

**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