

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018

Present:

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair

Councillors, Clay, Curley, Lynch, Mary Monaghan, O’Neil, Riasat, Reeves, Wills and Wilson

Councillor S. Murphy, Deputy Leader

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children’s Services

Councillor Midgley, Assistant Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Nick Gomm, Director of Corporate Affairs, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning

Craig Harris, Executive Director of Nursing and Safeguarding, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning

Dr Manisha Kumar, General Practitioner and Clinical Director, Manchester Health & Care Commissioning

Dr Binita Kane, Consultant Chest Physician, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust South, Clinical Lead for Health Innovation Manchester Respiratory Programme

Martina McLoughlin, Senior Manager, Commissioning and Service Redesign, Manchester Health & Care Commissioning

Matthew Conroy, Primary Care Information Manager, Manchester Health & Care Commissioning

Apologies: Councillor Holt, Paul

HSC/18/49 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018 and the minutes of the Public Health Task and Finish Group were submitted for approval and note. Cllr Riasat requested that his attendance at both meetings be recorded.

Decision

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018 as a correct record subject to the above amendment.
2. To note the minutes of the Public Health Task and Finish Group meeting held on 26 October 2018 subject to the above amendment.

HSC/18/50 Update on Revenue Financial Strategy and Business Plan Process 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer which provided an update on the Council’s financial position and set out the next

steps in the budget process. The report summarised Officer proposals for how the Council could deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also received and considered the Manchester Health and Care Commissioning Pooled Budget 2019/20, Including Adult Social Care, which set out in broad terms the directorate's key priorities, key activities and Homelessness Business Planning: 2019/20, which was a refresh of the directorate's Business Plans for 2018/20 in the context of current resources, challenges and opportunities.

Taken together, the report and the directorate Business Plan illustrated how the directorate would work together and with partners to deliver Our Plan and progress towards the vision set out in the Our Manchester Strategy.

Homelessness Business Planning: 2019/20

The Deputy Leader addressed the Committee regarding the issue of homelessness in Manchester stating that the impact of austerity and welfare reform had a significant impact on the levels of homelessness and people who sleep rough, and this presented a significant challenge. She described how Manchester was responding to this challenge by investing in preventative services, utilising the Social Impact Bond that was funding available from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that was conditional on achieving positive outcomes through a payment by results model. She further advised that properties were being purchased to accommodate families and commented that the legal lessons learnt from this exercise would inform any future purchases to reduce the time taken to secure these.

Members noted the Cold Weather funding from the MHCLG of £35,000 for cold weather winter provision for people who sleep rough and commented that this was an inadequate amount for the scale of the challenge. A Member further enquired if any impact assessments of Universal Credit had been undertaken. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness responded by saying that the Welfare Reform Board did monitor and analyse the impact of Universal Credit and information on this would be shared with the Committee. She further commented that they were currently lobbying the MHCLG for additional funding and a decision on this was pending. In response to a comment from a Member regarding the provision of hot water at a facility she said that she was unaware of any issue, however she would make appropriate enquiries.

Members then discussed the issue of Private Sector Landlords and the use of retaliatory Section 21 Notices (eviction notices) if a tenant complained about disrepair in a property. The Deputy Leader responded by saying that she acknowledged the comments made and that the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration was undertaking work around this issue as part of a broader piece of work around the Private Rented Sector. She said that inspections of private properties were undertaken before placing people in them and officers would reject a property if unsuitable and then work with the landlord to improve the property conditions. She said that discussions were also currently underway with Housing Providers to utilise their experience to undertake property inspections.

A Member enquired how the different needs of the homeless population were met, noting that families would have different needs to single people and may also have other complex needs. The Strategic Lead for Homelessness said this was recognised and the Manchester Homelessness Partnership brought together a number of different statutory organisations and voluntary groups with lived experience to inform the response to the issue homelessness. The Director of Population Health and Wellbeing further advised that there was a multi-agency approach to delivering health and mental health services for homeless people and made reference to the Urban Village Medical Practice Homeless Healthcare Service based at the Ancoats Primary Care Centre.

Manchester Health and Care Commissioning Pooled Budget 2019/20

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing said that despite the continued reduction in funding from central government for Adult Social Care the Council remained committed to improving the health outcomes of all Manchester residents and protect services for vulnerable people.

The Director of Adult Social Care said the delivery of the new models of care that would be achieved through the Local Care Organisation would reduce the number of non-elective hospital admissions. The Director of Adult Social Care said this would also be supported by the introduction of assistive technology to support people in their home, when appropriate and the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing commented that a report on assistive technology would be provided to the Committee at an appropriate time. A Member commented that technology across all health and social care providers needed to be appropriate to ensure that information could be shared and accessed by all staff delivering health and care.

In response to a question regarding staff engagement and Trade Union involvement the Director of Adult Social Care commented that the workforce were the most valuable asset to delivering the ambitions of the Local Care Organisation, and the duty of care to staff was taken very seriously. She explained that asset based staff and team training had been delivered that had included resilience training and Trade Unions had been fully consulted with. In response to a comment from a Member regarding the use of agency staff the Director of Adult Social Care said that they were seeking to reduce the number of agency staff where possible.

The Director of Population Health and Wellbeing responded to a comment from a Member regarding the actions on preventable early deaths by saying that the Population Health Plan that had been submitted to the May meeting of Health Scrutiny Committee had outlined how this would be addressed, along with the other priorities identified.

Decisions

The Committee notes the reports and request that the comments of the Committee be taken into consideration when the final business plans were produced.

HSC/18/51 Adult Respiratory

The Committee considered the report of the Clinical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) that described how MHCC were working collaboratively with partners with the ambition to improve health outcomes and quality of life for patients, support self-management, personalisation and early intervention in the community; and strengthen the quality of end of life care.

The Clinical Director referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- Describing the work of NHS RightCare teams, who worked locally with systems to present a diagnosis of data and evidence across the population to identify opportunities and potential areas where quality could be improved;
- A description of the work streams identified by the Manchester Adult Respiratory Steering Group;
- A data analysis of respiratory emergency admissions for the first 6 months of 17/18 compared to the first 6 months of 18/19, noting the considerable pressure in emergency admissions for respiratory patients and how providers were managing these admissions;
- A description of the Primary Care Respiratory Standards developed by MHCC;
- The work underway to review how these standards were applied to those in receipt of Homecare;
- A description of the COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Virtual Clinic and the impact of this innovation;
- An update on the procurement and distribution of spirometers, noting that Spirometry was a simple test used to help diagnose and monitor certain lung conditions by measuring how much air you could breathe out in one forced breath;
- A description of the Manchester Integrated Lung Service;
- A description of the collaborative work undertaken by Primary, Community and Secondary Care to produce the Manchester Respiratory Referral Criteria that covers the minimum information that should be contained in all respiratory referral letters;
- A description on Pulmonary Rehabilitation, a programme of exercise and education for people with long-term lung conditions;
- The programmes developed through Health Innovation Manchester (HIM);
- The activities to address smoking including information on the CURE Project;
- An update on the developments in relation to social prescribing with a description of the Breathe Better model; and
- Information on the partnership work undertaken in Greater Manchester.

Members welcomed the report and noted the information that had been provided that gave the numbers of COPD and Asthma reviews undertaken at a ward level, and requested that this information, along with other relevant health data is shared with local Members.

In response to a comment regarding the difference in figures relating to these reviews across wards the Clinical Director Members commented that establishment of Neighbourhood Teams would address the issue of variation across the city. The

Chair sought clarification as to why some practices appeared to be undertaking significantly more reviews than others. The Primary Care Information Manager responded by saying that this was primarily due to Practices not recording the information correctly on the system. He advised that this information was collected periodically and enquiries were made to individual practices if their returns were low. He said advice and training was offered to those sites to ensure this information was accurately recorded, he also added that Practices were paid for delivering these reviews so it was in their own interest to accurately record this work.

The Clinical Director commented that the majority of GP practices in Manchester were rated as 'Good' or as 'Outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), and the couple that were rated as 'Require Improvement' related to improvements around issues of practice management rather than the delivery of care for their patients. She said that for those few practices rated as 'Require Improvement' support was provided to help them address any issues identified. She commented that if Members wished to view the latest CQC reports these could be viewed via their website.

Members discussed the issue of shisha smoking, noting that one hour of shisha smoking could be as damaging as 100 cigarettes and asked what was being done to regulate these premises. The Chair informed the Committee that the Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee would be considering a report on this topic in the new year and asked that the report be circulated to the Committee when this was available.

The Director of Population Health and Wellbeing responded to a comment from a Member regarding the lack of reference within the report to air quality and emissions by commenting that the Manchester Public Health Annual Report 2018 addressed the issue of air quality. He added that the Manchester Health and Care Commissioning Board had considered a report on this issue at their October meeting and this linked into activities at a Greater Manchester level to address this issue of poor air quality. In addition, he commented that the issue of shisha smoking was also being addressed by the Manchester Tobacco Alliance who worked collaboratively with GPs and enforcement agencies.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and request that any future update report include information on the recording of activities undertaken at GP practices.

HSC/18/52 Young people moving in to adult services

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services, Executive Director of Nursing and Safeguarding, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning and the Director of Population Health and Wellbeing that provided an overview of work that was being done and work that was planned to improve the experience and outcomes of those young people moving from children and young people services to adult services and to improve the experience for their families and carers too.

The Executive Director of Nursing and Safeguarding referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- Describing the services for children and young people and the developments that brought together children and adult social workers under the same management, based in the same team;
- Describing the impact of The Care Act 2014 and the changes that this brought about;
- Describing the 4+1 review process and the strengths and challenges identified and what was being done to address these;
- The work undertaken around the transition from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS) and Complex Placements;
- Work delivered around young people's specialist substance misuse services and the integration of the Eclipse service into the wider integrated adult drug and alcohol service that has afforded the opportunity to develop the approach to supporting young adults who may require treatment beyond the age of 18; and
- Information on reproductive and sexual health services for young people.

Members commented that it needed to be recognised that the transition from services could be a very stressful and worrying period for those in receipt of services, their families and carers and everything should be done to make this transition as seamless as possible. The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing said this was acknowledged and understood and the approach adopted was a holistic one. She further commented that she was committed to working with her Executive colleagues to improve transition.

In response to comments from Members regarding Learning Disabled citizens the Director of Adult Services said that a lot of work had been undertaken by the Assistant Executive Member to better integrate services. She said that this work had been overseen by the Learning Disability Partnership Board and that a report on this activity would be reported to the Committee at an appropriate time.

The Assistant Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing commented upon the work undertaken with teams to improve the transition period with the various teams working much more closely together. She further commented that the workshops that had been arranged to consider this area of work had included parents and carers so that their opinions and experiences were captured. A Member asked that Members be invited to any workshops so they could observe the work that undertaken. The Member further commented that when an update report was submitted for consideration that this would include anonymous case studies.

The Executive Member for Children's Services commented that whilst he recognised the improvements described, he acknowledged that more needed to be done and that he was committed to working with colleagues to achieve this. He described that transition needed to be reviewed in a broad sense to ensure that no individual 'fell through the gaps' when they reached a certain age.

A Member commented that many services had different age eligibility criteria that made transitions difficult to navigate, especially for those individuals with complex

needs. The Executive Director of Nursing and Safeguarding acknowledged this comment and advised that services operated within a legislative framework that did not always integrate together, however the ambition was to deliver an all age service that removes barriers.

The Director of Adult Services said that the lessons learnt and good practice adopted in other authorities would be adapted to meet the needs of Manchester residents with an emphasis on collaborative working. She further commented that the voice of the service user and their families was included in the design and commissioning of services.

In response to a request for further information on CAHMS the Executive Director of Nursing and Safeguarding said that a report was being considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee that afternoon and recommended that this report be circulated to the Committee for information. A Member commented that where appropriate scrutiny committees should work together to jointly scrutinise those areas, such as CAHMS that cut across the remit of both committees. The Chair noted this comment and advised the Members that he would discuss this at the next scrutiny coordination meeting.

In response to a question regarding autism the Executive Director of Nursing and Safeguarding said that a working group had been established to review autism services with the view to refresh the Autism Strategy. He said this work was currently at an early stage and that a report would be provided to the Committee on this activity at an appropriate time.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and request that a progress report is submitted for consideration in six months' time.

HSC/18/53 Final report and recommendations of the Public Health Task and Finish Group

The Committee received the final report and recommendations of the Public Health Task and Finish Group and were invited to note the findings of the investigation and endorse the eight recommendations.

Councillor Wilson, Chair of the Task and Finish Group commented upon the importance of Public Health in improving the health outcomes of Manchester residents and called for continued lobbying of central government for a fairer funding deal for Manchester. In response to comments from Members regarding other wider determinants of health he said that he acknowledged this and said that the Group had agreed to focus on the specific areas as described in the report.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing acknowledged the comments regarding the wider determinants of health, such as housing conditions and reassured the Committee that work was continuing to address these issues.

Decisions

The Committee: -

1. Note the findings of the Public Health Task and Finish Group;
2. Endorse the eight recommendations of the Public Health Task and Finish Group;
and
3. Recommend that the Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing provide an update report on the implementation of these recommendations to the Committee at an appropriate time.

HSC/18/54 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.

Decision

To note the report and approve the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2019

Present:

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair
Councillors Battle, Clay, Curley, Holt, Lynch, O’Neil, Paul, Reeves, Riasat, Wills and Wilson

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Midgley, Assistant Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Nick Gomm, Director of Corporate Affairs, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)
Dr Manisha Kumar, Clinical Director MHCC
Dr Amjad Ahmed, Clinical Lead Diabetes MHCC
Dr Naresh Kanumilli, Clinical Champion Diabetes UK, Clinical Network Lead for Diabetes, Greater Manchester & East Cheshire Strategic Clinical Networks
Dr Vish Mehra, Manchester Primary Care Partnership
Professor Steve Ball, Consultant & Hon. Professor of Medicine & Endocrinology, Manchester University Foundation Trust
Dr Martin Rutter, Consultant Physician & Lecturer Medicine and Endocrinology, Manchester University Foundation Trusts
Nicola Milne, Community Diabetes Specialist Nurse, Chair Diabetes UK Professional Organising Committee
Sara Fletcher, Head of Commissioning MHCC
Tony Ullman, Deputy Director, Primary Care and Population Health MHCC
Caroline Bradley, Head of Primary Care Commissioning MHCC

Apologies: Councillor Mary Monaghan

HSC/19/01 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018 were submitted for approval. Cllr Holt requested that her attendance be recorded.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018 as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

HSC/19/02 Adult Diabetes

The Committee considered a report of the Clinical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) that provided an update on the diabetes work programme that had been designed to reduce inequalities in diabetes care and outcomes for the people of Manchester. The main aim was to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for all those at risk of, or living with diabetes in

Manchester, through supported self-management, personalisation and early optimal interventions.

The Clinical Director MHCC referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- Providing a description of the different types of diabetes and the implications of this condition;
- Describing the prevalence of diabetes in Manchester, providing comparisons against Greater Manchester and England figures;
- Projected figures for the number of cases of diabetes, noting that Manchester's expected diabetes prevalence rates were set to increase;
- Information on The National Diabetes Prevention Programme, an ongoing national programme which began in 2016 and was rolled out in Manchester in August 2017;
- Data on the diagnosis of diabetes, with particular reference to NHS Health Checks that helped to identify people with diabetes, particularly as the service was able to provide outreach in hard to engage with populations;
- The role of Primary Care in the prevention of diabetes, including adoption of the Manchester Standards with its eight processes of care to standardise care for patients;
- Data on how the Manchester Standards had reduced the number of emergency hospital admissions;
- Information on the Community Diabetes Service, the Community Diabetes Education and Support Team, Secondary Care Services, Inpatient Support Services and transition to Adult Services;
- The work undertaken to deliver Health Care Professional Education;
- Activities to educate people living with diabetes; and
- The work to reduce the number of lower limb amputations.

Members sought clarification on the information that had been provided in the graphs and tables throughout the report and an explanation was provided as to the various data sets and recording periods.

In response to concerns expressed by Members regarding the numbers of reported medical errors Prof Ball described what constituted a medical error, and provided examples of what would be categorised as severe to minor errors. He stated that all errors had a negative impact on patients and their experience of care. He said that all incidents are recorded and reported and practitioners are held to account.

Prof Ball explained that the report presented to the Committee reported processes rather than clinical outcomes. He said that this was the beginning of a new approach to the management of diabetes and clinical benefits were understood, however the clinical outcomes would be reported in future years.

