

## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 30th July 2021

Subject: Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy

Report of: Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, and Mayor Andy Burnham

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### **PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

A commitment to a Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy ('the Strategy') was made in 2017 by the incumbent Mayor of Greater Manchester. Its development was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the commitment was re-made in the 2021 Greater Manchester Mayoral election.

The Strategy has now been through extensive co-production and public consultation and is being brought for approval to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The GMCA is requested to:**

1. Recognise and approve the missions that the strategy sets for homelessness prevention in Greater Manchester.
2. Recognise and approve the principles that are set to guide homelessness prevention activity in Greater Manchester.
3. Recognise and approve the commitment to the development of an accompanying Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Action Plan by October 2021 that sets out regional commitments, deliverables and indicators.

### **CONTACT OFFICERS:**

**Jane Forrest, Director of Public Service Reform, Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

## Impacts Questionnaire

| Impact Indicator   | Result   | Justification/Mitigation   |                                  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Equality and Inclusion                                       | G  |  |                                  |
| Health   |  |  |                                  |
| Resilience and Adaptation                                    |  |  |                                  |
| Housing  | G  |  |                                  |
| Economy  |  |  |                                  |
| Mobility and Connectivity                                    |  |  |                                  |
| Carbon, Nature and Environment                               |  |  |                                  |
| Consumption and Production                                   |  |  |                                  |
| Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target  |  |  |                                  |
| Further Assessment(s):                                       | N/A  |  |                                  |
| <b>Positive</b> impacts overall, whether long or short term. | <b>Mix of positive and negative</b> impacts. Trade-offs to consider. | <b>Mostly negative</b> , with at least one <b>positive</b> aspect. Trade-offs to consider. | <b>Negative</b> impacts overall. |

### Risk Management:

### Legal Considerations:

*The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention strategy makes no legal commitments. It recognises the statutory decision making of Local Authorities within the Homelessness Reduction Act and other legal frameworks.*

### Financial Consequences – Revenue:

*The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention strategy makes no financial commitments.*

### Financial Consequences – Capital:

*The Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention strategy makes no financial commitments.*

### Number of attachments to the report: 1

*Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy*

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee – N/A

|  |                               |     |
|--|-------------------------------|-----|
| <b>TRACKING/PROCESS</b>  |                               |     |
| Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution   |                               | No  |
| <b>EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN</b>  |                               |     |
| Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? |                               | N/A |
| GM Transport Committee   | Overview & Scrutiny Committee |     |
| N/A  | N/A                           |     |

## 1.0 STRATEGY OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The Strategy provides a regional framework for the development activity to prevent homelessness in Greater Manchester over the next five years.
- 1.2. The ambition to prevent homelessness for good is newly framed across five missions:
- Mission 1: Everyone can access and sustain a home that is safe, decent, accessible and affordable.
  - Mission 2: Everyone leaves our places of care with a safe place to go.
  - Mission 3: Everyone can access quality advice, advocacy and support to prevent homelessness.
  - Mission 4: People experiencing homelessness have respite, recovery and re-connection support.
  - Mission 5: Homelessness is never an entrenched or repeat experience.
- 1.3. The ways in which all stakeholders must work together to achieve this are framed as principles:
- Principle 1: Working with People; being truly person-centred, reducing and responding to inequalities and trauma.
  - Principle 2: Building Participation; building inclusive participation so that people can participate in decisions that affect their lives and where lived experience is highly valued.
  - Principle 3: Embedding Prevention; reforming public services to deliver genuinely preventative and person-centred support.
- 1.4. The Strategy details further these working principles, drawing attention to critical factors that will enable effective prevention such as trauma informed support and inclusive participation.
- 1.5. All together, these three elements make up the Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Mission Plan.

- 1.6. The Strategy captures key priorities for working with national government that will enable homelessness prevention.
- 1.7. An Action Plan will be developed to capture activity and identify key commitments and deliverables from regional stakeholders. It will also set indicators to enable progress towards the missions to be identified.
- 1.8. As far as possible, we will work within our existing resources to deliver the ambition set out in the Strategy, taking opportunities to optimise grant funding, align transformation funding and pool resources using the principles of that have been set out in our model of Unified Public Services.
- 1.9. We recognise that the workforce in GM is our single biggest asset and we will develop an approach to workforce development, building on the ambition to be a Trauma Responsive city-region, as part our action plan that will enable and support frontline staff to embed the ways of working described in the Strategy.

## **2.0 CO-PRODUCTION AND CONSULTATION**

- 2.1. Extensive consultation has been carried out to develop this Strategy. This took the form of a formal online public consultation and a range of engagement and co-production activities.
- 2.2. There was a commitment to co-produce the Strategy with people who have lived experience and/or professional experience of homelessness, and people that represent communities that experience homelessness disproportionately.
- 2.3. This has been enabled through the following key activities:
  - Legislative Theatre programme; the GM Homelessness Action Network undertook a Legislative Theatre process, in which multiple performances creatively explored people's experiences of homelessness, housing and related services. Each performance was followed by a discussion with commissioners and service professionals to break down the challenges presented and identify opportunities for policy change towards preventing homelessness.
  - AVA and Agenda Commission: this explored multiple disadvantage through a gendered lens in Greater Manchester, including local evidence-gathering, co-production and three partnership events involving 150+ participants, 'spotlighting' key areas including domestic abuse, sex work and homelessness.
  - Engagement sessions run by the Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network; thematic engagement sessions, involving over 200 people.
  - Locality partnership discussions; cross-sector partnerships in each borough engaged with the draft strategy in the early and mid-stages of its development.
- 2.4. The online public consultation saw extensive reach which saw nearly 3,000 page views of the GM Homelessness Prevention Strategy consultation and sub-pages. This equates to 1,778 unique views on the GM Consult digital platform, of which 26% of responses were made by young people between 18-24 years old.

- 2.5. There has been ongoing development with Local Authority officers and engagement with Portfolio Lead Members.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1. The GMCA is requested to:

1. Recognise and approve the missions that the strategy sets for homelessness prevention in Greater Manchester.
2. Recognise and approve the principles that are set to guide homelessness prevention activity in Greater Manchester.
3. Recognise and approve the commitment to the development of an accompanying Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Action Plan by October 2021 that sets out regional commitments, deliverables and indicators.