

Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Present:

Councillor Johns (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Baker Smith, Benham, Hussain, Iqbal, Northwood, I Robinson and Taylor

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council

Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Councillor Abdullatif

Apologies: Councillor Richards

ERSC/23/20 Minutes

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

ERSC/23/21 Purpose-Built Student Accommodation

The committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided an update on the provision of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) in Manchester and issues that had arisen since the last report in December 2020.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- An introduction and background to student accommodation;
- The key considerations against which a proposal for new PBSA are tested;
- Recent changes, including acknowledgment that there is a shortage of PBSA in Manchester;
- Details of twenty sites which had been identified and assessed by Deloitte LLP, in consultation with officers, to determine whether there is the potential to meet anticipated demand for PBSA in line with Policy H12, including an assessment of the number of beds these sites could accommodate; and
- The deliverability criteria against which these sites had been assessed.

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

- How the Council's approach to PBSA would consider oversaturation in nearby communities;
- Consultation on the proposed schemes;
- The demand for PBSA amongst second- and third-year students;
- How the Council ensured that sufficient infrastructure and amenities, such as GPs and dentists, are in place where PBSA was built;
- The appropriateness of Policy H12, citing a recent Planning Inspector decision to allow a PBSA appeal at Deansgate South;
- Noting increases in the number of students continuing to live at home whilst studying; and
- Expressing concerns with the affordability of PBSA.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development introduced the item and explained that the Council wanted to ensure an appropriate plan for good-quality student accommodation in suitable locations for students and other communities in Manchester. He acknowledged a challenge in capacity and informed the committee that discussions had been held with universities to bring forward developments within the university estate to help meet demand. He also explained that a shortfall in PBSA impacted the wider housing market as students moved to private rental properties which led to increased rents, higher demand and less availability, particularly for family homes.

The committee was also advised that a site at Whitworth Park was incorrectly listed in the report as being in Hulme ward. This would be amended to state that it was in Ardwick. The Chair also highlighted that Cambridge St Circus was incorrectly listed as being in the Piccadilly and Hulme wards and that this should be Deansgate and Hulme.

Councillors Igbon and Abdullatif addressed the committee in their capacities as ward members for Hulme and Ardwick. Councillor Igbon explained that Manchester embraced the contributions of universities and students to the city but stated that the report did not highlight existing PBSA in Hulme. She stated that PBSA should not consume existing communities and requested that the Committee recommend to the Executive the removal of the Gamecock Pub and McDougall Site from the list of sites for potential PBSA.

Councillor Abdullatif echoed Councillor Igbon's sentiments and reiterated the impact of PBSA on communities in Hulme and Ardwick, particularly in densely populated areas. She expressed concerns that there had been no consultation with residents on the number of bedspaces at proposed sites and challenged the need for PBSA to be located near to university buildings given the extensive public transport network in Manchester. She requested that the committee did not endorse the list of schemes to the Executive.

In response to a query by the Chair regarding oversaturation in communities as a result of PBSA, the Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that

there was a need to increase the capacity of student accommodation in the city but that it was important to be mindful of existing communities.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that the sites listed were at varying stages within the planning process, with some built and occupied already. He acknowledged concerns over a lack of consultation with residents and members but stated that consultation would be undertaken at an appropriate point in the planning process.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) stated that the report was the result of a desktop exercise to test the appropriateness of policy H12 and to demonstrate the abilities within specific areas of the city to meet a pipeline of demand for PBSA. She emphasised that the sites listed would be subject to due process and would be individually assessed on their merits, including supporting infrastructure.

In response to a query around the appropriateness of policy H12, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) stated that the Council believed there was sufficient capacity to meet future demand for student accommodation, countering the recent findings and recommendations of the Planning Inspector. The Assistant Director of Planning also explained that the list of sites was not definitive or exhaustive but sought to demonstrate that there were a number of sites which could possibly be put forward for planning permission to meet demand in line with policy H12.

The Assistant Director of Planning noted the importance of affordability and explained that this would be examined through the review of the Local Plan. He advised the committee that there were several schemes in development which had an element of affordability secured through Section 106 agreements.

The committee was also advised that there was currently no policy to provide infrastructure and amenities within the proximity of PBSA, but the Assistant Director of Planning explained that this could be provided through major regeneration schemes as demonstrated at Great Jackson Street. He also stated that discussions were underway to build a doctor's surgery at Upper Brook Street, subject to the scheme being approved.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) expressed confidence in the short-term demand for PBSA and explained that this would be monitored continuously. She reiterated the Executive Member's comments that additional PBSA would increase capacity in the private-rented sector for other households. She stated that the Council would consider alternatives such as co-living accommodation, although this would not be specifically targeted at students.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that the Council worked with universities and accommodation providers to ensure consultation was

undertaken. He stated that around 25,000 students lived at home whilst studying at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) in Manchester and that there had been a shift in demand for PBSA amongst second- and third-year students. He reiterated that this was a desktop study but that there had been conversations between the Council, universities, and student bodies to inform the approach to PBSA.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the changes that have taken place regarding the provision of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation since December 2022;
2. endorses to the Executive the approach set out in the report to help guide the decision-making process in advance of the review of the Local Plan and request the Planning and Highways Committee take this approach into account as a material consideration until the Local Plan has been reviewed; and
3. recommends that the Executive amend recommendation 2 to read *“Consider the list of schemes set out in the report as the pipeline that will deliver the required amount of PBSA up to 2030, pending consultation with ward members”*.

ERSC/23/22 Economy Dashboard

The committee considered a report of the Head of Performance, Research and Intelligence which presented the Economy Dashboard. The Economy Dashboard contains a range of data and intelligence on key aspects of Manchester’s economy.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee’s discussions included:

- Suggesting it would be useful for future dashboards to provide a breakdown of annual median income by decile; and
- Noting trends in each section except for support provided through the cost-of-living advice line and the makeup of households accessing support, and requesting context for this.

The Head of Performance, Research and Intelligence accepted the committee’s suggestions. He advised that information within the Economy Dashboard on the cost-of-living advice line was part of a wider suite of monitoring trends and activity and that this could be included in future reports to the committee.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

ERSC/23/23 Overview Report

The committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit.

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:

That the committee note the report and agree the work programme, noting the above comments.

Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Johns – in the Chair

Councillors Bano, Hussain, Iqbal, Northwood, Richards, I Robinson and Taylor

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Councillor Simcock, Chair of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Shilton Godwin, Ward Councillor for Chorlton Park

Nick Roberts, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

Danny Vaughan, TfGM

Apologies: Councillor Benham

ERSC/23/24 Minutes

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023 be approved as a correct record.

ERSC/23/25 Update on Public Transport

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided an update on the current/recent performance and future plans for public transport in Manchester.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Bee Network, a fully integrated transport network for Greater Manchester;
- Bus performance;
- Bus franchising;
- Metrolink performance; and
- Rail performance and future plans.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussions in relation to buses included:

- How could Councillors be involved in shaping bus routes when bus franchising was introduced;

- The replacement and retrofitting of buses to make them compliant with clean air standards while the Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan was under review by the Government;
- Improving bus stops, including whether real-time information could be displayed;
- To request that the content of future reports be more explicitly related to Manchester and its wards and areas of the city and the connection to the priorities of Making Manchester Fairer;
- The Bee Network Customer Centre and app and accessing information in community languages;
- Welcoming the increase in bus passengers; and
- The safety of bus passengers and drivers.

The Ward Councillor for Chorlton Park advised that the bus network should be extended, noting that some residents were excluded from bus services due to the distance from their home to the nearest bus stop. She also highlighted the impact on residents of Little Gem bus company ceasing operation.

Nick Roberts from TfGM explained how Little Gem had informed TfGM that they would be ceasing operation from the following day and how TfGM had worked to communicate this to bus users and to try to find a suitable alternative bus company to provide the contracted services. He advised that it was hoped that a suitable alternative bus operator would be in place soon. He stated that this case demonstrated the instability of the current market and that the new model of a franchised service should lead to improvements, with greater stability and control. He reported that the first stage of the franchised network was intended to maintain stability in the short term, with a similar network to that at present, while information was being gathered. Once this information was gathered and analysed, it was likely that there would be a review of the network, taking into account both commerciality and social need, and that this would include an element of consultation. He informed Members that good progress had been made in retrofitting buses and that he was not aware of any pause on this work due to review of the Clean Air Plan, although he would check on this. He reported that real-time information was available at some locations, in particular bus stations, and that consideration could be given to introducing this at popular bus stops but that many people had smartphones which they could use to access this information. In response to further comments on the importance of real-time information, he stated that the Bee Network app would be key in providing information. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported that the Bee Network Delivery Committee was discussing these issues and that, as a Member of that Committee, she was highlighting the importance of the Bee Network app being accessible and that not all public transport users had smartphones. She encouraged Members to use the online briefings to ensure that their voices were heard and stated that she would also feed back Members' views to the Bee Network Delivery Committee. She stated that she would take forward the Member's point about community languages with the relevant officer.

Danny Vaughan from TfGM reported that TfGM already ran a customer service centre and explained how this would be enhanced to be able to respond to any issues customers had across the transport network. He outlined some of the plans for the Bee Network app, including journey planning and real-time information, improved information on disruptions, purchasing bus and tram and multi-modal tickets and a mechanism for passengers to feedback on their journey experience. He reported that further information on accessibility, including community languages, could be included in a future report. In response to a Member's question, he reported that information had previously been produced about the level of carbon reduction which had resulted from investment in the Metrolink, represented as the number of car journeys taken off the road, and that it should be possible to translate future investment into figures in a way which was relatable for the public.

Nick Roberts from TfGM reported that bus passenger numbers had recovered since the pandemic but had not returned to pre-COVID levels. He outlined how travel patterns had changed and highlighted the impact of home working. He reported that it was hoped that bus franchising, including branding, marketing, fare initiatives and improved information, as well as identifying new markets and planning services to meet those demands, would increase passenger numbers. In response to a Member's question, he advised that school bus services would be franchised. He agreed that it was important for bus drivers to understand the needs of children and respect young people and stated that he would check on the training for bus drivers in relation to this. He highlighted the work of the TravelSafe Team, tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and working with the police.

In response to a Member's questions about work to improve bus performance, the accessibility of buses, including verbal announcements, the low level of demand for the East Manchester Local Link service and work to reduce congestion and delays due to roadworks, Nick Roberts proposed to provide a written response to the Member after the meeting. The Member agreed to this but stated that a response to the question on accessibility should be provided publicly. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport reported that the minimum standards for the new, yellow buses would include visual and audio announcements and she supported the Member's comment that consideration of accessibility issues was broader than access for wheelchair users. She advised that further information on this would be provided.

The Interim Head of Infrastructure and Environment drew Members' attention to the £1.2 billion worth of transport investment for local roads, bus, train and tram services referred to in the report and advised that this investment would help to improve the reliability of bus services.

Danny Vaughan provided an update on Metrolink since the Metrolink Service Performance Report, included at appendix 2 in report, had been produced in March 2023. He reported that patronage of the Metrolink network was increasing and was now at about 90% of pre-COVID levels. He reported that revenue was not at pre-

COVID levels but costs had increased significantly, in particular energy bills, and that, while subsidies had not been required prior to the pandemic, dialogue was ongoing with the Government about subsidy levels. He reported that the results of a customer satisfaction survey had been broadly positive but the main areas of concern raised had been anti-social behaviour and capacity. He outlined work to tackle anti-social behaviour on Metrolink, including increasing frontline staff. He stated that performance had improved, while highlighting recent issues and forthcoming track renewal work which would affect services. He highlighted plans for service improvements, as driver vacancies were being filled. He also reported on possibilities to expand the Metrolink network and develop tram-train rapid transit.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussions in relation to Metrolink included:

- Would the Ashton line return to a 6-minute service;
- Passengers being charged the "incomplete journey fare" if they forgot to tap out at the end of their journey;
- Would early morning services be reintroduced to Manchester Airport, for workers and travellers;
- Anti-social behaviour on trams, including vaping, including whether TravelSafe officers should travel in smaller groups on more trams;
- Making information clearer for visitors to Manchester; and
- The lift at Castlefield/Deansgate Metrolink not working.

In response to a Member's question, Danny Vaughan confirmed that open data would continue to be available after the move to the Bee Network app. He reported that marketing campaigns had been used to remind people to tap out at the end of their journey, although he highlighted that, depending on the zones travelled through, forgetting to tap out would not necessarily result in a higher charge. He reported that Metrolink would be looking into taking into account the overall daily cap when making this charge and autocompleting for passengers who made regular journeys. He advised that there were currently no plans to reintroduce early morning services to Manchester Airport but that it had not been ruled out, whilst noting that it had not been particularly well used, that most of the people using it travelled between 5.30 and 6 am and that there were bus options for most areas. He confirmed that a 6-minute service would be restored on the Ashton line as far as the Etihad Stadium. He reported that TravelSafe officers and Customer Service Officers currently tended to travel in groups, targeting hotspots. He advised that recruitment was currently taking place and that 40 to 50 additional customer service staff should be working on the network by September so passengers should see greater staff visibility. He agreed with a comment from the Chair about improving information for visitors, stating that customer information should be reviewed and not assume a level of understanding about Manchester and the Metrolink.

In response to a Member's comments, the Chair proposed that the Committee receive a report on Heavy Rail later in the year.

The Leader reported that colleagues at TfGM had done a great job in making the case in relation to HS2. She expressed disappointment that the plans for Platforms 15 and 16 at Piccadilly Station had been withdrawn and stated that the Council would continue to lobby, particularly through Transport for the North and the Joint Greater Manchester Rail Taskforce, for plans to address the capacity issues.

Decisions:

1. To request an annual update on public transport from TfGM, including Manchester-specific information, information on the geographical spread of services across the city, links to the Making Manchester Fairer priorities and information on the capital investment programme.
2. To request a report on rail, to include HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and the Northern Hub (Platforms 15/16).

