

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 4 February 2020

Present:

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles, A Simcock, Stanton and Wright

Also present:

Councillor Ollerhead, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Apologies: Councillors Davies, Moore and Wheeler

RGSC/20/7 Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020 as a correct record.

RGSC/20/8 The Council's Updated Financial Strategy and Budget reports 2020/21

Further to Minute RGSC/20/02, the Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided a further update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process.

In conjunction with the above, the Committee also received and considered the Corporate Core medium term financial plan (MTFP) and budget proposals for 2020/21, the Council's Capital Strategy and Budget 2019/20 to 2023/24 and the Housing Revenue Account 2020/21 to 2022/23.

The Committee was invited to consider and make recommendations on the budget proposals which were within the remit of the Committee prior to their submission to the Executive on 12 February 2020.

In relation to the Council's updated Financial Strategy and Budget 2020/21, some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- There was concern with regard to the 'Fair Funding Review' that following research by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU), there was a potential reduction in future funding of circa 14% in relation to Adult Social Care funding in Manchester and an assurance was sought that the Council would continue to lobby government on the 'Fair Funding Review';
- Was social deprivation taken into account as part of the 'Fair Funding Review';
- How had the contribution of just over £2m to the Business Rates reserves been determined, what was the existing level of this reserve and how did this compare to other Greater Manchester local authorities; and

- Clarification was sought as to how the potential increase in income of £1m in 2020/21 relating to Housing Benefit for temporary accommodation would be derived.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer assured the committee that the Council was making substantial representations to government on the potential implications of the 'Fair Funding Review' and the changes proposed in terms of Adult Social Care funding in Manchester were deeply concerning.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that the Fairer Funding Review was more population based and not deprivation based, which was often a key indicator in the level of need in respect of Adult Social Care.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the additional contribution to the Business Rate reserve was derived from the additional £3.7m growth in Business Rates income, of which £1.7m was to be set aside to meet the demand pressures within Children's Services, with the remainder to be placed in the Business Rates reserve. At present the total value of this reserve was approximately £19m. In terms of comparisons to other local authorities, it was agreed that this information would be provided to the Committee after the meeting.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that the potential additional £1m income would be derived from the ability to claim Housing Benefit for temporary accommodation based on a small scale transfer of existing properties to be managed by Registered Providers (RPs). It was reported that this additional income would be reinvested in the service.

In respect of the Corporate Core Budget Report 2020/21, some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- Would the anticipated £50k saving through collaborative work with other local authorities in regards to capital programmes be achieved this financial year and who were these other local authorities;
- Assurance was sought that with the removal of long term vacant posts, this would not impact on service delivery and staff morale;
- What were the ongoing pressures to the Coroner's Service that required a further £400k mitigation and whilst acknowledging the that the Coroners Service was independent from the Council, why was it not being required to make a savings contribution;
- In relation to commissioning and procurement, what was the nature of the specialist audit work referred to in the report;
- Assurance was sought that any savings within Revenues and Benefits did not impact on the ability for residents to contact the Council through the shared service centre;
- In Table 1 within the report, why was the budget for the capital programme reducing;
- What was the reason for the uplift in costs within the existing Business Support arrangements;
- What was the nature of the additional transitional costs as part of the changeover arrangements to the new contractor for the repairs and management works for the Corporate Estate and clarification was sought as to

whether it was correct that the new contractor was required to find ways in reducing this cost;

- Had the feasibility study been undertaken yet for the provision of a further public convenience within the city centre; and
- Further information was sought on the proposed funding for zero carbon staffing and the bringing forward of the pension fund contribution.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the Council had an agreement with one particular local authority in Greater Manchester to collaborate on capital programmes to strengthen the capacity of delivery, which centred around improvements to their capital checkpoint process and planning and delivery of some of their capital schemes.

It was explained that across a number of service areas in the Corporate Core, vacant posts had been budgeted at the top of their grades which would never be filled at this level and accordingly the turnover factor had been adjusted to ensure budgets were not being held where they were not required. Secondly, a review had been undertaken of long term vacancies and were no longer required, these posts had been removed from the staff structures

The Head of Finance advised that in terms of the Coroners Service that the additional funding was required to deal with an increase in complex cases and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer agreed to circulate the trend data around the cases and complexity to Members after the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained the nature of the specialist audit work that had been undertaken, and advised that this was reported to the Council's Audit Committee on an annual basis. She also advised that any savings derived from a review of the Shared Service Centre would come from the changes in how the Council operated and the removal of any long term vacancies.

The Head of Finance advised that Table 1 within the report detailed the revenue budget of the capital programme which was an income target and the reduction was as a result of adjustments to the budget. Assurance was given that there was no direct impact on the capital programme resulting from this reduction. He also advised that the uplift in costs within the existing Business Support arrangements was a result of a number of additional posts being created to help support additional needs and also as a result of increases of salaries of existing posts due to the complexity of the work required.

The Deputy City Treasurer confirmed that it was part of the contract with the new contractor for the repairs and management works for the Corporate Estate that they were required to improve quality and deliver efficiencies once they start the contract. The transitional costs related to the TUPE process of staff that transferred over from the original contractor to the new contractor.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that there had been no formal work undertaken around a further public convenience in the city centre but the feasibility of this was being looked at.

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that by bringing forward the pension fund contribution, this would result in an additional £750,000 saving over each of the next three years.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that in terms of zero carbon staffing, there would be a further two FTE posts recruited to and the Council had underwritten the cost of the Chief Executive post of the Climate Change Agency for a year in recognition of its importance. Additional funding had also been identified for the need to draw in the expertise that was required.

In relation to the Council's Capital Strategy and Budget 2019/20 to 2023/24 some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- In terms of carbon reduction proposals, how was the Council going to determine what measures to invest in, given a number of the measures would be expensive to implement and a number funding commitments had already been made for the next four years;
- There was concern in regards to the implications to the Council and the Highways infrastructure following the recent announcement by the Prime Minister to prohibit the sale of petrol, diesel and hybrid vehicles by 2035;
- Was there an opportunity to advocate that the Council was planting more trees to contribute towards addressing issues of carbon dioxide emissions;
- Was there any potential for private tenants and/or corporate landlords to be part of the Civic Quarter Heat Network;
- Was there any possibility to identify a budget for small works packages relating to highways improvements;
- There was still concern that there was no identified funding for Highways capital programme from 2022 onwards;
- In relation to investment in car park assets, was there any update on the NCP Joint Venture;
- There was concern that the cost of some of the carbon reduction proposals, such as the retrofit works to make existing housing stock zero-carbon and the ambition to deliver carbon efficient schools would be too expensive for the Council to implement; and
- It was commented that whilst reducing carbon emissions was an important duty on the Council, there was a need to ensure that this did not result in other important areas becoming overlooked, such as the fire safety of high rise properties.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that the report only detailed capital schemes that had already approved through the checkpoint process and, as such, it did not list everything that the Council would be delivering. It was also explained that the report also set out the priorities for the decisions around future investment for the next three to five years and as the Carbon Reduction Action Plan developed, specific costing proposals would be incorporated into the capital strategy.

It was acknowledged that whilst the announcement by the Prime Minister would have an impact on the Council and the Highways network, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer referenced several pieces of work being undertaken that would look to contribute towards addressing the consequences of the announcement. It was also

reported that in terms of the Civic Quarter Heat Network, there was the intention for private tenants and/or corporate landlords to be incorporated in its use.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources commented that he was in early discussions with members of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee around identifying a small budget that could be used to support small works highways investment, however, he clarified that this would not be a secondary highways budget. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed that investment in the City's highways network was still a priority for the Council, but as a significant amount of funding was received from central government, it was not possible to factor in specific programmes into the capital strategy until the funding became available.

The Deputy City Treasurer advised that work was still on going with the NCP Joint Venture and agreed circulate the timescale of the replacement of the Joint Venture with NCP to members following the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that discussions were underway with the DfE around future funding for the delivery of carbon efficient schools and the Council was also exploring external funding streams to contribute to the cost of the retrofitting of Council housing and operational estates.

In relation to the Housing Revenue Account 2020/21 to 2022/23 some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- Would the proposed rent increases still be within the Local Housing Allowance rate; and
- Why was there a variance in heating charges at different schemes.

The Head of Finance advised he would provide confirmation that the proposed rent increases were within the Local Housing Allowance rate. The Head of Housing explained that the variance in heat charges was based on the consumption in previous years and were set to try and cover the anticipated consumption.

Decisions

The Committee recommends that their comments be submitted for consideration by the Executive at their meeting on 12 February 2020, and in doing so, notes the proposed recommendation's to the Executive relating to the Capital Strategy and Budget 2019/20 to 2023/24 and the Housing Revenue Account 2020/21 to 2022/23, those being:-

- Capital Strategy and Budget 2019/20 to 2023/24

The Executive is requested to:

- (1) Approve and recommend the report to Council, including the projects for Executive approval in section 6.2.
- (2) Note the capital strategy.

- (3) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to make alterations to the schedules for the capital programme 2019/20 to 2023/24 prior to their submission to Council for approval, subject to no changes being made to the overall estimated total cost of each individual project.
- Housing Revenue Account 2020/21 to 2022/23

The Executive is recommended to:

- (a) Note the forecast 2019/20 HRA outturn as set out in section 4.
- (b) Approve the 2020/21 HRA budget as presented in Appendix 1 and note the indicative budgets for 2021/22 and 2022/23.
- (c) Approve the proposed 2.7% increase to dwelling rents, and delegate the setting of individual property rents, to the Director of Housing and Residential Growth and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration and the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources.
- (d) Approve the proposal that where the 2020/21 rent is not yet at the formula rent level, the rent is revised to the formula rent level when the property is relet.
- (e) Approve the proposed 2020/21 changes for communal heating charges as detailed in paragraphs 5.15 to 5.19.
- (f) Approve the proposed 2020/21 Northwards management fee as detailed in paragraphs 5.27 to 5.28.
- (g) Approve the proposed increase in garage rental charges as outlined in paragraph 6.1

RGSC/20/9 Domestic violence and abuse funding and commissioning review

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), which provided a response to questions raised at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in September 2019 about the review of domestic violence and abuse funding and commissioning arrangements.

The main points and themes in the report, included:-

- The re-tendering and re-commissioning of domestic violence and abuse accommodation services had been progressed satisfactorily, with contracts being awarded to the successful bidders and mobilisation arrangements being implemented, in advance of commencement in April 2020;
- Negotiations were ongoing with the Director of Population, Health and Wellbeing regarding allocation of contributory funding to enable further continuation of the MiDASS service;
- Confirmation was awaiting of the CSP grant that provided for a range of other services and initiatives such as behaviour change programmes, counselling for children affected by DV&A and intervention for those affected by child to parent violence;
- The review team had noted Members' comments and reflected them in the drafting of the scope and terms of reference of the review of all Domestic

Violence and Abuse services, which would be approved at the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group;

- Details were provided of intended spend on DV&A services whilst the funding and commissioning review was completed and its recommendations finalised; and
- Once the review was completed, the findings and recommendations, and the updated Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy, would be submitted to the Strategy Group for endorsement and to the CSP Board for final ratification and, in the case of the Strategy, approval to launch and publish.

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

- Had the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group approved the draft terms of reference and timescale for the review;
- There was a need to ensure work with other GM local authorities continued to take place and grow to aid in reciprocal arrangements;
- Assurance was sought that there would be a consistent level of service provided across the organisations that were receiving funding;
- Was it recognised that there was reduction in the number of domestic violence incidents occurring;
- It was positive to see the prominence the Council was giving to supporting those who had been subject to domestic abuse;
- It was reiterated that the review, whilst being cognisant of budgetary pressures, should not be restricted to the current financial envelope; and
- In terms of funding, where did the CSP grant come, when would confirmation of receipt of this be received and connected to this, if the CSP grant was not received and/or reduced, what would be the Council's alternative plan for delivering these services.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) confirmed that the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy Group had met on the 23 January 2020 and approved the draft terms of reference and timescale for the review. It was reported that GM Strategy Group existed whose purpose was to look at what services needed to be commissioned and supported at a GM level and the Council was represented on this Group.

The Committee was advised that as part of the review, service users and those with lived experiences would be consulted to ensure the provision of services recently recommissioned met the needs of victims. It was also reported that there had been an increase in the reporting of domestic abuse incidents. This did not necessarily mean that there had been an increase in the number of incidents occurring, but could reflect that more victims were having the confidence to report incidents and it was hoped that as part of the review, an outcome would be the reduction in the number of statutory service interventions and an increase in the number of early interventions to prevent victims coming into crisis accommodation.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) advised that the Council that it was hoping to receive notification of the CSP grant funding by the end of February 2020 and it had a high level of confidence that it would receive the funding required to continue to deliver domestic violence and abuse services. She acknowledged that if the grant

was reduced, then the Council would have to look at mainstream funding to continue to deliver services.

The Chair proposed that the Council wrote to the Mayor of Greater Manchester setting out its concern around the unreasonable wait in receiving notification of CSP funding and also its concern in relation to the impact in the ability to deliver services should there be a reduction in this grant funding.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report; and
- (2) Requests that the Chair writes to the Mayor of Greater Manchester setting out our concern around the unreasonable wait in receiving notification of CSP funding, and that the Committee would not want to see any elements of this budget reduced, and also setting out its concern in relation to the impact in the ability to deliver domestic violence and abuse services should there be a reduction in this grant funding;
- (3) Recommends that should the budget provision from the GMCA reduce, that this would be reported to the Committee ;
- (4) Recommends that in event that the budget provision from the GMCA reduces the Council should increase its spend to make up the shortfall; and
- (5) Reiterated the previous recommendation that whilst the Committee is cognisant of the budgetary pressures of the Council, the DV&A review should not be constrained to the current spending envelope.

RGSC/20/10 ICT update

Further to minute RGSC/19/54, the Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of ICT, which provided an update on the proposed reshaping of Council's Information and Data Strategy. The report also included an update on the resilience of the Council's IT service provision.

Some of the key points referred to in the report included:-

- An overview of the work that had been ongoing to ensure that the Council remained on track in order for the Cabinet Office to deem the Council PSN compliance in 2020;
- An update on ICT resilience and key projects;
- The reasons for a pause in data storage migration in relation to the new Data Centre Programme and the work being done to get the project back on its critical path to limit the impact to timescales and budget;
- Details of work that was being undertaken under the Network Refresh Programme;
- Progress to date with the procurement of a new core telephony and contact centre systems;
- An update on the progress in the adoption of the Liquidlogic suite of systems;

- The Council's intended move to adopt Microsoft technology for productivity, collaboration and communication, in place of the current Google software, which was scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2020;
- An update on the progress to date with the refresh of the ICT strategy; and
- The ICT revenue and capital budget positions.

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

- An assurance was sought that the Council did not share residents' personal data with external companies other than its required partners;
- An assurance was sought that the Council would achieve PSN compliance in April 2020;
- What were the financial implications associated with the delay in the data storage migration in relation to the new Data Centre Programme and who would absorb this cost;
- Why was the original decision taken to use the Google platform for collaboration when Microsoft offered a similar product at the same point in time;
- Were there any critical legacy systems that were currently operating on the existing Google platform and if so, what steps were being put in place to ensure these transitioned over to Microsoft without significant risk;
- There was concern that the intended implementation target date of the Microsoft collaboration platform was ambitious given the number of other significant projects that the Directorate was currently working on; and
- There was slight concern that the ICT strategy was being refreshed whilst the Council did not yet have a permanent Director of ICT in post.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources assured the Committee that the Council did not provide any personal data it held on residents to external companies, other than its partners and only where it was required to do so. He added that in most, if not all circumstances, any data that was shared was anonymised. He added that the Council was currently looking at how it collected and stored residents' data with a view to adopting an appropriate set of principles.

The Head of Programme Office assured the Committee that the work that had been undertaken to date was on track for the Council to achieve PSN compliance in April 2020. The Committee was advised that analysis would need to be undertaken of some of the legacy systems to identify what they currently supported in order to identify suitable alternatives.

In terms of the financial implications in the delay of the data centre migration, the Chair asked for the costs and officers agreed to provide accurate costs following the meeting. However, it was confirmed in the meeting that any costs for the changes to the network design would be absorbed by the supplier.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer noted the concerns raised in refreshing the ICT strategy when a permanent Director was not in post and advised that interviews for this position were being undertaken on 7 February 2020. She also advised that the original decision to use the Google platform for collaboration was taken based on it being the most cost effective option at the time and acknowledged

that since then, Microsoft had developed its collaboration platform (Microsoft 365), which now had greater functionality than the current Google platform.

The Head of Programme Office reaffirmed that it was the intention of the Directorate to complete the migration from Google to Microsoft 365 by the end of September 2020.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report; and
- (2) Requests an update report to a future meeting on the progress being made with the migration from Google to Microsoft 365 and all other major ongoing IT projects.

