

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Agenda

Date Tuesday 20 October 2020

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Virtual meeting
https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200608/meetings/1940/live_council_meetings_online

- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Sian Walter-Browne at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Sian Walter-Browne Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email sian.walter-browne@oldham.gov.uk
 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Thursday, 15 October 2020.
 4. FILMING – This meeting will be recorded for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's website. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items and the footage will be on the Council's website. This activity promotes democratic engagement in accordance with Section 100A(9) of the Local Government Act 1972. The cameras will focus on the proceedings of the meeting.

Recording and reporting the Council's meetings is subject to the law including the law of defamation, the Human Rights Act, the Data Protection Act and the law on public order offences.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
Councillors McLaren (Chair), Taylor, Toor, Jacques, Curley, Price (Vice-Chair), Surjan and Williamson

Item No

1 Apologies For Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

- 3 Urgent Business

 Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 4 Public Question Time

 To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 8)

 The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 8th September 2020 are attached for approval.
- 6 Minutes of the Joint Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny 24th September 2020 (Pages 9 - 26)

 The Minutes of the Joint Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny held on 24th September 2020 are attached for approval.
- 7 Minutes of the Performance and Value for Money Select Committee (Pages 27 - 36)

 The minutes of the Performance and Value for Money Meeting held on 27th August 2020 are attached for noting.
- 8 GMCA Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 37 - 42)

 The minutes of the GMCA Corporate Issues and Reform meeting held on 8th September 2020 are attached for noting.
- 9 GMCA Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 43 - 60)

 The minutes of the GMCA Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on 10th July 2020 and 11th September 2020 are attached for noting.
- 10 GMCA Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 61 - 72)

 The minutes of the GMCA Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on 29th July 2020 and 10th September 2020 are attached for noting.
- 11 Oldham Work and Skills Strategy Update (Pages 73 - 90)
- 12 Impact of Covid 19 on unemployment, including young people and care leavers. (Pages 91 - 104)
- 13 Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership

Verbal update.

14 Amendment to United Nations - Sustainable Development Goals Report to Council (Pages 105 - 108)

15 Update on Northern Roots (Pages 109 - 110)

16 Salary Sacrifice Cycle to Work Scheme (Pages 111 - 114)

17 Council Motions (Pages 115 - 118)

18 Key Decision Document (Pages 119 - 136)

The Board is requested to note the latest Key Decision Document.

19 General Exception or Special Urgency Decisions

There are no General Exception or Special Urgency Decisions to be noted.

20 Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme (Pages 137 - 146)

The Board is requested to comment and note the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD
08/09/2020 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Taylor, Toor, Jacques, Price (Vice-Chair), Surjan
and Williamson

Also in Attendance:

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apoloiges for absence were received from Councillor Curley.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22nd July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6 **MINUTES OF THE GMCA HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9th July 2020 be noted.

7 **OLDHAM SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD - 2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Overview and Scrutiny Board received and considered the Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board (OSAB) Annual Report 2019/20. The OSAB comprises the local authority, Oldham CCG and Greater Manchester Police, as the three statutory partners, and a number of other organisations who work to provide assurance that they are working together to protect and enable adults to live safely. The production of an annual report is a statutory duty and sets out the safeguarding concerns the Board has dealt over the last year, along with the actions it has taken to help keep adults safe in Oldham.

The Annual Report provided information on the number and type of safeguarding concerns reported in Oldham during 2019/20 and presented an update on the five Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) undertaken. The Board has a legal duty to carry out a SAR if it believes that someone in Oldham has died of, or experienced, serious abuse or neglect which could have been prevented. For each SAR the Board adopted the recommendations put forward by the independent reviewer and oversaw changes to services designed to prevent similar cases happening again. The Annual Report reflected what had been done to ensure that the lessons learnt from these Reviews have shaped and improved the way services work in Oldham.

During 2019/20 a total of 1,580 safeguarding referrals were recorded for residents in Oldham, of which 556 became the subject of a formal safeguarding Enquiry. In addition, 1,543 safeguarding referrals and enquiries were dealt with and closed, which was almost double the number closed in the previous year. This was significant as 48% of the cases were complex, involving people who lacked capacity to make their own decisions. There had been a reported increase in the number of safeguarding concerns relating to self-neglect and domestic violence, with some of the increase coinciding with the Covid-19 lockdown as families found it harder to access services and support.

Members considered the breakdown provided in respect of safeguarding cases arising in 2019/20. It was noted that the 602 cases involving those aged 85+ years appeared high when compared with 772 cases in the 18-64 years category and queried whether the 85+ years cases related to care home residents. It was acknowledged the figure did appear high, but not all related to a safeguarding issue, for example a number related to quality of care issues such as falls or administration of medicines, or the hospital might refer patients who appeared unkempt. Such cases were considered and referred on to Social Workers or other agencies as appropriate. The increasing number of referrals reflected a greater awareness of safeguarding generally and the Service would look to resolve any issues raised with it.

The holding of four Learning Reviews in 2019/20 compared to one in the previous year was queried, it being asked if this suggested that things were not going according to plan. It was advised that where referred cases do not meet the legal requirements for a formal SAR but the Board feels there are lessons to be learnt, it can carry out a Learning Review. This could be a matter of training or of raising awareness of issues that could prevent re-occurrence or escalation.

Recommendations and action plans were developed from each Learning Review undertaken, with progress against these being monitored and reported back to the Board.

Further detail was sought as to the role of the Police during the Covid-19 period in respect of the domestic violence element of safeguarding, it being noted that the Police had said this issue was quiet over the early stages of lockdown. The Board was advised that the Police and the Safeguarding Team had worked closely over the Covid-19 period, with weekly meetings being held in the first instance. It was confirmed that over the initial stages of lockdown the number of referrals had dropped so work had been undertaken to identify those at high risk and to put in protective measures. There was a concern as to hidden domestic violence during this period and a number of on-line sessions had been offered where people could seek support or make contact. The number of domestic violence referrals had, other than in the early stages of lockdown, remained consistent.

The breakdown of 2019/20 referrals by ethnicity showing 81% originated from the White British community and 9% from Asian/Asian British community was queried, for example was this disparity as a result of Covid-19, non-reporting and was it the same as previous years. It was noted that there had always been disproportionate reporting of safeguarding concerns, some of which could be due to under-reporting. Work had been undertaken since March 2020 with partners and faith groups and increased referrals were the outcome. It was expected the figures would be different in the following Annual Report. It was suggested that the Board might assist in the consideration of this issue.

It was noted that abuse in a person's own home was the largest location of origin for safeguarding referrals, and the nature of these was queried. The Board was advised that these cases arose as a result of, for example, domestic violence, concerns from the community, concerns of GPs that might relate to the taking of medication etc. Reports of financial or emotional abuse was dealt with through the Safeguarding Team and measures put in place to protect the vulnerable adult. A breakdown of the nature and types of safeguarding referrals would be forwarded to Board Members.

Concern was expressed at the number of referrals originating from care homes, which was the second highest source of referrals, and it was queried whether this showed a particular problem. It was advised that not all referrals were found to be safeguarding issues but could relate to matters such as falls or mis-management of medicines. This might reflect staffing issues in a sector with a high turnover of staff and work was being undertaken with the CCG to identify any training opportunities that might be developed or offered. While this was acknowledged, it was suggested presentation needed to be clearer as it could cause worry for anyone viewing the figures without such clarification.

In response to queries, examples of awareness campaigns run by the Safeguarding Team had included work with Age Concern

to raise awareness of elder abuse and work to identify child abuse. It was acknowledged that the success of this training and awareness raising was increasing referrals and that, with regard to capacity to cope, it was advised that staffing structures across social care services generally were monitored to ensure the right staff were in the right places. While a wider look at the Team structure would commence by the end of March 2021, there was a lot of guidance coming out from the hospital with regard to processes and hospital discharges to also consider. Deprivation of Liberty issues remained time consuming and around 50 applications were received on average each month. The implementation of the new Liberty Protection Safeguards was now expected in April 2022, preceded by guidance in April 2021, and plans were being put in place for this.

RESOLVED that

1. The Oldham Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2019/20 and the tremendous work undertaken in the 12 month period be noted;
2. A Task and Finish Group be established to explore issues of ethnicity and safeguarding, the terms of reference for which to be considered by the Chair and Councillor Toor.

8

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME SEPTEMBER 2020

The Overview and Scrutiny Board was invited to consider the Local Development Scheme, the project plan for the Local Plan, that set out details and timetables about the planning documents which the Council will prepare, including Oldham's Local Plan (incorporating site allocations) and the Greater Manchester Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (GMSF).

The Council has to prepare a Local Plan to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework to support the Borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement setting out the Council's project plan for preparing the Local Plan and its supporting documents and which must be updated periodically, as required. The LDS -

- sets out what planning policy documents exist and what new documents will be prepared as part of, and in support of, the Local Plan;
- sets out the timescales the public can expect for the preparation and review of these documents;
- indicates when the local community can get involved and influence the plan-making process;
- enables work programmes to be set for the preparation of Local Plan documents; and
- shows how the programme for the production of documents will establish and reflect the Council's priorities and to assist the programming of other Council strategies and programmes.

The main changes proposed to the previous version of the LDS published in January 2020 were the inclusion of a reference to a recent application by to designate a neighbourhood area and Forum for Chadderton under sections 61F and 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, amendment of the GMFS profile to reflect the most recent timetable published by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and amendment of the timetable for preparation of the Local Plan and Proposals Map to reflect those changes made to the GMSF. The timetables for the preparation and adoption of both the GMSF and the Local Plan, including the opportunities for public consultation, were presented to the Board.

In response to a query, it was advised that efforts had been made to track development of the Local Plan to the GMSF given the strategic nature of the latter document. While this meant there may need to be some flexibility around timetabling of the Local Plan development, there was a requirement on the Council to adopt an updated Local Plan by the end of 2023.

The undertaking of consultations on the Local Plan as a result of Covid-19 was queried. The Board was advised that work was being undertaken with colleagues in the Communications Team to explore options for consultation. The Council did have a Statement of Community Involvement that set out minimum requirements and the Council was being asked to consider this in light of Covid-19 at a meeting being held the following evening.

RESOLVED that the recommended revisions to the Local Development Scheme be supported and it be agreed that they go forward for approval.

9

TAX RELIEF FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT TRAVEL

Further to Minute 13 of the meeting of the Council held on 17th June 2020, the Board gave consideration of the Council Motion “Tax Relief for Public Transport Travel” that had been referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration. The Motion had sought approval for the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that the Government introduces a tax relief scheme on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson’s Telegraph article in 2013), making this effective as soon as possible, and to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester saying that we all should support such a scheme.

The Board noted there had been several Government led initiatives to enable employers and employees to make savings through salary sacrifice schemes, such as childcare vouchers and cycle2work. Under these schemes the employer provides the funds upfront for an employee to buy goods or services which the employee agrees to pay back from their salary, usually over a period of 12 months. The deductions are calculated from the salary before tax and national insurance is

calculated meaning the employee makes savings in their tax and national insurance contributions and the employer saves on their employer national insurance contributions. While salary sacrifice schemes for public transport (excluding rail) were previously made available to employers by Government, in the Autumn Statement of 2016, the Chancellor announced a tightening of salary sacrifice schemes to come into force on 6th April 2017.

Any employer can set up an approved scheme for their staff. With regard to the Council's offer, Pay and Reward currently manage schemes of this nature which are approved by HMRC: there is not currently an approved scheme to allow a salary sacrifice scheme to be set up for public transport travel.

Members considered whether such a scheme should apply only to annual tickets as suggested by previous practice, or whether the tax exemption might apply on other terms such as monthly or six monthly. The uncertainty of employment in current circumstances and the potential for the scheme to be costly upfront for smaller employers were considerations. It was noted that as a result of Covid-19 and with people returning to work, employers were asking employees not to car share meaning that car usage would increase unless other options such as public transport were made more attractive. It was however suggested that the Motion was about the principle of tax relief for public transport as opposed to the detail.

In discussion it was noted that the Council was not offering a 'bike to work' scheme and it was suggested that the reason lay with payroll systems and the pending implementation of a new payroll system by the Pay and Rewards Team.

RESOLVED that

1. This Board would support asking the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that the Government introduces a tax relief scheme on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013), making this effective as soon as possible and to the Mayor of Greater Manchester saying that we all should support such a scheme;
2. The Pay and Reward Team report to the next meeting of the Board on matters relating to the offering of a Bike to Work scheme.

YOUTH COUNCIL MOTION

Further to Minute 7 of the meeting of the Council held on 15th July 2020, the Board gave consideration to the referral of a Youth Council Motion relating to employment opportunities for young people in the post-Covid-19 period that had been referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration. The Motion specifically requested that Oldham Council pledges its commitment to providing quality job opportunities for young

people and developing the digital sector within the town, undertakes a review of the current apprenticeship offer across Oldham to ensure there is a broad range of high-quality opportunities available to all young people, and as one of the largest employers in the Oldham, considers digital apprenticeships for those leaving education.

It was recommended to the Board that a workshop be convened with the Youth Council, members of the Board and relevant Officers to address the resolutions in the Motion.

RESOLVED that a workshop be convened with the Youth Council, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and relevant Officers to address the resolutions in the Youth Council Motion relating to the development of the digital sector in the town, the review of the apprenticeships across Oldham, and offering of digital apprenticeships by the Council.

11 **GENERAL EXCEPTION AND SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS**

There were no decisions taken under authorisations granted under Access to Information Procedure Rule 13 (General Exception) and Rule 14 (Special Urgency) to be considered.

12 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Board was invited to review the Overview and Scrutiny Board to review the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme which presented the issues to be discussed at each meeting, the issues and actions arising from meetings and outstanding issues.

Further to the submitted work programme the Board was asked to note that a further Joint Covid-19 overview and scrutiny meeting was to be held on Thursday, 24th September at 6.00 pm and that an extraordinary meeting of the Board was to be held on a date to be determined to discuss the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

The Chair noted further matters relating to the District Working Task and Finish Group which needed to meet again, a need to review the current position and possible updates related to clean air and Northern Roots, and a report on the Opportunities Fund outcomes and sustainability.

RESOLVED that the submitted Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme be noted.

13 **KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

RESOLVED that the Key Decision Document covering those decisions to be taken in the period commencing 1st September 2020 be noted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 20th October 2020 at 6.00 p.m.



The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.20 pm

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 24/09/2020 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Toor, Jacques, Akhtar, Alyas, Curley, Hamblett,
Surjan, Cosgrove, Ibrahim, Williamson, Ahmad, Byrne, Haque,
Harkness, Phythian and Stretton

Also in Attendance:

Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services
Rebekah Sutcliffe	Strategic Director, Communities and Reform
Mike Barker	Strategic Director of Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer
Emma Barton	Director of Economy
Lewis Greenwood	Head of Executive Services
Gerard Jones	Managing Director Children and Young People
Anne Ryans	Director of Finance
Mark Warren	Managing Director Community Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor Zahid Chauhan OBE	Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
Liz Drogan	Head of Democratic Services
Councillor Arooj Shah	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Taylor.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Joint Scrutiny meeting held on 3rd June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6 **COVID-19 - SCRUTINY BRIEFING - VERBAL UPDATE**

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for the Covid-19 Response opened the meeting. Members were provided with an update on the impact of the pandemic on the Borough which included impact on communities, the increase in the number of residents claiming Universal Credit, how employment had been affected and highlighted those aged 18 – 24, schools returning but where bubbles had been forced to isolate. Members were informed of

the challenge and failure of mixed messages and with the track and trace system. Acknowledgement was given to the Chief Executive and the Chief Officers who had provided support through the challenges presented by the pandemic. This meeting would provide the opportunity for members to scrutinise the approach taken to date and the future.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board had raised a number of issues in advance of the meeting which provided the basis for the briefing the Joint Committee received.

The following questions and responses were provided at the meeting.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Has the Council been able to maintain a coherent message to the wider community despite the mixed messaging and varied advice emerging from Central Government?” What difficulties has this situation presented?”

The Strategic Director for Communities and Reform responded that this had been a challenge on two counts. The difference between national and local restrictions had meant mixed messages were received by local people. More recently, the Council had to work hard to let people know the new ‘rule of six’ did not apply locally due to the Borough’s enhanced restrictions. Oldham own local restrictions had changed a number of times and although new artwork and messaging was issued each time, old material was still out in the community and there had been enquiries related to the out of date material. Communicating had been difficult, especially with those residents who didn’t use social and digital media as primary sources of information. The Council had tried to use an all household leaflet or letter drop for each change of restriction. However, the lead time for design, print and delivery meant that the leaflets were delivered 10 – 14 days after change of restrictions when the situation could have changed significantly and the example of changes to testing was cited. Since the national testing was in crisis, the approach locally had to be adapted as a result. This left the Council looking out of date or if incorrect information was being shared which reduced trust in messaging.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Finding temporary accommodation for homeless people had been addressed with considerable success. Are steps being taken to find permanent accommodation? To what extent is this programme being supported by Central Government?”

The Director of Economy responded that there was a dedicated housing options team who worked with customers who found themselves in temporary accommodation. Anyone who resided in temporary accommodation was provided with a personalised housing plan to help secure longer-term accommodation. Some examples were via housing association partners in a socially rented tenancy, via the private sector in a longer term private

rented tenancy or if a customer required more support, via a supported housing pathway into accommodation with specific support provided. The Council did receive a limited amount of funding from Central Government to operate the Council's statutory homelessness services. There were a number of initiatives which had been brought forward by Central Government, one of which was the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) where funding was available for local authorities to bid into to assist with bringing new 'move on', more permanent accommodation online. The Council had submitted a bid and should know the outcome by the end of the month.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: "Domestic abuse has been a feature of this crisis. How will this issue be addressed beyond the lockdown? Has Central Government indicated they intend to make sufficient funds available to enable the Council to provide effective support?"

The Strategic Director for Communities and Reform responded that there had been some enhancement of the partnership offer during Covid-19. Addressing domestic abuse was a significant area of ongoing activity co-ordinated by the Domestic Abuse Partnership which was a sub-group of the Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership. In addition to the immediate police response to reports of domestic abuse, there was an ongoing partnership officer which included, but was not limited to:

- Any partner organisation who received a disclosure of domestic abuse should complete a Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Checklist (DASHRIC) and any domestic related referral to MASH should include a DASHRIC which enabled the risk to be assessed. All high-risk cases should be referred to the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment conference with Daily Risk Management meetings taking place in MASH to agree the immediate partnership response to high risk cases.
- Children's social care work with families to safeguard children where there was domestic abuse.
- Domestic abuse team within Early Help which included Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, an Engagement Worker who supported some medium risk cases and the GM Project Choice Team.
- Early Help teams in the Council or Positive Steps provided support to cases at lower level of risk.
- The Safeguarding Partnerships had a domestic abuse training offer for partners and additional training was currently being delivered to professionals around healthy relationships and the impact of abuse on children.
- A part-time worker was delivering awareness training about healthy relationships in schools as part of wider awareness raising and preventative activity around domestic abuse.
- The Freedom Programme and Stepping Stones courses delivered to survivors of abuse. Face-to-face delivery was ongoing with reduced numbers despite Covid-19.

- Oldham had a Women's and Children's supported housing commission which included the refuge and some move on accommodation.
- In addition to the work with convicted offenders by Probation Services, the partnership had agreed funding to extend the Reframe programme (working with higher risk perpetrators who had not been convicted of offences) and options were being explored to train staff locally to deliver a lower level perpetrator offer.
- The Community Safety Partnership had agreed £50k of funding for a consortium of VCFSE groups to develop a strengthened peer support offer for survivors of abuse.
- The Council was in the final stages of adopting a workforce domestic abuse policy related to supporting staff who experienced domestic abuse or who were identified as perpetrators of abuse.

Parts of the domestic abuse offer were funded by the Government. This included one IDVA post, the Project Choice Team (funded by GMCA using Home Office funding) and activity funded through GMCA community safety funding which included some of the Reframe funding, the £50k for VCFSE activity and the education work in schools. The Domestic Abuse Bill was currently under consideration in Parliament and was expected to receive Royal Assent later in 2020. The Impact Assessment published alongside the Bill estimated the cost of the measures in the Bill applied to England and Wales at between £137m - £155m per year once fully implemented. A small reduction (0.2%) in the prevalence of domestic abuse would be required for the benefits of the Bill to outweigh the costs. Under the New Burdens doctrine, the net additional cost of additional duties on local government should be fully funded by Government to avoid transferring costs to Council taxpayers.

Councillor Hamblett asked about what support was available for those from same sex relationships or from an abusive household but not female.

Members were advised that all measures were applied equally to men and women who were victims of abuse in a relationship. The policy related to everyone.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: "The Council has worked hard to co-ordinate the delivery of food to those who are vulnerable, shielding or self-isolating with support from the voluntary sector. How has this been sustained? What help has been received from local businesses? Has there been any contribution from Central Government?"

The Strategic Director for Communities and Reform responded that as at 17 September 2020 the helpline hub had answered 8,503 calls. There had been 4,545 referrals received since 27th March 2020 which resulted in 5,683 support requests. This included 3,685 food support requests and 574 medication support requests. There had been 9,048 individuals (5,691 adults; 3,357 children) had been supported with food vouchers

(3,887 vouchers fulfilled). There had been significant outbound communication activity taking place with shielded individuals via phone, email and text/SMS with a high success rate. The work was being maintained through the continuation of the helpline and community hubs, with the call centre staff and district teams managing this work. Although demand into the helpline and subsequent referrals had reduced, they were picking up test and trace calls along with wider and door-to-door engagement undertaken by the District Teams. The teams were also in a state of readiness should further restrictions for Oldham be brought forward which included significant effort on support for those shielding if reintroduced. During the lockdown period, extensive support had been received from the business sector, particularly related to emergency supplies around food, essential items and support with transport. In addition, a local supplier had provided essential deep cleaning services reacting to urgent needs to enable patients to be moved into care settings. The supplier also provided a deep cleaning services for the Integrated Care Centre (ICC) and Transport Vehicles used for hospital discharges.

The Government had announced an emergency fund of £63 million to be distributed to local authorities in England to help those struggling to afford food and other essentials due to Covid-19. The funding was a one-off contribution for the 2020/21 financial year and is made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The grant had been allocated on the basis of population weighted by a proxy measure of needed, the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) for the authority area. The grant received by the Council in July was £361,208.27. This was a ringfenced grant which the Council must use for the purpose intended although there was some flexibility to align with local need. The funding was being used in the main to support initiatives which included the provision of food which the Council had already initiated.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Grants to local businesses have been widely publicised. How many businesses have been supported? Would it be possible to publish a list of recipients?”

The Director of Finance responded that the Council had supported 4,202 businesses via the Small Business Grant and Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grant Schemes. This amounted to a total payment of £47.585m. The Discretionary Grant Fund had also supported 260 businesses amounting to a total payment of £2.475m with further commitments bringing spending up to £2.501m. The Council had already published the information on the website.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Has the situation regarding the number of furloughed employees becoming any clearer? How many have been made redundant or become unemployed? To what extent has the situation changed during the period since early June 2020? How many are claiming Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit?”

The Director of Economy responded that the Council had clarity around the estimated value for the number of employees furloughed in Oldham based on a combination of government data from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self-Employed Income Support Service (SEISS). The latest data was from claims up to the end of July 2020 which showed 32,000 on the CJRS and 8,900 claims made for SEISS. This gave a total of 40,900 employees on furlough. Based on Government data the total number of available employees for work in Oldham was 99,900, which gave Oldham a furlough rate of 40.94%. The national level redundancy rate was 1%. If the same held true for Oldham, there would be around 1,000 who had been made redundant. However, redundancy rates were not available at a local authority level and it was expected for redundancies to be higher given the economic challenges in Oldham. The latest unemployment rate stood at 9.6% which was a 1.5% increase since April 2020 (8.1%). There were currently 13,985 claimants in Oldham compared to 11,675 reported in June to the Joint Committee. Unemployment had increased by 6,455 claimants in 5 months due to the Covid-19 economic shock. This was a 4.2% increase from March 2020. Of the 13,985 claimants in Oldham, 13,100 were on Universal Credit and 885 on Job Seekers Allowance.

Question received from Councillor McLaren: "Central Government has suggested that local authorities will have to 'share the burden' of the cost of addressing Covid-19 despite an earlier suggestion that all necessary financial support would be provided. To what extent has this situation been clarified?"

The Director of Finance responded that to date, the Council had received unringfenced allocations from Central Government of £16.638m and would receive further grant compensation in respect of sales, fees and charges. No further general announcements had been made. The month 4 financial monitoring report would be presented to Cabinet on 28 September showed that the anticipated costs to the Council (lost income and increased expenditure) resulting from Covid-19 would exceed the £16.638m grant by £15.556m. The sales, fees and charges would be compensated on the basis of the Council financing the first 5% of the budgeted loss and then receive a grant to the value of 75% of the remainder of the actual loss. The extra grant would close the gap, but not fully. The Council would submit its first sales, fees and charges compensation claim on 30 September. It was important to note that there was no compensation for commercial income losses e.g. rental income from the Council's property, so the Council was standing this loss in full. There had been a range of other Government grants for specific initiatives, e.g. Test and Trace grant support of £1.560m. Whilst this was welcome, the ringfenced nature of the funding meant it could not be used to offset the overspending on COVID related activities. The Council was also seeing a reduction in Council Tax and Business Rates incomes as Council tax payers and businesses were struggling to pay due to the prevailing economic environment. The Government had promised support but had

not yet provided full details, however, it had indicated that this would not cover the losses in full.

Councillor Ahmad asked a question related to communications with staff and what communications had there been and how was it being ensure that staff were staying safe? Members were involved that there were regular communications to a number of groups and members. There were regular communications with staff. Colleagues were working with Public Health and Human Resources for a comprehensive risk assessment process, safe manner to access buildings, comprehensive package of support aimed at health and wellbeing, and increasing recognition on the impact on people's morale and wellbeing and being factored into ways of working. Managers had been contacted to have personal contact with colleagues and open channels of communication.

Councillor Surjan asked a question related to the publishing of grants awarded to businesses and people and if it was in breach of GDPR. Members were informed that advice had been sought and with the guidance provided, the information was able to be published.

Councillor Harkness asked a question related to the 'sharing the burden' element as discussed at the Performance and Value for Money Select Committee and now that there would not be an Autumn Statement, were there any further details on what would happen? Members were informed that she was as surprised as everyone else, the budget influenced the Comprehensive Spending Review which was assumed would be going ahead. The Comprehensive Spending Review, in turn, informed the Provision Settlement and only when that settlement was received would there be certainty on funding for the 2021/22 financial year to inform the budget setting process.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: "The staffing situation remain critical. Covid-19 has had a significant impact on all staff (not least on those who have contracted the virus). Has the pandemic had any impact on the Northern Care Alliance strategy for 'getting to good?'"

The Strategic Director Commissioning / Chief Operating Officer responded that the number of staff off work due to Covid-19 had reduced significantly since the peak of the pandemic. However, there continued to be a significant impact of Covid-19 on all staff, in terms of changes to work, psychological safety and the uncertainty of a second peak. It was clear that the pandemic had had an unprecedented impact across health and social care services across the country. The strategic principles and plans to improve services remained in place. Action plans against the CQC 5 domains continued to be progressed. However, in light of the pandemic there had been a full review and realignment of timescales to allow for delays caused by the pandemic. This was particularly relevant to operational performance of services to adjust to the Phase 3 Recovery Requirements.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “To what extent has the pressure on NHS beds and other facilities changed since the first meeting of this committee? Has the provision of intensive care facilities been maintained should there be a second wave of infection whilst emerging from lockdown?”

