

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 6 March 2019

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

Councillors: Connolly, Davies, Douglas, Green, Hacking, Johns, Newman, Paul, Raikes, Razaq, Shilton Godwin and A Simcock

Apologies: Councillor Noor and K Simcock

Also present:

Councillor N Murphy – Deputy Leader
Councillor S Murphy – Deputy Leader

ESC/19/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

ESC/19/17 Family Poverty Strategy update

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Work and Skills, which set out the progress that had been made since the Manchester Family Poverty Strategy 2017/22 was adopted by the Council's Executive in September 2017.

The Head of Work and Skills referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:-

- A summary of the three themes and 10 priorities of the Strategy;
- The governance structure of the Strategy, which comprised of a Core Group, who oversaw the delivery of the strategy;
- The Core Group was underpinned by three working groups which were aligned to three themes of the Strategy:-
 - Sustainable work as a route out of poverty
 - Focus on the basics - raising and protecting family incomes
 - Boosting resilience and building on strengths
- Details of a number of other activities and events which had supported the resilience of families and children living in poverty, including the work of anchor institutions;
- Measures which the Council track that give a citywide percentage estimate of poverty; and
- Next steps, which included strengthening the membership of the Core and working groups.

The Committee also received a presentation from Jane Partington, founder of Bread and Butter Thing, which was a community led charity who provide quality food supplies for low income families and where part of the Core Group.

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

- How had the established discount supermarket chains reacted to the Bread and Butter Thing venture;
- What relationship had the Bread and Butter Thing with social housing providers;
- How were volunteers and members of the Bread and Butter Thing recruited;
- There was concern around the impact of the threat of homelessness on family welfare, income and poverty and the interaction within a family's existing social networks if they were rehoused in areas unfamiliar to them;
- How was 'in work' poverty reflected in the strategy;
- Was there any examples of where childcare providers had adapted towards more flexible working patterns;
- More detail on the Child North East (CNE) pilot at Cedar Mount Academy was requested; and
- How was the intended impact of the strategy going to be measured and reported to scrutiny.

Jane Partington advised the Committee that she was not sure how the established discount supermarket felt about Bread and Butter Thing. She commented that it had not been expected that the venture would get to the sized that it had within 18 months. She advised that food companies, on the whole, wanted to distribute their food and the key aspect of the Bread and Butter Thing model, was that it was not a food pantry nor a foodbank. All the food obtained and issued by the venture was either on date or just within the display until date, which the supermarkets could not sell due to food regulations. As the venture collected and delivered the food in the same day, it meant that all retailers were able to distribute their foods, which otherwise would have gone to waste. In terms of the relationship with social housing providers, Jane reported that they were currently working with One Manchester, Northwards, First Choice, Trafford Housing and Tameside, and that they were a good source of finding the community hubs to work from and getting into the right locations were there was a need for the service. It was explained that members and volunteers were identified through the community hubs and to be a valid member, residents needed to live within the locality served by the hub.

The Deputy Leader advised that the Family Poverty Strategy was targeted at people who may be 'just about managing' but acknowledged there was a clear link between those who were 'just about managing' and those becoming homelessness, if there was a crisis or unexpected change of circumstances in their lives. There was representatives on the Core Group from Save the Children and the Mustard Tree which provided a link to those at risk of being made homeless or were already.

The Head of Work and Skills advised that there had been a rise of 'in work poverty' but it was still the case of that most children living in families in poverty, came from a home where parents and carers were not working. There were limitations with the measurement of family poverty and to ensure that the Council captured both in-work

and out of work poverty, as well as the effect of Universal Credit, the Council had moved to the End Child Poverty indicator, away from the HMRC data which was traditionally used.

The Council was also working with Anchor Institutions within the City to get them to lean into this agenda more. An example of this was getting these Institutions to sign up to the GM Mayor Good Employment Charter, which recommends the minimum provision of the living wage for all staff, investment in training and progression.

In response to other questions, the Head of Work and Skills said that few terms of childcare providers had adapted towards more flexible working patterns, which were more prevalent in the labour market. However the working group was doing further work with parents, businesses and providers to understand the implications and roll out good practise. It was also reported that it was too early in the life stage of the Poverty Proofing pilot at Cedar Mount Academy to identify any lessons learnt, but it was hoping that when these were identified, they could be rolled out to other schools within the City.

