

**MINUTES OF THE GM HOUSING, PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD TUESDAY 08 MARCH 2022 AT THE TOOTAL BUILDINGS - BROADHURST HOUSE, 56 OXFORD STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 6EU**

**PRESENT:**

Stockport	Councillor Colin MacAlister (Chair)
Bury	Councillor Martin Hayes
Manchester	Councillor Mandie Shilton-Godwin
Oldham	Councillor Barbara Brownridge
Oldham	Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani
Rochdale	Councillor Linda Robinson
Stockport	Councillor Janet Mobbs
Tameside	Councillor Mike Glover
Trafford	Councillor Kevin Procter
Wigan	Councillor Fred Walker

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

City Mayor of Salford	Paul Dennett
GM Mayor	Andy Burnham
GMCA	David Hodcroft
GMCA	Joanne Heron
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins
GMCA	Sam Evans
GMCA	Steve Fyfe

**HP&E 21/47**

**WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Walsh (Bolton), Ashley Dearnley (Rochdale), Stuart Dickman (Salford) Liam Billington (Tameside) and Akilah Akinola (Trafford).

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

**HP&E 21/48**

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no Chair's Announcements and urgent business.

**HP&E 21/49**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declaration of interests were received.

**HP&E 21/50**

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 01 FEBRUARY 2022**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 01 February 2022 were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 01 February 2022 be approved.

**HP&E 21/51**

**DELIVERING 30,000 NET ZERO CARBON SOCIAL RENTED HOMES: INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the initial implementation plan for the delivery of 30,000 net zero carbon social rented homes by 2038. The report also provided details for a further period of engagement and co-production with partners and stakeholders, including registered housing providers and local authorities as the primary developers of social housing in GM, embodying the whole system challenge approach that was agreed by GMCA in December 2021.

The following comments were made:

Members welcomed the report and noted the need to progress this piece of work given the globally recognised climate emergency in order to mitigate any further damage to the environment.

It was clarified that the right to buy and right to acquire scheme would not apply to social rented homes.

A member suggested that it would be useful for a risk assessment to be included within the report should GM not be able to achieve the target of 30,000 net zero carbon social rented homes by 2038.

It was highlighted that social rent funding was not currently available in five GM districts (Bolton, Oldham, Rochdale, Tameside and Wigan) due to restrictions linked to measures of housing affordability imposed by the then MHCLG. Therefore, members noted the need for further work to be done to influence government to change their eligibility criteria.

Given the current economic situation and challenges involved to transition to net zero carbon new build homes, it was recognised that a collaborative partnership approach would be needed to ensure the success of the programme. It was highlighted that it would be beneficial to engage with members of parliament to try and seek to influence government to build the coalition needed to achieve the full system change.

Members recognised that to drive future investment and raise productivity, it was crucial for GM to work with higher education facilities to deliver adequate training for existing and new entrants to the construction sector.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

That the report on the 'Delivering 30,000 net zero carbon social rented Homes: Initial Implementation Plan' be noted.

**HP&E 21/52            RESPONSE TO FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE  
GMCA, UNITED UTILITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

Consideration was given to the reports (a) the response to flood risk and (b) the memorandum of understanding between the GMCA, United Utilities and the Environment Agency. These reports summarised the actions that had been undertaken to date as requested by members of the GM Housing, Planning and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

It was highlighted that there was need for a strategic approach to be adopted to be able to mitigate the risks arising from water management issues within Greater Manchester.

Members were advised that to date no further resources had been secured from government as part of the tripartite agreement provided by UU and EA.

It was reported that to inform local engagement on this issue, GMCA had seconded an officer part time to the NIC to support the work on flood risk management.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the reports on (a) the response to flood risk and (b) the memorandum of understanding between the GMCA, United Utilities and the Environment Agency be noted.

**HP&E 21/53            GM MAYOR PRIORITIES**

The GM Mayor joined the meeting and presented members with his current priorities. The Mayor highlighted his ambitions for a carbon neutral GM, and for a low carbon London-style fully integrated public transport system across bus, tram, train and bike.

Members were advised of the launch of the New Era event on Monday, 14 March 2022 where plans for GM through the identified six Growth Locations would be published. These locations would present opportunities for the entire city-region and would bring forward development at a scale that would drive transformational change across GM.

Members welcomed the initiatives as set out by the GM Mayor and noted the need to work together to drive investment and to all GM to achieve its full potential as city region.

It was highlighted that the transport network was a heavy contributor to carbon emissions and that through the funding available through the Bus Service Improvement Plan GM would seek to carry out the electrification of the entire bus network. Members were advised that further detailed update on the implementation of bus franchising would be provided at the New Era event.

The challenges around the implementation of a bus franchising scheme and the ownership of land around rail stations across Greater Manchester was highlighted. Members were therefore advised of the intention to establish a Land commission that would be aimed at supporting a green economy and contribute to an effective transport network.

Members noted the need to restore the correct balance across the conurbation by ensuring GM residents have access to quality jobs and educations/training opportunities.

It was recognised that it was crucial to develop an effective communications strategy that should seek to clearly convey the benefits for GM residents and the entire city-regions.

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the update be noted.

At this point the meeting was inquorate. Discussions on the rest of the agenda continued on an informal basis.

**HP&E 21/54            BIODIVERSITY OFFSETTING IN GREATER MANCHESTER**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the background on the national requirement for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) which would be implemented in November 2023; the ambition was to maximise the opportunities from biodiversity net gain within Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the update be noted.

**HP&E 21/55            FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview of the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix A) to identify areas of focus for the committee.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions be noted.