

**GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA)  
ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND SKILLS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2018 AT 2.00PM, BOARDROOM, GMCA,  
CHURCHGATE HOUSE**

**Present:**

**Councillor:** Michael Holly (in the Chair)

**Councillors:** Susan Haworth (Bolton)  
Roy Walker (Bury)  
Ahmed Ali (Manchester)  
Grace Fletcher-Hackwood (Manchester)  
Kate Lewis (Salford)  
Mark Hunter (Stockport)  
Elise Wilson (Stockport)  
Barry Brotherton (Trafford)  
Charles Rigby (Wigan)

**Officers:** Susan Ford (Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA)  
Simon Nokes (Executive Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA)  
Anne Finlay (Principal Manager – Strategy & Commissioning, GMCA)  
Jenny Osborne (Strategic Lead, Health and Employment)  
Rupert Greenhalgh (GMCA)  
Donna Parker (Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA)

**E23/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Holden (Trafford), Chris Goodwin (Oldham), Yvonne Cartey (Tameside), Cecile Biant (Rochdale), Sir Richard Leese (Leader – Manchester City Council) and Cllr Sean Anstee (Leader – Trafford Council).

**E24/18 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

At the last meeting the Committee requested an update in relation to the collapse of Carillion and how this had affected GM. Simon Nokes advised that the latest GM position was that from the potential 1256 residents employed by Carillion directly 116 had now been made redundant and 21 people had made a claim for benefit. People affected were receiving additional tailored support to apply for jobs with the 187 employers who had pledged their support to Carillion, and with potential financial concerns via the UK Finance Carillion Personal Banking Offer.

On 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Government launched the Insolvency and Corporate Governance consultation. The consultation would seek views on new ways to protect payments to small firms in a supply chain, which could be hit hardest when large companies become insolvent.

**E25/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

### **E26/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9 MARCH 2018**

The Minutes of the Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018 as an accurate record.

### **E27/18 GM STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE**

Simon Nokes presented a report which provided Members with the draft 2 year GMS Implementation Plan and a copy of the first six-monthly GMS dashboard that was detailed at the Appendix to the report.

The Committee had a detailed discussion on the content of the report including the six-monthly GMS dashboard and raised the following queries and comments:-

A member requested further detail on the proposed new package of support for early years' providers under Priority 1 of the GMS Implementation Plan. On the Priority 2 dashboard there was a query about Attainment 8 Score vs Progress 8 score. The target is the former, the indicator the latter, a Member queried whether this should be the other way around.

A Member asked if the businesses from the digital sector would be involved in the Town Centre Challenge and suggested that a 'town centre app' could be created to promote local town centres, share local information and include the work of the third sector. In response, Simon Nokes, confirmed that the aim of the Town Centre Challenge was to work with all local stakeholders to improve local town centres, and noted the suggestion of a town centre app.

Members sought clarity on the town centres which had been chosen to take place in the Town Centre Challenge and asked how these had been selected. In response, Simon Nokes advised that only one town centre per district would participate in the Town Centre Challenge at any one time and that a list of the successful town centres would be circulated to the Committee outside the meeting. The Chair advised that the detail of the Town Centre Challenge would be considered by the GMCA Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Member commented that the GMS Implementation Plan contained some excellent work, but some of the priorities overlap with the work of the three overview and scrutiny committees. In response, Simon Nokes, advised that each overview and scrutiny committee had been asked to consider the Priorities that related to its own work area only.

A Member sought clarity on how the performance outcomes would be reported and measured going forward. In response, Simon Nokes advised that a system to evaluate and record performance outcomes was being established and the Committee would be updated on this work.

Members had a discussion on apprenticeships and how the quality of a successful apprenticeship was measured. In response, the Chair advised that this would be covered in further detail when the Committee considered 'Skills and Employment'.

## Item 9

A Member referred to public transport and the current bus services available. In response, Simon Nokes advised that the GM Mayor had established a Transport Board to consider a number of issues and the GMCA Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering this area of work in further detail.

The Chair asked if the GMCA had sufficient resources to deliver the GMS Implementation Plan. In response, Simon Nokes advised that the vast amount of work that was required was already captured within the specific strategies. It was reported that the Excel Workbook that had been detailed in the report as an annex (Paragraph 3.4 of the report refers) had been omitted from the agenda and would be circulated outside the meeting, for information. The workbook provided district level data on the 'supporting indicators' where available.