RGSC/20/11 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities, as set out in the Our Manchester Strategy (OMS), for those areas within his portfolio.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions within the Executive Members report were: -

- What further work was being done to encourage other organisations to promote the city becoming a Living Wage City;
- Achieving the Living Wage employer accreditation was welcomed by Members;
- Was there any more information on the work that the Executive Member had undertaken to address the Council's climate change agenda, with reference to the income received by the Council from Manchester Airport;
- The improvements in the BHeard results from the 2019 survey were recognised;
- Was the Executive Member undertaking any work to lever any significant sources of external funding to tackle climate change;
- Had any consideration been given to updating the content of Listening in Action material, with reference to the Council's position in tackling climate change;
- What was the Executive Member's views on the position of apprenticeships as part of the 'Our People' strategy; and
- What more could be done to improve how the Council promoted its employment opportunities in order to attract the best people possible.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources advised that in terms of working towards becoming a Living Wage city, he was engaging with a number of anchor institutions to actually commit to paying the Manchester living wage to its staff. In terms of climate change, he reported that responsibility for Manchester Airport fell in the Leader portfolio, but he would pass on the Committee's comments. He advised that going forward schemes within the Capital Programme would need to demonstrate how they would contribute to addressing the Council's climate change

agenda and in terms of Social Value, he was awaiting results back from a pilot within Highways where a 10% weighting in terms of addressing climate change had been included in two tenders, to see if this was something that could be rolled out across all Council tenders.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources commented that the Council would also look to try and source any external funding streams that were available to tackle climate change, such as grants for external charging point for electric vehicles. He added that the Council would also look to use its leverage with other organisations to push this agenda forward. He advised there was a HR refresh taking pace and the feedback from the BHeard survey would feed into the content of future Listening in Action sessions.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources commented that he was very passionate about apprenticeships and advised that last year, the Council (excluding schools) had exceeded its target in the number of apprenticeship starts and data would be released around this at the Social Value Conference on the 14 February 2020.

In terms of recruitment, the Executive Member acknowledged that in certain sectors the Council struggled to compete with the private sector as it was not able to match salary levels, however, he commented that working for the Council had a number of other non-monetary benefits and it was these benefits that the Council needed to promote more in order to attract the best possible applicants.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSC/20/12 Overview Report

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

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Agrees the work programme.

RGSC/20/13 Legal Services Update

The Committee received a presentation from the Deputy City Solicitor, which informed Members of the structure and role of the Council's Legal Services department and provided an update on the work undertaken by the Department.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:-

- An overview of the aspects of work the different teams within Legal Services undertook;
- Examples of areas of success in delivering, innovative and excellent legal services that provided value for money;
- How the Department contributed to the Council's corporate plan priorities; and
- An overview of the positive responses from Legal Services 2019 client survey.

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

- Further information on the diversity of the service's workforce would be welcomed in future reports;
- Was there any potential increase in capacity for supporting aspects of adult social care around protecting vulnerable children and adults;
- Concern was raised in relation to the turnaround time on leases associated with the Council and was there any KPI's in relation to this specific area;
- Clarification was sought as to what legal responsibility the Council had to staff who had been TUPE transferred to another employer;
- Clarification was sought as to what the single justice procedure was, implemented in Manchester by the Legal Services Regulatory Team;
- It was requested that Members be provided with the short guide to the constitution

The Deputy City Solicitor advised that the service was working with Children and Families and Adult Services around the deprivation of liberty for children, to assess what this would mean in terms of additional volumes of work due to the complex nature of the work required.

The Deputy City Solicitor commented that she was not aware of any specific issues in relation to the delays in granting leases but agreed to look into this. She advised that it was dependent on the type of lease arrangement that was being sought as to how long these would take to progress.

The Committee was advised that once council staff had been TUPE transferred to a new employer, whilst their employment rights were protected by law, the Council's legal obligation to them ceased to exist after their transfer was completed.

The Deputy City Solicitor explained that the single justice procedure allowed the Council to deal with particular matters, such as fixed penalty matters in connection to environmental crimes in the city, by a way of electronic means where a guilty plea had been entered into. This saved the need for the Council to have a solicitor attend court to deal with individual cases. This had saved time and money and had been picked up as an area of good practice amongst other Greater Manchester local authorities. She also gave a commitment to provide members with a copy of the short guide to the constitution.

Decision

The Committee notes the presentation.

RGSC/20/14 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

To exclude the public during consideration of the following items which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

RGSC/20/15 Legal Services update (Public Excluded)

The Committee considered a report of the City Solicitor, which set out how the Council's Legal Service Department was funded, which included commercially confidential information regarding external contracts to partner organisations.

Having had regard to the report, the Committee asked a number of questions to which the City Solicitor responded.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 3 March 2020

Present:

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Clay, Davies, B Priest, Rowles, A Simcock, Stanton, Wheeler and Wright

Also present:

Councillor Ollerhead, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Apologies: Councillors Lanchbury and Moore

RGSC/20/20 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2020 as a correct record.

RGSC/20/21 Evaluation of the Our Manchester approach

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Director of Policy, Performance and Reform that provided an evaluation of the Our Manchester approach, including how Our Manchester was helping to deliver the required Council savings targets. This report sought to illustrate what progress to date had been made, through the supporting Our Manchester Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The Strategic Lead for Intelligence and Data Science referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included: -

- Describing what the Evaluation Framework had delivered;
- Information on the Bringing Services Together for People in Places (BSTPIP) programme;
- The approach to monitoring and evaluating BSTPIP and next steps;
- Information on a range of work streams;
- Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Case studies;
- Information on the Our Manchester Investment fund (OMIF);
- Workforce training, and culture, to embed the Our Manchester behaviours in everything we do;
- Communications and Engagement; and
- Analysis of the impact of Our Manchester in delivering Council Savings.

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

- What was the difference between the OMIF and the Neighbourhood Investment Fund;

- How was resident feedback captured and measured to enable the benchmarking of satisfaction with neighbourhoods;
- How would Members be informed of resident engagement events;
- How were the priorities for respective wards, as referred to within the report, identified;
- Whilst recognising the positive outcomes for individuals and the challenge in quantifying those outcomes, the report did not provide the Committee with sufficient detail on financial investment and savings achieved to effectively scrutinise;
- Was Our Manchester a strategy or a branding exercise, noting that resident voluntary work and community projects had existed prior to the introduction of Our Manchester;
- Acknowledging the improvements in providing health and social care services in multidisciplinary teams at a neighbourhood level, however the anticipated financial savings were not realised;
- Greater Manchester Police (GMP) were working towards consistent Neighbourhood footprints but were not yet fully aligned operationally;
- Had staff absenteeism improved as a result of the introduction of Our Manchester; and
- All Members should undertake the Our Manchester Experience training.

The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform informed the Committee that the Our Manchester Investment Fund was additional funding that allowed for the scaling up of those resident projects that demonstrated Our Manchester values and were sustainable. He commented that once established they could apply for future funding for projects through the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

He stated that the Our Manchester approach involved fundamentally changing how the Council and partners worked across the city and the relationships with residents and communities, in order to deliver the Our Manchester Strategy for the city. The approach therefore needed to become embedded in everything that we do.

On BST PIP, he further stated that partners, including GMP were committed to aligning themselves to the neighbourhood model, however due to issues with their IT systems GMP had not operationally aligned to this service model as yet.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that it was important to understand the report in the context of a reduction in staffing resources experienced by both the Council and partners, however the ambition was to deliver and improve services to the residents of Manchester despite this. She further commented that feedback from staff had indicated that they welcomed the opportunities to engage in voluntary work to support local communities.

The Strategic Lead for Intelligence and Data Science stated that positive outcomes had been delivered for residents by staff by adopting the Our Manchester approach. He stated that this had been supported by staff attending with the Our Manchester Experience that had challenged staff to consider how they worked and the behaviours they exhibited.

The Strategic Lead for Intelligence and Data Science informed the Committee that the resident survey was an online portal, available on the Council's website that residents could complete and this tool was one of the methods for capturing this information. In response to comments from the Committee who stated that they were unaware of this survey, Officers stated that information on this would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

In response to the priorities identified within different wards, the Director of Policy, Performance and Reform stated that these were the product of a number of different services, including Council services, housing providers and police who were working in multidisciplinary teams in neighbourhoods. He stated that these were very early days in the model of working and Members would be informed of their progress via ward coordination meetings. In response to specific ward related enquiries from Members he stated that he would discuss those outside of the meeting.

The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform acknowledged the comments regarding the financial reporting of this activity and this would be provided in future update reports. He stated that the largest investment in this programme was in the staff and this impacted on all the services the Council delivered which presented a challenge when evaluating or providing numerical outcomes and comparisons. He further added that consideration would also be given to including additional case studies to illustrate this work in future reporting, which the Chair welcomed. He further stated that the comments relating to staff absenteeism and Our Manchester Member training and information would also be included in future update reports.

A Member further commented that consideration needed to be given to the language and terminology used throughout the report and how the information was presented. She further recommended that a future update report include information and examples of those teams applying statutory duties, such as enforcement officers and benefit officers to illustrate how they were responding to the Our Manchester approach way of working with both residents and other services.

The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform provided examples of how officers working in statutory services were encouraged to engage in different conversations when interacting with residents. The Chair requested that any future update reports include data on the numbers of staff having undertaken the Our Manchester Experience. The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform informed the Members that the Experience had been refreshed and described the intention was to deliver this to staff who, for various reasons were unable to attend the Castlefield location with the intention of having 7,000 staff having undertaken this by the end of March 2021 (3,000 staff within the next twelve months) and Directorates were encouraged to prioritise those staff attending these events.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSC/20/22 Our Transformation Programme - progress update

The Committee considered a report and presentation of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and City Solicitor that provided an overview of recent progress on the Our Transformation Programme and next steps.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Describing that Our Transformation was the work to modernise and digitise how the council operated;
- Providing an overview of the strategic context of Our Transformation;
- Providing an overview of the five programmes which together made up Our Transformation;
- Providing an overview of the how Our Transformation was resources; and
- Further detail on each of the programmes.

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

- How were residents involved with the programme, in particular the design and development of digital processes, commenting that not all residents had access to digital services;
- Expressing concern that some services were digital only and this could contribute to digital exclusion;
- Making reference to a positive experience that included accurate and timely information when applying online to renew a passport, and could a similar model be implemented in Manchester;
- Was there any conflict between empowering officers to take decisions and reduce bureaucracy and statutory requirements;
- Was the resourcing of the programme sufficient to deliver the work and ambitions described;
- What was being done to support staff through technological and system changes; and
- How was carbon reduction being addressed through this activity.

The Strategic Lead, Business Change stated that the reference to digital that the Member had referred to was specifically describing the activities to modernise, streamline and digitise how the council operated and communicated across a range of internal systems and services. She described that as this project progressed residents would be consulted with via existing channels such as resident forums and staff in Neighbourhood Teams. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that all channels of resident communication and access to the Council were important and this was recognised and that the work initially was looking that the internal CRM (Customer relationship management) system.

The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform acknowledged the experience of the Member when applying for his passport and stated that examples and systems of good practice were being considered, however he noted that the UK Government had invested significantly into the online digital passport service. The Strategic Lead, Business Change informed the Committee that work was ongoing to address digital inclusion, including work to support older residents and hard to reach groups and information on this work would be provided to the Committee following the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer provided an example of empowering officers to take decisions by explain that currently the arrangements were that she would have to sign off any honoraria payments. She stated that whilst this was appropriate for complex applications, managers should be enabled to make local decisions and be accountable for standard applications. She stated that this would also contribute to decisions being taken in a timely manner. The Strategic Lead, Business Change qualified the report by confirming that decision taking would still be in accordance with the Council's constitution and the agreed scheme of delegation to ensure that the decision making process were safe and legal. The Director of Policy, Performance and Reform further commented that the City's Climate Change Plan had a specific action to review all of the Council's decision-making processes and policies to ensure carbon zero was embedded throughout. He stated this would be included in the carbon literacy training that would be rolled out to all staff.

The Strategic Lead, Business Change commented that to achieve the full breadth of work described, additional resources would be identified to deliver projects, such as support for the roll out of Microsoft 365. She said they were mindful to avoid the need to recruit external consultants and to utilise the existing workforce, recognising the challenge this would present and this continued to be reviewed by the Our Transformation Board, Chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer with representatives from a range of services. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the delivery of this this programme of work was a priority and the Senior Management Team were committed to delivering this.

In regard to the roll out of Microsoft 365, the Strategic Lead, Business Change stated that a migration plan would be produced, with the roll out commencing in April 2020 to be completed by September 2020. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that a new Director of ICT was now in post to deliver this project and this would be supported by the Change Team and staff from Microsoft.

In response to a comment from the Chair regarding the dangers of change fatigue experienced by staff and what support was being offered to staff, the Strategic Lead, Business Change stated they were mindful of this and all changes were being implemented 'with' staff rather than 'to' staff, and where possible changes to systems were being coordinated so they were rolled out at the same time and managed appropriately. The Chair requested that the Committee's gratitude was relayed to all staff involved.

In response to a specific question the Strategic Lead, Business Change stated that Time Wise was a flexible working accreditation and Wyse Terminals were the units to enable staff to access the Council's IT systems as opposed to a laptop or desk top computer.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSC/20/23 Policy and Performance Priorities

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Reform (PPR) that provided information on the priorities and performance of the Council's Policy, Performance and Reform department for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Providing a background and context to PPR;
- A structure chart;
- Describing the ambitions and priorities for PPR;
- Information on the City Policy Service;
- Information on resources and programmes;
- An update on the activities of the Policy and Partnerships team;
- Information on Reform and Innovation;
- The vision for Performance, Research and Intelligence;
- An update on the activities and vision of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Team; and
- Equalities performance management.

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

- Further clarification was sought on the statements contained within the report that described Manchester as a particularly difficult city to enumerate;
- Did the team have enough capacity to undertake the enumeration;
- Was the Residential Development Tracker and the Commercial Development Tracker available at a ward level and was this available to Councillors;
- What plans were in place to deliver the Windrush day;
- More resources were required to implement Green and Blue Infrastructure and what was being done to secure external funding to deliver climate change activities;
- Were the number of upheld Ombudsmen complaints comparable with other core cities; and
- What was the approach to utilising the services of external agencies to deliver consultations.

Officers described that work was ongoing so that the data used to produce the reports was aligned to the methodology of the ONS (Officer for National Statistics) and additional resources had been identified to support the national census work and due to the challenges in Manchester, including the nature of the housing stock and migration, the Chief Executive was currently in discussions with the ONS to ensure the appropriate number of enumerators were available in Manchester to deliver this work. Members noted that it was anticipated that, if carried out with appropriate resource, the Census would show Manchester's population was much higher than projected by ONS. Members commented that this could impact on Local Government funding allocations and requested that a briefing note was circulated to Members on this issue. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that population data was also a factor when Local Government funding was calculated, adding that this was also factor for health service funding.

The Committee was informed that the Residential Development Tracker and the Commercial Development Tracker was an analysis tool and was not available in the current format for public consumption, however the outcomes were reported into other sources of data and information that was provided to Members, such as budget forecasting.

In response to the specific question on Windrush day, Officers described that Local Authorities could apply for a fund from the Government to deliver such events and Manchester had submitted a bid and had prepared a delivery plan in anticipation of an award. Members were advised that the nature of the event would be determined by the scale of any funding awarded.

Officers described that the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, that included activities around tree and hedge planting was being considered at the relevant Scrutiny Committee that week prior to its submission to Executive. Members were informed that the Council was working with partners, including Transport for Greater Manchester to progress the actions to mitigate climate change. The Committee were also advised that officers within the Resources and Programmes team were actively investigating alternative sources of funding to progress climate change activities.

In respect to Ombudsmen complaints the Committee was informed that the Corporate Complaints Team would monitor and report on this activity, adding that targets were established.

In regard to Equalities and the 'Excellent' status of accreditation, Members were advised that work was ongoing to understand the options to ensure this status was retained in 2021. A Member suggested that consideration should be given to work with the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure preparations for 2021 were appropriate.

In response to discussion on consultations and the use of external agencies, officers stated that consideration would be given as to the scale of the required consultation and any technical requirements that were required and a corporate commissioning framework was established to appoint consultants when required.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSC/20/24 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 approves the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2020

Present:

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair
Councillors Clay, Curley, Holt, Mary Monaghan, Newman, O'Neil, Riasat and Wills

Apologies: Councillor N. Ali

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Ilyas, Assistant Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Nick Gomm, Director of Corporate Affairs, Manchester Health and Care
Commissioning (MHCC)
Heather Etheridge, Head of Service Be Well, Big Life Group
Dr Cordelle Mbeledogu, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, MLCO/MHCC
Lydia Fleuty, Population Health Programme Lead, MHCC
Dr Sohail Munshi, Chief Medical Officer, MLCO
Mark Edwards, Chief Operating Officer, MLCO
Annabel Hammond, Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) Lead
Chris Martin, INT Lead
Karin Connell, Work and Skills Lead, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning

HSC/20/05 Urgent Business – Novel Coronavirus

The Chair invited the Consultant in Public Health to provide the Committee with a verbal update on the recent Coronavirus outbreak.

She described that the Novel coronavirus (2019-nCov) was a new strain of coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, China. As a group, coronaviruses were common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. The infection prevention control measures were good hand hygiene and messages that would be used to prevent other respiratory disease, catch it, bin it, kill it messages (sneeze/cough into tissue then put in bin.)

Generally, coronavirus could cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease and that to date two patients in England had tested positive for coronavirus. Members were informed that at the time of reporting the risk level in the UK had increased from low to moderate, adding that the UK did not need to change its front line response but did need to ensure plans were in place for if the situation got worse.

She described that Greater Manchester and Manchester organisations were working well together to ensure that health protection systems were in place to respond to the novel Coronavirus. Work was nationally led by Public Health England (PHE) and,

from a health perspective, officers were working with the local NW PHE team as well as the following health organisations:

- Manchester Health and Care Commissioning;
- North Manchester General Hospital Infectious Diseases Unit;
- Northern Care Alliance;
- Manchester University NHS Foundations Trust;
- North West Ambulance Service; and
- Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership.

