

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, HELD ON TUESDAY
6 OCTOBER 2020, AS A VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Tom Pickstone	Bury (Chair)
Councillor Akhtar Zaman	Bolton (Substitute)
Councillor Paula Appleby	Manchester
Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani	Oldham (Substitute)
Councillor Colin McLaren	Oldham
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)
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Wrathmell	Director Strategy, Research and Economy, 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

CI&R/21/20 APOLOGIES

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

Officers: Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive, Wigan Council and Steve Wilson, GMCA

CI&R/22/20 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair extended a welcome to those participating on the call.

Members noted that the three Scrutiny Chairs had recently met with the Mayor to discuss future agenda themes. At this meeting, the Mayor also indicated that a review of the current scrutiny arrangements was to take place and that Scrutiny members contributions to this review will be sought in due course.

The Chair also explained that the Mayor will be attending the next meeting of this Committee and thought will be given as to the agenda for that meeting.

CI&R/23/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member of the Committee.

CI&R/24/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 8 September 2020 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 8 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

CI&R/25/20 COVID-19 GMCA FINANCIAL IMPACT AND RESERVES ANALYSIS

John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, Research and Economy, 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 Members to further shape and inform the development and delivery of the Plan as it evolves.

Members noted that the Plan seeks to capture early issues that have been made apparent because of Covid and identifies a response to build the resilience of the city region over the upcoming 12 months. The Plan also provides a link between the current Greater Manchester Strategy, which was due to finish this year, 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 that have been 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 following questions and comments were made: -

- A member referred to section 2.1 to the report which identified that the Recovery Coordination Group (RCG) would now be meeting on a quarterly basis and enquired if this will be reviewed given the probability of further Covid restrictions being introduced in Greater Manchester. In response, officers noted that the move to quarterly meetings was done so once the Plan was in place. RCG would oversee the work of the Plan, however, a discussion on whether there is now a need for RCG to meet more frequently is to take place.

- A Member asked if there will be a review of the full fibre broadband contract to allow for digitalisation. In response, officers noted that the roll out of full fibre was agreed before the corona virus hit and any acceleration of the programme would need to identify additional resources. Members noted that work was undertaken to support children during lockdown with the provision of essential equipment and internet access. Work was continuing to this end to ensure that digital exclusion matters are addressed.
- A Member asked if a local approach to support hospitality workers affected by the impact of Covid restrictions is to be developed. In response officers noted that foundational Economy section of the local industrial strategy picks up challenges for the hospitality sector. It was also noted the Good Employer Charter has been developed and has a focus on those Covid associated employment challenges. Work is also taking place in relation to support training and re-training opportunities. An action plan is being developed with Marketing Manchester. Where restrictions are in place support is needed from Central Government.
- A Members sought details on the timeframes for the delivery of the Plan. He highlighted that local conflicting priorities may compromise delivery. In response, officers noted that there is potential risk where local resources are required as the financial impact of the crisis increases.
- A Member highlighted digitalisation issues. The Member also asked if there were details of associated costs, capacity and timescales within the Plan. Officers were also asked if GM has the ability and resilience to react quickly to matters as they arise. In response, officers noted that work is taking place to ensure full-fibre is in place and there is access to relevant technology. In terms of resources to act quickly, it was also noted that the partnership approach to respond can help with resilience.
- A Member asked if any thought had been given that the impact of Covid is greater in GM than elsewhere in the country due to existing inequalities. In response, officers noted that work was continuing to understand how and why the virus spreads greater in some areas when compared to others. Socio-economic factors of housing, health inequality and higher levels of poverty were being explored by the Independent Inequalities Commission. Further details of their work will be brought to a future meeting of the committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Living with Covid Plan and observations made by Members be noted and the implementation of the Plan as a system wide driver for change and improvement, be supported.
2. That the proposed approach whereby all GMCA reports include recommendations that assess and identify the impact of the proposal on inequalities, environmental and financial issues in relation to the topic. This would be supported by a commitment to collect, analyse and report on data, including community intelligence, to understand that impact, be noted.
3. That in building on the recommendation (2) above, the development of a mechanism to utilise the established and developing partnership governance for the Age-friendly and

Equalities Portfolio to support system wide responses. This would include actions to address equalities issues identified and unresolved through the above assessment process, be noted.

4. That consideration of adopting minimum targets or standards for each locality or neighbourhood would support the effective targeting of resources across all GMCA activity, as set out in the report, be noted and to also note that this will 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.
5. That the report of the Independent Inequalities Commission be shared with Committee Members.