The Strategic Director Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer responded that there had been an increase in A&E attendance reported since the previous update in June. Type 1 attendances were back to similar levels seen this time last year, however Type 3 attendances remained significantly lower. Bed occupancy levels during April (63%) and May (69%) were at lower levels than the hospital would normally see. Occupancy levels had since increased to over 80% and remained a cause for concern linked to the ability to safely manage infection control and biosecurity in inpatient and urgent care settings. Work was ongoing closely with system partners to reduce acute bed occupancy and focus on a ‘home first’ approach across all services. Significant pressure continued in relation to the access to diagnostic testing, endoscopy procedures and theatre capacity for elective procedures. Waiting lists had grown during the peak of Covid-19 and although recovery plans were underway, capacity was impacted by requirements to ensure procedures were completed in a way that maintained safety for patients and staff.

Intensive care bed numbers had reduced to normal levels to enable recovery of the hospital site and services and to support care of non-Covid-19 patients whilst demand for ICU beds for Covid-19 was not currently present. Escalation plans and processes were in place so that the hospital could respond to any increases in a timely manner. There were linked to the whole system vigilance on overall acute bed occupancy. Winter plans included the ability to flex and respond to increases in ICU capacity due to the increase in patients who required critical care.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “To what extent does the downward trend in patient numbers and those testing positive in Oldham reflect the trends in the North West and nationally? To what extent does the R figure in Oldham and the North West vary from the national figure?”

The Strategic Director for Communities and Reform responded that despite a high rate of positive tests within Oldham and across GM, Oldham Hospital had not seen the admission number reported during the peak of the pandemic nor the acuity of patients. From what was understood, this replicated the picture across the country, with recognition that the number of positive tests across GM were particularly high and that the Council and its partners needed to remain vigilant and continue to plan for a surge in demand. As at 15 September 2020, the latest R number for the UK was 1.0 – 1.2, which meant that on average every 10 people infected will infect between 10 and 12 other people. The latest growth rate range for the UK was -1% to +3% per day which meant that the number of new infections

was somewhere between shrinking by 1% and growing by 2% every day. The R value and the growth rate for the North West (1.1 – 1.3 and +2% to +5%) were higher than the values for England, which suggested that the number of new infections may be growing at a faster rate. However, it was important to note that these figures were estimates and therefore there was some degree of uncertainty associated with them. The fact that the ranges overlapped for the North West and England meant that the differences may not be significant. R Rates were not calculated below regional level.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “What steps need to continue to be taken in order to ensure that the R figure remains below one? Are you able to give any indication as to how the community are responding to any message? Is there anything that elected members might be able to do to support any strategy?”

The Strategic Director for Communities and Reform responded that in order to keep the R value below 1, it was needed to:

- Limit the amount of contact that people had with individuals who were not part of their household;
- Ensure that everyone was maintain good infection prevention and control; including regular handwashing and use of face coverings and PPE in the case of health and care settings.
- Follow the current self-isolation guidance which included isolating for:
 - 10 days if you have symptoms or test positive;
 - 14 days if someone in your household develops symptoms or tests positive;
 - 14 days if you are a close contact of someone who tests positive;
 - 14 days on returning from a country where quarantine rules apply.

Self-isolating meant not leaving the house and not having any contact people with people who were not part of your household.
- Ensure rapid testing was available for people who developed symptoms, and that all individuals who tested positive and their close contacts were followed up by the contact tracing service and provided with advice on self-isolation and transmission prevention.

As at 11 September, 7341 houses and 72 shops had been visited through the door-to-door engagement. This had resulted in 50.4% of conversations being held and 819 individuals tested. Door-to-door engagement messaging was extremely well received. Teams on the ground were having direct conversations with residents around key messages of keeping safe which was being backed up by door-to-door testing. Targeted engagement with young people was taking place with the delivery of key Covid-19 safety messaging and support as part of the Council’s wider youth offer. Sentiment on social media was another indicator of identifying how communities were responding to the messaging. In Oldham, the situation

was very mixed which was in line with what other areas were experiencing. Some residents were clearly choosing to disregard any and/or all messaging around Covid-19, with a vocal minority suggesting this was scaremongering and/or fake. The majority of feedback supported restrictions and public health interventions, but acknowledged widespread non-compliance, which lessened the impact on behaviours. Fatigue and over communication (generally around Covid-19 on all media channels) was a growing problem and less engagement was increasing on Covid-19 messaging.

The Council were currently carrying out focus groups with groups of residents to understand the impact of Covid-19 messaging and determine what may act as a lever for behaviour change now, after six months of restrictions. Sessions would be taking place with younger and older working age people as there were the key groups currently affected, but different drivers and challenges were suspected.

The District Teams were already engaging with elected members then they were doing door-to-door engagement in targeted areas. Elected members had been working alongside teams having community conversations. This had been extremely helpful and demonstrated community leadership. The teams would continue to liaise with members to ensure they were fully sighted on plans around engagement.

Councillor Hamblett asked a question related to Accident and Emergency and if patients needing to book had been introduced in Oldham? Members were informed that there were a variety of emergency access points which included call before you book and tests were being done.

Councillor Akhtar asked a question related to messaging in terms of the local infection rates and the position made by given on figures on the actual infections rates by ethnicity. BAME residents had been abused and victimised. Had any other authority taken a similar route and what support was available to those who were racially victimised?

Members were informed that the decision had been taken to publish at an early stage to be open and transparent on the impact on Covid-19 and also in response to a number of Freedom of Information requests whereby the Council was obliged to respond and all areas now published that data. There was some learning on how the information was published without explanation. Any form of hate crime or racism was unacceptable. The data had been used as an excuse for those who were inclined to behave in that manner. The Council had been clear that this was unacceptable and responded to the hate messaging and worked closely with Greater Manchester Police. The Strategic Equalities Group had a role to respond proactively and to work with communities to respond to racism.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: "How is the programme to test, trace and isolate progressing in Oldham? How many people have been asked to self-isolate? How many other people have had to be contacted as a result of various

people testing positive? Has this process presented any particular challenges?”

The Strategic Director for Communities and Reform responded that ‘Test and Trace’ was a national programme. Locally, the Council had responsibility for working with the national and regional teams to put local testing sites in place and for the follow up of complex cases/settings. There was a Greater Manchester team who provided contact tracing for complex cases. The Council had also taken on the responsibility for contacting people who tested positive and did not make contact with the national contact tracing service within 24 hours of a positive test. Local arrangements were working well, although the increase in the numbers of positive tests had created significant additional demand on the teams involved in this work. Between 28th May and 14th September, 2,067 residents were advised of a positive test and contacted by the national contact tracing system. These was a total of 5,122 contacts for these cases. Where the national contact tracing made contact, all these cases and contacts which met the definition of a close contact would have been directly advised to self-isolate. There were significant challenges with the current national system for NHS Test and Trace. Testing capacity was not meeting demand and impacted on the ability of Oldham residents to access testing. Whilst the Council did receive some data from the national contact tracing service, the Council did not receive detailed information on every case which would support the Council to more effectively understand the sources of transmission and put preventative measures in place. In addition, there were delays in the local system being notified of cases by the national system which inhibited the ability to provide a local rapid response.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Issues relation to mental health continue to attract wide publicity. To what extent are steps being taken to address such issues? Is there a role for the voluntary sector in this context?”

Members were informed that significant work had taken place under Covid-19 related to mental health which included:

- The establishment of a 24/7 Trust helpline to support people known to services. This would be expanded to support the 111/Critical Assessment Service (CAS).
- Embedded process within community hubs for people to be supported by Mind when identified with mental health or wellbeing needs.
- Risk stratified patients across teams to identify where face to face contacts were still required.
- Repurposed Crisis Safe Haven as a ‘Mental Health A&E’ to reduce numbers of people who attended the Emergency Department with an updated urgent and crisis pathway.
- Co-ordinated work to overcome barriers to discharge and reduced delayed transfers of care on adult and older adult acute Mental Health wards.

- Developed dedicated inpatient Covid-19 pods to ensure compliance with guidance.
- Developed and implemented updated pathways under Covid-19 for Memory Assessment, Healthy Minds, Safe Haven/Home Treatment and Liaison Mental Health in hospital.
- A weekly Mental Health System Support call established which included all partners across the CCG, local authority, providers and the third/voluntary sector.
- A bespoke care home staff support offer provided through the helpline and Care Home Liaison Team (now working with the STICH team).
- Silver Cloud online therapy universal support offer rolled out for the Oldham population.
- The Oldham bereavement support offer outlined from immediate support to longer-term counselling offer provided by Healthy Minds

National guidance on Community Health transformation had been published and over the next few months would be outlining proposals for Mental Health integration in Primary Care Networks and improved access routes into Mental Health services. Mental Health Services in Oldham had not been discontinued under Covid-19. However, ongoing adaptations related to digital and face-to-face were implemented. The digital strategy for Mental Health was being worked through, with particular areas of priority such as dementia services. Collaborative arrangements with the third and voluntary sector were already in place in Oldham, with commissioned services in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), CPP and adult Mental Health crisis services including dementia. This put Oldham in a strong position to build on these through the Mental recovery programme. The 'next steps' outlined in 13a would factor in VCSE provision across all developments. The VCSE sector would be represented in the Mental Health Recovery and Transformation Programme with partners which included Tameside, Oldham and Glossop MIND, Age UK and Positive Steps.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: "This is little doubt that the cost of addressing Covid-19 now and in the future would be considerable. Is it possible to advise on any discussions or representations currently taking place with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the Local Government Association or any other body with Central Government on how this cost is to be met?"

The Director of Finance responded that there were discussions at the Combined Authority level about the support that Greater Manchester as a whole required to address the financial challenges arising from Covid-19. The GMCA received reports which presented the costs being incurred and income being lost by all ten GM Council and also the GMCA. This supported discussions with Government that lobbied for the allocation of additional resources for the region. The Local Government Association (LGA) was in constant communication with the

Government looking more broadly at the extra financial support needed by the Local Government sector in order to respond effectively to COVID. It had also been a strong advocate in highlighting the already significant financial challenge resulting from years of austerity. The Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA), of which the Council was a member, also engaged in discussions with the Government to outline the financial challenges and lobbied for support. Where there were requests for evidence or examples of specific financial issues being faced, then the Council would, where possible, provide the relevant information.

Councillor Hamblett asked a question related to Test and Trace and referred to a young mother and foster carer who could not get tests for the young children and the confusing information about who could be tested. Would the messaging start to get clearer and the policy for Under 5's?

Members were informed of the disconnect of test and trace at national and local levels. Communications from central government had been disappointing. There were a range of partners who were trying to make the best sense. GPs were committed and working very hard and services were always working to improve communications and take responsibility where problems had been identified. Members were also informed that guidance and communications on testing was changing all the time as the levels of infection rose. There was an emerging feeling that tests were being rationed.

Councillor Akhtar asked about the number of deaths in Oldham and how many were from a BME background?

Members were informed that the figure was not available at the meeting but this could be provided to members after the meeting.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: "Are adequate arrangements in place to test patients being discharged from hospital for Covid-19 before being admitted (or re-admitted) to a care home?"

Members were informed that in line with national discharge requirement, all patients being discharged to care homes were tested for Covid-19 prior to discharge and, the status of their test result (positive / negative / not known at point of discharge) was included in the discharge documents provide to the care home prior to discharge. This supported the care home in understanding the patient's Covid-19 status and how best to provide care. All care homes were following the Government's Care Home Support Plan, which advised a period of 14-day isolation on admission, working on the basis of an assumption of Covid-19 positivity in order to protect the wider care home population. The service had developed a system wide risk assessment and an individual risk assessment regarding care home admissions (available upon request) which formed the

basis the approach to care home admissions, including where these were directly from the hospital.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “How has the situation changed for those who might need to be admitted to a care home for the first time?”

Members were informed that system wide and individual risk assessments were in place. All new residents would need to be able to isolate within their room or zoned area. The priority as a borough was to assess patients to ensure that they received the right care needed in the right setting at the right time. ‘The principles of Managing the Health and Care needs of people in Care Homes in Oldham during the COVID pandemic’ were clarified and updated in July 2020 and agreed by the Senior Health and Social Care leaders, the two Medical Directors and the Director of Public Health. The following principles provided the framework by which patients, residents and staff had their health and care needs managed:

- “We will seek to discharge patients back to their own homes where that is possible.
- Care Homes will be clearly identified as shielded communities.
- Discharges will be managed on an individual patient focussed basis.
- We will respect the care homes independence.
- All patients will be tested prior to discharge to a care home setting.
- We will provide continued support to care homes.”

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “How difficult has it proved to manage residents suffering from dementia or other degenerative physical or mental conditions in order to maintain social distance or self-isolation?”

Members were informed that care homes had reported that this had and continued to be challenging, particularly where someone living with dementia was unable to understand why they might need to self-isolate, and/or walked with purpose as part of their condition. Many of the care homes in the borough were converted Victorian houses and not purpose built which added a layer of complexity to supporting people who have a form of dementia. Care homes had been supported with an allocation from the Government’s infection control fund, which many had used to zone their care homes (whilst acknowledging the limitations that the physical environment of some care homes might bring) or provided additional staffing and infection control measures to support social distancing and self-isolation. Care homes also had access to the Care Home Liaison Service, which was delivered by Pennine Care Mental Health Trust and provided practical and emotional support to care home providers and residents.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Has it proved possible to maintain the supply of personal protection equipment (PPE) in all settings during the period since the last meeting?”

Members were informed that the PPE hub continued to operate in Oldham and all care providers were still able to access supplies of PPE through the hub if their usual procurement routes were unable to meet their requirements. In addition, providers were able to access financial support with the costs of excess PPE through the weekly finance support panel. The Council had also allocated central government Infection Control Fund monies to providers to support them with their PPE costs. Central Government had also set up a national PPI portal which providers could access to supply free emergency PPE in limited quantities. As at 11th September, all care homes had supplies of all types of PPE requires for at least 1 – 2 weeks, with some care homes having stock for up to the next 2 months. There had been no reports of PPE provision or lack of, restricting the ability of care homes staff to provide full support to residents.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “How many care homes have survived the crisis (so far) by arranging for staff to live in and also by not accepting visits from friends and relatives during this time?”

Members were informed that at the height of the pandemic in care homes, there were examples of care home managers and staff staying overnight in the care home in order to restrict movement. However, there had not been any recent reports of this. All care homes in Oldham had restricted friends and family visiting in line with national requirements during the course of the pandemic, this having been limited to socially distanced visits in gardens and through open windows. Currently, and in line with current local restrictions, no garden or window visiting had taken place unless in exceptional circumstances, usually associated with end of life. A newsletter was circulated to all care homes on 3rd September, reminding them about visiting arrangements at this time.

Councillor McLaren asked the following question: “Has the Care Quality Commission offered any guidance to care homes during the crisis?”

Members were informed that the Care Quality Commission had provided information on the website for providers. They had also been working closely with Public Health England, ADASS, DHSC and NHSE in the development of national advice and guidance.

Members noted that there were several other issues that had been highlighted by the Covid 19 crisis which included the following:

- Those living in impoverished circumstances had suffered a proportionality greater impact.

- Those living in disadvantaged or deprived situations had suffered to a greater degree.
- Those living in urban areas have suffered a greater rate of infection and death.
- Ethnic groups had suffered disproportionately from Covid-19.
- Older people with an underlying health condition had also suffered significant consequences.

Some (possibly all) would need to be addressed during any recovery from Covid-19 and beyond. Oldham would be unable to tackle these issues in isolation but would require a collective effort locally, regionally and nationally.

Councillor Toor referred to care home visits and a family who had not seen a family member since the start of lockdown and why visits were not allowed?

Members were informed that it was an upsetting situation. This was around risk management and cross infection. Ways to have visits was being looked at, but members were advised that 120 people who had lived in care homes had died in this six-month period and did not want this to be repeated. There were concerns nationally. Care Homes did want to provide a way for visits. Visiting guidance was being developed. A policy was being discussed at GM Level. Authorities were working with Care Homes and their registered owners who had accountability and reopening would need to be agreed the national and local decisions.

Councillor Ibrahim asked if Care Homes had enough PPE supplies and if the hub was prepared for a second spike?

Members were informed that yes, Oldham had sufficient stock of all PPE for 3 to 4 weeks and keeping stocks maintained. There was a refined system in place. It was important for care homes to maintain relationships with their own suppliers. There were issues of some suppliers tripling their cost and where identified these care homes were being assisted to find a more reasonable offer.

Councillor Phythian asked a question related to testing facilities for care home staff and how regularly they were tested?

Members were informed that all staff were tested weekly and this was undertaken through a national portal. There was a challenge in facilitating tests and not getting results back. There were a range of people trying to resolve the situation and this was not just Oldham, all were facing the same issue.

Councillor Hamblett asked a question related to Care Homes Stock and Age and asked how many care homes were looking to upgrade or how many would simply no longer have the capacity and how many just have a life span across the next decade? Members were informed that 70% of the care homes were over 40 years old and very few were purpose built.

Owners and operators would form a point of view on viability. Care homes had been supported to operate on a 90% capacity

and being contacted every week. An exercise was being undertaken as to how care homes saw their future taking account of the number of vacancies and sufficient number of care homes with the right quality. Residents wanted to live in care homes that were rated good, there were a number of care homes that required improvement and there were some who provided fantastic high quality.

A further discussion on some or all of these issues would need to be included on any future agenda of this committee.

Members were informed of the development of a local poverty strategy and action plan. The Council was aware that Covid-19 had and would continue to exacerbate poverty in the borough as the economic impacts of the lockdown were felt. Signs were already being seen that the poorest communities were being hit the hardest, for example, unemployment rates had risen dramatically across the borough since March, but particularly so in wards where unemployment was already high. Work was underway to tackle both the symptoms and causes of poverty in Oldham. Key projects and programmes included Warm Homes, A Bed for Every Night, emergency food provision/food banks and the Opportunity Area, which sought to explore and remove barriers in education to social mobility. The Council was also a national pilot for the Children's Society 'Co-ordinating Crisis Support' project which helped to better align resources with those of the VCFSE partners to ensure that no-one fell through the welfare safety net. As a result, the Council was reviewing the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme to ensure a better fit with other sources of emergency support. Whilst it was acknowledged that the Council and its partners were working hard to combat poverty, there was scope for improved co-ordination and alignment of resources across the system. At a strategic level, the Council was developing governance, decision making and operational arrangements which would enable efforts and resources to be better coordinated to both ensure support for people when they needed it and tackled underlying causes of poverty and hardship. The inaugural meeting of the Poverty Steering Group, chaired by Councillor Shah, was scheduled for 30 September. The group would help drive forward the work to tackle poverty, identify priorities and opportunities for action across services and Team Oldham and steer the work of the Poverty Working Group. Both the Steering Group and Working Group would comprise of local authority officers and colleagues from Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and VCFSE sector. It was essential that the Council listened to, understood and worked with people with lived experience of poverty and to this end, the Council were working with Action Together to establish a Poverty Truth Commission. Draft proposals, including funding tasks, were almost complete. Ultimately, the aim was to develop a Poverty Strategy and Action Plan that supported the delivery of actions in the short, medium and longer term that built upon and were informed by the impacts of Covid-19.

The Council was committed to minimising the impact of Covid-19 across communities. The steps being taken to tackle the

pandemic and the subsequent recovery planning, aimed to support people, especially those groups with protected characteristics who were often most impacted. To support the approach an Equality Advisory Group was established who provided insight and expertise to help capture the voice of lived community experience in the Covid-19 response and recovery planning. The group provided a wealth of experience and were helping to find solutions to any barriers that were presented.

The group met regularly to anticipate and identify any discriminatory or negative consequences of the pandemic and helped to positively respond to any disproportionate impact Covid-19 had on the borough's communities.

The Community Bronze Group had established five hubs which co-ordinated food, medicines, mutual aid, volunteering and community intelligence and an Emergency Helpline to act as a front door and triage. The volunteer coordinator programme provided support for local people impacted by the pandemic with a range of activities and provided emotional support and contact for people who were self-isolating. The Council's helpline service which offered emerging help for residents had gone live on 27th March 2020. The Customer Relationship Management System used by the Helpline and Hub teams had proved invaluable in being able to predict demand and flag repeat customers who were being directed into wider support.

The overarching aim of Oldham's Covid response was to prevent premature and avoidable deaths and mitigate the negative impact on the wellbeing and livelihood of Oldham residents as a consequence of Covid-19. A strategy to help Oldham recover from the impact of Covid-19 was currently being developed.

The Chair commented that he hoped members found this information provided by officers useful. There would need to be another meeting in a couple of months. The Chair welcomed suggestions for the next stage of questions. The Chair also commented on progressing how Overview and Scrutiny could support the strategy to alleviate poverty across the Borough.

The Chair provided thanks to all to had participated in the evening's meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. The information provided be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.58 pm

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY

SELECT COMMITTEE

27/08/2020 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor Phythian (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
Councillors Stretton, Salamat, Byrne, Harkness and Shuttleworth

Also in Attendance:

Anne Ryans	Director of Finance
Matthew Bulmer	Programme Director - Opportunity Area
Andy Collinge	Head of School Support Services
Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services
Gerard Jones	Managing Director Children and Young People
Chris Kelsall	Unity Financial Controller
David Shaw	Assistant Director SEND
Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE	Cabinet Member for Finance and Green
Councillor Shaid Mushtaq	Cabinet Member for Education

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ahmad and Councillor Haque.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Byrne declared a personal interest at Items 9 and 10 by virtue her role as a Governor at Saddleworth School.

Councillor Phythian declared a personal interest at Items 9 and 10 by virtue of his role as a Governor at St. Paul's Primary School, Royton.

Councillor Stretton declared a personal interest at Items 9 and 10 by virtue of her role as a Governor at Limehurst Primary School.

Councillor Shuttleworth declared a personal interest at Items 9 and 10 by virtue of his role as a Governor at Limehurst Primary School.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Performance and Value for Money Select Committee held on 25th June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6 **MINUTES OF THE GMCA CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the GMCA Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16th June 2020 be noted.

7

MINUTES OF THE GMCA ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the GMCA Economy, Business Growth and Skills Committee meeting held on 12th June 2020 be noted.

8

MINUTES OF THE GMCA HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the GMCA Housing, Planning and Environment Committee meetings held on 11th June 2020 and 9th July 2020 be noted.

9

DELIVERY OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES AND ADMISSIONS

The Select Committee gave consideration to a report which provided information and an update on the delivery of additional school places and admissions.

The report provided an update on the delivery of additional school place and the work of the Admissions team which included the following:

- Pupil Numbers;
- Allocation of school places by preference;
- The percentage of residents who were offered a school place of choice (1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences);
- The number of parents who missed the school places application deadline;
- An overview of schemes and initiatives designed to assist parents when applying for a school place;
- Overview of the current school place plans; and
- Future plans to increase parental choice.

The demand for school places in Oldham had increased significantly, in 2019 there were around 42,000 school age children, by 2024 this will have increased to 45,000 and by 2028 to almost 47,000 pupils. The Council had a statutory role to ensure that every child in the borough had a school place. The Council had an Education Provision Strategy for 2020 to 2024 which outlined the approach to school places.

The report detailed School Allocation Data for both primary and secondary schools. In 2019, 91% of parents had been allocated a place in their referred first choice of primary school. In 2020, 75% of parent had been allocated a place in their preferred first choice of secondary schools. There had been increasing pressure on place in the secondary sector in recent years due to an increasing population and the rapid expansion on a number of primary schools and the closure of two

secondary schools. Further works was being undertaken to provide additional places in Oldham which were outlined in the report.

Members were informed that late applications would run to the end of August, to the year's final total was not yet know. However, when compared to the secondary late applications from the previous year's figures, it was very encouraging. The Admissions Teams had worked to chase up partly completed applications, increased market and reintroduced their attendance at open evenings. Constant communications also took place between the team and primary schools to increase focus on families who had not applied for school places. The school admissions website contained comprehensive information and advised parents of 'help' sessions that were available. Support had halted when national lockdown measures had been introduced. The admissions team call parents pack who need to speak whilst the working from home arrangements were in place which was running well.

Members were informed about the number of underperforming secondary schools which was having an impact on preferences, two new secondary schools were in the pipeline.

Members sought and received clarification on ward preferences. Members referenced the information regarding the closure to two secondary schools and recommended that clarification be provided that two should were not maintained but were free schools over which the local authority did not have control.

Members commented favourably on the out of borough places which had reduced by 18%. Members sought information regarding the increase in EHC plans and were informed that there was an increase in numbers being identified by the SEND team and better assessments being undertaken.

Members were informed that it was not just about buildings but the quality of schools and making sure the quality of teaching and learning in Oldham was sustainable which the Council could control.

Members were informed that understanding the process of applying for a school place needed clarification. Also, the perception of good schools needed clarification.

Members asked for further information on the appeals process and were informed about the individual sessions and the guidance being followed this year as the appeals were online and were difficult to assess. Members were informed about the work done by the Attendance Team to address late applications which had reduced the number of appeals and expressed thanks for the work which had been done.

1. The update on the Delivery of School Places and Admissions be noted.
2. The PVFM Select Committee received an update in 12 months' time.

UPDATE ON THE SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) INSPECTION REVISIT

The Select Committee were provided an update on progress to date which addressed the two remaining recommendations from the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) that had formed the priorities identified in the Accelerated Progress Plan (APP) being monitored by the Department for Education (DfE).

Following the reinspection in September 2019 and the identification of two remaining areas which required improvement, the APP was developed to ensure significant improvement continued to be made in relation to Area 3 (Education, Health & Social Care) (EHC) process and quality of plans) and Area 5 (Achievement of children and young people with SEND, including the high rates of fixed term exclusion and persistent absenteeism). The final draft of the APP was submitted to the DfE in March 2020 including 6 and 12 month milestones due to the rapidly escalating Coronavirus situation.

Due to the closure of all schools in England on 18th March 2020, the cancellation of national performance tables and national examinations for all key stages, it was not possible to review progress against the impact measures and milestones for Area 5 this academic year. It was recommended to the DfE Advisor in June 2020 that the actions identified in Area 5 should be amended and updated to reflect the changes and significant challenges presented by the Coronavirus situation ahead of schools returning in the Autumn term. This update was completed and shared with the DfE. The meeting on 31st July 2020 was positive and demonstrated the progress made to address the two remaining areas. A follow up meeting was arranged with the DfE Advisor to discuss and confirm the formal approval process for the APP and agreed access to DfE funded training for members of the partnership.

Despite the challenges of the Coronavirus situation, actions related to Area 3 had proceeded at pace through creative approaches, with the clear message of 'business as usual'. The fixed term additional team which delivered the annual review recovery plan had now been trained, inducted and were producing high quality EHC plans following annual reviews. The main education, health and care plan team continued to work effectively. Co-productive work continued across the partnership to provide challenging but constructive feedback to improve working practices and the quality of information included in the EHC plans. The quality assurance visit from the DfE SEND Advisory Team on 31st July 2020 confirmed this view.

The Select Committee were provided an example of the transformation journey taking place which was the national timeliness indicator. The number of EHC plans issued within 20

weeks based upon the DfE published data for the 2019 calendar year. The following improvement was shown:

- Excluding Exceptions – 43rd of 151 nationally, compared to 140th last year. Higher than 8 of the authority's statistical neighbours.
- Inclusion Exceptions – 47th of 151 nationally, compared to 139th last year. Higher than 8 of the authority's 10 statistical neighbours.

