

## **Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Butt, Flanagan, Harland, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lynch, Lyons, Sadler, Whiston, White and Wright

Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

**Apologies:** Councillor Appleby, Razaq

#### **NESC/19/33            Urgent Business**

The Chair introduced an item of urgent business following the discussions at the previous meeting where the Committee had agreed to establish a Subgroup to monitor Climate Change and the actions taken to mitigate this. The Chair invited Cllr Wright to address the Committee and detail both the objectives and key lines of enquiry of the Subgroup. The Committee were further informed of the proposed membership of the Subgroup and were invited to agree this.

The Chair further noted that following discussion at the previous meeting of the Great Ancoats Street Highways Scheme, and the provision of cycle lanes within the design she was disappointed with the response to the recommendation proposed by the Committee from the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport to the recommendation of the Committee. (See minute ref: NESC/19/24) The Committee voted unanimously in agreement with the Chair.

#### **Decision**

The Committee endorsed the following Objectives and Key Lines of Enquiry for the Climate Change Subgroup and agreed the membership:

##### Objectives

1. Monitor progress of each point of the Climate Emergency motion carried by Manchester City Council on 10 July 2019.
2. Ensure the Manchester Climate Change Action Plan includes specific, measurable targets and review progress towards achieving them, on a quarterly basis.
3. Identify additional measures which could be put into place by MCC or partners to help reach the zero carbon target.
4. Update the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee 4 times a year.

##### Key Lines of Enquiry

1. Obtain reports from all relevant Departments in relation to progress of the points in the climate emergency motion, ensuring that deadlines are met.

2. Obtain updates on progress of the production of the Climate Action Plan and regular updates once it is implemented.
3. Investigate initiatives which could be considered to help achieve zero carbon targets.
4. Obtain updates from each scrutiny committee to assess incorporation and progress of zero carbon actions in relation to each area of work.
5. Invite and obtain reports from relevant experts, including from Greater Manchester Combined Authority to assess existing actions and suggest new ones.

#### Membership

Councillors Flanagan, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lyons, Shilton Godwin, Whiston and Wright (Chair)

### **NESC/19/34            Minutes**

#### **Decisions**

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 as a correct record.
2. To note the minutes of the Behaviour Change and Waste Task and Finish Group meeting of 24 July 2019.

### **NESC/19/35            War Memorials**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Highways and the Operations and Commissioning Director (Neighbourhoods) that outlined the work that both the Grounds Maintenance team and Public Realm team undertook to both maintain war monuments and manage memorials that were placed around the city.

The Director of Operations (Highways) referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- The total number of War Monuments in Manchester, last confirmed in 2009 was over 550;
- Ownership of these fell across numerous stakeholders including churches, private ownership, Council, other public sector bodies and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission;
- Information on the programme of monument maintenance;
- Information and examples of activities undertaken by the Public Realm Team with friends' groups to undertake improvements to War Monuments;
- Noting that the Public Realm Team would develop this further and work with the Neighbourhood Teams and Central Communications Team to develop a community engagement plan; and
- Information on memorial maintenance.

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

- Recognising the ultimate sacrifice made by many men and women from Manchester over the years to defend this country, and the importance of respecting and honouring their memory;
- Noting that many war memorials were now kept in storage, it would be better if options were considered to relocate these in schools, noting that this would facilitate children's learning and also provide a more dignified setting for such memorials;
- Noting with disappointment that many of the war memorials that had been located in the Town Hall had been placed in storage for duration of the restoration works rather than placed on public display or in schools;
- An audit of all war memorials should be undertaken and a list compiled that detailed their location, ownership and state of repair. This audit should include details of relevant Friends Groups and once completed this should be shared with all Councillors;
- An Our Manchester Approach should be used to engage with residents to encourage them to actively maintain war memorials throughout the year;
- A specific strategy should be developed that established an agreed, consistent maintenance and improvement standard for war memorials, including specialist maintenance and repair programmes;
- Council applications for funding needed to be coordinated with community group applications;
- What support was offered to support groups, such as The Royal British Legion when funding was refused;
- What contact had been established with various Faith groups; and
- The report failed to highlight the many positive examples, such as the sensitive relocation of the cenotaph in St Peter's Square, Phillips Park and the Battle of the Somme memorial located in Heaton Park.