Officers advised that in terms of monitoring the success of the strategy, it was possible to monitor against national indicators, such as child poverty strategy measures. Further work would be undertaken around the Logic model to identify how to measure the impact of the strategy without resulting in duplication of reporting. Members welcomed the Logic Model.

Decision:

The Committee:-

- (1) Thanks Jane Partington for her presentation and the work of the Bread and Butter Thing; and
- (2) Notes the positive progress that is being made in delivering the Family Poverty Strategy.

ESC/19/18 The Impact of Welfare Reform and Universal Credit on the Manchester Economy

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Work and Skills, which provided an update on the implementation of welfare reform in Manchester. It analysed the impacts of welfare reforms on the city so far, specifically Universal Credit (UC) and the anticipated impact from the continued roll out. The report also summarised the Council's response to the reforms and where the Council and partners had opportunities to focus efforts to mitigate some of the impacts in the future.

The Head of the Work and Skills referred to the main points and themes within the report which included:-

- The economic context of the city, including worklessness levels, the number of UC claimants and the impact of macro economics on employment;
- An overview of the various welfare reforms which had been introduced since 2012;

- National research that had been undertaken on the impact of these welfare reforms on residents;
- The development, purpose and findings of the Welfare Reform Monitoring report by the Council's Performance, Research and Intelligence team;
- The findings and recommendations from a Manchester Resident Impact Analysis of Universal Credit;
- The risk of a rise in homelessness brought about by welfare reform;
- The increased demand on the Council's Welfare Provision Scheme and Advice Services; and
- Examples of support provided by the Council which focussed on supporting residents moving into meaningful employment.

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

- A mitigating impact of Universal Credit was the speed of intervention and how quickly was the Council able to help residents affected by Universal Credit;
- Was it possible for Local Authorities to share data around those facing multiple disadvantages with Utilities Companies, as highlighted in the Digital Economy act 2017, in order to improve targeting, and speed of intervention;
- There was concern about the impact of Universal Credit and associated rental and Council Tax arrears and what help could the Council provide to those facing arrears;
- It was proposed that the Council invited the Secretary for Work and Pension to Manchester to discuss with the Council and residents the challenges being faced by those affected by Universal Credit;
- What was the relationship between the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and Universal Credit as the LHA was set at a lower level in Wythenshawe compared to the rest of the City.

The Head of Work and Skills advised that in terms of speed of intervention and support, the Council had been able to identify people likely to be affected early by working with colleagues in Revenue and Benefits when the introduction of the benefit cap was introduced. The Council had also commissioned services to be proactive in areas where people might be vulnerable, particularly in the private rented sector where landlords were unlikely to be providing advice to their tenants.

In terms of sharing data with utility companies, the Council had had contact with United Utilities who had established a hardship map across the North West and was seeking the Council's help in populating to identify vulnerable households. It was agreed that this would be explored further, as part of the Family Poverty work.

In terms of rent arrears, it was commented that the introduction and rollout of UC had had a clear impact. Work was being undertaken with social landlords to ensure the right support was available for tenants who were vulnerable. The Council had also commissioned services from Shelter and Citizens Advice Bureau to target private rented sector in areas where residents had historically relied on housing benefits to pay rents. In terms of Council Tax support, there were proposals for additional support to be provided in order to mitigate the impact of Universal Credit which had

been considered and supported by the Council's Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee in February 2019.

The Committee was advised that in terms of the impact of UC on LHA, a third of the median rent in an area was calculated into an individual's benefits allowance which had consequences where the benefit allowance was not enough to begin with and UC meant that individuals had the responsibility for paying their own rent. The Deputy Leader commented that in terms of LHA was one of the drivers for homelessness in the city and the Council was looking at how it could intervene earlier where people were struggling to afford to pay their rents.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Agrees that the Chair of the Committee writes to Secretary for Work and Pension to invite her Manchester to discuss with the Council and residents the challenges being faced by those affected by Universal Credit and multiple reforms to the welfare system; and
- (2) Request that the Committee is provided with the report considered by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on the proposed changes to the Council's Council Tax Support Scheme.

ESC/19/19 The impact of low skills on residents' ability to enter the labour market and sustain quality work

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Work and Skills, which explored the issues that affected a high proportion of the City's working age population who had no or very low qualifications and outlined the emerging Adult Education and Skills Plan, which aimed to address the skills challenges faced in the City by residents, employers and the skills providers.