It was anticipated that due to the disruption caused by the Coronavirus situation, the SEND strategy would be updated in the Autumn term to reflect the current evaluation of emerging trends and priorities in the Autumn term ready to become operational from January 2021 – March 2024.

Members were asked to note the improvement around the quality of the EHC plans and engagement of parents in different ways. The accelerated progress plans had been reviewed and amended. Work continued to prepare for schools going back in September. Members were asked to note the meeting with the DfE Adviser and that the formal official process was still paused.

Members congratulated the SEND team on the improvements to EHC plans. The 96% figure was confirmed. The team had embraced different ways of working which included a session on the parent/carers forum which allowed feedback at the forum prior to escalation. The team were working hard to ensure that the figure remained high. Members were informed about particular issues during the Covid period around SEND and a range of issues related to vulnerable pupils. The delivery of the service was a budget pressure to be addressed.

SEND would be driven by the written statement of action, when the statement of action was delivered, good practice and culture would be embedded and not just driven by Ofsted but would part of the delivery of narrowing the achievement gap and for the maximum potential to be achieved.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Local Partnership be commended for the significant improvement in the timeliness identified in the national data and the ongoing improvements to quality and consistency of EHC plans being delivered and quality assured through effective partnership.
2. An update report be provided to the PVFM Select Committee in February 2021 on the revisions made to the APP and progress made to address the two areas of the original written statement of action not signed off in the revisit letter.

Consideration was given to the Unity Partnership Limited Annual Report for 2019/20.



Unity Partnership (the Company) was a separately legal entity that was governed under the regulations laid down in the Companies Act and within the Articles of Association for the Company. There were regular updates on service delivery, financial reporting and performance provided to the directors of the company at Board meetings and periodically to the Shareholder Committee, which also considered matters and decision that were reserved to the Shareholders.

There was a requirement to deliver a summary of Company key activity and performance to Shareholders following the end of the year. This was separate to the formal Annual Return and Full Company Accounts for a Limited Company which was required to be sent to Companies House as directed under the Companies Act 2006.

A consolidated End of Year Annual Report has now been produced for the full 2019/20 period which had been considered and approved by the Board of Directors and shared with the Shareholder Committee.

The following was highlighted to members:

- 2019/20 had been a successful year with a change in culture from profit driven to service delivery;
- In financial terms, a dividend of £1.35m had been generated; in addition to a saving of £250k;
- Highways Design, Engineering and Traffic Network had a very large capital programme;
- Response to service requests had fallen due to the impact of COVID but was now back up to 90%;
- Property management were designing strategy to rationalise assets and delivery major schemes;
- Council tax and business rate collection was below target, extra resources had been brought in. COVID had made collection more challenging and would be a major focus;
- A new payroll system was due to come into services, the implementation had been delayed due to COVID but should be in place in November;
- IT had been delivered and included deployment of new PCs and Office 365 which had enabled home working; and
- Unity had employed 19 apprentices and 17 work experience placements which had been successful.

COVID-19 had impacted on a few projects which had been put on hold and affected income. The year had set a strong foundation for future delivery with most performance objectives achieved with exceptions.

Members asked about the implementation of the new payroll system and the costs incurred in terms of the previous A1 system. The information was not available. The biggest issue was the transfer of data between systems. There would be two parallel runs before going live in November. If the run in October did not work, this would be re-evaluated. Until there was a successful run, the new system would not go live. Members questioned if all payroll would be transferred at the same time and it was clarified that the Council and teaching payroll would go live together. MioCare and Unity may be postponed.

Members asked about the significant rise in sickness due to mental health and stress and the possible cause. Members were informed that health and wellbeing was promoted. The particular reason was not known, but there was a lot of face-to-face contact and training had been introduced on the protection of staff. This had changed since COVID with remote. The sickness issue was being reviewed.

Members sought and received clarification on the purchase of Unity.

Members congratulated Unity on the quality of services addressing flooding and highways.

Members sought information on the collection of debts and how this was being addressed. Members were informed that reminders were currently being sent. Enforcement services were not currently taking place. Unity was ensuring that resources were available to ensure that benefit changes were processed quickly. The Council were working with Unity to address the issue of collection rates which was in a challenging position as the normal process could not be pursued. There was an initiative to be proactive in text messaging with reminders to pay. There was a payment holiday if needed in April, May and June but payments recommenced in July and reminders were being sent. In overall terms, performance on collection was not one of the highest and did require a lot of effort to work collaboratively to put improvements in place. It was noted that there were more people entitled to benefits and the amount of council tax to be collected reduced.

RESOLVED that the Unity Partnership Limited End of Year Reports including the summary of performance be noted.

12

FINANCE UPDATE - BUDGET 2020/21 AND 2021/22 AND REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020/21 (QUARTER 1 - JUNE 2020)

The Select Committee gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the deployment of additional revenue and capital grants received in 2020/21 and advised of the financial challenge for the Council arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Select Committee were also provided with an update on the Council's 2020/21 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the

capital programme as at 30 June 2020 (Quarter 1) together with the revised capital programme 2020/25. The reports had been included on the Cabinet agenda on 24th August 2020.

The report was presented with two appendices which enabled the review of the financial position of the Council.

The Financial Update – Budget 2020/21 and 21/22 were attached at Appendix 1 of the report and provided detail of the additional grant funding which had been received since the Cabinet meeting of 23 April 2020 that included the range of significant grants to provide support related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Details was also provided on the financial information that the Council provided to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on a monthly basis and the on-going impact of COVID-19 on the financial position of the Council in 2020/21 and future years.

The Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 Quarter 1 report attached at Appendix B of the report presented the current forecast outturn position for 2020/21. Information on the Quarter 1 position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Collection Fund was also outlined in the report. The report also outlined the most up-to-date capital spending position for 2020/25 for approved schemes.

The reports enabled the Select Committee to review how the Council was dealing with the financial challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, how the various additional grants had been applied and how that translated to the forecast revenue budget position for 2020/21 and future years.

Cabinet at its meeting on 23 April 2020 considered and approved a report which provided a financial update and an outline of a range of grants that had ben received from Central Government. The report attached at Appendix A provided an update on the information and details of the most recent:

- COVID related unringfenced revenue grants received
- COVID related ringfenced revenue grants received
- Other ringfenced revenue grants
- Other unringfenced revenue grants
- Capital grants including those received since April

The report advised on the impact of COVID-19 on the financial position of the Council. The July return to MHCLG highlighted an in-year pressure of £17.112m in excess of funding currently available. There was also the requirement to increase the budget reduction target for 2021/22 and the measure that were being taken in 2020/21 to control expenditure given the financial pressure in year presented by the response to the pandemic. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Green introduced the report and included information related to the grants which had been received, the allocation of the grants and the projected

deficit of £30m for 2020/21 and an anticipated gap of £41m in the following year.

Members were informed that the position of the authority was not as anticipated when the budget was set in February from both an operational and financial perspective. In the context of the financial challenge, the amount of expenditure was being reviewed as well as the impact of the lost income. The financial pressures were highlighted with a focus on adult and children social care, costs associated with waste collection disruption, and the impact on capital and treasury because of interests in dividend income. The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) remained in deficit, the grant had not been impacted by COVID but needed to be brought back into balance. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) had not been impacted particularly. The collection fund had a deficit. The Capital Programme reflected an increase in the grant but had seen little movement in the financial year and was being monitored.

Members raised a question related to the Minister's letter which was appended to the report which stated at the outset that funding would be provided asked how accurate the statement was. Members were informed that initially the government had said funding would be provided, then further information was later received about sharing the burden. There would not be full compensation for commercial income. This had led to the £30m reduction in the budget on top of losing £215m over the austerity period. There was a difficult financial challenge. Letters had been sent to the Government from the Leader of Council, Cabinet Member for Finance and Green, the Greater Manchester Mayor and MPs.

Members asked a question related to business rates and the Autumn spending review, referred to the motion at the Council meeting in July and the petition which challenged the government and asked if there had been any response and the use of reserves being sustainable based on current projections. Members were informed that with regard to financial sustainability there were sufficient reserves. There were also management actions in place to reduce expenditure. The S.151 Officer would determine the judgement. Assumptions were being made related to government funding which would need to be revisited. Reserves could only be used once. Members were informed of a local authority who had approached the MHCLG for support in a financially challenged position which included an option to capitalise expenditure. CIPFA had issued guidance on issuing notices.

Members asked it was fair to say that this was another u-turn and put local authorities in the firing line. Members were informed that no response had yet been received from government. Local government had borne the brunt of the cuts with many authorities at breaking point. Local services were co-ordinated by Councils during the pandemic and had played a key role on a daily basis.

RESOLVED that the Select Committee note the financial position of the Council as outlined in the report and the information provided.

13 **PVFM WORK PROGRAMME**

The PVFM Select Committee gave consideration to the Committee's work programme.

RESOLVED that the PVFM Select Work Programme be noted.

14 **KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

The PVFM Select Committee gave consideration to the latest published Key Decision Document.

RESOLVED that the Key Decision Document be noted.

15 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the date and time of the next Performance and Value for Money Select Committee to be held on Thursday, 1st October 2020 at 6.00 p.m. be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.50 pm

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Tom Pickstone	Bury (Chair)
Councillor Akhtar Zaman	Bolton (Substitute)
Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani	Oldham (Substitute)
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham
Councillor Raymond Dutton	Rochdale (Substitute)
Councillor Kallum Nolan	Rochdale
Councillor Tanya Burch	Salford
Councillor Karen Garrido	Salford (Substitute)
Councillor David Jolley	Salford
Councillor Teresa Smith	Tameside (Substitute)
Councillor Sean Anstee	Trafford (Substitute)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Chief Executive, GMCA
Steve Wilson	Treasurer, GMCA
David Taylor	Executive Director, Waste and Recycling, GMCA
Joanne Heron	Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Matt Berry	Senior Governor & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	Senior Governor & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Kris Jones	Service Operations Officer, GMCA

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Warren Escadale	Chief Executive, Voluntary Sector North West
Alex Whinnom	Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations

CI&R/12/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Duffield (Trafford), Beverley Fletcher (Bolton), Allison Gwynne (Tameside), Dave Morgan (Trafford) and Dena Ryness (Stockport).

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

CI&R/12/20

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair advised that a supplementary agenda had been published, which included a presentation by the GMCA's Treasurer about the financial impacts of COVID19 particularly around business rates retention and support for Districts. The Chair had agreed that this late item could be considered before it was presented to the GMCA on 25 September 2020. The Chair proposed and Members agreed that this item would be considered first on the agenda.

CI&R/13/20

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

CI&R/14/20

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

CI&R/15/20

COVID19 GMCA FINANCIAL IMPACT AND RESERVES ANALYSIS

The GMCA Treasurer provided Members with a presentation about the financial impacts of COVID19 particularly around business rates retention and support for Districts.

The presentation covered:

- Grater Manchester Waste Disposal
- Business rates retention
- Transport budgets and Transport for Greater Manchester
- GMCA budgets
- Next steps

The main point referred:

- A Member asked if there was a list of lower priority items in the business rates that were not being taken forward at the moment. It was explained that the largest part (2 x £10m) would be used to support the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme.

RESOLVED/-

That the information be received and noted.

Members considered a report that set out examples of van permit schemes in operation elsewhere and updated the Committee on the development of a potential scheme for approval by the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee at a future meeting.

The main points referred:

- To understand impacts, a Member asked about trade waste and where that was going. It was noted that trade waste could be accepted by private sector operators and by the Greater Manchester weighbridge run by Suez. Suez had reported a significant increase in paid trade waste from February to March 2020. The scheme was about changing behaviour and would be accompanied by an education pack about trader's obligations. Work was taking place with Districts and fly tipping would be monitored. Enforcement presence at the sites, to make traders aware of their obligations had been introduced during the first phase.
- A Member asked what enforcement work was currently taking place to prevent trade waste abuse. A concern was raised about schemes in other areas and that they could be time consuming and over complicated. The Member also enquired about timescales. It was clarified that the GMCA did not have powers of enforcement and was reliant on Districts for this aspect. With regard to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), information was shared with Districts about vehicles exceeding the policy to allow investigations to be undertaken including closed circuit television (CCTV) footage from sites. However, this was reliance on District resources and enforcement powers. Officers agreed that a simple intelligent automatic system was needed linked to the vehicle number recognition system already in place. It was envisaged that residents would be able to check their permit on line. In terms of the timescales, it was hoped that the scheme would be in place by Christmas 2020 but this was dependent on testing.

RESOLVED/-

That the Committee noted the development of a project plan for a potential van permit scheme and for this to be presented for consideration at a future meeting of the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee.

Representatives from the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations and Voluntary Sector North West, who were in attendance at the meeting explained that In November 2017, the GMCA endorsed the Greater Manchester VCSE Accord and arrangements for its implementation. The report presented an update on the work which had subsequently taken place.

The report presented for endorsement the Policy Position Paper, 'Voluntary organisations, Community groups and Social Enterprises (VCSE) in Greater Manchester – the next ten years' which had been developed to support the Accord by the Greater Manchester VCSE Devolution Leadership Group.

Furthermore, the report provided an update on the review of investment in the VCSE sector, including the grant funding which went into VCSE Leadership and infrastructure organisations at a Greater Manchester level.

The main points referred:

- Members thanked all the volunteers for their phenomenal work undertaken throughout the pandemic. They were very much appreciated. The representatives at the meeting would pass Member's thanks on to the third sector.
- A Member asked about work to engage young people involved antisocial behaviour issues, gang culture or low level crime to help them become volunteers. It was suggested that a volunteering scheme could be set up that included the Duke of Edinburgh Award to engage with this cohort to improve their prospects. Whilst there was a huge sector in Greater Manchester to support young people there was a cohort of hidden young people that would benefit from such a scheme and Officers agreed to speak to the Member about her welcomed idea out of the meeting.
- To recognise volunteers, a Member highlighted the Queen's Award for Enterprise and reminded Members that the closing date for nominations was 9 September 2020. It was reported that Greater Manchester has had more winners than any other part of the country for the past four year. It was hoped this year would be no different.
- A discussion took place about people's opinion of volunteers and how they were now respected for their work in the community. Volunteers were able to undertake many tasks with guidance; the sector must be not over professionalised.
- A Members highlighted the huge amount of people who had helped, supported or encouraged other people during the pandemic and how this enthusiasm and energy must be harnessed in the future. The Member would welcome further discussions outside of the meeting.
- A Member asked about anchor organisations, the impacts of COVID19, funding and challenges. There was about 1k medium sized organisations and charities that employed some staff, averaging £147k a year who were the most at risk due to COVID19. The sector had written to the Chancellor in May 2020 asking for some concessions around the local VCSE sector as opposed to big national charities. It had been highlighted that this sector was the backbone of everything that took place locally. Government was being lobbied about national funding.
- The Chair invited the representatives to a future meeting to relook at the issues raised.

RESOLVED/-

1. The update provided on progress made to deliver the Greater Manchester VCSE Accord and the direction of travel set out for the VCSE sector in the VCSE Leadership Group's Policy Paper was noted.
2. Members noted the progress with the review of GMCA investment with VCSE organisations in the light of the evolving Greater Manchester policy context.

CI&R/18/20

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2020/21 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Members were asked to develop, review and agree items for consideration at future meetings.

The Chair reported that there had been a change in legislation and the Committee was no longer required to consider the fire service. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer had written a letter of thanks to the Committee; the Chair would respond thanking the fire service for their open and transparent engagement.

It was proposed and agreed that the COVID Recovery Plan, cross cutting issues would be considered on 6 October 2020.

RESOLVED/-

That the Work Programme be updated.

CI&R/19/20

GMCA REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED/-

That the GMCA Register of Key Decisions be noted.

CI&R/20/20

DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings would be held virtually on:

- 6 October 2020
- 10 November 2020
- 8 December 2020
- 19 January 2021
- 9 February 2021
- 16 March 2021

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**MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA)
ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND
SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 10 JULY AT 10.15 AM VIA WEBCAST**

Present:	Councillor Michael Holly (in the Chair)
Bolton:	Councillor Samantha Connor Councillor Susan Haworth
Bury:	Councillor Mary Whitby
Manchester:	Councillor Greg Stanton
Oldham:	Councillor George Hulme
Rochdale	Councillor Daniel Meredith Councillor Raymond Dutton
Salford:	Councillor Jim King
Stockport:	Councillor Becky Senior
Trafford:	Councillor Barry Brotherton
Wigan:	Councillor Charles Rigby Councillor Michael Winstanley

In attendance

	CLr Elise Wilson, GMCA Portfolio Lead for Economy
GMCA	Joanne Heron, Statutory Scrutiny Officer
GMCA	Gemma Marsh, Director of Skills (Policy, Strategy & Delivery)
GMCA	Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Policy and Research
GMCA	Paul Harris, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer

E13/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apologies for absence was received from CLr Basat Sheikh who was unable to access the meeting due to a technological issue.

E14/20 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business reported.

E15/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

E16/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2020 were submitted for approval.

The Chair reminded Members of their requirement to complete their Annual Declaration of Interests.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

E17/20 IMPACT OF COVID 19 IN RELATION TO THE GM ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND SKILLS

The Chair extended a welcome to Councillor Elise Wilson, GMCA Lead Member for Economy, who introduced her portfolio role, the challenges that this brings and her enthusiasm for the role.

A verbal update on the work taking place to understand the unprecedented impact of Covid 19 to the GM economy was provided. Councillor Wilson explained that the Brexit Monitor had evolved to provide an economic dashboard in order to monitor what is going on with the economy and to understand where the difficulties lie, not only in response to Covid but also the relationship with the EU and the world in general.

Councillor Wilson picked out that the dashboard identified a particular concern that unemployment claimant count had increased 90% across Greater Manchester between March and May 2020. In addition, in excess of 326,000 people were currently on furlough leave and clarity is needed on what will happen with this cohort.

The Government had provided announcements in relation to investment for VAT, infrastructure projects, employment kick start, support to restaurant sector which are welcome. Vigilance still needed as the virus has not gone away with track and trace roll out to avoid any potential local lockdown measures being introduced.

Manchester Airport remains a key gateway for the growth of Greater Manchester and the North of England.

Councillor Wilson outlined the work of the Growth Board to input in to plans going forward and the work of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership.

Councillor Holly highlighted the work of the Growth Company in support the work of local councils. The Growth Company has provided advice and support for thousands of small businesses.

John Wrathmell, GMCA provided further details on the impacts that we are seeing, the response at GM level and the recent Government announcement. The following matters were highlighted:-

- Claimant numbers in GM was on average and increase of 90%. This is lower than the national average of 110%. Two districts, Trafford and Stockport saw an increase of 100%.

- 326,000 (25%) of GM employees were included in furlough schemes which is lower than the national average. The greatest number of these participants was in Manchester (62,000) however, proportionally, Bolton has the larger number of participants (26.8%).
- Growth Company and Chamber of Commerce are undertaking weekly surveys to understand the impact on business. All firms have suffered some impact mainly regarding a decrease in sales and cashflow.
- Bankruptcy levels have remained fairly low which indicates that local and national schemes to support businesses have helped but may create issues once this support is removed.
- The Chamber of Commerce survey identified the biggest impact was on hospitality, retail and wholesale businesses. The number of export documents was down by 25% also.
- In relation to support to businesses, the committee noted that £517 million in grants has been paid out to businesses by GM authorities. The Growth Hub has dealt with 6,000 enquiries and set up a GM Employ website to link people out of work with businesses.
- Public confidence was important and a number of campaigns have been set up to support people back on to transport safely and to attract people back in to the city region.
- In terms of the Government fiscal statement it was noted that for infrastructure, an £81 million Brownfield Housing Fund has been devolved to GM and other Mayoral Combined Authorities. A further £54 million for shovel ready sites to help provide stimulus.
- Addition funding from the Towns Fund process where Bolton, Cheadle, Oldham and Rochdale each receiving £500,000 to £1million.
- Funding of £10 million had been received for improvements to rail infrastructure in GM.
- In relation to jobs, the kick start scheme to support young people and the expansion of the work and health programme, GM can play an import park in this with the existing devolved structures in place. Discussions are asking place with the Government on this.
- A summary of the Government announcements was to be shared with the Committee.

Questions and Comments

A Member enquired as to what extent has the combined, amplifying effect of Covid 19 and the UK leaving the European Union had on the economy, particularly in light of the prospect of a second spike occurring close to the end of the transition period? In response, Councillor Wilson, highlighted the unprecedented situation we were living in and suggested that it was imperative that a holistic view is explored. The Brexit monitor dashboard provides detailed information and in addition, the GM Covid 19 Committee has been established to explore and monitor areas of concern and to understand the impact on the economy.

A particular focus on skills to develop confidence for individuals and create the confidence for investment.

A Member asked if an extrapolation can be provided on what the number of job losses that will entail as part of this crisis in order for planning to be undertaken? In addition the Member also sought details on what is being done to level up those areas that have been left behind to support small businesses? The Member highlighted that during the previous financial crisis in 2008, there was a reluctance from banks to support small businesses there needs a strategy that makes sure this doesn't happen again. In response, it was noted that it is very difficult to put a number on predicted job losses but forecasting was taking place. In terms of levelling up, Councillor Wilson highlighted the ongoing, targeted work taking place in the Growth Company on where there was a need to focus. To do this, it was suggested that government support to deliver local levelling up ambitions was needed. Local input is important to identify ensure resources go in the right areas to Build Back Better and drive recovery.

In terms of jobs, it was noted that this is an unprecedented economic shock and no one can be sure on its impact on jobs but it is inevitable that there will be a significant increase in job losses. Members noted that GMCA is working to model the extent of those individuals on furlough schemes or receiving self-employed support and how many will have jobs to return to.

Members also noted that there will be data on the Office of National Statistics on the latest job losses figures.

A Member sought clarification on how GM is placed across the Northern Powerhouse given previous pan-northern contraction in growth pre-Covid. It was noted that regional data shows growth contractions in GM's neighbouring regions. In response, officers noted that the GM city region went in to the crisis with a comparatively strong economy. It benefits from a diverse economy which provides a stronger position when compared to other Northern regions. Despite this there are significant job losses but in comparison lower than many areas.

A Member suggested that GM as a region is in a good place to build back better and thanked officers. The Member enquired if the economic dashboard referred to in the earlier discussion can be shared with Members. In terms of Building Back Better, is the digital offer provide better infrastructure and accessibility for residents, schools and children? The Member highlighted that one of the great indicators of inequality is access to internet and Wi-Fi. In responding, Councillor Wilson noted that the Economic Dashboard is reported to GMCA and is therefore a public document will be shared. The next dashboard will be published at the end of July.

In terms of Building Back Better, Councillor Wilson reiterated that GM is well placed to do so because of its diverse economy base but acknowledged that there is a long and challenging road ahead.

Councillor Wilson highlighted the work of the Independent Prosperity Review and Local Industrial Strategy which provide focus drive for growth in GM. In particular, the potential for the development of the Cyber Economy in GM to be a world leading centre for cyber remains an ambition and can help drive growth.

Councillor Wilson highlighted the work across GM to support inequality and closing the gap. This has included providing funding and local targeting to pupils to access digital

equipment to maintain studying and help people to be digitally enabled. Young people need to go back to school to avoid having a lost generation. Education is the source of everything to avoid inequality. Need to invest in people, to allow them to have the skills we need and resilience in this uncertain time.

A Member enquired if there are any GMCA policies in place to support businesses and people back in to work following furlough. In response, Councillor Wilson welcomed the furlough scheme and the support it provided although it didn't support everyone. A more agile scheme should be explored by Government. Councillor Wilson explained that getting people in to work is a priority area for GM. Members noted the work regarding the Devolved Adult Education Budget and the skills initiatives that have been led by Councillor Sean Fielding. Particular sectors/work streams have been identified as areas of growth such as digital, green and health.

A Member suggested that a site in Spotland Rochdale be included in the Brownfield Site Funding. Councillor Wilson noted that there are specific criteria and conditions associated with this funding. GM remains ambitious to deliver Brownfield first ambitions at pace across the city region.

A Member suggested that in terms of rail infrastructure funding the congested Leeds Manchester corridor be improved.

A Member enquired if the £81 million Brownfield Sites Funding is reliant on house building or is it more flexible. In response, Councillor Wilson noted that there were specific conditions associated with the funding. Housing will be crucial for this. The funding will help to kick start jobs in the region but a holistic approach will be required.

A Member suggested that local government is one of the biggest employers in Greater Manchester. He enquired how can Greater Manchester avoid job losses and move forward if the 10 Councils are not financially assisted with their own deficit budgets. In response, local government finance pressures were noted. The Government has provided some funding to councils to support income and 75% of the costs for infection control activities. Councillor Wilson highlighted the importance local government makes to people's lives locally and understand their needs. A longer term view of Local Government finances is needed. Current funding will not cover financial pressures all councils currently have.

The Chair thanked Councillor Wilson and John Wrathmell for their update. He highlighted the importance of local input in Government discussions and supported the current approach during these unprecedented times.

RESOLVED/-

That the updated be received and noted with thanks.

Lisa Dale-Clough, Head of Industrial Strategy, GMCA introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the delivery phase of the Local Industrialisation Strategy (LIS).

Members were reminded that the GM LIS sets out a wide range of cross-cutting actions to strengthen the city-region's economy, improve the foundations of productivity, and ensure that growth benefits all people and places. It was noted that the Implementation plan mirrors the Industrial Strategy in that actions are divided across 9 key thematic areas of Health Innovation; Advance Materials and Manufacturing; Digital and Creative Media; Clean Growth; People; Infrastructure; Ideas; Business Environment and Place.

The update provided an overview of the progress made against these priority areas as an appendix to the report.

Members also noted that a process is underway to review the Implementation Plan in relation to the impact of the Covid 19 crisis.

Questions and Comments

A Member enquired about the new specialised advanced materials city on the M62 north east growth corridor. Is the thinking for business to relocate to this site from other GM areas or will it be new businesses from elsewhere? In response it was noted that the aspirations of the growth corridor are still in development. It was suggested that a mixture of existing and new companies will be attracted to this location.

A Member enquired if research included the global position on hydrogen fuel cells had been explored on this. In response, officers noted that work was taking place with MMU and that they would check with them.

A Member suggested that it may be helpful given the review process of the LIS as outlined in the report, a further update may be brought to the Committee before the next scheduled update in March 2021.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the update be received and noted.
2. That officers would liaise with MMU colleagues to understand if global research has been drawn upon to inform the GM approach to hydrogen fuel cells.

E19/20 UPDATE ON INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND GRAPHENE COMMERCIALISATION

Adrian Toland, GMCA introduced a report which provided Committee Members with an update on work taking place in relation to innovation, science and graphene commercialisation in Greater Manchester. A presentation on the ERDF Bridging the Gap Programme, aimed at building a supply chain of businesses and supply chain in Greater Manchester, the challenges and successes was also presented by Paul Wiper and James Baker from the University of Manchester.

The report outlined that the GM Local Industrial Strategy adopts the findings of the GM and Cheshire East Science and Innovation Audit, identifying ambitious priorities that will build GM's future economy around its existing science and industrial strengths and opportunities of health innovation, advanced materials & manufacturing, digital, creative & media, and clean growth. It was noted that the LIS also commits GM to increasing private sector investment in to Research and Development (R&D) and increase take-up of national innovation funding, to support the achievement of the national target for UK spend on R&D to reach 2.4% of GDP by 2027.

