

## Item 4

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GMCA CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2018 6.00PM, AT CHURCHGATE HOUSE, MANCHESTER

#### PRESENT

Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council (Chair)
Councillor Zahr Alijah	Manchester City Council
Councillor Luke Raikes	Manchester City Council
Councillor Ateeque Ur Rehman	Oldham Council
Councillor Neil Butterworth	Rochdale Council
Councillor David Jolley	Salford City Council
Councillor Yvonne Guariento	Stockport Council
Councillor John Bell	Tameside Council
Councillor Leanne Feeley	Tameside Council
Councillor Michael Winstanley	Wigan Council (Substitute Member)

#### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Chief Executive, GMCA
Richard Paver	Treasurer, GMCA
Susan Ford	Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Donna Parker	Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA
Nick Fairclough	Strategy Officer, GMCA
Claire Norman	Director of Communications and Engagement, GMCA
Councillor Angeliki Stogia	Manchester City Council

#### CI/32/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stella Smith (Bury), John McGahan (Stockport), Colin McLaren (Oldham), Debbie Newall (Bolton) and Tim Pickstone (Bury).

## **CI/33/17 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no Chair's announcements or urgent business.

## **CI/34/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

## **CI/35/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were submitted for consideration.

**Resolved/-** That the minutes of the meeting held 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 be approved as an accurate record.

## **CI/36/17 MEMBERSHIP**

The Chair announced that Councillor Pam Stewart (Wigan) had resigned from the Committee with immediate effect due to ill-health and would be standing-down as a Councillor at the local Elections in May 2018.

## **CI/37/17 GMCA COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of Claire Norman, Director of Communications and Engagement, GMCA which provided an update on the progress since the completion of the GM Joint Scrutiny Pool's Task and Finish Group on Communications in February 2017. This report had been requested by the Committee as part of its Work Programme for 2017/18.

Councillor Angeliki Stogia from Manchester City Council and Chair of the GM Joint Scrutiny Pool's Task and Finish Group on Communications was in attendance at the request of the Committee.

It was reported that the Joint Scrutiny Pool's Task and Finish Group's findings were reviewed and unanimously adopted by the Scrutiny Pool at their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017. They were then agreed by the GMCA and AGMA Joint meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The final report was detailed at Appendix 1, for reference. The findings not only offered valuable insights into the way that the GMCA's work was perceived by internal and external stakeholders, it also helped shape the work which had taken place over the last year. The scale and scope of this piece of work was unique and was shared nationally.

The Committee were reminded of the recommendations in the original report and the activity which had taken place since then to develop the GMCA communications and engagement function.

In response, Councillor Angeliki Stogia made a number of opening remarks. First that it would be helpful to indicate what budget was available to support the GMCA's communications work, and whether this helped to explain why some areas of the work on communications had progressed more quickly than others. It was important to reflect on the communications team's successes, in particular the support for the mayoral priorities, the 100 day plan and a very proactive media presence. Second, more focus was needed on the Greater Manchester Strategy, and the high level messages about what the GMCA is trying to achieve. There is a still work to be done to improve the understanding of the public and local Members about the role of the Elected Mayor and his powers and how this linked to the local authorities. The lack of a narrative which clearly explained these points was a missed opportunity, locally, as well as regionally and nationally. Communications channels such council tax letters which had details of the Mayoral precept may be a good opportunity to explain this. Thirdly the importance of a communications strategy which clearly set out communications objectives, measures of success, alongside political leadership of communications was essential.

It was felt in the districts that there was a lack of information coming from the Mayor and the GMCA. In response, Claire Norman advised that the local authority communications teams had requested information on what had changed since the introduction of the Mayor on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 including the powers of the Mayor, GMCA and the local authorities that would be circulated accordingly.

A number of Members advised that they had been involved in the Joint Scrutiny Pool's Task and Finish Group on Communication and this had been a very comprehensive piece of work.

