

Date: 26th June 2020

Subject: Developing a one year Greater Manchester Living with Covid Plan

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester and Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To set out the process for the development of an initial one year 'Living with Covid' recovery plan, focused on those things that are so fundamental to Greater Manchester's success and enabling GM to achieve more, reduce risks, increase resilience and ultimately build back better.

The report sets out the criteria / filter that has been applied to determine areas for inclusion in the plan, and how those filters will continue to be applied during the development of detailed delivery actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note and provide views on the work to date to develop a GM one year Living with Covid Plan
2. Review and endorse the stresses identified to be responded to in the development of detailed actions
3. Agree the Living with Covid plan be brought to a future GMCA meeting

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Equalities Implications:

Previously existing and newly evidenced inequalities in our society have been clearly evidenced by the coronavirus pandemic. In the design and delivery of the Living with Covid Plan, specific actions will be developed which seek to reduce evidenced inequalities and to develop a more equitable provision of policy and services for the future.

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures –

The development of the Living with Covid Plan will include specific actions which will support our climate change ambitions. The inclusion of actions which seek to retain and improve recent environmental improvements, along with supporting Greater Manchester to be better equipped to respond to climate change going forward.

Risk Management:

N/A

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

The delivery of the plan will have financial implications. These will become clearer as the plan is developed and any resource consequences made clear in the final plan. However the development of the Living with Covid Plan should support Greater Manchester's case for additional resources and distribution of funds to support its implementation.

Financial Consequences – Capital:

The delivery of the plan will have financial implications. These will become clearer as the plan is developed and any resource consequences made clear in the final plan. However the development

of the Living with Covid Plan should support Greater Manchester's case for additional resources and distribution of funds to support its implementation.

Number of attachments to the report: N/A

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
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?		
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1. In Greater Manchester three phases of recovery have been identified. It is recognised that these timeframes will not be discrete from one another, and there will be 'blurring' between timescales and phases, and that multiple phases are likely to be operational at once.

1. Release of lockdown (0-2months)
2. Living with Covid (0-12months)
3. Building back better (0- beyond 12 months)

To support the restart and Living with Covid phase in Greater Manchester work is now underway to develop a bold Living with Covid one year Recovery Plan for social/economic recovery. This will not only make the most of Greater Manchester's most important asset, its people, but support more sustainable and equitable growth as we build back better to continue to make GM a world-leading city region. In doing this Greater Manchester is not starting from scratch however. The ambitions laid out in the Greater Manchester Strategy and Local Industrial Strategy remain the same. However the actions we might need to take to achieve those ambitions need to be reviewed.

- 1.2. Greater Manchester has always had an understanding of our challenges and opportunities and the coronavirus pandemic has brought many of these into sharp focus. Recognising the pandemic provides a one-off opportunity to look forensically at those issues and opportunities, and capitalise on this restart and rebuilding phase is an opportunity to re-set and progress further GM ambitions. The stresses and risks which were faced by our city-region pre-covid still exist, and as Greater Manchester lives with Covid, and move past the pandemic our planning and delivery must build the foundations for strengthened and improved responses not only to the pandemic, but also those other stresses both current and future; most notably inequalities and climate change.
- 1.3. Our response to the pandemic and approaches to the recovery and rebuilding phases needs to reflect GM's collective ambition. The coronavirus pandemic has not changed Greater Manchester's ambition, and our desire to continue to be and further develop our position as a global city-region. Recovery planning and the development of the one year plan must therefore also provide for the continuation, development and delivery of that ambition.
- 1.4. The city-region is beginning to move out of the lockdown phase, with businesses, the economy and society re-starting, with appropriate adaptations to accommodate the 'new normal', and recovery planning is already underway across Greater Manchester. It should be re-stated that as the pandemic is ongoing, the response phase has not finished. Therefore, while recovery planning is underway there will continue to be a 'double running' of response and recovery activity, and learning from the initial response phase will continue to share future actions. In the co-design and delivery of Greater Manchester's Living with Covid Plan with all parts of GM society we will continue to listen to our citizens and businesses, responding to issues raised and continually learning as Greater Manchester lives with Covid 19.

2. DEVELOPING A GM ONE YEAR PLAN

2.1. Restart and recovery planning is happening across all policy and service areas, and at all geographic levels, to ensure the rapid and safe restart of Greater Manchester's economy and society. Considerable recovery work is going on in Districts, and the Greater Manchester one year plan will be developed to complement and support that locality led work. As GM policy areas recovery and restart plans and actions develop, fundamental issues which need to be considered and responded to in all aspects of recovery planning are:

- Inequalities / poverty
- Safe GM / standards
- Co-design, civil society and social infrastructure
- Building a confident city-region
- Resilient city-region
- Recovery in the context of the Greater Manchester Strategy (opportunities to achieve our aims faster; risks to achieving our aims)
- Behaviour change

2.2 As Greater Manchester moves from the emergency and lockdown phases, into a period where the city-region is living with Covid (defined as approximately the next year, prior to a mass vaccine being available), Greater Manchester needs a clear sense of direction, and a comprehensive plan to enable the successful restart of our economy and society. This plan must help us to build on opportunities, capitalise on positive changes made as part of the emergency response, and ensure Greater Manchester is focused on the right things, which can be delivered in the timely and agile ways in response to the changeable requirements presented by Covid-19.