Members noted that the following priority actions of the GM LIS are particularly focused on harnessing the opportunities of innovation to boost productivity and growth:

- A Healthy Ageing Innovation Partnership with UK Government will realise the economic opportunities of the Ageing Society Grand Challenge and is set to be launched in spring 2020.
- Within advanced Materials and manufacturing the pioneering Graphene, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Alliance (GAMMA) will address gaps in the commercialisation and diffusion ecosystem for graphene, advanced materials and industrial biotechnologies.
- A new wave of highly productive jobs in the city-region is being generated, contributing to Greater Manchester's ambition to become a top five European digital city-region. An emerging cyber security sector has benefited from the partial relocation of GCHQ to Greater Manchester, bringing hundreds of jobs and stimulating the growth of SMEs in this space, supported by the GM Cyber Foundry and the forthcoming Cyber Innovation Centre.
- Realising investment in innovation parks and innovation campuses across Greater Manchester that create hubs for businesses and academia to co-locate and to act as anchors for future translation research centres.
- A highly ambitious and high-impact Greater Manchester Leadership and Management programme is in development between the four Greater Manchester Business Schools and the Business Growth Hub. This is important so that existing businesses in Greater Manchester are empowered and able to access the knowledge and skills to become innovation-active and benefit from frontier growth opportunities.

Questions and Comments

A Member welcomed the Made Smarter programme. The Member enquired about the £3 million ERDF funding from the GM Business Growth Innovations Service to support business. Currently there is a target to support 580 businesses and asked how the funding was distributed. In response officers highlighted that this target is ambitious and will be supported by grants in the region of £20k per company.

A Member enquired if there are any products making significant use of graphene. In response, James Baker, University of Manchester explained that work is taking place at the University to accelerate the science in to application and products. Graphene is

already finding its way in to training shoes, ant-corrosive paints, tyres and carbon fibre for cars.

A Member highlighted that as graphene is a natural material it cannot be patented. He enquired if the use and opportunities that graphene can provide is moving as quickly as it can do. In response, Mr Baker explained the work was taking place with the University and industry to develop products. An example of graphene coated face mask was shown. The network with businesses provide a base for support and investment.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report and supporting presentation on Bridging the Gap be received and noted.

E20/20 DRAFT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021

Members considered the draft Committee Work Programme for 2020/21 which set out those topics and items that would provide a focus of the Committee's work for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

The Chair suggested that the Committee extends an invitation to the GM Mayor to meet with the Committee at the scheduled meetings in November 2020 and March 2021.

A Member expressed disappointment the consideration of the report of the Fawcett society on women's employability was not to be considered until February 2021. In response, it was noted that officers would explore opportunities to consider this report with the work and skills items in September.

A Member suggested that it would be helpful for an update on Manchester Airport to be included on the work programme. In response, officers noted that issues relating to Manchester Airport can be included in the regular Covid updates.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the 2020/2021 Committee Work Programme be agreed and adopted, subject to the possible inclusion of the consideration on the report of the Fawcett society on women's employability in September.
2. That an invitation be extended to the GM Mayor to attend the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee in November 2020 and March 2021.

E21/20 REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

Members considered the register of GMCA Key Decisions for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020 that was published on 26 June 2020.

A member suggested that for future meetings, those key decisions pertinent to this committee be highlighted.

RESOLVED/-

That the register of GMCA Key Decisions for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020 be noted.

E21/20 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members considered a programme of future meeting date for the Committee for 2020/2021.

It is suggested that the August 7 meeting be only used if there is an emerging issue or urgent business.

RESOLVED/-

That the following meeting dates for the Committee be noted:-

- Friday 7 August 2020 (if required);
- Friday 11 September 2020;
- Friday 9 October 2020;
- Friday 13 November 2020;
- Friday 4 December 2020;
- Friday 15 January 2021;
- Friday 5 February 2021;
- Friday 12 March 2021.

Meetings will commence at 10.30 am and will be held via video conference unless advised otherwise.

The meeting finished at 12.33 pm

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**MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
(GMCA) ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH AND
SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 10.30 AM VIA WEBCAST**

Present:	Councillor Michael Holly (in the Chair)
Bolton:	Councillor Samantha Connor
	Councillor Susan Haworth
Bury:	Councillor Mary Whitby
Manchester:	Councillor Basat Sheikh
	Councillor Greg Stanton
Oldham:	Councillor George Hulme
Rochdale	Councillor Daniel Meredith
Salford:	Councillor Jim King
Stockport:	Councillor Becky Senior
	Councillor Kerry Waters
Trafford:	Councillor Barry Brotherton
Wigan:	Councillor Charles Rigby
	Councillor Michael Winstanley

In attendance

	Cllr Sean Fielding, GMCA Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills and Digital.
GMCA	Joanne Heron, Statutory Scrutiny Officer
GMCA	Gemma Marsh, Director of Education, Skills & Work (Policy, Strategy & Delivery)
GMCA	Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Policy and Research
GMCA	John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, GMCA
GMCA	Amy Foots, Strategy, GMCA
GMCA	Maria Gonzales, Principal - International Strategy, GMCA
GMCA	Rebecca Drakeford, International Strategy, GMCA
GMCA	Paul Harris, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer

E22/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Stephen Horner. Councillor Raymond Dutton was intending to attend as a substitute member but was unable to access the virtual meeting.

E23/20 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business reported.

E24/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

The Chair suggested that an action log be created to support the minutes going forward.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of meeting of the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 10th July 2020 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Kerry Waters in the list of those members present and the correction of minor typographical errors.

**GREATER MANCHESTER LIVING WITH COVID
RESILIENCE PLAN**

The Chair introduced this item and highlighted that the Resilience Plan had been considered by the GM Combined Authority on 2nd September 2020.

Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Policy and Research, GMCA, provided an overview of the Living with Covid Plan, a one year plan that has been developed in response to the changing requirements of the coronavirus pandemic and sought comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members to further shape and inform the development and delivery of the Plan as it evolves.

Members noted that the Plan sought to capture early issues that have been made apparent because of Covid and identified a response to build the resilience of the city region over the upcoming 12 months. It was also noted that the Plan also provides a link between the current Greater Manchester Strategy, which was due to end in 2020 and the next version which will now be updated in June 2021.

Comments from Members were also sought in relation to the proposed mechanisms to drive system wide change to tackle those inequalities highlighted and exacerbated by Covid. Members noted that the successful implementation of this Plan will build resilience to respond to any further outbreaks or emergencies and will provide a foundation for Greater Manchester to build back better.

The report highlighted how the Plan takes account of the Greater Manchester overarching principles which were determined within the early response to the pandemic. It was noted that these principles, namely: Inequalities / poverty, Safe GM / Standards, Co-design, civil society and social infrastructure, Building a confident city-region, Resilient city-region, Recovery in the context of GMS and Behaviour change, continue to shape and guide the development of the Living with Covid Resilience Plan.

Members noted that a further update will be brought to a future meeting which will inform the Committee on the progress of implementing the above-mentioned deliverables and monitor the Greater Manchester Strategy matrix.

Questions and Comments

A Member enquired if there were any cooperative models of inward investment to support the region's farming economy and in particular, to reduce food waste. In response, Members were advised that the University of Manchester was working to develop a resilient food network. Officers undertook to reflect this work in future updates of the Plan.

A Member asked a question about the roll out of digital high-speed broadband across the conurbation. He sought clarification on how connectivity white spots can be progressed. In response, it was noted that in terms of digital exclusions, accessibility and the means to access technology and the broadband network is important. Where there are specific examples of low connectivity this will be raised directly with the broadband provider.

A Member enquired what minimum standards and targets would look like. He requested that any targets be brought to the Committee as they evolve. In response, it was noted that the GM Combined Authority agreed the principle of developing standards and targets in the neighbourhoods of Greater Manchester and work is commencing on this matter in consultation with the respective districts. The Chair suggested that when the matrix has been drafted, this draft should be brought to an appropriate meeting of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A Member suggested that the establishment of regionally based financial institutions will enable regions to retain wealth locally. In response, it was noted that the Plan aims to address the creation of an economy that retains wealth. The development of the Good Employment Charter, social value and social value through procurement were highlighted as activities to support this ambition. Members also noted that there is also a large financial services base within Greater Manchester and the immediate surrounding area. In addition, officers advised Members that the work that has taken place relating to the Cooperative Commission, the recommendations of which will be presented to the upcoming meeting of the GM Combined Authority.

The Chair highlighted that people now have greater opportunities for flexible and agile working. He suggested that for this reason, such individuals may choose to relocate away from city centres and usual commuter hub towns. He added that within GM, there is strength in digital and cyber security technology areas and highlighted that this expertise can wealth in this sector.

A Member sought clarification on the timeline for the quality impact assessment on the digital delivery plan, the deep dive arrangements and if the Committee can have an oversight of this impact assessment once it has been completed. In response, officers undertook to check the timeline and report back to the Councillor directly.

The Chair highlighted the large amount of activities identified in the report. He suggested that any future reports should identify the key priorities, timelines and opportunities. In response, officers referenced the 30 deliverables outlined in the plan are the activities to deliver within the next 12 months in order to build resilience. On all 30 activities, progress must be made in order to build resilience of the city region to respond should a further pandemic or emergency occur.

A Member highlighted that because of Covid, people may change the way people work, move and this needed to be captured in the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy. In addition, clarification was sought on the economic assumption modelling in relation to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and how that will inform policy making. In response, officers noted that any certainty on the full impact of Covid may not be understood for a number of years. New forecasts would not provide clarity on how things may have changed, although it was anticipated that some short-term changes will have been seen and longer-term ambitions, such as digitalisation, will have been accelerated. Greater Manchester continued to maintain a flexible approach for recovery. It was also highlighted that the impact of Brexit will need to be understood.

A Member welcomed the Good Employer Charter but in doing so, highlighted that noted that any Charter will only as good as its members. He sought information on the take up of businesses, on a district basis where possible. In response, officers undertook to provide a detailed update on progress. Members noted that in high level terms, 200 employers representing over 200,000 employees had signed up to the Charter as supporters.

Following a comment from a Member regarding Greater Manchester's response to Brexit, the upcoming end of the furlough scheme and the ceasing of no-fault evictions, officers noted that the resilience plan has been written at a time when the emergency was still on-going and as part of the response mechanism, an economic resilience group has been established to look at key issues. A particular focus of this group is to explore what may happen to the labour market when the furlough scheme ends and when business loans will start to have to be paid to Government. Members noted that issues will continue to be monitored and adaptations made where necessary.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Living with Covid Plan and subsequent comments from Members be noted and that the decision of GMCA on its implementation as a system wide driver for change and improvement be supported.
2. That building on the recommendation above, the proposed development of a mechanism to utilise the established and developing partnership governance for the Age-friendly and Equalities Portfolio to support system wide responses, be noted.
3. That the decision of GMCA of adopting minimum targets or standards for each locality or neighbourhood would support the effective targeting of resources across all GMCA activity be noted and to also note that this would ensure that there is an ongoing recognition that address inequalities in all communities is fundamental to the whole of Greater Manchester being able to achieve its collective ambitions.
4. That the Committee agrees that further iterations of the Plan be brought to an appropriate meeting of the Committee as the Plan evolves.

E27/20 GREATER MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY REFRESH

John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, Research & Economy, GMCA introduced a report which provided the Committee with a summary on the work undertaken to date

on the GM International Strategy and the approach taken to refreshing the document in the context of COVID and our departure from the EU.

Members noted that a first draft of the full strategy was appended at Appendix.1 to the report.

Questions and Comments

A Member enquired about the absence of Rochdale Council as a strategic partner in the document. In addition, he also sought clarification on how much funding Rochdale was providing Manchester Investment Development Advice Service (MIDAS) and what the benefits of this are. In response, Members were advised that in relation to strategic partner engagement, all districts were approached for their input. In terms of the financing of MIDAS and Marketing Manchester, it was noted that a combination of private funding and GMCA grants also supported their work. Officers committed to respond to the Member and Chair on the issues specific to Rochdale.

A Member commented on the attractiveness of Greater Manchester as a destination to academics and overseas companies. It was suggested that a side effect of home working might be that people living in towns on the longer commuter routes around London see London becoming an attractive work base again. In response, officers noted the difficulties in assessing how working patterns will change in the longer term and the transitional aspects of this. Members also noted that Greater Manchester remains competitive in terms of property prices when compared to the south east of England.

A Member noted that the report identified particular challenges in quantifying results of the International Strategy and enquired if there was any modelling available in the UK that can be applied to do this assessment work. In response, officers advised that one of the challenges of assessing the impact of the Strategy is the diverse approach to its delivery and the priorities of partners. Overseas students and the airports business approaches were highlighted as particular examples.

A Member highlighted the impact the directly appointed Mayor had made on business opportunities in Greater Manchester. He enquired to what digital opportunities can be taken to continue to develop trade relationships with these countries. In response, officers explained that this is being explored and that an update will be provided as and when a solution evolves.

A Member highlighted that the on-shoring approach taken by some countries and enquired if a similar approach should be explored as part of GMs strategy. The Member added that in terms of diplomacy, the use of the existing twin-town arrangements that are in place in most districts may be expanded. In response, officers noted that these matters will be explored further. The Chair recalled the amount of manufacturing business that has been lost in the UK over time and noted the opportunities, such as the potential manufacturing of PPE that can be explored to re-establish a local manufacturing industry. He highlighted in relation to re-shoring, that such measures would take time to establish.

A Member highlighted current tensions with China, both morally and economically, and enquired if these issues are factored in GM planning. In response, it was noted

that the region has a strong relationship with China and this will be something that Leaders will look at when they consider the report.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the update on the GM International Strategy and the comments and observation of Members above, be noted.
2. That a further update be presented at a meeting of the Committee in 12 months' time.

E28/20 WORK AND SKILLS UPDATE

Councillor Sean Fielding, GMCA Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills and Digital introduced a presentation which updated the Committee on the work and skills activities underway to support young people and the labour market. In introducing this item, Councillor Fielding highlighted that Covid has had an unprecedented impact on the economy, particularly in the service sector, which has triggered and accelerated structural changes in the economy, such as remote working.

Councillor Fielding highlighted that, as the furlough scheme ends, there is a real risk that some jobs may no longer exist. It was noted that, as there is a greater proportion of young people employed in non-essential retail and hospitality, they have been disproportionately affected by the impact of Covid. He added that prior to Covid, work was taking place to address inequality and it was important that this focus continues in this challenging time.

Councillor Fielding explained that a plan has been developed to mitigate challenges in GM and provide the right, tailored offer for young people. The Employment and Skills Advisory Panel enables engagement with employers, training providers and the education sector. The Panel also helps to understand what is happening in the economy, identifies those challenges to young people, apprenticeships and furloughed staff who may or may not return to their jobs.

The Chair welcomed the report and took encouragement in the amount of activities being undertaken to support and address the challenges that the impact of Covid has created. The Chair also wished to record thanks to the Work and Skills Team for the breadth and quality of work within the report.

Gemma Marsh, Director of Education, Skills & Work (Policy, Strategy & Delivery), GMCA took members through the report and provided an overview of the GMCA Recovery Plan. In doing so, she highlighted the partnership approach of the Employment and Skills Advisory Panel and the expertise of its members to help to break down barriers and explore what the skills and work systems can do to support people, particularly those disproportionately disadvantaged. The approach to young people, apprentices, furloughed staff, newly unemployed, long-term unemployed and retraining and reskilling opportunities for these cohorts was highlighted.

The presentation informed the Committee of details of the work with Government including activities such as Kick Start, Working Well Lite, the adult education budget and apprenticeship grants. The presentation also provided Members with an overview on sectoral growth in GM. The work around the Young People's

Guarantee was also highlighted and Members noted that a further update on this Guarantee would be presented at a future meeting of this Committee.

Members noted that funding from Skills Capital Round 3 has resulted in all Greater Manchester colleges receiving funding. Grants have been provided to assist with adaptations in colleges and to provide digital equipment and connectivity to students that may need it. Apprenticeships have been targeted to reduce barriers and work was continuing with local authorities to stimulate demand.

Members noted that the Government's Job Plan has been produced and work was taking place to apply this in local areas.

Question and Comments

A Member welcomed the report. He enquired on what can be done to ensure that people in existing roles won't be moved on to apprenticeship schemes and that firing and re-hiring activities do not take place. Clarification was sought on the regional split of GM Sector jobs and the Member also asked about preparedness and capacity in terms of to support job seeker claimants. In response, it was noted that the number of job roles in the report refer to Greater Manchester jobs. The data provided a snapshot in time and the work with the good Employer Charter and Kick Start can help to support unintended consequences of some employers.

A Member highlighted the work Kick Start scheme and access to work programme for young people in Oldham and Manchester. The Member enquired if the Greater Manchester focus will now be on job opportunities as a priority and if some of the skills work will be less of a priority. In response, officer explained that the Kick Start programme cannot just be about jobs and that there longer-term benefit and support for young person to grow and develop. The Kick Start Board and the intermediary bodies will provide an oversight of this approach in the absence of any devolved responsibilities from Government.

A Member noted that the Kick Start programme was to engage those young people that are furthest away from employment. He also noted that locally, only 9 people were eligible for the scheme in Wigan. In response, officers highlighted that Job Centre Plus refer young people aged 16- 24-year olds that are on Universal Credit and would expect that the numbers would be higher than purported. Officers undertook to look into the matter and report back.

Councillor Brotherton referred to the scenarios forecasted in the report and sought details of any actual figures for September claimant rates and how do they align with the forecast. In response, Gemma Marsh undertook to share the actual figures with the group.

In relation to the sectoral analysis in the report, the Chair asked if the information is forecasted or historic. In response, Members were informed that the analysis was based on actual recruitment data from the labour market.

RESOLVED: -

1. That Councillor Fielding and Gemma Marsh be thanked for the informative presentation.

2. That the Work and Skills update and comments from Members be noted.

E29/20 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021

Members considered the draft Committee Work Programme for 2020/21 which set out those topics and items that would provide a focus of the Committee's work for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

The Chair noted that the report on the outcomes of the Fawcett Society review women's employability will be presented at the October 2020 meeting of the Committee.

A Member asked if the Good Employer Charter can be considered as part of the work programme of the committee. He also asked if an update on the work of MIDAS may also be provided. The Chair explained that he would explore if the work of MIDAS was within the remit of this Committee.

RESOLVED/-

That Committee Work Programme and comments made by Members, be noted.

E30/20 REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

Members considered the register of GMCA Key Decisions for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 October 2020 that was published on 26 August 2020.

RESOLVED/-

That the register of GMCA Key Decisions for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 October 2020 be noted.

E31/20 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members considered a programme of future meeting date for the Committee for 2020/2021.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the following meeting dates for the Committee be noted:-
 - Friday 9 October 2020;
 - Friday 13 November 2020;
 - Friday 4 December 2020;
 - Friday 15 January 2021;
 - Friday 5 February 2021;
 - Friday 12 March 2021.
2. To note that meetings will commence at 10.30 am and will be held via video conference unless advised otherwise.

**GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY HELD
ON 29TH JULY 2020, AT 18:00 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor John Walsh (Chair)	Bolton
Councillor Martin Hayes	Bury
Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin	Manchester
Councillor Linda Robinson	Rochdale
Councillor Mike Glover	Tameside
Councillor Liam Billington	Tameside
Councillor Janet Mobbs	Stockport
Councillor Charles Gibson	Stockport
Councillor Kevin Procter	Trafford
Councillor Fred Walker	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Julie Connor	GMCA
Matt Berry	GMCA
Joanne Heron	GMCA
Anne Morgan	GMCA
Chris Collar	GMCA
Simon Warburton	TfGM
Megan Black	TfGM
Mayor Paul Dennett	Salford City Council
Councillor Andrew Western	Trafford Council

HPE 210/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amy Whyte, Trafford

HPE 211/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Members were notified that there had been a change in the running order of the agenda with items 5 and 6 switching places.

RESOLVED/-

That the item be noted.

HPE 212/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED/-

No declarations were received.

HPE 213/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 9 JULY 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the meeting held 9 July 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

HPE 214/20 GM CLEAN AIR PLAN: CONSULTATION

Cllr Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for Green City-Region and Leader of Trafford Council introduced a report providing Members with an update on the GM Clean Air Plan Consultation.

The commitments mandated by Government of the reduction of nitrogen dioxide at the roadside by 2024 were reiterated to Members. It was noted that the ministerial direction to introduce a Clean Air zone by 2021 had been delayed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. This deadline had been pushed back to Spring 2022 to enable effective consultation. The paper circulated aimed to update Members and also sought approval on the consultation policy for residents and businesses. This Policy was highlighted as being an 8 week consultation commencing in October 2020, with further detail of the process to be finalised. It was proposed that an updated report be brought back to this Scrutiny Committee in September. The challenge of delivering consultation during potential Covid impacts was highlighted. It was stated that the policy principles for consultation such as day charge, discounts exemptions, available financial support, and overall financial package to deliver the programme had been highlighted. Members heard that the paper also alluded to the Clean Air Conversation which took place last year and had received feedback from 3300 residents.

The proposal for minimum licensing standards for taxis in Greater Manchester was highlighted as being due to go before the Leaders meeting on Friday. It was acknowledged that although this issue was outside of Councillor Western's portfolio, it had made sense for this to be discussed in tandem with the wider Clean Air Transport Agenda.

The specific revisions to charges, discounts and exemptions from the outline business case which had been submitted to Government last year were highlighted to Members. The financial ask of Government was noted as being critical, which would include the comprehensive package of support to those most affected by the changes. It was acknowledged that the full funding had not yet been agreed by Government, but an initial trench funding of £41 million had been secured. It was highlighted that this would be used for private hire vehicles, bus retrofit, HGVs coaches and minibuses. Members heard that there had also been written assurance from Rebecca Powe MP, with further funding forthcoming for Hackneys and Light goods vehicles. It was highlighted that the overarching aim was to achieve widespread transition to cleaner vehicles to address the air quality issues rather than have residents and businesses pay the charges.

Following Member questions, it was acknowledged that this work sat alongside much broader carbon reduction workstreams with examples given of the Low Carbon Investment Fund for GM, and the Retrofit agenda for public / domestic estates which were noted as a significant challenge. It was highlighted that GM had been looking to make an ambitious submission into the spending round nationally to access funding coming forward as part of economic recovery, and was much

more than about reducing levels of nitrous dioxide. The importance of having a broader suite of other wider climate emergency associated work was noted, with limitations of funding to reduce nitrous dioxide beyond the mandated rates. Members were informed that it was hoped that there would not be further delay to the implementation of this work due to the ongoing pandemic and that nationally there was impetus to make progress with this agenda.

The connection between poor air quality and the motorway networks across the City Region was noted, with the jurisdiction for this being with Highways England. Members heard that GM had previously requested greater devolved responsibilities of strategic road networks, however as yet there had been no movement on this issue.

Members heard that GM had been liaising with the Department for Transport with a request to update the regulatory framework for taxis and private hire services which was noted as being 'out of date'. It was highlighted that whilst changes had been accepted as being required, as yet it had not been possible to make the parliamentary time to review this issue. It was noted that Greater Manchester had highlighted the need for changes to the national regulatory environment to achieve the outcomes of local authorities through minimum licensing standards. Members heard that protecting and enhancing the standards of vehicles operated in GM along with protecting businesses was the key aspirations of this project.

Following Member comments, it was acknowledged that there were links between areas of social deprivation and poor air quality. Protecting the future health and wellbeing of residents was noted as a key aspiration.

In regards to the implications for taxis that are not licenced by GM boroughs, it was clarified that all non-compliant taxis regardless of the origin would be subject to clean air zone regulations. It was reiterated that privately owned and operated vehicles are exempt from charges. It was noted that extensive signage was being considered to notify vehicles travelling in to the conurbation from outside areas that could be affected by the charges.

Members were reassured that packages of support would be thoroughly communicated and well sign-posted to make sure that those that could seek support would be aware. It was also clarified that outstanding evidence relating to Hackney and light goods vehicles had now been submitted to Government, and that this information was now being worked through by the Joint Air Quality Unit. Members heard that Greater Manchester had been able to secure the majority of funding available to support clean air transition, such as for bus retrofit, private hire vehicles, HGVs, Coaches and minibuses.

Members discussed the downgrade/ upgrade options for light goods vehicles, and were reassured that as long as either option lead to the increase in compliant vehicles, that this would be beneficial and highlighted the critical need to secure the maximum government funding to offer support for adaptations where required.

The importance of engaging and listening to consultation feedback to highlight any new additional economic impacts due to the coronavirus pandemic was reiterated. For example, feedback from those coming off furlough and the new self-employed. A twin-track approach was suggested with the need to learn from Covid, whilst taking into account the need to deliver these changes as quickly and as effectively as possible.

It was clarified to Members that through-traffic from the Strategic Road Network would be liable for charges. It was acknowledged that a specific issue had been picked up which would present challenges to a location in Tameside supporting the plan, which was currently being worked through with Elected Members and Ministers.

In terms of Uber drivers, Members heard that would all vehicles operating within Greater Manchester would be subject to the minimum licencing standards, and that only those with a Licence issued in Greater Manchester would be eligible for financial support packages.

Members were made aware of a central government database (vehicle checker) which could determine if a vehicle was in scope for a charge. The vehicle checker was noted as being accessible online at: <https://www.gov.uk/check-clean-air-zone-charge>. It was highlighted that this could be used to check vehicles in scope affected by charges such as motorhomes, as well as what the charge would be each day and the financial support available.

RESOLVED/-

- That the progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan be noted;
- That the position that the GM local Authorities hold an 8-week public consultation on the GM Clean Air Plan commencing in October 2020 be endorsed by Members
- That the policy for consultation be endorsed by Members.
- That an update on the finalised delivery methodology for consultation be brought back to this Scrutiny meeting in September be agreed by Members

HPE 215/20 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK: PROPOSED TIMELINE

City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio holder for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the proposed timeline for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

It was highlighted that this report would be considered by the AGMA Executive Board on Friday, and that Member comments and input would be welcome to frame the discussion. The context of this plan was framed to Members within the current economic challenges facing the City Region and wider UK. Unemployment and the shrinking of the economy were highlighted as key challenges moving forwards with strategic planning highlighted as being crucial to GM to recover from Covid-19.

Members also heard that there had been several recent Government announcements, namely the National Infrastructure Strategy and the awaited Government White paper on Devolution and Local Recovery. There was also the potential for a new planning Bill with a new green and white paper to enable participation expected.

It was noted that Government had been clear on the requirement for a positive plan for recovery and the future with an impetus on building with planning reforms proposed and the regeneration revival of the GM high-street. Members were updated on government funding granted for schemes, it was stated that the Brownfield land fund of £81 million been granted without needing to commit to a higher local housing need number as part of the housing deal with Government. It was noted that this was positive news, and addressed some concerns around viability and

infrastructure requirements. It was highlighted that 87% of Housing land supply was located within urban areas throughout Greater Manchester.

Members were informed that the GMSF Plan could not adopt a Spatial Development Strategy approach due to government regulations not being in place, and that the GMSF had been developed as a Joint Development Plan document of the 10 local authorities of GM.

The implications of the National Planning Policy Framework were highlighted, particularly the requirement for 5 year land supply. This was felt to be critical to the GM City Region in order to avoid 'planning by appeal' which was stated as being potentially costly and could increase greenbelt build.