The Head of Citywide Highways responded to the comments by stating that opportunities for relocating war memorials that were currently in storage to schools would be explored and he would discuss this further with colleagues from the Education Department. He informed the Members that ownership details were known but acknowledged that this was not comprehensive. He said that the team were passionate about improving the maintenance of war memorials and they were working with stakeholders to establish a maintenance regime.

The Head of Citywide Highways further commented that Neighbourhood Teams were working to actively engage with local community groups around the issue of maintenance of war memorials throughout the year and to offer support and advice to owners of war memorials. He said that this would be supported by a package of information that would be provided to owners and relevant groups. He further acknowledged the comment regarding the need for the establishment of a specific strategy regarding the maintenance of war memorials.

The Chair commented that this issue cut across a number of Executive Member portfolios and she would meet with them to discuss how this area of work could be progressed. A Member recommended that when an update report on this item was scheduled for consideration that the Executive Member for Children and Schools be invited to attend.

## Decisions

The Committee: -

1. Recommend that an audit of all war memorials should be undertaken and a list compiled that detailed their location, ownership and state of repair. This audit should include details of relevant Friends Groups and once completed this should be shared with all Councillors.
2. Recommend that a specific strategy should be developed that established an agreed, consistent maintenance and improvement standard for war memorials, including any specialist maintenance and repair programmes.
3. Recommend that Neighbourhood Teams adopt an Our Manchester approach to engage with and encourage community groups to maintain war memorials throughout the year. Information on funding that is available to community groups to support this activity is also to be provided.
4. To receive an update report on this activity at an appropriate time.

### **NESC/19/36            Red & Amber School Crossings**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Highways that provided an update on the Red and Amber school crossings programme. The purpose of the works was to provide improvements at each school crossing so that their rating score was 50 points or less as per the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) "Census & Site Assessment" criteria that is the national standard.

The Director of Operations (Highways) referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- There were eighty-one school crossings in the programme that required improvements and they were located across most wards in the city.
- 44 of the 81 sites being completed or planned to be completed by the end of August 2019;
- The remainder due for completion by the end of March 2020; and
- The delivery of the improvements was through a new highways team comprising of a Project Manager, Construction Planner, Traffic Engineer, Quantity Surveyor, and Clerk of Works.

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

- Members questioned the accuracy of the information contained within the appendices, stating that some of the wards were listed incorrectly and noting that this had implications for notifications of works that were sent to Members;
- Questioning the use of the term 'completed' when referring to schemes;
- Thanking officers for their work to improve road safety at Park View School and that more needed to be done to promote and publicise with local resident the

positive interventions undertaken by the Council to ensure the safety of school children;

- Communications between the Highways Department and the Education Department needed to be improved;
- Evaluation and assessment of improvements to road safety should be undertaken following completion of schemes and lessons learnt used to inform future schemes;
- Road safety around schools should be continually reviewed and assessed following completion of schemes;
- Clarification was sought regarding the 17 sites reported as being completed with a further 27 expected to be completed by the time of the committee meeting with a further 5 due by October and the remaining 32 sites being programmed for completion by March 2020; and
- How were schemes prioritised and priority should be given to those rated as Red.

The Head of Design, Commissioning & PMO informed the Committee that the report had been prepared in August to comply with reporting deadlines of the Committee and that the information that had been provided to compile the report from the Project Team. He also advised that the information relating to the wards in which the schools were located had been supplied by the Education Department.

In response to comments regarding specific schemes and whether or not these had been completed The Head of Design, Commissioning & PMO said that these would be checked and offered to undertake joint inspections with the Members. He described that some sites were more complex than others and needed the involvement of other agencies to deliver them and that works had been delivered over the school holiday period.