PHE was also working with Manchester Airport and enhanced monitoring arrangements had been established from 29 January 2020 for direct flights from China. She said that this was an evolving situation and advice and information was regularly updated and available on the Public Health website.

The Consultant in Public Health stated that the preparedness arrangements in Greater Manchester were good and there were already pathways and plans in place, noting that Manchester was fortunate to have the Regional Infectious Disease Unit situated in North Manchester.

Members were informed that the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum (GMRF) coordinated local multi-agency activities to prepare for a range of incidents and emergencies. These arrangements were complimented by the GM Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP), which provided a specific focus on preparedness for public health related incidents.

These arrangements had supported a range of local partners to work together over many years to develop various system-wide health plans and capabilities, such as the GM Multi-Agency Outbreak Plan which detailed arrangements for multi-agency response to a High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID), such as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Manchester also had a Manchester Multi Agency Outbreak Plan that set out the local operational arrangements which complemented the GM Multi-Agency Outbreak Plan.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing commented that there had been reports of sections of the local community experiencing discrimination and stigma as a result of the outbreak in China. She said that Manchester was an open, international and welcoming city and at such a difficult time solidarity had to be shown to the Chinese community in the city. She encouraged all Councillors, in their capacity as community leaders to tackle stigma and discrimination.

Decision

To note the verbal update.

HSC/20/06 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee of the 7 January 2020 were submitted for approval. Cllr Curley requested that his attendance be recorded.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2020 as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

HSC/20/07 Updated Financial Strategy and Budget Reports 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on the Council's overall financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process, including scrutiny of the budget proposals and budget report by this Committee.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also considered the Adult Social Care and Population Health Budget 2020/21 that provided the final budget proposals following the contents of the provisional Local Government Settlement received late December 2019 and feedback from scrutiny committees during January 2020.

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

- Noting that any future cuts to budgets would be extremely difficult;
- The notion that austerity was over was untrue and the government needed to fund local authorities appropriately and fairly;
- Council Tax was being used to fund services to support vulnerable residents in the city and this message needed to be explicit with residents; and
- The Committee thanked the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing and officers for their continued commitment and dedication to supporting the most vulnerable residents in Manchester.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing stated that despite the continued failure of government to adequately and fairly fund adult social care, Manchester remained committed to responding to the issue in an imaginative and proactive manner to protect the most vulnerable residents in the city.

Decisions

The Committee recommend that their comments be submitted for consideration by the Executive at their meeting of 12 February 2020.

HSC/20/08 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being, which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities, as set out in the Our Manchester strategy, for those areas within her portfolio.

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

- Welcoming a well informed and detailed report;

- Welcoming the information provided on improving mental health services; and
- Thanking the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being for her dedication and hard work on behalf of Manchester residents.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/20/09 Manchester's Approach to Prevention and Wellbeing Services - an update focused on social prescribing

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Population Health and Consultant in Public Health Medicine that provided an overview of current social prescribing provision in Manchester within the context of the Prevention Programme, and outlined the high level plans for the future development of prevention and wellbeing services in the city, through the 2021 Wellbeing Model.

Officers referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- Providing the national and local strategic context for social prescribing;
- A summary of the model for social prescribing, and information on how this was being delivered in Manchester; and
- Describing the plans for further developing prevention and wellbeing support services.

To complement the report, the Committee received a video presentation from Big Life who delivered social prescribing services in Manchester. The video presentation detailed case studies of two residents who had overcome major barriers to their health and wellbeing with the support of Be Well, a social prescribing service for Central and South Manchester.

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

- Noting that people often had complex needs as a result of social deprivation;
- Welcoming the presentation that contained case studies and was the service available to younger people;
- Were GP's engaged with this programme and making appropriate referrals for their patients;
- Noting that people experienced barriers to employment as a result of criminal convictions received when they were younger and work needed to be done with employers to support them as this had an impact on their health and opportunities and outcomes;
- Consideration needed to be given to supporting volunteers;
- Recognising that the network of volunteers and availability of venues was different across the city;
- What was being done to connect with and support BAEM (Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities) residents and younger people experiencing mental health issues who may not present to services and as a result not be referred to this service;

- Were Northwards Housing a partner organisation of the Big Life Group;
- Would the smoking cessation offer be available citywide; and
- Were referrals to and the take up of services monitored.

The Head of Service, Be Well informed the Members that they did work with young people, aged 18 years plus and demographic data would be shared with the Committee following the meeting. She also confirmed that they had an effective monitoring and tracking system established that enabled them to monitor an individual's progress and identify any gaps in provision. She advised that this intelligence was shared amongst the team and was available to staff. She further stated that rigorous monitoring helped identify any GP practices that had a low number of referrals to the service. She advised that if this was identified the practice would be approached to discuss any barriers and offer any additional support. She described that the service had built effective and personal relationships with practices. She responded to the comment regarding young people by advising that they promoted their service in a variety of settings identified as places where young people used. She further commented that they were seeking to work with and engage with employers to address the issues experienced by young people accessing employment opportunities.

In response to the question regarding Northwards Housing, the Head of Service, Be Well stated that they had just recently been awarded the contract to deliver this service in the north of the city and Northwards would be engaged in this programme as a partner organisation.

The Consultant in Public Health Medicine acknowledged the comment regarding the network of volunteers in the community and that this was a challenge in some areas, particularly in the north of the city. She stated that the approach to develop this was to build on existing community strengths, utilise local intelligence and develop community leaders so this grew from the local neighbourhood. She advised that this approach was being specifically focused in the north of the city. She said that by using local intelligence this would assist in identifying any gaps in provision and help inform the response. She commented that this would also assist with issues around non engagement with services and hard to reach groups.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being advised that a social prescribing development fund would be used to support this activity. She said this fund would be used creatively to deliver long term benefits for local communities, and this was a means to empower people in their local communities and build on their strengths.

The Consultant in Public Health Medicine said that they did work with front line health workers, including GP practices to encourage them to engage in conversations with residents and make appropriate referrals for appropriate support, such as Be Well. She said that whilst improvements had been realised this was still work in progress. She described that to support this the social prescribing services had retained the same name and provided a single hub model for referrals, as previous barriers had resulted from GP practices having to navigate a range of different services, often short lived that had made it difficult for practiced to keep track of. She said that Be

Well may not be the most appropriate service for someone experiencing mental health problems, however other services and support was available.

In response to the question regarding the smoking cessation service, the Committee were informed that a city wide offer will be available from April 2020.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/20/10 Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy (Draft)

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Population Health and Consultant in Public Health that provided an introduction to the draft Manchester Healthy Weight Strategy 2020-2025, which would take a whole system, partnership approach to tackling obesity in the city.

Officers referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- The strategy had been developed across four key themes; Food & Culture, Physical Activity, Environment & Neighbourhoods and Support & Prevention;
- The strategy had been informed by a wide variety of stakeholders, and supported the Public Health England (PHE) guidance 'Reducing obesity was everybody's business' (PHE 2018); and
- Following comments by the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Manchester Patient and Professionals Advisory Group the final draft of the Strategy would be produced for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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

- The maps provided within the report referred to previous ward boundaries;
- Mental health and its relationship to healthy weight needed to be more explicit within the report;
- Recognising that physical activity amongst children had reduced and this needed to be addressed and noting the influence technology had and how children played;
- The food industry needed to be challenged to take responsibility, noting that processed food was cheaper than eating healthier;
- Noting that food deserts existed in certain areas that reduced options and access to healthier food choices; and
- Schools and hospitals should be deterred from providing vending machines that contained unhealthy food.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being welcomed the comments from the Committee and stated that these would be taken into consideration before the final strategy was produced. She stated that the issue of healthy weight was not just a health issue and a holistic response was required. She stated that consideration needed to be given to the wider determinants of health and all partners needed to use their levers and policies to influence behaviour change. She said that

Manchester, for example should seek to use its powers through licensing and planning policy to influence behaviour change.

In response to the comments from Members, officers stated that the maps in the report would be reviewed to ensure they were correct. The Consultant in Public Health stated that relationships between healthy weight and mental health was understood and was contained within the report, however following the comments this would be reviewed to ensure this was appropriately addressed and presented within the final report.

The Commissioning Manager acknowledged the comments regarding young children being overweight and stated that they were working with Manchester Active to increase participation in physical activity amongst children and younger people. He further described that the Healthy Schools Teams had worked with catering teams within schools to ensure healthy food options were available to children and there were no vending machines in schools.

The Commissioning Manager acknowledged the challenge presented by the food industry and supported the comment from the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being in using all local levers available, in particular planning to influence behaviour change. He described that examples of good practice from other authorities to promote a healthy relationship with food were to be utilised and consideration would be given as to how this city wide strategy could connect into other services delivered in local neighbourhoods.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/20/11 Update on the work of health and social care staff in the Manchester Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and The Chief Operating Officer, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) that updated Members on the work of health and social care staff in the Manchester Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs).

Officers referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- Providing a background and context of the MLCO;
- Describing progress to date;
- Providing examples of MLCO Neighbourhood Plans on a page;
- Examples of the MLCO in action and neighbourhood stories to illustrate the benefits achieved; and
- The approach to developing the neighbourhood model in 2020/21 and the emerging priorities for 2020/2021.

To complement the report, the Committee received a video presentation that described the benefits of this model of service delivery and the experiences of different staff working within these teams.

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

- Supporting the integration model and recognising the benefits this could deliver for residents;
- Consideration needed to be given to how the information contained within the plans on a page were presented to ensure they were legible;
- Questions were raised as to the validity of some of the data describes within the plans, with a Member commenting that he did not recognise them; and
- Welcoming the initiatives described to reach out to sections of the community to promote and increase the take up of health checks.

In response to the specific comment raised regarding the figures presented, the Executive Director of Adult Social Care stated that she would respond to the Member following the meeting. She further thanked the Members for their continued support for the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and suggested that if they had not already done so, they should visit their local teams.

The Chief Medical Officer, MLCO acknowledged the positive comments from the Members regarding using initiatives to increase the take up of health checks. He stated that these projects would be evaluated with the ambition that similar projects be rolled out.

The Chair commented that it was important to recognise that different areas of the city had different infrastructures and different models of community support, both formal and informal. He said that it was important that this was acknowledged and INTs should complement and enhance existing communities rather than a single model being imposed.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being acknowledged this comment and stated that the model was not to impose services on people, but rather with people and communities to best improve their health outcomes.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/20/12 Living Wage accreditation

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Workforce and Organisation Development, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning that provided Members with an overview of the living wage accreditation status of Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations.

Accreditation as living wage employers, and promotion of the real living wage to partners and suppliers would contribute to the development of a progressive and

equitable city, where those on the lowest salaries were able to benefit more from economic growth and investment in health and social care services. This formed part of the locality social value approach and also supported the embedding of 'good work' practice to improve health outcomes for the collective health and social care workforce.

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

- Members welcomed the report and supported the introduction of the real living wage; and
- An assurance was sought that Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust would pay third party staff the real living wage.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being stated that Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust were committed to paying the real living wage third party staff, and were currently reviewing contracts to ensure this could be achieved. Members requested that an update on this be provided at an appropriate time.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/20/13 Overview Report

A 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 Members that the report listed for March entitled 'Residential Care Strategy' would be deferred, and a report entitled 'Manchester Foundation Trust Clinical Service Strategy Programme Update' would be included on the March agenda.

Decision

To note the report and approve the work programme, subject to the above amendments.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair

Councillors Alijah, Hewitson, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, McHale, Madeleine Monaghan, Reid, Sadler and Wilson

Co-opted Voting Members:

Ms Z Derraz, Parent Governor Representative

Ms S Barnwell, Parent Governor Representative

Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non Voting Members:

Mr L Duffy, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Ms J Fleet, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Leese, Leader of the Council

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools

Councillor Ollerhead, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Councillor Flanagan, Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath

Detective Superintendent Jamie Daniels, Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

Apologies:

Councillors Cooley, T Judge and Reeves

Mrs J Miles, Diocese of Salford Representative

CYP/20/08 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2020.

CYP/20/09 Publication of Greater Manchester Mayor, Independent Assurance review of the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to child exploitation in Greater Manchester

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which informed Members of the work that had been undertaken within the Council following the issues being raised that led to the Mayor's Independent Assurance Review and provided reassurance that the response to the exploitation and abuse of children had strengthened significantly in Manchester.

The Chair began by stating that this was an issue of great concern to the Committee and that their thoughts were with the people affected. He advised that the Committee had scrutinised the work on complex safeguarding over the past few years, through report and visits, but still had questions and concerns that they wanted to raise through this meeting.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services introduced the report, highlighting that the Council had been pro-actively working with GMP to make improvements in response to the emerging findings from the review, without waiting for the report to be published. He also advised that, where appropriate, employees from the time period that the report covered had been referred to the relevant regulatory body.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools drew Members' attention to the statements that the Council had issued following the publication of the report. He advised the Committee that there had been significant changes made since the time period which the report covered but that the Council could not be complacent on this issue.

The Leader outlined his role in safeguarding, following the introduction of the Children Act 2004, which had been implemented in 2006. He informed Members that he was responsible for ensuring the adequacy of the Council's safeguarding responsibilities and outlined how he did this. This included monthly meetings with the Executive Member for Children and Schools and quarterly meetings with the Chief Executive and Executive Members and members of the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for safeguarding adults and children, where performance indicators were reviewed and issues discussed.

The Chair highlighted that at the meeting of the Council on 29 January 2020 Members had agreed a pledge on safeguarding children.

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

- The issue of Manchester children being placed in homes outside of the city and non-Manchester children being placed in homes within the city and how to ensure safeguarding in these cases;
- How patriarchal attitudes at the time contributed to an environment where the sexual abuse of girls was not effectively challenged;
- Problems with GMP's new computer system iOPS;
- What was being done to engage with shopkeepers and others in busy retail districts who might spot issues of concern in their area;
- Working effectively with other Council services, such as taxi licensing, to address child sexual exploitation;
- Concerns that the team undertaking the review had not been able to obtain all the relevant information and, that, in addition to the ongoing criminal investigation, further investigation should take place of the failings of the Council;
- Changes in the methods being used to groom children, including via social media; and
- That all Councillors would receive training on issues such as their corporate parenting responsibilities and the exploitation of children and that, as the perpetrators in these cases had come from particular communities, Ward Councillors from these communities could play an important role.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services informed Members of the safeguards in place for children living in residential children's homes, regardless of where the home was. These included visits from Social Workers, reviews of the care plans for individual children by an Independent Reviewing Officer, oversight of homes from commissioning services, inspection and monitoring visits from independent professionals under Regulation 44 of the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and regulation by Ofsted. A Member expressed concern about the regulations relating to children from outside Manchester being placed in commissioned homes in Manchester, advising that Members should campaign for the legislation to be changed to require the child's Social Worker to report to the authorities in Manchester. The Leader supported this comment, adding that at present small children's homes did not require planning permission and often the Council and GMP did not know they were there until there was a problem.

In response to a Member's comments, the Deputy Director of Children's Services informed Members that it was clear that children in the city remained vulnerable to exploitation and were experiencing exploitation and, while recognising that improvements had been made, he assured Members that neither the Council nor GMP were complacent on this issue.

The Strategic Head of Early Help outlined the work taking place through the Community Safety Partnership to reduce and prevent harm, through engaging with a wide network of organisations such as hotels and licensing and trading services. She also assured Members that the Council and GMP were committed to acting on the lessons learnt from past failings. She advised Members that it was recognised that young adults were also vulnerable to exploitation and a co-ordinated approach was being adopted to prevent and address the exploitation of both children and vulnerable adults.

Detective Superintendent Jamie Daniels offered GMP's apologies for the failings and mistakes of the past in responding to child sexual exploitation. He addressed the Member's comments regarding the iOPS system, acknowledging the challenges it had presented; however, he reported that the key problem with how the force had dealt with child sexual exploitation in the past had not been record-keeping but that it had not been a high enough priority. He assured Members of the high priority that this was now being given, outlining how GMP's safeguarding teams worked in partnership with the Council and shared information, and he updated them on the recent successes which had resulted in offenders being charged. He informed the Committee that he hoped that this would enable them to rebuild the trust of victims who had been failed in the past. The Chair welcomed that officers from GMP had attended recent scrutiny committee meetings, where relevant, and stated that he hoped this would continue.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools advised the Committee that many Ward Councillors had a good knowledge of what was happening in their area and that they and other people in their local areas and retail centres needed to know where to report safeguarding concerns. He informed Members that meetings would be set up in localities so that people knew who to contact and that he would circulate details of these meetings to Ward Councillors.

The Leader outlined the weaknesses in information-sharing between GMP and the Council in the time period covered by the report and the challenges in obtaining and sharing information from that time period now. He reported that, although no minutes were available of the gold group meeting which had taken place at the Town Hall in April 2005, the decision to end Operation Augusta had already been taken earlier in the day by GMP and he highlighted that, while this was the wrong decision, GMP had been prioritising based on the measures of police effectiveness set down by the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. He advised the Committee that the Coroner's report into the death of Victoria Agoglia was a sealed file which the Council did not have access to and that the Coroner was accountable to the Chief Coroner, not to either Manchester City Council or Rochdale Borough Council, of which he was an employee. In response to a Member's request, the Leader agreed to write to the Coroner to ask that the file on the death of Victoria Agoglia be released.

