledge that the Council would not have been able to help as many residents and businesses without the additional funding from government, but it was not a simple process of just passporting the money on to those families and businesses. It needed to be recognised the amount of work that had gone into the design and implementation processes by the Council in short space of time to enable the distribution of these funds to those most in need.

The Head of Corporate Revenues agreed to provide details to the Committee on the number of households that paid Council Tax by direct debit in each Council Tax banding. He commented that the Council tried to provide residents with multiple ways to establish direct debit payments, not just online, as this was the cheapest way for the council to process Council Tax payments.

The Head of Corporate Assessments advised that he did not have all the available data on the percentage of applicants who were approved in relation to the Welfare Provisions Scheme, but in relation to the first two months of the current financial year, which would be broadly representative of applications approved the figure was at 38%.

The Committee was advised that following the pilot with Oasis Centre in Gorton, the Council was considering rolling out similar provisions at other sites in the future.

Although the number of referrals that had been made at present was fairly low the service had been extremely well received by staff at the Oasis Centre, as well as those residents that have been helped.

The Head of Corporate Revenues commented that in terms of the in year collection rate of Council Tax arrears, the Council had never achieved a rate of 95%, but it was reported that the overall collection rate for Council Tax had been in excess of 96.5% pre pandemic. This rate had reduced to 94.5% during the pandemic and these financial years had been set at 95.5%

In terms of the £150 Council Tax rebate for second home owners, it was explained the Council's data on this was as accurate as it could be but the Council was to some degree reliant on residents informing the Council if they owned a second property. In addition, the technical definition of a second home included rented furnished properties between tenants so any property classified as this would not have been eligible for the rebate.

In relation to the classification of 'U' banded properties, there was currently 4,400 properties on the Academy system, which could range from only having footings to being ready for occupancy and referred to the Valuation office for banding. Properties were added to the system when formal names and addresses had been determined. Completion notices were served when properties became ready for occupation within three months and this provided a date as to when a property became eligible for paying Council Tax.

The Head of Corporate Revenues clarified that the Enforcement Agents were previously referred to as Bailiffs and that the Council did use these to enforce the collection of Council Tax or Business rate debt but commented that the Council had reduced the number of instances where Enforcement Agents were instructed significantly over the last ten years. The Committee was reassured that there was a strict code of conduct of how the Council expected the Agents to conduct themselves and they were never used for those people on Council Tax support. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer agreed to provide the Committee with a fuller response on this issue after the meeting.

The Committee was advised that the Cabinet Office was keen to extend the trial on attachments to earnings but HMRC was not as supportive due to requirement of sharing information. It was noted that the second stage of the trial would not be as successful as the first stage as HMRC had requested more information to match the Council's data against their own, which the Council could not provide as it did not hold it. The Council was working with DWP to provide the information being sought but this was only resulting in matches where the resident had DWP connections and these did not tend to be the higher earners.

The Head of Corporate Revenues advised that the Growth and Skills Hub would possibly have the information on the number of businesses that did not fit the governments criteria for Business Support Scheme. It was agreed that Officers would speak to colleagues in the Growth and Skills Hub for this information and if available would be provided to the Committee

In terms of the uptake of CARF funding, it was not clear as to why the uptake was low. It was reported that £24m had been made available to businesses and so far the Council had written to over 9,000 businesses to make them aware of this available funding.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report.
- (2) Thanks all Officers within the Council's Revenue and Benefits team for their hard work in supporting those most vulnerable in the city.
- (3) Requests that Officers provide the Committee with information on the number of businesses that did not fit the government's criteria for Business Support Scheme and details on the number of households that paid Council Tax by direct debit in each Council Tax banding.

RGSC/22/23 Capital Programme Outturn 2021/22

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer. The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to it being considered by the Executive.

Key themes in the report included:

- The outturn of capital expenditure for 2021/22;
- The financing of capital expenditure for 2021/22;
- The major variances between the 2021/22 outturn and the previous Capital Programme monitoring report submitted in February 2022; and
- The revised capital programme budget for 2022/23; and subsequent years as a result of the review of the programme following outturn.

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

- Was the inflation contingency of £28m over the next four years going to be enough given the increasing rate;
- Would it be possible to have a report on how each capital project contributed to a net zero carbon city;
- Could information be provided on the spending towards the new proposed residents parking zone in Ancoats;
- Was the Council still expecting a positive return on investment in regard to The Factory
- How would spending change on Northwards Housing now that it was back within the Council;
- Concern was expressed around the economic volatility Manchester residents were facing and whether there would be an effect on Council borrowing if interest rates were to increase;
- How was social value delivered within the projects;
- Concern was expressed around the cost of inflation to the construction industry;

- Why was there a proposed virement of £1.62m from the Newton Heath High Rise Block
- Could an explanation of maintaining structure of borrowing be given; and
- Clarification was sought as to the why the cost of refitting the Peterloo Memorial was greater than the total cost of the Emmeline Pankhurst memorial.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that it was difficult to accurately assess the level of contingency needed for inflation as the situation was very fast moving and the impact on the supply chain was profound as well. All major schemes had been reviewed but it would be further in the year before there would be clearer picture of the impact of recent increases in inflation would have. The Deputy City Treasurer also comment that most of the capital projects had contingency levels built in and it would be these contingencies that would be used in the first instance and the £28m was for anything that couldn't be covered within the planned contingency levels within each project.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer agreed to share with Committee Members the Council' Low Carbon Build Standard report. In addition, it was explained that each capital project went through a business case process, with a specific part centred around how the project would contribute towards low carbon and other climate mitigation measures.

In terms of the residents parking zone in Ancoats, the scheme would be included in the Council's Capital Programme at the point it became fully approved and the funding in place. At present, this scheme was currently going through consultation and would be added into the programme at the point it was agreed and signed off.

It was reported that the Council was still expecting a positive economic return for The Factory, but it was acknowledged that there was a pressured budget for the project given the inflationary pressures the Council was facing.

In regard to Northwards Housing, some of the work the Council would be doing would be around the Capital Investment Programme for the estate.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer shared the Committee's concern on the impact to residents that the increase in inflation was having. She commented that the Council was not able to mitigate against everything but would work hard to target its resources that it had in the most effective way possible. It was reported that in relation to borrowing, whilst the financing for the current approved programme was affordable, any future capital programme schemes and the ability to deliver some new projects may be constrained by the level of funding available.