ERSC/23/26 The Greater Manchester Trailblazer Devolution Deal and its implications for Manchester, including Adult Skills and Technical Education

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided a summary of the recent Greater Manchester Trailblazer deal and its implications for Manchester.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The background to the Deal
- The four priority areas within the Deal which were:
 - Single Settlement;
 - Housing and Regeneration;
 - Transport; and
 - Skills;
- Considerations for Manchester in relation to these priority areas; and
- Additional announcements.

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

- To welcome the devolution of powers to the city region;
- What was being done to ensure that the city region was in the best possible position if there was a change of government, in terms of retaining the commitments in this deal;
- Was the £150m of brownfield funding intended to enable the delivery of current housing targets or to stretch them further;
- To ask for more information on what the Housing Quality Pathfinder might mean in practice; and

- To request a report on the development of a Manchester Baccalaureate (MBacc).

In response to a question from the Chair, the Leader stated that more progress had been made in achieving devolved powers for areas within the control of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) than for other Government departments. She cited as an example that Greater Manchester had asked for control in the post-16 educational sector and influence in the pre-16 sector and had not been given either of these, although the Department for Education had agreed to look at a partnership in the post-16 sector, which would give the city region more influence in post-16 education and skills.

The Leader advised that she felt there was very little in the deal that a future Government would not continue with; however, she advised that the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced that a Labour Government would make major reforms to or scrap business rates so work was taking place to understand what that would mean for Greater Manchester. She advised that a future Government would also need to consider devolution across different geographical areas and what powers cities themselves should have, informing Members that the Core Cities were leading on work in relation to this. In response to a question about the rail partnership, she stated that this was not the devolved control and capital, that the city region had wanted and that it was still an emerging partnership, which the city region would work hard on.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that the £150m of brownfield funding was to help deliver the existing pipeline of homes and linked to a target of 7000 new homes within 3 years and that it was important to demonstrate to Government that Greater Manchester could achieve more with greater flexibility and certainty of funding. In response to a Member's question, she stated that this should include affordable housing and net zero housing. In response to a Member's question, the Executive Member for Housing and Development outlined some of the other sources of funding available for housing development.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) reported that there were few details on the Housing Quality Pathfinder at present but that DLUHC had been looking at what additional powers could be developed to help drive better quality in the Private Rented Sector so Greater Manchester and the West Midlands could potentially trial these. She reported that the Mayor of Greater Manchester would have powers to approve large-scale landlord licensing, rather than the Secretary of State.

In response to a question from the Ward Councillor for Chorlton Park about the future relationship between Manchester and Greater Manchester, including in relation to scrutiny, the Assistant Chief Executive reported that work was taking place within the GMCA around its decision-making, governance and scrutiny structures in light of this deal and that the Council would be working with the GMCA

on this, which might need to include consideration of how scrutiny at a Manchester level fitted in with scrutiny at a Greater Manchester level.

The Leader outlined how the Council was ensuring that Manchester was not disadvantaged financially by the deal and the new funding arrangements, including seeking assurance from Government that the Greater Manchester councils could bid for new funding which became available and making the city's case for a fair share of the funding for Greater Manchester, taking into account its characteristics, including a much larger population and higher levels of deprivation. In response to a question from the Chair of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee about whether the other 9 Greater Manchester authorities agreed with this division of funding, she reported that funding per head of the population was a well-established approach and that, when addressing issues such as poverty and inequalities, this would sometimes require funding to be targeted rather than divided equally across all areas, and that this would direct more funding towards Manchester.

The Chair stated that Members wanted a further report on the MBacc but there would need to be a discussion about the most appropriate scrutiny committee to receive this report. The Leader reported that the conversation on developing the MBacc was intended to help identify what good technical pathways into jobs would look like, particular post-16, and how schools could support that. The Chair proposed that this item be added as a 'to be scheduled' item on the Committee's work programme and advised that he would speak to the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee about which Committee would receive it.

Decision:

To add the MBacc as a 'to be scheduled' item on the Committee's work programme and to note that the Chair will speak to the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee about which Committee will receive it.

[Councillor Johns declared a personal interest due to writing on devolution for his work.]

ERSC/23/27 Headlines from the 2021 Census

The Committee received a report and presentation of the Assistant Chief Executive which summarised the headline outputs that had been released from the 2021 Census so far, specifically describing the change in resident population, the concerns the Council had in terms of missing population, and an overview of how the Census results were generally used to support decision making.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Key results from the 2021 Census;
- Concerns with the Census results;

- The Manchester City Council Forecasting Model (MCCFM);
- Using population statistics to inform service planning; and
- The importance of the Census and population statistics.

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

- Funding implications of the population undercount in the Census 2021;
- The Manchester City Council Forecasting Model (MCCFM); and
- Opportunities for Ward Councillors to engage with this work at a ward level, including feeding back information.

The Assistant Chief Executive reported that the Council was in discussions with Government officials and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) about the undercount and funding implications, had offered to share the MCCFM with them and was lobbying hard to get this undercount taken into account in the funding formulas.

In response to a Member's questions about the MCCFM, the Head of Performance, Research and Intelligence reported that this was a recognised model, which had been through testing and review, and had been procured by the Council a number of years ago. The Performance and Insight Manager reported that the Council had used a number of different data sources to ascertain the population numbers that should have been expected in the Census. She described how the model had been developed by an eminent demographer and the methodology that Manchester was using and stated that Manchester's approach had been peer reviewed. The Member welcomed this work.

The Head of Performance, Research and Intelligence reported that a lot of work was taking place with Neighbourhood Teams and other agencies to understand the local context but acknowledged a suggestion that more could be done with Ward Councillors and stated that he would take this forward. In response to a Member's question, the Performance and Insight Manager outlined some of the data sources used including Child Benefit, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), Council Tax, Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the electoral roll. She reported that the Council had a ward data bank and that a lot of ward-level data was available, which could be shared with Members.

In response to a question from the Chair about data in the Census such as ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity, the Assistant Chief Executive reported that the detailed information within the Census was being used, albeit with the caveat that there were people missing from these figures. The Performance and Insight Manager advised that there was a concern that a higher proportion of the people missing from the Census data were likely to be from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups. She reported that the Council was building up information from other sources, such as the school census, on issues such as ethnicity and language.

Decision:

To note the report.

ERSC/23/28 Overview Report

The committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit.

The Chair noted that the Committee had requested that an item on the MBacc be added to the 'to be scheduled' list on the work programme and had also requested a report on rail, which should include HS2, Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and the Northern Hub (Platforms 15/16).

Decision:

That the committee note the report and agree the work programme, noting the above comments.

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen - In the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Appleby, Good, Ogunbambo, Priest, Rawson, Whiston and Wills

Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

CESC/23/19 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 as a correct record.

CESC/23/20 A short update report on migration services in Manchester, including Afghanistan, Ukraine and Asylum

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Housing Services which provided an update on Council support and services to Afghanistan and Ukraine migrants in Manchester. It also provided an update on asylum dispersal in the city and on the emerging Sudanese situation, Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) and Chagossians.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The Afghanistan Service;
- Ukraine Service;
- Local Authority Housing Fund;
- Welcome Desk for Ukraine Nationals;
- Asylum Contingency Hotels;
- Asylum Dispersed Accommodation;
- Sudanese Refugees;
- Hong Kong British Nationals (overseas); and
- Chagossians.

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

- To welcome the work that the Council was doing to support people fleeing from conflict and other difficult circumstances and to thank officers involved in this work, including those who used their volunteering days to help;
- That people hosting Ukrainian families broadly reported positive experiences of the support from the Council in relation to this;
- Concern about Government plans to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing requirements, noting that the Regional Strategic Migration Partnership and Greater Manchester Combined Authority were coordinating a response to the

Government on this and asking about a response from the Council and the Committee;

- To request that care be taken to ensure that no identifying details, such as employers, were included in case studies;
- Support for Afghan families who were re-located outside of Manchester;
- The potential impact of Serco's request for the moratorium on the procurement of dispersed accommodation in the M8, M9 and M40 postcode areas to be lifted and to request an update on this; and
- The impact of ending the use of temporary hotel accommodation including whether some people would become homeless.

The Deputy Leader agreed that the plans to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from HMO licensing requirements were very concerning and supported a request to respond as a Council, saying that she would discuss this with the Executive Member for Housing and Development. The Chair requested that the Committee's concerns be included and that the Committee endorse the response, to which the Deputy Leader agreed.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness reported that there was a support package for Afghan people when they moved from contingency hotels into alternative accommodation and that there was funding for up to three years for that support. She reported that the Council would be providing that support for people accommodated within Manchester and was working with other local authorities in relation to support for people placed in their areas, although, unfortunately, not all local authorities were as willing to provide support. She advised that Manchester City Council would provide some transition support if the local authority in the area they were moving to was not providing support. She reported that the Council also worked with people before the move to ensure that they were tenancy-ready and to help with other issues such as needing furniture, regardless of where they were moving to within the country. In response to a Member's question about support with qualification conversions, she confirmed that the Council was helping and encouraging people into employment as much as possible.

The Refugee, Asylum and Evacuee Manager informed Members about qualification conversion support which had been procured for Ukrainian nationals and extended to Afghan nationals. In response to a further question, she outlined how the skills, qualifications and work experience of Ukrainian arrivals were assessed through discussions with the individuals and fed back through regular meetings with Regional Strategic Migration Partnership colleagues.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Lead for Homelessness stated that, until the Welcome Desk at Manchester Airport closed in March 2023, Ukrainian Nationals had been provided with the £50 and sim cards from the British Red Cross on arrival. She advised that any new arrivals were still able to claim £50 and that she would ensure that staff were informing anyone who arriving in the UK since the closure of the Welcome Desk. She reported that the Council was also providing sim cards and £200 in an initial payment. In response to a question about opening UK bank accounts, she stated that a lot of Ukrainian nationals were using online services such as Monzo, which did not have the proof of residency requirements of high street banks; however, the Council could provide a letter as evidence to assist Ukrainian

nationals with opening a UK bank account, if they wished to do so, and she asked Members to inform her if they were aware of anyone struggling to open a bank account so that her team could provide assistance.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness reported that the decision to introduce a moratorium in specific Manchester postcodes had been a political decision and a decision to lift it should be a political decision too. She advised that the Home Office and Serco were writing business cases to the Minister for them to decide whether to take this request forward through a formal conversation with the MP for Blackley and Broughton. In response to a comment from the Chair, she stated that she would request that the MP for Manchester Central be included in this conversation. In response to the question about the closure of bridging hotels, she outlined the support that her staff were providing to Afghan people in these hotels to help them to overcome the barriers to moving on and help them understand their options. She highlighted the section in the report about the Local Authority Housing Fund and the additional properties being made available. She stated that she was confident of being able to work with people to find suitable accommodation and highlighted work to overcome people's concerns about moving to areas they did not know; however, as a back-up, her service was also working with other Greater Manchester authorities to discuss how they would deal with people presenting as homeless. In response to a Member's question, the Accommodation and Support Manager stated that 115 families and 52 single people were in bridging hotels

The Director of Housing Services highlighted that this was a fast-moving area, impacted by Government policy changes, which added to its complexity, and discussions were taking place about the need for a longer-term view from the Government. He advised that raising housing standards was also key. In response to a Member's question, he stated that information on housing supply issues could be included in the report on Homelessness, which was scheduled for the following month's meeting.

A Member requested further information on the Council's engagement with the Chagossian community, noting that this community was mainly concentrated in his ward of Sharston. The Refugee, Asylum and Evacuee Manager stated that the Council had undertaken some preliminary work with the Chagossian community in Manchester and, while they generally did not tend to engage much with national and local government, a link had been made with them and, as some Chagossians applied for and were granted British citizenship, that would be likely to encourage increased engagement. The Chair suggested that the Member speak with the Refugee, Asylum and Evacuee Manager outside of the meeting to discuss further how this work could be taken forward within his ward.

The Chair recognised the hard work taking place, including the role of the voluntary and community sector, and highlighted the importance of Manchester being a welcoming city.

Decisions

1. To request that the Committee's concerns, through a letter from the Committee, be included in the Council and Greater Manchester responses to the Government's plans to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from HMO licensing requirements.
2. To receive a further report at an appropriate time, to include an update on the proposal to lift the moratorium on the procurement of dispersed accommodation in the M8, M9 and M40 postcode areas.

CEESC/23/21 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 Tuesday, 20 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen (in the chair)

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

Also present:

Councillor Joanna Midgley, Deputy Leader

Apologies: Councillor Whiston

CESC/23/21 Interests

Councillor Priest declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in item 8 and would remain in the meeting.

CESC/23/22 Minutes

The Chair requested an update on a recommendation made at the previous meeting which requested that the Committee's concerns be included in the Council and Greater Manchester responses, through a letter from the Committee to the Government's plans to temporarily exempt asylum accommodation from HMO licensing requirements. In response, the committee was advised that this was currently being drafted and discussions on the detail and wording of the letter had taken place. This would be progressed outside of the meeting and a further update provided to the next meeting.

Decision: That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 May 2023, be approved as a correct record.

CESC/23/23 Update report on the Homelessness Service

The committee received a report of the Director of Housing Services which provided an update on the Council's Homelessness Service and the improvement and transformation happening across the service in an increasingly challenging social and economic context.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The key metrics for the Homelessness Service;
- The progress made to reduce bed and breakfast placements, especially for families, and wider temporary accommodation placements that have been achieved since last discussed at the meeting in January 2023;
- Changes to the Manchester Allocation of Social Housing Policy;

- Accessing the homelessness service;
- Leasing schemes including for families;
- Support available for housing-related issues and domestic abuse;
- The Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) and
- An ongoing review of the Council's Homelessness Strategy.