The Head of Work and Skills referred to the main points and themes in the report, which included:-

- Skills Levels in Manchester at a ward level which had been compiled from the 2011 census as this had contained the most up to date information, highlighting that residents in Miles Platting and Newton Heath and Harpurhey wards of the city held relatively low qualifications;
- The level of unemployment and economic inactivity in Manchester, which remained slightly higher than the national rate, although, to a degree, this could be attributed to Manchester's large student population, which was 13.6% higher than the national figure;
- Manchester's Labour Market and Skills Demand which had seen rapid growth in the last twenty years and was set to continue. However some sectors reported particular skills shortages, notably digital, whilst health and social care and construction were the industries which were most affected by having an ageing workforce and not being able to meet replacement demand;

- The findings of the Social Mobility Commission's report, which looked at the skills gap in Britain and the role that adult education and training might be able to play in closing it;
- The offer of a wide range of programmes for adult learners by the Manchester College although an initial look at all adult learners across their provision demonstrated a significant weighting towards Preparation for Work and Life programmes;
- The learning offer from Manchester Adult Education Service; and
- The creation of a Manchester Adult Skills and Education Plan which would initially outline the skills challenges and opportunities for Manchester residents, for businesses and for the system itself.

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

- There was concern around the issue of middle aged residents gaining meaningful employment;
- There was a need to acknowledge the employment benefits that could be derived from those residents who had declared that English was not their main language but were able to speak English very well;
- Members praised the work of Talk English in helping those with very limited English prior to undertaking an ESOL course;
- There was a clear link between a lack of skills and family poverty;
- How could the Council gather the destination outcome measures in a more joined up way in order to provide a more consistent picture of transitions from adult education into employment;
- How was the Council going to enable the city's 50+ population feel valued in terms of what they could offer as potential employees and support work to help more of this age group who were out of work to gain meaningful employment;
- Were there any clear pathways for learners wishing to undertake level 2 qualifications, which was considered to be the level which was needed for individuals to sustain work;
- Was there any insight into the number of people who worked in the city but lived out of the city compared to those who both worked and lived within the city; and
- Was access to the labour market dependent on what ward people lived in as well as the qualifications they had;

The Deputy Leader advised that Government had announced that additional investment would be made for ESOL and Talk English as it had been recognised of the benefit these courses had had on individuals developing the necessary skills to gain employment. The Head of Work and Skills noted the comments made around middle aged people of working age and commented that the Council had started to undertake some broader work around this, as it was recognised that this group of people were not benefiting from the economic growth of the city and were becoming excluded more than any other age group.

In terms of gathering destination outcome measures in a more joined up way, it was reported that at present, there was not a Greater Manchester (GM) system that could be used to collect this data in a cohesive fashion, but by collecting this information in a clear and consistent way, it could put pressure on the need for a GM system rather

than 10 individual systems for collecting the same data. The Head of MAES added that Manchester College and the Growth Company were involved in developing the Adults Skills Education Plan which would look at current provision and be more explicit as to what the pathways to different employment sectors were, this included how those residents aged over 50 could gain better or new skills to help them obtain new or better employment, through bespoke pathways.

The Deputy Leader noted the challenges faced by those agenda over 50 in gaining meaningful employment and suggested that this was an area that would be useful for Scrutiny to look at this in the next Municipal Year.

The Head of Work and Skills advised that the data held on the number of people who worked in the city but lived out of the city compared to those who both worked and lived within the city was accurately measured but noted that the gap in earnings between these two groups was higher in Manchester than other core cities. The Committee was also advised that from the age of the data available, it was not possible to determine whether there was a correlation between access to the labour market dependent on what ward people lived in as well as the qualifications they had.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Endorses the emerging Manchester Adult Skills and Education Plan;
- (2) Suggests that the Committee receives further information on the following areas, at a suitable point in the next Municipal Year:-
 - the work being undertaken to help support the 50-64 age group in the context of addressing low skills;
 - the issue of employers and the underutilisation of employee's skills.

ESC/19/20 The Impact of Procurement Policies on Small and Medium Businesses

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an update on the impact of the Council's procurement policies on small and medium businesses (SME) in the City. The report also identified challenges and what more could be done in the future to enable SMEs in the City to compete for Council contracts and commissioned services.