Members heard that Government had been clear that Covid-19 was not a reason to delay preparation of statutory plans or the determination of planning applications. It was also noted that the GMSF Plan sits alongside other GM strategies and plans and commitments to carbon neutrality such as the 5 year environment plan, and the new GM 1 Year Living with Covid Recovery Plan.

It was highlighted that as the GMSF Plan was a Joint Development Plan, and that an executive decision from all 10 GM Local Authorities would be required to adopt it. It was confirmed that the Plan would be taken to each full Council meeting during September.

Members heard that the revised timetable aimed for an 8- week consultation period commencing in November 2020. The submission of the GMSF Plan to the Secretary of State for examination was scheduled for June 2021, with the adoption of the GMSF Plan aimed for 2022.

Members highlighted concerns around conducting a consultation in November-December, with uncertainty around Covid lock-down restrictions and this period leading to Christmas noted as a potential challenge. Members were reassured that intentions for consultation in a Covid compliant world had been considered. The importance of delivering/implementing the GMSF Plan in a timely manner was stressed as it could address some of the economic impacts from the fallout from the pandemic. Members heard that this consultation would be built on the previous rounds conducted in 2016 and 2019. It was acknowledged there was now some fatigue with the public in terms of consultation of the GMSF Plan, adding to the need to avoid any further delay to implementation and delivery.

It was highlighted to Members that some GM districts did not have a Local Development Plan in place, and that Government had allowed dispensation for those districts to be covered by the GMSF thus avoided these boroughs being highlighted as lacking in making progress in this regard.

Members expressed concern that the relaxation of planning regulations could cut across zero carbon requirements, it was highlighted that this was a challenge. Members heard that a green/white paper to input into this was awaited with collaboration across the 10 GM Local Authorities required on the issue.

Members heard that the rounds of consultation were a statutory requirement to make progress from a current draft form prior to submission to Secretary of State for inspection. The Brownfield preference policy principle within the GMSF for building homes was reiterated to Members, and that the high percentage of housing being built in urban areas demonstrated that this was being implemented. It was highlighted that the housing targets figures had been set via the

Governments methodology for calculating local housing need, and meeting these targets was crucial to avoid planning by appeal.

Following Member comments, the distinction was made between the responsibilities that sat with the local planning authority function at a district level which was noted as being a sovereignty, and that those that sat with the GM Mayor. Members heard that the 10 local authorities were working together to develop the GMSF Plan. It was highlighted that the Government commitment to an additional 300,000 homes in England per year by mid 2020s system in England would require a nationwide shift in the system to deliver this.

Following Member concerns around the economic impact on Covid-19 on highstreets and town centres, it was clarified that increasing urban density of high street was being considered to support a revival of the High street and that there were examples of the Housing Investments Loan Fund being used to that effect as well as the Mayoral Development Corporation.

Members commented that districts had their own bespoke commitments and needs, and the challenges of meeting housing supply figures where brownfield sites were limited was noted. Members were informed that a consultation on the Governments Local Housing Need methodology presented an opportunity for GM to feedback any concerns on this issue. The importance of districts working together to maximise the benefit of the urban core and the urban density in townships to protect the green space within Greater Manchester was stated.

Following Members commenting that increased social housing was required, it was acknowledged that this was an issue with challenges to accessible affordable homes and homelessness. The reduction of social housing through 'Right to Buy' was noted, and that local authorities had struggled to build Council housing without financial support. The challenges to planning and housing policy was noted, with a need to shift focus to delivering homes rather than the return on investment suggested.

RESOLVED/-

That the proposals in the report be noted and supported by this Scrutiny Committee.

HPE 216/20 REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

Members noted the Register of Key Decisions

RESOLVED/-

- That Members receive clarification on a proposed ban to smoking outside pubs/restaurants which had been noted as potentially being within the recent Key Decisions
- That the register be noted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 10th September 2020, 18:00. Microsoft Teams Live

**GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY HELD
ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2020, AT 18:00 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor John Walsh (Chair)	Bolton
Councillor Martin Hayes	Bury
Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin	Manchester
Councillor Jill Lovecy	Manchester
Councillor Linda Robinson	Rochdale
Councillor Mike Glover	Tameside
Councillor Sharmina August	Trafford
Councillor Charles Gibson	Stockport
Councillor Kevin Procter	Trafford
Councillor Fred Walker	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Nokes	GMCA
Matt Berry	GMCA
Joanne Heron	GMCA
Steve Fyfe	GMCA
Kris Jones	GMCA
Cath Green	GMCA
Charlotte Norman	MSV Housing

HPE 217/20 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Liam Billington (Tameside), Councillor Janet Mobbs (Stockport), and Councillor Paul Cropper (Bury).

HPE 218/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or urgent business

RESOLVED/-

That the item be noted.

HPE 219/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED/-

No declarations were received.

HPE 220/20 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 29 JULY 2020

RESOLVED/-

- That following a request by Members, an update on the timescales of the GM Clean Air Consultation be provided.
- That the minutes of the meeting held 29 July 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

HPE 221/20 GREATER MANCHESTER LIVING WITH COVID RESILIENCE PLAN

Simon Nokes, Executive Director GMCA, updated Members on the Living with Covid Resilience Plan which was noted as being a 'live' document that would adapt and evolve over the coming year. It was highlighted that the Plan would respond to the changing requirements of the coronavirus pandemic, which was noted as being both a health and economic crisis. Members heard that The GM Strategy had been due to be updated in summer 2020, however due to the pandemic, it had been felt right to postpone this until 2021, with the Living With Covid Plan bridging this gap. Members heard that this Plan's focus was on capturing the early learning and developing steps in order to build wider resilience in the GM City Region over the coming year rather than the broad full scope of recovery.

The overarching principles of the Plan were highlighted to Members which were noted as being focused on challenges that for the most part had been previously recognised in the City Region, but that had been further exposed by Covid. These themes included; Inequalities / poverty, Improving Safety in GM / Co-design of civil society and social infrastructure, Building a confident and resilient city-region, Recovery in the context of the GM Strategy, and Behaviour change.

The 'heat map' summary on page 19 was highlighted to Members, which was noted as capturing the big impacts from Covid and the early lessons such as from homelessness and rough sleeping, but also some of the other minor positive aspects coming out of the pandemic such as community networks being established and a shift of increased digital capabilities. This section was also highlighted as containing the deliverables to increased resilience, with around 30 steps captured.

Members heard that the Living With Covid Plan had been adopted by the GMCA on 2nd September, and that it would be reported back to this Scrutiny Committee regularly in order that Members could input and further shape and inform the plans delivery and development as it evolved over the coming year. It was highlighted that there were mechanisms set out in the recommendations to support the system and behaviour changes for GM to tackle inequalities and provide the framework to build back better.

Members commented that they welcomed the plea to push cycling and walking as much as possible. It was acknowledged that there had been some positive behaviour change in this direction resulting from the pandemic. Members also wished to put their thanks on record to mutual aid groups and volunteers which had played a key role during the ongoing response and recovery phase of Covid. Members were reassured that the Third Sector were fully aligned and linked into GM command and control arrangements via representation at the GM Recovery Coordination Group. In regards to questions around guidance for small community focussed culture groups, Members heard that this was recognised as a vital sector, and that a Cultural

Recovery Plan would be going to the Combined Authority at the end of September which would look at how this could be supported.

Following Member queries around homelessness and particularly concerns around evictions during the pandemic, it was highlighted that Government had been responding to these pressures by extending the eviction ban and also notice periods. Members heard that the Combined Authority had been working to get a better intelligence of the issue, and also work with partners to improve awareness to both tenants and landlords in terms of the current legal situation and the associated obligations and rights of both. It was highlighted that the Combined Authority had been lobbying on specific issues such as concern around rent arrears resulting from Universal Credit.

Members requested a more detailed update from the following thematic areas; regarding homelessness, latest uptake figures for Everyone In/ A Bed Every Night; and Transport, an update on Walking & Cycling schemes delivery times.

The importance of building confidence in Covid safe use of GM public transport was noted, and it was acknowledged that this was something that was currently being considered as an issue, with work ongoing. In response to Member comments that the climate change emergency should not be neglected through the pandemic, it was reaffirmed that carbon neutrality work would continue and that Covid had highlighted the importance of natural spaces to health and wellbeing.

Members were reassured that regarding BAME Inequalities, the Independent Inequalities Commission would take a fundamental look at these issues, and following the recently approved recommendation, it would be embedded as a consideration in all Combined Authority reports to mainstream it into institutional change. It was also reaffirmed that social value was incorporated into all Combined Authority procurement as well as Digital. Following Members highlighting the importance of mental health and wellbeing support, it was acknowledged that this has been recognised as a major ongoing challenge.

Following Member questions regarding Covid Marshalls, it was anticipated that the approach to this may vary by district, and that funding was yet to be finalised. It was offered that an update could be provided to this Committee when it was available.

Members heard that progress updates on The Living with Covid Plan would come to this Committee twice per year as with the GM Strategy. And that they would be accompanied with additional quantitative metrics that would normally be included with the GM Strategy.

RESOLVED/-

- That the Living with Covid Plan, along with its proposed approach to addressing inequalities and adopting minimum targets or standards for localities, receive Member review and comments, and that its implementation as a system wide driver for change and improvement be supported.
- That following request by Members at this meeting, an update on the latest figures for update of Everyone In /A Bed Every Night be provided to the Committee.
- That following request by Members, an update on Walking & Cycling schemes delivery be provided to the Committee.

HPE 222/20 TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GMCA GM HOUSING PROVIDERS AND GMHSCP

Steve Fyfe, Head of Housing Strategy GMCA, provided Members with an overview of the draft Tripartite Agreement between GMCA, GM Housing Providers and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP). It was highlighted that this report would be taken to the GMCA meeting on 25 September 2020 along with the GM Health and Commissioning Board the following week from this meeting.

Members heard that this work had originated in 2016, when Greater Manchester Housing Providers agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining their commitment, plans and intentions of working with the Combined Authority. It was highlighted that the inclusion of the GMHSCP into this Tripartite Agreement built on this success, and represented a big step forward incorporating a broader set of interdependent agendas.

It was stated to Members that the GM Housing Providers collaborative effort had been a new trailblazing initiative, and that the relationship with the Combined Authority had added a lot of value. It was noted that this work incorporated some of the thematic areas covered as part of the GM Living with Covid Plan such as homelessness, improving skills issues, and housing delivery.

Charlotte Norman, Chief Executive of Moss Care St Vincent, gave an update of the work that had been supported from a Housing Provider perspective. It was highlighted that drivers for this work had been social justice, and that they also found that the vulnerabilities and inequalities discussed in the previous item had been further exposed due to Covid. Members heard that the GM Housing Providers had been a coalition of the willing, with 25 associations, and noted as covering 1/5 homes in GM (250,000 homes). It was highlighted that the GM Housing Providers undertook a range of activities in addition to letting, such as working with communities to improve skills, tenancy support and mental health support. It was stated that GM Housing Providers had been responsible for 8000 new homes in last 5 years, and Supported 28,000 full time jobs in GM.

Members heard that GM Housing Providers had supported a vast number of supportive initiatives in the GM City Region, such as the Homeless health programme, A Bed Every Night, Housing First/ Social impact bond work with entrenched rough sleepers, and the Everyone In project. It was also noted that they had supported the Specialist Housing neighbourhood models, as well as Place Based models, and had worked closely with GMHSCP colleagues inputted into the mental health strategy.

It was also highlighted that Housing Provers had assisted with various projects such as the Care Leavers Project, Housing options for older people, assisting individuals from hospital discharge, and the Ethical Letting Agency. Other work was noting as being maximising apprenticeships for young people, decarbonisation of social homes, and ongoing work on equality and inclusion.

It was stated that the MOU had been developed over the last few months, and that it was now more important than ever for agencies to work together as the agendas for public health, housing, social care and climate change were at a critical point. Members heard a summary of the ambitions moving forward which included the increased provision of affordable homes, meeting the needs of now and of the future, building 7000 new homes, investing in the local economy and creating 1000+ jobs. There was a desire to address the lack of resilience in some parts of the communities, and to work with partners on the long-term conditions of inequality.

The six key priorities in the MOU were highlighted as the below;

- Supporting health creation for future generations.
- Creating safe places for people to start well, live well and age well
- Focusing on those who need the most support
- Supporting the homeless and rough sleepers
- Improving access and choice to quality homes and neighbourhoods.
- supporting the Green City Region agenda and contributing to meeting national and Greater Manchester zero carbon ambitions

It was summarised that the agreement was focussed on the aspects that needed intervention of all 3 partners of the system to deliver (local authority, housing providers and health care system).

Members welcomed the agreement and highlighted the successes of this work particularly in relation to the social housing provider role in combating health inequalities and wished to thank those involved. Regarding the retrofit agenda, it was confirmed that the Placeshapers network had been reviewing how residents could be further engaged on the retrofit agenda. As well as trying to make homes carbon free, Members commented on the importance of prevented cold and damp, which was acknowledged as being key to maintaining health and wellbeing.

Members noted that they had observed some instances during lockdown where having prolonged engagement with some homeless individuals had resulted in identifying and addressing some of their more long-term problems to a greater extent. It was stated that there were instances of this observed across Greater Manchester.

Members commented on the Government Planning White Paper which had raised concerns on the impact on affordable homes. Members heard that this was an acknowledged concern, and that the need for increased affordable social rent homes that are of a good standard was recognised. It was highlighted that lobbying to Government had been taking place via combined networks and the National Housing Federation.

RESOLVED/-

That the proposals in the report be noted and supported by this Scrutiny Committee.

HPE 223/20 REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED/-

That the Register of Key Decisions be noted

HPE 224/20 WORK PROGRAMME

Joanne Heron, Statutory Scrutiny Officer GMCA, provided Members with a verbal update of the Committee's Work Programme. It was stated that due to the current Covid pandemic, space had been reserved for reports and items related to Covid recovery that arise over the coming year.

Members acknowledged that Covid would likely feature heavily on the work programme, but wished to request that the new planning regulations and the impact on the progress of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework also feature.

RESOLVED/-

- That the Committees Work Programme be noted.
- That following request by Members, an update on planning regulations and GMSF be brought to future meetings of this Committee.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8th October 2020, 18:00. Microsoft Teams Live



Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Oldham Work and Skills Strategy Update

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Sean Fielding, Leader & Cabinet member for Employment and Skills

Officer Contact: Gerard Jones Director of Children Services

Report Author: Jon Bloor, Head of Lifelong Learning, Investment Employment and Skills

Ext. 4188

20th October 2020

Purpose of the Report

Cabinet agreed the Council's new Work and Skills Strategy on 27 June 2016. The strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny in July 2017. The Strategy was written to complement the new regeneration framework for Oldham, by focussing particularly on "social regeneration" objectives for the borough, developing a shared ownership of these across all partners and providers. It acts as one of the three major components of the Oldham Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) for economic regeneration, and to position the Council in the context of GM devolution of employment and skills.

An update was provided on the 23rd July 2019 and at that meeting the Board **RESOLVED that:**

1. An update on the Work and Skills Strategy be received by the Board in 12 month's time.

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress in relation to the key components of Work and Skills Strategy as requested. The Board should note that the impact of Covid 19 has been significant. As supplementary paper has been produced to examine the primary impact upon unemployment.

Executive Summary

The Work and Skills strategy (2016-2020) sought to improve population skills outcomes to support Oldham's strategic goals. It was intended to inform and raise awareness across the Oldham Partnership of the complexity of and multiple challenges facing the employment and skills systems, and to position the Oldham economy in the context of emerging strategies for employment and skills across Greater Manchester (GM).

The Work and Skills strategy is organised around four strategic goals, supported by a new outcomes framework for work and skills:

- 1.1. Create jobs**, including targets for Phase 2 of Get Oldham Working
- 1.2. Social regeneration and in-work progression**, including the new pilot Career Advancement Service
- 1.3. Deliver the OESC and improve the colleges**, including a commitment to support the sustainability of the post-Area Based Review settlement for Oldham
- 1.4. Support a thriving private sector**, including to better represent our six priority employment sectors in our partnership framework

This report provides an update against the Outcomes framework.

Recommendations

- 1. Comments and feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Board are invited on the update.

Oldham Work and Skills Strategy 2016-20**1 Background**

- 1.1 The Work and Skills strategy complemented the regeneration framework for Oldham, by focussing particularly on “social regeneration” objectives for the borough, to develop a shared ownership of these across all partners and providers. It acts as one of the three major components of the Oldham Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) for economic regeneration, and to position the Council in the context of GM devolution of employment and skills activities (This now includes £92.3m Adult Education Budget from August 2019 and the £50m Work and Health Programme).
- 1.2 The strategy seeks to improve population skills outcomes to support Oldham’s strategic goals. It seeks to inform and raise awareness across the Oldham Partnership of the complexity of and multiple challenges facing the employment and skills systems, aiming to position the Oldham economy in the context of emerging strategies for employment and skills across Greater Manchester (GM). It is organised around four strategic goals, supported by a new outcomes framework for work and skills:
- **Create jobs**, including targets for Phase 2 of Get Oldham Working
 - **Social regeneration and in-work progression**, including the new pilot Career Advancement Service
 - **Deliver the OESC and improve the colleges**, including a commitment to support the sustainability of the post-Area Based Review settlement for Oldham
 - **Support a thriving private sector**, including to better represent our six priority employment sectors in our partnership framework
- 1.3 The Work and Skills Strategy is developed around an Outcomes framework which commits partners to working collaboratively in pursuit of twelve priority themes. Cabinet agreed the Council’s new Work and Skills Strategy on 27 June 2016. The strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny in July 2017 and an update was provided in July 2018. The Strategy was written to complement the new regeneration framework for Oldham, by focussing particularly on “social regeneration” objectives for the borough, developing a shared ownership of these across all partners and providers. It acts as one of the three major components of the Oldham Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) for economic regeneration, and to position the Council in the context of GM devolution of employment and skills.
- 1.4 This report aims to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and update at the end of the fourth year and end of the current strategy.
- 1.5 Key highlights include:

-
- the successful attraction of £3m of European Social Fund monies (to date) to deliver the Skills Support for Employment (previously Skills for Employment and Skills Support for the Unemployed), RAISE, National Careers service programmes which have enabled a full programme of employment and skills support to be delivered by Get Oldham Working.
 - In addition, as a response to the economic fallout from Covid 19, the Get Oldham Working team have secured an extension of Skills for Employment until 2023 and a new contract called JETS (job entry targeted support) secured for next 18 months, starting in October 2020 for those that have been unemployed short term and many due to covid-19 and 13 weeks on benefits, a total value of £370k.
 - Agreement with GM Combined Authority to maintain the £2.83m commitment to Oldham Lifelong learning service to deliver Adult Education Budget related activity. Secured additional funds to deliver Talk English programme.

1.6 Key risks include:

- 75% of corporate funding has been disinvested due to budgetary pressures but this has been more than offset by winning externally funded projects.
- The devolution agenda is more keenly focussed on skills provision that leads to increased productivity and meets the needs of employers. This will reshape the current offer which may impact on some learners.

2 **Current Position**

- 2.1 Figure 1 presents an overview of each outcome in June 2020 compared to that in 2016 and the intended outcome by 2020

Figure 1 – Progress update

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
1.	Population skills outcomes	Summarised in section H on skills performance	Closing the gap: consistent with the SIF, population skills outcomes (% of residents qualified at L1-4+ inclusive) should demonstrate a rate of improvement at or above GM averages.	<p>The Local Economic Assessment will be published in July 2019 which demonstrates an improvement in some skills outcomes.</p> <p>In 2019, 26.9% of citizens have and NVQ4 and above with a percentage point increase since 2016 (Over the last four years this measure has varied between 25.9% and 27.9%). Regrettably the gap between Oldham and GM average widened by 1% (although this is probably due to statistical confidence which sets the value as +/- 2.3% i.e. there is a 95% chance that the figure is between 24.3% - 30.1%).</p> <p>In 2019, 65.8% of citizens have an NVQ2 or above – an increase of 1.4% points since 2016 and the gap closed between Oldham and GM by 1.2 percentage points.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there are 13.3% of citizens with no qualification which has increased from 12.5% in 2016 (This is primarily due to statistical errors as the confidence level in this measure is also +/- 2.3 percentage points but reports from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggest that Oldham is a net importer of unskilled people¹)</p> <p>The ESF Skills Support for Employment, ESF Skills for the Workforce and the Apprenticeship Levy programmes will continue to support this upskilling of existing residents. A key challenge is to anchor those that attain skills uplift. Unfortunately, the Career Advancement Service has had its funding removed as part of the budget cuts.</p>
2.	Provider performance	Current OFSTED judgements	No provider rated less than “Good” by OFSTED	<p>Support is ongoing with key local providers. The Oldham College continues to post good achievement rates – with the fastest rate of improvement of any GM FE college which led to an OFSTED Good rating in 2019.</p> <p>Oldham Lifelong Learning Service is still Outstanding and self-assessment maintains this expectation.</p>

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>Priority Theme</i>	<i>2016 status</i>	<i>2020 Outcome</i>	<i>2020 Update</i>
				All GM Adult Education Budget providers are expected to be Good or Outstanding as part of the GMCA commissioning process.

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update															
3.	Apprenticeships	As of 2013/14 data, 2 nd lowest Apprenticeships pass rate in GM – 2040 leavers with pass rate of 65.8%	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. By 2020, high quality sectoral specific and relevant apprenticeships should be provided across Oldham, maximising the value of the levy and meeting business needs of our future employment base.2. Closing the gap with GM success rates in context of onset of Apprenticeship Levy3. Maximise the value of Levy-funded provision for Oldham Council as an employer	<p>Latest data set for 2018/19 (published March 2020) demonstrates significant reduction in apprenticeship achievement rates for Oldham citizens. Average pass rate is now 50.5% (17.1 percentage points lower than 2017/18 – North West average was 49.9%) which is in part due to the introduction of the apprenticeship levy which has introduced a new cohort of learners into the apprenticeship market place which are usually not traditional “apprentices”. Oldham College and Oldham Training Company still continue to be high performers with respective 72.4% and 83.9% achievement rates.</p> <p>The council have over achieved the required target set by government for the apprenticeship levy (number of council staff accessing the apprenticeship levy approx. 64 per year) for three years running, therefore utilising the £300k training pot each year or more. This has been achieved with no central apprenticeship pot for salaries.</p> <p>Apprenticeship Starts including schools:</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Target</th><th>Starts Delivered</th></tr><tr><td>2017/18</td><td>64.1</td><td>71</td></tr><tr><td>2018/19</td><td>64.4</td><td>66</td></tr><tr><td>2019/20</td><td>64.4</td><td>92</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p>A high proportion of these new starts have been level 4 or above, including 15 at level 5 and 11 at level 6, supporting our ambition to</p>	Year	Target	Starts Delivered	2017/18	64.1	71	2018/19	64.4	66	2019/20	64.4	92			
Year	Target	Starts Delivered																	
2017/18	64.1	71																	
2018/19	64.4	66																	
2019/20	64.4	92																	

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
				<p>develop higher level skills with Oldham residents.</p> <p>Work is still ongoing with GMCA to develop new apprenticeship standards to support key sectors.</p> <p>The Council is considering doubling the number of apprenticeships available for recruitment across the Team Oldham organisations (that is from 17 to 34 opportunities per year).</p>
4.	Schools	Actions as per December 2015 Oldham Education and Skills Commission (OESC) report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved secondary outcomes at age 16 2. Establishment and successful mobilisation of self-improvement vehicle recommended by OESC 	Work is continuing apace with the OESC activity and will be reported separately through Oldham Learning.
5.	GM Area-based review (ABR) of colleges	Not yet reported	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of a sustainable and supported ABR settlement for Oldham, including a strong, financially sustainable institutional presence retained in the borough 2. An Oldham post-16 provider market with a comprehensive entry – L2 offer for residents 3. A provider offer for L3+ in Oldham focussing provision on sectoral priorities 	<p>The Area Based Review was completed but the proposed merger between Oldham, Tameside and Stockport was deemed to be unfeasible.</p> <p>The Council supported the College to stabilise its position following the ABR activity and to re-shape its offer to meet local employer and citizen needs with ongoing dialogue with the FE Commissioner and Board of Governors.</p> <p>The FE Commissioner's latest report has given approval to maintain "stand alone" status. GMCA have recognised this and has support The Oldham College to access Skills</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
				Capital programme (which had been locked into ABR schemes).
6.	Sectoral priorities	Not currently articulated	<p>Consistent with the SIF, the strategy focusses on six key sectors for employment growth and skills provision in Oldham:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and social care 2. Services (1): professional/ business/digital services 3. Services (2): retail/leisure/ hospitality 4. Engineering and manufacturing 5. Construction and property 6. Logistics <p>The strategy seeks to support development of a sustainable provider base for Oldham to secure skills and progression pathways appropriate to these sectors.</p>	<p>The Economy and Skills Partnership has undergone a full system review and has enlarged its private sector membership which is driving 6 sector networks which will provide key intelligence to shape our business off. The majority of this activity will sit within the Business Growth and Investment strategy but the skills dynamic will feed into dialogue with key providers to ensure responsiveness to the key sectors.</p> <p>The Council is currently has aligned its regeneration strategy to support the GM Local Industrial Strategy to align the GM key sectors with Oldham's priorities.</p> <p>The Council is working with education and skills partners to develop technical skills pathways mapped to the 6 key sectors.</p>
7.	Get Oldham Working #2: local employment support programmes	Get Oldham Working exceeded objectives for over 2,015 job, apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities from 2013-15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage over 6,000 residents through the second phase of Get Oldham Working from 2016-20, 2. Fill over 5,000 jobs and work-related opportunities 	<p>From April 2016 until August 2020, the GOW phase 2 programme has filled 6,374 work related opportunities (against a target of 5,355 – a 19% uplift on target). This consisted of 4,751 jobs, 144 salaried traineeships, 849 apprenticeships and 717 Work experience placements. The programme continues to excel in its target. Since lockdown we have seen opportunities created drop by 20-40%, however a more significant drop in filled opportunities by 60%, a concern and something the service is focusing on at present – (it is due to smaller range of sectors and child care challenges)</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
				<p>Many of the successes in filling the GOW opportunities is partly due to being successful in delivery of the ESF/ LGF Skills for Employment project 1,815 residents have received intensive mentoring and coaching support with a GOW learning mentor, so far, 433 have completed a valuable and meaningful work experience placement, 649 achieved a qualification and so far resulting in 275 moving into a sustainable job. These are within contract expectations.</p> <p>Our delivery of the National Careers Service has also supported success in filling GOW opportunities, including 850 customers engaging and completing a career management outcome, of which 33% have progressed into employment or higher education over the last 12 months.</p> <p>In regards to the recent drop in filling opportunities the service has recently secured 60% of Oldham's delivery for the Working Well Light project, supporting residents whom have been on benefits or 13 weeks with light touch yet intensive employment support for up to 6 months. This contract is worth £370k over 18 months and begins on the 19th October, we expect many beneficiaries to have been impacted by covid-19.</p>
8.	Progression strategy	No comprehensive	1. Invest in a new pilot Oldham Career Advancement Service – an extended information, advice and guidance	The Career Advancement Service was launched in December 2016 and has

