

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GM HOUSING,
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD
THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**

PRESENT:

Bolton	Councillor John Walsh (Chair)
Bolton	Councillor Stuart Hartigan
Bury	Councillor Martin Hayes
Manchester	Councillor Mandie Shilton
Oldham	Councillor Barbara Brownridge
Oldham	Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani
Tameside	Councillor Mike Glover
Trafford	Councillor Akilah Akinola
Trafford	Councillor Kevin Procter
Wigan	Councillor Fred Walker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA	Andrew McIntosh
GMCA	Joanne Heron
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins
TfGM	Elsie Wraighte
TfGM	Megan Black
TfGM	Nicola Kane

HP&E 21/01 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collin MacAlister (Stockport), Janet Mobbs (Stockport), Liam Billington (Tameside), and Stuart Dickman (Salford).

HP&E 21/02 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2021/22

The Statutory Scrutiny Officer invited nominations for the role of Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor John Walsh (Bolton) as Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED/-

That Councillor John Walsh (Bolton) be appointed as Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

HP&E 21/03 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

The Committee agreed the appointment of Councillor Colin Macalister (Stockport) as Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED/-

That Councillor Colin Macalister (Stockport) be appointed as Vice-Chair for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

HP&E 21/04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2021/22

The Committee was asked to note its Membership for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

The Chair requested the Committee to note the resignation of Councillor Kathleen Nickson from Rochdale Council and therefore as a member of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED/-

That the Committee note its Membership for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

HP&E 21/05 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL DELCARATION FORM

Members were reminded of their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and were requested to complete an annual declaration of interest form, which had been emailed to them by the Governance & Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the GMCA's Member Code of Conduct (Appendix A of the report) be noted.

HP&E 21/06 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were provided with the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED/-

That the Committee's Terms of Reference be noted.

HP&E 21/07 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Chair's announcements or urgent business.

HP&E 21/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

**HP&E 21/09 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD
ON 19 MARCH 2021**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 19th March 2021 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee, held on 19th March 2021, be approved as a correct record.

HP&E 21/10 STREETS FOR ALL

Consideration was given to presentation that provided an overview of the Streets for All strategy, which is a sub-strategy to the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040.

The report explained that the Covid-19 pandemic had brought the quality of GM streets into sharp focus as GM residents were spending more time in their local areas and high streets, and therefore recognised the value of having safe places to walk and cycle and to spend time in. Therefore, the strategy was focused on reducing the dominance of traffic on GM streets thus making it safer for active travel.

The following comments were made:

Concerns were raised regarding the issue of accessibility for all users especially for those with mobility issues. The committee was assured that inclusion was at the heart of the strategy and that work was underway to develop design guidance when designing streets. TfGM had engaged with several disability groups to gain their input into new schemes.

Freight vehicles provided an essential service however it was recognised that these large vehicles posed a significant danger to cyclists and pedestrians when traveling through residential areas. It was reported that plans were underway to identify streets and routes that would be prioritised for carrying freight vehicles and to manage vehicle movement to avoid routes via active neighbourhoods.

It was suggested that these initiatives be aligned with changes in the highway code. Concerns were raised around the safety of individuals, particularly women. It was suggested that the plan should seek to find ways to reduce road deaths and through its design instil confidence in residents to opt for active travel.

This strategy would have a significant impact on residents as it would affect their day-to-day activity and would have good traction particularly from young adults if aligned with green issues. Therefore, it was suggested that a target on the number of trees to

be planted should be included in the strategy. Members were advised that planting of trees has been referenced in the strategy and the suggestion of including a set target on the number of trees to be planted was welcomed.

It was noted that the success of the strategy was dependant on successful engagement with local communities. Members were assured that communities were being engaged on this piece with the view to identify wider potential barriers and to shape plans whilst keeping the needs of communities in mind.

A member queried as to whether a framework was in place for local authorities when developing plans. It was stated that the strategy had been developed collaboratively with the 10 local authorities. However, it was noted that there were parts of the toolkit that needed to be developed to give districts a clear steer on guidance. The framework would seek to draw on examples that had worked elsewhere and encouraged districts to learn from best practice.

It was suggested that it would be useful to liaise with local planning departments and with Satellite Navigation providers to divert large vehicles from active neighbourhoods. Concerns were also raised around the lack of space around narrow terraced housing streets and the challenges it would pose for residents when transitioning to Electric Vehicles and particularly for Taxi owners. The suggestions were welcomed, and members were advised of plans to trial various schemes to encourage residents to take up active travel.

Concerning Electric Vehicles, a member raised concerns around affordability and noted the need to make bus and tram stops accessible.

It was noted that for the scheme to be successful it was crucial that the scheme met the needs of the local area and for residents to be engaged.

RESOLVED/-

That the report on the Streets for All Strategy be noted.

HP&E 21/11 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy, which was a sub-strategy to the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040.

The following comments were made:

Concerns were raised as certain streets in GM are not suitable for electric vehicles due to the lack of space. Members were advised of plans to introduce vehicle sharing clubs and designated parking areas to allow people to charge their vehicles.

The challenges of having a variety of different chargers were noted and it was stated that it would be useful to have a universal charger for all vehicles. The lack of charging points when traveling to rural areas was also noted as a deterring factor. In response,

it was stated that there were plans to introduce fast and rapid chargers and destination charging.

Concerns were raised around maintenance of machines and vandalism issues. it was reported that machines were managed through the network and so far, there had been no issues with vandalism.

A members queried as to how GM would deliver its target requirements of installing 2,700 fast, and 300 rapid public chargers in GM by 2025. The scale of the challenge was recognised, and members were advised that a bid to install taxi charging points through the Clean Air plan had been successful. In addition to that, the scheme was also receiving investment from the commercial sector. It was agreed that a report on the number of charging points across GM be brought to a future meeting.

It was suggested that the Committee consider issuing a letter to Government, on behalf of GM, requesting a review of charging heads. It was reported that there were plans to standardise chargers and it was agreed that a report outlining the number of charging heads will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

A member raised concerns around the lack of space in densely populated areas and sought to understand where community hubs would be located. It was reported that work was being done to identify suitable local authority land near to residential properties. It was noted that electric charging was an emerging technology, and it was important to maintain a flexible approach when delivering the strategy.

A member queried the measures in place to prevent abuse of electric vehicle charging facilities. It was reported that when electric vehicle charging was first introduced, electric vehicle users could access the network for free. However, with the expansion of the network and the increase in usage of this network, tariffs would be introduced.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report on the Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy be noted and endorsed.
2. That it be noted that the programme of planned publicly funded additional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure will be included on a sub-site of TfGM.com.
3. That a report on the availability of charging heads be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

HP&E 21/12

WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Consideration was given to the work programme for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

It was requested that updates on the Marmot Review particularly around the health inequalities that fall within the remit of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee be added to the workplan.

RESOLVED/-

That the work programme be noted and be updated following the meeting.