

Growth & Prosperity Scrutiny Panel

Held on Monday, 26th September 2022, 6:00pm – 7.35pm, in The Salford Suite, Civic Centre, Chorley Road, Swinton.

Present:

Councillor Pevitt – in the Chair
Councillors Brabiner, Brooks, Lewis, Nelson and Shama

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

Officers:

Claire Edwards – Democratic Services
Rachel Connelly – Head of Supported Housing
David Mills – Strategic Finance Manager
Shoib Mohammad* – Assistant Director Technical Services
Rob Owen – Head of Highways & Network Management

Invitee:

Megan Black – Head of Logistics & Environment, Transport for Greater Manchester

*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 Dickman, R. Garrido, Linden, Sharpe, Saeed and Ward. An apology for absence was also submitted on behalf of Councillor Kelly, Lead Member for Housing, Property & Regeneration.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Developing a new GM Clean Air Plan

Megan Black gave a presentation in respect of the above item which included information regarding the following:

- The right Clean Air Plan for Greater Manchester.
- GM Authorities have a legal responsibility to produce a Clean Air Plan.
- GM Authorities have chosen to work together to deliver the best outcome for the region.
- Core objectives of the Clean Air Plan.
- What has changed since the previous Plan was produced in summer 2021 affecting air quality?
- The air quality challenge changes from being GM-wide in 2023 to locally focussed by 2026.

- In the city centre, buses are the greatest source of emissions vs commercial vehicles at Regent Road.
- The Clean Air Plan has already provided funding to support the upgrade of buses and HGVs.
- There are new opportunities to tackle air quality that were not available in summer 2021.
- But current economic conditions present new challenges making fundamental changes to the Plan necessary.
- Costs are rising – and this may particularly affect vehicle-owning businesses.
- The price of new and used commercial vehicles is rising, making upgrade less affordable.
- Some sectors potentially in scope for the Clean Air Plan have still not recovered from the impacts of the pandemic.
- Challenging economic conditions, ongoing pandemic impacts and rising vehicle prices necessitate a rethink.
- GMs preferred approach is an investment-led Clean Air Plan with action targeted at the most polluted places.
- What is being proposed around funding?
- An investment-led Clean Air Plan is part of GM's plan to deliver a more sustainable transport network.
- Latest position with Government.
- What is the Participatory Policy Development approach?
- Next steps: developing and consulting on a package of measures.

Discussion took place which included reference to the following:

- With regard to the rising costs, reference was made to the impact of Brexit, the decreasing value of the pound and rising fuel costs.
- Funding to support upgrades – particular reference was made to Hackney Cabs and a keenness to ensure they are not penalised.
- Confirmation of bus franchising. From September 2023, at least 50 new zero emission buses would be brought into service with the launch of the regulated bus system in Wigan and Bolton.
- The need for consideration to be given to the impact of rising costs in terms of the effectiveness of what the plan can achieve.

- The next steps involved in terms of GM developing and consulting on a package of measures.

RESOLVED: THAT the content of the presentation and discussion be noted with thanks to Megan Black for her attendance at the meeting.

4. Budget Monitoring Report

David Mills presented a report of the Strategic Director for Place which indicated that, with regard to the revenue forecast, the Service Group budget for 2022/23 was forecast to balance at year end. In terms of capital, the Service Group programme budget for 2022/23 was £197.504m.

Discussion took place which included reference to the current economic conditions, despite which it was anticipated that a balanced budget would be achieved by the end of the financial year. In response to a question raised, it was indicated that consideration would be given to the possibility of virements being made, transferring monies between departments, should any gaps be identified.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the current position and forecasted position to year end for the Service Group's revenue and capital budget be noted.

(2) THAT further measures to bring forecast expenditure back in line with the budget be noted.

5. Update on Temporary Accommodation and Rough Sleeping in Salford

Rachel Connelly gave a presentation in respect of the above item which included information regarding the following:

- Number of households in Temporary Accommodation in Salford
- Number of children in Temporary Accommodation in Salford
- Tenancy / Resettlement Support Offer
- Salford Outcomes
- Rough Sleeping in Salford

Discussion took place which included reference to the following:

- Pressure on the service having increased exponentially and the impact of this on the team. Concern was expressed regarding current officer workloads and the reduced length of resettlement support. Rachel indicated that the current situation in terms of officer workload was resulting in a lower standard of service being provided (bronze/silver standard rather than platinum). It was noted that an additional manager was in the process of being recruited.
- In response to questions raised by Members of the Panel, information was provided regarding support and training that was available to officers who are dealing with people living in extremely difficult circumstances. Particular reference was made to the rough sleeper programme, many of whom suffer from severe illnesses, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, etc., as a result of which staff had dealt with very upsetting and traumatic cases involving drug overdose, suicide and death from serious illness.
- The impact that the current economic situation was likely to have on homelessness and the demand for temporary accommodation.

- Work that was undertaken to try and alleviate the additional impacts of families being placed in temporary accommodation, which included moving away from jobs, leaving friends and children missing out on their education. Reference was also made to additional costs involved such as new school uniforms should children move to a new school.
- The various types of temporary accommodation, the length of time it was likely to be used and the costs involved.
- A spotlight programme that was in progress, which included temporary accommodation – members were invited to contact Rachel should they wish to contribute.
- The use of HMOs for temporary accommodation. Members were asked to inform Rachel should they be aware of any HMOs in their ward that were being used for temporary accommodation.
- How Salford compared with other GM authorities in terms of population / rough sleeping figures.
- Funding secured through the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) at an average of £2m per year for the next 3 years, providing accommodation options, support staff and outreach officers. Also provides Welfare Rights & Debt Advice support and specialist mental health and substance misuse support which is more tailored.
- Funding secured through the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP), providing capital and revenue funds to deliver accommodation and support.
- The Supported Housing team having previously won Front Line Team of the Year (Inside Housing Magazine) and Care and Support Team of the Year in the Housing Heroes 2020 awards organised by the Chartered Institute of Housing, which had recognised the support provided for a wide range of people at risk of losing their accommodation or who have become homeless, and had been a fantastic boost to the morale of the team.

RESOLVED: (1) THAT the content of the presentation and discussion be noted.

(2) THAT Rachel and her team be thanked for the work they are undertaking under extremely difficult circumstances.

6. Work Programme

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

7. Minutes of Meeting held on 25th July 2022

RESOLVED: THAT the minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting - Monday 24th October 2022 at 6:00pm in the Salford Suite, Civic Centre.