The Leader highlighted that Victoria Agoglia's mother had been in the care system herself, under the care of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, and had later died of a drug overdose and that there had been a systemic failure which had allowed this to be repeated. He reported that, through the use of early intervention and early help, Manchester City Council aimed to break these cycles, although he acknowledged that there was still more work to do to improve the outcomes for Our Children (Looked After Children).

The Leader expressed concern that, where offenders were prosecuted through Operation Augusta, the offences they were prosecuted for and the sentences received did not reflect the severity of the abuse. He advised Members that, unfortunately, there was a propensity, both then and now, for juries to disbelieve the principal witness because they were a child who the prosecution could describe as a drug-taker and a child prostitute. He informed Members about ongoing work to identify and pursue perpetrators and advised that this prevented complete transparency, as sharing information could risk alerting perpetrators that they were being investigated.

The Chair commented that sentencing from more recent cases indicated that this issue was being treated more seriously now.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services advised the Committee that discussions had taken place with social services staff from this time period who were still employed by the Council, that it had not been judged that their conduct met the threshold for referral to the regulator and that they had been made aware of the Council's whistleblowing policy, in case there were any issues they wished to raise.

A Member requested an update on the phase of the review referred to in section 1.4 of the assurance review of Operation Augusta. Detective Superintendent Jamie Daniels advised that he would provide a written response to this query.

Detective Superintendent Jamie Daniels reported that, while for crimes such as burglaries and robberies the police were dealing predominately with adults who they were easily able to engage with and obtain evidence and statements from, the

victims of some types of crimes, including child sexual exploitation, had complex needs and additional vulnerability. He advised that in the past, the response had often been to disregard these victims because of these challenges, rather than recognising that they should be provided with additional support. He confirmed that there were still offenders who had not been brought to justice and advised that part of the approach to addressing this was for GMP to try to re-build trust with victims so that they felt confident to go through the criminal justice system. He provided information about the GMP teams currently working to bring these offenders to justice. The Leader reported that many of the victims had chosen to get on with their lives and did not welcome being contacted by the police and that it was important to be sensitive to their privacy and needs and the risk of re-traumatising them.

Detective Superintendent Jamie Daniels acknowledged that the methods being used to groom children were evolving. He reported that detailed examination of the cases referred to the Complex Safeguarding Hub, along with information from national sources, were being used to identify and address new methods being used.

Decisions

1. To emphasise the role that departments across the Council and external organisations, including the voluntary and community sector, have in addressing child sexual exploitation.
2. That the Committee will continue to monitor complex safeguarding at future meetings.
3. That this work will also be monitored through the Corporate Parenting Panel, which all Members are encouraged to attend.
4. To thank Detective Superintendent Jamie Daniels and his colleagues at GMP and to look forward to continuing to build the relationship with GMP.

CYP/20/10 Planning for Ofsted's 'Proportionate' Inspection of Manchester's Children's Services - April 2020 to April 2021

The Committee received a presentation of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided information on the planning for Ofsted's 'proportionate' inspection of Manchester's Children's Services.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services referred to the main points and themes within the presentation which included:

- Information on Ofsted's new ILACS (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) Framework, which was implemented in 2018;
- Areas of focus for the ILACS;
- The process for an ILACS; and
- Planned activity during 2020/21.

The Committee recognised the progress that had been since the 2014 Ofsted inspection.

In response to a Member's question, the Deputy Director of Children's Services reported that the Signs of Safety model worked to build on a family's strengths but with a clear focus on risk, understanding the risks and the contribution of partners in ameliorating risk.

In response to a Member's question on Social Workers' workloads and the stability of the social work workforce, the Executive Member for Children and Schools advised the Committee that Ofsted had recognised that the Council was addressing this. He informed Members that money had been set aside in the budget for this and that further details would be included in a future report.

Decision

That the Committee will continue to monitor this work in the lead up to the next Ofsted inspection.

CYP/20/11 The Council's Updated Financial Strategy and Budget reports 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on the Council's overall financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process, including scrutiny of the budget proposals and budget report by this Committee.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also considered the Children and Education Services Budget 2020/21 which provided the final budget proposals following the contents of the provisional Local Government Settlement received late December 2019 and feedback from scrutiny committees during January 2020. In addition, the Committee received the School Budgets 2020/21 which provided a summary of the confirmed Dedicated School Grant (DSG) allocation from the 2020/21 settlement announced on 19 December 2019, and the budget allocation across individual school budgets and Council-retained schools budgets.

The proposed 2020/21 budget reflected the fact the Council had declared a climate emergency by making carbon reduction a key consideration in the Council's planning and budget proposals.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources outlined the national context within which the budget was being set, highlighting the significant decrease in funding to the Council since 2010.

The Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath highlighted the issue of homeless families being placed in temporary accommodation in a different area and who would fund transport to school, where it was in the child's interests to continue to attend their existing school. The Executive Member for Children and Schools outlined how Executive Members were working together to look at how services could be better co-ordinated to address homelessness and meet the needs of people who were homeless. He reported that he would also be meeting with the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services, the Director of Homelessness and

Deputy Leader Councillor Sue Murphy to consider how Children's Services and the Homelessness Service could work better together to support homeless families. He advised that he would take forward the issue raised by the Member. The Chair requested that the Committee receive a report at a future meeting on this area of work. A Member questioned whether a joint subgroup should be established with the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee to look at this issue in more detail. The Chair advised that he would not be recommending this at this time but that he would speak to the Chair of the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee about how best to scrutinise this subject.

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

- Educational Psychology including the overspend and the future commissioning arrangements;
- That the Troubled Families grant had recently been confirmed for a further year by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and was the Council prepared if this funding was not continued in future years; and
- That additional money had been allocated to the High Needs Block of the DSG but that this followed several years of the funding being frozen when the number of pupils in Manchester was increasing.

In response to points raised by Members in relation to fostering, adoption and residential placements, the Chair advised Members that these issues were regularly discussed at the Corporate Parenting Panel, which all Members were invited to attend, and that reports on these issues would also be considered at future Committee meetings.

The Director of Education informed Members that there had been an overspend on the Educational Psychology budget because of the increasing numbers of children with an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) and she outlined when Educational Psychology services were used in relation to EHCPs. She reported that the Council would be carrying out an open tender for Educational Psychology services. The Chair requested that the Committee receive a short note in a future Overview Report on the tendering process for the Educational Psychology service.

The Deputy Director of Children's Services reported that plans had been made to spend the Troubled Families funding which had recently been confirmed, stating that this work was well-evaluated, achieving good outcomes and providing value for money. The Head of Finance advised that this was a one-year budget and that, if no further funding was provided by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for this programme, the Council would need to make a decision in next year's budget process about what its priorities were.

Decisions

1. To agree the strategy outlined in the reports.
2. To request that the Committee receive a report on the work taking place to better co-ordinate services to support families, children and young people affected by homelessness.

3. To request a short note in a future Overview Report on the tendering process for the Educational Psychology service.

CYP/20/12 School Place Planning and Admissions

The Executive Member for Children and Schools outlined the process that was currently taking place regarding the proposal to close Newall Green High School, advising that this was not the Council's decision. He informed Members that the Council had written to the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Department for Education to oppose the closure. A copy of the letter that the Executive Member had written to the Regional Schools Commissioner was shared with the Committee.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools advised that closing Newall Green High School was not in the interests of the children at the school and their families and that there was not capacity elsewhere within the school system to accommodate all the children if this school did close. He informed Members that the Council had discussed with the Trust which ran the school some options to address the budget concerns which had led to their proposal to close the school. He reported that he was also awaiting a response from the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Members discussed their concerns at the proposed closure of the school, including concerns for the children and staff affected and that high schools in south Manchester were increasingly clustered around one area, with children in Wythenshawe having less local provision. A Member advised that, although a listening period was taking place, she felt as though a decision had already been made.

In response to a Member's question, the Executive Member for Children and Schools reported that the Council did not have any formal powers in relation to this decision but he outlined what the Council was doing to try to influence the decision, including lobbying at the highest level and meeting with the Trust to try to identify a solution.

The Chair recommended that the Committee endorse the letter which the Executive Member for Children and Schools had sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner, opposing the closure of the school.

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an update on school admissions for the academic year 2019/20 along with plans for creating additional capacity in response to forecast demand across primary and secondary schools. The report stated that investment in modern, energy efficient and high quality education infrastructure would drive reductions in carbon across the estate of schools.

The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 12 February 2020.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- School admission applications 2019/20;
- School population forecast;
- Approach to securing sufficient school places; and
- Actions to secure sufficient school places, including proposals for a new primary school and a new secondary school and the expansion of Dean Trust Ardwick.

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

- The geographical spread of schools, particularly the number of high schools in the West Didsbury and Chorlton area;
- The importance of taking into account future housing development when planning for school places;
- Whether maintained schools could still voluntarily convert to academies;
- Whether it was appropriate for International New Arrivals with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to initially be placed in a mainstream school while they were assessed; and
- The challenge for small schools expanding from one-form entry to two- or three-form entry.

The Director of Education reported that the Council wanted to have a good geographical spread of schools across the city but that it was challenging to identify suitable, available land across the city to build new schools, particularly high schools. She reported that her service worked with housing colleagues to understand future housing development and that this had been factored into the plans outlined in the report. She confirmed that maintained schools could still opt to become academies but that fewer schools were now choosing to do so. She advised that it was not always clear what level of assessment International New Arrivals with SEND had had and that sometimes once they were placed in a mainstream school, had had their needs assessed and had settled in this was the right setting for them; however, she advised that officers were reviewing arrangements for how best to quickly settle this group of children and get an understanding what their needs were. She acknowledged that it was a challenge for small schools to expand to two- or three-form entry but advised that the Council was able to offer them support through this.

In a response to a Member's question, the Head of Access advised that she would provide him with data on the number of school appeals and how many were successful.

Decisions

1. To record the Committee's opposition to the proposed closure of Newall Green High School and to endorse the letter which the Executive Member for Children and Schools has sent to the Regional Schools Commissioner
2. To endorse the recommendations to the Executive that they:
 1. Note the data relating to September 2019 admissions;

2. Note the pupil forecasts submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) during summer 2019;
3. Support the principle that Basic Need funding is used to fund the new high school and contribute towards the development of the city centre school;
4. Agree that the Council undertakes consultation to gather views on the plans to develop a new primary school in the city centre and a new secondary school in east Manchester as a first step towards identifying a provider for the new school; and
5. Delegate responsibility to the Director of Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services to:
 - progress the publication of a specification for each new school and invitations to sponsor based on the outcomes of the consultation.
 - Identify a preferred sponsor for each school to be recommended to the DfE.

CYP/20/13 Overview Report

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

A Member requested a response to the previous recommendation that further information be provided on the number of siblings who had been allocated places at different schools. The Head of Access confirmed that she would provide this.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2020

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair
Councillors Sameem Ali, Alijah, Cooley, Hewitson, T Judge, Kilpatrick, Lovecy, McHale, Madeleine Monaghan, Reeves, Reid, Sadler and Wilson

Co-opted Voting Members:

Ms Z Derraz, Parent Governor Representative
Ms S Barnwell, Parent Governor Representative
Mrs J Miles, Diocese of Salford Representative

Co-opted Non Voting Members:

Mr L Duffy, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools
Darren Parsonage, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)
Katy Calvin-Thomas, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO)
Nicola Marsden, MLCO
Karen Fishwick, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Apologies:

Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative
Ms J Fleet, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

CYP/20/14 Minutes

The Chair expressed his disappointment that the Department for Education (DfE) had agreed to the closure of Newall Green High School, noting that the Committee had opposed this. The Executive Member for Children and Schools reported that there had been a lot of local opposition to this and that the Council had opposed its closure. He informed Members that the Council had worked to develop an alternative proposal to save the school, including offering some additional investment, but had only received a response to its proposal after the decision had been announced. He reported that the Council was working to address the issues resulting from this decision, including finding new school places for affected pupils and looking at the pupils' transport needs. Members requested that an oral update on this be provided at the meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup on 18 March 2020 and that further information be provided at the Committee's meeting on 27 May 2020, to include how current Year 10 pupils, who would remain at the school, would be supported and the role of the academy trust in the lead up to this decision. The Chair requested that officers also keep him updated between these meetings. He advised that all Committee Members were welcome to attend the Ofsted Subgroup meeting on 18 March 2020.

Decisions

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020.
2. To request that the meeting of the Ofsted Subgroup on 18 March 2020 receive an oral update on work to address the issues arising from the decision to close Newall Green High School, including progress in finding new school places for the affected pupils.
3. To request that further information in relation to the decision to close Newall Green High School be provided to the Committee's meeting on 27 May 2020, to additionally include how current Year 10 pupils, who will remain at the school, will be supported and the role of the academy trust in the lead up to this decision.
4. To request that the Chair be kept updated between these meetings.

CYP/20/15 Annual Report on Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND)

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which set out in detail the legal and strategic context in which services were delivered to children with SEND, a profile/demography of need in Manchester and an outline of the advice, support and services that were available for children and their families. In addition, the report detailed how children and their families were influencing and shaping how agencies and services worked together so that Manchester City Council and its partners continually improved the experiences and outcomes of children with SEND. It reported that investment in modern, energy efficient and high quality education infrastructure would drive reductions in carbon across the estate of schools.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- Overall population with SEND;
- How parents'/carers' and children's and young people's views impacted on strategic decisions;
- The Local Offer;
- How an integrated transparent pathway allowed parents and young people to access services across education, health and social care;
- How children and young people with SEND had their needs met through excellent education, health and care services, jointly commissioned where appropriate;
- Preparing for Adulthood (PfA);
- Improved outcomes and standards across education and training; and
- The workforce.

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

- To recognise the good work taking place in this area;
- How parents could be assisted to obtain the right adaptations for their children;
- Transport, including travel training;
- That mainstream schools which had a reputation for providing high quality support to pupils with SEND attracted more pupils with SEND and that this could place additional budget pressures on the school, particularly where children did not yet have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP);
- The importance of early identification of SEND;
- That some children with SEND benefited from being in a special school which had high aspirations for them but that for most children, including those with moderate learning difficulties, being in an inclusive, mainstream school was the best option; and
- Support for young people once they left school, including support for a transition to adult social care and health services.

The SEND Lead informed Members about work taking place to streamline the assessment and provision of equipment for children with mobility needs, for use both at school and in the home, and advised that officers would be able to provide further information at a future meeting as this work progressed.

The SEND Lead informed Members that approximately 35 pupils per year received travel training through a contract with the Travel Training Partnership which gave them the skills to travel to school independently and also to travel for leisure activities, which the young people found valuable. She reported that some short break providers were also being asked to help young people to develop the skills to travel independently and that schools would be offered training on how to deliver travel training to pupils with SEND, to enable more pupils to benefit from this. The Director of Education informed Members that officers were in discussions with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) about improving transport for young people with SEND, including the issuing of concessionary passes, and that a meeting was being arranged between young people from the Changemakers group and TfGM so that the young people could raise their issues directly.

The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND informed the Committee that, if a school was facing financial challenges due to a high proportion of pupils with SEND, there was a mechanism for reviewing its funding, although she advised that there had only been one school so far where it had been considered appropriate to make adjustments to the budget.

The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND informed Members that information on work to identify children with SEND at the earliest stage was covered in the Early Years report which had also been submitted to the Committee. She reported that a key element of the new Inclusion Strategy was the identification of any SEND, particularly Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. Darren Parsonage from MHCC reported that girls tended to be better at hiding their needs, which might delay an autism diagnosis, but that the social communication pilot in south Manchester was identifying girls' needs earlier which would ensure they got the right support as soon as possible.

The Executive Member for Children and Schools highlighted the budget pressures which schools and councils were facing on a national level. He reported that the budget proposals due to be considered at the Budget Council meeting on 6 March 2020 included additional resources for the Statutory Assessment Team which dealt with EHCPs and that an additional £20 million had already been agreed to fund more special school places. The Chair advised Members that, although funding for the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant had been increased this year, this followed several years of under-funding, and that Members should continue to campaign for more funding.

A Member who was also a Parent Champion and a member of Manchester Parent Carer Forum outlined how parents of children with SEND were supporting each other and arranging activities where these were not already available in the local area. She advised the Committee that work was still ongoing and there was still room for improvement but that, as long as these issues were being discussed and parents were being included in these conversations, further progress could be made. The SEND Lead read out some comments from Jordan Navarro from Manchester Parent Carer Forum which recognised the multi-agency work taking place and the progress made so far to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. In his comments, he advised that there was a lot more work to be done but that he was confident that further progress would be made, working in collaboration with parents and carers.

The SEND Lead reported that the local authority and health services now had responsibility for supporting young people with SEND up to the age of 25. She informed Members that significant work was taking place with partners, including adult social services, health services and education, to improve the transition for young people who would require support into adulthood and ensure that they were able to have a good life as adults.

Decisions

1. To encourage Members to lobby the government for more funding for pupils with SEND.
2. To note that Ofsted inspection reports for special schools are being monitored through the Ofsted Subgroup.

[Samantha Barnwell declared a personal interest as a Parent Champion and a member of the steering group for the Manchester Parent Carer Forum.]

[Councillor Wilson declared a personal interest as a governor at Broad Oak Primary School.]

[Councillor Stone declared a personal interest as a governor at Manchester Secondary Pupil Referral Unit.]