In response to the comments made regarding communications he acknowledged that problems had been experienced in the past and this was being addressed. He said that local residents would be sent a letter advising them of planned road works, information on the Council's website, letters to schools and email notification to relevant ward members.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport stated that the rating of amber or red was largely irrelevant as the intention was to improve all of them to ensure they were safe for children. She stated that the works had been delivered to maximise delivery during the school holiday period, and that planning of the more complex schemes continued to ensure all 81 schemes were completed by the end of March 2020. Noting the comments regarding the accuracy of wards in the report she advised that this would be reviewed.

The Chair encouraged all Members to review the information provided within the report and if there were any discrepancies in regard to schemes listed as completed to address this to the Highways Department. She further requested that the information provided be reviewed to ensure it was accurate and this to be then shared with all Members. The Chair welcomed the commitment from the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport to liaise with the Education Department to ensure ward information is consistent and accurate. She further stated

that opportunities for promoting this positive work of the Council to ensure the safety of children be considered.

## **Decisions**

The Committee: -

1. Recommend that a future update report is provided for consideration at an appropriate time. This report will include information on all school crossings delivered as part of this programme and comparative data of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) scoring following delivery of a scheme;
2. Recommend that Officers undertake a joint inspection of schemes with ward Members if requested to do so.

## **NESC/19/37          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.

The Chair informed the Committee that the report entitled 'Allocations Policy Review' that was scheduled for October is to be deferred to the November meeting.

A Member recommended that a representative from Biffa should be invited to the October meeting when the Committee would consider the report entitled 'Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Update'.

A Member recommended that the Homelessness report scheduled for November should include information on winter preparations, including an update on A Bed Every Night.

A Member recommended that a specific item be included on November meeting that addressed the issue of the provision of motorbike parking facilities, rather than as an item within the report listed as 'Highways Maintenance Programme'.

A Member recommended that the report listed for consideration at the December meeting entitled 'Improving journeys to and from school' include information on the activities to address vehicle idling outside and near schools, the promotion of active travel and the provision of school buses.

The Chair invited Members to consider any local community groups that they may wish to invite to contribute to any agenda items. The Chair requested that she be notified of any groups and invitations would be sent on behalf of the Committee.

## **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and approves the work programme subject to the

above amendments.

## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2019**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair

Councillors Chambers, Collins, M Dar, Doswell, Douglas, Grimshaw and Rawson

Councillor S Murphy, Deputy Leader

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure

Councillor Clay, Ward Councillor for Burnage

Councillor Davies, Ward Councillor for Deansgate

Councillor Lanchbury, Ward Councillor for Higher Blackley

Brian Hilton, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People (GMCDP)

Dennis Queen, GMCDP

Geoff Bridson, Manchester resident

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Kirkpatrick and Rowles

#### **CESC/19/29            Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2019 as a correct record.

#### **CESC/19/30            Review of Advice Services in Manchester Task and Finish Group**

The Committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided the draft terms of reference and work programme for the Review of Advice Services in Manchester Task and Finish Group. The Committee was asked to agree the terms of reference, work programme and membership of the Task and Finish Group.

The Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing outlined the current situation in relation to the provision of advice services. She informed Members of other work taking place to improve advice services, including the Manchester-wide Advice Forum, and advised Members of the expertise of stakeholders which the Task and Finish Group could draw on. In response to a question from the Chair, she reported that the Task and Finish Group would need to feed back by the end of November 2019 in order for its recommendations to be taken into account in the development of the budget proposals.

The Ward Councillor for Burnage, who was one of the Members who had called in the key decision to appoint a provider to deliver citywide advice services, which had been considered by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee at its 7 February 2019 meeting, welcomed the review.



The Chair reported that the Membership of the Task and Finish Group would be restricted to Members of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee but that other Members of the Council were welcome to attend meetings and contribute.

### **Decisions**

1. To agree the terms of reference and work programme.
2. That Councillor Hacking be appointed as Chair of the Task and Finish Group and that Councillors Collins, M Dar, Doswell, Douglas and Grimshaw be appointed to the Task and Finish Group.
3. To ask the Scrutiny Support Officer to email all Members of the Committee to invite any further requests to join the Task and Finish Group.

