MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GMCA CORPORATE ISSUES AND REFORM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2018 1.00PM, AT TRAFFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT
Councillor Nathan Evans
Trafford Council (Chair)
Councillor Tim Pickstone
Bury Council
Councillor Stella Smith
Bury Council
Councillor Colin McLaren
Oldham Council
Councillor Ateeque Ur Rehman
Oldham Council
Councillor Neil Butterworth
Rochdale Council
Councillor David Jolley
Salford City Council
Councillor Yvonne Guariento
Stockport Council
Councillor John McGahan
Stockport Council
Councillor John Bell
Tameside Council
Councillor Leanne Feeley
Tameside Council

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE
Andy Burnham
GM Mayor
Eamonn Boylan
Chief Executive, GMCA
Richard Paver
Treasurer, GMCA
Susan Ford
Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
Donna Parker
Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA
Dawn Docx
Deputy County Fire Officer, GMFRS
Smyth Harper
Head of Communications, GMCA
Amanda Fox
Group Finance Lead, GMCA
Kevin Lee
Director of the Mayor’s Office, GMCA
Steve Warrener
Finance & Corporate Services Director, TfGM
Paul McGarry
Head of GM Ageing Hub, GMCA
CI/22/17    APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Debbie Newall (Bolton) and Pam Stewart (Wigan).

CI/23/17    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

CI/24/17    MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017

The Minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were submitted for consideration.

Resolved/- That the minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be approved as an accurate record.

CI/25/17    URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Chair’s announcements or urgent business.

CI/26/17    PRESENTATION ON THE BUDGET 2018/19

Consideration was given to a report of Richard Paver, GMCA Treasurer, which provided an update on the current issues being faced in preparing the following budgets for 2018/19:-

- Mayoral General (including Fire);
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA);
- Transport Levy;
- Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA);
- The draft capital programme for 2018/19 onwards and the operation of the Earnback Scheme'.

A report was submitted to the Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 on the likely outturn position for the various GM Budgets for 2017/18 and outlined the process being adopted for setting the Mayoral General Precept and district contributions for 2018/19 towards Transport and GMCA/AGMA budgets (Minute CI/26/17 refers).

The Committee were advised that the various budgets considered within the report, would formally be considered by the GMCA at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at which stage the Transport levy and GMCA/AGMA budgets would be set. The Mayoral General Budget (which included Fire) would be submitted by the Mayor to that meeting for consideration by the GMCA. Should that budget need to be re-submitted, possibly only reflecting changes in some of the funding levels bases, then a further meeting of the GMCA was planned for 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The Mayor would then be in a position to agree the levels
of the PCC and General precepts and to notify District Councils ahead of their formal budget setting meetings starting 21st February 2018.

The Committee were invited to make observations on the content of the report to the GMCA/Mayor prior to these meetings.

A Member requested further information on the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) Financial Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21 which specific reference to the Mayors intention to postpone some elements of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) including the postponed reduction in the number of appliances operating out of specific stations across Greater Manchester and if this had an impact on Risk Management. In response, Andy Burnham advised that there had been much change in GMFRS and himself and Dawn Docx, the newly appointed Deputy County Fire Officer wanted to develop an alternative saving plan to deliver the saving required and gain a better understanding of the potential pressures facing GMFRS such as the New National Framework for Fire and Rescue Services in England, the introduction of a new inspection regime for the Fire and Rescue Service and any relevant outcomes from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and the Kerslake Inquiry.

The Chair made reference to the introduction of overtime for firefighters for a limited six months period. In response, Andy Burnham advised that this was due to an underspend in firefighter vacancies which meant that recruitment needed to be accelerated to meet the gap and overtime would be used at time and a half for a limited time period at an estimated cost of £2.6m.

A Member made reference to how the Mayoral General Precept would be displayed on the Council Tax Bill. In response, Richard Paver advised that it would be displayed on the Council Tax bill as ‘Mayoral General Precept (including Fire)’.

