

Date: 31st July 2020

Subject: Update on the development of 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 provide the GMCA with an update of the work underway in the development of a one year 'Living with Covid' recovery plan. That plan will focus on the major actions that need to be taken over the coming 12 months as a result of Covid 19, to enable Greater Manchester to tackle the inequalities that Covid 19 has laid bare, achieve more, increase resilience and ultimately build back better.

RECOMMENDATION:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note and provide views on the progress being made on the development of the one year Living with Covid Plan

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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: None

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. DEVELOPING A GM ONE YEAR PLAN

1.1 Further to the report considered in June by the GMCA, 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.

1.2 Recognising that the Covid 19 pandemic is still ongoing, the purpose of the Greater Manchester living with Covid plan is to ensure that Greater Manchester is learning the early lessons (both positive and negative) from Covid 19. The plan will seek to capture the major issues and inequalities which Covid has laid bare, as well as the innovation that is occurring in responding to the Covid situation. It will then look at the major things that GM as a whole needs to focus on, over the next 12 months in order to build resilience in the event of future emergencies, and start to tackle some of the inequalities that Covid has revealed. It will need to recognise that the situation will continue to evolve over those 12 months and therefore delivery will have to be timely and agile ways in response to those changeable requirements presented by Covid-19. The one year plan provides a bridge between the existing Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) and the refresh of the strategy now due to take place next year

1.3 Working across the Greater Manchester system, and agreed by the GMCA in June, a series of 'stresses / opportunities' have been identified against which the Living with Covid actions will respond. Work is now underway to agree the main deliverable actions to set Greater Manchester's recovery on a sustainable footing, tackle the inequalities exposed by Covid 19, increase resilience of the city-region, and provide the platform for growth and opportunities for all.

2. AREAS FOR INCLUSION IN THE ONE YEAR PLAN

2.1 The Living with Covid Plan will describe the main early issues and learning from Covid 19 and set those within the GM existing strategic context to guide our joint focused efforts to respond to the issues that Covid has laid bare in our society and economy, ensuring as a city-region we are able to effectively re-build and move forward and are also more resilient for any further waves or local outbreaks of the virus.

2.2 The plan will then contain specific deliverables responding to the issues which have become apparent due to Covid. Detailed action planning work underway is responding to the issues below, agreed at the last meeting of the Combined Authority:

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

2.3 The work now underway 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.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Recommendations appear at the front of this report.