The Head of Procurement referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included: -

- The Council's work with SME's through policies and procedures, which had included the introduction of a Sustainable Procurement Policy, with an aim increase the support for SME's to secure business through the Council's supply chain;
- Additional action the Council had taken to support a diverse supply chain, which had included the incorporation of GMCA Social Value Policy into Council policies and procedures and the introduction of a social fund to help smaller suppliers that may find it difficult to demonstrate "in kind" social value in the

- tender process but may be able to pay a small percentage of the contract value into the social fund as an alternative;
- Examples of wider business support for SME's from the Council, in addition to the measures introduced through policies and procedures;
 - How the Council measured the impact of its procurement policies, utilising the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) to undertake annual reviews of the impact the sustainable procurement policy with the Council's top 300 suppliers and contractors; and
 - Next steps, including developing links with the University, Manchester Metropolitan University and NHS procurement teams, and working with the Work and Skills teams to identify how best to promote opportunities and support SME's.

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

- Was there any analysis undertaken regarding the breakdown of different categories of SME's – micro, small and medium;
- Was there any gap analysis undertaken of SME's with regards to different contracts and how they competed;
- What work was being done around cooperatives;
- Noting the good work of Central Library's Business and Intellectual Property Centre; and
- What was being done to support specific groups in the employment market, such as 50 years plus.

Officers stated that an analysis and breakdown could be given between companies that employed more than 100 people and those that employed fewer and this would be included in future update reports. Procurement would look to see if this could be further broken down in the work that CLES undertook annually. With regard to gap analysis it was reported that SME's were invited to tender for contracts and were included in any soft market tendering exercises to ensure that they were represented, work was also ongoing to support cooperatives and social enterprises. Officer's reported that compared to other cities, Manchester had led the way in regard to social value and ethical procurement and specific engagement was undertaken with employers and providers in regard to a number of specific priority groups, including the 50yr plus age group.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources described the achievements that had been realised through social value and ethical procurement, noting that this area of work had been a priority for him and he had worked with officers to ensure that all contracts included these elements. He said that whilst progress had been made, work on this important area would continue to ensure this was firmly embedded in every contract.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report; and

- (2) Recommends that any future update report include analysis of the numbers of different types of SMEs – micro, small and medium.

ESC/19/21 Economy Dashboard - Quarter 3 2018/19

The Committee considered the Quarterly Economy Dashboard for quarter 3 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 information was requested in relation to business rates and providers of private car parking, and sample sizes of rental markets in neighbourhoods for comparison; and
- What were the challenges to delivering ultra-fast internet broadband for businesses and residents.

Officers stated that the additional information requested would be circulated to the Committee. In regard to the issue of ultra-fast broad band it was reported that the challenge to delivering this related to the retrofitting of apartment blocks within the city centre. Officers stated that discussions were ongoing with a range of providers to address this and an update would be provided to the Committee at an appropriate time.

The Chair noted the importance of ultra-fast broad band to the economy of the city and this would be considered in further detail at meeting of the Committee in the new municipal year.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

ESC/19/22 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 notes the report

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2019

Present:

Councillor Hacking - In the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Cooley, M Dar, Douglas, Evans, Kirkpatrick, Rawlins and Rawson

Councillor N Murphy, Deputy Leader

Councillor S Murphy, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

CESC/19/12 Minutes

Decisions

1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2019 as a correct record.
2. To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Fund Task and Finish Group held on 31 January 2019.

CESC/19/13 Greater Manchester Police (GMP) priorities for additional resources

The Chair reported that the purpose of this item had been to examine the priorities for the additional funding for GMP which it was proposed to raise through the Council Tax precept. He informed the Committee that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA's) Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime had declined to attend the meeting and that the representative of GMP had stated that some of the information requested was not yet known and, therefore, he had also declined to attend at this stage. The Chair proposed that this item be considered again at the Committee's meeting on 23 May 2019, when further information would be available, including whether the precept had been agreed and whether GMP would be receiving any additional resources from the national government. In response to a Member's question, he confirmed that the intention was to invite the Deputy Mayor to the May meeting.