CYP/20/16 Improving Children's Outcomes Through Collaboration and Working in Partnership in a Locality

The Committee received a presentation of Children's Services and Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) which provided an update on the development of the

Children's Services Locality Model and partnership working with the MLCO.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- Update on the Children's Services locality programme;
- Partnership working with MLCO;
- The Smoke Free Family pilot;
- Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and the opportunity for a future partnership pilot in relation to this; and
- Next steps.

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

- To welcome the presentation and the work taking place;
- Venues within the community which could be used to engage with people, including the role of Sure Start Centres and the benefits of the co-location of different services;
- The role that schools and ward co-ordination could play in this work;
- The impact of smoking on health;
- That marijuana and shisha smoking were also issues of concern, not only tobacco smoking;
- That it was important to focus on and review how successful the work was in accessing hard-to-reach groups; and
- Smoking outside of hospitals, including hospitals providing facilities for smokers.

The Strategic Head of Early Help thanked Members for their comments, stating that they would be taken into account. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services described the three phase approach to this work, starting with work within the Council on Early Years and Early Help, then collaboration and partnerships and finally looking at leadership, governance and accountability arrangements, which he suggested the Committee might want to consider at a future meeting. He also suggested that the appropriate scrutiny committee might want to look at the licensing issues relating to shisha smoking.

Katy Calvin-Thomas from the MLCO informed the Committee that Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust was working hard to prevent smoking on its sites and to encourage and support people to stop smoking. She offered to provide further information on how the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust was dealing with smoking around its hospital sites, to which the Chair agreed. The Executive Member for Children and Schools advised Members that he would circulate a briefing note on work that was already taking place to address smoking in pregnancy.

Katy Calvin-Thomas reported that many adult health services were co-located with social care, mental health services and the Voluntary and Community Sector and that, as many parents were users of these services, they were looking into how this could be joined up with the work relating to children and families.

Decisions

1. To request further information on how the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust is dealing with smoking around its hospital sites and to note that the Executive Member for Children and Schools will circulate a briefing note on work that is already taking place to address smoking in pregnancy.
2. To request an update in 12 months' time on both the Smoke Free Family pilot project and how the wider work is being expanded.
3. To encourage Members to discuss these issues through their Ward Co-ordination meetings.

CYP/20/17 Early Years Service

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an update on the strategic and operational priorities in relation to Early Years.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- LGA Early Years Peer Review;
- Overview of Early Years Quality Assurance arrangements;
- Early Outcomes Fund;
- Performance and outcomes for the Healthy Child Programme and the Early Years Delivery Model (EYDM);
- Ages and Stages (ASQ3) Results;
- Communication and Language Pathway;
- Parenting Pathway;
- Planned evaluation of the EYDM;
- Summary of key Early Years outcomes; and
- Forward plan and priorities.

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

- To recognise the positive outcomes from the LGA Early Years Peer Review;
- To encourage Members to attend the meetings of the Ofsted Subgroup, which considered Ofsted inspection reports for early years settings;
- Concern about children who were not receiving adequate support and whose families were not engaging with early years services; and
- That training sessions were currently being delivered on Adverse Childhood Experiences and to encourage other Committee Members to arrange to attend if they had not already done so.

The Strategic Head of Early Help advised Members that the Sure Start Centres provided both universal services and a targeted offer and that they had skilled Outreach Workers working to engage with families who were not accessing services.

She reported that a Greater Manchester project called Data Analytics aimed to identify at an earlier stage which children were not on course to be school ready and outlined the approach which would be taken to improve school readiness, advising that further information could be provided at a future meeting as this work developed.

Nicola Marsden from MLCO drew Members' attention to the improvement in the uptake of the Developmental Assessments over the previous 12 months. She reported that the number of Health Visitor vacancies had reduced from 19 to 8 since September 2019 and that additional nursery nurses and administrative resources had been employed to support this work. She advised Members that take-up of the Developmental Assessments was being improved through providing assessments in the child's home and on Saturdays, improving the quality of their data and publicising the assessments through a range of settings including Sure Start Centres and GPs' surgeries. Karen Fishwick from Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust outlined how her service identified and engaged with families whose children had not had their Developmental Assessments, including through their Missed Appointment Policy, through referrals from other health services and through outreach work.

Decision

To receive an update report in 12 months' time and to note that aspects of this work will also be monitored through other reports on the Committee's work programme.

CYP/20/18 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.

Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020

Present:

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair
Councillors Azra Ali, Butt, Flanagan, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lynch, Razaq, Sadler, Whiston, White and Wright

Apologies: Councillors Appleby and Lyons

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport
Jonny Sadler, Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency
Dr Chris Jones, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research

NESC/20/10 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2020 as a correct record.

NESC/20/11 Updated Financial Strategy and Budget Reports 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on the Council's overall financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process, including scrutiny of the budget proposals and budget report by this Committee.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also considered the Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget Report 2020/21 that provided a further updated Neighbourhoods medium term financial plan, and budget proposals for 2020/21. The report had been updated in order to reflect feedback from the January round of scrutiny meetings on the original draft proposals.

The Committee also considered the updated Homelessness Budget 2020/21 report that had been produced to reflect feedback from Members at their meeting of 8 January 2020, the outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and other government funding notifications. It further set out the Directorate's budget proposals and strategy for 2020/21.

The proposed 2020/21 budget would reflect the fact the Council had declared a climate emergency by making carbon reduction a key consideration in the Council's planning and budget proposals.

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

- Information was sought on the charging policy and car parks;
- Information was sought on how the revenue collected from bus lane fines was allocated;
- Was there any intention to continue co-locating staff from the Housing Benefit Team within the Homelessness Team to assist in maximising residents' entitlement to Housing Benefit;
- A holistic approach was required between Children's' Services and the Homelessness Department to adequately fund transport arrangements to enable families and their children to continue to attend their school when placed out of area in temporary accommodation; and
- The funding arrangements from central government provided to support homeless people were not consistent and were often short term which could result in services being vulnerable.

Officers responded by advising that information on the charging policy and car parks would be provided following this meeting to Members and the revenue from bus lane fines was ring fenced.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources acknowledged the comment regarding adequately funding transport arrangements to enable families and their children to continue to attend their school when placed out of area in temporary accommodation. He stated that he would address this with officers, the Executive Member for Children and Schools and the Deputy Leader with responsibility for homelessness.

The Strategic Lead, Homelessness stated that they continued to lobby government for adequate, long term funding to support homeless people and she confirmed that the strategic vision was to use temporary accommodation within the city where possible, rather than out of area. Officers commented that the specific budget cost of temporary accommodation, whether in Manchester or out of area was approximately the same; however, they acknowledged a comment from a Member that there were additional budget costs associated with out of area placements, such as travel to school as discussed.

The Chair stated that she welcomed the work of the homelessness team to support some of the most vulnerable people across the city. She stated that the response to the issue of homelessness should be system wide, including health partners, children's and adults' services and population health. She further supported services and teams co-locating to support homeless families, such as early years' services.

Decision

The Committee recommend that their comments be submitted for consideration by the Executive at their meeting of 12 February 2020.

NESC/20/12 Climate Change

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on progress to develop the city-wide and Council

plans to address climate change, noting that the Manchester Climate Change Partnership and Agency had developed information to support organisations in Manchester to play their full part in achieving the commitment for the city as a whole to adopt a carbon budget of 15 million tonnes of CO₂ between 2018 and 2100. This would require a year-on-year reduction of at least 13%, emissions to be halved within five years, and lead to the city becoming zero carbon by 2038 at the latest.

The Committee received a progress update on the development of the city-wide Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25, and Tyndall Centre review of targets and the draft Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 for consideration and comment.

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

- Concern was expressed about the Council's scrutiny process for agreeing the proposed targets and agreeing an action plan for the City Council, in particular given the commitment to an open and transparent process. Clarification was sought as to the decision making process and the level of scrutiny;
- Reiterating the need for immediate action to reduce the city's CO₂ emissions;
- What additional resources had been allocated to support this activity following the declaration of the Climate Emergency motion;
- What contingency plans were in place to mitigate the withdrawal of European funding;
- How did Manchester compare to other cities, both nationally and internationally in its response to climate change;
- Members and residents needed to be confident that the Council was responding to the issue of climate change and taking all of the actions available to it;
- Information on what the Council had been doing to address climate change needed to be reported so progress could be measured against this;
- Concern was expressed regarding the extraction of chemicals used in LED lighting and batteries and enquired if this was ethically sourced;
- The Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 needed to measure carbon reduction in tonnes so as to align with the decision to adopt a carbon budget and to assist with the monitoring of progress;
- A more ambitious plan for the planting of trees needed to be implemented;
- Emissions from the aviation industry needed to be addressed;
- Planning policy should be used to promote more sustainable journeys to and from the airport; and
- The importance of engaging with young people on the issue of climate change, including using faith and other community based groups.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport responded to the question regarding the decision making process. She informed the Members that the Executive would be invited to formally adopt the science-based targets in line with the Paris Agreement and endorse the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 framework on behalf of the City and approve the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 at their meeting of 11 March 2020.

Members recommended that the Committee have an opportunity to scrutinise the

reports that were to be considered by the Executive at their March meeting and any comments and formal recommendations that arose were to be forwarded to the Executive for consideration.

Dr Jones, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research informed the Members that they had reported their findings to the Climate Change Subgroup in January and that based on current scientific analysis the draft recommendations and key points in regard to direct emissions were for Manchester to retain the existing 15 MtCO₂ carbon budget; to revisit carbon budgets in five years or in response to a new scientific synthesis report; focus on above 13% per annum reduction rate and meeting interim budgets; noting that delays in achieving the 13% per annum reductions would require higher reduction rates in subsequent years; noting that in relation to a date to become zero carbon, this was determined by historic emissions and the reduction rate then required in future years to stay within the 15m tonne budget i.e. the zero carbon date would change if the 13% average annual reduction target was not met; and that in relation to the potential 2030 zero carbon date, insufficient detail had been provided to enable Tyndall to analyse whether or not this was in line with the latest science.

Mr Sadler, Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency stated that the draft city-wide Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25 set out how the city as a whole needed to play its full part in tackling climate change, to ensure that Manchester stayed within its carbon budget of 15 MtCO₂. He described that this strategy had been informed by the current science on climate change. He stated that this overarching strategy for the city would have bespoke action plans sat beneath them for different organisations and sectors. He stated that whilst the need to respond to climate change was recognised by partner organisations, and a range of plans and actions had been implemented, the challenge now for the city was to significantly scale up this activity over the next five years. He stated that he welcomed the opportunity to hear the comments and feedback from Members on how the Agency could best work with the Committee and Members on climate change.

Mr Sadler, Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency informed the Members that Manchester was represented at the Core Cities Network and European Networks, and would continue to do so. He described that this provided an opportunity to influence and learn from other cities on this important issue. Dr Jones, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research stated that Manchester was pioneering in regard to adopting a carbon budget for the city and other cities they were working with were looking to adopt a similar model. In regard to the issue of emissions from the aviation industry he stated that the current work being undertaken by the Tyndall Centre would develop recommendations on next steps, and likely to identify the next stage of work needed.

Mr Sadler, Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency acknowledged the comment regarding the importance of engaging with young people on the issue of climate change and he made reference to the success of the Youth Climate Action Summit that had taken place 17 January 2020. He informed Members that the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board were seeking to appoint a Youth Climate Action Champion and the Manchester Climate Change Partnership were seeking to

appoint a schools' representative to join the Partnership.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer acknowledged the comment on the need for urgent action on this issue. She stated that a significant amount of work had already been implemented, including the delivery of the Civic Quarter Heat Network project and embedding low carbon and energy efficiency measures within the Council's annual maintenance programme and general estates management. In regard to funding, she described that climate change considerations were embedded into decisions and practices across the Council. She described that the Capital Strategy would focus more on prioritising investment in areas that would support delivery of the zero carbon ambitions. She said that the Council would continue to seek and lobby for additional external funding in order to escalate this activity, and to work with its partner organisations to assist with this work. She stated that consideration would be given as to how this activity could be reported.

In response to the question regarding the extraction of chemicals used in the production of LED lighting and batteries, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that a briefing note would be circulated to Members of the Committee following the meeting.

The Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships informed the Committee that Neighbourhoods Directorate were leading on the issue of climate change at a neighbourhood level for the Council, and Neighbourhood Team Officers underwent carbon literacy training during November and December 2019 and that the programme of training would continue to be rolled out, with 800 staff currently trained.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport stated that the government had failed to recognise or adequately understand the issue of climate change which was evidenced through the lack of appropriate funding and powers provided to local authorities to address this issue. She said the despite this, the Council recognising the importance of the issue and was committed to working in partnership and collaboratively with local partners to respond to the issue of climate change. She reiterated the importance of delivering improvements in emissions over the next five years. She further commented that everybody had responsibility to respond to the climate emergency.

Decisions

The Committee: -

1. Note the reports and thanked the representatives from the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research for attending the meeting.
2. Recommend that the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25 be amended to report targets in metrics of tonnes CO₂ to align with the decision to adopt a science based carbon budget and assist with measuring progress against this budget.

3. Recommend that the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport produce quarterly progress reports to report progress against the carbon budget target.

NESC/20/13 Planning Conditions and Enforcement

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director Development that provided information requested relating to a number of planning related matters principally around the use and enforcement of planning conditions.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- Information on planning conditions;
- The approach to enforcement action, including case studies;
- The monitoring of developments, including case studies;
- Data on the number of complaints investigated by the compliance team in the last 5 years;
- Conditions involving trees and open space, including case studies;
- Information on the number of complaints received specifically in relation to trees;
- Information on how the Planning Service worked with the Highway Authority and Social Providers; and
- A summary of the legal framework within which the planning system must operate.

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

- Information was sought in regard to who complaints, especially relating to construction should be directed to;
- Noting the low number of complaints relating to trees and commenting that these were relatively low;
- Further information was requested in relation to the work undertaken with housing providers and the importance of keeping local Members informed of developments;
- Consideration needed to be given to the impact of developments on residents and neighbourhoods, in particular the ability to deliver neighbourhood services such as bin collection; footpath closure and appropriate signage;
- Further information was sought on enforcement and the criteria applied to the public interest test;
- Did the city receive any compensation for road closures incurred as a result of private developments;
- What was the response to developers not complying with, or requesting removal of conditions, particularly in regarding to landscaping and green space;
- Members stated that information relating to planning being available in conservation areas, including providing information to local estate agents.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing acknowledged the comment regarding the surprisingly low number of complaints relating to trees and confirmed

that these were accurate. She stated that the Planning Department worked with social housing providers at all levels during development and acknowledged that dialogue with local Members had not always been consistent and this would be addressed.

In reference to the issue of construction, the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that many applications would require a Construction Management Plan that sought to mitigate disruption in the area. She advised that a virtual team was being established with officers from across a range of services, including the Highways Department to respond to any issues or complaints that may arise.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that an application to have a planning condition removed or varied would have to be submitted and due consideration given, however these applications were relatively low. She stated that if Members had specific concerns regarding conditions not being adhered to they should notify her and these would be investigated. She stated the local planning authority had powers to enforce breaches of planning control, adding that typically where formal notices were issued the compliance period is a minimum of 28 days, however each case would be considered to ensure the most appropriate and expedient action was taken to address any specific issue. In regard to the issue of the public interest test, the legal officer informed Members that there was no specific legal definition, however guidance relating to this was provided by the Crown Prosecution Service.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that the local Neighbourhood Teams were proactive in local areas, including conservation areas and were a source of intelligence. She further informed Members that permission was currently being sought from the relevant Secretary of State to obtain legal powers to control the use of 'To Let' signs which were causing issues in parts of the city.

The Head of Network Management informed Members that the Council did not receive any payment by way of compensation when roads were closed when developments were being built. He described that the Highways Department worked with developers and contractors at pre application stage to understand and mitigate where possible the need for road closure, such as installing temporary traffic lights as an alternative to road closure and to ensure the sites and immediate area were safe. With reference to the comment regarding signage, he stated that this would always be asked for and if issues did arise officers would seek to address this.

Decision

The Committee recommend that the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport work together to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the disruption to residents and services delivered in neighbourhoods that result from building construction.

**NESC/20/14 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - The Executive
Member for Environment, Planning & Transport**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Member for the Environment, Planning and Transport that provided an overview of work undertaken, and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within the Executive Member's portfolio.

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

- Welcoming the reported repairs to over 40,000 highway defects, cleansing of over 100,000 gullies and around 7,000 drainage repairs undertaken;
- Requesting an update on the Public Cycle Hire Scheme;
- Was the work completed on the Manchester and Salford Inner relief route (Regent Road) as reported;
- Recognising the importance of climate change, all Executive Members needed to be explicit in how they would address this through their associated portfolio;
- Ward Plans needed to address climate change and support this activity; and
- Recognising the importance of promoting walking and cycling and the need to invest in schemes and improve footpath conditions and crossings.

With regard to the Public Cycle Hire Scheme, the Executive Member for the Environment, Planning and Transport responded by stating that Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was currently tendering this scheme, building on lessons learnt and it was expected that the approved scheme would be launched later this year.

She reported that there was a snag list relating to the Manchester and Salford Inner relief route (Regent Road) works following completion of the major works that were currently being addressed by the contractor.

In respect of ward plans, the Executive Member for the Environment, Planning and Transport stated that some wards were further developed and detailed in relation to climate change and she would encourage Members to share good practice to build on this. She further confirmed that all Executive Members recognised the importance of climate change and did work together, across their remits to address this.