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

- Welcoming the reduction in the number of families placed in bed and breakfasts for temporary accommodation;
- The support available for those facing or experiencing homelessness where English was not their first language;
- Requesting a breakdown by gender and gender identity of those in temporary accommodation;
- Commending the cross-Council approach of the service;
- Where around 400 properties to be used in three leasing schemes would be located in the city;
- How much money had been saved by reducing the use of bed and breakfast placements for temporary accommodation;
- Requesting that a future report included further explanation as to why a high percentage of Black people faced and experienced homelessness;
- Welcoming the work undertaken with Manchester Communications Academy, and querying whether this could be rolled out to other schools within the city;
- Whether any extra resources were needed for the Housing Options team;
- Requesting further information on payments to providers for rent, repair, and furniture allowance under the temporary accommodation leasing scheme;
- The support provided to those placed in temporary accommodation outside of Greater Manchester;
- The support available to residents in areas where temporary accommodation is located;
- How the voluntary sector was involved in the Council's outreach approach, and what the Homeless Partnership was;
- Noting that Manchester had a higher percentage of people facing or experiencing homelessness compared to other Greater Manchester authorities, and querying why this was; and
- The proposed timeframe for ending the use of bed and breakfast placements as temporary accommodation.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the ongoing good work to reduce the number of rough sleepers in Manchester and the turnaround in the number of people, particularly families, being temporarily placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. She explained that there were currently two families who had been in bed and breakfast accommodation for over six weeks, compared to 131 when last reported, and one family placed outside of Greater Manchester, compared to 92 previously.

She stated that the Council continued to focus on preventing homelessness and reducing the number of people in temporary accommodation.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that bed and breakfast placements could never be suitable for homeless families and explained that the law stipulated that such placements should only be used in exceptional circumstances and for no longer than six weeks. He stated that the number of people in temporary accommodation peaked in February 2023, with 814 households in bed and breakfast placements. There were currently 241 households in bed and breakfasts, of which 227 of these were families.

In response to queries, the committee was informed that the Council had Right to Protect (RTOP) workers who worked specifically with refugees to prevent homelessness. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness also explained that support included Language Line, dual-language support workers and interpreters, and that the Council recognised that some residents may have additional needs and cultural differences. She explained that additional visits were undertaken to address these needs and to highlight any difficulties and additional help that may be required. Members were also informed that any information provided to those presenting as homeless could be translated and could be provided in simple written English and through visually accessible provision, although the Strategic Lead for Homelessness stated that this would be looked into further outside of the meeting.

It was also clarified that appropriate interpreters would be provided for British Sign Language speakers.

A breakdown of those in temporary accommodation by gender and gender identity requested by members would be provided following the meeting.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that the short-term leasing scheme initially intended to provide 200 units of temporary accommodation for families as there were 227 families in bed and breakfast placements. He explained that it was unlikely that 200 family-sized units would be required as the number in bed and breakfast accommodation had reduced significantly. He further stated that discussions were ongoing with housing associations to manage 140 longer-term tenancies and 50 units for rough sleepers. Many of these properties were empty and would be brought back into the market with improvements and would be intensively managed.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that there needed to be a better spread of temporary accommodation across the city, particularly in south Manchester. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness noted that the Council looked to keep new properties away from areas with existing temporary and dispersed accommodation and highlighted the example of Etrop Grange in south Manchester, which provided accommodation for rough sleepers. It was explained that the new

temporary accommodation units were still being procured and detail of where these were located could be provided when available.

The Director of Housing Services stated that a £4million reduction in expenditure on bed and breakfast placements had been factored into the service's budget for 2023/24 and he was confident that this would be met.

In response to a query regarding why a high percentage of Black people faced and experienced homelessness, the Director of Housing Services acknowledged this stark figure and informed the committee that the service was working closely with the Making Manchester Fairer team to reduce inequalities.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness noted the excellent work undertaken by Manchester Communications Academy and stated that the Homelessness service wanted to work closely with colleagues in Education to share best practice and learning and roll this out more widely across the city. She also stated that the service wanted to visit core cities and other forums that the Council worked with through the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to showcase this work.

The Deputy Leader explained that she had visited Manchester Communications Academy earlier in the week and praised the work of the school.

In response to a member's query regarding whether any extra resources were needed for the Housing Options team, the Assistant Director of Homelessness explained that there were a number of vacancies in the Housing Solutions team which impacted upon telephone performance and homeless prevention. He stated that 12 new employees were due to start their roles imminently and that a second round of recruitment would be undertaken shortly with a goal of recruiting an additional 20 staff members in total to be in post within a few months. He hoped that this would strengthen the Council's ability to prevent homelessness moving forward.

Members were advised that there was a definite value within the rental charge that the Council would pay for repairs and furniture. Exact figures would be provided following the meeting.

In response to a question regarding the support provided to those placed in temporary accommodation outside of Greater Manchester, the Assistant Director of Homelessness advised that there was currently one family placed outside of Greater Manchester and that the Council's Housing Support Service would continue to provide assistance as they would for families in temporary accommodation within Greater Manchester. He stated that discussions had taken place with colleagues in Children's Services to ensure that timely referrals could be made to social care services in the local authority area where a family was temporarily placed.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness also explained that temporary accommodation managers engaged with local residents in areas where temporary accommodation was located. He acknowledged that there was further work to be done in this area.

The committee was informed that the core outreach service for rough sleepers was a Council-ran service but there were also several external outreach services, such as Outreach in the Community in south Manchester, which provided indoor day centres and played a key role in assisting the Council. He noted that the Council was less advanced in engaging with the third sector in their work with homeless families, compared to rough sleepers, but this would be addressed in the development of the Homelessness Strategy.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness praised the work and commitment of the Manchester Homeless Partnership and explained that several senior officers within the voluntary sector were appointed to different Partnership boards and could influence how services were delivered in Manchester. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness expanded on this and explained that there were several action and task-and-finish groups within the Partnership whose members had lived experiences of homelessness. These groups shared ideas and good practice with the Council and other stakeholders.

In response to a point raised that Manchester had a higher percentage of people facing or experiencing homelessness compared to other Greater Manchester authorities, the Assistant Director of Homelessness suggested that other Greater Manchester authorities were not directly comparative with Manchester's figures and stated that the amount of homelessness was rising across the country in comparison to Manchester, where numbers were decreasing. Members suggested that Manchester's homeless statistics should instead be benchmarked against other core cities such as Leeds and Birmingham.

Members were also advised that there was no set timescale for ending the use of bed and breakfast placements as temporary accommodation as this practice was unlawful and needed to be brought to an end at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair thanked officers for their work and requested that this be relayed to the wider Homelessness service.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report;
2. requests that a future update report on homelessness include explanation as to why high numbers of BAME residents experience homelessness; and

3. requests that further information on the location of leasing scheme properties be provided when available; and
4. requests that a future report be provided to the committee on the support provided to communities in areas where leasing scheme properties will be located.

CESC/23/23 Draft Terms of Reference for Anti-Social Behaviour Task and Finish Group

The committee received draft terms of reference for a Task and Finish group on crime and disorder, which the committee indicated they wished to establish.

Members discussed and made suggestions on the objectives, scope, and key lines of enquiry for the Task and Finish Group and put forward nominations for membership.

The final terms of reference would be presented at the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group.

Decision:

That

1. the committee agrees to establish a Task and Finish Group on Anti-Social Behaviour, and
2. the membership of this Task and Finish Group consists of Councillors Hitchen, Azra Ali, Appleby, Doswell, Good, Ogunbambo, Sheikh and Wills.

CESC/23/24 Overview Report

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

Decision:

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

CESC/23/25 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Infrastructure Contract Update (PART A)

The committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the review of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) infrastructure contract and subsequent process taken for the contract in preparation for re-procurement in 2023.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- An introduction to the VCSE sector in Manchester and background to the infrastructure contract;
- Key findings of the external, independent review into Manchester's VCSE support provision;
- Development of the new infrastructure specification, which would identify four main areas of support; and
- The timeline and next steps for the infrastructure review.

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

- Who the Commissioners of the contract would be, and whether this would include people from the BAME community;
- How new VCSE organisations could access support through Manchester Community Central (Macc)
- How the Council could support smaller VCSE organisations, particularly with evaluation of the projects they deliver;
- How the Council could support organisations with bid-writing and other skills;
- How the Infrastructure Contract will address and target poverty and lack of access to services;
- How BAME VCSE organisations would be supported;
- Noting that smaller VCSE organisations often had large overhead costs, and querying whether funding would be provided in instalments or as an up-front lump sum;
- Whether the new Infrastructure Contract would form part of the additional £120k allocated for the development of VCSE organisations amongst BAME community groups; and
- Suggesting that the Council provide support for smaller VCSE organisations to become sub-contractors to other providers.

The Deputy Leader introduced the item and explained that the VCSE Infrastructure Contract had been in place for over 10 years, which strengthened the local VCSE sector, and she expressed her thanks to the Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) and his team for their work on the Contract.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that infrastructure support provided partnership and practical support to VCSE organisations around volunteering opportunities, developing connections between organisations, and advocated for the sector. He explained that the current Infrastructure Contract was awarded to Macc and was jointly funded by the Council and NHS, who had committed their involvement for the

current financial year. Discussions with the NHS were ongoing regarding future funding.

He explained that, as part of the review into the new infrastructure specification, the Council was trying to respond to the experiences, feedback, and priorities of the VCSE sector and that there had been significant consultation on this. An independent review had also been undertaken, which recognised that the sector wanted a greater focus on capacity-building and practical support for their organisations. There would also be a focus on ensuring that the support offered by the provider was accessible and culturally appropriate for all communities. Feedback from the sector also indicated that there needed to be greater support in specific areas of the city, such as North Manchester and parts of East Manchester where the sector was less developed.

The Assistant Chief Executive also stated that further member engagement on the Infrastructure Contract was proposed and that members had been invited to a meeting on this taking place in the following week.

In response to a member's query, it was advised that a group of officers would be responsible for awarding the Infrastructure Contract and this group would be representative of different backgrounds and protected characteristics.

The Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) provided assurances that Macc was publicly accessible to all VCSE organisations with tiered and general offers to groups. Membership to Macc was also open to all VCSE organisations. The Deputy Leader explained that organisations could book 15-minute sessions online to learn more about the services provided and to begin the process of receiving a tailored support package.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that the Our Manchester VCSE process was the main grant funding administered by the Council, but other grants were also available. He stated that this funding had been awarded to small, medium, and large VCSE organisations but he recognised that larger organisations could have access to more funding opportunities and had more resources at their disposal compared to smaller groups.

In response to a query regarding how the Council could support organisations to improve skills, the Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) explained that the Council liaised with organisations in receipt of the Our Manchester VCSE Fund or Supporting Communities Fund upon receipt of their monitoring information to support their evaluations and the standard of information provided. The Assistant Chief Executive welcomed the point around evaluation raised by the member and stated that officers would take this forward during procurement discussions.

The Assistant Chief Executive explained that the infrastructure support provider would be required to undertake targeted work in areas of the city which experienced poverty and had less access to services. He cited the work of North Manchester Together as a good example of how the VCSE sector can be developed in certain areas.

The committee was advised that Our Manchester VCSE funding would be provided in instalments over 3 years with annual delivery monitoring. The Infrastructure Contract funding would also be provided in instalments over a 5-year period.

In response to the Chair's enquiry regarding how the Council could support organisations with bid-writing and other skills, the Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) stated that there was a strong emphasis within the review of the specification to acknowledge feedback from the sector and to meet their needs. Bid-writing and fundraising would be included in this work and there would be an encouragement of partnership working to extend provisions into difficult-to-reach communities. The Assistant Chief Executive stated that providing targeted support for BAME-led and BAME-focused organisations was also an important part of the infrastructure contract specification. He explained that £120k had been allocated to a Development Fund to help these groups to develop VCSE organisations, which was separate to the Infrastructure Contract.

The Assistant Chief Executive stated that advice for smaller VCSE organisations on how to become sub-contractors for other providers could be provided through business development support, which the provider would be expected to undertake.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

CESC/23/26 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision:

That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**CESC/23/27 Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)
Infrastructure Contract Update (PART B)**

The committee received a confidential report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided supplementary information to item 8.

Members discussed the current Infrastructure Specification and considered the proposed inclusions in the revised Specification, including the purpose and outcomes of the Specification and the service and monitoring requirements.

Decision:

That the supplementary information be noted.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair
Councillors Alijah, N Ali, Amin, Bell, Cooley, Fletcher, Gartside, Hewitson, Judge, Lovecy, Ludford, McHale, Nunney and Sadler

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr Y Yonis, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Councillor T Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care

Councillor Bano, Ward Councillor for Whalley Range
Tracey Forster, Lead Manager, Children's Community Health Services (CCHS)
Nicola Marsden, Assistant Director, CCHS
Louise Lee, Lead Allied Health Professional, CCHS

Apologies:

Canon S Mapledoram, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

CYP/23/19 Minutes

The Chair welcomed the new Committee Members.

Decisions

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023.
2. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup held on 15 March 2023.

CYP/23/20 Early Years and Health Visiting Service

The Committee considered the presentation of the Assistant Director (Children's Services), the Strategic Lead (Early Years) and Tracey Forster, Lead Manager (Children's Community Health Services), Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust which provided an overview of Early Years and Health Visiting.

Key points and themes in the presentation included:

- Start Well Strategy and Partnership Board;

- Start Well presenting needs;
- Start Well data and impact; and
- Family Hubs Programme.

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

- To welcome the joined-up approach and all the different aspects of this work;
- Skills development for staff to help children who are presenting with high needs but have not yet been diagnosed with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND);
- Identification of children with dyslexia and dyspraxia;
- How were Housing colleagues, including social housing providers, involved in this, noting the impact of housing issues on families;
- Concern about recruitment and retention issues with Health Visitors, noting that this was a national problem;
- The location of Family Hubs and how accessible they would be for families; and
- Children arriving from Afghanistan who did not speak English and needed support.

In response to a Member's question about the Making Manchester Fairer Kickstarter Programme referred to in the presentation, the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People reported that this had only been formally signed off two days ago and that Councillors would be informed about how this would be rolled out. He suggested that the Committee receive a report on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and families fleeing Afghanistan and other countries where they were facing conflict or persecution, to which the Chair agreed. He highlighted some of the challenges facing Manchester families and some of the work the Council was doing to address this, including stating that he would send Members information on what was happening in Baby Week.

