

HOUSING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 19th March 2020

Subject: Greater Manchester Strategy Refresh

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester and Policy & Strategy
Portfolio Lead, and Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide Overview & Scrutiny Members with an update on the work undertaken so far on the refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy and the forward plan for its detailed development over the coming months.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members note the update on the refresh process and progress, and provide feedback to shape and inform the further development of the Greater Manchester Strategy refresh.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The current Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) launched in November 2017, setting out our collective vision for the city region: to be one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on in life and grow old.
- 1.2 The existing GMS does not explicitly set an end date, but includes targets to be achieved by 2020. The supporting implementation plan sets ambition statements to be achieved by 2020, with delivery milestones every six months. Recognising the long term nature of the issues and challenges the GMS seeks to address – all of which remain current – it is proposed the GMS be refreshed and updated rather than to radically re-write the existing strategy.
- 1.3 A refresh of the current strategy will allow for the evolution of the GMS narrative, taking account of the current context and will build on the success of the existing strategy – notably the life journey approach and the now well established ten strategic priorities.
- 1.4 Building on the Future of GM package and narrative the update of the strategy will take account of major policy developments; including the Local Industrial Strategy; the Public Service Reform White Paper; Health & Social Care Prospectus; the Police and Crime Plan; the VCSE Policy Paper; and, the GMSF. The refreshed strategy would provide the overarching strategic context for these detailed plans.
- 1.5 Given the long term nature of the challenges and opportunities presented by GMS, and in order to better align with the strategies above, the refreshed GMS will be a ten year document, accompanied by a four year implementation plan, performance framework with targets and trajectories, in line with the next Mayoral term.

2. GMS REFRESH PROCESS AND PROGRESS

- 2.1 The first stage of the refresh process has been to engage on lessons from the 2017 GMS and its implementation. Since October engagement activity has been undertaken with all Local Authorities, GM Policy Leads and teams, and representatives from a series of VCSE organisations. These 'listening events' have provided a platform for reflections on the current Greater Manchester Strategy, its progress and achievements; reflections on the mechanisms and ways in which the GMCA operates and how embedded / influential GMS is in place; and also an opportunity to discuss aspirations for the refresh process, the updated document and supporting implementation plan.
- 2.2 The refresh of the strategy is also working alongside the development of strategic narratives for the thematic priorities. This work, being led by GMCA Communications Team, will produce plain English, short and simple articulations of our 'promises', for use by all partners, enabling all to share and advocate for Greater Manchester.

2.3 From the engagement work undertaken to date, there are some very strong themes and key message which will inform the refresh of the strategy:

- GMS should continue to be ambitious, the single overarching document which sets out GM's position for the future
- GMS should not be all things to all people, and should instead focus more on the added value of GM's constituent parts and achieving more together
- Place narratives need to be stronger and clearer; recognize the difference between GM places (at various geographical levels), and more clearly articulate the role each place has to play to be the best it can be, and the best GM can be
- GMS needs to respond to the climate emergency
- GMS needs to have a stronger narrative about fairness and equity, ensuring opportunities for all people and all places
- A stronger alignment of the GMS narratives and actions in the Implementation Plan is needed to the GMCA Portfolios
- There should be fewer actions overall
- There should be a strengthened role of scrutiny functions to drive performance
- Better GM platforms should be created for sharing information, evidence and data and best practice – recognizing not everything has to be generated by the 'centre', but the system should have better mechanisms in place for greater sharing and wider utilization across GM

3. PROPOSED SCOPE FOR THE REFRESHED STRATEGY

3.1 It is suggested the life course narrative and the existing 10 strategic priorities remain, largely unchanged. The current GMS has a series of 'enabling actions' which reflect the ways we work and capture actions relating to the Reform agenda, VCSE sector and some of the digital delivery priorities. In the refreshed document these will be interwoven throughout each of the relevant thematic priorities rather than being in a separate section.

3.2 The suggested change to the existing priorities relates to the current Priority 7 'A green city-region and a high quality culture and leisure offer for all', where culture activity would be removed from this priority and suggested instead culture and leisure be included under a reframed Priority 6, with an expanded scope of 'place' rather than the current planning and housing focus.

3.3 It is also proposed the refreshed Implementation Plan will contain, under each thematic priority, actions relating to social value and equalities to ensure these are embedded in delivery. The refresh will also strengthen and raise ambitions against existing priorities, using the current GMS as a starting platform, for example, a development of social housing activity and further development of integrated transport are anticipated.

4. TIMELINE AND PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Officer working groups have been established to shape and steer the refresh of the Strategy, the Implementation Plan and the outcomes framework. The established groups have drawn membership from across GM agencies, including all ten Local Authorities, the GMCA, Health & Social Partnership, TfGM and the VCSE sector.

4.2 The timeline for the drafting and completion of the strategy is as below:

Date	Activity
February	Collation of examples, best practice; high level review of progress against existing GMS
March	Scope and breadth / principles for refresh agreed
April / May	Drafting
June	Review of draft and revisions
July	Draft to LEP Draft to GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committees Final draft to GMCA for sign off 31 st July

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 That Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members note the update on the refresh process and progress, and provide feedback to shape and inform the further development of the Greater Manchester Strategy refresh.