

Item 4

**DRAFT GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11 OCTOBER 2018 AT 10:30AM AT THE GMCA OFFICES**

Present:	Councillor Lisa Smart (Stockport) (in the Chair)
Bolton	Councillor Shamim Abdullah
Bury	Councillor Dorothy Gunther Councillor Catherine Preston
Manchester	Councillor Paula Sadler Councillor James Wilson
Rochdale	Councillor Linda Robinson
Stockport	Councilor Laura Booth
Tameside	Councillor Mike Glover
Wigan	Councillor Lynne Holland Councillor Fred Walker (Substitute)
In attendance:	
Salford City Mayor	Paul Dennett
GMCA Officers	Lindsay Dunn(Governance and Scrutiny Officer) Susan Ford (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) Steve Fyfe (Head of Housing Strategy) Mike Wright (Strategic Lead Homelessness)
TfGM Officers	Bob Morris (Chief Operating Officer) Anthony Murden (Programme and Projects Manager)

M99/HPE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stuart Dickman (Salford) Councillor Andrew Morgan (Bolton) and Councillor Michael Winstanley (Wigan).

M100/HPE CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

M101/HPE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interests raised.

M102/HPE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the last meeting dated 13 September 2018 were submitted for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 be approved as a correct record.

M103/HPE GM HOUSING VISION & BRIEF UPDATE ON GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK (GMSF)

As an introduction to the report on the GM Housing Vision, Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Homelessness, Housing and Infrastructure provided the Committee with an update with regards to the GMSF. It was reported that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) had recently published information on sub national housing projections. Colleagues within the GMCA have examined the methodology to assess housing need and the ONS data set indicates that there will be a requirement for 58k less homes in GM over a twenty year period. Government have responded by indicating that they intend to consult further on the local housing needs methodology. Dialogue with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the pressing need for clarity on numbers continues for the critical purpose of local and strategic planning in GM.

GMCA have issued a statement with regard to delayed publication of the GMSF in light of the unanticipated significant drop in housing need in GM. The Portfolio Lead brought it to Members attention that there were anomalies with regards to the methodology used by the ONS and highlighted specific examples in relation to Cambridge and the period of time used to objectively assess the projections.

The Committee were informed that GM Leaders would meet the following week to consider the latest position and further updates would emerge.

With regard to the projections, a members asked if the figure of 58k related to the original forecast. It was clarified that it related to 58k less than the original plan of 211k over the period of the GMSF.

Consideration was given to a report on the GM Housing Vision. The Committee were advised that in setting the future direction of Greater Manchester's development through the Spatial Framework, one vital element is the need to ensure GM residents have the safe, decent and affordable homes the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) requires.

It was reported that to accompany the Spatial Framework therefore, Leaders have requested that a 'Housing Vision' for Greater Manchester be produced. It is intended to provide a concise, high level statement of the collective ambitions for the future of housing in the city region and offer a firm basis for the development of a full Greater Manchester Housing Strategy.

The Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure reminded Members that the Greater Manchester Strategy identifies safe, decent and affordable housing as a priority. He provided the Committee with an overview of statistics to highlight the challenges faced in GM and evidence that suggests Britain's housing system is not delivering the homes required.

In discussion, the main areas covered were:

-) The Committee welcomed the update provided and were particularly keen on the vision's approach to supporting people in later life.
-) The Chair requested more information on details of an evidenced case for greater devolution in this policy theme. It was advised that GM had requested £8m of revenue funding to pursue the Housing Deal and thus far, clarity had not been received from Government. The devolution ask would fund planning and implementation of GM's forthcoming housing strategy along with the further development of a strategic relationship with Government and Homes England to support this. Funding to support cross public sector partnerships to work collaboratively on land and property initiatives leading to new jobs, new homes, joined up public services and savings for the taxpayer under One Public Estate were highlighted as opportunities under devolution.
-) The role of GM place and the interaction with the ten Local Authorities was discussed along with the relationship between housing, transport, green infrastructure and the sociology of place to provide a strategic approach to develop integrated communities and the commitments of the GMS.
-) The number of empty homes across GM was highlighted by a member as an opportunity to provide a solution, albeit limited. It was reported that there was no funding from Government to address this issue, however Local Authorities across GM have developed successful policies to reduce the numbers across the conurbation. Those within private ownership were reported to be more complex and costly to resolve and would require public money and resources. It was suggested that this could be considered further under the devolution asks from Government.

-) The reluctance for older people to move from larger properties which they have lived in for a considerable amount of time was discussed. It was recognised that people do have emotional attachment to their homes and a commitment to work sensitively with people to consider alternative solutions would be adopted.
-) The Committee highlighted that the Decent Homes Standard for social housing required the co-operation of both tenants and landlords. The Committee were advised that the green paper on social housing 'a new deal for social housing', committed to potentially reviewing the national Decent Homes Standard. GM housing leads were developing a response to the consultation. It was highlighted that there was an opportunity to ensure that the standard reflected issues relating to carbon neutral and energy efficient homes.
-) A member raised concern that the vision would need to address: the increasing move towards communities of higher density; possible gentrification; and the accessibility of high rise apartment blocks. It was confirmed that the vision identifies that homes require investment to meet physical accessibility and concerns regarding affordability and gentrification were acknowledged. It was however advised that high density developments of quality were important in order to meet the objectively assessed housing numbers without the need to release land within greenbelt.