The Assistant Director (Children's Services) confirmed that her service would engage with Ward Councillors in relation to the roll-out of the Kickstarter Programme. In response to a question from another Member, she outlined how the Thriving Babies programme, which provided more intensive support to parents, linked in with the Early Help and Early Years Services, highlighting the increased investment in midwives to identify at an earlier stage parents who would need this more intensive support, and noting that, once they had progressed through the Thriving Babies programme, families would then still need some support from the Sure Start and Children's Centre Core Offer which, having built trust through the Thriving Babies programme, they would feel more able to access.

The Strategic Lead (Early Years) outlined work to increase the skills of the Early Years workforce to work with children with Personal, Social and Emotional issues and identify whether they needed specialist support and to identify children who needed extra support with communication and language and refer them to specialist services, where necessary. The Assistant Director (Children's Services) reported that Education colleagues were leading on work in relation to the Autism and

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) pathway and that further information on this could be provided.

The Assistant Director (Children's Services) reported that housing colleagues were involved in this work in a number of ways, including strategic involvement at board-level, joint work to identify families in need of extra help and support and work to respond to damp and disrepair problems. She highlighted local partnership working between hubs and housing providers, work to make connections in the private rented sector, practical support for families and work to reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation.

The Strategic Lead (Early Years) outlined some of the considerations taken into account when deciding on the location of the Family Hubs, including demographic data, cost-of-living priority wards, Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes, health outcomes, areas of multiple deprivation and the number of children eligible for the two-year-old offer; however, she advised that, while there would be buildings known as Family Hubs, services would be delivered across localities, rather than just from those buildings.

The Director of Education reported that there were currently higher levels of development delays in young children, including gross and fine motor development and speech and language. She advised that one of the biggest challenges at present was identifying what was delayed development because of the impact of the pandemic and what was due to an underlying disability. She reported that a lot of work was taking place in relation to this, including training for schools staff, webinars on the legacy of COVID-19 and access to educational psychologists, as well as targeted work in some schools, including ten intensive support schools which were receiving additional funding for interventions and additional access to speech and language therapy and educational psychology and 48 further schools which were receiving additional speech and language therapy and educational psychology support. She advised that the work at the moment was focusing on giving children what they needed to reach their developmental milestones rather than labelling them as having SEND at this stage as it was difficult to know which children did have SEND and which were not achieving their milestones due to the pandemic.

The Chair welcomed the progress made, the wide-ranging services and continuing improvement. She welcomed that the Council had retained Sure Start Centres when central Government had cut its funding. She praised the Imagination Library in Gorton and suggested that this should be available across the city. She expressed concern about the impact of lockdown on babies and young children and that some children were still not accessing the Early Years Offer. She also highlighted concerns about housing and home safety, advising that she had asked for further information on the impact of selective licensing in relation to her own ward. She also highlighted the importance of support for mothers with breastfeeding.

In response to a Member's comment about the number of Health Visitors and suggestion that the Government should be lobbied on this issue, the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People advised that this was part of a wider problem with a lack of Government strategy on the NHS workforce, rather than being limited to Health Visitors. He suggested that he discuss with the Executive

Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care how to proceed with this. The Chair highlighted that there were also issues with recruiting childcare workers. She suggested that a broader workforce strategy report, including health visiting and childcare workers, could be requested, noting that consideration would need to be given to which scrutiny committee would receive this report.

Decisions

1. To request a further report at an appropriate time.
2. To request that the Committee receive a report on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and families fleeing Afghanistan and other countries where they were facing conflict or persecution.
3. To request a report on workforce strategy, noting that further consideration will be needed on the scope of the report and which scrutiny committee should receive it.

[Councillor Alijah declared a personal interest, having accessed Early Help Services.]

CYP/23/21 Children's Community Health Services (CCHS)

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an overview of CCHS and a short summary of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, considered the national and CCHS position post-COVID-19 for children and shared the current areas of focus for CCHS.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- CCHS within the Manchester Foundation Trust and Manchester Local Care Organisation;
- An overview of CCHS;
- The CCHS response to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Post COVID-19/living with COVID-19, the national position for children and the CCHS position;
- CCHS areas of focus; and
- Partnership workstreams.

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

- The Asthma Friendly Schools Project
- The take-up of baby immunisations;
- The Impact of the pandemic on young people's social and emotional development and the impact of dealing with this on the mental health of staff in schools and Alternative Provision;
- The impact of poverty and the cost-of-living crisis on children and families;
- The response to child obesity; and
- Children using e-cigarettes.

Nicola Marsden, Assistant Director, CCHS, reported that factors affecting the schools identified for the Asthma Friendly Schools Project were lack of green space and busy roads, which impacted on asthma. The Assistant Director (Children's Services) informed Members about partnership work on asthma, including Adult Social Care and Neighbourhoods Directorate, which was focused on prevention.

Nicola Marsden reported that GPs were responsible for baby immunisation and that there had been a lower uptake since the pandemic and that work was taking place at a local and national level to ensure positive, consistent messaging on immunisation. In response to a question about the HPV vaccine, she advised that there were concerns about the level of uptake of this, along with other vaccines; however, this was about to change from a two-immunisation programme to a one-immunisation programme which should have a positive impact on uptake. She also confirmed that, since 2018, the HPV vaccine had been available to both boys and girls. She recognised the Member's comments about the impact of the pandemic on young people's social and emotional development, commenting that similar issues were being seen by Health teams, and advised that the Healthy Schools Team were supporting schools with these issues. She advised that a lot of studies were taking place on the mental health impact of the pandemic.

In response to Members' comments and questions in relation to eyesight, Tracey Forster, Lead Manager, CCHS reported that a vision screening programme took place in Reception year and she noted that increased use of small screens during the pandemic, as well as increased screen time, could possibly induce myopia at an earlier age. The Chair stated that schools should encourage families to get their children's vision tested regularly.

In response to a Member's question about "ghost children", children who had not returned to school after the pandemic, the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People suggested that this be considered in a separate report, to which the Chair agreed.

In response to a question about hearing tests, Nicola Marsden reported that there was a national programme for vision and hearing in Reception year and that there was also an audiology service available from newborn to 18 years of age and that health professionals going into schools could provide advice and signpost to services, as appropriate. In response to the question about obesity, she reported that Healthy Schools Programme shared positive messages and information on healthy eating and that the National Child Measurement Programme in Reception and Year 6 identified obesity issues. She informed Members about the Healthy Weight Team, which helped children who were severely obese through a 12-month programme of support for the child and their family, stating that the staffing team for this had been increased. She advised that the school nursing team and GPs could also provide help and advice. In response to the question about children vaping, she advised that healthy lifestyle messages were being shared and that initial research on the effects of e-cigarettes was concerning.

Decision

To receive a report on school attendance and, in particular, work taking place in relation children who have not returned to school after the pandemic.

[Councillor Nunney declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as an employee of Manchester Foundation Trust and left the room for this item.]

CYP/23/22 Re-establishment of the Ofsted Subgroup

The Committee considered the report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided the Committee with the proposed terms of reference and current work programme for the Subgroup. The Committee was asked to re-establish the Ofsted Subgroup for the municipal year 2023 - 2024 and agree the terms of reference, work programme and membership of the Subgroup.

Decisions

1. To re-establish the Ofsted Subgroup for the 2023 - 2024 municipal year and agree the terms of reference and work programme.
2. That Councillor Lovecy be appointed as Chair of the Ofsted Subgroup and that Councillors Bano, Bell, Fletcher, Hewitson, Ludford and Reid and Mr Yonis be appointed to the Subgroup.

CYP/23/23 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.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair
Councillors Alijah, N Ali, Amin, Bell, Fletcher, Gartside, Hewitson, Judge, Ludford, McHale and Nunney

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative
Mr Y Yonis, Parent Governor Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Councillor Butt, Deputy Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Councillor Shilton Godwin, Chair of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Muse, Ward Councillor for Ardwick
Luke Prosser, Loreto College
Helen Green, Loreto College

Apologies:

Councillors Lovecy and Sadler
Canon S Mapledoram, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

CYP/23/24 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023.

CYP/23/25 Update: Education Climate Change Action Plan 2022-24

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an update on work done by the Council to support the Education sector with decarbonisation since the publication of the Education Climate Change Action Plan in October 2022. It also outlined the plans for this work moving forwards, with the action plan refreshed bi-annually following on from several review points within the two years.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Background information;
- Progress to date in relation to:
 - Campus;
 - Culture;

- Community; and
- Curriculum; and
- Future opportunities and intentions.

The Committee also received a presentation from Luke Prosser and Helen Green from Loreto College about the College's sustainability journey.

Key points and themes in the presentation included:

- The College's Sustainability Strategy;
- The reasons for introducing it; and
- How it was being achieved.

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

- To thank the representatives from Loreto College for their presentation and to welcome the work being done by the College;
- The environmental impact of journeys to school and what more could be done to promote behaviour change, particularly in relation to promoting active travel;
- Sharing good practice with other schools; and
- Decarbonisation of the schools' estate and the bid for funding for this work.

In response to a question from the Chair about twinning with schools in other countries, Helen Green from Loreto College reported that the College had international schools in countries such as India which the College engaged with and that they would be looking at what work they could do with them from an environmental perspective. She advised that Loreto also had other English schools, including one in Chorlton, and that the College, and Luke Prosser, in his role as Sustainability Manager, were leading on work with those schools on climate change. Luke Prosser explained that the Principal had given him freedom to work with anybody to tackle climate change and that he was open to any ways that he could help and share best practice. In response to a Member's question, he outlined the College's in-house carbon literacy training.

In response to a question from the Chair on allotments, the Project Manager (Educational Climate Change) informed Members that, from September, the National Education Nature Park would be rolled out across all Manchester schools to teach pupils about biodiversity and that biodiversity could be found in school grounds, and that the Department for Education would be providing some funding to improve biodiversity on school grounds. He explained how best practice was being shared through the green schools networks and a dedicated page on the Schools Hub. In response to questions about journeys to school, he informed Members about the Green Bee Relay, which encouraged active travel, the Governance Review Board which was being established and would be look at strategic issues like active travel on a wider scale, and the impact of the introduction of Our Pass, which provided free travel for 16 to 18-year-olds.

The Director of Education advised that ideally children should go to a local school and that most Manchester children did go to a local school; however, she advised

that, if they could not, they were entitled to a free travel pass. She reported that a lot of secondary school pupils travelled to school by bus but that, at primary, even if the school was local, a lot of pupils were taken by car and that a culture change was needed, using a range of methods such as challenges, competitions and pilot schemes.

The Chair expressed concern that the current allocation of school buses was unfair. She stated that she and the Chair of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee had been raising this issue but that, with the introduction of bus franchising, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) did not want to significantly change the bus network at present; however, she advised that they would continue to raise this. She also expressed concern that there would be a shortage of secondary school places in 2024, resulting in some children having to travel further. She highlighted the issue of homeless families being placed in temporary accommodation further away from their children's schools, while recognising the improvements being made in relation to homeless families.

The Project Manager (Educational Climate Change) reported that the five schools chosen for funding bids had been chosen on the basis of having the oldest boilers that were most in need of replacement and he explained how there would be an initial bid for low carbon skills funding which, if successful, would help with the design of the boilers and support the application for the public sector decarbonisation funding. In response to a question from the Chair of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee about the levels of engagement from schools with climate change initiatives, he stated that schools had a number of competing demands on them and the networks were quite new so he was relatively happy with the initial uptake but was committed to continuing to work to build on this. He stated that the audit taking place in September to gauge the number of schools with a climate action plan would be useful for providing targeted support.

The Director of Education reported that the Council only had a small building maintenance budget for local authority-maintained schools but was linking in with the wider Council to access additional funding in order to do more. She stated that this had included doing condition surveys of schools which meant that, when new funding became available for school buildings, the Council already had information on which schools most needed this.

Decisions

1. To support the approach outlined within the Campus workstream, with the establishment of locality green school networks in North, Central and South Manchester to engage more schools in this work.
2. To recommend that consideration be given to partnering schools with allotments and parks.
3. To note that the Chair, along with the Chair of the Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee, will continue to engage with TfGM on the allocation of school buses.

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which highlighted Children's Services' and partners' response to the step change increase of Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children and young people (UASC) coming into Manchester.

Key points and themes in the report and presentation included:

- Background information;
- Profile and demographic; and
- Responding and meeting the needs of Manchester's UASC.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People highlighted the problem of children who were initially assessed by the Home Office as being adults and placed in dispersal accommodation with adults and reported that the Council was lobbying on this issue.

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

- To welcome the work that the Council was doing to support UASC;
- To seek clarification on the process for age assessments;
- The education of UASC; and
- What happened while the young person was waiting for the age assessment to be completed.

In relation to age assessments, the Assistant Director (Children in Care and Care Leavers) explained that the Home Office undertook an initial screening, but that about 20% of these would be incorrect. She reported that, when they arrived in Manchester, either as a spontaneous arrival or via a dispersal hotel, her team undertook a brief enquiry to determine whether, in their professional opinion, they were presenting as under 18, in which case the Council had a duty to accommodate them. She advised that the team's social workers, who were trained in age assessments, then carried out an assessment process, which could take up to 45 days, based on observation, what the young person said and the relationship with the social workers involved in their assessment. The final assessment on the young person's age was then communicated to the Home Office. In response to a Member's question she reported that, if the person presenting could be a child, they were given "benefit of doubt" and accommodated while the assessment was being carried out. In response to a Member's question about how culturally aware and trauma-informed the social workers undertaking these assessments were, she reported that the New Arrivals team were from varied backgrounds and different countries of origin, including two former UASC, whose experiences had been invaluable. She advised that the whole team had been trained on trauma-informed practice and worked closely with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The Assistant Director (Children in Care and Care Leavers) reported that, at the point of determining a young person's age, if they were of school age, her team would work closely with the Virtual School to get them on a school roll and into school as soon as possible. She advised that, for those over school age, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision was a priority, again working with the Virtual School. In response to a comment from the Chair about the Communicate School, she stated that she would look into this. In response to a Member's question about high numbers of new arrivals being allocated to a specific school, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that this was more likely to relate to families with children arriving in the city rather than UASC but that, if the Member wanted to raise an issue about a specific school, this could be picked up after the meeting.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Lead for Homelessness and Migration confirmed that her service engaged with charities and with local colleges. She reported that the demand for ESOL courses in the city outstripped supply and that work was taking place to lobby on this issue and look for ways to increase funding for and provision of ESOL courses. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that more males than females were coming into the UK seeking asylum. She stated that dispersal hotels were usually single sex and the ones in Manchester were for males, which was also part of the reason for the disparity in numbers.