Dr Rutter responded to questions from Members regarding flash glucose monitoring to improve self-care for patients. He said that this would be provided for those patients with the highest clinical need and funding had been awarded for this.

Members commented that the impact of austerity, wage freezes and welfare reform had a significant detrimental impact on people's health and their ability to make healthy lifestyle choices. Members further commented that diabetes was a serious

illness with serious outcomes for patients if not managed correctly and more needed to be done to raise people's awareness of this condition.

Members also discussed the importance of improving the experience for patients when transitioning from young people's services to adult services. Prof Ball agreed with the view of the Committee, commenting that it would be beneficial to establish age appropriate and lifelong care pathways and work was underway with commissioners to consider this approach, further stating that often barriers are self-engineered by systems. The Chair noted that consideration needed to be given as to how topics that cross the remit of more than one Scrutiny Committee were reported appropriately.

Ms Milne responded to a comment from a Member who suggested that the Care Processes described were in fact diagnostic tests by advising that these prompted Health Professionals to engage in conversations with patients to identify the correct care pathways so as to manage their condition appropriately. Dr Rutter stated that the correct management of diabetes had reduced the number of admissions to hospital. Prof Ball said appropriate conversations were needed between health professional and patients to establish a relationship and motivate people to take self-care of their condition.

Dr Rutter explained that Manchester, in recognition of the diverse makeup of the population had attracted funding to pioneer this new approach to diabetes management. He said that appropriate education programmes would be devised and delivered to reach all members of the community, using appropriate language and materials, in addition Community Champions would be identified to support this activity. Funding had also been secured to deliver an online resource that patients could access to obtain information and advice on their health care and people would be supported to access this resource.

Dr Kumar stressed the importance of education in relation to diabetes awareness and informed the Committee that activities were focused on preventative measures that promoted healthy living as a system wide message. Ms Milne commented that NHS Health Checks were also being promoted amongst the general population that included screening for diabetes. In response to a question regarding routing retina screening the Committee were informed that this service was administered nationally.

Decision

The Committee;

1. Note the report;
2. Recommends that a progress report is submitted for consideration at an appropriate time; and
3. Recommends that the Chair considers how topics that cross the remit of more than one Scrutiny Committee are reported.

HSC/19/03 Primary Medical Care in Manchester

The Committee considered a report of the Clinical Director, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) which provided information on how quality in Primary Medical Care in Manchester was assessed and improved.

The Clinical Director MHCC referred to the main points of the report which were: -

- Describing the Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework for General Practice;
- The Early Warning System (EWS) that brought together a range of available data sources to identify a practice being in need of support;
- Current Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings for GP Practices across Manchester;
- Information on the 9 Primary Care Standards based on the Greater Manchester Primary Care Standards, designed to deliver long term improved health outcomes across the City, building on the prevention work and based on Our Manchester; and
- Information on GP access, including the enhanced 7 Day Access service and Digital Access.

Members discussed the issue of non-attenders at GP appointments, both in the core hours offer and the out of hours' service, noting that the number of non-attendees for the out of hours' service was currently 20%. Dr Mehra said that the issue of non-attenders for out of hours appointments was being addressed. He advised that previously patients did not have the facility to cancel an appointment out of hours, say on a weekend if their own practice was closed. He said that to address this a dedicated telephone number, operating 24/7 had been established so patients could cancel an appointment if their own practice was closed. He further informed Members that a text message reminder service had also been implemented that provided an option to cancel the appointment if required. He also advised that the ability of the 111 service to book out of hours' appointments for callers was also being discussed.

Members questioned if the availability of out of hours' appointments was widely known by patients and asked how this offer had been promoted. Dr Mehra advised that training for reception staff had been delivered, advertising campaigns had been delivered and local radio campaigns. He also advised that literature should be available in surgeries, in different languages to inform people of this offer. Mr Ullman advised that they had worked closely with Healthwatch and the Patient and Public Advisory Group to address the promotion of the out of hours' service and that they also use mystery shoppers to monitor the information given to patients.

Members commented that the rationale for the introduction of the extended GP service was to reduce the number of non-emergency attendees presenting at A&E departments. Members asked if analysis of this had been undertaken and requested that this information was included in any future update report. Dr Kumar responded that the service had reduced the number of non-emergency attendees at A&E and assisted with the management of the increased demand on services during the

period of winter pressures. The Chair recommended that a report on Winter Pressures and how this was managed is provided for the March meeting.

In regard to access Dr Kumar commented that surgeries also offered an online booking system that allowed patients to book appointments for themselves, stating that patients would need to register for this service in the first instance. She further noted that more needed to be done to educate patients in relation to selfcare and social prescribing, and to the range of health professionals that work in surgeries and the care that they could provide, stating that a GP appointment was not always necessary.

Mr Ullman informed the Committee that it was recognised that people may wish to access primary care using online methods and the options to support and deliver this were being explored. A Member commented that it was important to recognise that not all patients would choose to use a digital system and expressed caution that this could create inequalities in terms of access. Mr Ullman reassured the Committee that this would only be offered as one of a range of options.

Members discussed the popularity of Walk In Centres with residents and asked what consideration was being given to maintaining the current provision or extending this offer. Mr Ullman responded that there was currently no intention to change any of the current provision, however stated that there was mixed opinion amongst health professionals as to the role of Walk In Centres. He said one limitation that had been identified was that these Centres did not have access to patient records. He said that the ambition was to deliver a better service that provided an integrated and consistent offer for patients.

Members then discussed the issue of Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings following inspection and enquired as to what the 'not yet rated' entry signified and was there any link between a CQC rating and the deprivation experienced in the local area. Dr Kumar informed the Members that traditionally primary care had historically been underfunded and options for addressing this were being considered. She said that a resilience fund had been agreed to support any practice that was experiencing difficulties and the establishment of Neighbourhoods Teams would help strengthen the local offer and improve local arrangements.

Mr Ullman advised that the establishment of Neighbourhood Teams allowed for the much needed work to modernise the local estate by working in partnership with other providers. The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being said an investment plan looking at the whole estate had commenced and local ward Members would be consulted. She further commented that a significant amount of work had been done around the issue the workforce and resilience and a full report on this activity would be submitted to the Committee at an appropriate time. Dr Kumar described that a lot of work was being done with local school and colleges to develop careers pathways into health and social care careers.

Ms Bradley explained that a practice would be awarded a 'not yet rated' rating during the period of time when a practice was awaiting formal registration with the CQC, and stressed that this was at no detriment to patients.

Decision

The Committee:-

1. Note the report;
2. Recommend that a report on Winter Pressures be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time; and
3. Recommend that a report on Workforce activities and neighbourhood teams be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.

HSC/19/04 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.

Members welcomed the information provided regarding the funding that had been secured for Smoking Services. The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being said that she acknowledged the work of the recent Task and Finish Group and commented that as smoking contributed to many poor health outcomes for Manchester residents it was important to establish a service that would support people to quit tobacco. She informed Members that a more detailed report would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time on this area of activity.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being commented that the ambition of the Local Care Organisation was to deliver services, including prevention services, such as smoking cessation programmes in neighbourhood teams. She said the intention was also to bring together other public services, such as the police into the local teams. She advised that a lot of work had been undertaken around the issue of workforce and that a more detailed report would be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.

Members noted the work undertaken to improve Mental Health Services across the city. The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being commented that the journey had been one of improvement and thanked the Committee for their continued challenge in this important area of work. She further informed the Members that work was ongoing at a Greater Manchester level to look at the funding inequalities between children's mental health services and adult services.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Well Being stated that she was passionate about challenging the myths that are perpetuated in certain sections of the media regarding asylum seekers in the city. She said she was working to improve services available to support asylum seekers and improve how information was shared with the Local Authority regarding where asylum seekers are housed so that appropriate support could be offered. A Member commented upon the often poor

condition of the properties that were offered to asylum seekers by providers, noting that currently there appeared to be no political will from central government to improve this situation.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/19/05 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.

Decision

To note the report and approve the work programme.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair

Councillors Hewitson, T Judge, Lovecy, McHale, Madeleine Monaghan and Sadler

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr A Arogundade, Parent Governor Representative

Mrs B Kellner, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester

Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford

Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

Ms Z Stepan, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non Voting Members:

Mr R Lammas, Primary sector teacher representative

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children's Services

Councillor Midgley, Mental Health Champion

Councillor Farrell, Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee

Darren Parsonage, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)

Craig Harris, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)

Maria Slater, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Manchester Foundation Trust

Mark Tobin, Adoption Counts

Apologies:

Councillor Alijah

Mr L Duffy, Secondary sector teacher representative

CYP/18/58 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018.

CYP/18/59 Visit to the Primary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

The Chair informed Members about the Committee's recent visit to the Primary PRU (Bridgelea Primary School) at its new premises at Plymouth Grove. He informed Members that the school was a specialist support school which did a lot of outreach work with other schools. He requested that a visit be arranged to the school's other site at Bridgelea Road.

Decision

To request that a visit be arranged to Bridgelea Primary School's other site at

Bridgelea Road in the new year.

CYP/18/60 Manchester's Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Committee received a presentation of Craig Harris, Executive Director of Nursing, Safeguarding and Commissioning, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services, Helen Scott, Senior Commissioning Manager, and Maria Slater, General Manager of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which provided information on the practice, delivery and impact related to Manchester's Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Some of the main points and themes within the presentation included:

- The current position;
- The THRIVE model, which aimed to re-design how services were aligned to one another and shifted the focus to preventing children and young people from reaching a crisis point; and
- The key workstreams.

Councillor Midgley, Mental Health Champion, had been invited to address the Committee. She highlighted the issue of children who were well-supported in hospital but who, on leaving hospital, currently had less support and were consequently re-admitted to hospital. She requested further information on the crisis care pathway and the Manchester Beds for Manchester Children scheme.

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

- To note that good progress was being made to improve services;
- Work taking place with schools and that schools would appreciate partnership working with specialists; and
- To request further information on the membership of the Manchester THRIVE Partnership Board.

Darren Parsonage from Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) reported that the Manchester Beds for Manchester Children scheme was a Greater Manchester-wide scheme which aimed to ensure that Greater Manchester children were allocated beds in Greater Manchester hospitals. He informed Members about the Mentally Health Schools programme currently being piloted at a limited number of schools across Greater Manchester. He also informed Members that all Manchester schools had access to a CAMHS practitioner.

Maria Slater informed the Committee that the crisis care pathway would be part of the highly specialised 24 hours a day, seven days a week offer, and that this would be supported by 10 new members of staff across Manchester and Salford, who were in addition to existing CAMHS staff. She reported that the new staff would work flexibly and would visit children and young people in crisis at their home or school rather than the children attending hospitals' Accident and Emergency departments.

She advised that the new team would offer support at the time of crisis for the first 72 hours, at which point the children would access CAMHS' core offer. She informed Members that many of these children were already known to CAMHS. She outlined work taking place in schools to build children's resilience and improve their mental well-being. She informed Members about the Manchester THRIVE Partnership Board and invited Members to get involved in this. Ms Slater also reported how young people were consulted on this work, including through the Young Person's Forum and offered to circulate posters about the Young Person's Forum to Committee Members.

Decisions

1. To request that details of the Manchester THRIVE Partnership Board be circulated to Members of the Committee.
2. To receive a report on progress made in 12 months' time.

CYP/18/61 Population Health Needs of Manchester Children

The Committee received a report of the Director of Population Health and Wellbeing which provided an overview of the health of children in the city, including outcomes in relation to the first 1000 days of life, dental health, physical health, obesity and malnutrition.

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

- The Manchester Population Health Profile;
- The Health Visiting Service (including Infant Feeding Service);
- The School Health Service (School Nursing and Healthy Schools);
- The services to reduce childhood obesity;
- The Oral Health Improvement Service; and
- Next steps.

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

- The relationship between poverty and poor health outcomes;
- Concern about schools no longer providing fluoridated milk because they could not claim a subsidy under the Nursery Milk Remuneration Scheme for this;
- What could be done to further strengthen the involvement of Health Visitors in the implementation of the Early Years Delivery Model (EYDM); and
- School engagement with the Healthy Schools Programme.

The Strategic Lead (Children and Young People's Population Health) reported that there had been a national recruitment drive for Health Visitors a few years ago and that Manchester had been very successful in recruiting Health Visitors at this time; however, she reported that the population of the city had increased since then, while the funding for the Health Visitor Service had slightly decreased. She advised Members that the Health Visitor Service was reviewing caseloads and working to

ensure that Health Visitors in deprived areas had lower caseloads. She reported that consideration was also being given to what additional work could be carried out by other staff in different roles in order to work together as a system to achieve the aims of the EYDM. The Director of Population Health and Wellbeing reported that the public health grant had been reduced but that a working group had been established to develop proposals for consideration by MHCC for additional investment in Early Years to improve health outcomes. He offered to provide these proposals to the Committee when they were available.

The Commissioning Lead (Children and Young People's Population Health) informed Members about work to engage schools in the Healthy Schools Programme. He advised Members that consideration was being given to how school governors could be engaged to support the Programme. The Chair suggested that this be raised through the Chair of Governors' briefing sessions. The Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services reported that he would raise this issue with a view to training being provided to school governors on the Healthy Schools Programme.

Decisions

1. To request an update report in 12 months' time.
2. To note that the Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services will raise the issue of providing training on the Healthy Schools Programme to school governors.

CYP/18/62 Annual Reports Fostering and Adoption Services

The Committee received a report of the Head of Looked After Children which provided an update on the performance of the Council's Fostering Service and the regional adoption agency Adoption Counts. The Annual Fostering Service Report 2017/2018 and the Manchester Annual Adoption Report 2017/2018 were appended to the covering report.

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

- Ofsted's 2017 inspection of the service;
- The numbers of Looked After Children (Our Children) and the types of placement they were in;
- The recruitment and retention of foster carers;
- The Fostering Panel;
- The number, type and age of children waiting for adoption and the length of time they were waiting;
- Recruitment of adopters;
- Staffing of Adoption Counts;
- Development of Adoption Counts; and
- Adoption support.

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

- To welcome the progress made in both fostering and adoption services;
- The training and support provided to foster carers;
- Request for further information on the staffing structure;
- What alternatives were there for older children who did not want to be fostered;
- Request to see the six-month report on Adoption Counts when it became available;
- What progress had been made in recruiting to the posts within Adoption Counts; and
- What was the outcome of the two complaints relating to Adoption Counts.

The Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services outlined the recruitment process for prospective foster carers and the support and training provided to foster carers. He offered to circulate to Members the recently revised Foster Carer Handbook which included the staffing structure. The Fostering Manager outlined the structure of the service and the progress made in reducing agency staff and sickness levels.

The Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services reported that Alonzi House supported young people, along with their families, to enable them to stay with their own family. He advised that, if a decision was made for a young person to become Looked After, the service would consider whether they could be placed with extended family. Where this was not possible and the young person did not want to go into foster care, they might be placed in a Children's Home.

The Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services reported that he would review the information in the six-month Adoption Counts report and determine the most appropriate way to share this information with the Committee.

Mark Tobin from Adoption Counts reported that, when the agency had gone live, there had been a high number of vacancies but that now all but one of the posts had been filled. He informed Members that one complaint relating to the agency had not been upheld and that he did not know the outcome of the other complaint. The Chair requested that this information be shared with the Committee, ensuring that it did not reveal the identity of those involved.

Decisions

1. To note that the Strategic Director of Children's and Education Services will review the information in the six-month Adoption Counts report and determine the most appropriate way to share this information with the Committee.
2. To request that the outcome of the complaint relating to Adoption Counts be shared with the Committee.

CYP/18/63 Update on Revenue Financial Strategy and Business Plan Process 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer which provided an update on the Council's financial position and set out the next

steps in the budget process. The report summarised officers' proposals for how the Council could deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

In conjunction with the above, the Committee also received and considered the Children and Education Services Business Plan for 2019/20, which set out in broad terms the directorate's key priorities, key activities and revenue and capital strategy for 2019/20, which was a refresh of the directorate's Business Plan for 2018/20 in the context of current resources, challenges and opportunities.

Taken together, the report and the directorate Business Plan illustrated how the directorate would work together and with partners to deliver our Corporate Plan and progress towards the vision set out in the Our Manchester Strategy.

