

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER
COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA) ECONOMY, BUSINESS GROWTH
AND SKILLS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, HELD ON
FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER 2020 VIA WEBCAST**

Present:

Bolton:	Councillor Akhtar Zaman (substitute)
Bury:	Councillor Mary Whitby
Manchester:	Councillor Basat Sheikh Councillor Greg Stanton
Oldham:	Councillor George Hulme
Rochdale:	Councillor Michael Holly (Chair from item 6)
Salford:	Councillor Jim King
Stockport:	Councillor Becky Senior Councillor Kerry Waters
Trafford:	Councillor Barry Brotherton
Wigan:	Councillor Charles Rigby Councillor Michael Winstanley (Chair to item 6)

In attendance:

	Councillor Sean Fielding, GMCA Portfolio Lead for Employment, Skills and Digital and Leader of Oldham Council.
GMCA	Joanne Heron, Statutory Scrutiny Officer
GMCA	John Wrathmell, Director of Strategy, GMCA
GMCA	Gemma Marsh, Director of Skills (Policy, Strategy & Delivery)
GMCA	Nicola McLeod, Principal Skills Manager (Careers and Participation).
GMCA	David Rogerson, Policy and Strategy Principal
GMCA	Paul Harris, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer

The commencement of the meeting was delayed for 15 minutes to allow some time for Members and meeting participants to resolve technological difficulties. For this reason, the meeting commenced at 10:45 am. As the Chair was still experiencing difficulty accessing the meeting at this time, the Vice Chair, Councillor Winstanley, opened the meeting.

COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY IN THE CHAIR

E51/20

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Samantha Connor (Bolton), Stephen Horner (Tameside), Daniel Meredith (Rochdale).

Councillor Elise Wilson, GM Lead Member for Economy, Lou Cordwell and Mo Iasp, Co-Chairs of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership and Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Policy and Research, GMCA.

E52/20

CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

a. Councillor John Leech

The Chair advised Members that at the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 27 November 2020, Councillor John Leech, (Manchester) was appointed as a GMCA Scrutiny Committee Substitute Pool Member.

RESOLVED/-

That the appointment of Councillor John Leech by the GM Combined Authority as a GMCA Scrutiny Committee Substitute Pool Member, be noted.

E53/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member.

E54/20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 13th November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

RESOLVED:-

That the minutes of meeting of the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 13th November 2020, be approved as a correct record.

[CLERK'S NOTE: Given the technical difficulties experienced by representatives of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership, the Committee agreed to re-order the agenda as below, to allow them time to join the meeting.]

E55/20 YOUNG PERSON'S GUARENTEE

Councillor Sean Fielding, GM Lead Member Employment, Skills & Digital, introduced a report and presentation which provided Members with an update on the Young Person's Guarantee, including the process and consultation period and outlined the draft recommendations identified by the Task Force & Youth Advisory Group, noting that the final recommendations will be considered at the upcoming GM Combined Authority meeting on 18th December 2020.

In introducing the item, Councillor Fielding highlighted how young people are consistently, disproportionately affected by recession. It was noted that the acute impact of Covid on non-essential retail and hospitality sectors, traditionally sectors where young people enter the workforce, had again highlighted the challenges faced by young people.

The presentation explained that the Young Person's Guarantee was not solely about getting young people in to work but also to provide wrap-around support for health and wellbeing, education transition and the digitally excluded.

Members noted that Diane Modhal continues to lead on the Young People's Taskforce which aims to reach the most marginalised young people. The Young Person's Guarantee has been co-designed with young people and developed to meet the needs of Greater Manchester and to support recovery.

Officers took Members through the presentation which provided information on why a Young Person's Guarantee is needed, the development of the Youth Advisory Group, the development of the four thematic task forces, bring together communities and the proposes next steps.

Members noted that as part of the co-design process, young people had also identified the following recommendations to take forward: -

- Digital kit – and places where young people can go to learn how to maximise their use.
- Access points – both physical and digital, and in their localities – to connect with opportunities and to get advice and guidance
- Visible, diverse, inspirational leaders, role models and mentors
- Control over shaping and delivering the services and opportunities that they want in their own localities
- Employers to be supported to be better able to connect with the full diversity of talented young people across Greater Manchester – and to give currently marginalised young people the skills and confidence they need to take full advantage of all the opportunities available
- Leaders in education to be on the front foot in ensuring the curriculum in Greater Manchester transforms in response to the structural changes happening at pace in business.