In response to a question from the Chair about trafficking, the Deputy Strategic Director of Children's Services reported that this was part of the multi-agency complex safeguarding work and that he would ensure that information on trafficking was included in the next report that the Committee received on complex safeguarding.

Decisions

1. To note the impact of the increase in volume of UASC coming into the city and the wider socio-economic impact.
2. To endorse the decision that Manchester will 'opt out' of the National Transfer Scheme and will refer young people into the scheme as a response to our increase in number of UASC into the city, whilst acknowledging that this decision can be reviewed as young people naturally 'age out' of the system.
3. To recognise the service's response, whilst acknowledging the strength of the partnership work that has wrapped around our young people, in a 'child first' approach.

CYP/23/27 Fostering Recruitment and Retention Strategy 2023-25

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which set out the Council's ambitions for the recruitment and retention of foster carers in Manchester. It identified the Council's recruitment targets and support offer and how it aimed to recruit and retain more foster carers for children who needed foster families.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Being a Fostering Friendly Employer;
- The Our Manchester Offer to foster carers;
- Recruitment data;
- Looked After Children/needs analysis;
- Ambition for 2023 - 25;
- Ongoing work undertaken by the Recruitment and Assessment Team; and
- The development and implementation of the Mockingbird Family Model (MFM).

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

- To welcome the fantastic work that the Council was doing; and to recognise the vital role of foster carers and to express the Committee's thanks;
- To welcome that the Council now had Fostering Friendly Status;
- Noting a previous campaign to recruit foster carers from the Muslim community, were there any particular communities that were being targeted for foster carer recruitment, such as the Somali community;
- What were the barriers to fostering;
- Noting that the lack of a spare bedroom in their home prevented a lot of people from becoming foster carers; and
- What support was being provided to foster carers due to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Fostering Service Lead reported that there was a need for more Black African and Black Caribbean foster carers and that work was taking place, linking in with AFRUCA, to promote fostering in those communities. She stated that she would be happy to link in with any Councillors about promoting foster carer recruitment in local communities. In response to a Member's question, she stated that the Council had made enquiries with other organisations to get them interested in gaining Fostering Friendly Status and that it was hoped to hold a launch to promote this further.

The Assistant Director (Provider Services) stated that it could take an individual up to 5 years from first considering fostering and making enquiries to becoming a foster carer, because of the consideration given to making the decision, rather than because of delays by the Council. She stated that barriers were often specific to the individual but could include housing, the impact of fostering and increasingly being able to work from home, which could also impact on the availability of a spare bedroom. She highlighted the role of the Mockingbird Family Model in providing support to foster carers. She informed Members that a one-off additional payment had been made to foster carers to support them with the increased cost of living and that there was an annual increase in the level of remuneration for foster carers. In response to a question from the Chair, she stated that every local authority had a different offer and pay structure but Manchester's was competitive and one of the highest in Greater Manchester.

In response to a question from the Chair about supported lodgings becoming subject to regulation, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services suggested that the Committee receive a report on the work to prepare for this, to which the Chair agreed.

The Chair suggested that different recruitment methods, such as using empty billboards, be used to recruit foster carers and that there should be increased use of kinship carers.

Decision

To receive a report on supported lodgings becoming subject to regulation and the work taking place to prepare for this.

CYP/23/28 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.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair

Councillors Bayunu, Curley, Hilal, Karney, Muse, Reeves and Wilson

Apologies: Councillors Riasat and Stogia

Also present:

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

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

Tom Hinchcliffe, Deputy Place Based Lead – Manchester, NHS

Greater Manchester Integrated Care

Andrew Maloney, Deputy Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Maria Nelligan, Executive Director of Clinical Transformation/Interim Chief Nurse, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

John Foley, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Paul Baker, Community for Holistic, Accessible, Rights Based Mental Health (CHARM)

Angela Mugan, CHARM

Rachel Tully, CHARM

Craig Hamilton, CHARM

Jeff Evans, CHARM

Patricia Gail Oluwabusola, CHARM

Annabel Marsh, CHARM

Angela Young, CHARM

HSC/23/23 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8 March 2023.

HSC/23/24 Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust: Improvement Plan Update

The Committee considered the report of the Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust that provided an update on the Trust's Improvement Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing a history and context of the Trust;
- Information on the Care Quality Commission rating;
- An update on the review of the Trust and the Executive Leadership team;

- Data relating to the 2022 Staff Survey;
- An overview of immediate improvements initiated;
- An overview of the GMMH Improvement Plan and the areas for priority focus;
- Information on the Manchester City Council/GMMH S75 Partnership Agreement and Improvement Programme;
- Key messages;
- An overview of Community Mental Health Teams in Manchester;
- Analysis of engagement activity, topics for further consideration and next steps; and
- Consideration of the factors that were identified as risks to delivery of the Improvement Plan.

The Committee then heard from a number of representatives from CHARM (Community for Holistic, Accessible, Rights Based Mental Health) who had been invited by the Chair to participate and contribute to the meeting. Representatives from CHARM provided personal testimony as to their lived experience of mental health services in Manchester. They spoke of the need to consider mental health in terms of it being a human rights issue; calling for a fundamental change in the culture at the Trust, including adopting reflective practice across all levels at the Trust; improving how they communicated with carers and families; calling for appropriate trained staffing; the need for mental health to have the parity of esteem as physical health; the coproduction of services needed to be meaningful and hear and listen to the voice of service users, their families and carers; calling for an end to restrictive and oppressive practices on wards; the delays in being able to access appropriate services and the detrimental impact this had on individuals and their health outcomes; describing the disproportionate adverse experience of African and Caribbean citizens, especially in regard to the issue of overmedication; calling for the Trust to respond to the allegations of institutional racism and to use qualitative and quantitative data to report improvements; and noting the detrimental impact individuals experienced when they were 'stepped down' from Community Mental Health services.

The Committee expressed their appreciation for all of the contributors from CHARM for sharing their powerful testimonies.

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

- Expressing disappointment that the current Chief Executive had not attended the meeting to address the Committee prior to his imminent departure from the Trust;
- Noting that when reviewed the BBC Panorama programme demonstrated the senior leadership that was absent from the Edenfield Unit;
- Calling for a culture change at the Trust and noting that this was not explicit in the plan;
- Discussing the issue of health inequalities;
- Calling for absolute transparency by the Trust when reporting to the Committee, adding that future updates needed to provide significantly more detail across the different work streams;
- More detailed information was requested on the work to date and planned on the five Improvement Plan workstreams;

- Noting that detailed information in relation to staff feedback was requested in any future update report;
- The need to articulate the tangible anticipated milestones and outcomes that would be realised by the Improvement Plan;
- Noting referrals to Community Mental Health Teams were 73% higher in 2022/23 than pre pandemic and commenting that this was a significant pressure on resources;
- Noting that staff recruitment and retention was an issue and asking if the Financial Plan that included a 4% efficiency ask would undermine any planned improvements; and
- The Committee reiterated their appreciation to all of the representatives from CHARM for attending the meeting and sharing their experiences.

The Executive Director of Adult Social Services described the steps that had been taken by partners across the system to support the Trust. This had included the establishment of regular weekly meetings at a senior level; the redeployment of staff to support teams; utilising the Integrated Control Room; requesting that internal Audit undertake a review of GMMH; improved and strengthened governance arrangements in accordance with Care Act requirements; meeting with Mental Health Social Work staff; and a commitment from all partners across Greater Manchester to work collaboratively to drive improvements at the Trust on behalf of the residents and their families accessing mental health services.

The Deputy Place Based Lead – Manchester, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care reiterated the previous statement by advising that resources and support had been provided across Greater Manchester to support the Trust and there was a commitment by all partners to support the Trust to deliver the Improvement Plan.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care reiterated his stated commitment to work with the Trust to drive improvements. He stated this remained a personal and political priority. He stated that he recognised that the Trust was on a journey of improvement and acknowledged the work described, however he called for a sense of urgency to deliver the required improvements. He stated that he was not confident that Manchester residents were receiving the level of service they deserved, and improvements had to be realised. He acknowledged that a new Chief Executive had been appointed and many of the senior posts were currently interim appointments. He advised that it was anticipated that all the senior posts would be appointed to by the end of the year and he recommended that the Trust be invited back later in the year to provide another update on the Improvement Plan.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust stated that there was a significant amount of detailed work that underpinned the Improvement Plan as described in the document submitted to the Committee. He advised that further information would be provided to the Committee. He stated that the Improvement Plan provided a fundamental building block to drive and deliver improvements across the whole service. He stated that the Plan was deliverable and all at the Trust acknowledged the need to deliver on this, using all resources available to deliver at the correct pace and in the right order. He stated that positive feedback had been received from staff and the new Chair of the Trust was highly visible in his role.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust further commented that he acknowledged the point raised in regard to the issue of meaningful coproduction of services and referenced a number of forums and working groups that had been established. In regard to the issue of Health Inequalities he stated that the Trust did have a strategy and they were working to embed this across the wider improvement strategy. In response to the comments regarding culture change he stated that they were engaging with an external body to review this with a view to informing the Improvement Plan, noting that there were many good examples of best practice in regard to this. He added that delivering an improved culture would in turn attract high quality staff to work for the Trust. With specific reference to the 4% efficiency ask he advised that this would be targeted and realised away from care, adding that delivering the Improvement Plan would drive efficiencies and support front line services.

The Executive Director of Clinical Transformation stated that there was a detailed Action Plan behind every work stream described. She stated these plans had been submitted to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and stated that the CQC would reinspect the Trust. She advised that the Trust held monthly meetings with the CQC and initial feedback indicated that they were satisfied with the improvements delivered. She added that the CQC could also undertake an unannounced inspection visit. She stated that further detail on this area of activity would be included in any future update report. Members noted that it was this level of detail that the Committee required. She further described that work had been done to strengthen leadership at a ward level. She acknowledged the comments regarding recruitment and retention of staff, adding that this was a national issue. She stated that work was underway with NHS England to review staffing across all levels. She stated that there was a programme of strengthening professional nursing leadership; the intention to employ staff with lived experience; developing staff and supporting non-registered staff using regular supervision, training and appraisals.

The Executive Director of Clinical Transformation commented that meaningful coproduction and person-centred care was core to improving services. She stated that every Board meeting started with a patient story. She advised that a Service Users Care Council had been established and this group fed directly into the Board, adding that this was another initiative that would influence positive culture change.

In response to a specific ask by CHARM for the Committee to establish a subgroup to consider mental health, the Chair stated that she would consult with the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care and other relevant stakeholders to consider the scope and remit of any subgroup.

The Chair stated that a future update from the Trust would be included in the Committee's work programme for consideration at a meeting later in the year.

Decision

The Committee recommend that;

1. The Chair consult with the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care and other relevant stakeholders to consider the scope and remit of any subgroup to consider mental health.

2. An invitation be sent to the current Chief Executive and his Interim replacement to attend the next meeting of the Committee to respond to questions from Members.

HSC/23/25 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.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair
Councillors Curley, Karney, Muse, Riasat and Wilson

Apologies: Councillors Bayunu, Hilal and Reeves

HSC/23/26 Urgent Business – The Recent Heatwave

The Chair introduced the item of urgent business by inviting the Director of Public Health to update the Members on the local health system response to the recent heatwave.

The Director of Public Health informed the Committee that a new Heat-Health Alerts (HHAs) system had been introduced by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Met Office.

On the 7 June, the UK Health Security Agency and the Met Office had issued the first heat-health alert of the year, noting that as of Tuesday 13 June, the HHAs issued by UKHSA had been extended until 9am, Monday 19 June. All regions of England had been placed under a yellow alert for this period.

He advised that a yellow alert meant that any impacts included the increased use of health care services by vulnerable populations and an increase in risk to health for individuals over the age of 65 or those with pre-existing health conditions, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. There was also the potential for indoor environments, including health and care settings, to become very warm.

Information and relevant updates on Heat-Health Alerts can be viewed on the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heat-health-alerts-issued-by-ukhsa-and-the-met-office>

The Director of Public Health advised that all front-line services could register to receive these alerts, adding that an audit of all Manchester GP practices who had registered would be undertaken. He advised that timely information and advice would be shared locally with partners via trusted sources. He commented that planning across the system was underway for the response in the event of a red alert being issued and a briefing note on this would be shared with all elected Members. He added that ward specific analysis as to the impacts of extreme weather was being undertaken to inform all future planning.

The Director of Public Health stated that data on the excess deaths resulting from extreme weather for 2020 indicated that there had been two and half thousand excess deaths in that year. He added that the data for 2022 was not yet available, however it was anticipated that this figure would be higher. He commented that

anecdotal evidence indicated that there had been an increase in presentations at primary and secondary care settings during the recent heatwave. He concluded that the key public health messages, such as drinking water regularly, closing curtains to keep the direct heat out and using sunscreen remained, in addition to other messaging around associated risks such as the dangers related to open cold-water swimming.

Members of the Committee reiterated the importance of the use of sunscreen and commented that residents should shop around for this product as the prices charged by different retailers for this product could vary significantly.

Decision

To note the oral update.

HSC/23/27 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2023.

HSC/23/28 Adult Social Care Community Capacity Market Development and Commissioning

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that provided a further update on the Better Outcomes Better Lives (BOBL) Transformation Programme and an update on Adult Social Care Commissioning, including the latest refresh of the Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) Commissioning Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and update in relation to BOBL across a range of activities;
- A description of the central aims of the MLCO Commissioning Plan;
- Consideration of the other commissioning priorities and developments 23/24; and
- Conclusions.

The Committee also received a video presentation submitted by Darren Knight, Chief Executive, George House Trust that provided testimony of working with commissioners.