The Deputy City Treasure advised that each capital project had a 20% weighting of the tender in relation to delivering social value as part of the project. It was often up to the contractor as to what form this would be delivered but there had been a focus on job creation, apprenticeships, skills training as well as local works and volunteering days. In addition, there was a further 10% weighting around contributing to a low carbon city, both of which were monitored throughout the life of the project.

The Deputy City Treasurer provided an explanation of what was meant by maintaining structure of borrowing and also agreed to provide details on the virement at Newton Heath High Rise Block, but in essence this was due to a potential underspend on the work undertaken. Furthermore, he clarified that the cost allocated to refitting the Peterloo Memorial was the total available funding available figure and would not necessarily cost the total value as stated in the report.

Decision

The Committee note the report.

RGSC/22/24 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.

Decision

The Committee note the report and agreed the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair

Councillors N. Ali, Appleby, Curley, Johnson, Karney, Newman, Riasat, Richards and Russell

Apologies: Councillors McHale and Reeves

Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care

Councillor Collins, Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care

HSC/22/19 Urgent Business – IT Failure at the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust (NCA)

The Chair welcomed Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care and asked him to address the Committee on the recent IT Failure at the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust (NCA).

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that he had met with senior officers to discuss the emerging IT issue that was impacting upon North Manchester General Hospital. He advised that business contingency plans were being enacted and that a comprehensive briefing note would be circulated to all Members by the close of business.

The Deputy Director of Adult Social Services reassured the Committee that teams were working to ensure the continued safe treatment and discharge of patients.

Decision

To note the oral update.

HSC/22/18 Minutes

Decision

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

HSC/22/19 Covid-19 and Vaccination Programme Update

The Committee 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:

- An update on the current Covid data;
- An overview of the Manchester Health Protection System; and
- Information relating to the Manchester Spring Vaccination Plan.

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

- The need to learn the lessons from history and HIV/Aids and how stigma and misconceptions can arise in relation to health issues;
- Consideration needed to be given nationally as to the naming of monkeypox, noting that this could arise to public misconceptions;
- Further information was sought as to the Covid winter booster vaccination programme and if the public would be charged, in a similar way as the flu vaccination was administered;
- Noting that COVID had not gone away and was still prevalent and people needed to be reminded of this;
- Recognising the important role of community vaccination hubs and pop-up events to support the vaccination programme;
- Noting the relationship of the reported cases of COVID and the removal of free Lateral Flow Testing;
- The vaccination levels in Manchester were still relatively low compared to the national average and further information was sought as to the characteristics of those not vaccinated;
- Information on the future of Sounding Boards was requested.

The Director of Public Health addressed the issue of monkeypox by advising that at the time of reporting there were no reported cases in the North West. He advised that nationally there were 71 confirmed cases and that the risk to public health was very low, however the local situation would continue to be closely monitored and he was confident that local systems were in place to effectively respond in the event of an outbreak. In response to the discussion regarding misconceptions and stigma he stated that the team were also working closely with the Communications Team and the local Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners to ensure the messaging was appropriate and accurate. He further acknowledged the comments regarding the naming of the disease and he would raise this nationally following the meeting. He advised the Committee that he would keep them updated in regard to monkeypox.

The Strategic Lead Population Health Programmes advised that in terms of the vaccination cohorts the guidance of The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) was followed. She stated that it was recognised nationally that the wider vaccination system, such as flu and childhood immunisations needed to be streamlined. In regard to future vaccination charging, she said that the approach to this was yet to be decided at a national level. She described that unlike in other areas of the country Manchester continued to deliver a consistent vaccination offer, including the outreach services and pop-up events and that teams of core volunteers still operated and supported such community settings. She said that discussions were ongoing with NHSE regarding the future funding of the estate costs associated

with community services. In regard to the details requested regarding the non-vaccinated she said this information would be shared following the meeting.

The Director of Public Health commented that Sounding Boards had been established under the remit of the work of COVID-19 Health Equity Manchester (CHEM). He stated that these would continue to function this year and that their role and scope was to be reviewed to help identify gaps and support the wider work of health protection. He added that the work of Sounding Boards complimented the wider Marmot work underway across the city to address health inequality.

In response to a question regarding staffing and the reconfiguration of services the Assistant Director of Public Health advised that all the posts were permanent posts and had utilised the capacity within existing teams under existing funding arrangements.

A Member paid tribute to all staff and partners who had worked to protect the residents of Manchester during the pandemic. He said this was contrary to the actions of the government as highlighted in recent press reports and photographs. He called upon the Prime Minister to apologise to the residents of Manchester who had adhered to the Covid rules. He further called upon the Prime Minister to resign. The Committee supported this statement.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care endorsed all the comments from the Committee and welcomed their deliberations and questioning. He further thanked the officers for the quality and breadth of the presentation. He concluded by paying tribute to his predecessor, Councillor Midgley.

The Chair and the Committee expressed their gratitude to all staff, partners and volunteers involved with tackling COVID-19 over the previous 24 months. The Chair expressed her ongoing confidence in all the established systems and staff and praised their ongoing commitment. The Chair further wished Dr Kumar her best wishes and congratulations on her new post and thanked her for her regular attendance at Health Scrutiny and in doing so welcomed Jenny Osborne, Strategic Lead Population Health Programmes to her new role.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/22/20 Overview Report

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

The Committee noted that it would be discussing the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year in further detail in a private session following the meeting, and that an updated work programme reflecting this discussion would be circulated as normal in the papers for the next meeting.

Decision

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

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair
Councillors N. Ali, Appleby, Curley, Johnson and Riasat

Apologies: Councillors Karney, McHale, Newman, Reeves, Richards and Russell

Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor Collins, Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Kathryn Murphy, Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Saint Mary's Hospital
Jen Sager, Quality and Safety, Saint Mary's Hospital
Mr Martin Toal, Extra Care resident
Mr Vic Nuttall, Extra Care resident

HSC/22/21 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022 as a correct record.

HSC/22/22 Covid-19, Health Protection and Vaccination Programme Update

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Assistant Director of Public Health that provided that latest COVID-19 data and vaccination updates. In addition, the Health Protection slides provided the latest information on the national, regional and local response to the monkeypox situation. The presentation had been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting.

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

- Noting the recent press reports that described an increase in the cases of COVID-19; and
- The Council should lobby the government for the reintroduction of free testing.

The Strategic Lead Population Health Programmes acknowledged the comments regarding the increase in COVID-19 cases and stated that residents who had not had their spring booster jab should come forward to receive these at the earliest opportunity, especially those vulnerable and older residents. She further commented that key messaging and levers are being used to encourage both older and younger people to take up the offer of the vaccination.