The Deputy Leader reported that he represented the Council on the Police and Crime Panel, which had met on 31 January 2019 to consider the precept, but that he thought it was also useful for this Committee to scrutinise the precept and how the additional funding would be used. He reported that the national government had acknowledged that the police were underfunded but had decided that additional funding should be raised through a precept on Council Tax. He outlined the funding issues which GMP faced, reporting that it had lost over 2000 police officers over the past 9 years, in addition to 1000 support staff, including Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). He reported that at the Police and Crime Panel meeting he had proposed a commitment, which the Panel had supported, on the issues which should

be prioritised with these additional resources. He informed Members that these included increasing neighbourhood policing, improving safety on the transport network and in the night-time economy, improving the 101 non-emergency police number and other ways that the public could contact the police, tackling serious and violent crime and violence against women and girls and improving sickness levels within GMP.

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

- The impact of losing 1000 support staff in diverting police officers from frontline duties;
- To seek assurance from the Deputy Leader that he would advocate for the needs of the Manchester area;
- The impact of football matches on the city centre and police and Council resources; and
- That information on police priorities should be communicated to residents in a clear, simple way.

The Deputy Leader recognised the greater demands that Manchester experienced due to being the regional centre, noting that 13 of the 50 new police officers had been assigned to Manchester. He outlined how police prioritised work based on threat, harm and risk. He reported that football was a great draw to the city but that it also created some issues for the city and that, while the football clubs contributed to the cost of policing around the stadium, it also had effects elsewhere. He reported that the Council was working with GMP and the football clubs on this issue and that he would pass on the Committee's concerns. He agreed that it was important to communicate police priorities to residents in an appropriate way.

Decision

To consider this issue at the Committee's next meeting on 23 May 2019.

CESC/19/14 Equalities Performance Management

The Committee received a report of the City Solicitor which provided an update on the Council's Equalities Performance Management.

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

- Progress against the Council's equality objectives for 2016-20, with examples across a range of service areas;
- The proposed process for developing a new set of objectives covering the period 2020-2024; and
- An overview of the themes emerging from the Council's Equality Delivery Plans (EDP) 2019-20, produced as part of the annual business planning process.

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

- To welcome the report and the breadth of work taking place and to emphasise the importance of this becoming embedded into the regular work of the Council;
- That equality should be embedded into the induction process for new staff;
- How the Directorate Equality Champions' role fitted in with their regular jobs;
- The importance of good education, training and employment opportunities in improving life chances;
- When undertaking an equality analysis of major commercial developments, what would a good commercial development look like;
- The importance of prioritising repairs to pavements and highways as an equality issue;
- The importance of timely Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) in relation to proposed new cycling and walking routes;
- How far the Council's workforce reflected the diversity of the local population, particularly at a senior level; and
- Request for more information on the work group which had been established to develop the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).

The Lead for Homelessness informed Members how equalities work was being embedded into her service's work, including listening to the views of people who had experienced homelessness and working to help people improve their life chances. The Director of Housing and Residential Growth informed Members about work to develop the LGBT Extra Care housing project, reporting that he was currently in discussions with the LGBT Foundation to try to secure funding for them to provide a member of their staff to advise on the project. Officers provided examples of work taking place within the Neighbourhoods Directorate, including improving the accessibility of leisure facilities for disabled people, capturing data on who was using the Council's leisure facilities and working with school children and their families on healthy eating, taking into account cultural backgrounds and languages.

The Statutory Deputy Leader reported that most Manchester schools were judged as "good" or better by Ofsted but that issues with particular schools needed to be addressed. She also reported on how the Council would use its procurement process to encourage companies to employ Manchester residents and to pay the Manchester Living Wage. She informed Members about the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter, which, she advised, would also make a difference.

The Director of Housing and Residential Growth reported that he would refer the question on commercial developments to the Strategic Director (Development) and ask him to provide a response. A Member who was also the Lead Member for Disabled People emphasised the importance of ensuring that commercial premises were accessible for disabled people.

The Strategic Lead for Neighbourhoods (South), who was also a Directorate Equality Champion, reported that he had requested timescales for the programme of repair work to pavements and highways and for the proposed new cycling and walking routes so that EIAs could be embedded into the process. The Chair emphasised the Committee's support for this information to be provided so that this work could be progressed as a matter of urgency.