2.3 Responding to our experiences from the emergency response, with ongoing learning as the pandemic is ongoing, and utilizing community insight, the GM Living with Covid one year plan will be developed in line with our Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) objectives, and will be focused on only the key actions which will enable a successful restart and rebuilding of our economy and society. The plan will include clear deliverables to set Greater Manchester's recovery on a sustainable footing and provide the platform for growth and opportunities for all. The intention is that the plan will only contain those areas of activity which can provide 'solutions at scale', with the underlying objective of making Greater Manchester more resilient in the future.

2.4 The Recovery Coordination Group has developed a set of criteria to filter the areas that will be included in the one year plan. The continuous reference to, and use of, these criteria will ensure that the plan, which will evolve over the 12 months rather than being a static document, is focused on a small number of actions which truly deliver solutions at scale and build resilience for the future. The criteria developed are:

Do the actions:

- a. tackle pre-existing or newly identified stresses / risks in the system which must be respond to as part of our future response to outbreaks or other emergencies;**

- b. **build GM's economic, social and environmental resilience to prevent / minimise loss from a future shock event (e.g. second wave of infection, no deal Brexit, wildfires);**
- c. **enable us to live better with Covid;**
- d. **provide multiple benefits which help address multiple stresses – rather than just tackling one issue (e.g. addressing climate change while achieving economic outcomes);**
- e. **set GM on a stronger footing in order to achieve GMS ambitions;**
- f. **support GM's ambition to continue to be and develop as a global city-region.**

3. AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE ONE YEAR PLAN

3.1. As noted above the pandemic is ongoing, and therefore the learning is still ongoing. However based on the experience to date, and by carefully listening to our citizens and businesses to date, a number of stresses/issues which Covid 19 has laid bare seem to be coming to the fore. Work is now being undertaken, and will be brought back to a future GMCA meeting, to develop specific, tangible deliverables in response to those stresses, identified below. Deliverables identified will be those that, in 12 months' time, will help to build the resilience of Greater Manchester and support the ongoing progress towards achievement of GMS ambitions. The areas identified are:

Community support and infrastructure

- Continuing and developing further **personalised support to our most vulnerable citizens** (e.g. young people at risk; people abused in their homes) via **community hubs** (making permanent some of the temporary infrastructure introduced during Covid response phase)
- Enabling children to return to nursery/school/college safely with a key focus on ensuring **'catch up' and progress provision** for all those that were already at a disadvantage, seeking to ensure they do not lose more years in terms of their educational progress
- Ongoing support and further development of the GM **ageing in place programme**
- Ensuring the positive gains made in reducing **homelessness** and rough sleeping are maintained
- Build on the temporary infrastructure and support mechanisms put in place to improve and safeguard future **food resilience** (including food banks provision and supply & delivery)
- Building on positive community spirit and community cohesion gains during lockdown, invest in **resilient health protection systems, social infrastructure, staffing and VCSE sector** support to develop system wide infrastructure creating sustainable, responsive services for further outbreaks or wider community support, rebuilding confidence and ensuring GM is a safe place
- Maintaining and developing our recent innovations in the **access to, and use of data** to support and protect citizens and real time management of our towns and cities

- Ensuring access to **mental health** care and support, given the scale and significance of issues arising during the Covid outbreak and ongoing impacts
- Delivering a **unified model of health and care** incorporating a valued, resilient and high quality social care sector

Labour market and Jobs

- Supporting **young people** who are going to enter the labour market, or newly entered labour market (possible young person's guarantee)
- Supporting the **transition of the recently unemployed** into new growth areas of economic activity
- Recognising the value of **key workers and the significance of the foundational economy** to future success and growth of GM
- Support **business to rapidly develop and innovate** to maintain and create economic activity and jobs

Redressing inequalities

- Acknowledging and positively responding to **inequalities** in all aspects of Greater Manchester life
- Ensuring opportunities for the inclusion and embedding of **social value** as part of GM's recovery design and delivery (including high level framework of priorities for action)
- Ensuring no resident or business is excluded from being successful in GM due to **digital exclusion and isolation**

Climate change

- Restarting economy / society without reversing the **climate gains** made
- Access to **green space** for all; providing physical and mental health benefits, but also forming key part of wider climate change, future resilience plans
- A **new model of mass transit** including active travel, maintaining improvements in **air quality**, and continuing to build a sustainable network for movement

Secure funding and investment

- **Adequate funding for local authorities** and appropriate **devolved flexible funding** to drive economic and social progress, including negotiation with Government to create a firm financial and regulatory platform
- Rebuilding confidence of people to live, work, invest and visit in our **towns and cities** including recognising the value of cultural investment
- Finalise strategic framework for investment delivery and secure **infrastructure investment** needed to support economic stimulus and long term sustainable growth
- **Investment to capitalise on recognised GM economic opportunities** particularly in low carbon, e.g. housing retrofit; digital, e.g. smart data; health innovation, e.g. medicines manufacture; and, advanced materials & manufacturing, e.g. PPE manufacture and re-shoring supply chains

3.2 The work to be undertaken to develop the actions for inclusion in the Living with Covid Plan, will build on the community insight to date, and wider system learning from responding to the

coronavirus pandemic. This learning process is ongoing, and through an ongoing dialogue with our citizens we will ensure Greater Manchester's responses continue to be adaptive and responsive to the changing requirements of our economy and society driven by the ongoing virus outbreak.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. The GMCA is requested to:

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3. Agree the Living with Covid plan be brought to a future GMCA meeting