CI&R/26/20 GREATER MANCHESTER'S AUTUMN SUBMISSION: COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW AND LOCAL RECOVERY & ENGLISH DEVOLUTION WHITE PAPER

John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, Research and Economy, GMCA introduced a report which provided members with an overview of Greater Manchester's submission to Government for the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and Local Recovery & English Devolution White Paper (Devolution White Paper).

The report explained that the GM submission sets out a series of ambitious proposals to transform our city region. Members noted that these transformation proposals are grouped together under four key themes and include:-

- a. **The Foundation.** Levelling up requires a focus on our people and the services they rely on. COVID-19 has had a drastic financial impact on Greater Manchester Authorities, estimated at c. £754m in 2020/21 alone. Government funding for the various areas of financial pressures has totaled £320m so far, leaving a net impact of £434m. A sustainable financial settlement to support our public services - and by extension, our communities - is therefore essential, and a prerequisite for the other ambitions in our submission.
- b. **A Levelled-up Economy.** A set of proposals to support our economic recovery and renewal following the shock of the pandemic, including:-
 - **Innovation GM;** our plan for achieving a significant uplift in investment in innovation and R&D (especially translational R&D) which would bring Greater Manchester up to the level of the 'golden triangle'.
 - **A GM Learning and Work Budget:** a distinctive new approach to work and skills, which improves value-for-money, aligns disjointed Government initiatives and helps people get into, and on in, work.

- Action to deliver a **Young Person's Guarantee**, with greater GM oversight of support for young people, so we can give every young person in GM a clear line of sight into local education, training and employment.
 - **Investment in a digitally enabled and empowered GM**, and wider investment in GM's economic development and competitiveness, funded through a devolved UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- c. **Improved public service outcomes.** A set of proposals to go further and faster on our Unified Model of Public Services and improve outcomes and efficiency, including:-
- Our '**Living Well at Home**' model for social care reform; which could be the basis of a new national settlement and which delivers true integration with the NHS and a 'new deal' for users and staff.
 - **An enhanced 'Reform and Innovation Partnership'** that brings together local and national investment in public service reform to support innovation in services for children and families, ensures we continue to bear down on rough sleeping, and supports healthy ageing.
- d. **Improved connectivity and low carbon infrastructure.** A set of proposals that align investment with further devolution and place-based appraisal, to deliver substantial improvements in infrastructure and connectivity, including:-
- **Delivering a London-style transport system** in Greater Manchester within this Parliament, including radically improved bus services, investment to support our Clean Air plans, and devolution over key areas of the transport system (inc. local control of rail stations).
 - **A GM Infrastructure Programme (GMIP)** which uses a devolved multi-year infrastructure settlement for GM to deliver an extensive pipeline of transport, housing, digital and low-carbon infrastructure which will create liveable, sustainable and well-connected places.
 - **A GM Smart Energy Transition Region** that takes a systemic approach to achieving net zero by 2038, investing in transport, retrofitting, innovation and skills and retraining.

The following questions and comments were made: -

- A Member sought clarification on timescales associated with the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement. The Member identified the existing significant funding challenges facing local authorities and if the settlement does not meet these challenges the levelling up agenda may be compromised. In terms of Infrastructure and Employment, the Member highlighted the importance of Port Salford and noted the lack of investment for this project. In response, officers explained that given the wider national context the timescales for the

settlement response were unclear. It is anticipated that a settlement of kind will be presented in early December to enable local councils and Government departments set budgets for the upcoming financial year.

Officers noted that GM is in a good position to receive investment. It was suggested that capital investment funding for projects will be for more than one year to allow for delivery.

- In terms of the London style transport system for GM, a Member asked if there is a pipeline of GM transport infrastructure projects, should Government seek to fund schemes quickly. In response, officers noted that there is a pipeline of projects. Transport projects are set out in the Transport Plan 2040. The potential investment for research and development was highlighted. Innovation work undertaken by university partners has developed an integrated group of projects.

RESOLVED/-

That the update on Greater Manchester's autumn submission to Government be received with thanks and noted.

CI&R/27/20 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2020/21 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Members considered the committee work programme for 2020/21.

It was noted that the GM Mayor was to be attending the next meeting of the Committee. In light of this, the Chair indicated that he would liaise with Committee Members for their views on how best the committee can scrutinise the work of the Mayor.

RESOLVED/-

That the Committee Work Programme be noted.

CI&R/28/20 GMCA REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

RESOLVED/-

That the GMCA Register of Key Decisions be noted.

CI&R/29/20 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings would be held virtually on:

- 10 November 2020
- 8 December 2020
- 19 January 2021

- 9 February 2021
- 16 March 2021