In regard to improving walking and cycling the Executive Member for the Environment, Planning and Transport acknowledged the importance of this. She stated that the city was committed to improving this and said that she was working with colleagues in TfGM to access the Greater Manchester Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund to support this. She further commented that the introduction and development of the Bee Network would further support alternative methods of transport and influence behaviour change. She stated that as this progressed local Members would be kept informed.

Decision

To note the report.

NESC/20/15 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods that provided an overview of work undertaken, and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within the Executive Member's portfolio.

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

- Recognising improvements in the number incidents of flytipping;
- Were officers working in Neighbourhood Teams engaged with the climate change agenda; and
- Welcoming improvement in recycling rates and how this could continue to improve.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods informed the Committee that he regularly visited and met with staff working within Neighbourhood Teams and he confirmed that they were all passionate and committed to engaging and working with local communities to support climate change.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods further commented at least one of the grants available to each ward through the Neighbourhood Investment Funds each year should be used to deliver a climate change themed project.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods welcomed the comment from the Member who described that he had witnessed a reduction in flytipping, however stated this would continue to be closely monitored and action taken against any person responsible for this. In response to a request for further detail on how the additional investment had been used to address flytipping in the city, he referred Members to the waste report that had been considered by the Committee at their meeting of 9 October 2019 and the compliance and enforcement report submitted to the meeting of 4 December 2019.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods commented that improvements in recycling rates continued to improve and work to build in this this continued, noting that the introduction of new communal container bins should support this activity. He further commented that all planning application were required to provide an appropriate waste management plan. He further recognised the importance of engaging with schools and young people around the issues of climate change and recycling to influence long term behaviour change.

Decision

To note the report.

NESC/20/16 Overview Report

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

A Member requested that both the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Licensing Committee be invited to attend the March meeting during consideration of the item on Taxi Licensing. The Scrutiny Support Officer confirmed that an invitation on behalf of the Committee would be sent.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and approves the work programme.

Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2020

Present:

Councillor Appleby – in the Chair
Councillors Azra Ali, Butt, Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lynch, Lyons, Razaq, Sadler, Whiston, White and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Igbon

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport
Councillor Richards, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration
Councillor Sheikh, Assistant Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport
Councillor Grimshaw, Deputy Chair of the Licensing Committee
Councillor Midgley, Assistant Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration
Jonny Sadler, Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency
Mike Simpson, Head of Growth, One Manchester
Judy Noah, Head of Development, One Manchester

NESC/20/17 Appointment of a Chair

In the absence of Councillor Igbon, a nomination was sought for the Chair of the meeting. Councillor Appleby was nominated and seconded.

Decision

To appoint Councillor Appleby as Chair of this meeting.

NESC/20/18 Minutes

Decisions

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020 as a correct record.
2. To receive the minutes of the Climate Change Subgroup meeting of the 23 January 2020.

NESC/20/19 Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that described that in November 2018, the Council's Executive had agreed to establish a science-based carbon reduction target for Manchester, which required

the city as a whole to adopt a carbon budget of 15 million tonnes of CO₂ between 2018 and 2100. This would require a year-on-year reduction of at least 13%, emissions to be halved within five years, and lead to the city becoming zero carbon by 2038 at the latest.

In March 2019 the Council's Executive endorsed the Manchester Zero Carbon Framework 2020-38, as the city's outline approach to meeting its targets, as proposed by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership.

The Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- Introducing the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25, Our strategy towards making Manchester a thriving, zero carbon, climate resilient city;
- Describing the key principles and approach to developing the framework;
- Noting that the Framework included ambitions regarding aviation CO₂ emissions and indirect emissions;
- Describing the four objectives that need to be met by 2025;
- Describing the Our Vision for 2025;
- Noting the consequence if the objectives were not met in 2020-25;
- Detailing the urgent actions to be taken to meet our commitments;
- An overview of the governance and partnership arrangements;
- Describing how progress was to be measured and reported;
- Information on how the framework would be reviewed to ensure it was current and up to date;
- Information on how Manchester would work with other cities; and
- A summary of the action plans to be taken by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership during 2020-25.

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

- Welcoming the Framework and noting that it was every citizens' responsibility, both locally, nationally and internationally to take actions to address climate change;
- Welcoming the inclusion of aviation CO₂ emissions and requesting an update on the Agency's discussions with Manchester Airport in due course;
- Welcoming recent announcements regarding the introduction of green buses in Manchester;
- Calling upon the Government to recognise the importance of the climate emergency and fund local authorities appropriately to respond to the issue;
- Noting that the Government had failed to respond to the Clean Air Plan submission;
- In regard to new builds, consideration needed to be given to sourcing local materials; and
- Welcoming the partnership approach and what was being done to engage with other sectors to build upon this model.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport stated that Manchester would continue to work with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to

deliver cleaner, carbon free public transport. She stated that the Clean Air Plan had been submitted to the Government over ten months ago, however no response had been received to date. She described that despite this, Manchester would continue to work with partners to understand and deliver this important work and reiterated the call for appropriate funding from Government to scale up this activity.

The Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency addressed the comments regarding sourcing local materials by commenting that this needed to be considered in the context of understanding and mitigating indirect emissions. He described that developers were beginning to recognise and respond to the climate emergency, noting that Bruntwood who own, let and manage buildings, workspace and science facilities were members of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership. He further made reference to the UK Green Building Council that was established to radically improve the sustainability of the built environment, by transforming the way it was planned, designed, constructed, maintained and operated.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport commented that the Council would seek to influence building developments by using Planning Policy to raise the environmental standards of new builds and commented that a report was to be considered by the Executive at their meeting of 11 March 2020 that provided a context to how planning would support the Councils ambitions on climate change.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer informed the Members that climate change would be considered in all decisions taken by the Council and would be central to the Local Plan refresh.

The Programme Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency stated that the Partnership would continue to engage with the Airport regarding aviation CO₂ emissions and an update on this would be provided to the Committee at an appropriate time. He further stated that the Partnership would continue to engage with other sectors and key organisations across this city to promote and escalate this work.

Decisions

The Committee;

1. Note of the Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-25
2. Endorse the recommendations that Executive:
 1. Formally adopt the Manchester Climate Change Framework's aim, vision, objectives and targets as the definition of what Manchester needs to achieve in order to 'play its full part in limiting the impacts of climate change';
 2. On behalf of the city, endorse the Manchester Climate Change Framework as Manchester's high-level strategy for achieving the aim, vision, objectives and targets; and
 3. Deliver the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan for the

period 2020-25 in order to contribute towards the successful implementation of the citywide Framework.

**NESC/20/20 Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan
2020-25**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that described the actions which would achieve a 50% reduction in the Council's direct CO₂ emissions between 2020 and 2025, as well as the enabling and influencing actions which will support the city's zero carbon ambitions.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- The Plan made a number of specific commitments;
- A summary of the estimated savings which would need to be achieved over the next 5 years;
- The different roles the Council had including enabling and influencing, reducing direct emissions and reducing indirect emissions;
- Noting that additional revenue and capital funding had been identified to respond to the 10 July 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration and to deliver the Plan;
- Presenting the table of actions;
- A summary of climate change research and insight;
- A summary of the second Youth Climate Action Summit that took place on the 17 January 2020; and
- A Summary of policy and funding asks of Greater Manchester and government.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport commented that following feedback from the Committee, the plan had been updated to include saving metrics in tonnes, a quarterly update against the actions would be produced and an annual carbon savings report would be produced. She further thanked Members and Officers for their work in bringing this plan together.

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

- Noting the risk to future European funding arrangements;
- Local events and meetings on the issue of climate change should be organised across all wards to engage with local residents;
- Welcoming the Plan as presented and noting the inclusion of metrics in tonnes;
- Further information was sought on the Phase 2 Carbon Reduction Plan for the Council's operational estate;
- What was being done to understand the condition of housing stock within the Private Rented Sector;
- The approach to planting new trees; and
- Had there been a skills audit undertaken to ensure the correct work force was available or trained to deliver this agenda.

In response to the comments expressed regarding future European funding arrangements the Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships informed the Committee that confirmation was still required regarding future access to Horizon 2020 funding. He described that work continued with other Core Cities and Euro cities to understand the options for future funding streams to support this activity. In response to the other comments he stated that the Private Rented Sector was a diverse housing sector and the proposed stock condition survey was proposed to provide a better understanding of this sector. In response to the issue of trees, he stated that the challenge would be to accurately record the numbers of new trees planted, especially if they were planted on private land. He further commented that the Council had a Tree Action Plan and that a Tree Opportunity Mapping assessment would inform the planting to ensure that the appropriate species of trees were planted.

The Head of Corporate Estate and Facilities provided an overview of the anticipated activities relating to Phase 2 of the actions to reduce CO₂ emissions from the Council's operational estate by a further 50% reduction between 2025 and 2030. He informed Members that they would be kept informed of this work as this developed.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer described that there were many positive examples of resident engagement around the issue of climate change and ward plans would incorporate climate change actions.

In response to the question regarding a skills audit across the city to deliver the climate change agenda, the Chair informed the Committee that the Economy Scrutiny Committee had considered this item at a recent meeting and requested that the Scrutiny Support Officer circulate those reports to the Members for information. The Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships stated that the Work and Skills Board oversaw this activity and that a 'Skills for a Zero Carbon Economy' subgroup had been established.

The Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport reiterated the importance of delivering actions and reducing emissions in the next five years. She stated Manchester had developed an ambitious, informed and visionary plan for the next five years to respond to the climate emergency. She stated that the government had failed to respond adequately to the climate emergency and she called upon the government to establish a dedicated Climate Emergency Budget to support Manchester and other local authorities to respond to climate change.

The Chair advised that updates on the Action Plan would continue to be received by the Committee and the Climate Change Subgroup would continue to monitor specific aspects of the action plan in further detail.

Decisions

The Committee;

1. Note of the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25.
2. Endorse the recommendations that Executive:

1. Adopt the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25.
2. Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport, to update and amend the action plan as necessary. Future editions of the action plan to be reported to the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee and published on the Council's website at: www.manchester.gov.uk/zerocarbon

NESC/20/21 Taxi Licensing and Work across Greater Manchester

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) that provided the Committee with information on the work undertaken in Manchester and across Greater Manchester (GM) to improve standards across Private Hire Taxis.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- Providing contextual and background information with key information regarding current issues affecting the regulation of Taxis and Private Hire Licences in the City;
- Manchester's processes and standards;
- Information on the GM Minimum Licensing Standards;
- The approach to improving Clean Air through vehicle emissions standards and the Clean Taxi Fund; and
- How Manchester was working with GM colleagues and the trades to meet the challenges and strive to improve standards.

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

- Supporting the intention for all GM standards to be raised to match that of Manchester;
- What was the anticipated timescale for introducing a standard policy across GM;
- Noting that the Manchester standards were designed to protect public safety;
- Supported the call for a reform of national legislation to improve standards nationally;
- What was the rationale for the different age limits for hackney vehicles compared to private hire vehicles and what funding was available for vehicle scrappage schemes;
- The compliance team needed to focus their attention on areas around the airport following complaints of antisocial behaviour by non-Manchester licensed private hire drivers;
- Were there delays in issuing licenses due to DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks;
- Had consideration been given to using accredited garages as test centres for vehicles;

- Could conditions be introduced to address vehicle idling.

The Licensing Unit Manager stated that she was aware of the issues regarding drivers' behaviour around the airport area articulated by the local ward Member. She advised that she would continue to liaise with the local Neighbourhood Teams to seek to address the issues described. She stated that she would encourage residents observing any anti social behaviour to report the details to the home licensing authority as Manchester could not enforce against drivers from out of the area. The Chair asked if consideration could be given to having enforcement officers visible to deter drivers as residents may not feel comfortable in tackling drivers.

The Deputy Chair of the Licensing Committee stated that he would speak with the Members outside of the meeting to discuss specific concerns.

The Licensing Unit Manager informed the Members that a consultation exercise on the proposals to standardise the conditions across GM would be undertaken in June 2020 and this would include proposals to address vehicle idling. She stated that Executive Members and lead officers across GM were in support of the proposals to raise standards, however a change in government policy was required to raise standards nationally. She further advised that DBS checks usually took between two and three weeks to be returned, but on occasion these could take longer and informed the Committee that this process was not in the control of the Council. In regard to vehicle testing centres and using alternative accredited garages she advised that the in-house facility was satisfactory and there were no delays in offering retests. She advised that the tests provided by the in-house offer was of a higher standard to the MOT test and enabled the monitoring of the quality and consistency of the testing to be undertaken. In response to a question regarding the decision taken in London to suspend UBER's licence, she advised that this situation was continuously reviewed in Manchester.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods stated the difference in the vehicle age criteria was in recognition that Private Hire Vehicles were on the road for longer periods and Hackney Carriage vehicles were approximately five times more expensive than a Private Hire vehicle. He further commented that Manchester was still awaiting a response from Government regarding the proposals to fund a clean taxi scheme.

Decision

To note the report.

NESC/20/22 Private Rented Sector Strategy 2020-2025

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director Growth and Development) that provided the committee with a progress update on the Market Rental Strategy and sets out the key themes for a draft Private Rented Sector (PRS) strategy for the city.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- Providing a background and context of the private rented sector, both nationally and locally;
- An overview of the interventions delivered via the Market Rental Strategy 2015-20;
- Information on the approach to reviewing the strategy, including feedback from both renters and landlords;
- An overview of the Private Rented Sector Strategy 2020-2025, noting that the refreshed strategy would continue to focus on the areas that were most challenging, targeting resources to improve housing outcomes for some of our most vulnerable residents;
- The approach to short term lettings;
- Information on a range of Greater Manchester (GM) Initiatives;
- Strategic themes;
- The approach to delivering zero carbon and retrofitting properties;
- The approach to fire safety; and
- Next steps.

To supplement the report, the Committee received a presentation that further described the activities listed above. It further provided information on the place-based partnership work with Registered Providers and the One Manchester intervention rationale, that included using Affordable Housing Programme grant to acquire further homes from the private sector for refurbishment at an affordable rent (at Local Housing Allowance levels) and shared ownership options.

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

- Had there been any update following the Government's consultation on the use of Section 21 notices (Notice to Quit);
- Supporting the work to address empty properties;
- What work was being done to address short term lets;
- What was the approach to signposting tenants to obtain advice and information on their rights;
- How many improvement or compliance notices had been issued to private landlords outside of the designated Selective Licensing areas; and
- What training was offered to private landlords.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration stated that despite reference being made to Section 21s in the Queen's speech, to date no further details had been made known and she was not confident that the Government had any intention to protect tenants in the PRS from unfair evictions. She further advised that work was ongoing with the Communications Team to promote sources of advice and information for tenants in the PRS.

The Interim Director for Housing and Residential Growth informed the Members that the Private Rented Sector Strategy 2020-2025 would seek to address the issue of empty properties and short term lets.

The Neighbourhood Manager, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Housing stated that training had been delivered to landlords, that included information on property standards and the intention was to develop and deliver this training further. In response to the specific question regarding the number of notices issued outside of designated Selective Licensing areas, she stated this information would be circulated following the meeting.

Decision

To note the report.

NESC/20/23 Update on Selective Licensing Schemes

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided a review of the four Selective Licensing schemes, commenting on their effectiveness to date and made a recommendation to consider further schemes.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration referred to the main points and themes within the report which included: -

- Providing an overview of selective licensing, the legislative framework and the criteria used for introducing these in locations;
- Progress to date across all four Selective Licensing schemes in Manchester;
- Information on enforcement activity, including those issued to address poor property conditions;
- Analysis of the impact to date to address issues such as anti social behaviour and flytipping;
- Providing case studies and feedback from residents;
- Lessons learned; and
- Considerations for further Selective Licensing Schemes.

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

- Recognising the improvements that had been achieved in the designated selective licensing areas;
- Was there enough capacity with the teams to undertake inspections and engage with landlords;
- When would Selective Licensing be introduced in other areas of the city; and
- Was the register of licensed properties publicly available, similar to that of the Houses in Multiple Occupation register.

The Neighbourhood Manager, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Housing informed the Committee that lessons learnt from current schemes would be used to inform any future schemes. She stated that she had no concerns regarding the delivery of enforcement work, adding that compliance inspections were a means to identify issues with properties and to then take positive action on behalf of tenants. She added that the team were always seeking opportunities to engage with private landlords to raise standards within the PRS. She further stated that the register of licensed properties was publicly available.

The Head of Community Safety, Compliance and Enforcement explained that currently legislation allowed for 20% of privately rented homes in the local authority to be subject to Selective Licensing. She said that consideration could be given to further schemes beyond the next phase as long as this was kept within the 20% limit and would welcome Members comments and local knowledge on future proposed schemes. Adding that as part of the formal process, any proposed new areas would be subject to public consultation.

Decisions

To note the report.

NESC/20/24 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 Members would be holding a Work Programming session in May to inform the Committee's work programme for the new municipal year.

Decision

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

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6 February 2020

Present: Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors: Abdullatif, Hacking, Johns, Noor, Raikes, Shilton Godwin and Stanton

Apologies: Councillor Green and K Simcock

Also present: Councillors: Leese and Richards

ESC/20/7 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5 December 2019 as a correct record.

ESC/20/8 Minutes of the District Centres Sub Group

Decision

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on the 28 November 2019 as a correct record.

ESC/20/9 The Council's Updated Financial Strategy and Budget reports 2020/21

Further to Minute ESC/20/02, the Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided a further update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also received the Growth and Development medium term financial plan (MTFP) and budget proposals for 2020/21.

