

GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 25 September 2024

Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
and Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Report of: Nicola Ward, Statutory Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

Purpose of Report:

To provide an opportunity for the Committee to review their draft Work Programme for September-November 2024 (Appendix A) and provide the Committee with the latest Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix B) to ensure that they are informed of the forthcoming decisions to be taken by the GMCA, GM Mayor or any delegated officer or committee.

This report also includes the areas of interest gathered through a recent work programming activity by members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee and suggests areas for a task and finish review.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to –

1. Consider the proposed Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme for September-November 2024.
2. Use the Forward Plan of Key Decisions to identify any potential areas for further scrutiny.

3. Note the areas of interest highlighted by members of the Committee for inclusion in the Work Programme for 2024-25.
4. Consider which area would be best suited to a task and finish review.

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Background

Over a four-week period, members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee were invited to complete an online form, highlighting areas of interest that they felt met the criteria for engagement of the Committee.

In relation to each suggestion, members were asked to consider whether –

- It was linked with a strategic priority of the GMS?
- It reflected public interest?
- Scrutiny could add value?

Work Programme suggestions

The following areas for the Work Programme were put forward for consideration by the Committee –

- Progress on the T&F review of Integrated Water Management
- Homelessness
- The development of co-operatives
- Social cohesion
- The regeneration of Greater Manchester's high streets
- Activities and opportunities for young people
- GMCA relationship with schools/academies - how we support them as they take on so much more support - the increasing amount of SEND provision needed - the increase in bullying - the increase in NEETs

- Digital inclusion
- Housing – especially regarding affordable housing
- Safety of Women and Girls and the extent to which this is considered in GM policy design and implementation
- GM Environment Plan
- The devolvement of Universal Support and how the GMCA works with the DWP
- MBacc, how to offer inclusivity and support for all young people possibly removing the need for SEN support, and reducing NEET, how it links into other issues such as prevention of mental health, anti-social behaviour etc
- Communication/interaction between GMCA and LAs at a councillor and resident level and how this might change with the single settlement, looking at issues we could centralise, how LAS maintain their own autonomy while working closely with GMCA, so we can work together and make the best use of our resources
- Good landlord charter and its role in creating fair rents

Task and Finish Review suggestions

The following suggested areas were put forward for a task and finish approach, noting that if not selected, they will still remain on the list above for inclusion in the work programme as appropriate.

- Social cohesion
- Homelessness
- Safety of Women and Girls and the extent to which this is considered in GM policy design and implementation
- The development of Co-operatives
- The regeneration of Greater Manchester's high streets
- The influence on GM schools especially regarding SEND provision
- Digital inclusion
- Communication/interaction between GMCA and LAs at a councillor and resident level and how this might change with the single settlement, looking at issues we could centralise, how LAS maintain their own autonomy while working closely with GMCA, so we can work together and make the best use of our resources

- Review the recommendations made by the School readiness Task & Finish in 2022

In relation to the final suggestion, the Committee may choose to organise a short additional task and finish group to review specifically how the recommendations of the initial review have been implemented, and whether there are further recommendations to bring forward.

Potential workshop sessions

Finally, there were a few suggestions put forward by members which could potentially be more effective through a workshop style session. These included –

- The definition of ‘inclusive growth’ and how it links with the circular economy
- Where and how Local Authorities could better work together