The Committee discussed Manchester schools which had a significant under-spend in their budget. The Head of Finance reported that, where schools had excessive balances, officers were in discussions with the schools about this. She reported that some schools had now put plans in place for this funding and that a clawback of some of this funding had also been agreed

Decision

To support the plans set out within the reports and to note that the Committee will receive and comment on the final budget proposals at its meeting on 5 February 2019.

CYP/18/64 Overview Report

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

The Chair drew Members' attention to a motion in relation to exclusions from PRUs which had been passed at the Full Council meeting on 28 November 2018. He reported that the Committee would receive a report relating to this in June 2019.

Decision

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

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2019

Present:

Councillor Stone – in the Chair
Councillors Hewitson, T Judge, Lovecy, McHale and Sadler

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr A Arogundade, Parent Governor Representative
Mrs J Miles, Representative of the Diocese of Salford
Ms Z Stepan, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non Voting Members:

Mr R Lammas, Primary sector teacher representative
Mr L Duffy, Secondary sector teacher representative

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Ethna Dillon, Vulnerable Baby Service
Justin Watson, Director, Young Manchester

Apologies:

Councillors Alijah and Madeleine Monaghan
Mrs B Kellner, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester
Dr W Omara, Parent Governor Representative

CYP/19/01 Minutes

A Member asked for further information on the work to obtain additional investment in Early Years to improve health outcomes. The Director of Population Health and Wellbeing reported that the NHS Long Term Plan, which had been published the previous day, had highlighted the need for councils and the NHS to work together on commissioning health services, including health visiting and school nurse services. He reported that the Council was currently working with Manchester Health and Care Commissioning to develop a business case for investment and he offered to provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting, provisionally in March 2019.

Decisions

1. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018.
2. To note that the Committee will receive an update on the development of a business case for investment in Early Years at a future meeting.

CYP/19/02 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Executive Member for Children's Services

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 Executive Member for Children's Services referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:

- Children's Services' improvement journey;
- Support for young people leaving care;
- Placements for Our Children (Looked After Children);
- Complex safeguarding;
- Early Years;
- Poverty and austerity;
- Local working;
- Early Help;
- Youth; and
- Young Carers.

The Chair congratulated the Executive Member for Children's Services on his contribution to the improvement of Children's Services. Members noted that progress had been made in some aspects of Early Years provision but that further improvements were needed in some areas and recognised the important role of Health Visitors.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/19/03 Reducing Infant Mortality Strategy

The Committee received a report of the Director of Population Health and Wellbeing and the Strategic Lead, Children and Young People, Population Health and Wellbeing which provided information on current trends, patterns and risk factors associated with infant mortality in Manchester. It highlighted a concerning picture of infant mortality rates increasing since 2011-13 following a long period of year on year reductions. The report also presented the draft five-year multi-agency strategy to reduce infant mortality and support those affected by baby loss.

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

- Trends and patterns of infant deaths in Manchester;
- Causes and underlying factors of infant deaths;
- Modifiable factors; and
- The Manchester Reducing Infant Mortality Draft Strategy.

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

- An expression of serious concern at the increase in infant mortality rates;

- How Manchester compared to its statistical neighbours;
- Why some areas of the city had higher rates of infant mortality than others;
- What was the role of Health Visitors in the strategy and whether there was a link between failure to attend the assessments which formed part of the Early Years Delivery Model and infant mortality; and
- Request for an update on the Baby Clear programme, which promoted stop smoking services to pregnant women.

The Programme Lead informed Members that officers had looked at trends within statistical neighbours and other deprived areas. She reported that some had experienced a similar pattern with infant mortality starting to increase but others had not. She also reported that Nottingham had experienced a rise but that this had since been reversed. She advised Members that officers would be looking at what these areas were doing which Manchester could learn from.

Ethna Dillon from the Vulnerable Baby Service reported that the differences in infant mortality rate between wards could be attributed to factors such as levels of deprivation, ethnicity and behaviour. The Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) Co-ordinator outlined issues in one ward where children of parents who were first or second cousins had died as the result of genetic disorders and reported that work was taking place to identify the best ways to address this.

Ethna Dillon reported that Health Visitors were key to identifying barriers to best care and good outcomes for babies. She advised that infant mortality was not usually due to just one factor. She reported that where a family did not attend assessment appointments, targeted support was provided.

The Programme Lead reported that smoking during pregnancy was one of the biggest modifiable factors in neonatal deaths. She advised Members that Baby Clear was a Greater Manchester-wide programme which was being rolled out in stages. She informed Members that it had already been introduced in north Manchester but that it was too early to say what the impact had been.

Decisions

1. To support the strategy to reduce infant mortality.
2. To receive an update report in 12 months' time.

CYP/19/04 Sport and Active Lifestyles of Children and Young People

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided a review of data from the 2017/2018 academic year along with information relating to the provision of Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) in Manchester schools and a full analysis of primary sports premium funding in Manchester and how schools were prioritising resources.

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

- Evidencing the impact of PE and Primary Premium Funding;

- Active Lives Survey for children and young people;
- Healthy Schools;
- Manchester PESSPA Plan; and
- Government Trailblazer Fund.

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

- Concern that funding was being used to bring in external coaches as a cheap way to provide cover for teachers' preparation, planning and assessment (PPA) time;
- How to ensure that schools made full use of the resources in their local area and that children were encouraged to make use of their local facilities;
- The cost of transport, where schools were not within walking distance of their nearest leisure facilities;
- Whether childhood obesity was increasing; and
- How many schools were involved in the Daily Mile initiative.

The Sport and Leisure Lead reported that, while nationally external coaches were being used to provide PPA cover, this was less of an issue in Manchester. He informed Members that his service undertook quality assurance of providers so that schools could be confident that they were using a quality assured provider. He advised that guidance was provided to schools on how to make best use of their local facilities. The Director of Education reported that many schools did make good use of local facilities and that this showed children what was available in their local area which they could also use outside of school. The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure advised Members that, outside of school, Sports Activators worked to encourage communities to make the best use of their local sport and leisure facilities. He acknowledged that transport was an issue and that the transport system needed to be improved. The Strategic Lead (Population Health and Wellbeing) reported that more children were overweight and obese year on year both in Manchester and nationally. She outlined work taking place to tackle obesity in Early Years. The Sport and Leisure Lead reported that 93% of Manchester primary schools had signed up for the Daily Mile.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/19/05 Youth and Play Services

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an update in relation to the recommendations set out in the Youth and Play Trust Executive report presented in February 2016. It provided an overview of the progress made to establish Young Manchester as an independent youth and play charity and its contract with the Council which had seen it take on the commissioning of the city's Youth and Play Fund Programme. The report also updated Members on the impact of grant funding relationships with the Youth Hubs across the city.

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

- The development of Young Manchester;
- Youth and Play Fund 2018 – 2020;
- Strategic leadership;
- Additional Young Manchester Grant Programmes;
- Youth and Play Fund reach April – September 2018;
- Marketing and communication;
- Youth Hubs; and
- Wider Youth and Play Offer.

The Head of Youth Strategy and Engagement clarified that the length of the contract between the Council and Young Manchester was 2.5 years, not 3.5 years, as stated at point 2.2 in the report.

Justin Watson, Director of Young Manchester, outlined the organisation's work so far, reporting that it had commissioned 58 organisations to provide youth and play services and highlighting that it had secured £2 million of funding through the #iwill programme to match the investment from the Council. He informed Members that future priorities were to continue to match fund the Council's investment to ensure sustainability and to build a strong network of youth and play services across the city. He reported that this networking also extended beyond commissioned youth and play providers, for example, building links with cultural organisations such as HOME, Contact and the Royal Exchange.

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

- To note that the Head of Youth Strategy and Engagement was leaving and to thank him for his work;
- Request for the needs analysis ranking information for the 32 wards in Manchester;
- Whether there would be any detached work taking place in east Manchester; and
- That some young people were unwilling to cross ward boundaries to access youth provision.

The Head of Youth Strategy and Engagement reported that some detached and outreach work was taking place through the Youth and Play Fund although, he advised, it was important not to duplicate work which other partners were doing, citing the Positive Engagement Programme, funded by the Community Safety Partnership and housing providers. Justin Watson commented that Young Manchester was keen to learn from the Positive Engagement Programme, which was currently carry out detached work in eight wards, and to develop and expand the detached youth work offer across the city.

The Head of Youth Strategy and Engagement acknowledged the territorial issues which affected whether young people attended youth provision and reported that the new Youth Zone in east Manchester had been strategically located in a neutral area. In response to a question from the Chair, he reported that increasingly young people from across north Manchester were accessing the Youth Zone in Harpurhey. He

also outlined how partner organisations worked together across each Youth Zone area to improve youth provision.

Decisions

1. To receive a further report in July 2019 which focuses on qualitative data, including evidence of impact, outcomes and young people's feedback relating to the Youth and Play Fund 2018/19.
2. To request the needs analysis ranking information for the 32 wards in Manchester.

[Councillor Stone declared a personal interest as member of the Board of Trustees of HOME.]

CYP/19/06 Annual report on Manchester's implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms introduced in 2014

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an update on how Manchester was implementing the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) reforms introduced in September 2014. It also provided information on the numbers of children and young people with SEND in the local area, data on pupil attainment, attendance and exclusions and comparisons with national data.

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

- The overall population with SEND;
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP);
- How the views of parents, carers and children and young people impacted on strategic decisions;
- The SEND Local Offer;
- How the needs of young people with SEND were being met through education, health and care services;
- Preparing young people with SEND for adulthood;
- Improving pathways into services;
- Improving outcomes and standards across education and training; and
- Training on SEND for staff from all agencies.

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

- The £2.9 million capital funding which the Department for Education (DfE) was providing over the next three years for implementing priorities agreed through the Strategic Review of SEND provision in 2017/18;
- Concern that some children with SEND were not being identified early enough;
- The costs of providing education for young people with SEND up to the age of 25;

- Concern that some schools had a significant under-spend in their budget which could be spent elsewhere;
- Concern that children with SEND were disproportionately likely to be excluded; and
- Sufficiency of special school places in the city and the use of independent school placements for children with SEND.

The Director of Education reported that officers welcomed the £2.9 million of capital funding but that there would be still be an over-spend. The Head of Schools Quality Assurance and Strategic SEND reported that the Early Years Delivery Model (EYDM) had resulted in children with SEND being identified earlier, adding that this was the first year that the rollout of EYDM had reached schools. She welcomed that there was now a health representative on the SEND Board and advised Members that one of the key priorities had been to increase the number of two-year-olds receiving a Health Visitor assessment. She informed Members that a pilot was taking place in which some schools were working more pro-actively with feeder nurseries to improve communication and identification of children with SEND and that, if this was successful, it would be rolled out further. The Executive Member for Children's Services reported that the take-up of Health Visitor assessments at nine months and two years would be a key area of focus for him and that further information would be included in a future update.

The SEND Lead reported that the Council currently spent more than £6 million of the High Needs budget on post-16 education for young people with SEND, advising that this figure excluded sixth form provision in special schools. She reported that Manchester had an excellent education and training offer for young people with SEND which, she advised, could be resulting in more young people choosing to stay in education. She outlined work taking place with the Work and Skills Team and Adult Social Care to support the transition to adult life and support young people with SEND to access opportunities outside of education, such as work, leisure provision and involvement in their local community.

The Chair reported that the under-spend of some schools had been challenged by the Committee and also the Schools Forum. He encouraged Members to read the papers from the Schools Forum, which were available on the Council's website. The Director of Education reported that conversations had taken place with the relevant schools, some of which had returned the money, and that this returned money had been allocated to the High Needs Block.

The Director of Education outlined the work taking place to support and challenge schools in relation to the exclusion of, and outcomes for, children with SEND. She advised Members that the Council was awaiting the report on the National Review on Exclusions and would be finalising Manchester's multi-agency Inclusion Strategy shortly. She informed Members about plans to increase the number of special school places in the city, using the £2.9 million from national government and £20 million of Manchester's Basic Needs allocation, putting in an expression of interest to the national government for new special and alternative provision free schools and expanding capacity in existing special schools.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/19/07 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 December 2018

Present:

Councillor Igbon – in the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Appleby, Flanagan, Harland, Hassan, Hewitson, Hughes, Jeavons, Kilpatrick, Lyons, Reid, Sadler, Strong, White and Wright

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor Stogia, Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport

Councillor Shilton Godwin, Lead Member for Cycling and Active Travel

Peter Boulton, Head of Highways, Transport for Greater Manchester

Apologies: Councillor Noor

NESC/18/51 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018 as a correct record.

NESC/18/52 Update on Revenue Financial Strategy and Business Plan Process 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer which provided an update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process. The report summarised Officer proposals for how the Council could deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also received and considered the Neighbourhoods Directorate Business Plans and Strategic Development Business Plans for 2019/20, which set out in broad terms the directorate's key priorities, key activities and revenue and capital strategy for 2019/20, which was a refresh of the directorate's Business Plans for 2018/20 in the context of current resources, challenges and opportunities.

Taken together, the report and the directorate Business Plan illustrated how the directorate would work together and with partners to deliver Our Plan and progress towards the vision set out in the Our Manchester Strategy.

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

- Members recognised the hard work undertaken by staff delivering services in neighbourhoods;
- Members unanimously stated that no consideration should be given to reducing the already stretched neighbourhood services;

- That the results of the BHeard survey are circulated to all Members as soon as the results are available;
- Consideration needed to be given to allocating additional funding to the neighbourhood service;
- A review of the waste contract was required to ensure that it was still fit for purpose;
- Neighbourhoods Services should not be outsourced;
- Following the recent ward boundary changes consideration needed to be given to how resources are allocated across the city to reflect this;
- How did the numbers of staff working in neighbourhood teams compare to other cities of similar size;
- An assurance was sought on the figures relating to business rates;
- How confident was the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods that the savings identified could be achieved from increased rates of recycling;
- Clarification was sought on the reported underspend by Highways and was enough being allocated for the maintenance and repair of footways;
- An assurance was sought regarding that social value was included in the commissioning of services and contracts;
- Consideration needed to be given as to how the Council could generate income;
- What work had been done to support district centres;
- Clarification was sought as to where Social Housing would be built and an assurance was sought that ward members would be consulted with;
- When building social housing consideration needed to be given to the planning and delivery of other services, such as schools and doctor's surgeries to meet the demand of the local population;
- The need to stop the Right to Buy scheme for social housing;
- Public transport and connectivity needed to be improved across the city so that residents could access employment opportunities; and
- What was being done to address homelessness especially for families living in temporary accommodation.

The Deputy City Treasurer responded by saying that the increased revenue from the collection of business rates and the increase in the council tax base had been modelled based on intelligence of the local economy. She said that whilst consideration had to be given to the current uncertainty regarding Brexit there was not enough detail as yet to confirm the likely impact. She also noted the volatility of appeals and that these assumptions are subject to scrutiny by the Council's external auditors. She commented that further information as to how the figure had been calculated would be circulated to the Committee.

The Deputy Chief Executive noted the Members comments regarding staff delivering services in neighbourhoods on behalf of residents. She said that the current proposals did not represent any reduction in service and the proposals would be achieved through efficiencies, such as the waste levy contract and PFI arrangements. She said that she would circulate the savings that had been identified in the 2017/18 budget that would describe these arrangements in further detail.

The Deputy Chief Executive said that income generation could be achieved via an increase in the penalty charge for offences such as littering, with the revenue

generated then reinvested into services. She further commented that a commercial strategy would be developed to explore other opportunities such as sponsorships and a review of contracts to generate income that could then be reinvested to support services. She said that the current proposals were in draft form and the business plans would be submitted to the February 2019 meeting for comment prior to the Executive approving the budget.

The Deputy Chief Executive further commented that a significant amount of work had been undertaken, including the Highways Department in relation to social value and district centres. She explained that this activity had been reported and monitored by the Ethical Procurement and Contract Monitoring Subgroup and the District Centre Subgroup respectively.

In response to a Members comment calling for an increase in enforcement activity in relation to flytipping, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that a substantive report describing the work of the Compliance and Enforcement Service would be considered later on the agenda.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods said that he recognised that the significant budget cuts imposed by Central Government had an impact on services delivered in local neighbourhoods. He commented that he remained confident that the savings identified in relation to waste and recycling could be achieved. He reported that Phase 1 and 2 of the recycling changes in apartment blocks had been completed and the initial analysis indicating that residual waste had reduced and recycling had increased. He informed Members that Phase 3 and 4 was due to commence and he was confident that the same results would be achieved. He described that this Our Manchester approach demonstrated a commitment to working with, and supporting residents to achieve positive outcomes and achieve the required savings.