The Assistant Director of Public Health reassured the Committee that work continued across a range of settings to ensure that any future outbreak was managed appropriately. She further reiterated the key public health message that COVID-19

was still in circulation and anyone experiencing symptoms should refrain from entering the work place and work from home where possible.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care advised the Committee that it had always been and remained the position of the Council that free COVID testing should be made available to all Manchester residents.

The Chair thanked the officers for the update and stated that the Committee retained their confidence in all of the teams who had responded to the pandemic. She further commented that from July this regular update would be provided via the monthly Overview Report as an item for information, adding that Members would still have the opportunity to ask questions on the information provided.

The Chair further commented that she welcomed the recent announcement that the World Health Organization was seeking to change the name of monkeypox virus, noting that the Committee had called for this at their previous meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/22/23 The Ockenden Report - Manchester Foundation Trust's Response

The Committee considered the report and accompanying presentation submitted by St Mary's Hospital, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust that described that Dame Donna Ockenden was appointed to conduct an independent review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust. A report highlighting the initial findings was published in December 2020. Manchester Foundation Trust produced and completed an action plan in relation to its recommendations.

The second and final report into Dame Donna Ockenden's review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust was published on 30 March 2022. It described 15 Immediate and Essential Actions, which must be taken forward by all local maternity service providers. The report described Manchester Foundation Trust's response to the final Ockenden Report.

Key points and themes in the report and presentation included:

- Providing an introduction and context to the report;
- Manchester Foundation Trust response to emerging findings from the first Ockenden report; and
- Manchester Foundation Trust response to emerging findings from the final Ockenden report.

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

- What was being done to support pregnant female prisoners;
- What was being done to support pregnant learning disabled citizens;
- What was being done to support pregnant homeless citizens; and
- What was being done to train, recruit and retain midwifery nurses.

The Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Saint Mary's Hospital stated that a dedicated midwife post had been established to specifically support HMP Styal. She described this post had been established in late 2021 and was beginning to be embedded, noting that this was recognised nationally as an example of good practice.

The Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Saint Mary's Hospital further commented that the Ockenden Report discussed the need to consider vulnerability in the wider context, improve access to services and remove barriers to service. She described that there was a specific Learning-Disabled Safeguarding Group that worked closely with the Manchester Local Care Organisation to address wider care needs of patients.

The Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Saint Mary's Hospital commented that Manchester was in a strong position in relation to nurse training and retention. She stated that they had established strong relationships with local education providers and had managed to establish a strong pathway to recruit student nurses from these providers, commenting that in addition to this Manchester benefited from being a vibrant city that attracted nursing graduates. In response to a specific question relating to the diversity of the work force she commented that this data was available and would be provided following the meeting, adding that Saint Mary's had a programme to promote and support BAME staff and there was a mechanism to ensure that the voice and views of BAME staff was heard at all levels of the organisation.

The Chair stated that she welcomed the report and would welcome a future update report at an appropriate time that described progress against the agreed actions. She further requested that this update report include comparative data and how Manchester compared to the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust. She further requested that the report include an update on advocacy and the voice of the women and families.

Decision

To note the report and request that an update report is provided for consideration at an appropriate time.

HSC/22/24 Extra Care Growth and Developments in Manchester

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described the developments across Extra Care Housing during the past 7 years, culminating in significant growth in provision by working in partnership with Manchester Housing Providers.

Extra Care is purpose-built accommodation with care for people over 55 years of age and is a key enabler for adult social care in increasing suitable housing options for older people to remain in their chosen community, which, through this provision, avoids the need for people with care and support needs to rely on institutionalised care settings such as residential and nursing care.

The Committee then welcomed Mr Martin Toal and Mr Vic Nuttall, Manchester citizens. They both spoke of the circumstance that had resulted in them moving into their respective homes and of the positive experience of living in Extra Care accommodation.

To accompany this item the Committee also viewed a short video tour of Dahlia Gardens Extra Care scheme, courtesy of Southway Housing.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing a background to the report, noting that The Housing for an Age-Friendly Manchester Strategy 2014-2020 set out the vision to increase extra care housing by trebling provision; and
- Describing the benefits and outcomes of Extra Care Housing, including key facts and figures.

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

- Thanking both Mr Toal and Mr Nuttall for attending the meeting and sharing their experience with the Committee;
- Recognising the positive impact this model of accommodation had on both residents and their families;
- Was there enough of this type of accommodation to meet demand in the city;
- Could private owner occupiers access Extra Care accommodation, and if so communication in relation to this needed to be improved;
- Future schemes needed to be codesigned with residents with experience of living in Extra Care accommodation;
- An update was requested in relation to the LGBT Extra Care scheme that was planned for Whalley Range; and
- More needed to be done to promote Extra Care as a viable option for BAME residents.

The Head of Commissioning (Older People) responded to Members' questions and comments by advising that the delivery of the schemes over the previous seven years had been achieved by working with Strategic Housing and housing providers in the city. She described that the accommodation delivered was of high quality and supported people to rightsize. She described that since 2014 the number of units in the city had trebled and there was a pipeline of schemes to grow this provision. She described that the maps describing proposed schemes had been developed using data to map where the older populations currently lived, adding that it was important to acknowledge that the schemes were for the city as a whole.

The Head of Commissioning (Older People) stated that the benefits realised by people living in Extra Care accommodation included decreased levels of depression; loneliness; falls; increased feeling of safety and increased activities. She also advised that this reduced the demand on hospital services. She informed Members that Extra Care was a home for life and they worked with a range of NHS partners to support people to remain living safely in their homes, including Macmillan Cancer Support. She further stated that a further, specific Dementia Extra Care home would

be developed in Manchester to provide specific, appropriate support for people so as to avoid them having to move into residential care.

The Head of Commissioning (Older People) informed Members that owner occupiers were eligible and could apply for Extra Care accommodation and acknowledged that there was a need to consider key messaging on this issue to include owner occupiers and members of the BAME community. She advised that there were good examples of where BAME residents had been engaged on this subject as a viable housing option; however, she acknowledged there was an existing perception amongst some residents regarding this model of accommodation, adding that this was a national issue. The Chair commented that existing Sounding Boards could be used to support this activity and promote Extra Care more widely.

The Head of Commissioning (Older People) acknowledged the suggestion regarding the codesign of future schemes to include residents with lived experience. She advised that Occupational Therapists did work with architects during the design stage and stated that the learning from previous schemes would be built upon to inform future schemes.