The Head of Workforce Strategy reported that people with protected characteristics, particularly disabled people and BAME staff, were under-represented at a senior level within the Council. He informed Members that the Council had developed an action plan on workforce equality which was based on feedback from the Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG) assessment and a piece of independent research on staff experiences. He outlined the main areas of this action plan, which related to workforce engagement, learning and development and representation at a senior level. The City Solicitor reported that, as the new Equalities Lead for the Senior Management Team (SMT), she would take forward the request that equality be embedded into the induction process for new staff.

The Programme Lead outlined the work which had started to take place to develop and support BAME voluntary and community organisations, including undertaking EIAs following the first funding round of the Our Manchester VCS Fund and meeting with BAME groups and other stakeholders to discuss issues and identify a way forward. The Statutory Deputy Leader reported that this work had to be sector-led but facilitated by the Council and she offered to provide further information to a future meeting.

Decision

To thank officers and guests for their contribution and to request that the points raised by Members be taken forward.

CESC/19/15 Final Report of the Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (OMVCS) Fund Task and Finish Group

The Committee received a report of the Our Manchester VCS Fund Task and Finish Group which presented their findings and recommendations. The Task and Finish Group had carried out an investigation into the implementation of the new OMVCS Fund programme and the first funding round.

A Member, who was also the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, provided an overview of the Group's findings and thanked the Members who had taken part.

The Chair asked for clarification of the meaning of the fifth bullet point under 2.2: "Communication relating to funding decisions/decision making process to be updated to include simultaneous communications to organisations and all Members (in addition to scrutiny committees)." The Chair of the Task and Finish Group clarified that this meant that information would be disseminated simultaneously to organisations and Elected Members. She informed Members that she would amend the wording of this bullet point for clarity.

The Chair welcomed the report, stating that it was an example of a good piece of work by a Task and Finish Group. He requested that this report be circulated to all Members of the Council, with a covering note.

Decisions

1. To note the findings of the Task and Finish Group and endorse the recommendations as set out in the report, subject to the amendment for clarity outlined above.
2. To request that the report be circulated to all Members of the Council.
3. To request a report on the implementation of the recommendations in 6 months.

CESC/19/16 Overview Report

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

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.

CESC/19/17 Manchester Community Events

The Committee received a report of the Chief Operating Officer (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the approach to developing the Community Events Programme. It also provided further details of how events supported volunteering within the city and specifically how the programme connected to the Manchester Volunteer Inspired Programme (MCRVIP).

The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) informed Members that this report provided an update on community events which took place across the city, including events that the Council directly delivered such as the Christmas lights switch-on, large community events that the Council provided funding for such as the Caribbean Carnival and other events which were not funded through the events fund but which the Council supported in some other way, for example through the Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF).

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

- The negative impact of some events on local residents and what was being done to increase safety and security around events, citing the shooting which had taken place after the Caribbean Carnival last year;
- Request for an update on the assessment of applications for the Community Events Funding Programme 2019-20; and
- The strain on NIF funds of continuing to fund small community events and whether alternative funding could be identified.

The Strategic Lead (Parks, Leisure and Events) informed Members that meetings were taking place with a range of stakeholders to discuss issues surrounding the

Caribbean Carnival, including parking, trading on nearby streets and after-show parties and tactics to address these were being explored. He reported that, while an early decision had been taken regarding the funding for this year's Caribbean Carnival, decisions were still being made about other applications to the Community Events Funding Programme 2019-20 and it was expected that the decisions would be communicated by the end of the month. He reported that, where appropriate, applicants were being directed to other sources of funding which were more appropriate for their event.

The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure reported that, despite the financial challenges, the Council had continued to invest in community events but was also being innovative in supporting organisations to identify other sources of funding. He reported that the Council was looking at ways to generate commercial income from parks and events which could be reinvested in community events.

Decision

To request that a list of groups which were successful and unsuccessful in obtaining funding through the Community Events Funding Programme 2019-20 be circulated to Members, including details of whether the groups have been funded in previous years.

[Councillor Evans declared a personal interest as a Board Member for the Wythenshawe Games.]

[Councillor Douglas declared a personal interest as a local resident in the area of the Caribbean Carnival.]

CESC/19/18 Exclusion of Press and Public

Decision

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

CESC/19/19 Manchester Core Events Programme Funding 2019-20 (Public Excluded)

The Committee received a report of the Chief Operating Officer (Neighbourhoods) which provided commercially sensitive information on the allocation of funding for the core events programme for 2019-20, following the Committee's request for this information at its meeting on 10 January 2019.