The Director of Operation (Highways) responded to the questions regarding the underspend in 2017/18 planned maintenance programme by commenting that the previous winter had been particularly challenging due to the exceptionally bad and long winter. When asked about progress in 2018/19 he noted he was confident that there was the required capacity to deliver the planned programme of work but weather could be a factor again if winter is worse than average.

The Executive Member for the Environment described that when she initially acquired responsibility for highways she undertook a review of the planned programme of work to ensure that all wards received improvement works. She said that social value was incorporated into the procurement activity and staff had been recruited to increase the number of highways inspections undertaken. She commented that all works were planned and managed to minimise the disruption and reiterated the point that appropriate works were undertaken in the winter months and that if all works in year were carried out just in summer the disruption would be considerable.

In response to the comments regarding the reported underspend on Highways the Chair recommended that a report on this would be required for the next meeting of the Committee, and that this report would include the underspend figures, including

for 2017/18; an explanation to the reasons for any underspend; the planned programme of works and information on the capacity to deliver this programme of work.

The Strategic Director (Development) said that all of the land the Council owned would be reviewed to help identify any suitable areas on which to build new homes. He said that he acknowledged the comments regarding consultation with local ward members and gave an assurance that this would be undertaken. He further acknowledged the comment regarding the adequate planning of schools and health services and said this would be taken into consideration as the plans developed, and further reports on this activity would be available next year.

The Strategic Director (Development) further commented that the Council was working with private developers within the National Planning Policy Framework to deliver a range of housing products for Manchester residents. He also informed the Committee that the Spatial Framework and the Local Plan would be available for consideration and comment at the February 2019 meeting of the Economy Scrutiny Committee.

In respect of public transport and connectivity the Strategic Director (Development) explained that the Economy Scrutiny Committee had reviewed this topic, noting the Mayor of Greater Manchester was undertaking a review of bus services across the city region. He further commented that planning conditions linked to employment could also be used when developers are seeking permission.

In response to the questions regarding homelessness the Chair agreed that a briefing note would be provided by officers and circulated to members of the Committee.

Decisions

The Committee: -

1. Note the reports and request that the comments of the Committee be taken into consideration when the final business plans were produced.
2. Requests that a further detailed report on the Highways underspend be submitted to the next meeting. This report would include the underspend figures, including for 2017/18; an explanation to the reasons for any underspend; the planned programme of works and information on the capacity to deliver the programme of work.
3. Requests that a briefing note on homelessness and the actions taken to address this be provided by officers and circulated to members of the Committee.
4. Recommend no further reduction in neighbourhood services.
5. Recommend that the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance explore opportunities to invest additional funding to deliver neighbourhood services.

NESC/18/53 Update on the Delivery of Cycle Schemes and Proposed Principles to Guide the Extension of Cycling and Walking Networks

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive that provided an update on the investment in cycling infrastructure in Manchester, reviewing schemes completed through the first phase of the Cycle City Ambition Grant, summarising proposals currently being developed and, in the light of additional resources being made available through the Mayor's Challenge Fund, proposed an approach that could inform the development of a pipeline of future schemes to encourage higher levels of walking and cycling.

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

- Describing these activities within a policy and strategy context;
- An update on the schemes delivered to date;
- An update on the schemes currently in development;
- Describing the schemes identified for Phase 2 and how these were being developed, including an update on how schools would be connected to the cycle networks;
- An update on the Mayor's Walking and Cycling Challenge Fund and the development of the Beelines Network, an innovative new plan to create a city-region-wide cycling and walking network made up of more than 1,000 miles of routes, including 75 miles of Dutch-style segregated bike lanes; and
- The strategic principals for developing future cycling and walking networks across the city.

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

- The lack of cycle lanes in the north and east of the city compared to the south of the city;
- The need to improve both the bus and metrolink service to the north and east of the city;
- The Rochdale canal footway should be improved to provide a cycle route to connect the north of the city to the city centre;
- The report did not include any information on the provision of cycle storage or consideration as to the use of experimental traffic orders to encourage cycling;
- Consideration needed to be given to illuminating cycling routes, like the Fallowfield Loop to ensure cyclists were safe;
- An analysis of cycling journeys needed to be undertaken with consideration given to linking district centres together with cycle routes;
- The timing of the Chorlton cycle lane consultation was inappropriate and an extension of two weeks was recommended;
- Not enough printed material had been available for the Chorlton cycle lane consultation exercise;
- Concern was expressed that the Chorlton Road corridor consultation exercise was not transparent, with the views of cyclists and residents being dismissed.

The Lead Member for cycling and active travel said that the lack of cycle lanes in the north of the city was recognised. She said to address this the first principal for future investment schemes had been that the first schemes in a future pipeline should be in parts of Manchester yet to receive significant investment with a particular initial focus on the north of the city.

The Executive Member for the Environment responded to the comments regarding the Chorlton Road corridor consultation exercise. She explained that at this time it was not necessary to extend the period of the consultation, however she would review this when the consultation ended in January 2019. She advised that information had been viewed over 6000 times online; 487 formal responses had been received to date; a number of engagement events had been organised with two future community drop in events planned and printed material had been made available in the libraries and other public places. In addition to this she said the proposals for the scheme had been widely promoted on social media.

A Member commented that the lessons learnt from the planning and delivery of previous schemes, such as the one in Didsbury needed to be learnt, stressing the importance of resident involvement in the design of schemes. The Chair further commented that the response rate to date appeared low considering the planned proposal and recommended that a report on the outcomes of the Chorlton Road corridor consultation exercise, containing all of the responses be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.

In response to specific questions raised regarding proposals for Hyde Road, officers stated that they would discuss this with the Members outside of the meeting.

The Director of Operations (Highways) noted that decisions about schemes in Manchester were made by the Council although there is close working with the cycling commissioner and his team.

Decisions

The Committee: -

1. Recommend that the Executive Member for the Environment extends the Chorlton Road corridor consultation exercise for a period of two weeks following the 11th January 2019.
2. Requests that a report on the outcomes of the Chorlton Road corridor consultation exercise, containing all of the responses be submitted to the Committee for consideration at an appropriate time.
3. Requests that Chris Boardman, Greater Manchester's Cycling and Walking Commissioner be invited to any future meeting when reports on the delivery of cycle schemes are to be considered.

NESC/18/54

**Planning and Delivery of Pavement and Footway
Maintenance and the Management of Traffic Flow**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive that provided information on the communications associated with highway works and the planning and delivery of pavement and footway maintenance. In addition to the written report the Committee received a presentation from officers from both Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the City Council on the management of traffic flow. This included an explanation of how roadworks were planned and what measures were taken to respond to events and incidents to try to ensure that traffic flow is effectively managed.

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

- Information on the Highways Communication Strategy;
- Information on roads and footway inspections undertaken in order to identify all defects likely to create danger or serious inconvenience to users of the network or the wider community;
- Information on the planned programmes of footway maintenance work that were developed to prioritise the worst condition footways on the Key Route Network (KRN) and Community Network (CN) and tie in with the road resurfacing programme where possible. Works involved resurfacing or overlay of the existing footway, with kerb replacement where required; and
- Information on how TfGM who had responsibility for the day to day management of the Urban Traffic Control system including the installation and maintenance of traffic signals manage this across the city.

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

- The reported estimated footway that needed repair was a significant amount and was the resources allocated to deliver the scale of works required sufficient;
- Was any of the income generated from pop up events used to repair any damage caused to the pathway;
- The condition of the footways was not user friendly for any resident with a disability and would not pass the age friendly test, especially around district centres;
- The length of time to repair defective footways was too long in many cases; and
- Traffic flow needed to be better coordinated, especially when major events are taking place in the city to minimise the impact on residents.

The Head of Citywide Highways said that he acknowledged the comments regarding the condition of footways, however those conditions were not as challenging as the highway conditions. He advised that they had inherited a backlog of repair work however he was confident that improvements to the footway conditions would be delivered and emergency repairs would always be prioritised. In response to a comment from a Member he commented that inspections of district centres would be undertaken.

The Chair requested that the planned programme of repair work for footways be circulated to Members.

In response to a concern expressed by Members regarding the impact of planned major works scheduled to start in 2019 on both congestion and air quality, the Director of Operations (Highways) advised that a review of the planning for this had already begun. He described that the traffic modelling of these works was being done TfGM so this could then inform the scheduling of the planned work to minimise disruption.

The Head of Highways, TfGM commented that if Members wished to visit the TfGM Control Room this could be arranged.

The Chair invited Members to contact her directly with any issues or concerns regarding the issue of traffic flow management and she would then meet with officers to progress bringing a report back to the Committee at an appropriate time.

Decisions

The Committee: -

1. Requests that the planned programme of repair work for footways be circulated to Members.
2. Agree that Members contact the Chair directly with any issues or concerns regarding the management of traffic flow management and she would then meet with officers to progress bringing a report back to the Committee at an appropriate time.

NESC/18/55 Compliance and Enforcement Service - Performance in 2017/18

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Operating Officer, Neighbourhoods that provided Members with an update on demand for and performance of the Compliance and Enforcement service during 2017/18. The report also provided information on the activities undertaken around enforcement in relation to double yellow line tickets; obstruction of the highways; hot food providers' waste contracts and how these are policed; enforcement activity undertaken by the Licensing and Out of Hours Compliance Team outside of the city centre area; tackling counterfeit goods, with particular reference to the Strangeways area; planning enforcement and legislation relating to the operation of Airbnb.

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

- A description on the various teams that made up the Compliance and Enforcement service;
- Comparative data on the number of requests for service received and the number of proactive activities undertaken;
- An analysis of the main types of complaint received;
- Information on the number of enforcement action taken, including data on prosecutions; and
- Examples were provided to highlight the various activities and the outcomes achieved by the various teams.

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

- Welcoming the reported activities to investigate and prosecute those responsible for flytipping;
- Noting the increase in prosecutions particularly for flytipping and querying how this has been achieved and how the total amount of fines compares to previous years.
- Noting the increase in noise nuisance complaints particularly in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and querying whether the fees raised from the extension to Mandatory HMO licensing provided additional resources for enforcement.;
- Noting that London Authorities had powers to require businesses to comply with strict time banded collections, which only allowed the collection of commercial waste at defined times and whether this could be introduced in Manchester city centre;
- Would enforcement action be taken if someone parked on a double yellow line that was faded;
- In recognition of the issues surrounding the Strangeways area, consideration should be given to having a dedicated officer dealing with this area;
- What is the process for moving from working with people and businesses to achieve compliance to more formal action when they fail to comply; and
- With the increase in development there were a lot of issues related to the construction industry and what was being done to address this.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods stated that the compliance teams had adopted the Our Manchester approach to work with residents and businesses to improve the physical environment. He said that officers would always work with businesses in the first instance to address any issues associated with commercial waste, however accepted the point raised by a Member that in some instances enforcement action was required sooner to prevent an issue from escalating.

The Strategic Lead, Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety welcomed the recognition of the work undertaken by the Environmental Crimes Team to drive the number of prosecutions. She explained that where prosecutions are secured the fines imposed by the courts go to the treasury rather than the local authority but we are generally awarded the costs we have incurred from taking the prosecution forward. She further explained it is important to prosecute e.g. fly tipping offences and publicise the outcomes as it sends out the clear message that this anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated.

She explained that licensing of HMOs is self-financing. In respect of dealing with noise complaints the licensing and out of hours' team take action to deal with this and having a team that concentrates on areas outside of the city centre has enabled more effective action to be taken including noise from HMOs.

In response to the comments made regarding replicating the powers that London Authorities had in relation to the collection of commercial waste the Strategic Lead, Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety said that Manchester, as part of the

Core Cities Group were currently working together including meeting with civil servants to seek similar powers for core cities.

In response to the comments made regarding replicating the powers that London Authorities had in relation to the collection of commercial waste the Strategic Lead, Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety said that Manchester, as part of the Core Cities Group were currently lobbying central government.

The Strategic Lead, Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety acknowledged the comments made regarding the Strangeway area stating that the issues are long standing and entrenched. She described that the Council had used Closure Order powers to disrupt criminal and anti-social behaviour and work is ongoing with a range of partners to target properties and prosecute individuals. She explained that due to the sensitivity of this activity it would be appropriate to provide a briefing note to Members regarding planned activities.

The Strategic Lead, Compliance Enforcement and Community Safety further commented that it will be through redevelopment of the area that real and lasting change would be achieved.

In response to the question asked regarding double yellow lines, the Head of Citywide Highways explained that a judgement would always be made by officers as to the justification for issuing a penalty notice. He said that officers always needed to witness an offence taking place and photographic evidence was taken to support the penalty.

The Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing informed Members that her department worked closely with developers to minimise and mitigate the worst impacts on local residents. She described that this was achieved by agreeing a development management plan and working closely with colleagues in the Environmental Protection Team.

Decision

The Committee recommends that a briefing note on the planned activities for the Strangeways area be prepared by officers and circulated to members of the Committee.

NESC/18/56 Draft Terms of Reference and Work Programme for the Behaviour Change and Waste Task and Finish Group

The Committee considered the report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit that set out the proposed terms of reference and work programme for the Behaviour Change and Waste Task and Finish group.

The Committee were invited to agree the membership of the Task and Finish Group; agree the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group and agree the work programme of the Task and Finish Group, which would be reviewed by the group at each of its meetings.

Decisions

1. To appoint Councillors Hassan, Hughes, Jeavons, Kiltraick, Lyons, Reid, Wright as members of the Behaviour Change and Waste Task and Finish group.
2. The Committee approved the terms of reference and the work programme of the Task and Finish Group.

NESC/18/57 Overview Report

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

A Member commented that consideration needed to be given to the number of items on future agendas so as to allow enough time to scrutinise each item thoroughly.

The Chair informed the Committee that she would be meeting with Officers at the rise of this meeting to discuss the Work Programme and agree the items that were to be scheduled.

Decisions

The Committee notes the report and approve the work programme.

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 5 December 2018

Present:

Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Connolly, Davies, Douglas, Hacking, Johns, Newman, C Paul, Raikes, Shilton Godwin, A Simcock and K Simcock

Also present:

Councillor Clay (Minutes ESC/18/57 and ESC/18/58 only)
Councillor N Murphy - Deputy Leader
Councillor Richards - Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration
Councillor Russell - (Minutes ESC/18/59 and ESC/18/61 only)

Apologies:

Councillors Green, Noor and Razaq

ESC/19/54 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

ESC/19/55 Update on Revenue Financial Strategy and Business Plan Process 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer which provided an update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process. The report summarised Officer proposals for how the Council could deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also received and considered the Strategic Development Business Plan for 2019/20, which set out in broad terms the directorate's key priorities, key activities and revenue and capital strategy for 2019/20, which was a refresh of the directorate's Business Plan for 2018/20 in the context of current resources, challenges and opportunities.

Taken together, the report and the directorate Business Plan illustrated how the directorate would work together and with partners to deliver Our Plan and progress towards the vision set out in the Our Manchester Strategy.

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

- Why was there lower than expected Council Tax growth;
- What assumptions had been made that underpinned the anticipated income from Business Rates;
- What assumptions had been made on the anticipated increase in customer and client receipts in relation to planning applications;

- What was the time scale for implementing the proposed increases in relation to planning fee income
- Who would be reviewing all planning fee income as referred to in the report; and
- What was considered to be a comparatively low number of agency staff as referred to in the report.

The Deputy City Treasure advised that Council Tax growth was originally projected at 3.5% based on the number of properties that were intended for development over the course of this financial year. At present, the growth was at 2.23% and this was mainly due to the timing of when properties were coming on stream. She also explained that some of the assumptions that had been made in relation to the expected income from Business Rates were based around the growth of businesses within the city, some inflationary changes and assumptions regarding the impact of the 100% retention pilot which ensured that the Council was no worse off than under the 50% retention scheme. It was explained that due to the volatility of Business Rates related to the number of appeals, projecting the actual revenue income was difficult.

The Strategic Director (Development) advised that in relation to the increase in planning fees, it had been agreed with HM Treasury that all income would be ring fenced to the service. As this was the first year of this additional income a prudent view was needed going forward in respect of a possible Brexit 'No Deal' and the negative effect that this could have on commercial and residential growth and the associated impact to the Council's income. He reported that the Council had established some years ago a level of reserves to provide a short term solution should planning fee income reduce, but a longer term view would be required.