The Chair made reference to the work of the Pennine Acute Trust with specific regard to their work on health and inequalities he felt that this was an area that could be considered further. In response, Simon Nokes advised that health overlapped a number of the priority areas and work was ongoing to link these together. Members were concerned with performance against targets under the Priority 9 'healthy lives, with quality care for those that need it' and how this might impact of the productivity of GM's workforce. It was suggested that this could be considered at a future meeting of the Committee. Officers advised that the population health plan may be of interest to the committee and would be circulated.

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. A Member also suggested a final review of any technical language used would further improve the Implementation Plan.

It was reported that the dashboard would be updated every six-months and would be reported to the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the GMCA and the GM LEP.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the actions set out in the 2 year GMS Implementation Plan and comments raised in discussion, be noted and responded to.
2. That the Excel Workbook which had been omitted (Paragraph 3.4 of the report refers) to be circulated to the Committee outside the meeting, for information.
3. That the GMS Performance Dashboard, which had been updated to reflect feedback from the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committees, be noted.
4. That the 2 year GMS Implementation Plan and the GMS Performance dashboard, be noted, prior to being submitted to the meeting of the GMCA on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, for consideration and formal approval.
5. To circulate Greater Manchester's Population Health Plan to the Committee.

**E28/18 COMMISSING WORKING WELL (EARLY HELP)**

Members received a report, which was approved at the Combined Authority on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018, and proposed that the GMCA commissioned a test and learn early intervention service to support up to 14,000 people at risk of falling out of work or recently unemployed due to poor health. The pilot would directly contribute to achieving the priorities and outcomes of the Greater Manchester Strategy and the report sought agreement to commence the procurement process and associated governance arrangements.

Jenny Osbourne and Anne Finlay were in attendance and provided further detail on the funding, commissioning, performance and evaluation proposals. The total potential funding for the programme was £8 million, which covered delivery, programme office and evaluation costs and all funding decisions would have been made prior to the start of the procurement process. It was proposed that STaR procurement managed the procurement process for the programme, as they had past experience of commissioning the 'Working Well' programme.

The Committee had a detailed discussion on the content of the report and raised the following queries and comments:-

Members made reference to volunteering and how important this was to assisting people back into work. In response, Jenny Osbourne advised that volunteering was the correct outcome for some people, however more work needed to take place to value volunteering and the benefit it had to health. Evidence indicates that if someone was off work for a long period of time that person would suffer from ill-health. Testing was taking place through a comparative group to compare when a person went back into work the saving this had to the GP.

A Member sought clarity on how local businesses would be made aware of the initiative. In response, Jenny Osbourne advised that she would be working with the local leads in each of the 10 local authorities to target businesses in the local areas. A Member reported that he fully supported the pilot however there was not always a consistent approach across the 10 local authorities and that would need to be addressed moving forward. In response, Anne Finley advised that over the past 12 months ongoing work had been taking place with the local authorities regarding internal governance through the well-being boards and each local authority had been requested to appoint a lead officer and GP to move the pilot forward.

A discussion was had on the impacts of an aging workforce and how employers may have to accommodate workers with health issues such as dementia. The employers would need to look at various options on how they could support the employee on an individual case by case basis. Reference was made that often over 50's did not go back into paid employment, but undertook valuable work such as assisting with childcare for their families.

In conclusion, the Committee supported that pilot and requested regular updates on its progression.

**RESOLVED:**

## Item 9

1. That the comments raised to shape the design of the Working Well (Early Help) specification and procurement process, be noted.
2. That the Committee note the recommendations agreed at the meeting of the GMCA on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018, namely:-
  - Agree to the GMCA proceeding with the procurement of the Working Well (Early Help) Programme, which consists of two procurements; one for the service delivery contract and one for the evaluation contract, subject to any comment from Economy, Business Growth and Skills Scrutiny and Health Scrutiny committees.
  - Agree that GMCA Chief Executive Eamonn Boylan, and GMCA Treasurer Richard Paver, in consultation with Theresa Grant, Chief Executive Lead for Work and Skills & Chair of the GM Health and Employment Programme Board), have delegated authority to take the Working Well (Early Help) programme tender and the evaluation partner tender to contract award.
  - Note that the programme has been co-designed with localities and supported through local governance arrangements, such as Health & Wellbeing Boards & the Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Commissioning Board.
  - Note that the procurement evaluation panel will be made up of Working Well Programme Office, Local Authority Local Leads, Jobcentre Plus and GPs will be involved in the competitive dialogue part of process.