A Members made reference to the collapse of Carillion Plc and would this affect GMCA. In response, Eamonn Boylan advised the GMCA was working directly with the 10 local authorities, Greater Manchester Police and Transport for Greater Manchester on this and the government response would provide guidance on the consequences and how to progress.

A Members referred to the ‘Earnback Revenue Summary’ detailed at paragraph 8.2 of the report and sought clarity on the ‘Women against State Pension Increase concession’. In response, Andy Burnham advised that as part of his Mayoral Manifesto he had committed to assist women in Greater Manchester that had been most affected by the Pension Equalisation Act in 2011. It was the proposal for Transport for Greater Manchester to give a limited group of women their travel concession passes when they thought they would be retiring prior to this being accelerated and, if agreed, this would be implemented from 1st April 2018, subject to the current consultations.

Richard Paver confirmed that the AGMA general reserve currently stood at £1.8 million and after allowing for meeting the one-off costs around the Spatial Framework and GM Moving, it was realistic to suggest that £0.8 million of the that reserve was refunded to districts leaving £0.5million to meet the future risks and/or cost pressures.
Members and Officers had a discussion on the various reserves and how these would be managed under the Mayoral budget.

In conclusion, Richard Paver reported that moving forward over the coming year would bring together a number of budget areas under the GMCA/Mayor to which the Waste levy would be included from 1st April 2018. To date, work on consolidating staffing and budgets had to be finalised to give a basis on which to build budgets for 2018/19.

The Chair welcomed the informative report and detailed discussion and requested that an update on the Budget 2018/2019 was submitted to the September meeting of the Committee.

Resolved/-

1. That the issues being considered in preparing the various 2018/19 budgets, be noted.

2. That subject to decisions to be taken by the Mayor/GMCA, it be noted, that there is the scope to return funding to the GM districts arising from:-
   - Return of part of AGMA reserves (£800,000);
   - Reduction in GMCA contribution (£670,000);
   - Return to districts of parts of the retained business rates (£4.9m);
   - Reduction in the Transport levy (up to £3.9m).


CI/27/17 GREATER MANCHESTER AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of Paul McGarry, Head of the Greater Manchester Ageing Hub, which presented the Greater Manchester Age Friendly Strategy that was agreed by the GM Reform Board on Friday 1st December 2017. The report invited the Committee to review and comment on the Strategy prior to it being submitted to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 23rd February 2018 for consideration and approval.

Members were advised that the Strategy was based on the World Health Organisation’s eight-domain model of ageing and had been developed in the context of GM’s specific opportunities offered by GM’s scale, devolution and well-established multi-sectoral collaboration on the one hand and the challenges of wide-spread disadvantages and social exclusion amongst older people on the other.

Paul McGarry gave a presentation which detailed the work that the background of Greater Manchester Ageing Hub and the work that was currently taking place across Greater Manchester which included the following:-

- Work and skills system that supports older workers;
- Age-friendly communities at scale;
The Committee welcomed the informative report and raised a series questions and comments in response to the presentation and Strategy which included the following:-

A Member advised that hospital appointments used to be held at local general hospitals which were well served by public transport, however, now appointments were often held at hub sites that were less accessible and this was causing difficulty to the ageing population. In response Paul McGarry, advised that the Hub was aware of this issue and a study was taking place to identify areas of best practice across the country including ‘Age-friendly’ hospitals that also improved the layout of hospitals for example to provide the appropriate seating for the elderly and rest areas along long corridors.

A Member referred to loneliness as an issue and how it affected people of different ages. Also how many of the elderly do not use the internet and therefore could be missing an opportunity to interact digitally and access vital information.

A Member advised that as a Ward Councillor she met a lot of people aged over 50 who wanted to work and found it difficult to find suitable employment for various reasons. Could the GMCA introduce a policy to ensure that the larger organisations employed a quota of people over the age of 50. In response, Paul McGarry advised that the evidence stated the main reasons why people who were aged over 50 may struggled to find work included ill-health, lack of skills and confidence and this was a challenge that the city region would be looking for innovative ways to address moving forward.