The Strategic Director (Development) advised that as the Council's Planning service had only to his responsibility in the summer, work was currently being undertaken in relation to reviewing the whole of the service which would be reported to the Executive as part of the budget proposals in February 2019. He also commented that the use of agency staff within the directorate was very low, and used to back fill posts particularly in development and surveying. Efforts were being made to fill these posts with permanent staff in order to reduce the use of agency staff.

The Committee:-

- (1) welcomes the report and notes that this is the third year of a three year budget; and
- (2) notes that the Business Plan will be developed further taking the Committee's comments into account, and a revised plan will be submitted to the Committee's meeting in February 2019.

ESC/19/56 Delivering Manchester's Affordable Housing Strategy - Update on the delivery of the Council's affordable housing strategy

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Development), which provided an update on the delivery of the Council's affordable housing strategy.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:-

- An overview of the Council's 10 year residential growth strategy and progress to date;
- The level of social housing provision within the city;
- A synopsis of Manchester's housing market and affordability;
- The Council's delivery of affordable housing over the last three years and its proposals for the delivery of further affordable homes up to 2025;
- Investment opportunities resulting from the establishment of the Housing Affordability Fund; and
- Housing provision for older and vulnerable people, including access to suitable properties.

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

- Was it possible to inform Members of the sites proposed for the additional 150 homes and what process was used to include Ward Councillors in identifying these locations;
- In relation to affordability figures, was there any data available in relation to help Manchester residents with deposits;
- Was there any evidence from other core cities that a more balanced housing market was able to attract more working households;
- Was there any connection between the disparity of worker and resident wages in the city and the rise in homelessness;
- Why was the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme (SOAHP) undersubscribed;
- What was being done to address the issue of families living in overcrowded social housing;
- Why was the Local Housing Allowance higher in Wythenshawe in comparison to the rest of the city as this was proving problematic for Wythenshawe residents who were on low incomes; and
- How successful had the Council been, in working with its public and private partners in delivering the Housing Affordability Framework.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration advised that Ward Member consultation was ongoing and acknowledged the need to include Ward Councillors in discussions in the earlier stages of the process of identifying sites. The Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that prior to the HRA Cap being lifted, the Council had applied for some HRA headroom and in doing so had identified a number of potential sites which added up to 150 homes, with the locations being indicative for the purpose of the bid. There would be need to revisit these initial allocations and hold discussions with local Ward Councillors before any final proposals were determined.

The Strategic Director (Development) reported that the only metric the Council had in relation to the support provided to residents for deposits was through the help to buy government scheme. The Committee was also advised that the Council had launched a small scheme to help those who could afford a mortgage repayment, but

were not able to save for a deposit and although this scheme was new, there was a high demand for this from Manchester residents. He also advised that more work was needed to be undertaken as to whether there was evidence from other core cities that a more balanced housing market was able to attract more working households. He reported that the disparity of worker and resident wages in the city had likely had an impact on the and the rise in homelessness, but there were a number of other drivers too, including the increased demand for housing, the wider impact of the welfare reforms and the behaviours of poor landlords that were the nexus of the housing issues the City was facing.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration advised that the Council did not have the level of detail in relation to the number of families living in overcrowded properties, but acknowledged that this was an issue that had been identified as part of the review of the housing allocations policy and was something that was being looked into.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that Homes England had found that the time allowed it had for SOAHP funding to be applied for versus the complexity of the sites and size of bids that had come forward had not allowed enough time for them to process all the bids. As such, Home England had changed its approach its next round of funding, and were talking to a smaller number of partners and inviting larger bids over longer periods of time for deliver, giving greater flexibility to invest. He also reported that in most parts of the city, Local Housing Allowance and affordable rents worked together, however, in Wythenshawe this was not the case and levels were slightly above social rental levels to tie into its Local Housing Allowance. This was something that the Council was minded to address and formed part of the proposals in the next report.

Decision

The Committee notes the progress made to date in delivering the Council's affordable housing strategy.

ESC/19/57 Delivering Manchester's Affordable Housing Strategy - Proposed new affordable housing policies for the Council

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration, which set out proposed new affordable housing policies for the Council.

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

- The affordable housing context for the City;
- The challenges the Council's affordable housing policy needed to address;
- The opportunities that were available to the Council to invest in and deliver more housing;
- An overview of funding new affordable homes;
- A range of policy ideas proposed to deliver a step change in the number and tenure of affordable homes being built across the City;

- The additional resources needed by the Council to deliver the proposed policy ideas;
- Associated risks affecting Manchester's affordable housing supply;
- Other considerations that would be required to be taken into consideration in shaping and taking forward these policies; and
- Next steps.

The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 12 December 2018.

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

- There was overwhelming support from Members in relation to the proposed policies;
- It was felt that the good collaborative work with Registered Providers needed to continue in order to deliver suitable social rented properties;
- It was hoped that the proposed establishment of new vehicles to enable residents to own their own homes would be fast tracked into a reality;
- What was being done to avoid the stigmatization of Housing Affordability Zones as being referred to as new 'council estates';
- Would it be possible to commit to building more Council homes than what was being lost through Right to Buy;
- Consideration needed to be given to the design of future properties to ensure that these were zero carbon developments;
- Would the proposal to unlock smaller sites and developments within wards across the city to develop a local strategy and solution to positively encourage a range of tenants to downsize not conflict with the priorities of other Executive Members and the use of that land;
- There was a need to address the number of Council homes being sold under Right to Buy before new Council houses were built;
- Reassurance was sought that older people and those who were vulnerable would not be pressured into downsizing their council properties
- It was felt that the proposed policy in relation to community housing development should not be restricted to just three pilot areas, and it should also be offered to those areas and communities that wanted this type of development;
- What were the timescales for the finance and legal considerations of the policy proposals to be taken into account;
- How would the Council deliver the proposed 3000 new homes if the Total debt cap was not lifted;
- How would the proposal to bring the HRA back into balance interact with the proposed policies;
- Had a team been identified to undertake the feasibility study of housing in the city centre and if so what progress had been made; and
- Was it envisaged that there would be a net gain in social housing as part of the proposed policies.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration welcomed the support from the Committee and thanked all the Members who had been involved in developing the proposed policies and agreed that continued collaboration with Registered

Providers, both existing and new, was key as they played an important role within neighbourhoods and local communities. She commented that the Council had committed to being a zero carbon organisation by 2038 and that a zero carbon approach to future housing development would be key to this but also there was also a need to address this within the Council's existing housing stock.

The Executive Member explained that there was a clear approach to the development of the Housing Affordability Zones which was about building mixed and sustainable communities, rather than large single tenure developments. She advised that it was her ambition for the Council to be able to get to a point where it had a net gain in the number of Council homes it was building within the next 10 years.

The Executive Member commented that she was passionate about community led housing and would welcome working with community groups across the city that were interested in producing these type of developments in order to do as much as was possible to support. She explained that there was ongoing discussions with other Executive Members around the prioritisation of use of council land assets, and reassured the Committee that the report was clear as to what she felt the prioritisation of the assets should be used for. She agreed with the comments around addressing the sale of Council homes under Right to Buy and was exploring how the Council could take council house building outside of the Right to Buy but this needed further development

The Executive Member reassured the Committee that the downsizing of residents in Council homes needed to be led by the needs of older people but acknowledged that there as an opportunity to offer a better fit for residents within the Council's existing housing stock.

The Executive Member advised that the financial and legal considerations would be taken over the forthcoming months and a report was due to be submitted to the Executive on this in February 2019.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that an Action Plan for the tackling HRA deficit was in process and more detailed work would be undertaken and reported back through Scrutiny in February/March 2019. He also advised that to replace the loss of Right to Buy social rented properties solely with new social rented properties would be unaffordable within the current constraints of the HRA.

The Executive Member advised that she would provide more detail to City Centre Councillors on the proposed feasibility study of housing in the city centre. The Director of Housing and Regeneration commented that a review of the Total debt cap would take place in 2020 by Government. Currently the Council had opened discussions with Homes England around a case to Government about the importance of the proposed policies which presented ambitious plans for housing development.

Decision:

The Committee:-

- (1) Welcomes and fully supports the proposed policies outlined by the Executive Member;
- (2) Endorses the recommendations contained within the report that the Executive:-
 - endorse the affordable housing policy proposals as set out in section 5 of the report; and
 - note that officers will consider the financial and legal consequences of these policy proposals and report back to Executive in early 2019
- (3) Requests that the report on financial and legal consequences of these policy proposals is submitted to the Scrutiny Committee prior to its consideration by the Executive; and
- (4) Requests more detail be provided to all Committee Members on the proposed feasibility study of housing in the city centre.

ESC/19/58 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; and
- (2) Agrees the work programme.

ESC/19/59 Manchester College Estates Strategy (Part A)

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Development) and City Treasurer, which provided an update on the LTE Group's progress in acquiring a city centre site located within the Northern Gateway Great Ducie Street Regeneration area for the Manchester College city campus, which was a key part of its estates strategy.

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

- An overview of Manchester College's Estates strategy, which included the proposal to consolidate the estate from 24 disparate sites into three centres of excellence in the City Centre and Openshaw, supported by community learning hubs in Harpurhey, Openshaw and Wythenshawe;
- The new campus would focus on Manchester's employment growth sectors and new markets, where technological change required a more highly skilled and adaptable workforce,;
- To meet the College's ambitions, a new city centre campus needed to be accessible by public transport and create a high quality and safe environment to inspire learners to achieve;
- Land to the east of Great Ducie Street had been identified as the preferred site for the new City Centre campus;

- The proposed arrangements to fund the delivery of the new city centre campus, which included a loan funding package of £27.6m from the Council; and
- The College's approach to the proposed development of the City Centre campus would mean that the City would be well placed to deliver the new technical pathways which were being proposed as part of the Government's Post-16 Skills Strategy and critical to the delivery of the Industrial Strategy.

The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 12 December 2018.

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

- The Committee welcomed the proposed development;
- It was suggested that transport connectivity to the proposed development be improved;
- What were the future proposals for the College's St Johns site; and
- It was questioned whether the learning hubs would have A level provision.

The Head of Work and Skills advised that it was intended that the learning hubs would deliver vocational qualifications up to first level 3 (equivalent to A levels) and as learners specialised, it was intended that they would move to the centres of excellence within the city either undertaking a levels or the new Technical levels (T Levels), with opportunities for apprenticeships and Higher Education as well.

In terms of connectivity, The Strategic Director (Development) advised that there would be a requirement to embed the proposal in a revision of the Great Ducie Street Framework and in essence the site would require its own framework, which would include addressing the known issues of getting students to the new college campus safely from across the city. He also commented that in terms of the future of the College's other city centre assets, the first step was to establish a new campus. The College would then look to withdraw and dispose of other locations in order to pay down its debt to the Council and other financial providers.

Decision

The Committee endorses the recommendations contained within the report that the Executive:-

- (1) Supports LTE Group's plans to deliver a new Manchester College Campus on Great Ducie which would be a centre for excellence for skills in Creative & Digital (Phase 1) and Business, Financial & Professional Services (Phase 2);
- (2) Notes that the LTE Group has committed to work with the Council to ensure that new development proposals comply with and support approved planning policies for the City Centre, and to work with the Council to bring forward a new development framework for the site; and
- (3) Notes that the arrangements include a proposed loan of £27.6m to LTE Group the details of which are set out in the separate Part B Report.

[Councillor Hacking declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item due to being a Director of the LTE Group and a Governor of Manchester College. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

[Councillor Raikes declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item due to his employer being a corporate sponsor for the LTE Group. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

ESC/19/60 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

The Committee agrees that the following item contains exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

ESC/19/61 Manchester College Estates Strategy (Part B)

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Development) and City Treasurer, which set out plans for the Manchester College to bring forward a central element of their 2017/22 Estate Strategy located within the Northern Gateway Great Ducie Street Regeneration area, and set out proposals for the City Council to support the Manchester College in its acquisition of this site.

The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 12 December 2018.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report and responded to questions from the Committee.

Decision

The Committee

- (1) Endorses the recommendations contained within the report that the Executive:-
 - Note the proposed contractual and commercial arrangements between the City Council and the College details of which are set out in the body of this report.
 - Note that the Manchester College will promote a new Development Framework for the site which they are acquiring, taking into account the consented scheme on part of the site and the final version of the Great Ducie Street Strategic Regeneration Framework which is currently under consultation;
 - Note that LTE Group have put in the submission for Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) skills capital funding of up to £25m, which has been approved in principle dependant on a final due diligence exercise.

- Approve the proposed loan of £27.6m to LTE Group the details of which are set out in this report;
 - Authorise the City Solicitor, City Treasurer and Strategic Director – Development, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, to conclude the detailed contractual and commercial negotiations in respect of the proposed loan and necessary security arrangements and such other commercial transactions as set out in this report; and
 - Authorise the City Solicitor to enter into and complete all documents or agreements necessary to give effect to the proposed loan and associated security arrangements the details of which are as set out in this report.
- (2) Requests that the Executive take into consideration the following concerns of the Committee in relation to the proposed loan to the LTE Group when making its decision:-
- The Committee has strong concerns as to the security arrangements for the Council's loan and the ability of the LTE Group to repay this and that these concerns should be addressed in the ongoing due diligence work;
 - The Committee asks for clarifications on what other sources of finance LTE Group had approached to secure the funding required for the purchase of the site; and
 - The Committee notes that the Council is undertaking ongoing due diligence to ensure the Council's position is protected and is compliant with all relevant statutory and legal duties and functions.
- (3) Notes that Council is recommended to approve a capital budget increase of £27.6m funded by borrowing.

[Councillor Hacking declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item due to being a Director of the LTE Group and a Governor of Manchester College. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

[Councillor Raikes declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in this item due to his employer being a corporate sponsor for the LTE Group. He left the meeting during consideration of this item.]

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 9 January 2019

Present:

Councillor H Priest – in the Chair

Councillors Connolly, Davies, Green, Hacking, Newman, Raikes, Shilton Godwin, A Simcock and K Simcock

Also present:

Councillor Leese – Leader

Councillor N Murphy – Deputy Leader

Councillor Sheikh – Assistant Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration

Apologies:

Councillors Douglas, Johns, Paul and Razaq and Councillor Richards (Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration).

ESC/19/1 Minutes

In relation to Minute ESC/18/56, Councillor Newman proposed that that the following point was inaccurate:-

- Why was the Local Housing Allowance higher in Wythenshawe in comparison to the rest of the city as this was proving problematic for Wythenshawe residents getting onto the property ladder.

He proposed that this be amended to:-

- Why was the Local Housing Allowance higher in Wythenshawe in comparison to the rest of the city as this was proving problematic for Wythenshawe residents who were on low incomes.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2018 as a correct record, subject to the above amendment.

ESC/19/2 Residential Growth update and Action Plan

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Development), which provided a summary update of the progress made in implementation the activities set out in the Residential Action Plan over the period 2016 to date.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:-

- In March 2016 the Executive endorsed the Manchester Residential Growth Strategy which set a minimum target of 25,000 new homes to be delivered within the city between April 2016 and March 2025. In December 2018 the

- Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration put forward a report, endorsed by the Economy Scrutiny Committee and Executive, that revised this target to 32,000 (including 20% affordable housing);
- The Residential Growth Strategy proposed a set of priorities to support the city's sustained economic growth and ensure that there are affordably priced houses and apartments for sale and rent, which would underpin the economic growth objectives of the city and meet the needs of all households;
 - Details of the progress made in delivering residential growth since 2016;
 - The Residential Growth Action Plan, taking into account:-
 - The impact of Brexit;
 - Delivering an appropriate mix of property types and tenures;
 - Land supply and availability of Public Sector funding;
 - The draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and Manchester Local Plan; and
 - Progress of key activities underway together with actions that would be taken forward during 2019

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

- What involvement has the Council had to date in the development of off site housing construction;
- What guidance was there for developers in relation to room sizes in new build properties;
- How optimistic was the Council that it would receive sufficient funding through the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF);
- What balance of housing was the Council aiming for in relation to Council Tax bands;
- Was the Council considering the recently published report of Shelter that recommended an additional 3 million home across the country to address homelessness and the implications that this may have for Manchester;
- Could Officers provide further details on how it was envisaged that future partnership working arrangements would work in respect of the Council's role to influence and govern;
- What was the Council doing to ensure that it continued to provide owner occupation properties;
- Were Right to Buy Properties entering the private sector rental market becoming a problem;
- Did the option for the Council to repurchase properties that had been sold as Right to Buy apply to just Council housing stock or did it also include Council properties which were managed by other organisations and what was the viability of this option;
- When would progress be reported on the development of the Housing Affordability Zones;
- What consideration had been given alongside the strategy for the need of appropriate social infrastructure to support the occupation of these additional properties; and
- Consideration should also be given to the hidden demand in the city centre for older people to downsize.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that off site manufacturing of housing is essential to deliver the scale of housing development required across the country. However, for this area to develop, there would be a need for organisations such as the Council to back offsite housing, though not at an initial cost to the Council. It was reported that at present, most of the businesses within this field were located along the M1 corridor in Yorkshire. The Strategic Director (Development) added that the proposal to develop 200,000 homes across Greater Manchester, demonstrated the ambition of the region and should attract these types of companies to establish bases of operation within the North West.