RESOLVED:

1. To note further updates to be provided once further details emerge;
2. That the report be noted;
3. That further consideration be given to include resources and powers to effectively deal with empty properties in the private sector within future devolution deal asks;
4. That a response to the government green paper 'a new deal for social housing' will be developed and submitted in consultation with the ten local authorities.

M104/HPE HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure provided members with an update on homelessness in GM. The key programmes being undertaken at sub-regional level in order to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping were detailed within the report. Specifically, the paper reflected on the recommendations made by the Committee at the meeting in March and provided specific updates on progress and a wider update on homelessness winter preparations 'A bed every night'.

Members welcomed the update provided and in discussion the following items were raised;

-) The Chair commented that funding was key to delivery in terms of outcomes and it appeared to be fragmented. Assurance on how this was being secured and the progress being made by the GMCA and the ten local authorities in the delivery of the action plan, given the late receipt of funding from government, along with the anticipated timeline was requested.
-) Mayor Dennett agreed that funding was fragmented and reported that cuts to council budgets had initially resulted in the lack of provision of supported housing. Despite this, applications for funding, when and where available would continue to be made by the GMCA.
-) The Committee enquired if the mayoral pledge to eliminate the need for rough sleeping by 2020 would be delivered.
-) It was highlighted that the government's commitment to tackling rough sleeping by 2027 differed to those ambitions of the GM Mayor and it was reported that GM is making significant progress to ending the need for rough sleeping by 2020.
-) Lessons learned from last year's winter provision were outlined to the Committee along with an overview of the programme and anticipated opportunities that would be presented by winter provision for 2018, 'A bed every night'.
-) It was advised that although initial funding was not received until March 2018, work within the action plan had been undertaken in preparation for the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018. It was proposed that the Committee receive further updates and progress reports.
-) Members welcomed information with regard to GM being selected as a pilot area to implement Housing First and requested further examples as to what could be expected as a result of the implementation of the trailblazer.
-) Examples of best practice being promoted across GM to prevent homelessness and more effectively deal with demand was highlighted.
-) It was recognised that operationally, all districts were working in collaboration to tackle homelessness and the Portfolio Lead highlighted that homelessness is a product of wider systemic issues including mental health and welfare reform.
-) A Member suggested that the data on the number of people homeless was not an accurate reflection of the situation and recommended that data should be gathered on a monthly basis as a minimum as opposed to annually.
-) The Committee requested a breakdown in the data by gender and asked what further data analysis had taken place with the cohort to identify what, if any, variation in issues which resulted in people becoming homeless.
-) It was confirmed that in GM, 86% of rough sleepers are male and 14% female. Nationally, it had been reported that at least 449 rough sleepers died last year and the average age of death for rough sleepers in males is 43 and 47 for

females. It was recognised that there were particular trigger points in people's lives that had an impact on becoming homeless which included the breakdown in relationships and debt problems. Intervention before crisis was therefore considered to be more effective and GM were considering using predictive modeling across the ten local authorities, particularly focused around debt to assess the impact of upcoming welfare reform and prevent people from becoming homeless.

-) The provision and safety of homeless hostels was raised as a key issue that requires improvement. It was suggested that the Housing First model is replicated to ensure support services are provided in order to improve the safety and comfort for those within hostels including existing and potential clients and staff.
-) Members discussed service users requiring assistance provided at community kitchens and highlighted the fact that more families are attending as a consequence of the choice between eating or heating.
-) A member raised an issue with regard to female victims of domestic violence where it was necessary to leave the family home. The effects and impact on mental health of entering temporary accommodation or in some cases mixed gender units were highlighted.
-) The Committee discussed the best practice implemented in Rochdale to raise awareness of section 21 for those at risk of losing their homes. It was suggested that more collaborative work was required with the private rented sector to achieve the ambitions related to homelessness.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted;
2. That further regular updates on the progress across a range of programmes be provided to the Committee at a future meeting;

M105/HPE CONGESTION DEAL – CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT

Bob Morris, Chief Operating Officer (TfGM) introduced a report which will be provided to the GMCA on 26 October 2018 seeking approval for the Corridor Management proposals contained within the GM Congestion Deal and associated expenditure of £1.35 million.

Key issues highlighted included;

-) The GM Congestion deal was approved by the GMCA in March 2019 with an initial budget of £1.5 million. It was reported that approximately £0.5 million

would be used to fund additional staff resource for corridor management and to support urban traffic control activities.

-) The Committee were advised that key corridors make up 7% of the overall road space in GM. During the morning rush hour peak, two thirds of traffic in GM uses those 7%, therefore these roads are heavily congested.
-) £1 million has been allocated for highway intervention measures aimed at easing congestion.
-) It was noted that there had been a delay in the recruitment of the control centre corridor managers due to the lack of individuals possessing the required skills.
-) The Committee were advised that work is underway with TfGM and the ten Local Authorities to improve visibility and identify congestion hot spots by using a variety of platforms to obtain reliable data including more traffic cameras.
-) The data will be analysed to plan required interventions more effectively on a corridor basis.