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

- Welcoming the format of the report and the use of plain English;
- Recognising the benefits of integrated health and social care teams and services;
- What planning was being given to respond to future demands on services, noting the ageing population;
- How would the work described address health inequalities;

- Could a citizen or a professional acting on their behalf request a reassessment of their individual care needs in the event of a change in their circumstances; and
- Noting the challenge presented by staff recruitment and retention across the care sector and what was being done to address this.

The Assistant Director, Commissioning stated that consideration was given to planning for future demands and demographic trends. She commented that commissioners were alert to the issue of residents with complex long-term conditions and disabilities; and those residents due to transition into Adult Social Care (post 18). She stated that using evidence-based analysis this then informed all considerations and future planning, noting that wider issues and solutions, such as appropriate housing adaptations were considered. She drew Member's attention to the Extra Care Housing report that had been considered by the Committee at their meeting of 22 June 2022 as one example of this approach and planning. She commented that commissioning was responsive to gaps in provision and referenced how feedback from frontline Social Workers was captured and informed this decision-making process. The Director of Market Development referred to the activities to engage with providers to identify pressures and understand capacity across the sector. He referred to the Innovation Labs that had been established to facilitate and support this ongoing dialogue, adding that the citizen's voice was evident in these conversations with providers.

The Director of Market Development further commented that the pandemic had exacerbated staffing issues that had already existed across the external care market. He described that improved relationships and dialogue with the external care sector had been established. He advised that the Council had supported with the hosting of job fairs to support the sector and many employers were now paying the Living Wage, in addition test and learn pilots had been delivered to support and develop staff, commenting that this would contribute to staff retention. He commented upon the improved relationship and understanding that now existed between commissioners and the external care provider market.

The Assistant Director, Commissioning advised that work had been done to consider inequalities mapping and to understanding the needs of various communities, and they were working with the newly appointed Joint Director, Equality, Inclusion and Engagement to consider how this area of work could be strengthened, particularly in relation to hidden need. She added that Equality Impact Assessments would inform all decision making. She further commented that coproduction and lived experience were central to commissioning and there was a commitment to this, adding that recruitment to a post to specifically support this work was currently underway and further information on this activity would be provided in future update reports to the Committee. The Director of Public Health stated that a comprehensive update report on the Making Manchester Fairer Plan was due to be considered by the Committee at their October meeting.

In response to a question from a Member, the Assistant Director, Commissioning stated that BOBL was predicated on strength-based conversations with citizens to understand what was important to the person to support their independence and wellbeing so as to then deliver the appropriate support for that individual. She advised that there was a duty under the Care Act to undertake a review of a package

of care with a person, adding that individuals or professionals could request a care assessment again if their needs changed. She commented that the learning of the Unpaid Carer Survey model would be developed and rolled out more widely with a view to assessing citizen satisfaction. She further referred to the Early Help Offer in North Manchester that could act as a triage service for citizens to identify means of immediate, low-level support that could be accessed pending a full formal assessment.

The Chief Executive of the Manchester Local Care Organisation described the positive outcomes of the integration of health and social care across Manchester. She advised that BOBL provide a sound foundation on which to engage with NHS partners to create and deliver services that responded to citizens needs and utilise all available resources.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/29 Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2021-22

The Committee considered the report of Manchester Safeguarding Partnership Adults Executive Chair, that provided a summary update on the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (MSP) Annual report. The Annual report was appended to the report.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- An introduction, describing that the MSP was a partnership of adult and children's safeguarding;
- Describing the Partnership arrangements;
- Communication and engagement;
- Safeguarding effectiveness and scrutiny;
- Safeguarding practice reviews;
- Learning and development;
- Complex safeguarding;
- Neglect; and
- Homelessness.

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

- Welcoming the openness and honesty within the report;
- Recognising the significant impact the pandemic had on safeguarding;
- Enquiring if the information and data that described the outcomes of this work would be included in the 2022/23 report;
- Recognising the importance of coproduction; and
- How did the work of safeguarding in Manchester compare to that in the other nine authorities across Greater Manchester.

The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care advised that the production of the 2022/23 report had been delayed for a number of reasons but was currently being finalised

and would be presented to the Committee at an appropriate time. He advised that the 2022/23 report would discuss the outcomes, impact and evaluation of this work for Manchester residents. He described that the 2022/23 report would also include the new Strategic Plan that was evidence based and responded to the safeguarding issues that had arisen and been acutely intensified as a result of the pandemic. He further informed the Committee that the Strategic Plan also captured and articulated the citizen voice and experience. He commented that the report would also update the Committee on the improved and strengthened governance arrangements that had developed following an independent review.

The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care commented that there were many common safeguarding themes that existed across all the Greater Manchester authorities, however Manchester had its own unique, bespoke and complex challenges. He said that the new governance arrangements acknowledged and responded to this complexity. He added that Manchester was a member of the Northwest Safeguarding Alliance that provided a forum to share learning and experience.

In response to a specific question about the relationship between the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care System and safeguarding, the Director of Public Health advised that this would be captured in the report that was scheduled for consideration at the September meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/30 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 discussions were ongoing to agree the scope and remit of the Mental Health Subgroup that was recommended at the May meeting. She advised that if Members were interested in joining the Subgroup they should contact both herself and the Scrutiny Support Officer.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25 May 2023

Present:

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Davies, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick and Lanchbury

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Moran, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Apologies: Councillors Evans and Wheeler

RGSC/23/21 Interests

Councillor Julie Connolly declared a prejudicial and pecuniary interest in items 5 and 8 and would leave the meeting for the duration of discussions.

RGSC/23/22 Minutes

Decision:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 7 March 2023, be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/23 Commercial Update (Part A)

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an overview of key aspects of the Council's commercial portfolio as well as outlining the governance and assurance activity which took place before, during and post completion of commercial transactions.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Commercial governance and assurance, including strategic oversight of companies, Joint Ventures, and charities;
- Directorship training facilitated for members and officers;
- The Due Diligence Framework, which provided financial and reputational assurance to the Council via the analysis of the performance and sustainability of the organisations which the Council were currently working or proposing to contract with;

- The regulation of commercial activity;
- The purpose of Public Interest and Best Value Reports; and
- Risk management.

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

- How confident officers were in the governance of the Council's commercial activities, citing a recent announcement of a government audit into Teesworks in Teeside;
- How many individuals were still to undertake directorship training;
- Whether directorship training was available prior to being appointed for those considering the position;
- If a list of those who had undertaken directorship training was available;
- Whether the Council reported on the diversity of boards which members and officers were appointed to;
- The impact of the Subsidy Control Act;
- Noting that the Due Diligence Framework was applied to 'gold' contracts, and querying the approach to non- 'gold' contracts;
- How the Council was being proactive in managing reputational and financial risk through its investments and holdings;
- Whether the Council made any savings with regard to culture and leisure during the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- Suggesting that a public notice is included on the website to explain why the Council appoints to boards.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that the Council had a successful record in development and regeneration activity. She stated that the governance arrangements in place were robust and continuously monitored and that the Council sought to identify and review good practice from others.

The Chair highlighted a recent news article which disclosed that a review into allegations of "corruption, wrongdoing and illegality" at the Teesworks redevelopment scheme in Teeside had been ordered by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. In response to a query regarding officers' confidence in the governance of the Council's commercial activities, members were advised that there were robust governance arrangements in place around transactions, partnerships and ventures. The Head of Commercial Governance explained that the Due Diligence Framework was used to monitor schemes with regular updates on progress of entities and their stability. She also stated that the Commercial Board received regular updates on major property transactions and regeneration projects and were sighted on the activity and performance of these.

The Head of Commercial Governance advised members that there were less than 10 individuals still to undertake directorship training and that a regular overview of memberships was maintained to ensure any new appointees were fully trained. She

stated that the directorship training programme had been well received with a lot of positive feedback.

In response to a query around the diversity of boards, the Head of Commercial Governance stated that this would be a focus for the team in the year ahead. She stated that officers had an understanding of diversity across boards, but work was needed to strengthen knowledge and understanding.

Members were also advised that directorship training could be undertaken by those considering a Board position prior to being appointed.

The Head of Commercial Governance explained that some members and officers held directorships on multiple Boards, and this was registered through the declaration of interests process and company board registrations, which were public record on the Companies House website. This information would be circulated following the meeting.

In response to queries, the committee was informed that the Subsidy Control Act was introduced at the beginning of 2023 and the Council had an active working group which was examining the implications of the Act. It was also stated that the Council was required to complete a database to publicly outline what subsidies the Council had given to third parties.

The Head of Commercial Governance also stated that 'gold' contracts were those of significant value to the Council and were used to test the fitness of the Due Diligence Framework. She stated that the Framework was now being applied to 'silver' contracts and further detail on the type of contracts this covered would be provided following the meeting. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer also stated that a report on the Council's Major Contracts Oversight Board would be provided to a future meeting of the committee.

Members were advised that the Council reviewed the Public Interest Reports and Best Value Reports of other local authorities to assess whether Manchester's approach was appropriate.

In response to a member's query regarding lower spend on culture and leisure during the pandemic, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that the government reimbursed local authorities for any additional costs incurred as a result of the pandemic and the Council had utilised the entirety of this funding. She explained that this did not, however, cover the loss of commercial income such as parking and leisure services revenue. She stated that the Council's reserves had been built up for a number of reasons, such as the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and additional grants and relief schemes for business rates.

In response to a suggestion made by a member, the Head of Commercial Governance confirmed that the Council did not currently have any published

information to explain why some members and officers were appointed to Boards but that this could be considered.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/24 Overview Report

The committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fell within the Committee's remit. 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:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/25 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision:

That the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

RGSC/23/26 Commercial Update (Part B)

The committee received and considered a confidential report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided further detail of the structure, financing and terms of the Council's commercial activity, supplementary to item 5.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 22 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Brickell, Connolly, Davies, Evans, Kilpatrick, Lanchbury and Wheeler

Also present:

Councillor Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Councillor Moran, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Karney, Chair of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Apologies: Councillor Kirkpatrick

In opening the meeting, the Chair reminded members that there would be a site visit to the Town Hall on Monday 10 July at 2pm.

RGSC/23/27 Interests

Councillor Julie Connolly declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 and would remain in the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

RGSC/23/28 Minutes

Decision:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25 May 2023, be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/29 Elections Act 2022 and the 4 May 2023 Local Election - Progress Report on its Impacts

The committee considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided a full update on how the new duties of the Elections Act 2022 impacted on the local election on 4 May 2023.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Elections Act 2022;
- Figures on the number of applications for a Voter Authority Certificate (VAC) received by the Council;

- The number of enquiries received by the Contact Centre before and on Polling Day;
- 60, 742 electors voted in person at the election out of a total of 313,519 eligible;
- 1,060 polling station electors were not initially issued with a ballot paper but later returned with accepted ID;
- 589 polling station electors applied for but were not issued with a ballot paper by close of poll;
- The Electoral Commission were collating data from all 230 councils who held elections in May to produce a report evaluating the full impact of the voter ID requirement and a report on the key findings of this would be provided to the Scrutiny Committee when it is published;
- The reasonable equipment provisions that were in place at polling stations;
- The impact of the communications campaign; and
- The changes expected from July 2023 as a result of the second tranche of legislation through the Act.

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

- Thanking the Elections team and all staff who worked on polling stations and the count;
- How many people in Manchester had been charged with voter fraud in the last 10 years;
- The costs incurred by Manchester City Council as a result of involvement in Greater Manchester's communications campaign;
- Requesting further information on the gradual move to online postal voting applications as stipulated in the Elections Act 2022;
- What ongoing communications there would be to encourage electors to apply for VACs; and
- Noting that a new parliamentary boundary map was expected to be released imminently and querying whether discussions with neighbouring authorities regarding cross-boundary constituencies were underway.

In opening the item, the Chair stated that the introduction of voter ID was a wholly unnecessary, politically motivated scheme that had cost millions of pounds, but he congratulated council staff for their efficiency and consideration in dealing with VAC applications. He also paid tribute to the electorate who adhered to the change in requirements.

The City Solicitor also expressed her thanks to staff and acknowledged the challenges that the changes arising from the Elections Act 2022 posed. She stated that representatives from central government, the Electoral Commission, the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), a London authority and a Scottish authority observed Manchester on polling day, and all praised the work and good practice within polling stations, with some national organisations noting this work to

share across the country. She noted further challenges arising within the coming year, including changes to postal and proxy vote applications which the Council was awaiting further guidance on. A polling district review would also be undertaken after new parliamentary boundaries came into effect in December 2023. The City Solicitor stated that further engagement would be undertaken with communities to enfranchise more electors.

The Statutory Deputy Leader stated that the introduction of voter ID was an attempt to disenfranchise people, particularly the working class and young people. He stated that the national advertising campaign was poor and that there was little attempt to notify people of the changes. He expressed his belief that one voter turned away from a polling station was one voter too many. He paid tribute to the Elections team for their work in what he stated were difficult circumstances but called on the government to reverse the policy and build trust in politics to encourage more residents to exercise their democratic right.

In response to a member's query regarding how many people in Manchester had been convicted of voter fraud in the last 10 years, the City Solicitor explained that she was not aware of any individuals who had been convicted of voter fraud within the last 10 years, but this would be confirmed to members following the meeting. She stated that the number of people convicted nationally was also very low.

The Head of Strategic Communications explained that there was a cross-Greater Manchester (GM) approach to communications which the Council supplemented with specific activity in Manchester to reach those most likely to be affected by changes imposed by the Act. He stated that the cost of the GM-wide campaign was £93k, to which Manchester City Council contributed £17k. Additional expenditure was also incurred by the Council, including banners for display outside of polling stations and 12 additional translations, to a total £50k. The Head of Strategic Communications explained that this additional expenditure was felt to be necessary and important given that the 2023 local election was the first since the changes had been introduced.

The Electoral Services Corporate Delivery Manager explained that the Council was awaiting further information from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), which was currently undertaking beta testing of the online postal vote application portal. Assurances were provided that paper application forms would still be available and further information would be provided once available.

