

## Growth & Prosperity Scrutiny Panel

Held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 6:00pm – 8.00pm, in The Salford Suite, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton.

### Present:

Councillor Sharpe – in the Chair

Councillors Brabiner, Brooks, Dickman, R. Garrido, Lewis, Nelson, Saeed, Shama and Ward

Councillor McCusker\* – Lead Member for Planning, Transport & Sustainable Development

### Officers:

Claire Edwards – Democratic Services

Peter Openshaw\* – Assistant Director, Environment & Community Safety

James Shuttleworth – Head of Planning

### Others in attendance:

Three members of the public were in attendance.

\*Attended remotely via MS Teams.

## 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Linden and Pevitt.

## 2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Nelson indicated that he had previously been employed by the Manchester Climate Change Agency, however, this was no longer the case.

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Fire at Hornbeam Court, Pendleton – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The Chair informed the panel that this item had been added to the agenda due to three residents of the tower blocks in Pendleton being in attendance at the meeting, as they wished to raise some issues regarding the above incident which had taken place the previous day and had resulted in an elderly resident having tragically passed away. Members of the panel expressed their sadness at this news.

The residents raised the following issues:

- Residents having had to stand outside once evacuated from the building. Community room(s) not having been made available to the residents who had been evacuated. No blankets, drinks, etc. made available.
- No evacuation chairs to assist with getting disabled people out of the building. Somebody in a wheelchair on 11<sup>th</sup> floor had been unable to get out.
- Fire drills not taking place on a regular basis.
- Fire alarm in a particular flat not working / not being connected.
- A previous occasion when a fire had taken place in one of the tower blocks following which residents were informed that it had been a false alarm.

- Concerns around fire safety not being taken seriously and not being acted upon.
- Pendleton Together refusing to open the office to residents. An occasion when residents had been unable to contact anybody from Pendleton Together and there had also been no response from security.
- No representative from Pendleton Together had been present on-site on Monday 25 July.

Peter Openshaw reported that initial feedback from GMFRS had indicated that there were no fire safety issues or concerns around the evacuation procedure. He stated that his understanding was that when the fire service attended, they decided that no further evacuation was necessary and, therefore, residents on higher floors were not evacuated. He had been informed that those who were evacuated were outside for approximately 50 minutes and that the fire service carried out visits to residents on the vulnerable list. He reported that an investigation was now underway to establish the full facts of the incident.

Councillor R. Garrido reported that he had been contacted by the residents earlier that day following which he had sent various emails regarding their concerns, however, he had not received a response. Peter Openshaw expressed his regret that Councillor R. Garrido had not received a response acknowledging his correspondence. He made reference to the incident having taken place the previous day and indicated that it would be necessary for all the facts to be reviewed prior to a response being issued.

Discussion took place during which reference was made to:

- The need for the following issues to be addressed as soon as possible:
  - Residents to be provided with support in terms of their mental health and wellbeing.
  - Residents to be provided with reassurance that processes are in place should any of the blocks need to be evacuated.
  - Ensure that residents have somewhere to raise their concerns with Pendleton Together and with the Council.
- Details of the incident not having been communicated to all Councillors.

It was requested that Panel Members be provided with a response to the issues that had been raised by email prior to the next meeting, scheduled for Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

RESOLVED: THAT Panel Members be provided with a response to the issues that had been raised by the date of the above-mentioned meeting.

#### 4. Local Plan Update

James Shuttleworth gave a presentation providing an update on the Local Plan, which included information with regard to the following:

- Salford Local Plan Part One – Development Management Policies and Designations.
- Key Elements of the Part 1 Local Plan.
- Local Plan Hearing Sessions – December 2021.
- Local Plan Examination – likely next steps.
- Local Plan – Proposed Policy.
  - A Fairer City – Social Value
  - A Fairer City – Affordable Housing
  - A Fairer City – Health
  - A Sustainable City – Low Carbon / Climate Change
  - A Sustainable City – Transport
  - A sustainable City – Green Infrastructure

- A Liveable City – Design and Amenity
- A Liveable City – Key Areas for Growth
- A Liveable City – Centres
- Further details through the Local Plan Examination website:  
<http://www.salford.gov.uk/slp-examination>

Discussion took place which included reference to the following:

- The consultation process involved.  
Concern regarding comms. being able to engage meaningfully with the process. Reference was made to the impact of repeated consultation exercises in terms of people becoming disenfranchised from the process.  
Reference was made to the process required in terms of the National Planning Policy Framework. It was indicated that officers are working to try and find a more enfranchising process with the resources available.
- Protection of trees – it was indicated that the Local Plan is not a method through which trees are managed – reference was made to the procedures in place.
- Carbon emissions in Salford.
- Timescales in respect of Part 2.
- Affordable housing provision and viability.  
Assurance was provided in terms of developers being robustly challenged with regard to their viability submissions where appropriate, whilst recognising their need for profit in order to operate.
- A Sustainable City – Transport – how it was intended that this would be achieved in parts of the city, such as Boothstown and Worsley, where bus routes that were needed were not in place.
- Biodiversity net gain in terms of enhancing public areas.  
Reference was made to the provision of green infrastructure being opportunity based as opposed to being planned for each ward.
  - Members were invited to submit suggestions regarding potential sites for biodiversity net gain to James Shuttleworth.
- Green Belt protection.
- Chat Moss.
- Travel plans developed as part of the planning process and how they are conditioned and enforced.
- Health improvement assessments.
- The need for the required infrastructure to be provided (health services, schools, etc.) when housing developments are built in the city.  
Reference was made to financial contributions towards such infrastructure being secured through the planning process.
- Concern regarding developers not maintaining the upkeep of public realm included in housing developments, resulting in maintenance in future years having to be undertaken by the council.  
It was indicated that some of the above issues were likely to relate to enforcement as management arrangements should be in place.
- Extra care provision in the city.

RESOLVED: THAT the content of the presentation and discussion be noted.

## **5. Zero Carbon and Climate Change Programme Overview**

RESOLVED: THAT, due to time constraints, the above item be deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

## **6. Work Programme**

RESOLVED: THAT the content of the Work Programme be agreed.

**7. Date and Time of Next Meeting** - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 6:00pm in the Salford Suite, Civic Centre.