

**GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA)  
HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
7 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 11.00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER ANTE ROOM,  
MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

Present: Councillor: Lisa Smart (Stockport) in the chair

Councillors: Elaine Sherrington (Bolton)  
James Wilson (Manchester)  
Hannah Roberts (Oldham)  
Linda Robinson (Rochdale)  
Robert Sharpe (Salford)  
Elise Wilson (Stockport)  
Gillian Peet (Tameside)  
Rob Chilton (Trafford)  
Lynn Holland (Wigan)

Additional nominated Councillors in attendance: Andrew Morgan (Bolton) and Fred Walker (Wigan)

Officers: Julie Connor (Assistant Director, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA), Susan Ford (Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA), John Holden (Assistant Director of Research and Strategy, GMCA), Jenny Hollamby (Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA), Stephen Hollard (Principal Lawyer, GMCA), Anne Morgan (Head of Planning Strategy, GMCA) and Simon Warburton (Director of Strategy, Transport for Greater Manchester)

Apologies: Councillors: None

## **M1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

The Assistant Director, Governance and Scrutiny asked for nominations for the role of chair for the meeting. It was agreed that Councillor Lisa Smart be appointed as chair for the meeting. Moving forward, it was explained that a chair for the rest of the 2017/18 municipal year would be appointed at the next meeting in October 2017 when full membership of the committee had been appointed by the GMCA on 29 September 2017.

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Lisa Smart be appointed as chair for this meeting.

## **M2 URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIR**

There was no urgent business introduced by the chair.

## **M3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

### **M3 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members considered the committee's terms of reference that were agreed by the GMCA at its meeting on 30 June 2017.

It was agreed that meetings would take place on a monthly basis during the second week of the GMCA decision making cycle and alternate between morning (10.30 am start) and evening meetings.

Members sought clarity around the nomination of chair procedures, substitutes and political parties. Officers agreed to provide the information following the meeting.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the committee noted its terms of reference.
  2. That the committee agreed that meetings would take place on a monthly basis during the second week of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) decision making cycle and alternate between morning (10.30 am start) and evening meetings.
  3. That officers would provide Members with clarity around the nomination of chair procedures, substitutes and political parties.

### **M4 DRAFT GMCA CALL-IN OF DECISIONS PROCEDURE RULES AND SUGGESTED KEY DECISION FINANCIAL THRESHOLD**

The GMCA's Statutory Scrutiny Officer introduced the item and provided a verbal summary to accompany the report.

The report of the GMCA's Monitoring Officer and GMCA's Statutory Scrutiny Officer asked Members to agree a call-in process and to determine what constituted significant expenditure or significant savings in the decision making process as required by legislation.

It was proposed by officers and agreed by the committee that the following sentence should be inserted after the first sentence of paragraph 3.12 of the call-in procedure set out in the report; "In the event that it is not possible to convene a quorate overview and scrutiny meeting within this period, such a meeting must instead be convened as soon as practicable to consider the call-in." The word 'reasonably' had been removed from the earlier wording proposed, as on reflection it was thought by officers that this might be seen as too vague. Officers explained that the changes were to provide clarity and in recognition that the high threshold for overview and scrutiny committee quorum could present difficulties on occasion in organising a quorate meeting.

The committee also agreed that a delegation be given to the GMCA's Monitoring Officer to make amendments to the call-in procedure where amendment was necessary to reflect the correct legislative position and/or correct typographical errors.

The committee agreed that the financial threshold for the GMCA's key decision was expenditure or savings of more than £500,000. However, concerns were raised about avoidance of the threshold. Members were assured that the appropriate checks would be undertaken by the GMCA's Treasurer to avoid this.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the committee agreed the call-in process subject to the inclusion of the following sentence to be inserted after the first sentence of paragraph 3.12 in the report "In the event that it is not possible to convene a quorate overview and scrutiny meeting within this period, such a meeting must instead be convened as soon as practicable to consider the call-in." and recommended for approval to the GMCA at its meeting on 29 September 2017.
  2. Recommended that Greater Manchester's call-in process and the key decision financial thresholds be recommended for approval by the GMCA at its meeting on 29 September 2017.
  3. That the committee delegated to the GMCA's Monitoring Officer power to make any amendments to the call-in procedure where amendment was necessary to reflect the correct legislation position and/or correct typographical errors.

## **M5 2016/17 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY (GMS) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT AND REVISED GMS STRATEGY**

Members considered the report of the GMCA's Executive Director of Policy and Strategy that provided Members with a draft of the 2016/17 GMS Annual Performance Report and the refreshed GMS. The final design of the report was available at the meeting for Member's to review.