The Interim Director of Housing & Residential Growth reiterated the previous comments that commended the joint strategic approach in Manchester to deliver the Extra Care schemes and he further paid tribute to all officers involved with this work for their commitment. He described that this work and approach complimented the Manchester Housing Strategy (2022-2032) that would be considered at the July meeting of Executive. He further provided an update on the LGBT Russell Road scheme and stated that the Committee would be kept informed as this scheme developed.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that the report described a success story for the city and needed to be celebrated. He particularly welcomed the lived experience articulated by the invited residents that had meaningfully contributed to the Committee's deliberations.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/22/25 Manchester Equipment & Adaptations Partnership

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described that the Manchester Equipment & Adaptation Partnership is a citywide service within Adult Social Care in the Manchester Local Care Organisation.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing a service overview; and
- Discussing the current opportunities, challenges and activity.

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

- Noting the significant positive impact this service had on supporting people and their families;
- How confident were we that the work to reduce the waiting lists and for the waiting time to see an Assessment Officer to be under 4 weeks would be completed by the end of September 2022;
- Communications relating to the service needed to be appropriate, include information in relation to expected timescales and information on how to appeal decisions;
- What was the rate of recovery of minor adaptations when they were no longer required; and
- Noting that a review of the delivery model of both minor and major adaptations would be undertaken, the Committee requested an update report following completion of the review.

The Assistant Director, Targeted Interventions noted the comments from the Members and responded by advising that the team were well established and committed to delivering the best outcomes for Manchester residents. She described that the work of the service was aligned to the Better Outcomes Better Lives work that was regularly reported to this Committee and staff worked closely with the Community Health Teams based in the Manchester Local Care Organisation. She added that she remained confident that the September target to reduce the waiting lists and for the waiting time to see an Assessment Officer would be achieved.

The Assistant Director, Targeted Interventions advised that the review of the delivery model of both minor and major adaptations would inform the future delivery model of this service and an update report describing the findings and recommendations of the review would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.

The Assistant Director, Targeted Interventions said that all communications relating to the service did comply with all current accessibility guidance, however if there were cases that Members wished to raise with her following the meeting she would look into these further. She said that all applications for the service were appropriately assessed, and timescales communicated to residents. She stated that if a decision was to refuse an application, information relating to the appeals process was provided, adding that officers did work to explain panel decisions to residents. She added that residents could reapply if their circumstance changed.

The Assistant Director, Targeted Interventions stated that Manchester had a very high rate of recycling and reusing equipment when they were no longer required.

Decision

To recommend that an update report describing the findings and recommendations of the delivery model of both minor and major adaptations be included on the Committee's work programme for consideration at an appropriate time.

HSC/22/26 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 requested that a response to the outstanding previous recommendations, described at section 1 of the report be provided for the next update.

In response to the Chair's comments regarding the Care Quality Commission (CQC) rating of Inadequate of a service, the Deputy Director of Adult Social Services advised that discussions were underway with the CQC to determine how best to relay information to the Elected Members for those services that were not Adult Social Care.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, noting the requests for update reports arising from consideration of the previous agenda items.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2022

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair
Councillors Alijah, Amin, Gartside, Good, Hewitson, Judge, Lovecy, Sadler and Sharif Mahamed

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Andrea Patel, Director of Safeguarding, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)
Detective Superintendent Chris Downey, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

Apologies:

Councillors Abdullatif and Bano
Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

CYP/22/21 Minute's Silence

The Committee held a minute's silence for the victims of the school shooting in Texas and the children of Ukraine.

CYP/22/22 Urgent Business – Ofsted's Inspection of Manchester's Children's Services

The Deputy Director of Children's Services informed Members about the recent Ofsted Inspection of Manchester Children's Services, which had judged the service to be "good". He outlined the main points within Ofsted's report, which had been published the previous week. He highlighted that Manchester now had one of the top performing Children's Services in the north-west of England and that this represented a significant improvement since the last inspection in 2017. He offered to bring to a future meeting a report which included the Council's action plan for addressing the areas for improvement identified in Ofsted's report.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People recognised the years of hard work that had gone into achieving this improvement, particularly in light of the challenges of austerity and the pandemic, and how Council decisions had enabled this. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services also praised the staff in Children's Services. He emphasised that, while this was a very positive achievement, the service could not be complacent and would strive for continued improvement and to respond to emerging challenges.

A Member congratulated all those involved in this achievement and recognised the important role of frontline social work staff. The Chair highlighted how the service had worked to improve since it had been judged as “inadequate” in 2014 and made reference to the late Sheila Newman who had been the Executive Member for Children’s Services, overseeing the improvement journey until her death in 2018. The Chair also explained the contribution of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee over this period and her own role in the improvement journey. She also thanked the former Council Leader Sir Richard Leese for his commitment with extra funding for social workers, to reduce caseloads.

Decision

To note the verbal report.

CYP/22/23 Minutes

Decisions

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022.
2. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup held on 2 March 2022.

CYP/22/24 Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (MSP) Annual Report 2020/2021

The Committee received a report of Paul Marshall, in his role as the Chair of the Children Executive Board, which provided an overview of what the MSP had done as a result of the safeguarding arrangements, and how effective these arrangements had been in practice.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Partnership arrangements;
- Communications and engagement;
- Quality assurance and scrutiny;
- Case reviews and learning;
- Workforce development;
- The Independent Chair’s assurance statement;
- Review of MSP Joint Strategic Plan 2020/2021; and
- Strategic priorities 2021/2022.

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

- To welcome the positive achievements outlined in the report, recognising the challenges of the pandemic;

- To request more information on the changes to the quality assurance arrangements;
- Serious Case Reviews and learning from high profile national cases such as the death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes; and
- Complex safeguarding work relating to young people at risk from serious youth violence, including work with local communities to address this.

The Strategic Lead (Safeguarding and Practice Development) reported that the Partnership had been focused on identifying, understanding and meeting the needs of children and families during the pandemic and making sure that no child fell through the net during that period; however, it was recognised that the focus of the quality assurance function now needed to re-adjust and should extend to looking at the impact and effectiveness of its work. She outlined how learning from high profile national cases was used, checking if the findings from that investigation was true of Manchester, and reported that, when undertaking a review in Manchester, national research would be taken into account.