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
		progression model in place	offer seeking to help over 400 residents already in work to progress from low pay, low skill jobs during the initial pilot phase	<p>engaged with over 800 residents, of which 350 are under-employed working part-time.</p> <p>As a result of working with these residents we have seen an increase of £855k in annual salaries across 106 people an average of £8,018 per person. In total 135 people have progressed or changed their career / job as a result and for the better, either financial or lifestyle.</p> <p>Most of the support has been direct support with an advisor to navigate the jobs market and explore LMI, as well as support them with personal development. There hasn't been much take up of the career advancement loans or additional training due to work commitments. The preferred pathway has been to secure a new career path and then retrain in the job via the apprenticeship levy or access higher education through subsidies, such as flexible fund for low earners.</p>
9.	Advanced learning loans strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150-300 applications in Oldham in 2014-15 Nationally, total value of loans ready for payment £148.8m in 2014/15, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with providers and employers to increase demand for loan-funded provision for 19+, L3+ provision as alternative to Apprenticeships route 2. Build loans promotion into Career Advancement pilot model 3. Develop local strategy to manage emerging tensions between loans and Apprenticeship Levy policy 	<p>The development of technical pathway is supporting this objective, especially in light of vocational reforms such as T-levels.</p> <p>The Advanced Learner Loans programme has not been a successful policy with poor take up across the Country.</p> <p>The Government has recently announced a new approach and level of entitlement for adult education. The detail of which has yet</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
		against forecast national budget of £500M p/a by 2020		to be announced but appears to remove the need for learner loans for lower level provision but bring forward an alternative loan model for higher skills. .
10.	Higher level skills and HE strategy	Provider environment including University Campus Oldham, the GM UTC in Oldham and other aspects of provider offer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain and support growing UCO presence in Oldham, and the enhanced HE offer proposed in Oldham's ABR settlement 2. Retention of specialist L4/5+ provision in Oldham supporting the emerging curriculum model for ABR settlement 3. Achieve higher level apprenticeships growth with providers as Levy takes effect 4. Grow L4+ loan funded provision in line with advanced learner loan strategy 	<p>The UTC closed in summer 2017. However, the Council is supporting the local providers to develop their expansion of higher level skills and this will form part of the GM Skills Strategy.</p> <p>The Council is supporting Oldham College to develop a Construction Skills College which will support a key growing sector.</p> <p>Higher Apprenticeships are becoming more available and have formed a key part of the Council's organisational development focussing on Leadership and Management (level 3 & 5) and the recent launch of the Level 7 MBA apprenticeship will be popular.</p>
11.	Community Learning and Lifelong Learning provision	Service rated "outstanding" by OFSTED in December 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic review of the Council's Lifelong Learning Service to be undertaken in advance of the 2017/18 academic year. 2. Retention of current OFSTED quality rating and learner outcomes 3. Maintenance of qualification and non-qualification based AEB-funded provision in Oldham under devolved commissioning for 2018/19+, supporting re-engagement of learners with the skills system, and progression pathways 	<p>Strategic review has been carried out in advance of devolution and provision is being reshaped to meet the devolution demands.</p> <p>Outstanding rating currently maintained by the Lifelong Learning Service. Effective delivery of ESFA contract. Matrix re-accreditation awarded in June 2019. The service secured the National Festival of Learning Awards 2019 "return to learning award" and similar accolade in 2020 with NOCN Learner Awards.</p> <p>Current year GMCA & ESFA allocations for Lifelong Learning have been maintained</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
			4. Develop an adapted referral and progression model and evaluate impact across providers in Oldham	<p>going into the 19/20 but there has been no growth for 7 years in a row which will lead to reduced offer (c. 20% lost due to inflation).</p> <p>Lifelong Learning Service continues to review and strengthen referral and progression with providers in Oldham. In addition, the Work and Skills Partnership is reviewing intra-organisational referral and progression models with providers in Oldham to maximise the value of AEB provision in Oldham.</p>
12.	DWP commissioned national employment support programmes	Work programme performance Working Well 1 performance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fully engage in GM-wide Work & Health programme commissioning against risks of depleted national employment support budget 2. Support local contractors in supply chain management to deliver a successful expansion of the phase 2 Working Well programme for Oldham, and manage new Integration Board successfully 	<p>Working Well – Work & Health Programme</p> <p>The WW WHP programme over its lifetime (2018–2024) is expecting to support 22,600 Greater Manchester residents (starts) progress into or towards sustainable employment. These starts are forecast to be split between which three cohorts – Health & Disability (75%), Long Term Unemployed (15%), Early Entrants (10%).</p> <p>As at end of July 2020 performance summary is; 14,832 unique referrals (individuals) from across GM – 78% of target to date, 10,789 starts – 97% of target to date (based on actual referrals), 3,177 job starts – 50% of target (based on actual referrals) and 29% of starters and 82% of clients are currently active.</p> <p>Locally, there were 994 unique referrals, 1203 starts and 340 job starts. This is deemed to be an underperformance and is being reviewed.</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
				<p>COVID-19 has obviously had an impact in reducing referrals, starts and job starts (Earnings Present) across all WHP contracts over the last quarter. Whilst referrals have increased in June (to c45% of pre COVID-19) levels there is concern about the lack of new job starts given the current climate which is likely to impact on outcome performance over the coming months.</p> <p>Working Well Early Help (WWEH) The overarching aim of the WWEH programme is to support people with a disability or health condition to remain in employment and return to work more quickly. A small element of the programme will be working with Job Centre Plus (JCP) to support the newly unemployed that have a disability or health condition back into employment. The team will carry out an initial bio psycho social assessment and those individuals from small and medium sized businesses that have a disability or health condition will be offered free support and advice including rapid access to muscular skeletal and mental health support, condition management advice, vocational rehabilitation, lifestyle & wellbeing support, advice and support around employment issues and skills, education and training.</p> <p>This new service, provided by HealthWorks (a partnership of Maximus and Pathways CIC), has been commissioned for a three year period through the GMCA with the view to supporting 11,000 people across GM over</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
				<p>the contract period. The service went live 4th March 2019. The programme will be evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University in partnership with the University of Salford.</p> <p>As at end of July 2020 performance summary is; 1,928 referrals (individuals), 1,048 starts, 37% received in work support and 20% of unemployed residents entered employment.</p> <p>The referral routes to this service will be through GPs, employers, self-referral or sign posting by JCP. As the funding is limited, the main referral route in Oldham will be through the early adopter site of North GP cluster (Royton, Shaw and Crompton). All six GP practices engaged well however the referrals dropped significantly from April 2020 due to COVID 19. We are working with GPs at present to look delivering this differently.</p> <p>Working Well – Specialist Employment Service (SES)</p> <p>GMCA are have commenced a procurement process for a Specialist Employment Service (SES) for people with learning disabilities, people with autism and people with severe mental illness, to access and sustain paid employment. All three of these population groups can have complex needs and face significant barriers to employment, but more people in these groups could work with the right support. This service will sit within the care and support strand of the Working Well system.</p>

Outcome	Priority Theme	2016 status	2020 Outcome	2020 Update
				<p>The commissioning of this service is in response to commitments set out in several national and local strategies and their delivery plans, these include: Improving Lives: Work, Health and Disability White Paper; Greater Manchester Strategy; Greater Manchester Learning Disability Strategy; Five Year Forward View for Mental Health and Greater Manchester Autism Strategy.</p> <p>The total funding for this programme is £4 million which covers service delivery, programme office costs and evaluation costs. This funding has been acquired through a mixed funding model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £2 million European Social Funding, which will be drawn down by GMCA against spend, through the Working Well Co-Financing Agreement • £1.7 million NHS Mental Health Transformation Fund which will be drawn down by GMCA • £300k from the ten local authorities in Greater Manchester which will be transferred to GMCA <p>The contract was expected to start in Q3 2019 but was delayed until September 2020 due to Covid 19.</p>

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 Comments and feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Board are invited on the progress made in delivery of the Work and Skills Strategy.

4 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider

- 4.1 Specific feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Board is invited on:
- The progress made to date
 - The impact of devolution on the Work and Skills agenda for Oldham.

5. Links to Corporate Outcomes

- 5.1 The Strategy is fully reflective of the Council's corporate plan, particularly the co-operative council vision and agenda, as reflected throughout the document.

6 Additional Supporting Information

- 6.1 N/A – reflected in the main report.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 N/a

8 Appendices

- 8.1 N/A.

ⁱ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/overcoming-deprivation-and-disconnection-uk-cities>

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Impact of Covid 19 on unemployment, including Young people and care leavers.

Report to support Overview and Scrutiny

October 2020.

Jon Bloor – Head of Lifelong learning, Investment, Employment and Skills.

1. Executive Summary:

- 1.1 Oldham economic function has been significantly impacted by the effects of Covid 19 lockdown.
- 32,000 Oldham employees on the Job Retention Scheme
 - 8,900 claims made for Self-Employment Income Support Scheme
 - 13,985 citizens claiming unemployment benefits.
 - Since the beginning of Covid-19, Oldham's monthly Claimant Count has increased by **108.7%**, a similar rate to GM (**109.6%**) but lower than English levels (**128.1%**).
 - Over the same period Oldham's monthly Youth Claimant Count has increased by **136.5%**, faster than GM (**125.5%**) and slightly lower than England (**139%**).
 - In July 2020 c. 55% of citizens economically inactive.
 - Modelling suggests that unemployment in Oldham will reach c.22,000 by end of November.
- 1.2 GMCA and HM Government have invested in services to support citizens back into employment. The Autumn Statement could see investment in key infrastructure schemes. Ensuring that this activity supports Oldham's citizens and young people is paramount.

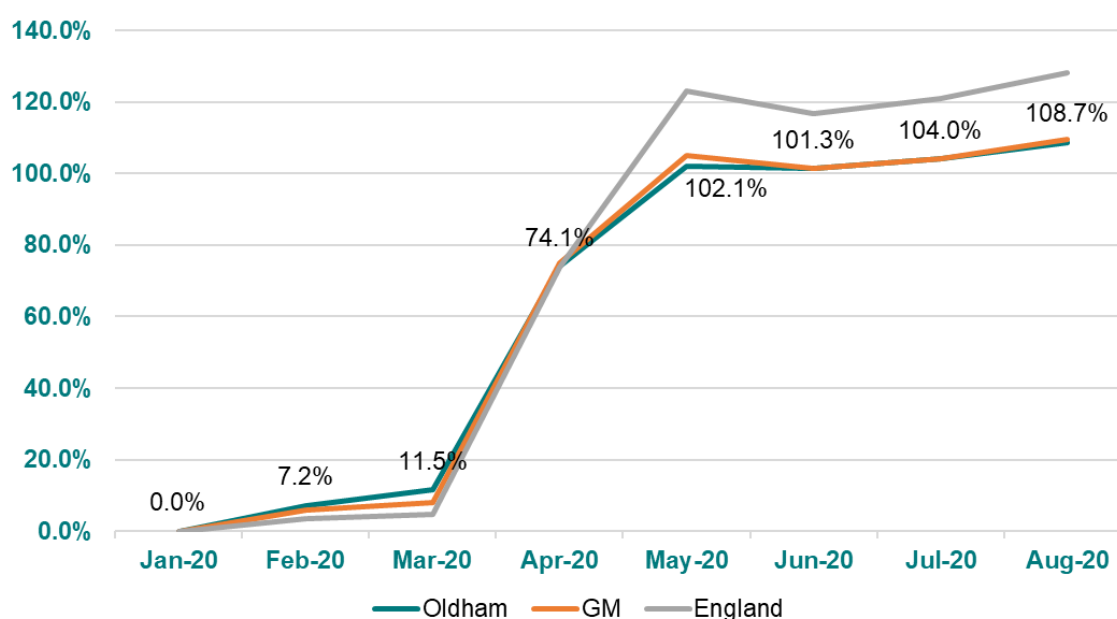
2. Introduction

- 2.1 The impact of Covid 19 has been a hugely significant economic event, alongside the clearly evident impact on the health and wellbeing of many citizens. This paper is a position statement which will review the latest data relating to economic inactivity and proposed programmes to address these issues, with a review of the impact upon youth unemployment. However, it should be noted that this is likely to change over the coming months as local and national restrictions are implemented. The dynamic of the Government policy has been shaped by a quick recovery phase in Quarter 2 and 3 during 2020 with the economy moving back to business as usual. This is looking increasing unlikely as cases of Covid-19 increase..
- 2.2 There are three key aspects which need to be considered in terms of Covid related employment related concerns, the first has been the rise in unemployment and the second is the impact of the furlough scheme and consequences of this scheme ending in October 2020 and finally the confidence in companies to create new opportunities.

3. Rise in Unemployment - Analysis

- 3.1 There has been a significant increase in economic inactivity. This has been seen in the increase in unemployment benefit claimants, the take up of furlough schemes for employees and the self-employed (Self-employment Income Support Scheme)
- 3.2 Figure 1 shows the changes to unemployment claimants which has doubled since lockdown (107.5% in line with GM but below England average) with the unemployment rate now at **9.6%**, **13,985** claimants in Oldham (August 2020).

Figure 1 – percentage change in claimant since the beginning of Covid 19.



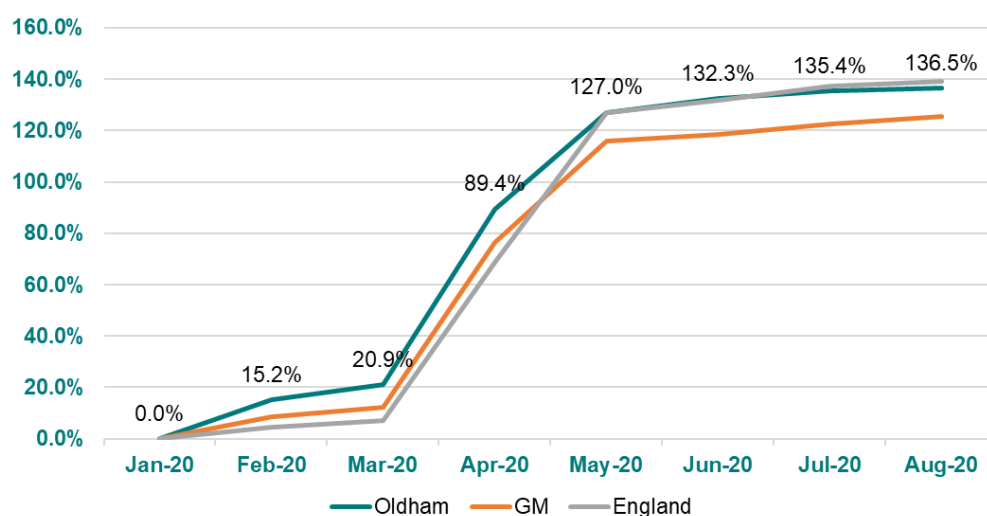
- 3.3 In August there were 3,085 young people (aged 18-24) in Oldham who were claiming unemployment benefits. This represents a youth unemployment rate of **15.5%**, the highest rate across Greater Manchester and higher than the national rate of **9.3%** (see figure 2) which represents 116.5% increase over the last 12 months – in line with GM average.

Figure 2 – Youth Unemployment (18-24) – August 2020.

Local Authority	Youth Unemployed	% Youth Unemployed	% Monthly change	% Annual change	Full Service Launch Date
Bolton	3,020	13.2	1.3	103.4	Nov-18
Bury	1,705	12.3	1.8	121.4	Jul-18
Manchester	7,020	8.2	2.0	126.8	Oct-17*
Oldham	3,085	15.5	0.7	116.5	Apr-17
Rochdale	2,425	13.5	1.5	95.6	May-18
Salford	2,820	10.7	1.8	117.8	Sep-18
Stockport	2,045	10.7	0.7	157.2	Nov-18
Tameside	2,400	14.2	0.4	112.4	Mar-18
Trafford	1,555	10.3	1.6	146.8	Jul-17
Wigan	2,885	12.2	2.1	94.3	Apr-18
GM	28,960	11.1	1.5	116.9	-
England	443,505	9.3	0.9	146.5	-

- 3.4 However, the impact for young people has been more dramatic with Oldham's youth claimant percentage change since the beginning of COVID-19 currently at 136.5% increase which is higher than GM levels (125%) but slightly lower than English levels (140%) (see figure 3). This represents a 16 percentage point difference between youth unemployment and all-age unemployment.

Figure 3 - % increase in Youth Unemployment claimants (aged 18-24)



4. Primary Causes of Unemployment

4.1 The rise in unemployment is due to 3 key aspects:

1. Companies closing and/or making staff redundant;
2. Reduction in jobs being created;
3. Temporary increase due to issues with data and the roll out of support schemes.

4.2 **Companies closing and/or making staff redundant.** There has been limited data relating to companies closing or making redundancies, whilst companies have to notify HM Government of redundancies greater than 20 jobs via HR1 forms, these are not shared locally. The Business Growth and Investment team has been monitoring interactions and the numbers of businesses that are known to have closed are relatively few in number, but many are struggling with cash flow and there is a general lack of financial resilience. According to the GMCA Business Survey¹ the percentage of businesses planning to make redundancies increased from 2% at the start of lockdown to 9% in July 2020. This was at the start of the changes to the furlough scheme which is being phased out and will end on 31st October 2020.

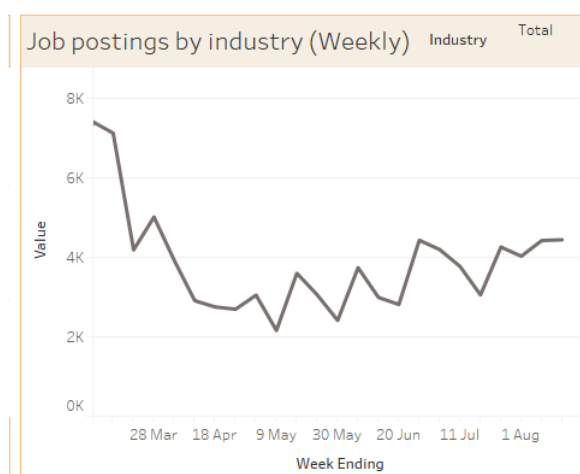
4.3 Alongside impacts of Covid 19 there continues to be impact from business as usual. For example, Shop Direct have relocated to the East Midlands, which is estimated to account for c. 700 Oldham citizens being made redundant and a loss of 1600 available jobs.

4.4 **Reduction in Job Creation:** Across Greater Manchester, there has been a 40% reduction in vacancies posted (see figure 4) which is a direct consequence of lockdown and furloughing alongside business confidence and cashflow. This has led to a highly competitive market place for jobs, with employers receiving a significant increase in applications (Recently a retail chain informed the Council that they had more than 750 applications for two low paid, part time jobs, a twenty fold increase on normal practice). As with the 2008 recession, this level of competition has an immediate and negative impact upon young people entering the jobs market place (e.g. at key transition points – primarily at 18) who lack relevant work-related experience

¹ <https://www.gmtableau.nhs.uk/t/GMCA/views/GMEconomicResilienceDashboard-August2020/GreaterManchesterBusinessIndicators>

and citizens over the age of 50 (facing employer bias against older workers). This will have had a major impact following the transition point in Summer 2020.

Figure 4 – Total volume of week jobs postings across Greater Manchester.



- 4.5 Local data collected by Get Oldham Working has shown that whilst the service began 2020 with an increased volume of vacancies (jobs created) this reduced to 72% of the usual volume of vacancies in February and fluctuated between 58-80% throughout the year which is above expectations.
- 4.6 However, a key element here has been that these have been in limited key sectors (primarily health care, retail and logistics) and as a consequence has led to a much smaller proportion of citizens using Get Oldham Working Service from accessing these jobs (between 22-50% of usual volume of jobs filled (see figure 5), primarily due to requiring prior experience and/or vocational qualifications).

Figure 5 – Comparison of job vacancies sourced and filled by Get Oldham Working 2019 – 20.

Month	2019 Created	2019 Filled	2020 Created	2020 Filled	Created % difference 2019-20	Filled % difference 2019-20
Jan	72	69	109	103	151.4	149.3
Feb	109	88	78	98	71.6	111.4
March	130	98	80	72	61.5	73.5
April	106	91	84	25	79.2	27.5
May	110	104	77	50	70.0	48.1
June	145	140	84	31	57.9	22.1
July	136	103	79	36	58.1	35.0
August	149	110	95	44	63.8	40.0
Sep	857	169				
Oct	147	358				
Nov	76	166				
Dec	87	39				

4.8 **Temporary increase due to issues with data and the roll out of support schemes:**

Following the roll-out of Universal Credit, it has impossible to get a definitive measure of unemployment. The Resolution Foundation report “The Truth Will Out”² sets out key deficiencies in the publication of Claimant Count. According to the report “analysis of timely longitudinal survey data suggests that at least 27 per cent (400,000), and likely many more, of the 1.6 million Claimant Count rise between March and May is accounted for by those still working, furloughed workers, or SEISS recipients. we estimate that **only 45 per cent of the recent Claimant Count** rise (700,000 claimants) relates to those newly out of work and not receiving other government support via the JRS (Job Retention Scheme or Self Employment Income Support Scheme”.

- 4.9 In spite of the data issues, it is clear that the level of unemployment is significant and is destined to grow as furlough related schemes are withdrawn. The primary issue relating to data sets means that it is difficult to definitively understand what the impact will be in relation to key cohorts due to the small size and sampling issues, this includes BAME, SEND and Care Leavers.

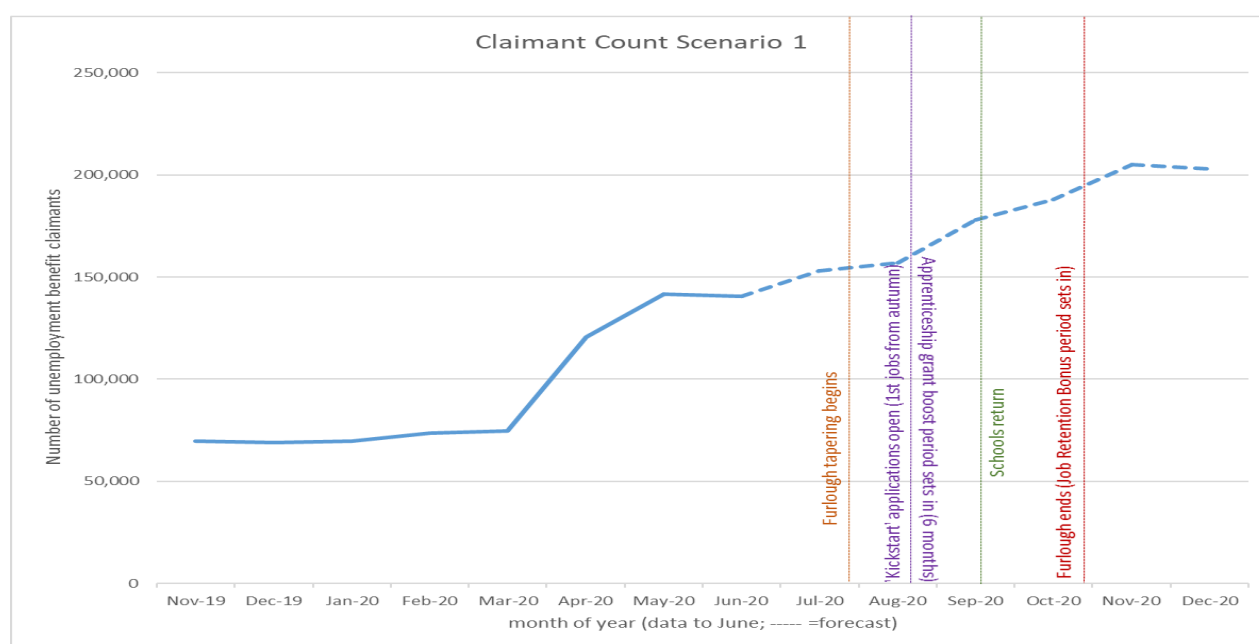
5. **The Impact of Furlough Scheme**

- 5.1 The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was launched at the end of April 2020 with the aim to protect as many jobs as possible. The scheme furloughed workers that could not work during lockdown, providing 80% of the salary costs up to £2,500. The Government also launched the Self Employment Income Support Scheme, which offered the same support for self-employed workers. The schemes are estimated to have cost the tax payer £35.4bn (up to 16th August) but have certainly reduced or delayed the impact of job losses.
- 5.2 HM Treasury began to taper the two furlough schemes. In August the SEISS programme was extended but reduced to 70% of the claimants average monthly trading profits. As with the SEISS scheme, the money was to be paid in a single instalment covering three months’ average monthly profits up to £6,570, down from the £7,500 cap of the first grant
- 5.3 For the CJRS, in June, HM Government allowed employers to bring staff back into work part time. The Government continued to pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 for the hours the employee is on furlough, as well as employer National Insurance Contributions (ER NICS) and pension contributions for the hours the employee is on furlough. Employers were required to pay employees for the hours they work.
- 5.4 In August the government continued to pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 for the hours an employee was on furlough, but employers had to pay ER NICS and pension contributions.
- 5.5 In September the Government reduced the proportion of support to 70% (up to a cap of £2,187.50 for the hours the employee is on furlough). Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and top up employees’ wages to ensure they receive 80% of their wages up to a cap of £2,500, for time they are furloughed.
- 5.6 For October, the government will pay 60% of wages (up to a cap of £1,875 for the hours the employee is on furlough). Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and top up employees’ wages to ensure they receive 80% of their wages up to a cap of £2,500, for time they are furloughed. The scheme will end on the 31st October and will be replaced by the Job Support Scheme.

² <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/07/The-truth-will-out.pdf>

- 4.7 The Job Support Scheme will further reduce the Government investment to a maximum value of £698 with the employer expected the remainder will be funded by the employer (a combination of hours worked & 1/3 hours unworked). In addition, the Government will only fund “viable” jobs. This will mean a large number of jobs will not be supported by this new scheme, for example jobs in the retail, hospitality and leisure sector.
- 4.8 In July 2020, GM had 407,800 on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. This is the equivalent of 32% of the eligible working age population, which is in line with the UK average. In Oldham the latest data suggest that this is c. 32,000 employees which is also in line with the GM and UK averages. It is unclear as to the level of impact that this reduction in support will have but as part of the Economic Resilience work carried out by GMCA, a number of predictive forecasting scenarios have been published. Figure 3 represents what was expected to happen if Covid mitigation policies were only modestly effective, leading to a second Covid wave combined with ex-furloughed redundancies in autumn. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) predict that c. 15% of furloughed workers would lose their jobs and claim benefits by November, which would lead to over 200,000 jobs being lost in GM (15,000 in Oldham bringing claimant levels to c. 22,000). Under current reporting this would appear to be the closest of the 3 predictive models (see figure 6)

Figure 6 – Scenario 1 - Claimant Count scenario with a second wave - in Greater Manchester, Nov 19-Dec 2020



- 4.9 The modelling includes a reduction in claimant count based upon the introduction of the Kickstart and Apprenticeship grants scheme which forms a key part of the Government response to job creation, which will be examined in section 5.

5. GM Work and Skills Response.

- 5.1 The GM Economic Recovery Plan consists of a ‘Work & Skills Response’ overseen by the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP). ESAP agreed on three overarching actions which focuses on **Prevention** (what can be done to prevent impact), **Repurpose** (what can GM do with existing provision), and **React at Scale** (where the gaps are and how can to get it to scale).

