

POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13/12/2022 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Alyas, Barnes, Harrison, C. Phythian and Williamson

Also in Attendance:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Peter Richards | Head of Planning |
| Paul Rogers | Constitutional Services |
| Eleanor Sykes | Transportation Policy Officer |
| Helen Fallon | Strategic Transportation Team Leader |

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean and Wilkinson.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Harrison declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (Policy and Overview Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022/23 insofar as she is a Member of MioCare Board of Directors, a Wholly Owned Local Authority Company and she is a customer of Miocare by way of buying into its Careline and Response Service.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for this meeting of the Committee to consider.

5 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 be approved as a correct record.

With the Committee's agreement the following item, agenda item no.7, was considered prior to agenda item no.6, Transport Strategy.

6 **NORTHERN CARE ALLIANCE (NCA) NHS GROUP -
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT, LOCAL RECRUITMENT, AND
ONGOING ITEMS**

The Committee scrutinised an Update report presented by Donna McLaughlin, Director of Social Value Creation, Northern Care Alliance on employment support, local recruitment and ongoing items from the NCA NHS Group in relation to the Oldham Care Organisation.

The NCA is one of the largest employers in Oldham. In September 21 an update was provided to the Oldham Overview

and Scrutiny Committee on employment support and local recruitment. Questions were asked in that report which are summarized below alongside with a general update on progress.



Oldham
Council

| Questions from the September 21 Report | Progress |
|--|--|
| Oldham Council to identify an officer who can promote this to schools particularly those who work with the most disadvantaged young people | Continue to work reactively with schools as they approach the NCA. Keen to ensure we are focusing this work into the most disadvantaged young people. |
| Action: Committee Members are asked to consider potential recurrent funding options to continue to develop the pre-employment programme for young people into 2023. | Our dedicated programme, for young people was funded until October 2022 initially funded through GMCA and then extended through funding from the Prince's Trust. We do not currently have the resource to continue this. |
| Action: Committee Members are asked to consider potential recurrent funding options to enable the place-based pre-employment programme to continue beyond March 2022. | We continue to look for funding to maintain place-based programmes and have some small success with housing providers on a small scale. However, numbers will not be as they have in 2021 and 2022 without a dedicated resource. |

NCA has agreed by 2025 the following ambitions:

- Create 1000 pre-employment opportunities across the NCA for those furthest away from the employment from a baseline of 320.
- 85% of pre-employment learners will be supported into paid work from NCA
- 60% of those employed by the NCA to be residents of Bury, Rochdale, Oldham, and Salford.
- Support 1000 staff to become NHS Career Ambassadors by 2023.

Donna McLaughlin informed the Committee that the goal is to getting local people into jobs. In response to a question regarding funding she advised that some funding has been obtained via partnerships and some through grants. Currently the Oldham Organisation was in the process of seeking other sources of funding with the ultimate aim of achieving funding via internal resources. The Organisation had given itself a time frame until 2025 to prove its concept. She advised that a further 12 months operation of the various programme initiatives the Organisation was involved with will give a clearer view of funding resources for the future of the concept.

Responding to Members concerns about avenues for local people to get themselves onto career ladders when the bar for entering a profession was so high for many people. Donna McLaughlin informed Members that they are working with employers on recruitment with the aim to enable a line of entry to their professions by people who do not have the required qualifications but who do have knowledge and experience which would give them the background be admitted into an apprenticeship or similar way to qualify in a profession. She drew the Committee's attention to the 'One Stop' recruitment event scheduled for 18 January 2023 which in partnership with DWP, Get Oldham Working and other health and social care employers is aimed at 'level entry roles' and Oldham residents can attend the event to receive advice, complete an application form, undergo a functional maths and english test, have an interview and receive a conditional job offer on the same day. She would provide a report for the Committee on the outcome of the event.

Resolved:

(i) that Donna McLaughlin be thanked for her presentation and that she be invited to attend a Policy Overview and Scrutiny meeting in 12 months time to give an update on employment support and local recruitment in Oldham; and

(ii) that a working group be set up in January 2023 comprising Members of this Committee to discuss the issue of funding for the Oldham Care Organisation NCA NHS Group in relation to its programme of employment support and local recruitment for the Oldham Care Organisation.

7

TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The Committee scrutinised a report and presentation by Helen Fallon, Strategic Transportation Team Leader, setting out the Oldham Transport Strategy. The Oldham Transport Strategy sets out how Oldham will meet the ambitions set out in the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and sub strategies, whilst ensuring investment is prioritised to ensure Oldham's Transport and Highways Network support a Healthy, Clean and Thriving borough.