The Chair highlighted the important role of Health Visitors in identifying and monitoring the welfare of pre-school-age children who were in need of help and protection and suggested that Health Visitors be added to the agenda for a future meeting. Andrea Patel, Director of Safeguarding, MHCC, reported that reviews in Manchester had been positive about the Health Visiting Service but that if any gaps were identified they would be addressed.

The Chair informed the Committee about a project which was taking place in Gorton on complex safeguarding, which involved the local community. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services informed Members about the multi-agency Complex Safeguarding Subgroup and the links with neighbourhoods teams, GMP and schools. Detective Superintendent Chris Downey from GMP reported that it was a constant challenge to keep young people safe and manage tensions and that he and his colleagues wanted to be able to shift towards understanding the causes of youth violence and focusing on early intervention. He informed Members that he had recently recruited an additional three police officers to work on early intervention regarding serious youth violence and that this work would be supported by Youth Justice and social workers in the Complex Safeguarding Hub. He advised that this work was different from their traditional work on Child Criminal Exploitation and needed a different approach.

In response to a Member's question, Detective Superintendent Chris Downey advised that GMP did look at what similar cities were doing to address youth violence, although still more could be done to learn from good practice elsewhere. In response to another question, he acknowledged that more work needed to be done to engage with local communities, including families affected by serious youth violence and recognised that work with communities had been important in addressing other issues, such as firearm offences. He reported that GMP did communicate with families who had lost loved ones due to youth violence. He advised that, although GMP had a central Independent Advisory Group that covered the whole central area, he felt that a more local approach was needed, including asking local people how they could help with addressing this issue. The Chair highlighted the new Chief Constable's commitment to neighbourhood policing. She

advised that she had already spoken to the Chair of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, who would be having an item on Youth Justice at a future meeting, to which she and Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee would be invited.

A Member who was a Teacher Representative informed the Committee how her school was engaging with local partners, including mosques, to address challenging behaviour. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services suggested that officers provide a report on youth participation and engagement to a future meeting.

Members discussed youth provision, including funding cuts, activities over the summer holidays and the challenge of young people not wanting to cross boundaries into other areas to access youth provision. A Member informed the Committee about a boxing club for young people set up by Moss Side firefighters and suggested that Members could visit this. The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People suggested that the Committee receive a report on youth provision at a future meeting and highlighted the additional £500,000 which the Council was investing in youth provision. He also informed the Committee how local Neighbourhood Teams were putting on events as part of Our Year. He said that he could provide further information on this and encouraged Members to speak to the Neighbourhood Teams in their wards about doing this. In response to a Member's comments about issues in his ward, the Executive Member offered to discuss the specific issues outside of the meeting.

In a response to a Member's question about the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental health, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services outlined the mental health support that had been put in place through schools and through both universal and specialist services. He recognised the challenge of responding to traumatised children and suggested that the Committee might want to consider this at a future meeting.

Decision

To consider Health Visiting at a future meeting.

CYP/22/25 COVID-19 Update

The Committee received a verbal update from the Education Business Partner which outlined new developments and significant changes to the current situation, particularly in relation to schools.

The main points and themes within the verbal update included:

- The number of positive cases in schools, which had reduced;
- Recent changes, including the end of free regular testing, the expanded list of COVID-19 symptoms and the change in guidance for people who suspected that they had COVID-19;
- The government's withdrawal of the operational guidance for schools on COVID-19 and the incorporation of COVID-19 management into existing health, health and safety and estates management guidance and the

publication of a new document for school leaders called the Department for Education (DfE) Emergency Planning and Response document;

- The continued support being provided to schools by the Council's Education Service and its partners;
- That the Test and Trace Team had become Manchester Health Protection Team and that support would continue and would now cover other diseases, in addition to COVID-19; and
- That there would be a continued focus on Long Covid, in relation to pupils and staff.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education reported that individual schools could decide how quickly they resumed normal activities, such as full assemblies or stay and play sessions, which had been stopped during the pandemic. She advised that some schools had found that some of the practices introduced due to the pandemic were beneficial to the smooth-running of the school and would continue. The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that staff absences could be affecting the resumption of some activities but that he expected activities to return to similar to how they had been pre-pandemic and that Members could speak to him or the Director of Education about any specific cases they were concerned about. In response to a Member's question, the Deputy Director of Children's Services reported that Social Workers had been undertaking face-to-face visits throughout the pandemic, while almost making use of technology.

The Chair advised that the Committee would receive a further COVID-19 update at its next meeting and could then review whether or not it was necessary to continue to have updates at every meeting. She noted that the Committee would be receiving a report on examination results later in the year and would be able to assess the impact of the pandemic on these. She suggested that the Committee receive a report on School Governance at a future meeting.

Decision

To receive a report on School Governance at a future meeting.

CYP/22/26 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.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2022

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair

Councillors Chohan, Hughes, Ilyas, Jeavons, Lyons, Nunney, Razaq and Sheikh

Apologies: Councillors Doswell, Holt, Wright

Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

ECCSC/22/15 Minutes

Decision

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

ECCSC/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.

A Member commented that information on climate change and the actions being taken by the Council needed to be prominent on the Council's home webpage. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that she had responded to this question previously at a meeting of full Council and advised that the information referred to was accessible and available on the Council's website. In response to a comment regarding the previous recommendation asking for consideration to be given to the establishment of a Climate Clock in the city, similar to that in Glasgow (see 14 October 2021), the Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that consideration would be given as to the most appropriate method of messaging on the issue of climate change.

The Committee noted that it would be discussing the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year in further detail in a private session following the meeting, and that an updated work programme reflecting this discussion would be circulated as normal in the papers for the next meeting.

Decision

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

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair

Councillors Chohan, Doswell, Holt, Hughes, Ilyas, Lyons, Nunney, Razaq, Sheikh and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Jeavons

Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

ECCSC/22/17 Urgent Business – Clean Air Plan Policy Review

The Chair introduced an item of urgent business by explaining that the report entitled 'Clean Air Plan Policy Review' had been listed for consideration at this meeting. She advised the Committee that this item had been deferred to the July meeting and invited the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer to outline the reasons for this.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer informed the Committee that the draft response to the Government was not currently available for scrutiny, however this would be presented to the Committee at the July meeting prior to its submission to the Executive. She stated this approach was being adopted across all the ten districts within Greater Manchester. She said that in order to meet the Government deadline of 1 July and enable the individual local authorities to consider it before a final version was submitted, the GM Air Quality Administration Committee, with political representation from each district, had agreed to submit a draft plan to meet the deadline but be clear that it remained a draft until it has been considered by the districts.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport further commented that as soon as the papers were available for the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee, she would direct Members to these links.