The GMCA's Assistant Director of Research and Strategy introduced the report. Particular attention was given to the following areas:

1. The report provided the latest version of the 2016/17 Performance Report, which set out progress against key measures and described the activity that had been undertaken in each of the GMS priorities.
2. The report's reflected formal feedback from previous scrutiny groups to be more public facing and included information data and case studies.
3. Overall economic growth was significantly above target.
4. In terms of housing and planning the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) had been published. The Housing Investment Fund had been approved, there was £300m of investment to deliver 4,000 homes. This sum will be 'recycled' giving greater impact and flexibility in how subsequent investments can be made.
5. GM Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Plan had been published. A continued investment programme (including cycling), had seen an increased percentage of trips by non-car from 27% to 29%, which was in line with target.

6. The Low Carbon programme outlined a range of programmes, which had been implemented to support achievement of target to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 48% of 1990 levels. This included working through the Business Growth Hub to support businesses to reduce their carbon footprints. Work was underway to achieve this target.
7. The contents of the revised GMS has been informed by extensive consultation across districts and with a variety of stakeholder groups (using various consultation techniques) had been undertaken between December 2016 and January 2017. A 'life journey approach', has been adopted alongside growth and reform as a tool to address the linkages between policy areas. The main priorities for the committee were:
  - a) Priority 5: world class connectivity.
  - b) Priority 6: safe, decent and affordable homes.
  - c) Priority 7: a green city region.

The revised GMS had been approved by the GMCA at its July 2017 meeting and work was underway on public facing materials, which will be launched in Autumn 2017.

8. Work was also taking place on an implementation plan that would set out the actions being undertaken in the next six months. A report would be presented to the committee's at its next meeting, which will also help to inform the committee's work programme.

Members raised a number of questions, which were noted as follows:

A Member requested that district house building statistics within the report (pages 38-50 of the agenda) were broken down to provide finer grain information on housing completions so best practice across GM could be better understood. Officers explained that there was a great deal of work taking place around housing numbers and would provide updated statistics to the committee.

A Member enquired about GMS Planning and Environment Priorities set out in figure 1 within the report and they were advised that any comments would be welcome.

Regarding Priority 6: safe, decent and affordable homes, a Member highlighted that there was no mention of this in the targets. The Member suggested that targets about the standard of council housing and building more council housing should be included. In response, officers explained that a performance management framework was being developed that would look at issues such as affordable and decent housing. Officers also explained that the numbers of council houses built were a matter for districts, but the committee's interest in this area would be noted.

A Member asked for the committee to be provided with the latest data available on planning permissions for houses granted but not started. Officers advised that the 2016/17 data would be shared and land supply data would be circulated in the new year.

A Member enquired about the work taking place in relation to substandard private rented accommodation. Officers explained that there was ongoing work on this issue in districts and that the GM mayor also wanted to support this agenda. Officers agreed to present an update to the committee at a future meeting.

A Member requested that comparable data was used in the headline indicator and district level statistics, so that data is comparable data is used. Officers agreed to address this matter.

Officers agreed to provide the committee with an update on what was being done to address long term empty homes in GM. Officers advised that the number of empty homes had reduced dramatically and was now below 3%.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the committee endorsed the 2016/17 Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) Annual Performance report.
  2. That the committee noted the contents of the refreshed GMS.
  3. That the committee agreed that a full first draft of the GMS Implementation Plan be brought to the next committee meeting in October 2017.
  4. That officers would share further district housing data on housing completions.
  5. That officers would provide Members with a real time position in relation to house building and planning applications.
  6. That officers would update and engage the committee on a number of housing related matters including:
    - Strategic work on tenure, social housing and work to improve the quality of homes in the private rented sector
    - Work being undertaken to address long term empty homes.

## **M6 BUS SERVICES ACT 2017 UPDATE**

The report provided Members with background information on how bus services were provided in GM. It also set out the provisions of the Bus Services Act 2017 and explained legislation in the areas of franchising, partnerships, ticketing and open data and information for bus passengers.

The chair and Members welcomed the report considered at this meeting and also requested that a further report be considered at their October meeting. The report in October will describe how bus services were currently provided, the options that the Bus Services Act 2017 provided and an update on the programme of activity to date.