Decision

To note the report.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7 March 2019

Present:

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

Also present:

Councillor Ollerhead, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources

Apologies: Councillor Rowles

RGSC/19/19 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2019 as a correct record.

RGSC/19/20 Our Manchester - financial impact on decision making and business planning

The Committee considered a presentation that provided an evaluation of Our Manchester and how this was helping to deliver the required Council savings targets and the effect that it would have on the Council's future budget process. The presentation started by setting out the Our Manchester approach, then showed how the Monitoring and Evaluation framework operated and finally covered how this related to savings delivery and budget strategy.

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

- An overview of Our Manchester, including an explanation of the different roles of the Our Manchester Strategy and approach, including the role of Bringing Services Together
- The monitoring and evaluation framework, outlining the approach to monitoring and evaluating Our Manchester;
- A summary of how Our Manchester was being put into practise as evidenced through Our Manchester updates to scrutiny committees and case studies;
- How Our Manchester had fed into our allocation of resources through the business planning process; and
- Monitoring and budget strategy impact, including how the Council monitors progress towards the vision for the city through the State of the City Report and how this impacts on the Council's budget position.

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

- A distinction needed to be made between the Voluntary and Community Sector and Community Groups;
- Resilient communities that had delivered positive outcomes appeared to have been penalised through reduced resources;
- More needed to be done to support community groups to compliment and support the ambitions for social prescribing in communities;
- Would Social Value be included as a key metric in the State of the City Report;
- Commenting that the metrics within the State of the City report were very challenging, especially around the issues of life expectancy and victim based crime;
- Noting the success of the Wigan Deal in managing and communicating expectations with residents, what similar work was being done in Manchester to raise awareness of Our Manchester with residents, commenting that there appeared to be currently a disconnect;
- 'Have your say' events should be delivered across the whole of the city as a mechanism to engage with residents;
- How was spend against outcome measured and assessed;
- What resources were allocated to the analysis of the impact of 'Our Manchester', noting the complexity and range of metrics; and
- Noting the importance of the interactions between frontline staff and residents, staff needed to be empowered to influence appropriate change.

Officers stated that the Our Manchester Investment Fund was designed to facilitate innovative approaches and build resilience within communities to reduce the demand on services. Officers stated that the new health model had been supported by funding from Greater Manchester and a business case was being developed to further support community groups to assist with social prescribing. Officers described that conversations were ongoing with a range of services and partners, including the police and health to align the geographical footprint in which they worked to deliver services and support the 'Our Manchester' approach.

Officers stated that consideration would be given as to how social value could be reported within future State of the City reports. Officers acknowledged the challenges to improve against key metrics, noting that a range of partners, such as health and the police and national policies would have an influence on these outcomes. Officers further stated that there was a challenge to report on how 'Our Manchester' had impacted on these, noting that the Logic model and analysis of data would assist with that reporting and measuring impact and outcomes. Officers stated that it was important to recognise that the data within the State of the City report was collated over the year however the report was published on an annual basis and used the data available at the time of publication.

In response to a request from a Member, Officers commented that the data was complex and available at different times of the year, however consideration would be given on how best to report performance to the Committee throughout the year, noting that the intention is to review and report annually on the impact and performance of Our Manchester, and consideration was being given on how to capture and report added value, considering all of the contributing factors as a metric.

Officers stated that there were a number of different methods employed to engage with and communicate 'Our Manchester' with residents. These included the delivery of 'Have Your Say' events in a range of neighbourhood settings with the intention to roll these out across the whole of the city; integrating services within neighbourhoods; joined up resident engagement with partners to ensure a consistent message is communicated. Officers stated the challenge was then to understand and measure the outcomes of such events and interventions, however work was progressing to capture and measure this. Noting the comment from the Member regarding the need for clear communications with residents regarding expectations, Officers stated that this would be reviewed in consultation with the communications team, noting the model adopted in Wigan.

In regard to spend and outcomes, Officers reported that this was assessed and an analysis and review of the success of interventions would be undertaken, using the lessons learnt from other experiences. Officers reported that analysis of the Our Manchester approach was undertaken by the existing Performance, Reform and Innovation Team, stating that a dedicated officer would be allocated to focus specifically on this area of work. Officers reported that consideration was also being given to appointing an academic researcher to support this work and the funding options for this were being explored. Officers reported that a number of staff across the organisation had contributed to the Logic model work.