The Committee was informed that the Executive had previously approved the Council's residential quality guidance which covered the size and space required for rooms within different types of developments. This was in accordance with national conditions.

The Committee was advised that the Council was working with Homes England to secure at least £50million of HIF investment. A bid would be submitted to Government on 1 March 2019 and a decision would be expected to be made in the Summer. It was reported however, that 80% of the HIF would be allocated to London and the South East, and as such, the Council would continue to lobby Government for more appropriate distribution of funding.

The Strategic Director (Development) commented that Manchester's profile of Council Tax banding across the city was skewed in comparison to other Greater Manchester areas, and although its profile had changed over the last 10 to 15 years, this in the main had resulted in a growth of property band C properties. He advised that assessments of properties being built were undertaken as part of Council Tax forecasting and agreed to provide information on this to the Committee.

The Strategic Director (Development) advised that in terms of partnership working, this was something that could be built into the Committees work programme for next year, to allow Members to gain a greater understanding and scrutinise the effectiveness and governance arrangements of such relationships. He also commented that it was the Council's ambition to measure the numbers of properties available for owner occupation properties, but this had challenges particularly within the city centre where investors, having acquired homes for sale, had then rented the properties and in some instances for Air BnB.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth reported that the Council had the ability to limit the sale of Right to Buy properties to individuals that were not eligible and could take legal action if necessary where this occurred. He also commented that the Council was exploring the potential for the buyback of Right to Buy properties previously owned by the Council. He also advised that the Council would consider the report and proposals by Shelter in connection to addressing homelessness and how this may impact the city's housing affordability strategy.

Officers acknowledged the comments in relation to the progress that had been made with the Housing Affordability Zones and informed the Committee that an update would be provided shortly to Members. It was also commented that it was recognised that there was a need for appropriate social infrastructure in those areas

where additional housing was proposed at scale. To this effect, Officers were working alongside NHS partners and Education colleagues in terms of planning for these developments, especially for proposals within the city centre.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the progress of key activities underway together with actions that will be taken forward during 2019;
- (2) Requests that the Committee's views are taken into account in developing the Action Plan and notes that it will be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee and Executive later this year, once the impact of Brexit is more clearly understood and a draft plan for Delivering Manchester's Affordability Strategy is in place; and
- (3) Agrees to look at look at partnership working in more detail as part of next years Work Programme.

ESC/19/3 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - Leader of the Council's portfolio

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.

By way of a further update the Leader informed the Committee of the launch of the GCHQ Manchester Engineering Accelerator, which would help return added value on investments in the City which were not predictable at the time that the investments were made. He also reported that the Combined Authority had set out a series of policy developments for the region, which included the proposed new GMSF proposals and consultation and a new housing vision document. Furthermore, he advised that the Independent Prosperity Review in relation to the Local Industrial Strategy was about to conclude and results would be published on 8 February 2019, which would then be followed by a consultation period.

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

- How had the OMS resulted in activities being undertaken differently and involved Manchester residents;
- Who was at fault for the recent time table debacle on the rail networks across Manchester and the wider Greater Manchester region and what was the timescale for resolution;
- Clarification was sought as to what options were being considered at Piccadilly Station as part of Transport for the North strategy;
- How was the Combined Authority developing its view on the uncertainty of Brexit with a view to mitigating its impact on Manchester;
- What direct impact had the Our Manchester engagement sessions had;

- What decisions and associated risk assessments had been taken around the Channel 4 HQ bid; and
- How did the Calder Valley line sit within transport improvement plans.

The Leader gave examples of two Our Manchester engagement sessions that had resulted in highlighting innovative practices within areas of Manchester which were in the main community led. He added that these had demonstrated that there were things that communities could take responsibility for and also the role for local members to be community leaders. In terms of the rail timetable debacle, he advised that ultimate responsibility rested with the Secretary of State for Transport, however there had been a collective failure across the rail industry as Rail Operators, Network Rail and the Department for Transport were all aware before the new timetables were introduced that the engineering works had not been completed and as a consequence, the required numbers of trains had not been available to deliver the new timetable. He advised that although some improvements would happen in relation to improved fleets from Northern and TransPennine, total resolution of the matter would not be resolved in the short to medium term. In connection to this, the Leader also advised that the most recent analysis of station options at Piccadilly Station by Arup, had not taken into account any future proofing and had only concentrated on the ability to deliver the day one timetable for HS2 requirements. There was currently an impasse between Government and the Northern Powerhouse as to what would be the most appropriate reconfiguration of rail services in and out of Piccadilly that could meet the anticipated scale of passenger growth and demand for the next century plus. He also advised the Calder Valley line still remained a priority within the wider rail improvement network but he was unable to give any detail as to when any activity on this line would take place.

The Leader commented that in relation to the Channel 4 bid, local media reports had not been accurate as the Council had not been in competition with Salford City Council to secure Channel 4's new headquarters. The bid submitted had been supported by the GM Mayor and Salford City Mayor. Appropriate risk assessments had been undertaken and he advised that as in any bidding process, costs had been incurred, but these had not been considered to have been disproportionate given the size of the bid and what would have been the potential value added return should Channel 4 have selected Manchester as its new headquarters. He added that the cost of the bid would be apportioned with the GMCA as the bid was for Channel 4 to relocate in the Greater Manchester area.

He advised that the Combined Authority received monthly Brexit forecast reports which provided data sectors were responding to the implications of Brexit. The Combined Authority had also developed hypothetical models for both a 'hard' and 'soft' Brexit and commented that a consensus amongst all GM Leaders was that a 'No Deal' Brexit would be the worst option. He added that due to the uncertainty at a national level of what the final Brexit arrangements would be it was difficult to say how it intended to mitigate any impact on Manchester.

Decision

The Committee notes the report

ESC/19/4 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - Deputy Leader's portfolio

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy 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.

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

- Requesting an update on the activity surrounding the Living Wage and the move towards accreditation;
- Welcoming the reported investment into the 101 telephone system operated by Greater Manchester Police and the introduction of a live chat facility, noting that it was important to retain the 101 service;
- Was the ongoing dispute between residents in the Green Quarter and the company awarded the contract for the Town Hall refurbishment taken into consideration as part of the procurement exercise; and
- What was being done to improve skills and training opportunities for both young and older residents to enter the labour market, particularly in areas such as construction where there existed a skills shortage.

The Deputy Leader advised that a report on the Living Wage activity was being considered by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting. He further commented that he had met with the local Chamber of Commerce who were fully supportive of the Living Wage and recognised the benefits of this, and work was ongoing to influence their supply chain and further engage with them around this issue and zero hour contracts.

In response to the comments regarding the 101 reporting system the Deputy Leader acknowledged that investment had been made into the service, however a full review of the system was required to ensure it was appropriate. He also noted that the live chat service had relived the pressure experienced by the 101 system and data on the 101 service would be provided to all Members. The Chair informed Members that this area of activity was within the remit of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee and she would discuss with the Chair the concerns raised by this Committee.

With regard to the Town Hall Project the Deputy Leader stated that a strict legal process had been followed to award the contract, and stated the many economic and social benefits the provider would deliver. He confirmed that the ongoing dispute did not, and could not be taken into consideration when assessing their bid. He stated that officers in the Housing Department, along with local Councillors and MP are working with the developer and building owner to resolve the dispute without any cost to the residents to replace the cladding.

In response to a comment made concerning the 50 – 64 year age group that now contain the most economically excluded parts of our communities, the Deputy Leader stated that work was ongoing to influence the attitudinal shift that was required to address this. He stated that work was ongoing with both local employers and the employment service to develop clear pathways for people and provide the opportunities for retraining and updating skill sets in recognition on the realities of the demographic of the labour market. He also made reference to the activities to promote jobs and skills in the construction industry for both young men and woman.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Requests that the Deputy Leader circulates current data on the number of calls made to and answered by the Greater Manchester Police 101 telephone service; and
- (3) Requests that the Deputy Leader circulates information on the Greater Manchester Police 101 telephone service to all Member so the Council.

ESC/19/5 Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy - Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration's portfolio

This item was deferred to a future meeting as Councillor Richards (Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration) had submitted her apologies for the meeting.

ESC/19/6 Economy Dashboard - Quarter 2 2018/19

The Committee considered the Quarterly Economy Dashboard for quarter 2 of 2018/19, which provided statistical data on economic development, housing and the visitor economy.

The Performance Analyst and Governance Lead presented the report to the Committee.

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

- Further comparative data was requested on the Housing Market Data for the city centre area;
- Further analysis of the airport passenger data was requested;
- Was comparative analysis undertaken against other core cities for the data sets presented within the dashboard;
- Consideration needed to be given to how the number of empty properties is presented within the report to ensure it is not misleading for readers; and
- Clarification was required regarding Business Rates in relation to sports, recreation and culture and asked that is a premises was repurposed following the closure of a business was this captured in another category.

The Performance Analyst and Governance Lead explained that further analysis and data in relation to the Housing Market and airport passenger figures and trends would

be provided. He further informed the Committee that the State of the City Report presented the performance analysis against other core cities and the report would be circulated for information. In response to a comment from a Member regarding a breakdown as to the activity reported across the city centre the Performance Analyst and Governance Lead stated that a map would be included in future dashboards to illustrate the areas referred to.

The Performance Analyst and Governance Lead accepted the comment regarding the empty property graph, stating that this could be misinterpreted and the format when presenting this data would be reviewed.

The Performance Analyst and Governance Lead clarified specific questions regarding terminology used within the report. The Chair recommended that Members may benefit from training in relation to understanding the data presented within the Dashboard. The Performance Analyst and Governance Lead confirmed this would be arranged for Members. He further confirmed that the online dashboard was accompanied by a document that provided a detailed description of the data and terminology used within the report to assist the reader.

Decision

The Committee recommends that the next dashboard included figures and analysis of the passenger flight trends experienced at Manchester Airport.

ESC/19/7 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.

The Chair informed the Committee that the report listed for February on the impact of the Brexit settlement on the City would be deferred to a later date, to be confirmed. She further informed the Members that due to the number of items for consideration at the February meeting it was proposed to hold a two and half hour meeting.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018

Present:

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair
Councillors Andrews, Cooley, M Dar, Douglas, Kirkpatrick, Rawlins and Rawson

Councillor N Murphy, Deputy Leader
Councillor S Murphy, Statutory Deputy Leader
Councillor Ollerhead, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Kirsty Bagnall, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO)
Claire Evans, 4CT
John Biggs, North Manchester resident
Paul McGarry, Head of the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub

Apologies:

Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood

CESC/18/52 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2018 as a correct record.

CESC/18/53 Festival of Ageing

The Committee received a presentation of the Age-Friendly Manchester Team which provided an overview of the impact of the first annual Festival of Ageing, which took place in July 2018.

Some of the main points and themes within the presentation included:

- How the festival was developed, including a co-design event with older people;
- The aims of the festival;
- An overview of the events; and
- One of the attendees, John Biggs, speaking about his experience of the Retro Summer Music Festival event and the benefits this brought to local people.

A Member who was also the Lead Member for Age-Friendly Manchester thanked those involved for their work. She reported that the festival aimed to raise the profile of older people in Greater Manchester. She informed Members that Greater Manchester had this year become the first Age-Friendly Region in the UK, as designated by the World Health Organisation. She reported that this work was a starting point for joint working to progress equality for older people in a range of areas such as employment, housing and making communities more age- and disability-friendly.

The Head of the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub informed Members about work taking place at a Greater Manchester level, the region's commitment to improving older people's lives and the importance of older people having a sense of purpose in their lives.

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

- Whether the festival would be an annual event;
- The advertising for the festival and whether this was able to reach isolated older people; and
- Whether attendees who needed additional support were identified and signposted to other services.

Claire Evans from 4CT, lead partner in the Festival of Ageing, reported that no budget had been set aside to fund this in future years but that the partners involved were seeking funding to continue to run the festival in future years. She informed Members that one of the learning points from the festival was to allocate a larger budget for advertising the festival, as it had not received the level of press attention that they had hoped for. Kirsty Bagnall from the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) reported that her organisation had used its networks to reach socially isolated older people.

Claire Evans reported that the town centre events and some of the other events had had information points and service providers present to advise and signpost older people to services. She informed Members that she was aware of socially isolated individuals who had been identified through attending festival events and who had consequently joined new groups and activities. She advised Members that, since the festival, the partners involved had discussed using other networks, like libraries and GPs, to reach more older people. The Committee discussed groups in different areas of the city which organised trips or events for older people which helped to tackle social isolation.

Decisions

1. To thank the guests for their contribution.
2. To note that the Committee would welcome resources being made available to fund this in future years.

CESC/18/54 Update on Revenue Financial Strategy and Business Plan Process 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer which provided an update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process. The report summarised officers' proposals for how the Council could deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

In conjunction with the above, the Committee also received and considered the Neighbourhoods Directorate Business Plan for 2019/20, which set out in broad terms the directorate's key priorities, key activities and revenue and capital strategy for

2019/20, which was a refresh of the directorate's Business Plan for 2018/20 in the context of current resources, challenges and opportunities.

Taken together, the report and the directorate Business Plan illustrated how the directorate would work together and with partners to deliver Our Corporate Plan and progress towards the vision set out in the Our Manchester Strategy.

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

- The Council's overall financial position, budget pressures and the challenges of delivering a balanced budget;
- Why the Council was using less of its reserves this year;
- Request for information on the equality impact of the proposals across all Directorates;
- Whether there were sufficient library staff to manage high levels of library usage; and
- Request for an update on the identification of alternative management arrangements for the Powerleague in Whalley Range and what the implications were for the staff working there.

The Head of Workforce Strategy reported that further detail on the equality impact and action plans for each directorate would be available from February 2019. The Strategic Lead (Libraries, Galleries and Culture) reported that there had been a capital investment in self-service technology for routine library transactions which was enabling the service to manage the increased usage of its libraries. The Chief Operating Officer (Neighbourhoods) reported that a number of organisations had expressed an interest in taking over the running of the Powerleague site at Whalley Range when the current lease ended on 31 January 2019 and that the Council was working to ensure that this change of management did not have a significant impact on the current users of the facilities.

Decisions

1. To request further information on the Council's reserves including what proportion of the budget spend they make up, how the decision to use less of the reserves this year was arrived at and the rationale for this.
2. To request further information on the equality impact of the proposals across all directorates.
3. To ask the Chief Operating Officer (Neighbourhoods) to confirm the implications of the change of management for staff employed at the Powerleague in Whalley Range.
4. To request further details of the impact, if any, of the budget proposals on areas within Committee's remit.
5. To request that, where other Committees consider budget issues which impact on the work of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, the Chair be informed and invited to attend, where appropriate.

CESC/18/55 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Contract

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which provided an update on the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure contract, specifically on the review of current provision and on the co-design process for a new VCS infrastructure contract.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Background information;
- The joint review of the Council's and the Manchester Health Care and Commissioning (MHCC)'s VCS infrastructure contracts; and
- The co-design group established as part of the process to develop the new service model and contract.

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

- How many Members had provided feedback as part of the joint review process;
- Request for further information on the localised community development work outside of the VCS infrastructure contract referred to in the report;
- Whether officers had looked at what other local authorities were doing in relation to their VCS infrastructure contracts;
- Whether Members would receive details of the services included in the VCS infrastructure contract tender; and
- Whether it would be appropriate for work to take place at a Greater Manchester level or a more local level.

The Programme Lead (Our Manchester Funds) informed the Committee that five Members had formally provided feedback and that his team had met with two further Members individually about this. He reported that other services and organisations could and did support community development. He outlined how organisations were supporting the VCS sector and the importance of getting more organisations, both public and private sector, to do so. He confirmed that his team had looked at what the ten Greater Manchester authorities, as well as local authorities elsewhere, were doing in relation to their VCS infrastructure contracts. He reported that some local authorities had ceased to have an infrastructure provision whereas others were strengthening theirs. He confirmed that Members would receive details of the services included in the VCS infrastructure contract tender and that this was likely to go initially to the Our Manchester VCS Fund Task and Finish Group and then to the parent Committee.