Comments and Questions raised by Members:-

- A Member asked if there are any other commitments to extra education and training courses for the under 25s. It was noted that work was taking place within the adult education budget to provide support for the 19 plus cohort. Digital strategy work was taking place and level 3 qualifications were being developed. Officers also explained that it was important to note that GM Colleges were already providing support.
- A Member highlighted a number of challenges affecting young people including mental health and well-being, fear of achieving and fear of not getting a job when leaving education. The Councillor also highlighted how the impact of Covid has caused disruption to their learning, forming a gap in young people's education and this learning gap had to be addressed to stop young people being disaffected with education. Officers explained that to address these issues a wider partnership approach was required and not a solely educational response. The education sector can help learners and districts have education and digital inclusion leads that can provide support to respond to some of these challenges. National funding has been secured and diverted to schools in relation to catch up activities. In addition, attention is also needed to be able to offer hope and

confidence to allow young people to be ready for the job markets. These challenges were apparent before the emergence of Covid.

- In welcoming the presentation, a Member referenced that 24% of young people had indicated that climate and environment was of particular importance to them. The Member enquired how this priority was being linked in to the Young Person's Guarantee on low carbon and local targets. In response, officers noted that the original scope of this work was to have an economic focus for the preparation for adulthood and associated transition. A parallel piece of work was taking place with the Youth Combined Authority in relation to the Green Agenda. As this work moves forward, other significant issues such as homelessness, child poverty and child hunger will be built in to the action plan.
- A Member enquired how success will be measured and how will the work be equitable across the conurbation. In response, officers noted that the Young Person's Guarantee presents where opportunities are. The requirement for Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were not required in the initial work phase, however as the work progresses, it is the intention to develop KPIs to monitor priorities, introduce accountability and build in evaluation, to ensure the work is having a positive impact to communities.
- A Member suggested that once KPIs are in place, updates can be brought to future meetings of this Committee.
- A Member welcomed this work and noted that the six priority areas that were highlighted in the presentation also linked to the wider determinants of younger people's lives and development. The Member added that economically, the challenges young people are facing under Covid is a mayor priority, as it is not only about young people's future but also the wider future of the city region. An enquiry was made in relation to support for the under 25's and apprenticeships. In response, officers noted that the Apprenticeship Levy match making service will assist businesses to recruit more young people. A directory is also being created to identify and support apprenticeships that are currently under furlough. The Kickstart Board will also provide support and work was also being undertaken to explore how those young people not eligible for Kick Start can be supported.
- In welcoming the presentation, a Member commented the impact of Covid on young people can not be underestimated. The Member suggested that the suite of draft KPIs be brought to a future meeting of the committee. In response, officers welcomed this offer.

RESOLVED/-

1. That Councillor Fielding and Nicola McLeod be thanked for their informative presentation.
2. That the presentation and comments raised by Members be noted.
3. That the publishing of the process for ongoing commitments for Young People across localities be supported
4. That a further update on the work of the Young Person's Guarantee, including draft Key Performance Indicators, be brought to a future meeting of this Committee.

COUNCILLOR HOLLY IN THE CHAIR

E56/20 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Chair suggested that as the representatives of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership were unable to join the meeting, this item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee. This approach was supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

That the update on the work of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership be deferred to a future meeting of this Committee.

E60/20 REGISTER OF KEY DECISIONS

Members considered the register of GMCA Key Decisions for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021.

RESOLVED/-

That the register of GMCA Key Decisions be noted.

E61/20 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021

Members considered the Committee work programme which set out those topics and items that will provide a focus of the Committee's work for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

It was suggested that the meeting 15th January 2021 will only take place if there is urgent business for consideration. Officers undertook to advise the Committee if a meeting will be required at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair noted that a discussion was to take place with officers in relation to Credit Unions. He added that as the GM Local Enterprise Partnership item will also need to be programmed, following the deferment of this item today.

Members noted that the Mayor will now be attending the Committee in February 2021 and as such, the Recovery Plan items scheduled for the March meeting will now be considered at the February meeting. In light of this change, it was noted that the Work and Skills and Digital items will now be considered at the March meeting.

A Member welcomed the recent attendance and contribution at the Committee by the Growth Company. The Member suggested that the approach of more than one officer presenting enabled for items to be considered.

RESOLVED/-

1. That proposed changes to the Committee Work Programme outlined in the preamble above be agreed and that the work programme will be updated accordingly, be noted.

E62/20 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members considered a programme of future meeting date for the Committee for 2020/2021.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the following meeting dates for the Committee be noted: -
 - Friday 15 January 2021 (if required).
 - Friday 5 February 2021.
 - Friday 12 March 2021.
2. To note that meetings will commence at 10.30 am and will be held via video conference unless advised otherwise.

E63/20 SEASONAL MESSAGE

The Chair thanked Members and officers for their hard work in support of the Committee during 2020. He offered his best wishes for a merry Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year. Those sentiments were reciprocated.