5.2 There are two key dynamics of focus:

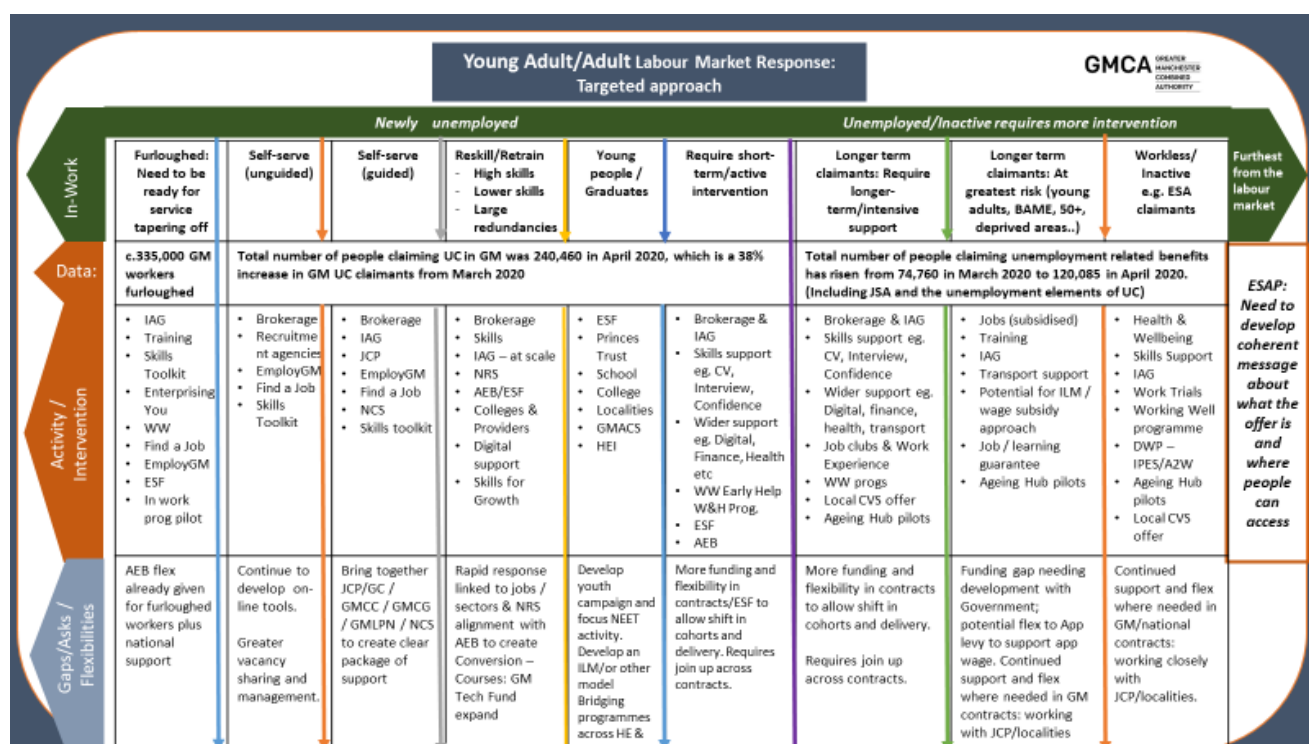
Segmenting the labour market to ensure the right support to all that need it:

- Young people
- Apprenticeships
- Employed (Self): Furloughed/risk of redundancy
- Retain/adult skills
- Newly Unemployed
- Long term unemployed

Focusing on sectors in terms of business angle:

- Those that need to amend their business model
- Are making redundancies and want to retain staff
- Skills offer to move people into new vacancies: health, digital & retrofit (not limited to)

5.3 The diagram below shows some of the targeted activities which has been developed to address unemployment and the ESAP recovery plan focuses on mainly on the newly unemployed area of the diagram to ensure residents to do not become inactive or long-term unemployed.



5.4 Summary of GMCA Funded Activities

5.4.1 As a consequence of devolution, GMCA has been directly commissioning funded activity since 2016. The following section highlights and summarises the current range of provision. This is extensive in terms of breadth of schemes and targeted intervention but pre-dates Covid 19. GMCA and local leads have worked through these schemes to ensure they can be reshaped to help tackle the economic issues caused by the pandemic.

5.5 Adult Education Budget (AEB)

5.5.1 Following on from consultation with Local Leads, GMCA asked AEB providers to respond to the Labour Market Challenges due to COVID-19 where they had the opportunity to repurpose their funding allocation for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. The three initial programmes of activity focused on:

- **Programme 1: Supporting Safe Returns to Work** – activity to businesses (including SME's and organisations in the voluntary and community sector) to ensure employees can return safely to the work place, in line with Government guidance.
- **Programme 2: The Rise of the Key Worker: Skills Pathway Programme** - activity to be designed and delivered alongside employers and focus on moving unemployed residents in to work. Providers delivering the Skills Pathway Programmes should work with employers to identify and upskill residents in order to enter key worker roles in critical sectors, as well as other GM priority sectors, as part of the COVID-19 response.
- **Programme 3: Short Retraining Programme** - activity to deliver short, sharp skills programmes co-designed between providers and employers which support GM residents to retrain quickly into newly available roles in the Greater Manchester job market. A key focus of this programme is to target residents who are currently in work and at risk of redundancy.

5.6 AEB: Local Authority Grant Programme

5.6.1 GMCA launched the **AEB Local Authority (LA) Grant Programme** on the 6th July 2020 which enables each LA to submit proposals that works towards alleviating barriers and constraints faced by residents around Adult Skills. Proposals can be submitted under three strands; alleviating barriers to adult education, digital inclusion, and ESOL. The Council has submitted applications under all 3 aspects to a value of £150k.

5.7 Apprenticeships

5.7.1 The COVID-19 pandemic has posed challenges within apprenticeship landscape as it combines education, training and employment. Impacts on training providers and access to learning is being further affected by impacts on employers and the economy. Some GM apprentices, those working in sectors most adversely affected by COVID-19 are being made redundant, being furloughed or experiencing breaks in learning.

5.7.2 Due to the data lag, there is no official information on GM apprenticeship numbers. However, nationally apprenticeship numbers for March decreased by 24% compared to previous year numbers. A recent survey from Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network in May 2020 found that of 11,683 apprentices on members' books 109 (0.93%) had been made redundant. Some 529 (4.23%) were deemed to be at high risk of redundancy. Meanwhile, 2258 (19.3%) had been furloughed and 9.3% were on a break from their learning.

5.7.3 GM will be working on five key areas that will help to ensure stability in both the short and longer term for the apprenticeships system in GM which include:

- Re-purpose unspent LA grants from the GM SME Apprentice Support Offer (ended 31st March) to support employers and their apprentices where there is a risk of redundancy including working with GM partners to develop a solution for Apprentices that have been made redundant to ensure they can continue and complete their apprenticeship. GMCA are seeking to create a database for GM apprentices who have been made redundant to match with employers who are

currently looking to hire an apprentice, so that the apprentice can continue and complete their apprenticeship. It is believed that this maybe an attractive prospect for an employer to recruit an apprentice who is part way through their training. This is due to commence in August.

- Ensure the Skills for Growth programme (currently in development) supports apprenticeship recovery as well as growth in key sectors/occupations.
- Support Local Authorities, schools and colleges to identify young people that were planning to progress to an apprenticeship or traineeship from September so that appropriate support can be put into place including ensuring that GMACS content is in place to support young people who are exploring/applying for apprenticeship opportunities over the summer.
- Explore with DfE the scope for a case to HM Treasury for flexibilities in levy fund expiry and/or raising the 25% transfer cap in recognition of unforeseen circumstances facing employers.

5.8 GM ESF Existing and New Commitments

5.8.1 The European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020 programme allocated £162.8m to support a minimum of 137,000 GM residents which will be fully committed once its pipeline programmes are approved during 2020.

5.8.2 The current pipeline relates to three GMCA co-financing proposals.

- £42m ESF Skills for Growth Programme (IP2.1/2.2) approved by the ESF Managing Agent
- £11.85m ESF Youth Opportunity proposal (IP1.2) which will respond to the reduction and prevention priorities within the GM NEET agenda. Submitted in December 2019 this is with the ESF Managing Agent for appraisal.
- C. £2.1m extension to the current Working Well CFO (IP1.1/1.4) to continue provision to 2023 and include additional Working Well programmes.

5.8.3 As with many other contracts, ESF programmes has been affected by COVID-19, therefore, DWP (ESF Managing Agent) has requested for flexibilities from European Commission to be able to continue to deliver the programmes. As a consequence, ESFA Round 2 contracts (2019-2021) secured four ESF contracts on GM's behalf which started delivery in April 2019 and would initially run until July 2021. These have now been extended until 2023 and include:

- IP1.1 – Skills Support for the Unemployed (total contract value - £9.9m)
- IP1.2 – NEET (£7.8m)
- IP1.4 – Community Grants (£4.9m)
- IP2.1 – Skills Support for the Workforce (£9.9m)

5.8.4 The **Get Oldham Working** service successfully delivered activity under ESF round 1 and is currently delivering Skills Support for the Unemployed which, as stated above, has now been extended by 2 years. This is an intensive programme which supports citizens to access training to enable them to enter the jobs market with recent and relevant qualifications.

5.9 **GM Working Well (£32.7m)** started 2016 and covers a number of GM Working Well programmes. The ESF contract has supported nearly 23,500 GM residents (85% of target) and more than 4,400 job starts (81%). ESF expenditure of £16.2m is 82% of cumulative target. As a result of COVID-19, DWP and GM have agreed to a contract extension until late 2023. This has also enabled the launch of the Work and Health Programme: Job Entry: Targets Support (JETS) with aims to help citizens secure

employment within 6 months. Get Oldham Working has just been awarded 5% of the contract volume.

- 5.10 **GM Skills for Growth ESF** has been approved and it will focus on delivering an employer led approach to understanding the skills needs of employers and their current and future workforce.

6. Targeted Youth Unemployment Support Activity

- 6.1 **Youth Opportunity ESF (at appraisal stage):** GMCA submitted an £11.85m ESF co-financing application (IP1.2) in December 2019 which will look to respond to GM's strategic ambitions to reduce and prevent NEET and support up to 6,000 of GM's most disadvantaged young people. This will, be developed with LA's and partners to complement existing ESFA, Princes Trust and LA support for NEET contracts. It will take into consideration the impact of COVID-19 on this cohort and young people's experiences and support where possible the Young Person Guarantee. It is anticipated that this programme will **start early 2021 and end in 2023**.

- 6.2 **Kickstart scheme** - a £2bn work placement initiative for 16-24-year olds who are on Universal Credit and deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment. The programme will create around 350,000 six-month employment opportunities, although there is no cap on the number of opportunities available. It will cover the cost of 25 hours of employment per week at the national minimum wage (£4.55/h for under 18s, £6.45/h for 18 to 20-year olds, and £8.20/h for 21 to 24-year-olds), plus the associated employer NI and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions, and employers will have the option to top up wages. The scheme opened for employer applications on the 2nd September 2020, with the first jobs expected to start in the autumn. There has been some criticism that this will reward employers that were planning and could afford to create new jobs. The **Get Oldham Working** team has secured more than 30 opportunities from local SMEs plus is seeking to gain commitment from the public sector and has registered the Council as an intermediary agency.

- 6.3 **Careers advice** -the **National Careers Service** will receive an additional £32 million over the next 2 years so that 269,000 more people in England can receive personalised advice on training and work (Get Oldham Working is the primary NCS provider in Oldham).

- 6.4 **Funding for Traineeships** will be increased in a £111m package designed to reinvigorate the Traineeships programme and make 30,000 new opportunities available. Traineeships are designed a stepping stone for 16-24-year olds into an Apprenticeship, combining between six weeks and six months of classroom-based essential skills and a work placement with an employer, usually unpaid. Eligibility will be extended to individuals with Level 3 qualifications and below (previously Level 2) and for the first time, employers who offer Traineeship placements will receive a grant of £1,000.

- 6.5 **Apprenticeships** - grants of £2,000 will be paid to employers for each new apprentice hired aged under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice hired aged 25 and over, for the six-month period from 1st August 2020 to 31st January 2021. These grants will be in addition to the existing £1,000 payment already paid to employers for new 16-18-year-old apprentices, and those aged under 25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan – where applicable.

- 6.6 **DWP expansion** - the intensive support offered to young jobseekers will be expanded to include all those aged 18-24 in the Intensive Work Search group in Universal Credit.

In addition to DWP doubling the number of Work Coaches in Jobcentre Plus by the end of this financial year (recruitment is already underway), £40 million will be made available working through the private sector to introduce a UK-wide job finding support service in the autumn. This online, one-to-one service will help those who have been unemployed for less than three months to increase their chances of finding employment.

- 6.7 Oldham Council have recently been successful in securing two projects under the **GMCA Removing Barrier to Apprenticeships (£100k)** programme, which are due to start in October 2020. Both projects are in partnership with Northern Care Alliance leading to 20 apprenticeship positions within Royal Oldham Hospital. The first project focuses on Coldhurst ward supporting residents who are from **BAME** communities, **single parents or have a disability/learning difficulty**. The second project with an additional partner (Positive Steps) is a borough wide project focussing on young people **aged 16 to 24**.

7. Partnership Activity

- 7.1 The Council has a Work and Skills Partnership group which meets to ensure that all agencies can co-operate to support citizens onto skills and employment pathways, supporting the delivery of public sector funded provision to make sure it can add value and improve outcomes for Oldham citizens. The Partnership will oversee the delivery of the schemes stated above and will feed into future consultations with GMCA.

- 7.2 Youth Hub – as part of the DWP Youth Hub, the Council has arranged a bi weekly case conferencing meeting to support young people. This is a key function of the HM Government programme.

7.3 Targeted Care Leaver Support

- 7.4 In 2019, a new partnership programme was set up to improve collaboration with key stakeholders including formalising activity between Get Oldham Working, The Inclusion team, Positive Steps, training providers, JobCentrePlus and the Aftercare team to increase employment of care leavers.

- 7.5 As part of this work care leavers have progressed into high value programmes such as accessing the civil service traineeship and employment within Oldham JCP., engagement with traineeships etc. This followed a period of reviewing working practices which have now led to an improved referral system to Get Oldham Working which involves contacting the young person and their Personal Advisor to establish the career goal and barriers before signing them up on any programmes. In addition, there is support for the “Care leavers weeks” to promote the offer, engagement with employers, provision of work experience placements.

- 7.6 The Partnership has submitted a bid to DWP proposal to increase employment opportunities for care leavers. The bid focusses on increasing employment opportunities for care leavers. It will develop a bespoke Labour Market Intelligence led programme to offer a greater opportunity into employment considering key barriers faced by the cohort. Based upon previous experience and understanding of this cohort is that they face additional barriers to engagement which may be related to entry requirements, financial stability and biopsychosocial barriers. The proposed programme will be co-produced with 24 young people whom will be subdivided into two groups, those that are engaged in the Aftercare Resilience programme and a cohort who are not engaged in activities.

8. Conclusion

- 8.1 The economic impact of the Covid 19 pandemic will be significant and long-lasting without intervention. The level of unemployment could reach c. 22,000 claimants if the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self Employment Income Support Scheme both end in October.
- 8.2 GMCA has used the resources available to create a comprehensive support package with the aim to support citizens to access employment as quickly as possible.
- 8.3 HM Government is focussing support towards creating new traineeships, apprenticeships and jobs for young people and support via JobCentre Plus and the National Careers Service.
- 8.4 The Chancellor is expected to make some additional announcements as part of his Autumn Statement. There is concern that the existing raft of measures don't do enough to create new jobs. Some commentators are lobbying for significant capital investment schemes to be launched, including supporting investment in Green New Deal schemes and transport infrastructure.
- 8.5 The Council's draft recovery plan seeks to maximise the value of commissioned activity to support job creation (both revenue and capital schemes), aims to maximise inward investment and support both start-ups and existing businesses to grow.
- 8.6 Through the Work and Skills partnership, the activity to support citizens into employment, including young people and care leavers will be monitored and reported on to ensure that Oldham's residents can access the support and opportunities that are made available.

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Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Subject: Amendment to United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals Report to Council

Report Author: Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer
Email: lori.hughes@oldham.gov.uk

20 October 2020

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to discuss the Amendment as proposed by Liberal Democrat Councillors at Full Council on 9 September 2020 to the report submitted in response to 'Making a Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals' Motion.

Executive Summary

An amendment was proposed by the Liberal Democrats to the report commended to Council in response to the motion which the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee were asked to identify the work that was being done by the Council and its partners and what more could be done with its' findings and recommendations. The amendment was referred to Overview and Scrutiny for their consideration as the information had not been included in the original report commended to Full Council.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board and Health Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the inclusion of the information as submitted in the Amendment be included in the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that consideration was given to a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 3 March 2020 and by the Health Scrutiny Committee on 7 July 2020 in response to a motion that requested the committees identify the work that was already being done by the Council and its partners, what more could be done and to present a report to full Council with its findings and recommendations.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Both Overview and Scrutiny Board and Health Scrutiny commended a report which detailed work being done in support at a local level. At the full Council meeting on 9 December, an Amendment was proposed which including information which had not been provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Board nor the Health Scrutiny Committee following the commendation to Council of the original report. It was agreed that the original report as submitted to Council be agreed, but that the Amendment would be referred to Overview and Scrutiny for their consideration.

- 2.2 The Amendment to be considered is as follows:

Add at the top of page 16, a new Section 17.2 to read:

“17.2 Oldham is the first borough in the UK to have embraced the Pledge to Peace, an initiative launched in the European Parliament in November 2011 to promote ‘a culture of peace across Europe’.

This has attracted significant positive coverage for Oldham, with the borough increasingly seen as a place of peace and an exemplar to others.

- Oldham Council and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council are currently the only two local authorities in the UK to have become signatories of the Pledge.
- Oldham Council was the first organization to appoint a Pledge to Peace Mayor, former Councillor Derek Heffernan.
- The Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum now has 52 affiliated signatory organisations, making the Forum the biggest organisation of its kind representing the Pledge to Peace. These affiliates include Oldham Council, Shaw and Crompton Parish Council, twenty-six of our borough’s schools and colleges, and the Oldham Youth Council.
- Delegates from the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum have represented Oldham – at their own expense – at high-level peace events in the UK, Italy, Germany and Australia, as well as visiting the European Parliament.
- This has included making presentations on Oldham’s work in the UK and Europe to four conferences and at meetings with Ambassadors, Mayors, Members of the European Parliament, and the Ambassador to the Pledge to Peace, Mr. Prem Rawat.
- For five consecutive years, until 2019, the Forum also hosted, with the support of Council officers, a celebratory event at Gallery Oldham / Oldham Library to mark the UN International Day of Peace (21 September).
- Oldham Council is also an affiliate of the International Mayor for Peace initiative, which campaigns for a nuclear weapon free world.

- Consequently, Oldham was one of only three locations in the UK visited by two delegations from Hiroshima – one from the National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims, which met with the Oldham Youth Council, and one of Hibakusha (Japanese A-bomb survivors), who at Alexandra Park planted seeds received as a gift from the Mayor of Hiroshima.
- These seeds were sourced from city-centre trees which survived the atomic bombing. Later this year they will be planted in several parks and at Pledge to Peace Schools.
- Oldham is also the only municipality to have hosted a delegation from Neve Shalom – Wahat al-Salam (Oasis of Peace), a village founded in Israel on the basis of equality and co-operation between its Jewish and Arab inhabitants, to sign an exclusive international agreement to work for peace with this village.
- The Forum is now working to develop links for peace with Australian partners, including Toowoomba, which is working towards UNESCO recognition as an International City of Peace and Harmony, and Saddleworth, which was named by its founder after his former West Yorkshire home town.”

3 **Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss**

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny are asked to discuss the inclusion of the amendment to the report.

4 **Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**

- 4.1 Does Overview and Scrutiny agree to the inclusion of the Amendment to the report and commend the Amendment back to Council?

5. **Links to Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 N/A

6 **Additional Supporting Information**

- 6.1 N/A

7 **Consultation**

- 7.1 N/A

8 **Appendices**

- 8.1 None

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Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 7 October 2020

Subject: Update on Northern Roots

For Discussion

Report of: Anna da Silva, Project Director

Summary of the issue:

To update on the progress in developing the Northern Roots project in line with the guidance provided by the O&S Board in February 2020.

Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

To note the implementation of the O&S Board's recommendations and the wider progress in the project.

1.0 Background

The Northern Roots project aims to develop the UK's largest urban farm and eco park in the heart of Oldham, on the 160 acre Snipe Clough site, directly adjacent to Alexandra Park. Currently an under-utilised site, it offers opportunities for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food production, sports, eco-tourism and cultural and educational activities. Following two years of initial exploration, Cabinet approved two years' initial revenue funding for the project in January 2019. This funding was to deliver the following outcomes by March 2021:

- An operative brand and businesses trading under licence
- Strong community engagement and involvement
- Delivery of early implementation projects
- Planning approval for the full Northern Roots opportunity site
- Inward investments secured and an investment strategy and pipeline
- Legal infrastructure in place and operational
- Contracts and commissioning contracts operational
- Growing social enterprise eco-system operating under Northern Roots licence

A report was brought to the O&S Board in June 2019 updating on the status of the project. This was followed by a visit by O&S Board Members to the Northern Roots site in September 2019. In February 2020, following a discussion at Labour Group, the O&S Board held a workshop to help decide the best legal and governance structure for the establishment of the Northern Roots Company. On the basis of the guidance provided at this workshop Cabinet approved a paper in March 2020 proposing that the Northern Roots company be established as a Charitable Company, Limited by Guarantee, with an initial board of nine members comprising four Council nominees and five independent Directors.

2.0 Current Position

Over the last 18 months good progress has been made in delivering the objectives set out in the January 2019 Cabinet paper:

-
- The Northern Roots trademark and wordmark have been registered; a master and sub licence document and structure have been developed. Licensing relationships with social enterprises and other community businesses were due to be trialed as part of pilot project delivery planned for 2020 and 2021, however this has had to be suspended due to Covid 19.
 - Community, partner and stakeholder engagement took place throughout 2019. A programme of pilot projects and consultations was planned for and initiated in 2020. Much of this programme has had to be paused due to Covid 19, but all initiatives that can safely continue have taken place. These include a beekeeping project, a creative writing competition, and a joint walking project with Mahdlo Youth Zone. Communications activities, to raise awareness of the project and support engagement, launched in January 2020. The Northern Roots website can be found here: <https://northern-roots.uk/> and the project is building a following on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. A new phase of public and stakeholder consultation will be launched in November 2020 to help inform the development of the planning application and operating model for the site.
 - Over the course of 2019, ownership of the land within the Northern Roots site boundary was confirmed and, where necessary, registered. A register of easements, covenants or other constraints in place over the land have also been identified and recorded. The Charity Commission has approved the broadening of the terms of a charitable covenant which limited the usage of one plot of land.
 - Over the past six months the following reports have been completed: Business Modelling, Woodland Management, Carbon Banking, Sustainable Urban Drainage, Biodiversity Net Gain, Commercial Financing Options, Low Carbon Technologies, Planning Strategy, Signage and Wayfinding Strategy. These come in addition to earlier reports assessing the site's soil and ecology. Having reviewed all of these reports the initial site Masterplan has been updated. On the basis of the revised Masterplan, a planning application is now being developed which is in keeping with the Greenbelt status of much of the site. The project is on schedule to submit the application before the end of the current financial year.
 - Since January 2019 Northern Roots has leveraged additional external funding to supplement the current revenue funding. This funding will cover the costs of developing a submitting the planning application. In parallel the project has been developing a pipeline of external capital and revenue funding to facilitate the development and operation of the site. The project has been included as a significant element of Oldham's application to the Towns Fund, which could provide capital funding from 2021 onwards. Conversations are ongoing with a charitable foundation to provide revenue funding to complement this capital investment. A number of other smaller capital and revenue funding bids have either been submitted or are under development. No OMBC funding for the project, either capital or revenue, has been approved beyond March 2021.
 - In keeping with the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Board the Northern Roots company has been established as a Charitable Company, limited by guarantee. The company board now comprises six Directors – four nominated by Oldham Council (Cllrs Jabbar, Brownridge and Chauhan and Rebekah Sutcliffe) and two independents (Anne Selby and Jonathan Bland). Two Board meetings have taken place. A further three independent Directors will be recruited in the coming months from the local community. An application to register the Northern Roots company as a charity is being prepared for submission to the Charity Commission.
-

Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: October 2020

Subject: Salary Sacrifice Cycle to Work Scheme For Discussion

**Report of: Corrina Sutton –
Resourcing & Remuneration
Strategy Manager**

Summary of the issue:

Following the report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8th September regarding 'Tax Relief for Public Transport Travel', submitted by the Transport Policy team, the committee have asked for a follow-up brief from Human Resources of the Council's Cycle to Work scheme and outline the future intentions for this Salary Sacrifice initiative.

Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to review and note this brief with regard to their previous request for the current status of the council's Cycle to Work scheme.

1.0 Background – What is a salary sacrifice scheme?

- 1.1 Salary sacrifice schemes is when an employee agrees to give up part of their salary in exchange for getting extra benefits from their employer. These benefits are typically non-cash benefits or are increasing pension contributions. Salary sacrifice schemes have to have approval from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), particularly as the Government have limited the type of benefits that can be access through these schemes. Examples of these schemes are childcare vouchers, cycle to work and pension AVC's (Additional Voluntary Contributions).
- 1.2 The deduction for the benefit is taken from their gross salary, prior to their income tax and national insurance contributions are taken from their salary. The employee signs up to their salary being reduced the duration of the agreement, which could be time limited such as the Cycle to Work scheme or could be ongoing such as Childcare vouchers. In addition to the employee paying lower income tax and national insurance contributions, the employer will not have to pay their National Insurance on the part that the employee has 'sacrificed'.
- 1.3 There are other issues that need to be taken into account when running a salary sacrifice scheme such as the legal requirement to ensure that all employees are paid at least the National Minimum Wage for their ages after the deduction has been made for the benefit, and there needs to be protocols in place for events such as going on maternity leave, leaving the council and calculating redundancy payments.

2.0 Background – Salary Sacrifice Schemes at Oldham Council

- 2.1 The council has embraced previous salary sacrifice schemes when the Government has endorsed specific programmes, such as the Home Computers Initiative (HCI), which nationally came to an end in 2006. Therefore, our offer has been dependent on compliance with HMRC regulations, and we have been forced to make changes dependent on the current rules that exist at a point in time, e.g. the council had to change the salary sacrifice scheme for bus season tickets in April 2017 to a loan, due to a revision by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer in their previous Autumn Statement.
- 2.2 The council has operated childcare vouchers for many years, with employees TUPE transferred to MioCare and Unity Partnership taking that benefit across with them. Due to the Government introducing an alternative tax-free childcare service, childcare voucher salary sacrifice schemes have been closed to new entrants nationally from October 2018.
- 2.3 The Cycle to Work Scheme at the council has been in operation for over ten years, although the scheme has not run each year. Originally, the price of the bicycle was exclusive of VAT, but this was changed in 2012. When the scheme was launched, there was a limit of £1,000 for each employee. Employees who are eligible and wished to participate would then choose the bicycle from the provider contracted to the council. The employee is then sent a voucher (Letter of Collection) for that value to exchange for the bicycle. The employee is hiring the bicycle to undertake some/all of their work commute and/or work business on, and then at the end of the loan period of twelve months, the employee would either have to return their bicycle, or discuss with the provider regarding their options for "transfer of ownership".
- 2.4 In addition to the purchase of a bike, the voucher can include additional spend on some cycling accessories, mostly associated with road safety, e.g. helmets and

lights, plus locks. In June 2020, the eligibility for accessories has been increased, and can now include items such as pedals, saddles and tyres. The scheme can only be used for the benefit of the employee and is not transferable to their family or friends.