Decision

The Committee noted the update.

ECCSC/22/18 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2022 as a correct record.

ECCSC/22/19 Climate Change Action Plan Work Programme 2022-23

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the actions to be progressed in Year 3 of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The achievements and highlights of Year 2 will be detailed in the Annual Report 2021-22 which will be published in the Autumn of 2022 and will be available on the Council's website;
- Describing that a refresh of the CCAP 2020-25 was currently underway and would be completed in Autumn 2022;
- The refresh would align the CCAP to wider strategies, such as the Local Plan;
- Reiterating that the Council remained committed to maintaining transparency and would continue to publish quarterly progress reports on the Council's website; and
- Providing a description of the actions and priorities against five workstreams.

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

- Welcoming the report and the information provided;
- Reiterating the call made previously by the Committee for an end to the use of Glyphosate as a method of weed control across the city;
- The report did not present any SMART targets for the activities described;
- The need to clearly articulate the progress made to reduce carbon emissions so this was accessible and relevant to residents;
- An update was sought in relation to Carbon Literacy Training;
- The need to meaningfully engage with the Manchester Community Assembly on Climate Change;
- What support was offered by the Council to the Climate Change Partnership; and
- The issue of shading and heat stress across the public realm needed to be included in Workstream 4: Climate Adaptation and Carbon Sequestration. Noting the emerging evidence in relation to the 'heat island' effect of cities and the impact this had on individuals and the wider contribution to the heating of the planet.

In response the Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised the Committee that the policy in relation to the use of Glyphosate would be circulated to all Members for information. She advised that the Council was committed to reducing the use of this and that alternative methods of weed control across different settings were being considered. She noted that the Committee would be receiving a report on this issue at a future meeting. She advised that residents could opt out of having this used in a neighbourhood, on the condition that they would then take responsibility for removing the weeds themselves. She further advised that she would relay the comments from the meeting to Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods.

The Zero Carbon Manager advised that the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan was the Council's detailed plan and contained targets and deadlines agreed against actions. The Strategic Lead, Resources & Programmes added that

this report provided an overview of the coming year's priorities and had previously been requested by the Committee, however he noted the way this report and information provided to future meetings would be reviewed, noting the comments from Members. He further stated that the information that was published on the Council's website would be reviewed to ensure that it was appropriate for both Members and residents to access information in relation to the range of actions and activities undertaken by the Council to address climate change.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised that both herself and the team remained committed to arranging any briefing sessions or training for Members of the Committee on the activities and work to tackle climate change.

The Strategic Lead, Resources & Programmes informed the Committee that they did engage in continued dialogue with the Community Assembly on Climate Change. Further, he informed the Members that the Council was an active partner, along with the Universities and Bruntwood in the Oxford Road Corridor Partnership. He further commented that these established links with the local Universities facilitated the understanding and implementation of new innovations and understandings to address climate change.

The Strategic Lead, Resources & Programmes advised that he would relay the comments regarding heat stress and the public realm to colleagues in the planning department. The Head of City Policy advised that as part of the Local Plan, consideration was being given to developing policies to deliver zero carbon new build.

The Principal Resources & Programmes Officer informed the Committee that to date 1,400 staff and 54 Councillors were certified as having completed the Carbon Literacy Training. She advised that this training was now mandatory for staff. She further stated that the ambition was for the Council to achieve Gold standard accreditation for this activity, and a dedicated resource had been allocated to deliver this ambition.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the Committee would be considering the Climate Change Action Plan 2020/25 Refresh at the September meeting and consideration would be given to resilience and adaptation as part of this reporting. She reiterated the commitment that addressing climate change was embedded across all Council decision making.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCSC/22/20 Carbon Reduction Procurement Progress Report

The Committee considered the report of Strategic Lead Integrated Commissioning and Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement that updated the Members on the steps that had been taken within the council's procurements to support carbon reduction and highlighted planned next steps.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that as part of the Climate Change Action Plan, the council was working to reduce the emissions associated with the goods, services and works contracts that the council procured;
- In March 2021, the council added a new 10% evaluation weighting specifically in relation to climate change and the environment as part of the Social Value element of contracts;
- Examples of how this weighting had been applied and the outcomes achieved;
- Providing a summary of the main practical challenges and issues that were having to be addressed; and
- Appended to the report was the Internal Audit Briefing Note that provided a high level overview of the current arrangements in place to support carbon reduction through sustainable procurement.

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

- Welcoming the report and the progress to date, noting that this was an important area of activity for the Council;
- Welcoming the Internal Audit Briefing Note, noting that it was important to engage a 'critical friend' to provide an opinion on this important activity;
- Noting that environmental commitments related to wider activities, in addition to reducing carbon emissions;
- What was being done to support SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises), noting that many of these were committed to people and place;
- What monitoring was undertaken to ensure that contractors awarded adhered to delivery on their environmental commitments;
- Were the Questions and Answers used in the awarding of contracts available for the public to access;
- Mindful of commercial sensitivity, anonymised case studies should be included in future update reports;
- Had all the staff involved in the procurement process completed the Carbon Literacy training, noting the extremely high level of technical and innovative information that commissioning officers would need to assess;
- Directing officers to the Competition and Markets Authority 'Green claims code: making environmental claims' guidance as a useful resource; and
- Noting that to avoid accusations of greenwashing, carbon off setting should be deterred.

In response the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement stated that the 10% weighting was for the value of the total valuation score, noting that currently Manchester was pioneering this approach. He stated that the monitoring of the delivery of this by successful contractors was undertaken as part of the ongoing contract management arrangements over the life of the contract, and this was to be standardised across all departments within the Council. The Committee were advised that with the exception of very new staff, all staff involved in the procurement process were Carbon Literacy trained. He further added that work was currently underway to capture and centralise the recording of all data on this activity.

The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement advised that discussions regarding the 10% evaluation weighting in relation to climate change were had with various department Strategic Leads when contract specifications were brought forward prior to tender, noting that there was an escalation process to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer if required.

The Strategic Lead Integrated Commissioning stated that wider environmental benefits, such as delivering green space and supporting biodiversity were considered and assessed, noting that the additional 20% minimum Social Value element of contracts could also be used to support such initiatives. However, the requirement to address carbon emissions was explicit in the tender process as this supported and mirrored the ambitions for the city. He added that carbon offsetting was not promoted and actively discouraged; however, he acknowledged there would be circumstances when this would be used, adding that if this was done it needed to benefit the city.