The Committee was invited to consider and make recommendations on the budget proposals which were within the remit of the Committee prior to their submission to the Executive on 12 February 2020.

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

- Members welcomed that additional investment in district markets had been allocated within the updated budget proposals;
- There was a lack of information within the budget proposals around equality, diversity and inclusion and an assurance was sought that this would be an area of focus; and
- Further information was asked for in relation to the additional income stream that the installation of solar panels on Northwards properties generated for the Council.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) clarified that as part of the suite of reports that were being submitted to the Executive, there would be a separate report analysing the Equality Impact Assessment of the 2020/21 budget across the whole Council

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration advised that further work was being done to look at Northwards housing in terms of zero carbon ambitions and part of this was around energy supply into the properties and the energy usage. Due to the success of the previous installation of the solar panels, this would be considered more broadly across the Council's housing stock. She added however, that in addressing zero carbon with, initial assessments for the retrofitting of Northwards properties would cost in excess of £200m to carry out the works. She advised that further work would need to be undertaken to understand how this cost could be absorbed but commented that fundamentally a commitment had been made to look at the retrofitting of this housing stock.

The Leader advised that in terms of non-council housing stock, in the first instance making it zero carbon or recusing carbon emissions would have a cost rather than an income. He advised that this was highlighted in the Manchester Climate Change Update report which was going to the Executive on 12 February and had also been considered at Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday 5 February.

Decision

The Committee recommends that their comments be submitted for consideration by the Executive at their meeting on 12 February 2020

ESC/20/10 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - Update from the Leader

The Committee considered the report of the Leader of the Council, which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities, as set out in the Our Manchester strategy, for those areas within his portfolio.

The Chair invited Dr Marc Hudson from Climate Emergency Manchester to speak. He welcomed that the Council had declared a climate emergency and outlined the role of his organisation, highlighting that they set up a petition to establish a seventh scrutiny committee to specifically look at addressing climate change and a call for the Council to examine other sources of funding, including the use of strategic reserves. He commented that having submitted a Freedom of Information request, it had been highlighted that there had been limited speeches on climate change to Manchester residents from the Leader, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport or the Chief Executive since the Council had passed the Climate Emergency motion in July 2019, and urged that more attention was given to this by local politicians and senior council officials.

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

- Was there any further anticipated funding from government to mitigate the impact of Brexit in Manchester;
- Was there any serious prospect of an alternative construction for HS2 to accelerate the construction between Birmingham and Manchester;
- Was there any update on the future of Trans Pennine Express rail service;
- Was there any update on the alternative proposals for Piccadilly train station, given that neither of the two current options were future proof;
- Connected to the above, was there any further update on the future of, Platforms 15 and 16 at Piccadilly Station
- Further information was requested on the multi-agency approach to improving the work and life prospects of the 25% of 50 – 67 year olds in receipt of out-of-work benefits;
- Was there any indication of what the Shared Prosperity Fund would look like and where possible shortfalls in funding might be with lack of access to European funding streams; and
- Was there any update on the approval of the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy by the newly formed Government.

The Leader advised that at the present moment, it was not expected that government would provide any further funding to Manchester to mitigate the impact of Brexit. In terms of the construction of HS2 between Birmingham and Manchester, GM was proposing an alternative timetable, adding that Government had already indicated that they wanted to accelerate the timetable of the construction of Northern Powerhouse Rail by 2035. In relation to Trans Pennine Express (TPE) rail service, they were the 5th worst performing rail franchise in the country and the likelihood in the short term was that they would likely need to reduce the number of services operating due to the failure to undertake work at Manchester Oxford Road and Piccadilly Station. TPE attended and were held to account at the GM Mayors Transport Board which met quarterly and the work to improve the performance of TPE was considered at each meeting.

The Committee was advised that in relation to HS2 and the future of Piccadilly station, work had been commissioned to look at the exiting proposals for the station which had resulted in an alternative option being put forward to deliver a solution that would suitable accommodate both HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) – a single station, consisting of six platform pointing towards Leeds as opposed Stockport. This alternative had attracted government's interest and a peer review was currently being undertaken. This in turn meant that should the new proposal be successful, all existing HS2 and NPR plans that had been considered through Scrutiny and the Executive would need to be remodelled. In terms of platforms 15 and 16, The Combined Authority was preparing a GM Infrastructure Plan which would cover a wide remit and encompass a review of the Castlefield corridor as well as the future of platforms 15 and 16 at Piccadilly station.

The work with over 50's was effectively taking the working well approach and increasing the number of people put through this approach and although the ambition was to get as many people of working age into work, it was also about improving peoples quality of life.

It was anticipated that announcement around the Shared Prosperity Fund would be made around the time of the budget, bearing mind European Regional Development Funding was still being applied for. Clearly what Manchester was asking for was that the quantum should be equivalent to what was previously received through European funding plus match funding and continued to be devolved.

Furthermore, in relation to the GM Industrial Strategy, the Leader reported that it was anticipated that the newly formed Government would continue to support the GM Industrial Strategy.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

ESC/20/11 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - Update from the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration, which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities, as set out in the Our Manchester strategy, for those areas within her portfolio.

The Chair invited Dr Marc Hudson from Climate Emergency Manchester to speak. He welcomed the fact that Northwards Housing had achieved Platinum level for Carbon Literacy amongst their staff and that One Manchester had converted a block of maisonettes to meet the PassivHaus standard as well as deliver new build PassivHaus homes. He commented that it would be good to know when conversations around winning hearts and minds would become Council policy.

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

- More information was requested on the role of Manchester Housing Providers Partnership and how this information could be shared with all Councillors;
- What were the number of affordable homes that had already been built;
- How many illegal evictions had been addressed;
- More information was requested on the work being done to tackle short term lettings;
- Could an update be provided on the Landlord licensing pilot;
- There was concern around the number of HMO's issued with hazard letters and the enforcement notices served for serious disrepair;
- What was the time scale for the drop in session in connection to Project 500; and
- Had the initial stages of the Northwards Housing review commenced.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration advised that the feedback from the first meeting of the Manchester Housing Providers Partnership had been positive and useful. Going forward it was planned that these meetings would take place on a quarterly basis and will take a steer from Members in terms of theming these meetings in order to address some of the persistent issues that Members are facing in their wards. In terms of the work associated with Winning Hearts and

Minds, this was conversations taking place with the Council's social landlords and was centred around delivering a consistent message around individual responsibilities associated to climate change and the small changes that individuals could make to make a difference.

The Committee was advised that land and resources for over 50% of the Council's affordable housing target had been identified and consultation with Ward Members would be undertaken in regards to specific sites.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration reported that there had been success in relation to the work around addressing section 21 evictions and the work of the compliance and enforcement team, which had focussed around improving standards of accommodation for residents. In terms of short term lets, a task group had been brought together from across the Council to manage the neighbourhood impact of such let, however, it was commented that a steer from Government was really required, akin to Scotland, in order to provide the powers necessary in Manchester to address the problems associated with such types of lettings.

The Committee was also advised that in terms of Landlord licensing, it was the Executive member's ambition to extend this scheme beyond the current four pilots to an additional four areas. Feedback so far from the pilots has been positive, highlighting that by having a very targeted approach, there was the ability to make a real impact on areas where standards were lowest and presented the most challenges.

It was reported that the HMO licencing scheme was in the process of scaling up and it was anticipated that the impact of this would result in more enforcement action being taken against properties that did not meet the necessary standards.

Furthermore, the Committee was advised that Project 500 drop in sessions had been agreed for the end of February and the Northwards Housing review was in the process of being concluded, which would be reported back to a future meeting.

Decision

The Committee notes the update.

ESC/20/12 Overview Report

The Committee considered a 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:-

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Agrees the Work Programme as submitted

ESC/20/13 Northern Gateway Strategic Business Plan

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which provided a high level summary of the Strategic Business Plan in the Northern Gateway Joint Venture. The report also provided an update on the current position with regards to the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid submitted to Government by the Council and the proposed approach to ancillary infrastructure funding and delivery arrangements.

The Leader referred to the key points and themes within the report included:-

- It was a requirement of the Northern Gateway Joint Venture Agreement for the Development Manager (FEC) to produce a Masterplan and a Strategic Business Plan, incorporating a Financial Model, for the approval by Northern Gateway Operation Limited (OpCo) and by the respective Shareholders of OpCo (FEC and the Council);
- The purpose of the Strategic Business Plan was to set the strategic context for the Northern Gateway, based upon an overarching Financial Model and to set the parameters for the subsequent Development Area Business Plans;
- The Strategic Business Plan would be updated annually to ensure that it took account of any changes in national and local policy, market sentiment or wider economic implications and was to be used as a mechanism to monitor the progress of delivery of the Northern Gateway;
- The Plan was very ambitious, providing 15,000 homes, of which, at least 3000 would be affordable housing and also a significant amount would be social housing; and
- Overall the Plan would equate to over a quarter of the housing development expected for the city as detailed in the outline Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

Councillor Karney, Ward Member for Harpurhey addressed the Committee, welcoming the proposals for major housing intervention, including an additional 130 new council homes in the Collyhurst area. He added that it was important that the Council was able to provide affordable homes within the schemes that were within the Strategic Business Plan which were in reach of Manchester residents who wanted to remain in the areas that they had grown up in.

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

- Members welcomed the proposals within the Strategic Business Plan, including the provision of new homes for people who were already living in the area;
- Had any work been done to scope out the wider social benefit that would be brought about by the proposals within the Strategic Business Plan;
- Assurance was sought that the delivery of infrastructure works, including flood mitigation in the Lower Irk Valley as indicated within the report would not displace any flood water to other parts of the city;
- More information was requested on the proposals to expedite the move to a zero carbon economy including zero carbon development;
- Clarification was again sought on what the definition of affordable housing was;

- Was the tonnage of carbon emissions this Plan was likely to produce known so that plans could be made to mitigate this;
- Consideration needed to be given to how the Strategic Business Plan might impact on existing communities and how these communities could be included throughout the process of development in order to avoid issues that had occurred in other regeneration schemes across the city.

The Leader advised that a lot of engagement with residents within the area that the Strategic Business Plan covered had already taken place, so it was not anticipated that the proposals would come as a shock or a surprise to them. He added that there would only be a relatively small amount of intervention in existing housing stock and that residents whose existing home would be affected by the scheme in Collyhurst would have the benefit of seeing their new homes built before their existing home was demolished. In terms of the definition of affordability, the Leader clarified that this would be what Manchester residents could afford and as set out in the Manchester Labour Manifesto, this would equate to be no more than 30% of a household's total gross monthly income.

The Committee was advised that in relation to the wider social benefits, specifically healthier neighbourhoods, the strategic business case for a new general hospital at the North Manchester General Hospital site had been submitted and an outline business case was proposed for November 2020, with the start of development expected for 2021. He advised that this would underpin a lot of work to achieve the objectives of the Manchester Population Health Plan and Manchester Work and Skills Strategy across the whole of North Manchester, not just the Northern Gateway scheme.

In terms of achieving zero carbon, the Leader explained that this was a real challenge to the whole of the construction industry supply chain, the main challenge at present being the cost in using new materials and providing a more localised energy supply balanced against the ability to deliver the outcomes of the Strategic Business Plan.

The Head of Residential Growth also advised the Committee of the works proposed to mitigate future flood risks within the area covered by the Strategic Business Plan.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Endorses the recommendations to the Executive, these being:-
 - (1) To note the summarised content of the Strategic Business Plan, the detail of which is appended to the Part B report on this agenda.
 - (2) To note the intention of the Development Manager to appoint a Registered Provider partner to assist with the delivery of affordable housing on JV land within the Red Bank and New Town neighbourhoods to help meet the commitment of providing 20% affordable housing within the initiative.

- (3) To note that the Northern Gateway is currently characterised by large tracts of vacant and underutilised brownfield land and that for development of any scale to be delivered, significant “place-making” infrastructure interventions will be required and consequently a strategic approach towards leveraging investment from a range of sources will be necessary, including the capture of S106 developer contributions for the purposes of place-making infrastructure.
- (4) To note the intention to explore options for the preparation of a costed “placemaking” infrastructure strategy for the Northern Gateway against which Section 106 developer contributions can be sought. Note that any such strategy would be brought before Executive as part of a full consultation exercise.
- (5) To note the current situation with regard to the funding submission of £51.6m to the Government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund and the significant potential impact of this funding on the overall viability of the initiative.
- (6) To agree to the principle of ring-fencing Capital Receipts or overage generated from the disposal of Council-owned land through the Northern Gateway Joint Venture for re-investment into supporting the delivery of the Northern Gateway SRF objectives.
- (7) To note the significant contribution that the Northern Gateway initiative can make to the City’s affordable housing delivery ambitions and the various means available to the Council such as the Housing Affordability Fund through which investment can be leveraged to deliver affordable housing at scale within this area.
- (8) To note the summary of the intended content for the production of the initial Development Area Business Plan which will focus on the delivery of up to 1,000 homes in the neighbourhoods of New Cross, Red Bank and Collyhurst and delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Deputy Leader and the Executive Member for Finance and HR to approve the full initial Development Area Business Plan.
- (9) To note that, subject to a positive announcement from Government relating to the Housing Infrastructure Fund, a further report will be brought before Executive regarding the specific terms and conditions applicable in advance of any decision to enter into a Funding Agreement.
- (10) To note that a Social Value strategy will be developed specifically for the Northern Gateway given the value of contracts/works to be carried out and the anticipated duration of the Joint Venture Partnership.

ESC/20/14 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

To exclude the public during consideration of the following items which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

ESC/20/15 Northern Gateway Strategic Business Plan (Press Excluded)

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Growth and Development, which set out the Northern Gateway Strategic Business Plan as prepared by the Development Manager, FEC, on behalf of the Northern Gateway Operations Limited (OpCo) joint venture company.

The report also provided detail on the scale of FEC investment to date and the level of further investment required.

The Committee asked questions to which the Leader and Officers responded.

The report would also be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 12 February 2010.

Decision

The Committee endorses the recommendations to the Executive as set out in the report, those being

- (1) To approve the Strategic Business Plan on behalf of the City Council as one of the two Shareholders in the Northern Gateway Joint Venture.
- (2) Note the financial commitments made to date by the Development Manager, FEC, since the signing of the Joint Venture legal agreements in April 2017.

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 5 March 2020

Present:

Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Abdullatif, Green, Johns, Noor, Raikes, Shilton Godwin and Stanton

Also present:

Councillor Leese, Leader

Councillor Richards, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration

Councillor Lovecy (Minute ESC/20/18) only

Apologies: Councillor Hacking and K Simcock

ESC/20/16 Minutes

Decisions

- (1) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2020 as a correct record.
- (2) To receive the minutes of the District Centre Subgroup meeting of the 19 February 2020.

ESC/20/17 District Centres

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) that summarised the work of the Subgroup that had commenced their enquiry in March 2016 and presented their final recommendations.

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

- Welcoming the report and enquired how was this work was being shared with other local authorities;
- Noting that an evidence based approach was useful to share good practice, promote growth and stimulate activity in other areas of the city;
- Acknowledging that appropriate levels of staff resourcing remained a challenge and welcomed the comment from the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration that this would be explored further;
- Were residents engaged in the identity branding of district centres; and
- Had consideration been given to using other sources of data, other than footfall to measure activity in district centres.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration paid tribute to the Chair of the Subgroup and all of the Members who had participated in the work of the group. She also expressed her gratitude to the Institute of Place Management for the support provided to the work of the group. She acknowledged the quick wins that had been delivered in the pilot areas and noted the importance of these to engage local

stakeholders in with this work. She commented that the challenge would be in resourcing this activity going forward, however the importance of district centres to delivering the zero carbon city ambition was recognised and adequate consideration needed to be given to this when developing the Local Plan.

Dr Steve Millington endorsed the comments from the Executive Member and thanked the Members for engaging with the Institute of Place Management to deliver this work.

The Chair of the District Centres Subgroup stated that she wished to thank all of the Members and officers who had engaged with the Subgroup. She advised that the rationale for establishing the Subgroup was in recognition of the importance of district centres, both as a catalyst for economic activity and to promote and deliver a sense of place and identity for local residents, whilst recognising the changing nature of the high street. She described that an Our Manchester approach had been used to deliver this work and the group recognised the importance of partnership working.

The Chair of the District Centres Subgroup stated that it was important to ensure the basics were right, such as ensuring district centres were free of litter, pavements were maintained and signage was appropriate, stating that this would all contribute to delivering a sense of place and identity.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) informed the Committee that options were being considered for building additional capacity within the Growth & Development Directorate to deliver the ambitions described within the report. He stated that this work would be delivered in conjunction with local stakeholders, noting that this approach would also inform local branding campaigns for individual district or neighbourhood centres. Dr Millington stated that it was recommended that place branding should be informed and designed by local communities through participation and consensus, rather than being imposed and he provided an example of where this had been delivered successfully. In regard to the comment raised regarding footfall, he described that this had been used as it provided a universal measure, however other sources of data were captured and utilised.

Officers reported that they would continue to work with colleagues across Greater Manchester to promote this work and share good practice. Dr Millington stated that the Withington Project had been shared as an example of good practice with European networks and this had been well received. He advised that a conference would take place in Manchester in September 2020 that would bring together European partners and enable for the sharing of good practice.

Decisions

The Committee;

- (1) Note the report and recommendations made by the Institute of Place Management (IPM) summarised in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.5 of the report.
- (2) Whilst taking note of the need for additional staff capacity, endorse the District Centres Subgroup's recommendations set out in Section 3 with a

recommendation that the Executive be asked to endorse the policy recommendations arising from this sub group's work.