In response to a query regarding what ongoing communications there would be to encourage electors to apply for VACs, the committee was advised that this would continue to be promoted through the annual canvass period. The Elections and Electoral Registration Policy Officer explained that an engagement campaign was being developed to run throughout the summer as part of consultations on the polling district review and the annual canvass. He stated that the Council was working with

Macc and the Our Manchester VSCE Fund, universities, Age Friendly Manchester, Breakthrough UK to reach disabled groups, the Council's Neighbourhoods service, homelessness services and the care and veterans' sectors on this to reach a wide range of communities and groups. Members also requested that further information on this be shared with councillors to distribute at events.

The City Solicitor confirmed that there would be six different cross-boundary parliamentary constituencies as a result of the boundary review and acknowledged that this would add a complexity to parliamentary elections. The Electoral Services Corporate Delivery Manager explained that regular meetings with neighbouring authorities were held through Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). She stated that the new boundaries would only come into effect once a parliamentary election was called. A report on how the Council was preparing for these changes would be provided to the next meeting of the Constitutional and Nominations Committee.

The Chair of the Constitutional and Nominations Committee stated that only 10 people in the UK had been taken to court over suspected voted fraud in the last 5 years, none of which were in Manchester. On behalf of the Constitutional and Nominations Committee, he thanked staff who worked on the elections and stated that it would be difficult to fully understand the number of electors who were dissuaded from voting as a result of the requirement to present ID.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/30 Our New Finance and HR System

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Director of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Transformation (HRODT) which provided an update on the work undertaken so far to replace the SAP HR and Finance system, the procurement approach and timescales, and the risks and opportunities presented by this implementation.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to SAP, which was implemented in 2006;
- The programme vision and how this project aligned to the Digital Strategy;
- The approach to implementation, including governance and scrutiny processes;
- How the replacement system would be procured, designed, configured, and implemented;
- Lessons learned from other system implementations; and
- Next steps and the timeline for the project.

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

- Whether the Head of Internal Audit would be consulted on the project;
- Requesting that a short note on the controls within the new system be provided to the Audit Committee at the appropriate time;
- Whether a robust testing period would be planned and whether feedback on any issues would be provided to the Audit Committee;
- Acknowledging that the current system had been in place for 17 years;
- Noting that the programme team had engaged with other Local Authorities implementing new Finance and HR systems, and querying what other learning methods were available;
- Seeking clarification on what was meant by '*transformation*' and '*vision*';
- Requesting further information on STAR Procurement, who were commissioned to provide tailored professional advice and support; and
- Noting the procurement timeline and querying whether this was challenging.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the replacement of the HR and Finance system was fundamental in delivering improvements to how the Council worked. She stated that she was responsible for the project overall and would provide visible and proactive leadership. She expressed her thanks to the Deputy City Treasurer and the Director of HRODT and their teams for their work on the project thus far.

The Director of HRODT stated that the project provided a great opportunity for the Council to continue its transformation journey. He stated that there would be an emphasis on supporting staff through this change and ensuring that officers were equipped with the necessary digital skills to use this new technology.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the tender was now out to market and requests to participate from a number of suppliers had been received. These were currently being evaluated with an anticipated six suppliers being invited to tender by the Programme Board. The evaluation of this would be undertaken throughout the summer with an appointment anticipated to be made in December 2023. He stated that the transactional aspect of the system was scheduled to go live on 1 April 2025.

In response to a member's query, the Deputy City Treasurer explained that the Head of Internal Audit was aware of the programme and would be responsible for the approval of financial controls within the new system.

The Deputy City Treasurer also confirmed that a 3-month testing period had been factored into the implementation plan.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that there had been several major upgrades to the SAP system since its implementation in 2006 and that it was fully Public Services Network (PSN) compliant. The system would become defunct after 2027, which was why work was already underway to implement a new system.

She also stated that the Council would not endeavour to make any new system as bespoke as SAP.

Members were also advised that as part of any procurement within ICT, the Council identified lessons learnt from other authorities. There were also Treasurers' and ICT Directors' Networks where good practice and learning was shared.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained to the committee that STAR Procurement was a shared service between Stockport, Trafford, Rochdale, and Tameside authorities and was used by the Council where additional capacity in a procurement process was required.

In response to the Chair's query regarding whether the deadline for implementation was challenging, the Deputy City Treasurer stated that the timescales within the project plan were sufficient and provided some degree of flexibility.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources concluded by stating that the implementation of the new system was a significant piece of work that would provide a once-in-a-generation change to impact the future shape and work of the Council. He explained that Councillor Rahman and himself would have political oversight for this work.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/31 Major Contracts

The committee received a report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement and the Strategic Lead – Commissioning which provided an update on the Council's key contracts, the approach to procurement of these contracts and assessments of how to source contracts due for renewal and/or extension.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- An introduction to major contracts, how they are classified as major contracts and a summary of oversight arrangements;
- Background to the Major Contracts Board;
- An overview of the procurement pipeline and recommissioning status of the major contracts; and
- Next steps for the work on major contracts and the contract management programme of work more generally.

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

- Noting the brevity of the report;

- Requesting that milestones be built into the Board's work programme to enable the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee to comment on the procurement of contracts;
- Whether progress updates on the Housing Repairs Contract could be provided to the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee at 12- and 24-month points;
- Requesting that a report on the Housing Repairs Contract be provided to the Scrutiny Committee;
- How many contracts had plans to be insourced;
- Emphasising the democratic will of the Council to insource services, and querying what obstacles there were to this;
- Requesting that a future report includes an appendix with more detailed information on each contract;
- Whether trade union consultation had been considered by the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC); and
- Noting that the implications of the new Procurement Act could fall within the remit of the Audit Committee and requesting that both the Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee and the Chair of Audit Committee are kept informed.

In introducing the item, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer apologised for the lateness of the report, advising that there was currently limited capacity within the Procurement team and that lessons would be learnt. She explained that the work of the Major Contracts Oversight Board work aligned with the developing insourcing policy. It ensured that the Council worked ahead of schedule on the contracts pipeline and had sufficient lead-in time to consider all options and undertake feasibility studies in advance of contracts expiring. It also focused on ensuring that the appropriate contract monitoring mechanisms were in place. She provided assurances that the Biffa waste service contract was within the remit of the board and had been considered recently.

In response to a member's request, the Strategic Lead – Commissioning stated that the Board would meet the week after and would ensure that the work programme aligned with that of the Scrutiny Committee. He also stated that the Board was examining general updates on the performance of major contracts in addition to future procurement.

In response to a request for 12- and 24-month progress updates on the Housing Repairs Contract, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that she would discuss with the Executive Member what the appropriate mechanism would be for sharing this information with the committee.

The Strategic Lead – Commissioning explained that there were delivery assessment models being progressed or shortly being progressed for all contracts soon to be procured or recommissioned. He recognised that there were time pressures impacting some contracts and that some were unsuitable to be insourced, such as where there are only single providers within the sector.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources reiterated that the viability of insourcing was a key part of the delivery model assessment of contracts and clarified that there was no resistance to insourcing amongst officers. The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that the Executive and officers recognised the motion on insourcing passed at Full Council in February 2023 and cited bringing Northwards housing stock under the Council's control as an example of the commitment to insourcing.

In response to a request for a report on the Housing Repairs Contract, the Strategic Lead – Commissioning stated that he would consult with the Director of Housing Services and the Executive Member for Housing and Development on this.

It was also confirmed that the Joint Consultative Committee had discussed consultation with trade unions and that the draft policy had been shared with them. Further detailed conversations would be held over the summer.

Decision:

That the Committee

1. notes the report, and
2. requests that a more substantial report be provided at the next update and includes an appendix with more detailed information on each major contract and whether insourcing would be viable.

RGSC/23/32 Ethical Procurement Policy and Fair Tax

The committee received a report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement and the Strategic Lead – Commissioning which provided an update on the Council's ethical procurement and fair tax assessments in procurement and development decision-making.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The purpose and objectives of the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy;
- New national procurement regulations were expected to take effect from October 2024;
- Under current procurement legislation, local authorities are unable to exclude companies from supply chains on the grounds of tax practices unless they have been prosecuted and convicted of a specific offence;
- The advantages and drawbacks of the Council signing up to the Fair Tax Charter; and
- The suggested approach to progressing the Fair Tax agenda.

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

- Whether Fair Tax was classed as a non-commercial matter, which would allow a supplier to challenge a decision to award a contract;
- How regulations prohibiting local authorities from excluding companies from supply chains on the grounds of tax practices unless they have been prosecuted and convicted of a specific offence impacted current due diligence practices; and
- What powers public sector organisations had to exclude companies from supply chains on the grounds of poor reputation, citing the cladding crisis as an example.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy had been in place for over 10 years and that the government's new procurement regulations were expected to be announced in July 2023 and implemented in October 2024. He stated that the Ethical Procurement Policy went as far as it could within the current legislation and highlighted how the Council was a Living Wage accredited authority and had signed up to several charters, including Unison's Ethical Care Charter and the Unite Construction Charter. He explained that the Council was focussing on the Fair Tax agenda and due diligence work was currently being undertaken on all Joint Ventures that the Council had entered into, following engagement with the Fair Tax Foundation. He also explained that the Council was exploring the possibility of embedding Fair Tax principles when reviewing procurement processes and that the Labour Group was considering submitting a motion to Full Council that would reinforce the commitment to the Fair Tax agenda.

In response to members' queries, the Strategic Lead – Commissioning stated that Fair Tax was generally a non-commercial consideration but that tax compliance with UK law could be used as grounds to exclude a company from the supply chain. He also explained that there was a standard questionnaire used across the public sector which was set by the government and included questions around tax compliance.

It was acknowledged that ultimate ownership of a company could be challenging to ascertain but this was included in the questionnaire.

The Strategic Lead – Commissioning explained that the standard questionnaire provided more scope to disregard tenders where there have been previous breaches of the law and the new procurement regulations would give more scope to exclude suppliers on ethical grounds and past performance than the current provisions allowed.

Members were advised that reputational issues were classed as non-commercial matters but that the Social Value Policy assisted the Council to work with suppliers who shared similar values and ethics. The Strategic Lead – Commissioning stated

that discussions could be held outside of the meeting if members had specific concerns.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/33 Social Value

The committee received a report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement and the Strategic Lead – Commissioning which set out the Council's approach to social value.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to social value;
- The social value governance and programme;
- An overview of social value in commissioning and procurement;
- Social value key performance indicator (KPIs) targets and actuals to date for the Our Town Hall project;
- Issues and next steps; and
- Case studies of social value within the Highways service.

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

- Welcoming the work, particularly that in North Manchester;
- Why the KPIs around new apprentices up to level 3 and existing apprentices employed were below target, and requesting that this be referenced in the Our Town Hall Project Update report scheduled for July;
- How social value projects can help with community cohesion where new developments are built in existing communities;
- Noting that social value can help to improve contractors and career progression;
- How social value within procurement can be tracked and monitored;
- Whether a communications plan was in place to publicise the good work being driven through social value;
- How information on social value was captured where the Council had worked with the same suppliers as other organisations; and
- How delivery on the KPIs for the Factory International project would compare with those for Our Town Hall.

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the Council's commitment to social value began in 2007 and that Manchester had the largest social value and zero carbon weightings in their procurement process than any other local authority in the country, which demonstrated how the Council was a pioneer in social value. She explained that the Council had dedicated policies and governance

structures to ensure that social value was embedded into procurement and commissioning processes. She stated that social value had provided an innovative way to support deprived communities against a backdrop of funding cuts.

The Social and Economic Project Manager informed the committee of several projects he had worked on to deliver social value with different contractors, education settings and Council teams.

In response to a member's query regarding the number of apprentices employed on the Our Town Hall project, the Strategic Lead – Commissioning stated that he would confirm this with the project team.

The Social and Economic Project Manager explained that a community group had been established to engage on masterplans and that a review was being undertaken on how to improve community engagement.

The Strategic Lead – Commissioning acknowledged the importance of tracking social value achievements in procurement. He stated that the Council had a dedicated tool for tracking social value on larger contracts such as construction and highways. He recognised that there was a challenge in tracking this across a multitude of contracts, but this was included in the service's programme of work. A new contract management system was being implemented and would have the capability to track KPIs. Officers were also considering a measuring tool for medium-sized contracts and how to collate more case studies.

The committee was also advised that the Social Value Fund consisted of monetary contributions made by suppliers and had been used for a number of projects overseen by the Social Value Governance Board. However, it was noted that some of the biggest contributions to social value were made through the creation of jobs and opportunities.

In response to a query regarding whether a communications plan was available, the Social and Economic Project Manager explained that an annual report was provided to the Regeneration and Economic Board and could be shared with members following this. Organisations that the Council worked with also created their own annual reports, which could be shared. Weekly updates were provided to the Growth and Development team and the communications group met monthly.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that achievements of zero carbon work were highlighted by the communications group and the Council's communications team to capture information and produce a newsletter. She noted that this could be implemented for social value achievements.

In response to the Chair's query regarding the KPIs for Factory International, it was advised that a report on this was considered by the Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in March 2023 and provided further detail.

The Strategic Lead – Commissioning explained that social value was monitored on a project-by-project basis and good practice was shared, particularly in the construction sector, but he noted that it was an area for development.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/34 Overview Report

The committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fell within the Committee's remit. The report also included the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

The Chair sought assurances that the reports scheduled for the next meeting would be published on time with the exception of The Factory International Project report. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed this.

In response to a member's query regarding whether an update on the naming rights for Factory International would be included within the report, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed and stated that this information would be provided in a Part B report to be discussed in closed session.

Decision: That the report be noted.

Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair
Councillors Chohan, Collins, Doswell, Holt, Ilyas, McCaul and Wiest

Apologies: Councillors Razaq and 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
Samantha Nicholson, Director of Manchester Climate Change Agency
Michael Wilton, Chair of Manchester Climate Change Partnership

ECCNSC/23/29 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 March 2023 as a correct record.

To note the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group held 23 March 2023.

ECCNSC/23/30 Manchester Climate Change Framework (2022 Update) – Progress Report

The Committee considered the report of Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency (MCCA) and the Chair, Manchester Climate Change Partnership (MCCP) that provided an overview of progress being made to deliver the recommended actions in the 2022 Update to Manchester's Climate Change Framework (2020-25) which was published in October 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing some of the positive actions that had been launched or delivered across the city since October 2022;
- Describing the progress being made to map activity against the recommended actions put forward by the 2022 Update; and
- Discussion of the challenges with capturing and collating robust and meaningful data on climate change activity and emissions reductions.