The Strategic Lead Integrated Commissioning advised that the Growth Company and the Council's Work and Skills Team had established links and support to local SMEs. The Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement further added that advice and constructive feedback was also provided to all unsuccessful bidders as to how they could improve any future applications.

The Strategic Lead Integrated Commissioning advised that there was an online toolkit where the type of questions asked could be viewed and this resource also provided a useful narrative for prospective applicants. Noting that bids were commercially sensitive, consideration would be given to providing anonymised examples in future update reports, commenting that there was evidence that suppliers were actively engaging in this programme as carbon reduction plans had been submitted as part of the tender process. He further added that as this work progressed the examples could be used to inform and educate the market so as to embed this understanding and approach.

Both officers described the learning and sharing of good practice from the Manchester experience that was shared across a range of local and national forums, including Greater Manchester procurement colleagues, other Core Cities and the Local Government Association. Officers further acknowledged the comment regarding the Competition and Markets Authority 'Green claims code: making environmental claims' guidance.

The Chair concluded this item by acknowledging the achievements to date and recognising the importance of this activity not only for the city but also the world. She advised that the Committee would request an update report at an appropriate time.

Decision

To note the report and request that an update report is provided for consideration at an appropriate time.

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.

Members requested that an update be provided for the next meeting for the listed outstanding recommendations. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated she would take this away as an action.

The Chair advised the Committee that she would be attending the July meeting of Economy Scrutiny Committee for the item on Active Travel. She stated that if any Members of this Committee had any questions relating to that item that they would like to raise at that meeting to contact her, and she would raise these on behalf of the Committee.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, noting the requests for update reports arising from consideration of the previous agenda items.

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2022

Present:

Councillor Johns – in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Good, Moran, Noor, Raikes, I Robinson and Taylor

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment

Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

ESC/22/17 Minutes

In moving the minutes, the Chair paid tribute to his predecessor Councillor H. Priest. He thanked her for her dedication and commitment to the work of the Committee during her time as Chair. He further welcomed the new members of the Committee.

Decision

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

ESC/22/18 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.

In response to a comment from a Member regarding the announcements from central government and the support to relieve the increased cost of living, the Leader advised that Manchester Council had always responded quickly to ensure that any support that was made available was directed to residents and local businesses. She stated that further funding was required from Government to make up the funding that had been removed over a number of years and the Council would continue to lobby the Treasury for additional funding to support local residents.

The Director of Inclusive Economy stated that information on the various sources of advice and support services were available on the Council's website.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

ESC/22/19 Economy Dashboard

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Performance, Research & Intelligence that presented the economy dashboard, a document that contains a range of data and intelligence covering key aspects of Manchester's economy. The Leader proposed that the information that was contained within the COVID sit rep item would be incorporated into the Dashboard as part of the wider reporting. The Committee endorsed this proposal.

Decision

The Committee note the report and agree that the data and information provided in the COVID sit rep would be reported via the Economy Dashboard.

ESC/22/20 Overview Report

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

The Committee noted that it would be discussing the work programme for the forthcoming municipal year in further detail in a private session following the meeting, and that an updated work programme reflecting this discussion would be circulated as normal in the papers for the next meeting.

Decision

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

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022

Present:

Councillor Johns – in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Good, Moran, Noor, Raikes, I Robinson and Taylor

Also present:

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Employment

Councillor Shilton Godwin, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

ESC/22/21 Minutes

Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2022 were approved as a correct record.

ESC/22/22 Manchester Housing Strategy (2022-2032)

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Director of Housing & Residential Growth that provided an update on the development of the new Manchester Housing Strategy (2022-2032).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The strategy was the product of an extensive consultation and stakeholder engagement exercise;
- It set an ambitious target to increase housing supply and affordable housing growth in particular;
- The strategy brought together themes from the previous Housing Strategy (2015-21) and the Residential Growth Strategy (2015-25) into a single, holistic document
- The strategy set out a long-term vision which considered how best to deliver the city's housing priorities and objectives, building on progress already made, whilst tackling head on the scale and complexity of the challenges ahead. and
 - Describing the four priorities of the strategy which were to:
 - Increase affordable housing supply and build more new homes for all residents.
 - Work to end homelessness and ensure housing is affordable and accessible to all.
 - Address inequalities and create neighbourhoods where people want to live.
 - Address the sustainability and zero carbon challenges in new and existing housing stock.

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

- The Committee fully supported the strategy;
- The Committee endorsed the ambitions and priorities described, particularly in regard to carbon emissions, equalities and affordability;
- Noting the issue of density, due consideration needed to be given to active travel, appropriate provision of bike parking, biodiversity, green space and the emerging evidence in relation to the 'heat island' effect of cities and the impact this had on individuals and the wider contribution to the heating of the planet;
- What was the relationship with Homes England, noting that financial support from them was required;
- The need for continued scrutiny on the delivery of the strategy;
- The request to scrutinise strategies, such as the emerging Local Plan at the development stage so that the Committee could contribute and inform their development;
- How would the Local Plan impact on the Housing Strategy;
- What was the approach to using existing brown field land to deliver housing as part of this strategy;
- The need to engage with local developers;
- If private landlords left the market as a result of increased regulation would the Council or Housing partners purchase properties;
- Noting the impact the Right To Buy policy had on the levels of social housing across the city;
- Noting that there was a need to develop green skills and training in the city to support retrofit activities at scale and the delivery of future housing developments;
- The need to consider wider infrastructure needs, such as the provision of schools and health services when developing housing plans as these were vital to support neighbourhoods and communities; and
- The need for an estate wide approach to retrofitting.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment welcomed the comments from the Committee and responded to their questions by saying that the Council had a positive relationship with Homes England and dialogue continued with them regarding funding to deliver the ask from Manchester. He stated that he welcomed the continued scrutiny of the delivery of this strategy, and he would discuss this further with the Chair to agree a timetable of reports to the Committee.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment stated that he fully supported the end of Section 21, no-fault eviction notices and the wider implications of the Renters Reform Bill, adding that if private landlords did leave the market due to increased regulation of the sector all options for securing these properties would be considered, especially larger family homes, adding that the increase of purpose built student accommodation could also release larger properties back into the market. He advised that the impact of both austerity and Section 21 notices had significantly contributed to the number of families living in temporary accommodation in Manchester, and that over the years Manchester had lost over 25,000 properties as a result of the Right To Buy policy. He stated that the Government had not provided funding to replace these lost