- (3) Recommend that an update report on the implementation of the recommendations is submitted to the Committee for consideration in six months' time.

ESC/20/18 High Speed North (High Speed 2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail) update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) that provided Members with an update on High Speed 2 (HS2) and Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) following the publication of the independent review of HS2 by Douglas Oakervee and the recent announcement on HS2 by the Prime Minister on 11 February 2020.

The Leader introduced the report and added that the Prime Minister had recently announced that HS2 and NPR would be delivered in full and that a new delivery body had been established to oversee the integration of HS2 into NPR. He further stated that the terms of reference for the commission to review infrastructure had also been released and the draft report for the options for Piccadilly station would allow for an appraisal and evaluation of these, noting that the report had recommended a review of the entire rail network in and around the city. He stated this was a rapidly changing and positive development.

The Deputy Head of City Centre Growth and Regeneration stated that since the Committee report had been written, the Department for Transport had announced that they would be publishing a response to the independent review of HS2 and they were currently preparing a timetable for the delivery of the Crewe to Manchester section of Phase 2.

Councillor Lovecy, Ward Councillor for Rusholme stated that the Council position was to oppose the proposed location of Vent Shaft 4. She stated that the Committee should recommend that the Council urgently request that the Minister for Transport should publish the findings of consultation undertaken last year on the proposed location of the fourth vent shaft and autotransformer station, adding that it was her opinion that the exercise had been flawed. She further stated that the Committee should also recommend that the Minister for Transport instruct HS2 to investigate alternative sites for this vent, adding that the current location was inappropriate and there was widespread opposition to this.

The Leader stated that he supported the recommendation to urge the Minister to release the findings of the consultation. He stated that the position of the Council was to oppose the current proposed location for fourth vent shaft and said that if the preferred option for Piccadilly station was accepted the tunnel required would not be travelling along the current proposed route and the number of vent shafts required could be reviewed. He further informed the Committee that it would be himself who made any request to the Secretary of State to release the findings of the consultation exercise and it would be the Chief Executive who would submit any representations

regarding the location of vents, inclusion of social value and training to the National Infrastructure Commission.

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

- Supporting the comments of Councillor Lovecy;
- Seeking an assurance that Manchester would benefit from the creation of new jobs and the building of new houses;
- Following the recent decision regarding the expansion of Heathrow, consideration needed to be given to potential legal challenges to the HS2 project;
- Calling for the project to commence as soon as possible in the North, with decisions taken locally to deliver the described benefits to Manchester and the wider region;
- Recognising the importance of connectivity;
- What consideration had been given to communications and the branding of this project;
- Would social value be delivered as part of this significant investment;
- Recognising the need to train and equip residents with the necessary skills to deliver the HS2 project and the resulting benefits, such as housing construction; and
- How would any redesign of Piccadilly train station impact on Metrolink.

The Leader acknowledged the comments regarding the legal challenge to the expansion of Heathrow and described that his understanding was that the grounds for that challenge were specific to that decision making process. He described that following the decision to integrate NPR into HS2 it was likely that this work would progress in a timely manner in the North to deliver the required upgrade of the Trans Pennine line. He acknowledged the comment regarding the use of the term High Speed and stated that it had existed for ten years so it was unlikely that this would be changed and reiterated that the project would increase capacity, not was not solely focused on speed. He further supported the call for local decision making and stated that he had recommended that an additional body, in addition to the three proposed delivery bodies (Euston Station, HS2 Ltd and High Speed North including NPR) be established to consider the development of Piccadilly station and the surrounding area and this would include options for increasing Metrolink capacity at the station.

The Leader further commented that a commitment had been given by Government to deliver the Eastern leg of the project, nothing that this important as this would contribute to the delivery of an improved and connected rail network for the UK. He stated that representations would be made to the National Infrastructure Commission to ensure that the maximum social value and training and apprenticeship opportunities were delivered through this national project. Commenting further that the Manchester College in consultation with industry partners were already considering and planning for the delivery of future skills requirements and delivered a career led curriculum.

The Deputy Head of City Centre Growth and Regeneration commented that the Greater Manchester Growth Strategy had identified the number of homes and jobs that could be delivered across Greater Manchester as a benefit of the project. The

Leader added that discussion would continue be had with Government as to how the training would be delivered and maximised so people could access these new employment opportunities.

Decisions

The Committee: -

- (1) Recommend that the Chief Executive, or a nominated officer write to the National Infrastructure Commission to recommend that social value, training and apprenticeship opportunities are delivered through the establishment of the various project delivery bodies; and to request that an update on the proposals for the location of Vent Shaft 4 and the autotransformer station be provided and this to be circulated to local Members.
- (2) Recommend that the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request that the results of the public consultation exercise on the proposals for the location of Vent Shaft 4 be published.

ESC/20/19 Withington Village Draft Development Plan

This item was withdrawn

ESC/20/20 Economy Dashboard Quarter 3 2019/20

The Committee considered the Economy Dashboard for Quarter 3 2019/20.

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

- Welcoming the inclusion of Marmot indicators and requesting that life expectancy data at a Neighbourhood level be included;
- Recommended that comparative data and analysis against other core cities in relation to living wage activity be included;
- Noting the importance of wellbeing and these metrics should be prominent in future reporting;
- Clarification was sought on how Manchester wellbeing data was captured and recorded;
- Recommending that consideration should be given to reporting metrics as trends over time in addition to presenting snap shots of data;
- Consideration needed to be given to how the Council engaged with, and used all available levers with a range of organisations and business sectors across the city to maximise the number of residents in receipt of the Real Living Wage;
- Members may wish to consider a report on Living Hours at a future meeting of the Committee; and
- Comparisons between the outcomes for Manchester residents and other comparable European cities should be reported.

Officers acknowledged the comments from Members and stated that life expectancy data was being analysed, however expressed caution against drawing comparisons with other core cities as it was important to compare against areas with similar factors

and social dynamics. He further stated that the importance of health and wellbeing was understood and would continue to be reported against, noting the emphasis the Industrial Strategy placed on health and wellbeing. He informed the Committee of how surveys were undertaken in Manchester to capture a range of information, including wellbeing. He stated that the Council consulted with residents on a range of issues throughout the year and consideration would be given as to how this information could inform and be used when reporting against these metrics, however currently there was no specific Manchester wellbeing survey. The Leader stated that further consideration would be given to this area.

Officers reported that the format for presenting the wealth of data was constantly being reviewed to ensure it was appropriate and accessible, and further noted the comment regarding comparisons and benchmarking against European cities.

The Chair recommended that a report on the Living Wage and Living Hours would be scheduled as an item for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee. The scope of this report would be discussed with officers and scheduled for an appropriate date.

Decision

To note the report.

ESC/20/21 Overview Report

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

A Member recommended that consideration needed to be given to scheduling a future meeting dedicated to skills and the world of work, with the Manchester College invited and this could include contributions from young people. The Chair commented that Members would be holding a Work Programming session in May to inform the Committee's work programme for the new municipal year and this would present an opportunity to scope this and other items further.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and approves the work programme, noting the above comments and those of the Chair relating to the Living Wage and Living Hours discussed under the previous item of business.

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2020

Present:

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Chambers, Collins, M Dar, Doswell, Douglas, Evans,
Grimshaw, Hitchen and Rawson

Councillor N Murphy, Deputy Leader
Councillor Ollerhead, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure
Louise Harding, MCRactive

Apologies:

Councillors Kirkpatrick and Rawlins

CESC/20/08 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2020 as a correct record.

CESC/20/09 Review of Advice Services in Manchester - Final Report and Recommendations

The Committee received a report of the Review of Advice Services in Manchester Task and Finish Group which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Review of Advice Services in Manchester Task and Finish Group. The Task and Finish Group had been established to consider the availability of advice services across the city, with a view to producing recommendations to be considered in the budget in the next financial year.

The Chair informed Members that the Executive Member for Adult Health and Wellbeing was unable to attend the meeting for personal reasons but had provided some comments on this work. A Member proposed that this item be deferred to the 5 March meeting in order that the Executive Member could attend, to which the Chair agreed.

Decision

To defer this item to the Committee's meeting on 5 March 2020.

CESC/20/10 The Council's Updated Financial Strategy and Budget reports 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which provided an update on the Council's overall financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process, including scrutiny of the budget proposals and budget report by this Committee.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also considered the Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget Report 2020/21 which provided the final budget proposals following the contents of the provisional Local Government Settlement received late December 2019 and feedback from scrutiny committees during January 2020.

The proposed 2020/21 budget reflected the fact the Council had declared a climate emergency by making carbon reduction a key consideration in the Council's planning and budget proposals.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources outlined the national context within which the budget was being set, highlighting the significant decrease in funding to the Council since 2010.

A Member noted the statement within the update on the Council's overall financial position that, with regard to homelessness, the service had identified a potential increase in income of £1m in 2020/21 relating to Housing Benefit for temporary accommodation which would be available from Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) based on a small scale transfer of existing properties to be managed by Registered Providers (RPs) by end of March 2020 and increasing incrementally throughout 2020/21 and that this would reduce the net cost to the Council. She asked how much impact this incremental increase would have on the budget. The Head of Finance advised that he would circulate a response to this question to the Committee.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) explained that the proposal to explore the establishment of a separate wholly owned company in relation to gallery exhibitions was a way of managing tax payments and would not impact on staff.

A Member asked whether the costs of the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in the city centre had been factored into the community safety budget. Deputy Leader Councillor Nigel Murphy confirmed that it had but added that there would not be any additional resources for the implementation of the PSPO and its introduction was about using existing resources in the best way.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) provided an overview of the costs associated with Bereavement Services and offered to provide a breakdown of the costs, if Members were interested.

The Chair referred back to the Committee's comments when the budget had been considered at its January meeting, highlighting Members' view about the importance of funding work to address anti-social behaviour. The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) informed Members that funding for the Anti-Social Behaviour Team had been increased in 2018/19 and that this level of funding was being maintained.

Decision

To re-iterate the Committee's comments from its 9 January meeting, supporting the proposals while emphasising the importance of funding work to tackle anti-social behaviour.

CESC/20/11 Equality Impact Assessments

The Committee received a report of the City Solicitor which reviewed a selection of the Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) produced in support of the Council's business planning process for 2019/2020. It outlined the context of why the Council undertook EIAs and some of the key themes emerging from the business priority-related analyses produced in the last year. It also described changes to the Council's approach to business planning for 2020-21, and the implications for how equality impacts would be considered within the plan and how the process of producing EIAs would be managed moving forwards.

The report noted that EIAs would be produced if actions arising from the Council's Climate Change Action Plan had a disproportionate impact on certain communities. The plan would recognise that climate change would have differential impacts on communities across the city, for example in terms of poor air quality and more frequent incidences of extreme weather.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- Update on 2019-20 EIA Activity;
- Refreshed approach to business planning and EIAs; and
- Strengthening the approach to EIAs.

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

- That an EIA had not been completed for the Peterloo Memorial and whether lessons had been learnt from the mistakes that were made in that case;
- Request for further information on the EIA process, including how officers were made aware of it and whether EIAs were monitored by the Equalities Team;
- The timing of EIAs in relation to when decisions were taken, including in the case of the proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the city centre;
- The importance of having a framework for EIAs setting out when they should be completed and what they should include and how Members could access the EIAs;
- That levels of deprivation were not included in the EIAs; and
- That EIAs should focus on having a positive impact rather than solely on minimising the negative impact on particular groups.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager acknowledged that an EIA had not been completed in relation to the Peterloo Memorial and informed the Committee that work was taking place to safeguard against similar problems in future. He advised the Committee that he would provide them with further information on this.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager informed Members that EIAs were part of the Project Initiation Process for Council projects but that this practice was not always fully embedded in the process and one of the challenges for his team was to address this.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager confirmed that an EIA had been produced for the city centre PSPO and was expected to be signed off before a decision was taken. He agreed that EIAs should be completed before decisions were taken and reported that his team needed to have influence across the organisation to ensure that this happened. He advised that the best practice model was to complete the EIA at the earliest stage to identify any issues and give the relevant service the opportunity to adjust the proposal so that either the final proposal did not have this disproportionate impact or, if that was not possible, so that decision-makers could take this information into account when making their decision. The City Solicitor advised that, as the Lead Officer for Equality within the Senior Management Team, it was part of her role to use her influence to ensure that this analysis was prioritised and factored into decision-making and that she expected her colleagues and peers to ensure that this was being done within their Directorates.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager informed the Committee that the part of the Equality Act 2010 which would have addressed socio-economic disadvantage was never enacted and that it had previously been decided not to include it in the Council's EIAs on this basis; however, he advised that this would be given further consideration as part of the review of the EIA Framework. He advised Members that there was also an opportunity to make the process more meaningful and to engage with key stakeholders over this.

Decision

To note the report and to ask the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Manager to consider the comments made by Members.

CESC/20/12 Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the Manchester Playing Pitch Strategy and Site Action Plan.

The report noted that delivery of priority projects identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Site Action Plan would contribute to achieving the zero-carbon target for the city and that projects would be subject to their individual business case and agreed funding strategy.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Background and context;
- Governance;
- Study area;
- Site Action Plan update;
- Supply and demand update;

- Short-term action plan; and
- Investment opportunities.

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

- Concern about playing pitches being lost, for example to new housing developments, and what was the Council doing to address this;
- Concern at the level of response from Ward Councillors to the individual ward plans they had been sent;
- Plans for increased access to outdoor floodlit tennis courts;
- Whether the planned 17 new non-turf cricket pitches would be spread across the city and to question the different pricing for Further Education (FE) Institution-affiliated clubs compared to the price charged to non-FE-affiliated young people;
- Concern that local young people were unable to access playing pitches in their area due to block bookings by clubs;
- How under-represented groups could be supported to access Sport England's Community Asset Transfer Fund; and
- That some pitches and associated facilities, such as changing rooms, were in a poor condition and that it was important to address this.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure advised the Committee that the Strategy was committed to protecting playing pitches and he offered to discuss with the Member his concerns about the future of specific playing pitches in his local area. The Member requested that the Executive Member arrange a meeting to discuss this, inviting other relevant Ward Councillors and Louise Harding from MCRactive. Louise Harding outlined the process for dealing with applications to build on land where there was a playing pitch, advising that she would be consulted and would object to the application and that, if the developer wanted to proceed, they would have to submit a mitigation for the loss of the playing field in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure agreed that it was important for Ward Councillors to engage with this area of work and advised that he would send another reminder to all Members to ask them to provide feedback on the plans for their ward.

Louise Harding advised the Committee that there was demand for outdoor floodlit tennis courts across the city but, at present, the Council was waiting for an investment strategy from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) which it could consider. She informed Members that the new cricket pitches would be located across the city and offered to provide further details of this and of the pricing structure. The Chair asked that consideration be given to how young people could be encouraged to use the facilities by removing any bureaucratic obstacles, such as needing to be FE-affiliated to receive a better rate. The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure informed Members that a range of discounts and offers, such as free swimming, were available to young people and he offered to provide further information in a future report.

Louise Harding advised the Committee that her understanding was that Manchester clubs were given priority when booking pitches but that she would speak to the operators about the booking process. She informed Members that there was capacity to support groups seeking Community Asset Transfers. The Chair commented that the Committee would be receiving a report on the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Infrastructure Service at its next meeting and advised that that information on the support available to groups seeking a Community Asset Transfer, and whether this was included in the infrastructure contract, be included in this report.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure agreed that the condition of some pitches needed to be improved and advised that the Strategy included a focus on investing in existing provision which had not received any investment for many years. In response to a Member's question, he advised Members that Wythenshawe Park have a 10-year development plan and that plans for how to sustain the Wythenshawe Games could be incorporated into this.

Decision

To note the report.

CESC/20/13 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure which provided an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester Strategy for those areas within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Widening access and participation;
- Culture;
- Zero carbon and the climate emergency;
- Parks;
- Young people; and
- MCRactive.

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

- To thank the Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure for his work;
- Questions on behalf of a member of the public regarding work to address climate change;
- Request for further information on the successful bid to the Home Office "Libraries of Sanctuary" project, including more detail on what this was, how much funding had been awarded and the timescales;
- Request for further information on the new libraries post funded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) which would manage a project to reduce digital exclusion in the city, including how much funding had been received, whether it was a full-time post and how long the post would be funded for; and

- What else could be done to widen access and participation in libraries, galleries, culture and leisure.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure outlined the work HOME had been doing to address climate change. The Chair recommended that the Member send the questions from the member of the public to the Executive Member for him to respond.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure reported that he would provide the Member with a response to her questions on the funding from the Home Office and the GMCA outside of the meeting.

The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure reported that access and participation could be increased by changing people's perceptions that some activities or events were not for them and by improving communication. He informed Members about the three online platforms which were due to be launched the following month to inform Manchester residents about cultural activities, sport and leisure activities and activities for young people that were available in the city. He advised the Committee that some of the barriers to participation included transport, socio-economic background and affordability and that these would take time to address but that there was a willingness across the sector to do this. A Member emphasised the importance of ensuring accessibility for people from all socio-economic backgrounds, including ensuring that information was not only available online. The Executive Member confirmed that information was shared using a range of methods and reported that events were being held in wards, rather than just in the city centre, to better engage with local communities.

Decision

To note the report.

CESC/20/14 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.