A Member commented that there were very few references to ‘volunteering’ in the Strategy and that many retired people volunteered in their local communities. It was important not to forget this contribution made by older people.

A Member noted the huge differences and needs which were encompassed within the generic term older people. In particular he was concerned about the social needs of those who were very frail living in residential or nursing home whose only social connection was their family and carers. Could this be better reflected in the Strategy?

A Member raised the issue of the importance of ongoing building maintenance of adaptations such as lifts which necessary to ensure a building remained disability compliant and could this be included in the Strategy. In response, Paul McGarry advised that guidance was being published later in the year on building compliance.

In conclusion, the Chair confirmed that the Committee supported the proposed ‘Greater Manchester Age Friendly Strategy’ and requested that the Greater Manchester Age Friendly Strategy implementation plan be circulated to the Committee, for information.

**Resolved/-**

1. That the content of the report, and presentation be noted.
2. That the comments raised by the Committee should be considered prior to the Greater Manchester Age Friendly Strategy being submitted to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 23rd February 2018 for approval.

3. The Greater Manchester Age Friendly Strategy Implementation Plan be circulated to the Committee for information once approved.

CI/30/17 WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Committee received an updated work programme following comments and suggestions made at the last meeting.

At the last meeting it had been agreed that a School Readiness Task and Finish Group would be established and Councillors Zahra Alijah, Stella Smith and Yvonne Guariento had nominated themselves to sit on this group. Councillor Colin McLaren also nominated himself to sit on the group at the meeting.

It was also agreed at the last meeting of the Committee to establish a Fire Task and Finish Group and Councillors John Bell, John McCann and Peter Malcolm (substitute members) had volunteered to sit on this group. Councillor John Bell was keen for the group met in the near future and also requested that a female councillor join the group to ensure gender balance. In response, Councillor Yvonne Guariento nominated herself to the group.

Susan Ford advised that she would submit a scoping documents for both Task and Finish Groups at the next meeting in February for consideration to move the work forward. Councillor Stella Smith asked if any work could commence on the School Readiness Task and Finish Group in advance of the group meeting. In response, Susan Ford advised that she would speak to Members at the rise of the meeting to discuss this matter in further detail.

It was confirmed that Councillor Angeliki Stogia had been invited to the next meeting of the Committee in February for the GMCA Communications update item.

Members agreed to consider the transition of the Greater Manchester Waste Authority (GMWDA) to the Combined Authority at the March meeting of the Committee. It was also agreed that a Fire update would also be considered at the meeting of the Committee in March as requested by Members at the last meeting in December 2017.

In conclusion, it was agreed that the work programme should be updated as follows:

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<tr>
<th>MEETING DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th February 2018 6.00pm</td>
<td>GMCA - Accredited Living Wage Employer.</td>
<td>Richard Paver, GMCA</td>
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<td>GMCA Communications (Brand GMCA)</td>
<td>Claire Norman, GMCA &amp; NHS</td>
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Resolved/-

1. That the Committee’s Work Programme for the 2017/18 be updated accordingly and considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

CI/31/17 FUTURE MEETING DATES 2018

Resolved/-

1. That the next meetings of the Corporate Issues Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2018 take place on:

   - Tuesday 20th February 2018 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom at Churchgate House;
   - Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 1.00pm in the Council Chamber at Trafford Town Hall;
   - Wednesday 18th April 2018 at 6.00pm at Churchgate House, Manchester.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>20th Mar 2018 1.00pm</td>
<td>School ready to learn</td>
<td>Jane Forrest</td>
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<td>Performance of GMFRS</td>
<td>Dawn Docx</td>
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<td>18th April 2018 6.00pm</td>
<td>Transition of the GMWDA to GMCA</td>
<td>Richard Paver / John Bland</td>
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<td>GM Strategy Implementation Plan Update</td>
<td>Simon Nokes</td>
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