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

- Welcoming the information that described that the MCCA and MCCP had secured an A List rating for Manchester from CDP. Noting that this positioned the city as

one of only 122 global cities that met the highest standard of leadership and transparency on environmental action and data disclosure. Only 12% of cities that were scored received this rating;

- Asking how optimistic the Partnership was since the update to the Framework six months ago;
- What would the impact of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme be;
- Welcoming the information regarding the Manchester Climate Pack and the 'story pack' adding that this should be shared with NHS partners across the city so as to avoid any crisis in the event of a period of extreme weather;
- Further information was sought as to the anticipated impact of the Greater Manchester Trailblazer Devolution Deal, published March 2023;
- Commenting that this Trailblazer Devolution Deal should be used to maximise all opportunities, including green skills; and
- The Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Strategy needed to be inclusive across the city.

The Chair of Manchester Climate Change Partnership provided the Members with a description of the Partnership, commenting that there was a positive range of activity across the partners to address climate change. He advised that membership of the Partnership was expanding, and the work had accelerated which was a very positive development. He commented that the A List rating was very positive for the city, however he commented that currently the city was not on target to remain within its carbon budget, and the message remained that more needed to be done. He stated that more support was required from government on this agenda, in particular to the issue of domestic retrofitting.

In response to comments raised regarding the Airport, the Chair of Manchester Climate Change Partnership stated that Manchester Airport Group (MAG) were members of the Partnership, and a specific subgroup had been established to consider this area of activity. He described that as an operator MAG had a good operating model in terms of carbon emissions and had led nationally on the discussions regarding the issue of alternative, sustainable aviation fuel. He further acknowledged that social change and climate justice was linked to climate change and made reference to the conversation that was ongoing regarding the use of aviation in these terms.

The Director of Manchester Climate Change Agency commented that the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme was welcomed, however it was not at the scale required. She commented that information was shared with NHS partners across the city and the wider Greater Manchester Integrated Care system. With regard to the Trailblazer Devolution Deal she advised that following finalisation of these arrangements a programme of detailed planning and actions would be undertaken, adding that this would include consideration of the issue of skills. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer informed the Members that the Greater Manchester Trailblazer Devolution Deal would not prevent Manchester from applying for future funding streams as and when they became available, and that work would be undertaken with Greater Manchester Combined Authority to maximise the outcomes of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal.

The Director of Manchester Climate Change Agency responded to the number of actions listed in the Updated Framework and advised that the actions were owned by the various stakeholders. The Chair of Manchester Climate Change Partnership added that stakeholders were committed to driving and delivering the actions and further added that the challenge was to understand, quantify and report the impact of these actions.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that a report on the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy had been considered by the Committee and Executive at their December 2022 meetings. She recommended Members referred to this report and advised that this was one element of the wider approach and consideration being taken in regard to the issue of active travel and carbon emissions.

The Chair noted the comment from the Chair of Manchester Climate Change Partnership regarding the ask of government. She advised that following the March meeting an email had been sent to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero inviting him to attend a meeting with the Committee, however this invitation had been declined.

The Chair thanked the guests for presenting the report and responding to Members questions. In noting the report, she recommended that when the Manchester Climate Change Agency/ Partnership 2022/23 Annual Report was submitted for consideration at the Committee's October meeting this report should include information in relation to next steps, clearly defined actions and discussion of the challenges.

Decision

The Committee recommend that when the Manchester Climate Change Agency/ Partnership 2022/23 Annual Report is submitted for consideration at the Committee's October meeting this should include information in relation to next steps, clearly defined actions, and challenges.

ECCNSC/23/31 Steps being taken on the Council's procurement and wider actions to support reduction in consumption-based emissions (Scope 3)

The Committee considered the report of Strategic Lead Commissioning, Integrated Commissioning and Procurement that provided an update on the steps being taken in relation to the Council's procurement and more widely to reduce carbon emissions, specifically emissions associated with the goods, services and works that the council 'consumes'.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, with a definition of the different emission categories;
- Discussion of the main issues across a range of different activities;
- Providing examples; and

- Discussion of the current challenges, with particular reference to the measurement of Scope 3 emissions.

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

- What monitoring of contracts was undertaken to ensure they were compliant with the 10% environmental weighting in evaluations;
- Was 10% environmental an appropriate weighting;
- Welcoming the information provided that small organisations, including VCSE organisations were putting forward good scoring bids and demonstrating carbon reduction plans;
- An update was requested on the training given to commissioners and procurement staff;
- A view was sought as to the government developing a new procurement portal system in preparation for the Procurement Bill coming into force; and
- Noting that contractors that included vehicle use should be encouraged to adopt appropriate driving practices to reduce environmental impacts.

The Strategic Lead Commissioning responded to the Members comments by stating that all contracts were monitored in accordance with the usual contract management protocols. He advised that dialogue and engagement with providers was important adding that Construction and Highways had a bespoke tool to measure and monitor projects. He stated that the 10% weighting was an appropriate level, commenting that any more could risk quality. He added that no other Authority required more than 10%. He advised that Manchester had led on this approach and positive outcomes were being realised. He acknowledged the comments raised regarding VCSE organisations, stating that a number of engagement events had been delivered and good practice shared. He stated that this approach complimented the VCSE Grant Funding programme so that a consistent message regarding climate change was delivered.

The Strategic Lead Commissioning stated that specific training had been delivered to Commissioners, Contract Managers and Procurement Staff in relation to the 10% environmental weighting. He reported that this built upon the Carbon Literacy Training that had been undertaken by all staff. He stated that the feedback from staff had been very positive, and the intention was to establish an e-learning package for staff, in addition to the informal support that was provided to staff.

The Strategic Lead Commissioning responded to the concern expressed by the Chair in regard to the new government procurement portal. He stated that the exact details were currently unknown, however representation had been made regarding the need to acknowledge local prioritise.

In reply to the discussion regarding specific driving practices he stated that he would look into this following the meeting, however commented that in the example referred to, monitoring data would be built into the contract and specialist software would be used to identify the most efficient routes to realise emissions savings.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/32 Final Report and Recommendations of the Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group

The Committee considered the report of Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group that presented the findings of the detailed investigation undertaken by the Group.

The Committee were invited to note the report and endorse the recommendations.

Decision

To note the report and endorse the recommendations as listed at section 8 of the report.

ECCNSC/23/33 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 invited Members to nominate areas of interest that they would like included on the Committee's Work Programme. These suggestions were collected by the Scrutiny Support Officer and the Chair, in consultation with Executive Members, other Scrutiny Chairs and Officers would schedule items that fell within the remit of the Committee.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, subject to the above comments.

Environment, Climate Change and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair

Councillors Chohan, Collins, Doswell, Holt, Ilyas, Razaq, Wiest and Wright

Apologies: Councillor McCaul

Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

ECCNSC/23/34 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 May 2023 as a correct record.

ECCNSC/23/35 Climate Change Action Plan Work Programme 2023-24

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided Members with an update on the work programme for the third year of the Action Plan (CCAP Work Programme 2023-24).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing the actions to be progressed in Year 4 of the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25;
- The achievements and highlights of Year 3 would be detailed in the Annual Report 2022-23 which would be presented to the Committee and the Executive in September 2023 and would then be made available on the Council's website;
- Noting that the actions described were structured across the following five workstreams:
 1. Buildings and Energy.
 2. Transport and Travel.
 3. Reducing Consumption Based Emissions and Influencing Suppliers.
 4. Climate Adaptation, Carbon Storage and Carbon Sequestration.
 5. Influencing Behaviour and Being a Catalyst for Change; and
- Distinguishing between those actions that were Council Actions and those that were City Actions.

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

- What were the identified challenges on delivery of the actions in year 4;

- How was the breadth of good work and progress made communicated to residents of the city, adding that this was important to influence wider behaviour change in relation to climate action;
- Were there enough recycling facilities across the Council buildings estate sufficient to enable all staff to recycle appropriately;
- More information was requested in relation to green skills and housing, with particular reference to Registered Housing Providers across the city;
- Did we use all available levers to influence partners and other sectors across the city to take immediate action to address climate change;
- Noting the reference to the Manchester Food Board and commenting that methane associated with food waste was a significant contributor to climate change;
- Further information was requested in relation to the sustainable materials list that identified carbon and whole life costs for Highways that had been identified as an action in workstream 2; and
- Consideration needed to be given to advertising that was displayed across the city so as not to promote high carbon emission activities or products.

In response to the Members' comments and questions the Zero Carbon Manager described that the key areas and challenges related to buildings and transport. She stated that significant progress had been achieved and reported to the Committee in regard to reducing emissions across the Council owned estate; however, domestic retrofit, across all sectors was a challenge. She described that they worked closely with the Climate Change Partnership and used the experience and outcomes achieved across the Council estate to provide examples of good practice to influence the commercial sector. She described that they were also working with Registered Housing Providers as part of the wider approach to housing retrofit and the Committee noted that they would receive a substantive report on this work at their September meeting, adding that this would also include consideration of skills. She further added that information and updates in relations to transport would be included in the Quarter 1 Update Report that was scheduled for the next meeting.

The Zero Carbon Manager described the approach to promoting the good work to influence behaviour change. She said that they had a dedicated communications strategy that utilised social media. She further made reference to the important work delivered by the Neighbourhood Teams who were supported by dedicated Climate Change Officers. She made reference to the number of green related community events and activities delivered and the work undertaken with schools.

The Zero Carbon Manager commented that all available levers and opportunities, at a local, regional, national and international level, were used to support, promote and influence on the issue of climate change.

The Strategic Lead, Resources & Programmes informed the Committee that the Executive would be considering a report titled 'Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation – Power Purchase Agreement' at their meeting of 28 June. He commented that this was an important development for the Council to further contribute to the reduction in the Council's own direct emissions and increase the provision of additional green energy to the Council. He stated that a report on this area of work would be considered by this Committee at the November meeting.

The Principal Resources and Programmes Officer, Zero Carbon Team added that progress against some aspects of work had slipped for good reason as it was important that local ambitions aligned to wider plans and strategies that were being developed at a Greater Manchester level, making reference to the GM Clean Air Plan and Places for Everyone. She further informed the Members that work was ongoing with the Facilities Management Team to improve staff recycling facilities across the estate, commenting that this could be a challenge in smaller locations where staff were located.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the Council continued to lobby Government for additional support to enable the Council to drive forward and deliver at pace this important area of work. In regard to the comments regarding methane and food waste she stated that she would pick this up with the Food Board. In regard to the question asked in relation to Highways, she advised that a briefing note on this would be provided for Members. In response to the comments made regarding advertising across the city she said that she would discuss this with the Communications Team.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport commented that the work the Council had undertaken in relation to its approach to procurement and climate change was particularly important. She further paid tribute to the Green Summit that had been delivered with schools, adding that this was an example that clearly demonstrated civic leadership.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/36 Staff Business Travel and Active Travel Policy

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Transformation that provided information on the progress being made towards embedding a culture of sustainable staff travel within the council, as part of the Staff Travel policy.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Noting that the Staff Travel Policy was presented to the Personnel Committee in December 2021 with a subsequent launch of the policy in 2022;
- The relationship to the Our Manchester Strategy;
- Providing a progress update across a range of key initiatives; and
- Case studies.

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

- Welcoming the inclusion of case studies, commenting that these needed to be communicated widely with staff to promote behaviour change;

- Noting that staff working from home had reduced the number of commutes undertaken by staff;
- Welcoming the significant reduction in air miles reported;
- Was there enough appropriate bike storage space available to support staff travelling by bike across all sites;
- Noting that there was currently no reporting system in place that captured staff that walked during business hours as the data was expenses led, but welcomed that consideration to alternative methods of capturing this mode of active travel were under consideration;
- Welcoming that Beryl Bike hire was included in the expenses claim scheme; and
- Could the Cycle to Work Scheme allowance be used to purchase wet weather clothing.

The Director of HROD & Transformation acknowledged the comment regarding the impact staff working from home had on the number of commutes undertaken. He commented that this arrangement was specific to service need, however the use of technology, such as the use of Teams to conduct meetings had contributed to reducing the number of business journeys undertaken.

The Zero Carbon: Workforce Development Manager informed the Committee that an audit of bike storage facilities would be undertaken across the estate to ensure capacity was there to support staff travelling by bike. She acknowledged the comments regarding the need to capture staff walking data and stated that they were working with the Performance, Research and Intelligence Team to progress this. She added that data in relation to tram and bus travel would be included in any future update report to the Committee.

The Zero Carbon: Workforce Development Manager welcomed the positive feedback from the Members in relation to the case studies provided, adding that it was the intention to produce these in a video format that could be cascaded to staff through targeted communications, in addition to the written format. The Executive Member for Environment and Transport welcomed this approach and stated that this could be used to articulate good practice with partners across the city and support the stated ambitions described in 'Workstream 5 - Catalysing Change and Behaviour Change' that was considered under the previous agenda item.

The Zero Carbon: Workforce Development Manager responded to specific questions by advising that services and managers would be supported to set out how they would embed Zero Carbon into service delivery as part of their Service Plans and this included consideration of staff travel. She commented that these plans would be reviewed. The Director of HROD & Transformation stated that sustainable Staff Business Travel that was considered as part of Service Plans would need to then inform future work planning and workloads, acknowledging the comment from a Member regarding expectations placed upon staff if they were travelling to different locations for business but not using a car. It was further confirmed that the car leasing scheme for Ultra Low Emission Vehicles was available to all staff.

The Project Officer (Sustainable Business Travel) informed the Committee that the Cycle to Work Scheme was flexible and could be used to purchase wet weather

clothing and other cycling related products such as locks, parts for repairs etc. He further confirmed that this scheme could also be used to purchase electric bikes.

The Chair when welcoming the reduction in reported business travel commented that it was important to also understand this in the context of reduced staffing levels across the Council that was a result of budget reductions experienced over the years.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCNSC/23/37 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.