Members welcomed the update provided and in discussion the following items were raised;

-) The Chair requested further information with regards to the alignment of the proposals with the Clean Air plan. It was confirmed that it has been identified that transport is one of the main causes of poor air quality in particular, road traffic. The Committee was advised that the proposals of both the Congestion Deal – Corridor Management and Clean Air Plan would be considered alongside one another in order to maximise effectiveness of opportunities of measures introduced.
-) The Committee highlighted that funding allocated was relatively small and questioned whether or not the proposals were ambitious enough to deal with the issues of congestion. It was recognised in a period of budget constraints, it was a starting point to address the concerns and impact of congestion.
-) Members highlighted the impact of increased use of the Metrolink with regards to parking and highway issues for residents and the public in close proximity of the Metrolink stops. It was suggested that a more joined up approach was required to address congestion along with an increase in availability for park and ride.
-) It was confirmed that although this did not come under the remit of the congestion proposals, it was part of the remit of TfGM. It was acknowledged that further work was required in order to increase and encourage the use of public transport without causing highway issues as a result of parking for local authorities to have to deal with. Hence, the increased requirement to provide more park and ride availability wherever possible was acknowledged.

-) A member raised the issue with regards to the different tickets required to complete a journey particularly on the bus network and asked what measures would be implemented to integrate different modes and operators of transport from a ticketing and cost perspective.
-) It was acknowledged that there are over 30 different bus operators across GM and the Committee was advised that in the new year Metrolink will introduce zonal fares and provide the ability for passengers to undertake contactless payments. It was reported that TfGM are exploring options to integrate fares across public transport in a bid to create a system which is appropriate for the residents of Greater Manchester.
-) It was noted that an update on bus service reform would be presented to the Committee in November.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted;
2. That a further update on the progress of Bus Reform be presented to the Committee in November 2018.

M106/HPE UPDATE ON THE PROCUREMENT OF GMCA WASTE SERVICES

David Taylor, Executive Director, Waste and Resources GMCA presented the Committee with an overview of the procurement process for waste and resource management for Greater Manchester.

Members were reminded that Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA) was abolished and all functions transferred to the GMCA on 1 April 2018. The statutory responsibilities for waste disposal include making arrangements for the management and disposal of municipal waste from the nine constituent waste collection authorities (WCAs) and the management of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). These statutory functions are discharged via contract arrangements. GMWDA previously let and managed a 25 year PFI contract entered into in April 2009. The PFI contract ceased on 29th September 2017 via a negotiated settlement with the contract providers (Viridor and Laing) and the financing Banks. The PFI contract was formally wound up on 8th March 2018. Operations are currently being delivered via a short term contract with the existing operator, Viridor Waste (Greater Manchester) Ltd, while GMCA procures the future operating contracts.

It was reported that procurement of future operating contracts commenced in November 2017 and the principal strategic drivers for the procurement were developed with the nine Waste Collection Authorities (WCAs) and the GMWDA, and formally approved in September 2017 by the GMWDA. The following strategic drivers which form

the basis of the specification documents for which Tenderers will bid were highlighted to the Committee;

-) 90% diversion from landfill of all the GMCA's waste arisings by 2020/21;
-) Household Waste Recycling Centres achieving over 60% recycling targets, on average per year, by 2021/22;
-) An overall aspiration of achieving 55% recycling/composting of household waste by 2025/26;

Members were advised that flexibility was required due to uncertainty around the National Waste Strategy, the publication of which had been delayed by government but was anticipated to be available later in the year.

RESOLVED:

That the progress against the procurement process be noted.

M107/HPE WORK PROGRAMME

A report was presented that set out the Committee's work programme for Members noting that it had been revised to reflect that an update on Bus Reform will now be presented at the meeting in November. The Committee were informed that the following items will be brought to the Committee once specific dates can be confirmed:

-) Clean Air Communications Plan
-) GM Spatial Framework (originally scheduled for November's meeting)
-) GM Congestion Deal

Members were asked to contact the Statutory Scrutiny Officer with any suggested items for inclusion in the work programme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That any further suggestions to the work programme be submitted to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

M108/HPE REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS 1 – 31 OCTOBER 2018

The Register of Key Decisions was noted.

RESOLVED:

That the Register of Key Decisions be noted.

M109/HPE DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 15 November 2018, 6.00pm at GMCA Offices, Churchgate House

M110/HPE EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

M110/HPE UPDATE ON PROCUREMENT OF WASTE SERVICES

The Committee considered a report which set out the key features of the tender submissions in each Lot of the GMCA waste management procurement. This included details of the quantitative evaluation of the interim tender submissions. The three lots are:

Lot One	Waste and Resource Management Services (WRMS)
Lot Two	Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS)
Lot Three	Biowaste Management Services (BMS)

RESOLVED:

That the timetable for the procurement process be noted.