A Member enquired about smart ticketing, zones and bringing bus services in-house. A full assessment of the benefits of bus franchising would be brought to the next committee meeting in October 2017. Members expressed that franchising would be a big improvement and the right services were needed in the right places. It was advised that work was underway to develop a scheme of delegation and scrutiny arrangements to effectively utilise the mayoral powers in relation to bus franchising.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the report be noted.
  2. That a report to inform Members of how bus services were currently provided, the options that the Bus Services Act 2017 provided and an update on the programme of activity to date would be brought to the committee's October 2017 meeting.
  3. That the committee agreed that Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) prepare an assessment of a proposed franchising scheme in accordance with Section 4, S123B of the Bus Services Act 2017.
  4. That the committee approved a notice stating that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) intention to prepare an assessment of a proposed franchising scheme in accordance with Section 4, S123C (4) of the Bus Services Act 2017.
  5. That the committee approved the administration arrangements for the notice to be published and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive of TfGM for the assessment to be prepared.

## **M7 GMSF: BRIEFING**

Members considered the report of the GMCA's Head of Planning Strategy that updated the committee on the GMSF process to date, outlined the proposed timetable and identified issues on which Members might wish to review further reports.

The following discussions were noted:

The chair was pleased to see the changes in the consultation detailed at paragraph 3.2 of the report and asked officers for more detail. Officers explained that currently a joint plan was being prepared on behalf of the ten districts. It was noted that the GM Mayor did not have any power over individual planning applications.

A Member asked how many successful planning appeals against planning applications that had been turned down by districts across GM. A Member also raised the issue of Cumbria Council and their dispute with Amey and if this information could be used to support the case for the GMSF. In response, the officer agreed to provide information on planning appeals in districts and agreed to find out more about the Cumbria Council example.

A Member suggested that more focus should be placed on brown field sites and how land banking could be combatted. Officers assured the Committee that this matter was a key theme in the GMSF.

A Member explained that they represented a ward with no green belt but suffered from overcrowded rented housing. Officers advised that the GMCA and the GM Mayor were keen to address this issue in the next iteration of the GMSF.

A discussion took place about the role of the Planning Inspectorate in relation to appeals and how a regional planning inspectorate, who understood the local issues and could be held to account, may operate differently.

A Member explained that the issues in their district were more around affordability and a low wage economy. Issues about brownfield sites, such as who owned the site, releasing sites for development, affordability and social housing, preparing sites for building, Green Belt and greenfield were discussed. Officers advised that viability and brownfield land was particular issue and that work to address this issue was taking place through the Housing Deal. Individual councils like Stockport are also carrying out work around the barriers to developing brownfield land.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the committee endorsed the proposed approach to review of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and outlined in Section 3 of the report.
  2. That the committee requested a report in February 2018 on timetable for preparation of the revised GMSF.
  3. That the committee requested a further report in the consultation period (post June 2018).
  4. That officers would compile, the number of planning appeals being lost on the grounds of supply across GM and investigate the example referred to in Cumbria.

## **M8 WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to identify potential items using the Performance Report and the new GMS to identify themes for inclusion in the committee's Work Programme for the 2017/18 municipal year, which would be developed and shaped over the coming months. Members were reminded of the committee's draft remit:

- a) Transport.
- b) Regeneration.
- c) Housing and planning.
- d) Low Carbon.
- e) Waste.

Members discussed expectations of the new arrangements, preferred ways of working, the committee's remit and how to avoid duplication guided by the terms of reference circulated within the agenda.

Members made for the following suggestions, in addition to the items noted throughout the minutes:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Comments/Timings</b>
GMS Implementation Plan.	October 2017.
How bus services are currently provided, the options that the Bus Services Act 2017 provide and an update on the programme of activity to date.	October 2017.
Transport Strategy as a whole.	To be agreed.
Travel ticketing for young people.	Timing to be agreed.
Air quality.	Timing to be agreed.
Brownfield development and economic viability.	Timing to be agreed.
Short update on the GMSF	To be considered at every meeting.

Homelessness.	Timing to be agreed and information to be provided to the committee about work which was already happening in districts and forums.
Update on the regeneration of town centres. Best practice presentation required.	To be agreed.
Identify employment sites that could be repurposed to housing. What does this mean in practice?	To be agreed.
Waste- in advance of the transfer of waste function to the GMCA in April 2018.	Officers to determine transition and scrutiny arrangements.

It was agreed that officers would develop the work programme for further consideration at the next meeting and also identify which items on the work programme were best suited to a task & finish group approach.

**RESOLVED:** That the work programme be updated in light of comments made at the meeting and considered at the next meeting.