A Member raised the issue of the Mayor Precept it was felt that the Mayor would have to justify his role to the general public once they noticed the General Mayoral Precept on the Council Tax bill for 2018/19. There had not been a wider understanding by the general public that there would be costs associated with the position of the Elected Mayor. It was essential to provide straightforward information on what had been achieved and the benefits of an elected Mayor and the GMCA working for GM.

A Member requested clarity on the size of the GMCA communications and engagement team and how this compared to other Mayoral offices. In response, Claire Norman advised that the team consisted on 17 staff which included 2 apprenticeships. The team had come together by the merge of a number of organisations, namely, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the NHS. The team provided resources to the whole of the GMCA and this was difficult to compare to other Mayoral offices as they were all set-up differently.

A Member stated that the turnout from the Mayoral Election in May 2017 had been a modest 29% similar to turnout for a local election. The public's interest was often stimulated by the things that affected them directly in their own communities such as the consultation on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the fact that the Mayoral General Precept that would take the overall rise in many council tax bills to over 5% and the local authorities had promised that this would not happen.

A Member sought clarity on how the consultation documents and strategies were being communicated across Greater Manchester. In response, Claire Norman advised that an online tool had been set-up and officers had been asked to share information with the local authority leaders and chief executives so they could re-circulate this information to their Members.

Claire Norman advised that the Communications and Engagement Team was in the process of creating a GMCA Communications and Engagement Strategy that would clearly set out communications objectives, measurable targets, and on how the team would support the GMCA and define where the GMCA would be in 12 months' time. In response, the Chair requested that the Strategy was considered by this Committee as part of the consultation process.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the content of the report, and comments raised, be noted.
2. That the communications team should progress all of the recommendations agreed by the GMCA in February 2017, as a number were still outstanding.
3. That the GMCA Communications and Engagement Strategy be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration prior to approval by the GMCA.
4. That the Committee be circulated with the current suite of communications products used by the GM communications team
5. That an update on the engagement of the Mayor with the local authorities is circulated to the Committee.
6. That measures around communication and engagement are incorporated within the GMS Performance Dashboard

**CI/38/17 LIVING WAGE ACCREDITATION**

Consideration was given to a report of Richard Paver, Treasurer, GMCA which provided an update of the progress of the GMCA's application to become an accredited Living Wage employer. This report was requested by the Committee at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Minute CI/7/17 refers).

It was reported that on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017, the GMCA received confirmation of its accreditation as a Living Wage employer. This included all employees of the Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service, as well as teams based in Churchgate House. As a Living Wage employer, all of the GMCA's payroll employees must be paid the Living Wage, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation. On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the Living Wage rose to £8.75 per hour, an increase of thirty pence on the previous figure. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, the lowest local government hourly rate would be £8.50, set to rise to £9.00 in 2019. It is likely that the Living Wage Foundation's figure would continue to grow ahead

of this rate. All contractors who regularly work on the applicant's premises must be paid the Living Wage. Where this is not immediately possible, the GMCA had created a plan to work with contractors towards reaching this goal.

Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) was due to become part of the GMCA from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and will join the GMCA's accreditation at this time and work was underway to ensure that all payroll employees of the GMWDA were paid the Living Wage before this date. Baroness Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Fire, had also reported that she would be taking steps to ensure that Greater Manchester Police became Living Wage accredited as soon as possible.

Work had now begun on the creation of a Greater Manchester Employer Charter, which would be co-designed with businesses, public sector organisations and other employers across the conurbation.

A Member sought clarity on how GMCA becoming an accredited Living Wage employer had been communicated across Greater Manchester. In response, Nick Fairclough advised that the Mayor had made the announcement as part of the 'Living Wage Week' in 2017, and work would take place to communicate this further.

The Committee requested that there should be a measure relating to businesses becoming accredited Living Wage employers were included in the GMS Performance Dashboard. Also, to ensure that Greater Manchester was benchmarked against other cities.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the content of the report, and comments raised, be noted.
2. That the GMCA as an accredited Living Wage employer, be noted.
3. That the next steps, as detailed within the report, be noted.
4. That businesses become Living Wage employers were included as a measure within the GMS Performance Dashboard.