### **CESC/19/31 Peterloo Memorial Design**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Strategic Development which provided an update on the implementation of the Peterloo Memorial, and progress on the work undertaken to determine the most appropriate solution to ensure it was fully accessible.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Update on the design;
- Update on the Council's processes for access consultations; and
- Current position.

Brian Hilton from the GMCDP informed Members that the campaign to make the memorial accessible had received support from disability rights campaigners, the general public and public figures, as well as receiving media attention and he thanked the Committee for their continued interest. He informed Members that the information in the report was broadly accurate but that he wanted to clarify a few issues. He reported that the campaigners' preferred option was to add a ramp to the memorial and that, while they did not want the memorial to be demolished and re-built, they believed that a complete re-design should remain an option if there was no other suitable alternative. He also expressed concern about the option of building a lift to the top of the memorial, highlighting that a number of lifts within the city centre were out of order. He reported that campaigners would also like the option of a bridge to the top of the memorial to be considered. He advised Members that they would also welcome the opportunity to be more actively involved in this work rather than just being asked to comment afterwards. He also commented that it was important that decisions were not made hastily and that disabled people were involved in the design and consultation. He reported that the campaign group was producing an advice note on consulting with disabled people which they hoped the Council would adopt. He expressed the group's commitment to working with the Council, not only on the memorial, but on improving the Council's engagement with

disabled people and ensuring that accessibility was embedded into its projects, policies, practices and procedures.

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

- To thank the campaigners for having brought this issue to the Committee's attention earlier in the year and to welcome that, following the involvement of the Scrutiny Committee, the Council was now working to address this;
- To ask for further clarification on how the disability campaigners would be involved in the design process and in improving Council processes;
- That the Committee would receive a report on the broader issues around embedding accessibility into the Council's processes in a future report;
- Whether a see-through ramp had been considered to enable access while ensuring that the memorial was fully visible; and
- Whether the memorial could be fenced off in the interim when large-scale events were held to ensure people weren't using it until it was fully accessible.

The Development Manager informed Members of the discussions he had had with Mark Todd, another disability campaigner with expertise on accessible designs, regarding the design options for a ramp and confirmed that he was happy for Mark to liaise directly with the architect. The Equalities Specialist advised Members that the disability campaigners would be fully involved in the work to improve the Council's processes in relation to accessibility.

The Development Manager reported that he had asked the architect whether a see-through ramp would be possible.

The Ward Councillor for Deansgate welcomed the commitment to finding a solution to this issue. She also welcomed the broader work to review the Council's approach to accessibility issues and asked if this would include consideration of the impact on disabled people of transport changes in the city centre caused by temporary events. The Equalities Specialist confirmed that it would.

Geoff Bridson, a Manchester resident, asked if other groups involved in the campaign for and creation of the Peterloo Memorial, such as historical groups, would be involved in the discussions about the memorial. The Development Manager informed Members that representatives of the Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group had attended one meeting and he would ensure that they were kept involved. Dennis Queen from GMCDP informed the Committee that the disability campaigners had been keeping in touch with the Peterloo Memorial Campaign Group over this issue.

In response to a question from Brian Hilton, the Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure confirmed that the Council would look at all options, including the bridge which they had suggested.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure stated that the memorial would not be fenced off in the interim. Dennis Queen reported that the campaigners did not want the memorial to be closed off and that, while they had asked other campaign groups to stand with them in solidarity at the bottom of the memorial during political

gatherings, they did not expect members of the public to avoid standing on the memorial.

## Decisions

1. To note that the Committee will receive a report on embedding accessibility into the Council's processes at a future meeting.
2. To continue to monitor this issue.