The Vision for Oldham as set out in the strategy is to create a connected borough with increasing use of public transport and active travel that provides all people with safe and inclusive access to opportunities and healthy choices.

The Transport Strategy sets out the council's transport and highways ambitions in relation to:

- A Healthy Oldham
- A Clean Oldham
- A Safe Oldham
- An Accessible Oldham
- A Connected Oldham and
- A Thriving Oldham

The Oldham Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan align with the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 'Right Mix' ambition for half of all journeys to be made by active and sustainable transport modes by 2040. The aim of Oldham's Transport Strategy is to reduce carbon emissions from transport, increase cycling, walking and public transport use and enable the borough to become an increasingly attractive place to live, work and visit.

Oldham's Transport Strategy will support the borough's ambitions for sustainable growth and development over the next 20 years.

The Delivery Plan sets out transport interventions to be delivered over the following time periods:

- short term 0 - 5 years;
- medium term 5 -10 years;
- long term 10 – 20 years (up to 2040); and
- beyond 20 years - 2040 onwards.

The Transport Strategy also includes the first proposed sub-strategy - an update to the Oldham Town Centre Parking Strategy. The refreshed Town Centre Parking Strategy is necessary to support the current regeneration proposals for the town centre, which are aimed at providing quality homes within the town centre, increasing office and service space, and promoting decreasing road traffic and increased access to public transport. These growth plans need to be supported by the right parking infrastructure, with the right levels of car parking provided in the right places at the right tariff. An updated car parking strategy is therefore needed to ensure that appropriate mechanisms and processes are in place to plan for future provision.

A number of recommendations have been made in the Parking Strategy which range from improvements to signage around the town centre, updates to parking technology, such as mobile phone application, Mobility Hubs, and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure. Following the adoption of the Parking Strategy, work will be undertaken to establish a supporting delivery plan facilitating the implementation of the identified recommendations.

As actions are identified to support the aims set out in the Transport Strategy, Oldham Borough Council will be developing further sub strategies to support this, potentially including an Active Travel Sub Strategy to set out how we will ensure we meet our Transport ambitions to get more people walking, wheeling, and cycling.

Helen Fallon emphasised that the key aim is the Right Mix vision and highlighted that transport supports all the commitments in the Oldham Corporate Plan and that transport connects people to jobs and education opportunities. She informed Members that

achieving the key aims of the Strategy will have positive impacts on communities across Oldham.



Helen Fallon referred to the Delivery Plan set out in the Draft Strategy which set out the initial Transport priorities for the Central, East, North, South and West districts of Oldham. She stressed that engagement had been undertaken with key internal and external partners and stakeholders in the preparation of the transport strategy, pipeline of interventions, identification of priorities and the development of the delivery plan (paragraph 4.1 of the covering report refers). She informed the Committee that the Strategy would also be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and that ongoing engagement with Members will be needed to allow the Transport priorities for each District to evolve.

In response to Members' questions, Helen Fallon explained that funding was a key factor to progress the Transport Strategy. The Strategy will rely on grants and funding from the Oldham Capital Programme with an emphasis on the need to gear up the Transport Investment Programme.

She agreed that educational behavioural changes being developed and embedded through community groups and schools was important.

Members made references to the promotion of registered and unregistered footpaths, cycle routes and the importance of establishing those networks.

Peter Richards, Head of Planning, advised that the Transport Strategy was the starting point to build projects and to establish Sub Strategies which are still developing.

Responding to a question, regarding incentivising car parking, new technology, refunds of car parking fees through retail shopping, appropriate advertising, Peter Richards, Head of Planning, said he would feed this back to the car parking team to explore.

The Chair, Councillor McLaren, suggested the need to establish a timeline for reports back to this Committee over the next 2-3 years to review the progress of the Transport Strategy and making views to Cabinet.

Resolved:

That

(i) the Officers establish a timeline for reports to this Committee to review the progress of the Oldham Transport Strategy and offer views to Cabinet;

(ii) the Committee endorses the Oldham Transport Strategy including the Delivery Plan and Oldham Town Centre Parking strategy, to embed meeting the aims of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (GM2040) in the borough and ensure

our transport and highways networks enable the building of homes and the creation of jobs; and

(iii) Helen Fallon and officers be thanked for their presentation.



8 POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2022/23.

The Chair made reference to the Administration Budget being considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 26 January 2023 and informed Members that Budget Training would be held on 11 and 16 January and Members were invited to attend. These dates and times will be confirmed to Members.

Resolved:

That the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2022/23 be noted.

9 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT

The Committee reviewed the Key Decision Notice which provided an opportunity for the identification of items or policy or service development, not otherwise listed on the Committee Work Programme.

Resolved:

That the report and the Key Decision Notice be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.35 pm