**NOTE:** AT THIS PART OF THE PROCEEDINGS THE MEETING BECAME INQUORATE AND THE MEETING CONTINUED AS INFORMAL AND THE LIVE STREAM CONCLUDED.

**CI/39/17 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD**

Consideration was given to a report of the John Holden, Assistant Director Research and Strategy, GMCA, which provided an update of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) Performance Dashboard. This report was requested by the Committee at its informal meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The paper set out the approach used to develop the dashboard indicators, the indicators chosen and the rationale for choosing those indicators. Members were asked to provide

feedback on the dashboard and indicators used relating to this Committee's remit. Officers noted that they were happy to receive further feedback outside of the meeting.

The Committee welcomed the report and commented that the dashboard would provide a better understanding of performance in the round and would allow Members to drill into the detail of the 10 priorities. In response, Nick Fairclough, advised that the dashboard was intended as a flexible tool that would be further developed over time, in the event that new indicators and data become available, that were better placed to capture meaningful intelligence on GMS performance.

A Member questioned whether detailed data for each of the ten districts would be included as an appendix to performance reports. It was confirmed that this would be provided.

It was reported that the next update would be produced and presented to the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees in April 2018, and would include the first full report on GMS performance.

### **Action/-**

1. That any further comments on the GMS Performance Dashboard, including feedback on specific indicators under each of the priorities, would be provided outside of the meeting;
2. That the committee wished to incorporate the following within the performance dashboard (mentioned in discussions of the previous two items):
  - The number of businesses becoming living wage employers
  - Measures to be developed by the communications team which will gauge the understanding of the Mayor and GMCA's work by the public and other key stakeholders.
2. That the intention to work with the University of Manchester's Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit (IGAU) to explore the distributional impact of the GMS, be noted.
3. That the first full performance update of the refreshed GMS Implementation Plan for 2018-20, be submitted to all the GMCA Scrutiny Committees in April 2018.

### **CI/40/17 TASK AND FINISH UPDATE**

Susan Ford reported that at the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 it had been agreed that a School Readiness Task and Finish Group would be established and councillors Zahra Alijah, Colin McLaren, Stella Smith and Yvonne Guariento had agreed to sit on this group. It had now been agreed that the group would focus on best practice of school readiness and visits would be arranged to best practice sites within Greater Manchester the group would work closely with the public sector reform team on this area of work. All Members were invited to attend the visits and further details on these would be circulated in due course.

It was also agreed at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 to establish a Fire Task and Finish Group and councillors John Bell, Yvonne Guariento, John McCann and Peter Malcolm (substitute members) had volunteered to sit on this group. It had now been

agreed that this group would concentrate on performance of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and how this was reported to the Committee, again looking at best practice from other organisations including other fire and rescue services.

**Action/:** That the update on Task and Finish Groups, be noted.

**CI/41/17 WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

The Committee received an updated work programme following comments and suggestions made at the last meeting.

Susan Ford reported that there had been a request for the Committee to consider an item on ‘Homelessness’ at the next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and to allow this suggested that the item on ‘School Ready to Learn’ was deferred to the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Chair agreed to this request.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the work programme should be updated as follows:-

MEETING DATE	TOPIC	CONTACT OFFICER
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2018	Homelessness	
1.00pm	Performance of GMFRS	Dawn Docx, GMFRS
	Transition of the GMWDA to GMCA	Richard Paver, GMCA
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	GM Strategy Implementation Plan Update	Simon Nokes, GMCA
6.00pm	School ready to learn	Jane Forrest, GMCA
	GM Public Sector Apprenticeship Approach Update	Gemma Marsh, GMCA

**Action/:** That the Committee’s Work Programme for the 2017/18 be updated accordingly and considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

**CI/42/17 FUTURE MEETING DATES 2018**

The Committee had a discussion on future meetings of the Committee post May 2018 and it was agreed that future meetings would take place in the evening commencing at 6.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month (where possible).

**Action/:** That the next meetings of the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2018 take place on:

- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber at Trafford Town Hall;
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 6.00pm at Churchgate House, Manchester;

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6.00pm at venue to be confirmed.