The Statutory Deputy Leader informed Members about the Memorandum of Understanding between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the GMCVO but she advised that it would be difficult for a single organisation to deliver the VCS infrastructure contract across the whole of Greater Manchester because of the range of different needs of the different communities across Greater Manchester.

A Member who was also the Chair of the Our Manchester VCS Fund Task and Finish Group expressed concern at the low number of Members who had responded to the request for feedback as part of the joint review process. She suggested that Members be asked why they hadn't responded and what would have enabled them to respond. She agreed to discuss with the Programme Lead (Our Manchester Funds) the best way to do this.

Decisions

1. To support the work outlined in the report.
2. To request further information in a future report on how the Memorandum of Understanding between the GMCA and the GMCVO relates to this work.
3. To note that the Chair of the Our Manchester VCS Fund Task and Finish Group will, in conjunction with the Programme Lead (Our Manchester Funds), ask Members why they hadn't responded to the request for feedback and how this could be improved.

CESC/18/56 Overview Report

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

The Chair informed Members that Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood, who had sent her apologies for today's meeting, had requested that the Committee consider how it could feed into the Law Commission's review on making misogyny a hate crime. A Member recommended that the Chair meet with Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood to discuss how this should be taken forward, to which the Chair agreed.

Decisions

1. To note the report and agree the work programme.
2. To recommend that the Chair meet with Councillor Fletcher-Hackwood to discuss how to take forward the suggestion that the Committee contribute to the review on making misogyny a hate crime.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6 December 2018

Present:

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Barrett, Clay, Davies, Lanchbury, Kilpatrick, R Moore, B Priest, Rowles, A Simcock, Watson and S Wheeler

Also present:

Councillor N Murphy - Deputy Leader
Councillor Ollerhead - Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

RGSC/19/64 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

RGSC/19/65 The Chancellor's Autumn Statement - implications for Manchester

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an overview of the key announcements within the Chancellor of the Exchequer's 2018 Autumn Budget outlining the Government's fiscal agenda, and the implications for Manchester.

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

- The 2018 Autumn Budget set out an improved economic forecast and indicative increased public sector spending over the next five years;
- Government expenditure was now expected to grow at 1.2% per year in real terms from 2019-20 onwards (contrasted to an average cut in real-term funding in the 2015 Spending Review of -1.3%);
- The 2019 Spending Review would decide on the balance of funding between government departments, however, it was already clear that much of the additional spend would be directed to the NHS, with spending in other departments likely to remain flat or decline;
- Should the government be unable to reach a Brexit deal with the EU, there could be an upgrade the 2019 Spring Statement to a full fiscal event, which could include further tax or borrowing measures;
- There were announcements for additional Local Government funding this financial year and next. Whilst welcome, they were small and unlikely to have a fundamental impact on the Council's budget strategy for 2019/20, however, the additional Social Care funding could meet some of the pressures faced;
- Specific allocations announced and the associated funding for Manchester which included:
 - a further £240m in 2019/20 for adult social care which equated to £2.667m for each year for Manchester - this followed the allocation of a similar amount in 2018/19;

- £410m Social Care grant in 2019/20 for adults and children's social care, Manchester's indicative amount was £4.555m;
- £420m in 2018/19 for potholes that would be allocated directly to highways authorities and must be spent prior to 31 March 2019. The allocation for Manchester was £1.686m;
- £55m for Disabled Facilities Grant in 2018-19, of which the estimate was £0.814m for Manchester. This was generally a capital grant; and
- Other national funding was being made available for the following areas:
 - £84m for 5 years on the children's service programme in 20 areas from 2019/20;
 - £675m Future High Streets Fund in 2019-20 to support local areas to improve access to high streets and town centres; and
 - £10m capacity funding made available to support housing deals with authorities in areas of high housing demand to deliver above their Local Housing Need.

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

- Was there an update on what the proposals were for the pooling of the Council and MHCC budgets as part of the Better Care Fund;
- It was felt that there needed to be appropriate scrutiny of welfare reforms and Universal Credit and the impact that this were having on the city and the Council; and
- Reassurance was sought that where there were time limits on the spending of certain funding, such as within Highways, work was being undertaken to ensure that this money was being spent within the required timeframe.

The City Treasurer advised that the proposed joint pooling of budgets between the Council and MHCC had now been agreed and was in the main to be used for covering additional winter pressure funding to ensure that adult social care pressures did not create additional demand on the NHS. The pooled budget would also be used towards strengthening mental health support and social work capacity.

The Committee was advised that Economy Scrutiny Committee had responsibility for scrutinising the impacts of welfare reform and universal credit on the city and its residents, however, it would be within the remit of this Committee for it to scrutinise the financial impact of welfare reform and Universal Credit to the Council.

The City Treasurer reassured the Committee that were funding had been received which had stipulations for it being spent within a certain time frames, this was taking place and this would be reported as part of the budget process in February 2019.

Decision:

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report; and
- (2) Requests that Economy Scrutiny scrutinise the impacts of welfare reform and universal credit on the city and its residents and that members of Resources

and Governance Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend the meeting when it does.

RGSC/19/66 Update on Revenue Financial Strategy and Business Plan Process 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process. The report summarised Officer proposals for how the Council could deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20.

In conjunction to the above, the Committee also received and considered the Corporate Core Business Plan and Strategic Development Business Plan for 2019/20, which set out in broad terms the directorates' key priorities, key activities and revenue and capital strategy for 2019/20, which was a refresh of the directorates' Business Plans for 2018/20 in the context of current resources, challenges and opportunities.

Taken together, the report and the directorates' Business Plans illustrated how the directorates would work together and with partners to deliver Our Plan and progress towards the vision set out in the Our Manchester Strategy.

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

- Based on the additional borrowing the Council was intending to take out, what impact was this expected to have on the future capital revenue finance position;
- Had the confirmation of the New Home Bonus been delayed in light of the delayed announcement of the financial settlement by Government;
- Clarification was sought as to why the pooled budget for Health and Social Care was to be finalised by MHCC after the Council had set its budget.

The City Treasurer advised that the capital financing budget had been set to take account the Council's likely future borrowing requirements and as such its position would be remain constant for the next few years. She also reported that the Funding Strategy had the support of the CCG Governing Body and this now presented a significantly reduced risk to the Council

In relation to the Corporate Core Business Plan, some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- How was Directorate intending on influencing outside of the Council the need reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and improve public transport and highways making them more sustainable in light of the severe congestion issues within the city centre;
- Was it felt that it was still possible to reduce demand through reforming services as it didn't appear to have done so far and when Government were continuing to reduce available resources to all public services;
- Had there been any benchmarking exercise with similar authorities in relation to the number of ombudsman complaints upheld;

- Had any impact assessment been undertaken on the Business Rates retention trial monitored to understand its impact on resources;
- There was a need for the Council to recognise the need to invest in its staff in order to achieve the deliverability of doing more for less;
- Clarification was sought as to whether the Council had previously decided to reduce the spend associated with the Essential Car User allowance, whether Social Workers had been excluded from this proposal, and if so, how was the savings target of £450,000 be achieved given that Social Workers would make up the majority of staff currently designated as Essential Car Users;
- How was the Corporate Core transformation savings target of £500,000 intended to be achieved;
- A Member expressed their uncertainty as to whether the current scrutiny structure was appropriate for scrutinising in detail the financial savings of directorate business plans;
- There was a need to remember what staff the Council needed to retain in order to keep the Council running; and
- There was need to ensure that the Council did not squander any potential training budgets, with specific reference to the Apprenticeship Levy

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the challenges of congestion within the city centre existed as a consequence of the current suite of works being undertaken to improve the flow of traffic around and across the city centre. More broadly, the Council was working with the GMCA to get people to change the mode of transport that they used and as such there was to be more investment in the infrastructure for alternative transport. It was also reported that the Neighbourhood and Environment Scrutiny Committee would be scrutinising the plan for Greater Manchester to tackle Air Quality.

The Deputy Chief Executive acknowledged that reducing demand through reforming services was difficult, but there had been successful examples of this, particularly around health integration and new models of care. She advised that Directorates were now working closer than ever before to be more effective with the resources available to the Council to tackle the challenges.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources recognised the challenge that the Council faced in the need to reduce demand through reform and that in some instances, demand for services had risen. He added that if the Council did not continue to reform its services, it would not be possible to continue providing certain services.

The City Treasurer reassured the Committee that in terms of Business Rates, all changes in government policy had been fully reimbursed through Section 31 grants. The Council monitored its Business Rates income carefully and held a provision and a reserve for risks associated to the level of appeals being received and any associated volatility. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the Council did benchmark Ombudsman complaints with other core cities and would share this information with Committee Members.

The Committee was advised that a detailed analysis was being undertaken around the essential car user allowance which would be concluded by the end of 2018. Recommendations arising from this analysis would be considered following the conclusion of this analysis. In terms of the Corporate Core transformation programme, the directorate was looking at further collaboration of services and reducing the duplication of work in order to achieve its savings target.

The Chair suggested that if Members had concerns as to whether the current scrutiny structure was appropriate for scrutinising in detail the financial savings of directorate business plans, then Members of this Committee may wish to attend other Scrutiny Committees in order to provide a financial focus to the scrutiny of their respective business plans. The City Treasurer also advised that all Committees had visibility of the business plans and milestones to deliver savings in order to monitor progress effectively.

In relation to the Strategic Development Business Plan, some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- Would the challenges in association with the Investment Estate and Operational Estate have any detrimental impact on the voluntary and third sector organisations that delivered social value by their use of Council owned buildings;
- Objection was taken to the categorisation of older people as some of the most vulnerable residents in the city and it was requested that that reference to older people was removed and instead an additional reference should be made to ensuring the Council had an age friendly housing strategy for older people;
- Had any consideration been given to using vacant council land for car parking whilst the land was waiting to be developed in order to generate income;
- Was it possible to use some of the reserve set aside should planning fee income reduce be used, be used to ensure the Council's planning compliance function was strengthened;
- Was it possible to increase the advertising revenue; and
- Could a reassurance be given that the Council was not supportive of any advertising that celebrated inappropriate conduct.

The Strategic Director (Development) advised that over the last 12 months, the Council had reviewed its Investment Estate to ensure that it had within this portfolio, assets that genuinely generated long term income for the Council. As part of this process it had revealed assets that had been wrongly categorised, which had resulted in certain assets being moved from this estate to the Operational Estate with the view that they had the potential to provide opportunities for community groups. He also reported that the Council explored every opportunity to maximise its revenue income, but these opportunities needed to be balanced with other considerations, including the views of Ward Councillors.

The Strategic Director (Development) commented that the 20% fee increase in planning applications, it had been agreed that this increase would be ring-fenced to the planning service. The Council was in the process of reviewing its planning service and as part of this review, the issue of planning compliance would be looked at with a view to strengthening.

The Strategic Director (Development) explained that the Council did not own all of the City's advertising estate and was not able to control what was or was not advertised on hoardings that were located on private land. The advertising estate within the Council's control was in a review process, particularly the small format. A decision had been made to bring the advertising estate within Strategic Development to manage collectively and was a significant income into the Investment Estate portfolio. The small format advertising estate was currently managed by JC Decaux and the contract was up for renewal in September 2019. It was anticipated that significantly more income would be generated from the advertising estate from April 2020 onwards. He agreed to look at what degree of influence the Council could have on the appropriateness of adverts as part of the tendering process.

The Committee:-

- (1) welcomes the reports and notes that this is the third year of a three year budget; and
- (2) notes that the Business Plans will be developed further taking the Committee's comments into account, and revised plans will be submitted to the Committee's meeting in February 2019;
- (3) notes that reference to older people being amongst the most vulnerable residents will be removed from the vision for housing solutions and instead an additional reference will be added to ensure the Council had an age friendly housing strategy for older people; and
- (4) requests that a report is submitted to a future meeting on how the Council can influence advertisers, as part of the tender process, on the appropriateness of adverts when advertising on Council owned land.

RGSC/19/67 Setting of the Council Tax base and Business Rates shares for budget setting purposes

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which advised of the method of calculating the City Council's Council Tax base for tax setting purposes and Business Rates income for budget setting purposes for the 2019/20 financial year, together with the timing of related payments and the decision on pooled membership.

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

- What was being done to lobby government on the exemption of student council tax and the ability to charge HMO Landlord business rates to address the volatility of this area; and
- As the Council's retained business rates income was subject to a safety net of 97% of its baseline funding level, did this require the Council to hold a further 3% in contingency reserves.

The City Treasurer provided reassurance that the Council did lobby government and when the Council provides its response to the financial settlement, this would feature heavily as well. She also advised that the Council did not specifically budget for the

additional 3% but the Council was prudent in its budgeting and did make allowance for any business rate appeals.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes that the City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources has delegated powers to:-
 - set the Council Tax base for tax setting purposes in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2013;
 - calculate the Business Rates income for budget setting purposes in accordance with the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations;
 - agree the estimated council tax surplus or deficit for 2018/19;
 - agree the estimated business rates surplus or deficit for 2018/19;
 - determine whether the Council should be part of a business rate pooling arrangements with other local authorities;
 - set the dates of precept payments to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority; and
- (2) Notes that the Chair of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee will be requested to exempt various key decisions from the call in procedures.

RGSC/19/68 Proposed changes to the Council Tax charges levied for tax on empty properties

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer which set out proposals to charge increased Council Tax Premiums for long term empty (LTE) properties that had been unoccupied and unfurnished for over two years and also to revisit the decisions made in 2012 to give a 100% Council Tax discount for one month if a property is unoccupied and unfurnished and a 50% discount for up to 12 months if a property is undergoing major works or structural alterations, with a view to remove these discounts.

The Corporate Revenues Manager and the Director of Customer Services and Transactions referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:-

- The financial impact on the amount of Council Tax payable and the New Homes Bonus of the revised long term empty premium;
- The financial and non-financial impacts of removing the 100% Council Tax discount that was awarded for up to one month when a property became unoccupied and unfurnished and the 50% discount that was awarded for up to one year when a property is undergoing major repairs or structural alterations;
- The Council's proposals in relation to increasing the amount of Council Tax that was charged for unoccupied and unfurnished properties by charging an additional premium and the proposed changes to its existing policy and remove the Council tax discounts; and

- Details of proposed external consultation on the Council's proposed changes.

The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 12 December 2018.

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

- There was support from all of the Committee in relation to the proposals;
- The additional income gained from the proposals could be reinvested into the Council's existing discretionary schemes that provide additional financial support to vulnerable residents including the Council's Welfare Provision scheme and the Discretionary Housing payments scheme;
- Would it be possible to gain any more income from the proposals in order to help our poorest residents;
- There was a need to positively promote this initiative to Manchester residents; and
- Why had the assumption been made that all properties that would be subject to this increase would be in band A Council Tax.

The Director of Customer Services and Transactions advised that there were no other discretionary areas that could be used to increase income and it would be unlikely for the Council to gain any more income from the proposals. She acknowledged the need to positively promote the changes following the planned consultation exercise. She also advised that the assumption had been made that all properties subject to this proposed increase would be in Band A was in order to be conservative in the Council's estimation of additional income. Reassurance was given that it would affect a broad mix of properties and agreed to share the data on this with Committee Members

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Endorses the recommendations contained within the report that the Executive:-
 - Approve the proposals contained in the report and agree to the start of a formal four week consultation exercise to commence in December 2018; and
 - Note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported back to Executive on 13 February 2019.
- (2) Requests that the data on the valuation bands of the properties that will be affected by the proposals is shared with Committee Members

RGSC/19/69 Process for Updating Capital Strategy (Incorporating P6 Position)

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer, which provided an update on the 2018/19 capital programme and the process for developing the Capital Strategy for 2019/20 onwards.

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

- The development of the Capital Strategy to ensure that the Council made capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with Council priorities and properly took account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, risk, sustainability and affordability;
- The revised approach the Council had taken in relation to the approval process for capital expenditure through the Checkpoint process;
- The proposed Capital Programme from 2019/20 to 2023/24; and
- The Council's capital financing strategy, including detail on restrictions around funds and prudential borrowing.