## **CESC/19/32 Manchester's Language Diversity**

The Committee received a report of the City Solicitor which provided an overview of language diversity in Manchester, and considered work undertaken by the Council to recognise, respond to and celebrate this aspect of the city's diversity. It also considered how this work could be continued and strengthened in future.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- The Multilingual Manchester Project;
- M:4 Communication and Language Support Service;
- Multilingualism in Education, Key Stages 1 – 4;
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL);
- Multilingualism in the workforce;
- UNESCO City of Literature; and
- International Mother Language Day.

The Committee watched a video of the Made in Manchester Poem, which celebrated the city's linguistic diversity.

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

- That the Made in Manchester Poem was excellent;
- Were there any plans to make the Council's multilingual offer, which was described as 'disparate' in the report, more cohesive;
- How young people with English as an Additional Language (EAL), particularly those with difficulty providing identity documentation, could be helped to access the Our Pass free bus pass for 16 – 18 year olds;
- Request for further information on the involvement of student volunteers in the Multilingual Manchester Project;
- Request for further information on ESOL provision; and
- Whether there was ongoing funding for the Talk English scheme.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager clarified that the comment in the report about the Council's multilingual offer being 'disparate' was not intended to suggest that there were gaps in provision; however, it was recognised that there was no centrally-held record of all the multilingual activities being carried out by different Council services. He confirmed that officers intended to develop such as resource which recorded the Council's overall offer and to work with partners to develop this

into a Manchester offer, which could then be analysed and strengthened, where appropriate. He advised Members that issues such as access to Our Pass could be addressed through this work.

The Safeguarding Lead for Education provided examples of some of the ways student volunteers contributed to this work, for example, Arabic-speaking science undergraduates teaching a science lesson in an Arabic supplementary school.

The Area Adult Education Manager informed Members that her service usually had to re-apply for funding for the Talk English scheme on a yearly basis and that the current funding was due to end in March 2020. She advised that her service did not yet know whether further funding would be available to apply for but that, if it was, her view was that the service would be in a strong position to obtain that funding; however, she reported, that the service was also developing a sustainability plan, in case there was no further funding from this source.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure suggested that the Committee receive a report on ESOL, including the work of Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES), at a future meeting, to which the Chair agreed. The Area Adult Education Manager informed Members about the ESOL Advice Service which was being launched in September 2019. She also encouraged Members to visit its website at <https://manchesteresol.org/>.

### **Decisions**

1. To receive a report on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), including the work of Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES), at a future meeting.
2. To ask the Scrutiny Support Officer to circulate the link to the ESOL Advice Service website to Members of the Committee.

[Councillor Hacking declared a personal interest as a governor at Manchester College.]

### **CESC/19/33            Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Fund**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Reform which provided an update on the Our Manchester VCS Fund and the ongoing programme of work being delivered by the Our Manchester Funds Programme Team.

The Deputy Leader referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- The Population Health Targeted Fund;
- The North Inquiry; and
- Next steps.

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

- To welcome that the report referred to the recommendations of the Our Manchester VCS Fund Task and Finish Group being taken forward;
- Whether longer-term help would be available to groups who had not been successful in the first round; and
- To welcome the North Inquiry, outlined in appendix 4 of the report, and to seek assurances that the issues that arose in the first funding round would not be repeated.

The Deputy Leader informed Members that longer-term support would be available for groups which had not been successful in the first round and that the stronger, successful groups were expected to lead within their area and partner with and support groups which were struggling. In response to a Member's question on whether this would lead to resentment between groups, the Programme Lead (Our Manchester Funds) reported that this was not just about larger groups leading smaller groups as many small to medium-sized groups had been successful in obtaining funding. He outlined how his team had used their relationship with the VCS groups to foster collaboration between groups. He reported that their approach was not to force particular groups to work together but to give them a choice of different groups they could work with, for example, groups with a similar delivery model or with shared values.

The Ward Councillor for Higher Blackley informed Members about her involvement in the North Inquiry and its findings and reported that she would be involved in the Steering Group which was being set up to ensure that the issues identified were addressed.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CESC/19/34 Overview Report**

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

The Chair informed Members that it had been decided that it was not appropriate to invite VCS groups to this meeting as part of the previous item but that they would be invited to a future meeting.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.