homes and called for an immediate end to the policy and strongly opposed any extension to this scheme.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment informed the Committee that consideration was given to releasing Brownfield land, using Greater Manchester funding to deliver housing and by extension protect greenbelt land. He advised that all opportunities to maximise the use of Council owned land to deliver housing would be considered in partnership with local Housing Providers.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment advised that the issue of housing was not considered in isolation and the need to deliver wider infrastructure, such as schools, active travel and health services was understood, and that appropriate consideration and planning was given to this. He further stated that he recognised the need for an estate wider approach to retrofitting, noting the issues raised by the Member.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) advised that the Housing Strategy would be taken into account when developing the Local Plan, adding that the Local Plan would help deliver the ambitions described within the Housing Strategy, particularly in regard to the zero carbon build standards and modern methods of construction. She further advised that the issue of green skills and training was understood, and work was being developed with local colleges to respond to this, noting that a Retrofit Academy had been established at the Manchester College Openshaw campus. This provided T levels in construction for new learners and those wishing to retrain or re-enter the work force. She advised that the issue of green skills and employment was a key priority for both Manchester and Greater Manchester. The Chair commented that the issue of green skills and employment would be scheduled into the Committee's work programme.

The Interim Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that the issues raised in relation to bike parking and storage, biodiversity, green space and the 'heat island' effect were discussed with developers and reference was made to the delivery of the Victoria North development and the good practice and models implemented as part of that scheme. He further added that all options for engaging with smaller local developers would be considered.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Support the draft Housing Strategy (2022-2032).
- (2) Agree that the final version of the Housing Strategy (2022-2032) be taken for consideration by the Executive in July 2022.

ESC/22/23 This City: Progress Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) that described that in December 2021, the Executive approved a business case outlining the ambitions and intentions of This City, the Council's wholly owned housing delivery vehicle.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction, background and core principals that had driven the creation of This City; and
- Providing an update on progress of both strategic and scheme specific activities in advance of a further report being presented to the Council's Executive in September 2022 on the company business plan.

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

- Supporting the retention of control of rent setting, management and lettings functions;
- The need to recognise and consider the needs of the changing demographic of those choosing to live in the city centre, particularly families;
- How was Public Realm defined;
- An assurance was sought that the bespoke procurement framework for This City was aligned to the Council's procurement policy, especially in relation to Social Value and carbon reduction;
- Appropriate provisions of bike storage and parking needed to be included in any consideration of the issue of parking;
- Requesting that Business Plan that was scheduled to be submitted to the Executive in September be shared with the Committee; and
- The need to include a clause in tenancy and all terms of occupation to ensure that these properties were retained and not sold into the private rented sector.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment said that the issue of the changing demographic of the city centre was recognised by advising that Rodney Street, the first This City scheme to be brought forward as part of the housing delivery vehicle included townhouses that were suitable for families. He further advised that Public Realm would be consistent with the Public Realm strategy and consideration was given to walking and cycling and green space. He further confirmed that bike parking had been considered in the Rodney Street scheme.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment stated that the ambitions and intentions of This City clearly articulated the commitment to address carbon emissions and could be used to influence partners across this city. He further commented that clauses did exist to prevent these properties entering the private rented sector.

The Interim Director of Housing and Residential Growth informed the Committee that information in relation to tenancy management and maintenance would be shared following the meeting. He further commented that he would discuss with the Chair the most appropriate way for how the Business Plan that was scheduled to be submitted to the Executive in September could be shared with the Committee. He also commented that the bespoke procurement framework for This City did align with the Council's procurement policy.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) informed the Committee that an asset management plan was being developed to centrally record and understand the nature of all land assets owned by the Council and this data would be used to inform future housing schemes and assist with the auditing of all decision making.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

ESC/22/24 Final Evaluation of the Crumpsall Selective Licensing Area and Proposed Next Phase of Selective Licensing

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Director of Housing and Residential Growth and Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided Members with the outcomes of the evaluation of the Crumpsall Selective Licensing (SL) area and to advise Members on the proposed future phases of selective licensing.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing and introduction and background of the schemes, noting that a key theme of the Council's Private Rented Sector Strategy is tackling poor quality management in the Private Rented Sector;
- A description of the implementation of the Crumpsall Scheme;
- An analysis of the property conditions following compliance inspections;
- Information in relation to enforcement activities to address poor property conditions and other related enforcement activity and property management;
- Feedback from Neighbourhood Teams and case studies;
- Information in relation to communications and engagement;
- A summary and lessons learned; and
- Conclusions, noting that the long-term plan was to continue to roll out new phases of SL across the city.

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

- Fully supporting the roll out of Selective Licensing;
- Was there evidence of landlords passing on the cost of licensing to their tenants in the form of rent increases;
- Clarification was sought to how exemptions to licensing was determined;

- Noting the positive impact the introduction of Selective Licensing had on strengthening relationships between residents and the Council;
- The schemes improved residents knowledge of their rights as tenants;
- Welcoming the inclusion of real examples within the report and more needed to be done to promote the positive outcomes of these schemes; and
- Could schemes be extended beyond the five year designation.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment welcomed the Committee's continued support for the further roll out of selective licensing as a tool for improving property standards within the Private Rented Sector. He said that these schemes were an opportunity to engage with both landlords and tenants and had increased tenants' awareness of their rights.

The Executive Member for Housing and Employment stated that it was important to raise awareness of these schemes and every opportunity was taken to do so, particularly when action was taken against rogue landlords. He further added that good practice and learning was shared with other Local Authorities. He stated that appropriate consideration was given to ensure that all publicity, information and advice were provided so as to ensure that all residents, particularly for those for whom English was not their first language were made aware of the schemes.

The Compliance and Enforcement Specialist stated that there was no evidence to suggest that rent increases had occurred as a result of landlords passing on the cost of the licence to their tenants, however this continued to be monitored. She further advised that the list of exemptions from licensing was prescribed in the legislation.

The Interim Director of Housing and Residential Growth stated that the five year designation for a scheme was again prescribed in legislation and consideration had to be given as to how the improvements achieved are sustained.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Note the report
- (2) Endorse the roll out of the Selective Licensing scheme in the eight areas identified within the report.

ESC/22/25 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 commented that as there was a report scheduled for the July meeting on the subject of Active Travel the recommendation listed in the recommendations monitor (ESC/22/02 Updates on Sub Strategies of the City Centre Transport Strategy) could be removed.

Decision

The Committee note the report and agree the work programme.