Decision

The Committee notes the report

RGSC/19/70 Update on Capital Projects over £10m

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided details on the budgets for the Council's major capital projects.

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

- The Council's capital programme currently totalled £1,475.6m for the period 2018/19 to 2023/24;
- Large capital projects tended to be complex in nature, and any project which created a long term asset required long term planning, as such projects may need to be agreed before there was cost certainty, and with a degree of risk accepted;
- If projects required a budget amendment once the project had begun, approval by the Executive or Full Council was required; and
- Details for each directorate's major projects (£10m plus), including their original budget compared to their current budget with the rationale for any difference, as well as the current total spend as at the end of September 2018.

The Chair informed Members that projects that sat within Highways Maintenance, ICT and HRA Housing programmes were intended to be subject to future reports to this committee.

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

- Was it possible to have an update on the Highways budget spend on footpaths and gully cleansing;
- How was the Council intending on ensuing it would spend all of the Highways budget for 2019/20 given this years underspend;
- There was concern that money for the Manchester Football Hubs project which was agreed as part of the 2016/17 budget had not yet been spent and how long was intended to be held for;

- Why had only £400,000 of the £21.3million budget for the Parks Improvement Plan been spent to date;
- It was suggested that the Committee received a future report on the progress of spend against the Northern Gateway and Eastern Gateway Programmes;
- Why had the costs of the Civic Quarter Heat Network project almost doubled from £14million to £26million and how confident was the Council that the cost would not increase further given that the project had yet to commence;
- Clarification was sought as to whether the cost of the redevelopment of St Peter's Square had overspent from its original budget;
- Why was the regeneration project at Ben Street underspent;

The Deputy Chief Executive explained that the funding for the Manchester Football Hubs project had not yet been spent as the Football Association scheme had changed and the Council was currently working with the Association as to how the project could be delivered. It was explained that if it became clear that the project could not be delivered, the funding would be reviewed to see if there was scope for the project to be delivered using other resources or allocated elsewhere. In terms of the Parks Improvement Plan, it was reported a new Parks strategy had been agreed earlier in the year which required a feasibility plan to be undertaken to determine how and where best to invest the allocated funding in order to maximise opportunities to secure additional funding. The Deputy Chief Executive acknowledged the comments by Members that progress with implementing the Improvement Plan had been slow and advised that the work would commence in January 2019 with implementation planned for Spring 2019, which would progress at pace. The Chair suggested that the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee received the Improvement Plan in draft for Scrutiny Members to comment on the proposals before they were implemented.

The Strategic Director (Development) advised that the detail of the increase in the Civic Quarter Heat Network project would be included in its Business Plan which would be subject to scrutiny at a future meeting. He assured the Committee that the Executive had received regular reports on the project over the last four to five years which contained details as to the increases in the budget of the project. The Committee was advised that the redevelopment of St Peter's Square was not overspent as it had formed part of the budget for the redevelopment of the Town Hall Extension complex, which was a total £155million.

The Strategic Director (Development) offered to provide Committee Members with details as to the underspend on the regeneration project at Ben Street as an item for information in a future Overview report.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Recommends that the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee receive the proposed Parks Improvement Plan in draft to enable the proposals to be scrutinised before they are implemented;

- (3) Requests a future report on the progress of spend against the Northern Gateway and Eastern Gateway programmes;
- (4) Requests a future report on the Highways budget including spend on footpaths and gullies;
- (5) Agrees that when it considers a future report on the Civic Quarter Heat Network Business Plan, the report will contain details on why the budget for the project has increased;
- (6) Requests that as part of a follow up report, details of the underspend of the regeneration project at Ben Street are included.

RGSC/19/71 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.

RGSC/19/72 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

The Committee agrees that the following item contains exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RGSC/19/73 Our Town Hall - Letting of the Management Contract

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an update on the procurement of a Management Contractor for the refurbishment and partial restoration of the Town Hall and Albert Square under the Our Town Hall (OTH) project.

The City Treasurer referred to the main points and themes within the report and answered questions from the Committee.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the progress made to date;
- (2) Notes that the City Treasurer will be taking the decision to appoint the preferred contractor as Management Contractor for the Our Town Hall Project;

- (3) Requests that as part of the decision to appoint the preferred contractor, the City Solicitor advises on measures to facilitate site access for the appropriate Trade Union representatives of those working on site and endeavours to give these a contractual basis as far as is possible within the law, and to liaise with the Chair regarding the proposed wording;
- (4) Agrees that the Ethical Procurement Sub Group look at the National Agreements for the employment, welfare, grading and training of all staff, including apprentices, in the associated construction industries, who are to be employed on the project, with a potential view to requesting Officers ask the preferred contractor to consider adopting these, if they have not already done so;
- (5) Notes the next steps and procurement timetable for the conclusion of the procurement process; and
- (6) Notes the potential implications for cost and programme of delaying the appointment of the Management Contractor.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2019

Present:

Councillor Russell (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Ahmed Ali, Andrews, Barrett, Clay, Davies, Lanchbury, Kilpatrick, Moore, B Priest, A Simcock, Watson and S Wheeler

Also present:

Councillor Ollerhead - Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Apologies:

Councillor Rowles

RGSC/19/01 Minutes

In relation to Minute RGSC/18/66, Councillor Watson proposed that that all references to an Age Friendly Housing Solution should be amended to an Age Friendly Housing Strategy.

In relation to Minute RGSC/18/73, Councillor Andrews proposed that recommendation (4) be amended to read:-

Agrees that the Ethical Procurement Sub Group look at the National Agreements for the employment, welfare, grading and training of all employees, including apprentices in the associated construction industries, with a potential view to requesting Officers ask the preferred contractor to consider adopting these, if they have not already done so.

Both proposed amendments were seconded and approved.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 as a correct record, subject to the above amendments.

RGSC/19/02 Financial Settlement 2019/20

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an overview of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2019/20 as announced by the Communities Secretary and published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on 13 December 2018.

The City Treasurer referred to the main points and themes in the report which included: -

- The majority of the Finance Settlement was in line with expectations and followed the technical consultation in July 2018 and subsequent announcements in the Autumn Budget 2018t issued on 29 October 2018;

- There were two announcements relating to the Business Rates Levy and grant for New Homes Bonus which had had a positive impact on the Council's financial position, these were: -
 - The Government's Business Rates Levy account was £180m in surplus and would be distributed to all councils on the basis of need as per the Settlement Funding Assessment. The Council's indicative allocation was £2.699m and it was expected this would be received in the current financial year; and
 - Government has now confirmed an additional £20m in 2019/20 for New Homes Bonus which would enable the baseline threshold to remain at 0.4% and provide the Council with an allocation of £8.202m, £1.202m higher than budgeted.
- These additional monies were 'one off' and the fact that they wouldn't recur made budgeting more difficult;
- The budget assumed that the Council would increase the council tax precept by 3.49%, as presented last year, made up of a general precept element of 1.99% and the specific social care precept element of 1.5%;
- The Council's indicative allocations for social care funding, which were £2.666m grant for Winter Pressures and £4.555 Social Care Support Grant, which could relate to both adult social care and children's services;
- The Government's objective to change the local business rate retention to 75% for all Local Authorities from 2020 was re-stated, however, the existing schemes in devolution areas, including Greater Manchester, would continue with 100% retention as expected; and
- Details of Local Government Funding Consultations.

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

- What analysis had been done to calculate the impact of the 'Fair Funding Review' technical consultation for the city;
- The 'Fair Funding Review' favoured rural areas and did not take into consideration density and deprivation factors;
- What work was being done with other Core Cities to lobby for a fairer settlement;
- Concerns were raised that the 'Fair Funding Review' would only apply for one year making it very difficult to plan and deliver services;
- The risks associated with the changes to the Highways maintenance formula would be very detrimental to the city; and
- There were risks associated with the volatility of Business Rates.

The City Treasurer advised that to undertake a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the implications of the Fair Funding Review would require a significant amount of officer's time, noting that the formal consultation on this was still ongoing and Manchester would submit a detailed response, and this would be shared with the Committee. She advised that the need to adequately reflect the pressures experienced by density and deprivation in the funding formula were being highlighted and work was ongoing with other Core Cities to lobby the government on this issue, amongst others related to formula review.

In response to the concern raised regarding Business Rates, the City Treasurer informed the Committee that Business Rate funding was distributed based on a formula, and this was currently protected via a safety net mechanism even if the collection fell. She advised of the risks associated with changes to policy and the proposed hard reset of business rates and the impact the latter would have on the retention on any growth experienced in the city since the last reset. She advised that a consultation exercise was currently underway regarding Business Rates and a detailed response to this would be submitted and this would be shared with the Committee.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources informed the Committee that detailed planning regarding the implications of the Fair Funding Review would commence following the outcomes of the consultation exercise.

Decision

The Committee recommends that they would like to see the responses to the consultations along with an indication of financial risk where applicable.

RGSC/19/03 Management of staff performance and misconduct

The Committee considered a report of the Director HROD, which provided Members with an overview of employment casework in respect of the Council's disciplinary and capability policies. The report also provided case numbers, and the work of HROD to support managers and improve capacity.

Members were not satisfied with the level of information or confident in the data that had been provided within the report and as a consequence were unable to scrutinise this area of activity. The Chair recommended that a further report be submitted for consideration and invited Members to indicate specific areas that they wished to see included.

Members requested the following information be included: -

- The policies and procedure agreed for managing staff performance and misconduct to be appended;
- The approach taken to using interim managers to investigate staff performance and misconduct cases;
- Comparative information by directorate of the number of cases investigated as a percentage of the overall number of staff in the directorate, and the nature of the investigation, including a breakdown of protected characteristics of staff members who are subject to the process, and the numbers of full time, part time and agency staff subject to performance or misconduct;
- Information on the various outcomes following disciplinary or capability procedures i.e. no action taken, final written warning and dismissal;
- The number of cases that were subsequently appealed;
- Benchmarking data compared to other core cities;
- Information on how the duty of care was exercised when staff capability was investigated;

- Information on how long staff were assigned to alternative duties when allegations of misconduct were investigated;
- The number of cases that were subsequently taken to Employment Tribunal and the cost of this to the Council;
- The number of unlawful dismissal and discrimination claims brought against the Council and the cost incurred as a result of this action over the previous 3 to 5 years;
- Was legal advice sought in relation to curtailing the process in respect to misconduct cases when there were allegations of criminality and/or where other factors were leading to prolonged misconduct processes;
- What financial loss, if any, had incurred as a result of proven staff criminality been recovered; and
- Provision of anonymised case study examples.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources noted the comments from the Committee and recommended that the Human Resources Dashboard was also shared with the Committee, noting that this would be provided as a confidential report.

Decision

The Committee recommends that a report on the management of staff performance and misconduct that includes the information requested be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

RGSC/19/04 Progress report on Manchester City Council's action on Modern Slavery

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an update on the progress made against a series of actions that the Council had committed to in tackling modern slavery and exploitation.

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

- The Council had previously ratified the charter on modern slavery, noting the important role it had in ensuring their contracts and supplies did not contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation;
- A range of actions had been agreed which were wide ranging and required engagement and implementation from across the Council, which involved Corporate Procurement, Capital Programmes, Housing, Commissioners and Contract Officers, Legal Services and Integrated Commissioning;
- The current position in relation to the progress that had been made with each action since July 2018;
- Wider issues, which included: -
 - Some industries were perceived to be more at risk of Modern Slavery;
 - The depth of supply chains;
 - Tightening the sign off processes for procurement and contract award to include this;

- A joint approach with MHCC and the LCO to promote an integrated approach to combating modern slavery in the health and care sectors; and
- Next steps, which included appropriate training for staff and the development of a Modern Slavery Statement.

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

- Members welcomed the report and noted the actions that had been taken following the motion by Council on the Charter on Modern Slavery;
- Support for the development of a Modern Slavery statement for publication in July 2019;
- What was being done to support workers and others who had concerns regarding employment practices;
- The dedicated named Police contact details should be included with the Ethical Procurement Policy; and
- Had any employer been referred to the National Crime Agency's following concerns raised regarding Modern Slavery.

The Head of Corporate Procurement advised the he welcomed the support from the Committee regarding the publication of a Modern Slavery statement. He said this would be drafted and shared with the Ethical Procurement Subgroup for comment and final ratification before publication.

The Head of Corporate Procurement further advised the Committee that discussions had been undertaken with Trade Unions to support and encourage their members to report any concerns they had regarding Modern Slavery. He further noted the comments regarding the inclusion of the dedicated Police contacts in the published Ethical Procurement Policy.

In response to the question regarding referrals to the National Crime Agency following concerns raised regarding Modern Slavery the Head of Corporate Procurement confirmed that to date there had been no referral in Manchester.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Supports the development of a Modern Slavery statement for publication in July 2019, noting that this will be submitted to the Ethical Procurement Subgroup for comment and final ratification; and
- (2) Recommends that the Ethical Procurement Policy include the relevant contact information for the Police.

RGSC/19/05 Living Wage Accreditation Update

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an overview of background information for the Council in considering potential accreditation as a living wage employer.

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

- The Council had, for a number of years, recognised and encouraged the need for a minimum level of pay, not only for its own staff but also for the business community in general;
- Accreditation as a Living Wage employer and promotion of the Real Living Wage to partners and suppliers across the City supported various strands of the Our Manchester Strategy;
- The 'real' Living Wage had grown in prominence over recent years and a range of local authorities including Birmingham, Cardiff and Salford had now achieved formal accreditation as 'living wage employers';
- The Council had developed a formal Living Wage Policy in September 2015 which sought to implement Living Wage payment as far as it possibly could, using the Living Wage Foundation criteria as a guide; and
- Based on work over recent years the Council is in a strong position to successfully meet the Foundation Accreditation threshold; and
- There were a number of considerations which needed to be taken into account in becoming a Living Wage Accredited Employer, which included the effect on assuring payment to the employed workforce and more significantly the commissioned workforce.

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

- There was mild disappointment with the length of time taken to progress this work;
- What were the costs and risks associated with achieving accreditation status;
- Lessons should be learnt from other authorities that had achieved accreditation status;
- A communication strategy needed to be launched once accredited status had been awarded;
- Once accredited the Council should seek to become an influencer within the city and the region in regard to the Living Wage, and
- The need to upskill employees.

The Head of Workforce Strategy advised the Committee that discussions were still currently ongoing with the Living Wage Foundation and these included the issues raised by Members. In response to a query on next steps, he advised that three months' would be a reasonable time period to progress this work to a firm recommendation and action plan in relation to progressing accreditation. The Committee recommended that an update report is provided to the Committee for the May meeting. He informed the Members that accreditation required a clear plan to be in place to assure payment through contracts, with this plan being aligned to contract review points over a three year period.

The Head of Workforce Strategy advised that reports on workforce development had previously been submitted to the Human Resources Subgroup for consideration.

The City Treasurer commented that the Living Wage had presented challenges and financial implications in respect of social care contracts, however she noted that the benefits of this were a stable work force that contributed to improved quality of care.

Decision

The Committee recommends that an update report be submitted for consideration at its meeting in May 2019.

RGSC/19/06 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: -

- Could the Executive Member provide an update on activities in relation to ICT;
- Members requested an update be circulated to the Committee regarding how the OMS was contributing to addressing the impact of Public Service Reform for the City;
- Further information was requested on the recent Be Heard survey;
- Was there an intention to establish a Social Value Board, similar to the Ethical Procurement Board; and
- Future reports should include more information in relation to the Human Resources remit of the Executive Member.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources advised that the intention was to undertake a full review of the ICT Capital Programme and this would be undertaken as part of a wider review of the Core and this would allow for a review of the software used across the Council to ensure it was fit for the future. He stated that the Committee would be kept informed as this work progressed.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources advised the Committee that the findings of the recent Be Heard survey were currently being analysed and would be reported to the Human Resources Subgroup meeting of 21 February 2019.

In response to the comment regarding Social Value the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources informed the Committee that discussions were currently ongoing with other Directorates and their Executive Member to ensure best practice was shared and replicated throughout the organisation. He also advised that it was intended to refresh the Our People strategy and information around this would be included in his next update.

The City Treasurer noted the request for information to be provided regarding the impact of Public Service Reform for the City.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSC/19/07 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.

Members commented on the outstanding recommendations and requested that the Scrutiny Team Leader provides the Committee with a response to these at the earliest opportunity.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes work programme; and
- (2) Requests that the Scrutiny Team Leader provides the Committee with a response to the outstanding recommendations at the earliest opportunity.