### **E29/18 SKILLS CAPITAL**

Members received a report which provided an update on the progress of the Skills Capital 2017-2020 programme, in particular the outcome of Round 1 applications from Stockport Trafford Merger, Bury College and Tameside College.

It was reported that Round 2 of the commissioning process was launched in February 2018, with a closing date for Expressions of Interest submissions by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018. It was anticipated that those applicants who were advised in Round 1 to further develop and strengthen their bids would re-submit EoI's in Round 2. There may also be a number of applications from new entrants however this would be unknown until the EoI submission had been assessed. Due to the fact that the requirement for projects in Round 1 had a specific sector focus it was anticipated that once the Round 2 process had been completed there would be a good coverage of sector skills across the region, taking a place-based approach to supply and demand analysis.

Members asked if there was a common theme in those applications in Round 1 who had been asked to further develop their bids to resubmit in Round 2. In response, Simon Nokes confirmed that there was not a common theme each application was rejected for various reasons. It was anticipated that the quality of the submitted bids would be higher in Round 2 than in Round 1.

Members would be kept updated on the progress of the procurement process accordingly.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the content of the report, be noted.

2. That the Committee are updated on the progress of the procurement process accordingly.

### **E30/18 GMSF AND ITS IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT LAND AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (ECONOMIC FORECASTS)**

Simon Nokes introduced a report which updated Members on the economic forecasts that had been developed for Greater Manchester.

A copy of the 'GMCA Economic Forecasts for Greater Manchester' report was attached as an Appendix to the report which provided details of the latest Greater Manchester Forecasting Model (GMFM). These were produced in September 2017 and were the first to be produced following the decision of the UK to leave the EU following the referendum in June 2016 and indicated how Brexit may affect GM's economic prospects in the short- and long-term assumption in forecasts that there would be a smooth transition out of the EU. The report also included results from both the baseline ('policy neutral') forecasts, GMFM-2017, and an Accelerated Growth Scenario, AGS-2017, which had been produced to model the impact of GM playing a leading role in the development of the Northern Powerhouse.

Members welcomed work on scenario planning for Brexit in the report and this report provided assurance that Greater Manchester was proactive in its approach to possible challenges.

Members made reference to the on-going challenge in ensuring that all GM residents were able to contribute to, and benefit from, economic growth and sought clarity on how the 10 local authorities could be requested to focus on increasing the skills audit to allow local people to achieve better jobs. In response, Simon Nokes advised that this needed to be addressed as skills drive production and the higher level jobs were in the higher value sectors. The devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) would enable the GMCA to work as a whole system to ensure more people had the right qualifications at 16 which would mean the AEB could support higher level skills. Currently the Government focused on Level 2 and below skills and Level 3 or above was funded by loans or the apprenticeship levy.

Members also asked about the changing skills levels of jobs and how they may be changed by the impact of new technology such as driverless vehicles, artificial intelligence and automation. It was confirmed that jobs in certain industries for instance warehousing and logistics were becoming highly skilled. GM was focussing on identifying high growth sectors such as construction and HS2 and working with employers to identify how to address potential skills shortages.

A member commented that it was important for GM to realise the untapped potential of women and black and minority ethnic groups to the GM economy.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. That the latest economic forecasts for GM and the headline implications for GM Policy, be noted.

3. That the data tables for the baseline and accelerated growth scenario have been developed to enable full public scrutiny of the data, be noted.

### **E31/18 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMY BUSINESS GROWTH AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Susan Ford introduced the work programme for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year, which the Committee agreed.

#### **Strategic Approach to Work Programming in 2018/19**

Simon Nokes presented a report which suggested a more strategic approach to work programming for the Committee in 2018/19. The proposed work programme included 3 potential topics at each meeting – the 'rolling programme' only covered 2 of the topics giving the Committee flexibility to look at another area at each meeting as it chooses.

In response, the Committee welcomed the proposed work programme for 2018/19 and Members suggested the following subject topics were considered in the forthcoming year, these included:-

- Graduate Retention in Greater Manchester
- Graphene Institute

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Committee's Work Programme for 2017/18, be noted.
2. That the strategic approach to Work Programming for 2018/19, be noted and actioned accordingly.

### **E31/18 FUTURE MEETING DATES 2018**

The Committee agreed that future meetings would commence at 2.15pm till 4.15pm on the second Friday of the month.

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Committee take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 2.15pm in the Boardroom at Churchgate House, Manchester.