Officers noted the importance of both Council staff and the staff of partners when interacting with residents to influence behaviour change and that staff awareness and engagement sessions were being delivered to all staff, further complimented by the 'Our People' HR strategy to drive culture change and embed the Our Manchester principals in the workforce and across all services.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Recommends that a one-page document is produced, similar to that available in Wigan, that clearly communicates with residents the Our Manchester approach and expectations.
- (2) Recommends that analysis of the development and empowerment of those front line staff who regularly engage with residents, across a range of services is undertaken.

RGSC/19/21 Responses to Government Consultations on the Fairer Funding Review and Business Rates proposals

The Committee considered a report of the City Treasurer, which provided an overview of the proposed reforms to Local Government Financing and the Council's response to the two most recent government consultations which were Business Rates Retention Reform and. A review of local authorities' relative needs and resource.

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

- In October 2015 the Government committed to further reforms to Business Rates retention followed by consultations in July 2016, February 2017 and December 2018. In February 2016, the Government announced there would be a review of relative needs and resources, followed by consultations in July 2016, December 2017 and December 2018;
- The two recent consultation papers were the next steps in the Government's programme of reform to local finance which aimed to provide a fairer and more transparent mechanism for allocating formula grant and to give Councils greater control over the money they raised locally;
- From 2020/21, there would be significant changes to Local Government financing;
- The Council was engaging with central government and other interested bodies through formal consultation responses and working groups to ensure the impact of the potential changes on local government, and particularly cities was recognised;
- In relation to Business Rates Reform Manchester had been involved in a number of programmes to maximise the resource available in the region including a Business Rates Pool across Greater Manchester (GM) and Cheshire, the Business Rates Growth Retention Scheme 2015 and a three-year 100% retention pilot from April 2017 to March 2020; and
- With regard to the review of relative need and resources the Council was working closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Local Government Association (LGA) and other Local Authorities (particularly Core Cities) to ensure the circumstances of metropolitan cities were represented in the review, specifically in relation to the impact of deprivation on the need to spend.

Copies of the Council's responses to the two consultations were appended to the report for the Committees consideration.

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

- Members welcomed the substantive and detailed responses, noting the cuts imposed on the City Council;
- Thanking the City Treasurer and Deputy City Treasurer for the work that had been undertaken to produce the detailed and compelling submission;
- Supporting the argument put forward that deprivation needed to be a material consideration in the funding formula and not simply calculated on population figures alone, noting the continued impact of austerity and the financial pressures experienced as a result of increased social care costs;
- Welcoming the inclusion of the issues arising as a result of the significant student population, and the associated loss of revenue, within the response;
- The responses should have included recommendations that Private Landlords are charged Business Rates;
- Was the resource allocated to Business Rates appeals sufficient; and

- In relation to Business Rates and the expanding University estate, what discussions had been had with other core cities, with similar large establishments;

The City Treasurer stated that it was very difficult to agree a funding formula that fits all due to the different pressures and demographics experienced in cities and this presented a challenge nationally. In relation to Business Rates and those large estates that were exempt she said discussions had been conducted with other core cities to explore this issue further.

It was noted that the Committee were of the view that the City Council should be recommending private landlords are charged business rates. The City Treasurer explained some of the work in this area and that the City Council was continuing to push for a position that recognised the financial impact of students on the council's income.

The City Treasurer stated that the calculation of the resource required for the number of Business Rates appeals had been modelled using the available data, commenting that this was robust and had been signed off by the external auditor. She further advised that work was underway with other core cities around the issue of the impact on funding of student accommodation and the different options available.

The City Treasurer acknowledged the comment regarding the pressures experienced regarding the cost of social care, and modelling of this continued so as to understand and the scale of this challenge in Manchester, also taking into consideration other factors such as the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit and other initiatives. She further commented that this had been frustrated due to the uncertainty around the potential changes to funding for adult social care with the Green Paper now expected in Spring 2019.

The City Treasurer responded to a question from a Member regarding the possibility for a judicial review if the proposed formula was imposed by stating that she could not pre-empt the outcome of the consultation, however all options would be considered.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

RGSC/19/22 Overview Report

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

Decision

The Committee notes the report and approve the work programme.