- 2.4 Oldham Council has always operated the Cycle to Work scheme in 'windows', where employees can apply only within a certain timeframe, typically six to eight weeks. Many councils operate in the same way, however some operate the scheme all year round, but there is a 'mix and match' approach at another council (East Sussex County Council), where they have a window for their salary sacrifice scheme and during the rest of the year, operate a regular loan scheme, i.e. based on net pay after tax and insurance.

3.0 Cycle to Work Scheme in 2018/19

- 3.1 When the Cycle to Work Scheme, in association with Halfords, was last promoted in December 2018, there were four applicants, with the amount requested being between £330 and £720 of the £1,000 maximum. Checks were undertaken to ensure that their monthly deductions would not put their earnings below the National Minimum Wage threshold. Promotional activities included posters, leaflets and a roadshow at the Civic Centre. Halfords also have an arrangements with other companies so bicycles can be purchased online through Tredz, or through 860 independent cycle retailers. Within Oldham, this supports two local companies, pone based in Lees and the other in Greenacres.
- 3.2 Only one window for Cycle to Work has been arranged while the A1 payroll system has been in place, due to the additional pressure of processing and checking non-standard payments while ensuring that other salary elements are not adversely affected. With the impending implementation of the new payroll system iTrent, HR are working with Procurement and Legal Services with regard to re-contracting the Cycle to Work Scheme for the future. There are ongoing discussions with the Finance Corporate Control team to determine the budget available in the first instance, which potentially could limit the number of applicants to support accurate financial planning, although there would be some savings generated at the end of the twelve month hire period, due to slightly lower payments for our Employer's National Insurance.

4.0 Future Developments

- 4.1 There will need to be further discussions with Finance, Procurement and Legal Services to determine the most efficient and economic way that the scheme can be extended to other areas of #TeamOldham, as the council cannot be left with a risk of losing payment through the scheme, if say a school employee was unable to pay back the loan. It should be noted that front line staff in MioCare Limited Services (MSL) earn the Foundation Living Wage, and so committing to a large monthly deduction could put them under the National Minimum Wage recommendations. During the spring/summer this year, MSL employees who were considering a bicycle purchase, were directed to Positive Cycles. Positive Cycles is an innovative initiative run by Positive Steps to refurbish older bikes and sell them for a discounted rate, plus support young people to gain additional skills and qualifications – and several of MioCare's employees took advantage of this offer.
- 4.2 A potential development for the future could be lifting the maximum cap to £3,000 per application, which is now allowed under the national rules. This would benefit

employees who wished to purchase a more expensive bicycle, typically an electric bike or folding bike.

- 4.3 The council is also looking into re-establishing its Give As You Earn scheme (GAYE). Although not a salary sacrifice scheme, the donation is taken before the employee pays their tax, so it costs them less and the charity has no administration associated with Gift Aid. As well as national charities, other, more local charities could benefit from regular donations, such as the Coliseum Theatre, Oldham Mountain Rescue, Fatima Women's Association or Dr Kershaw's Hospice.
- 44 Finally, there are some initial plans to offer Salary Sacrifice Share Cost AVC's for employees to top up their pension. Employees would then be able to make National Insurance Contribution savings, on top of their tax relief for AVC's, plus the council would also be able to make Employers National Insurance Contributions. Once the new iTrent payroll is embedded, then HR and Unity will work together to progress this, as an opportunity to make savings.

Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 20 October 2020

Subject:

Council Motion – ‘Let’s All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter’

For Discussion

Report of:

Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer

Summary of the issue:

At the Council meeting on 9th September 2020, the ‘Let’s All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter’ motion was debated.

The first resolution of the motion, as amended, was as follows:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network and identify which of the campaign’s initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins could be introduced in the Borough.

Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

It is recommended that:

1. The information contained in the report be noted.
2. The update as provided in the report be included in the next Council action update.
3. An update be received when available from Environmental Services related to Charity Bins.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Tackling Litter motion was agreed at Full Council on 9 September 2020. The full motion as amended is as follows:

“Council is committed to tackling litter in our Borough and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities.

Council notes that:

- The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign offers local authorities the opportunity to become a member of a Network, which provides access to specialist advice and support.
- Keep Britain Tidy is hosting the Great British September Clean-Up from 11 – 27 September.
- The campaign is also promoting a Love Parks campaign and a Charity Bin sponsorship scheme whereby the monies raised from recycling cans deposited in designated local authority bins is contributed to local charities.
- Several national supermarket chains are now operating trials of reverse vending machines, where customers are rewarded for returning used cans and bottles for recycling.
- The Government department DEFRA has also previously published a voluntary code for local businesses and local business partnerships to sign up to and reduce the litter that results from fast food businesses.

Council recognizes that:

- Whilst we are committed to tackling litter in our Borough, and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities, we cannot do this alone.
- In the battle for cleaner streets and public spaces, we must involve the public and our business partners in a co-operative effort while recognising the limitations in community and group activity imposed by the current Coronavirus restrictions.
- There are community champions and organisations commendably ‘doing their bit’.
- The Keep Britain Tidy and DEFRA initiatives provide extra opportunities and an extra incentive for members of the public and business partners to become actively engaged and empowered in tackling the litter which blights our streets.
- In doing their bit, residents and business will help the Council to make the streets, district centres, parks and public amenities of our Borough cleaner and more inviting to residents and visitors.”

Council resolved to:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network and identify which of the campaign’s initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins could be introduced in the Borough.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to national supermarket chains with stores in this borough asking them to consider Oldham as the location for a future trial of a reverse vending machine.
- Promote take up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst our fast food businesses and local business partnerships and seek their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for public education programmes.”

2 **Current Position**

- 2.1 Constitutional Services has spoken to the Head of Environmental Services regarding the merits of the local authority becoming a member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network.
- 2.2 The Head of Environmental Services said that the local authority was already a member of the network and received information related to a variety of campaigns and initiatives from Keep Britain Tidy. The campaigns and initiatives were assessed individually to see if they were relevant to the Borough. There were some campaigns such as those related to keep beaches clean which were not applicable to Oldham.
- 2.3 Where the campaigns were seen as being relevant, they were supported and publicized such as the Love Parks Campaign which was featured during Love Parks Week from July 12 to 21st 2020.
- 2.4 The Great British September Clean was also supported all while social distancing. The Great British Spring Clean had to be postponed due to Coronavirus.
- 2.5 Environmental Services have given consideration to the Charity Bins proposal. At this stage it is unable to adopt. Further consideration will be given as part of a future replacement bin programme.

3 **Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss**

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny are asked to discuss the Council's involvement with the Keep Britain Tidy Network.

4 **Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**

- 4.1 Does Overview and Scrutiny Board endorse the information as provided in the report and agreed to the information being supplied to Council?

5. **Links to Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 N/A

6 **Additional Supporting Information**

- 6.1 N/A

7 **Consultation**

- 7.1 N/A

8 **Appendices**

- 8.1 None

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Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Key Decision Document

Portfolio Holder: Various

Report Author: Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer
Ext. 4716

20th October 2020

Purpose of the Report

For the Overview and Scrutiny Board to review and note the latest published Key Decision Document.

Executive Summary

Overview and Scrutiny bodies have access to the Key Decision Document and timetable for decisions and intentions for consultation. Where the overview and scrutiny function has not scrutinised an item on the Key Decision Document, but that item has implications for policy/service development, then the overview and scrutiny body will have full opportunity to be able to submit any comments to the relevant Cabinet Member/Chief Officer during the course of the consultation process in relation to any key decision.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to note the Key Decision Document and to provide any comments.

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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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Economy and Skills Cabinet Portfolio

RCR-10-14	Western Gateway Town Centre Land and Property Acquisitions	Director of Economy	December 2020	Cabinet
Description: To acquire strategic land and properties across the Western Gateway of the Town Centre Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Private for financial and commercial reasons				
ECEN-12-07	Oldham Heritage and Arts Centre Enabling Works	Director of Economy	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Economy & Skills (Leader - Councillor Sean Fielding)
Description: The implementation of enabling works in relation to the development of a new heritage and arts centre and a new theatre. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Part A Cabinet report (Oldham Cultural Quarter), 24th April 2017.				
ECEN-02-19	Tommyfield Market Options	Director of Economy	October 2020	Cabinet
Description: To approve recommendations relating to the future of Tommyfield Market. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report is to be considered in private due to commercial sensitivity and detail of financial/business affairs.				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
ECEN-20-19	Land to the North of the Lancaster Club, Broadway, Failsworth (1935 land) [Failsworth West]	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Economy & Skills (Leader - Councillor Sean Fielding)
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
ECEN-23-19	Alexandra Park Depot	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Economy & Skills (Leader - Councillor Sean Fielding)
Description: Consultant fees Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Cabinet Paper 28th January 2018 Public				
ECEN-02-20	Hollinwood Junction and Housing Delivery Options	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	November 2020	Cabinet
Description: Hollinwood Junction and Housing Delivery Options Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report to be considered in private due to commercial confidentiality				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
ECEN-04-20	Award of the main OMA contract	Director of Economy	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Economy & Skills (Leader - Councillor Sean Fielding)
Description: Award of main contract to refurbish the former library on Union St (now known as OMA) into a new heritage and arts centre. Work to include landscape works to land adjacent to the former library, and refurbishment of parts of Gallery Oldham Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Delegated report				
ECEN-05-20	Alexandra Park Depot	Director of Economy	October 2020	Cabinet
Description: Construction of new depot and eco centre Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Delegated report (private) Report will contain financially sensitive information				

Education Cabinet Portfolio

EDS-08-19	Secondary Education Provision - Expansion of North Chadderton School	Managing Director, Children and Young People - Gerard Jones	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Education (Councillor Shaid Mushtaq)
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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: The report is seeking approval to award a contract for the expansion of North Chadderton School, following the completion of a tender procurement exercise. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Private				
ED-03-20	Expansion of Kingsland School	Managing Director, Children and Young People - Gerard Jones	October 2020	Cabinet
Description: Report on the proposed expansion of Kingsland School including physical expansion of the building and changing the PAN of the school. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Public Report				

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Children and Young People Cabinet Portfolio - None

Health and Social Care Cabinet Portfolio

Housing Cabinet Portfolio

HSG-04-20	Chadderton Neighbourhood Area and Forum Designations	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Housing (Councillor Hannah Roberts)
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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To designate The Chadderton Partnership as a Neighbourhood Forum and designate Chadderton as a Neighbourhood Area in line with the requirements set out in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012).</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				
HSG-06-20	Local Development Scheme (LDS) September 2020.	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Housing (Councillor Hannah Roberts)
<p>Description: The council has to prepare a Local Plan to ensure that we have an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework to support the borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the project plan for the Local Plan. It sets out details and timetables about the planning documents we will prepare, including:</p> <p>Oldham's Local Plan (incorporating site allocations; and Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Local Development Scheme (LDS) September 2020.</p>				
HSG-07-20	Local Plan Review: Issues and Options	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	November 2020	Cabinet Member - Housing (Councillor Hannah Roberts)

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: Oldham's Local Plan will guide development in the borough up to 2037. It will eventually replace the current plan (Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD) which was adopted in November 2011 and any saved older planning policies.</p> <p>The Issues and Options document describes key challenges facing Oldham, sets out broad issues and presents options and questions that we need residents, businesses and interested parties in the borough to help us answer.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				
HSG-08-20 New!	Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (GMSF)	Director of Economy	October 2020	Cabinet
<p>Description: Approval of the Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (GMSF) 2020 for Publication stage (by Cabinet) and Submission stage (by Council).</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				

Neighbourhoods and Culture Cabinet Portfolio

NEI-01-20	Award of Contract for Highways work - New Saddleworth School	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	December 2020	Cabinet
<p>Description: Approval to award the contract for the highways works associated with the new Saddleworth School in Diggle</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Private -</p> <p>NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council.</p>				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
NEI-03-20	Highways Improvement Programme 2019/20 - 2021/22	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	March 2021	Cabinet Member - Neighbourhoods & Culture (Councillor Barbara Brownridge)
<p>Description: Cabinet approved the £12m Highways Improvement Programme for delivery over the financial years 2019/20 to 2021/22 in March 2019.</p> <p>As part of the Programme there will be several schemes/groups of schemes with values exceeding £250,000 hence the need for an item on the key decision document. This item relates to any decisions made on tenders exceeding £250,000 in the 2020/21 financial year to ensure prompt delivery of the programme.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: N/A</p>				
NC-07-20	GM2040 Transport Strategy and supporting documents including GM2040 Delivery Plan 2 and Oldham Local Implementation Plan	Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood	October 2020	Cabinet
<p>Description: A refreshed Greater Manchester Transport Strategy and the final version on the Five-Year Delivery Plan will be presented for endorsing for approval by GMCA and publication in November 2020, alongside GMSF. A supporting Oldham Local Implementation Plan will be also be presented for approval to be published as an appendix to the Five-Year Delivery Plan, acknowledging that this is a “live” document and will be subject to regular review and update as appropriate.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: GM2040 Transport Strategy and supporting documents including GM2040 Delivery Plan 2 and Oldham Local Implementation Plan</p>				

HR and Corporate Reform Cabinet Portfolio - None

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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Finance and Green Cabinet Portfolio

FG-08-20	Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review 2020/21	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	November 2020	Cabinet
<p>Description: Review of the performance for the first half of the financial year in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review 2020/21.</p> <p>Background Documents: Various Appendices</p> <p>–Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FG-09-20	Report of the Director of Finance - Budget 2021/22 – Determination of the Tax Bases for Council Tax Setting and for Business Rates Income Purposes	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	December 2020	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: The Determination of the Tax Bases for Council Tax Setting and for Business Rates Income for use in 2021/22 budget deliberations.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance Budget 2021/22 – Determination of the Tax Bases for Council Tax Setting and for Business Rates Income Purposes</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices - Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FG-10-20	Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	February 2021	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 - including Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2021/22</p> <p>Background Documents: Various Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FG-11-20	Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	February 2021	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Page 150	<p>Description: To consider the Administration's detailed revenue budget reduction proposals and the presentation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for the Council (2021/22 to 2025/26) incorporating the current policy landscape and Local Government Finance Settlement.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26</p> <p>Background Documents: Various Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	<p>CG-12-20</p> <p>Joint Report of the Deputy Chief Executive People and Place and Director of Finance – Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2021/22 to 2025/26 and Proposed Outturn for 2020/21.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive – Helen Lockwood, Director of Finance – Anne Ryans</p>	<p>February 2021</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>
<p>Description: The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Estimates for 2020/21, the detailed budget for 2021/22 and the Strategic HRA Estimates for the four years 2022/23 to 2025/26.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2021/22 to 2025/26 and Proposed Outturn for 2020/21</p> <p>Background Documents: Various Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
FG-13-20	Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on Reserves, Robustness of Estimates and Affordability and Prudence of Capital Investments in the 2021/22 budget setting process	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	February 2021	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the statement of the robustness of estimates and adequacy of the reserves in the 2021/22 budget setting process</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on Reserves, Robustness of Estimates and Affordability and Prudence of Capital Investments in the 2021/22 budget setting process</p> <p>Background documents - Various appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
FG-14-20	Report of the Director of Finance – Capital Programme & Capital Strategy for 2021/22 to 2025/26	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	February 2021	Cabinet
<p>Description: To consider the Council's Capital programme and capital strategy</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Capital Programme & Capital Strategy for 2021/22 to 2025/26</p> <p>Background Documents: Various Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
FG-17-20	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2020/2021 Month 5	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	October 2020	Cabinet
Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2020/2021 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at Month 5. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report to be considered in public.				
FG-18-20	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2020/2021 Month 6	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	November 2020	Cabinet
Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2020/2021 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at Month 6 Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The report will be considered in public.				
FG-19-20	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2020/2021 Month 7	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	December 2020	Cabinet
Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2020/2021 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at Month 7 Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The report will be considered in public.				
FG-20-20	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2020/2021 Month 8	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	February 2021	Cabinet
Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2020/2021 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at Month 8. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The report is to be considered in public.				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
FG-21-20	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2020/2021 Month 9	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	March 2021	Cabinet
Description: The report provides an update on the Council's 2020/2021 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at Month 9. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The report is to be considered in public.				
FG-24-20	Enforcement Service Provision	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	October 2020	Cabinet Member - Finance and Green (Deputy Leader - Councillor Abdul Jabbar)
Description: Procurement of enforcement services to support the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Delegate Cabinet Member Decision 18.9.2020 Enforcement Services Provision Private - contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Council				
FG-25-20 New!	Report of the Director of Finance – Finance Update – 2020/21	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	October 2020	Cabinet
Description: To provide an update on the financial position of the Council including new and revised grants received (including those specifically issued to offset Covid-19 pressures) since the budget was set on 26 February 2020. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Finance Update – 2020/21 Background documents: Various Appendices Report to be considered in Public				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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COVID 19 Response Portfolio - None

Commissioning Partnership Board

Page 134	CPB-08-20	Proposed Use of the Transformation Fund 2020 2021	Chief Executive/Accountable Officer NHS Oldham CCG	October 2020	Commissioning Partnership Board
	Description: The use of the Greater Manchester and Social Care Partnerships Transformation Fund 2020/2021. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report to be in private as it relates to the financial and business affairs of the Council and its partners				
	CPB-07-20	Mental Health Investment Plan	Strategic Director of Commissioning / Chief Operating Officer - Mike Barker	October 2020	Commissioning Partnership Board
Description: The outline Mental Health Investment Plan for 2020/2021 and delivery of NHS long term plan requirements. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report will be considered in private as it relates to the financial and business interests of the Council and its partners.					

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
CPB-06-20	Section 75 Agreement	Chief Executive/Accountable Officer NHS Oldham CCG	October 2020	Commissioning Partnership Board
Description: To provide notification of decisions to be taken by the Commissioning Partnership Board Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Reports to be considered in private due to commercial sensitivity and details related to financial and business affairs of the Council, its partners and service providers				
CPB-11-20	S.75 Budget Monitoring Report Month 6	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	November 2020	Commissioning Partnership Board
Description: The report will provide an update on the financial position. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The documents will be considered in public.				
CPB-12-20	S.75 Budget Monitoring Report Month 8	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	February 2021	Commissioning Partnership Board
Description: The report will provided an update on the financial position. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The documents will be considered in public.				
CPB-13-20	S.75 Budget Monitoring Report Month 9	Director of Finance – Anne Ryans	March 2021	Commissioning Partnership Board
Description: The report will provide an update on the financial position. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: The documents will be considered in public.				

Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (GMSF)

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 OCTOBER 2020

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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Key:

New! - indicates an item that has been added this month

Notes:

1. The procedure for requesting details of documents listed to be submitted to decision takers for consideration is to contact the Contact Officer contained within the Key Decision Sheet for that item. The contact address for documents is Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH. Other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker.
2. Where on a Key Decision Sheet the Decision Taker is Cabinet, the list of its Members are as follows: Councillors Sean Fielding, Arooj Shah, Abdul Jabbar MBE, Amanda Chadderton, Shaid Mushtaq, Zahid Chauhan, Barbara Brownridge, Eddie Moores and Hannah Roberts.
3. Full Key Decision details (including documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration, specific contact officer details and notification on if a report is likely to be considered in private) can be found via the online published plan at:
<http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=144&RD=0>



Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Colin McLaren, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Report Author: Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer
Ext. 4716

20th October 2020

Purpose of the Report

For the Overview and Scrutiny Board to review the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme.

Executive Summary

The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme is designed to outline the areas the Board will be provided an overview during the 2020/21 Municipal Year as well as issues to be scrutinized. The work programme covers the issues to be discussed at each meeting, issues and actions arising from the meeting and outstanding issues.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several reports that were on the work programme for early in the municipal year have had to be delayed. These will be monitored by Constitutional Services and be placed on the work programme following discussion with the Chair as they become available.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to note and comments on the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme.

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2020-2021 AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING PLAN

PART A – MEETING PROGRAMME

MEETING DATE & VENUE	AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY OF ISSUE	CABINET PORTFOLIO (link to Corporate Outcome)	RESOLUTION / RECOMMENDATION	Comments
Tuesday, 16 June 2020 6.00 p.m. Deadline for reports: 5 June 2020	Annual Report	Overview and Scrutiny Work for the period 2019/20	All	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20 be commended to Full Council	
Page 139	Place Based Integration	Verbal update on Progress	Economy and Enterprise (Thriving Communities)	RESOLVED that - 1. the update provided on Place Based Integration be noted; 2. the Board Task and Finish Group considering Place Based Integration be taken forward.	
	Poverty Task and Finish Group	Update	Covid-19 Response (Thriving Communities)	RESOLVED – that 1. the Overview and Scrutiny Board Poverty Task and Finish Group assist in the update of the Council's Poverty Strategy; 2. the terms of reference for the Poverty Task and Finish Group be reviewed in light of the forthcoming Workshop for senior Councillors, senior Officers and partners as	

				reported to the Board by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Covid-19 Response.	
	Work Programme	Update	All	RESOLVED – that <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2020/21, as presented, be noted; 2. the deliberations of the Extending the Co-operative Approach to the Use of Council Asset Policy Task and Finish Group be referred to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet for their consideration. 	
Wednesday, 22 July 2020 6.00 p.m. Deadline for reports: 10 July 2020	Statement of Community Involvement	Consultation	Housing (Cooperative Services)	RESOLVED that the proposed policy and the comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Board members be noted.	Policy Framework
	Customer Services Strategy: Unreasonable Behaviour	Consultation	Finance & Green (Cooperative Services)	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Unreasonable Behaviour Policy and updated Corporate Complaints Policy be noted. 2. The comments provided by members be noted. 3. The updated policies be circulated to members. 	

	Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme	Review of Work Programme		RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board Work Programme be noted. 2. The updates on the work programme provided at the meeting be noted. 3. The updates on the motions referred from Council be noted and provided as part of the Council action report. 	
Tuesday, 8 September 2020, 6.00 p.m. Deadline for Reports: 26 Aug 2020	Local Development Scheme	Policy Update	Housing (Thriving Communities)	RESOLVED that the recommended revisions to the Local Development Scheme be supported and it be agreed that the go forward for approval.	Policy Framework
141	Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report	Annual reporting	Health and Social Care	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Oldham Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report and the tremendous work undertaken in the 12-month period be noted. 2. A Task and Finish Group be established to explore issues of ethnicity and safeguarding, the terms of reference for which to be considered by the Chair and Councillor Toor. 	
	Council Motions Update: Tax Relief for Public Transport	Motion referred from Council	Neighbourhoods and Culture	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board would support asking the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the 	

				<p>Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that the Government introduces a tax relief scheme on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr. Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013), making this effective as soon as possible and to the Mayor of Greater Manchester saying that we all should support such a scheme.</p> <p>2. The Pay and Reward Team report to the next meeting of the Board on matters relating to the offering of a Bike to Work Scheme.</p>	
Page 142	Youth Council: Employment and Apprenticeships	Motion referred from Council	Children and Young People	RESOLVED that a workshop be convened with the Youth Council and relevant officers to address the resolutions in the Youth Council motions relating to the development of the digital sector in the town, the review of apprenticeships across Oldham and offering of digital apprenticeships by the Council.	
Monday, 19 October 2020 6.00 p.m. Special	Greater Manchester Spatial Framework	Consultation	Housing		Policy Framework
	GM2040 Transport		Environmental Services		Policy Framework
Tuesday, 20 October 2020 6.00 p.m.	Get Oldham Working and Career Advancement	Update on the strategy	Economy and Skills (An Inclusive Economy)		Requested by Board in July 2019

Deadline for Reports: 8 October 2020	Services (Work and Skills Strategy)				
	Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership	Policy Update	HR and Corporate Reform (Thriving Communities)		Policy Framework
	Council Motion Updates	Various			
Tuesday, 1 December 2020 6.00 p.m. Deadline for Reports: 19 Nov 2020	Green New Deal Strategy and Generation Oldham	Update on the action plan and scheme	Finance and Green (Cooperative Services)		
	Youth Justice Plan	Annual Report	HR and Corporate Reform (Thriving Communities)		Policy Framework
	Youth Offer	An update on the Council's Youth Offer (Youth Council to be invited to attend)	Children and Young People (Cooperative Services)		
	Local Plan	Issues and Options	Housing		Policy Framework
	Opportunity Area Funding	Update on the Funds	Education (Thriving Communities)		
Tuesday, 19 January 2021 6.00 p.m. Deadline for Reports: 8 Jan 21	SEND Services	Update on the services and progress against the Written Statement of Action	Education (Thriving Communities)		Requested by Board in January 2020

	Homelessness Strategy 2021	Review of Strategy	Housing (Cooperative Services)		Policy Framework
Tuesday, 9 March 2021 6.00 p.m.	Safeguarding Adults Board Three Year Strategy 2021/2024	Review of Strategy	Health and Social Care		Policy Framework
Deadline for Reports: 16 Feb 2021					
	GM2040 Transport Update	Review	Neighbourhoods and Culture		Policy Framework
	Licensing Policy	Review of the Policy	Neighbourhoods and Culture (Cooperative Services)		Policy Framework

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PART B – ONE OFF MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS / TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Date	Title	Summary of issue	Cabinet Portfolio	Timescales	Notes	Outcome
14 July 2020 at 5.00 p.m	Place Based Integration Workshop	Further review	HR and Corporate Reform			
19 Oct 2020 at the rise of Special Meeting	Poverty	Workshop scheduled	Covid19 Response			
TBC	Youth Council Motion	Digital Apprenticeships and Employment				
TBC	Adults Safeguarding	Explore issues of ethnicity and safeguarding	Health and Social Care			

PART C – OUTSTANDING ISSUES – DATES TO BE DETERMINED

When Discussed	Title	Summary of issue	Cabinet Portfolio	Timescales	Notes	Outcome
22 Oct 19	Youth Council Motions: Motion related to Knife Crime and a discussion was held at O&S on 22 Oct 19. Council further approved a motion related to 'Make Your Mark' for a discussion with Cabinet members	The Youth Council held a Summit in February 2020, outcomes were to be shared with O&S. Make Your Mark – to discuss what is being done to address issues associated with the environment, knife crime, youth violence and public transport.	Children's Services			
Page 145	Corporate Plan	Consultation on new Plan	All		Policy Framework	
	Thriving Communities	Update on the programme	(Thriving Communities)		Requested by Board in July 2019	
	Future High Street Fund and Towns Fund	Update	Economy & Skills (An Inclusive Economy)			
	Opportunities Fund	Update on the Fund	Education	Scheduled December 2020	Requested by the Board in September 2020	
	Northern Roots	Update on the Project	Economy and Skills	Scheduled October 2020	Requested by the Board in September 2020	
	Clean Air	Update	Neighbourhoods and Culture		Requested by the Board in September 2020	
	Bike to Work Tax Relieve Scheme	Update	HR and Corporate Reform	Scheduled October 2020	Requested by the Board in September 2020	
	Proposed Landlord Licensing	Consultation	Housing (Cooperative Services)		Consultation delayed	

PART D – ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Date of Meeting	Title of Report	Directorate	Action(s)	Date Completed and Outcome
22 Jul 20	SCI	People and Place	Definition of a Large Planning Application	
22 Jul 20	Unreasonable Behaviour Policy	Commissioning	Updated policy to be circulated to members	