Update on the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Executive Summary

1. To update Council on the work of Members appointed to represent the Council across a range of key roles at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The report replaces the routine submission of minutes from GMCA meetings and aims to provide Members with the key highlights across GMCA activity.

Key Points for Consideration


2.1 Clean Air Plan – 29th March 2019
All 10 GM authorities are working together to address Nitrogen Dioxide pollution in Greater Manchester. It is predicted that there will be 250 points which exceed statutory levels of compliance across 152 roads in all 10 local authorities. A feasibility study has been undertaken and an outline business case will be submitted to Government by the end of March. It will require significant Government investment of around £116 million, to deliver the measures in the business case in a way that contributes to GMCA’s wider environmental, social and economic objectives. Further stakeholder engagement and a public consultation exercise will take place to refine the work and the final business case will be produced by the end of the calendar year.

2.2 Bed for a night - 29th March 2019 and 31st May 2019
Since its commencement 10 months ago the programme has helped over 1500 people, many of whom have since moved on to a fixed address. £2.1 million has been allocated from the Trailblazer funding and the Mayoral priority budget to deliver hub provision under the programme. It was agreed that the programme would be extended to the end of April pending further discussion on a secure, long term funding platform. It was noted that cost benefit analysis suggests that the costs are not much higher to continue to provide year round service due to the linked reduction in other services.
provided by referrals to A&E, the police and Councils etc. An additional £506,817 has been secured by GMCA from the government’s Rough Sleeper Initiative to tackle rough sleeping in six GM boroughs. Rochdale and Oldham will be allocated 2 additional outreach workers at a cost of £66,700, delivered by a voluntary sector provider working across both boroughs and a dual diagnosis worker at a cost of £50,000. Rochdale has also been awarded a further to support access to accommodation.

2.3 **Full fibre - 29th March 2019**
Following a successful bid for £23.8m Local Full Fibre networks funding from the government, agreement was sought on investment, programme and project management and procurement in order to ensure delivery in a tight timescale. Rochdale along with the other GM authorities will enter into a direct contract. There will be 92 sites in the borough and it will require an upfront investment of £926,000. This programme will lead to an increase in full fibre coverage from 2% to 25% meaning GM would have the best high-speed digital infrastructure of any region.

2.4 **Good employment Charter – 31st May 2019**
Having agreed the model for the GM Good Employment Charter in March 2019, the charter was approved at a cost of £230,000 per year for three years from 2019-20. The model will enable engagement with a wide variety of businesses, public service providers, voluntary and community sectors encouraging them to meet higher employment standards, learn from best practice and in doing so improve productivity and service quality. Membership of the charter will require secure work, flexible work, a real living wage, workplace engagement and voice, excellent recruitment practice and progression, excellent people management and a productive and healthy workforce. It is intended to launch the first tier of membership in July with a good employment event proposed for the Autumn to formally launch the Charter.

2.5 **Rail update and Williams Review of Rail – 31st May 2019**
The GM rail network plays an important role in supporting growth but investment has not kept pace with it. The Northern Hub has failed to deliver, electrification programmes have been delayed or paused and franchises have failed to deliver on transformational timetables causing chaos in the failure of the May 2018 timetable, estimated to have cost the economy £38m. Rail performance for Network Rail, Arriva Rail and Transpennine remains inadequate. Express TfGM on behalf of GMCA has responded to the Williams review viewing it as an opportunity to drive change and create a network with greater local control and which is integrated with the rest of the transport network and advocating further devolution to the region for transport decision making.

2.6 **Care leavers trust – 31st May 2019**
GMCA were updated on the progress in establishing a GM Care Leavers Trust and delivering improvements for Care Leavers. The release of innovation funding provided by the DfE was approved to enable the project to be delivered in partnership and across the 10 authorities; promoting and delivering best practice for GM Care Leavers to address the high levels of
disadvantage they currently experience. The GM Core offer aims to equip care leavers to live independently, access education, training and employment, live stable lives, have access to health services and greater financial stability. In addition the DfE launched the Carer Covenant, as an ambition for businesses, charities and every government department to commit to provide work based opportunities to young people leaving the care system. The Covenant will be launched simultaneously with the core offer across GM by the Mayor.

2.7 **Opportunity Pass and Bus Reform – 28th June 2019**
The Opportunity Pass Pilot is a two year project developed in conjunction with the GM Youth Combined Authority, which is ongoing to develop a range of complementary benefits and opportunities which will be available to young people, funding costs will be partly offset by commercial sponsorship and discussions re pooled funding opportunities with FE colleges and sixth forms. In addition to free travel on buses it is anticipated the pass will provide free or discounted access to venues, experience days with a focus on exposure to different career paths and free or discounted products. The application process will be launched on 1st July 2019.

2.8 **Industrial Strategy – 28th June 2019**
The GM Local Industrial strategy was formally launched on 13th June 2019. It provides a comprehensive strategy to deliver an economy with prosperous communities and radically increased productivity and earning power. It sets GM up to be a global leader on health and care innovation improving health and extending life expectancy. It positions GM as a leading city-region for innovative firms to develop and adopt advanced manufacturing materials including graphene. It will build on Manchester’s position as a leading digital city-region. It will achieve carbon neutral living in GM by 2038.

2.9 **Housing Strategy 28th June 2019**
The GM housing strategy was unveiled. Following extensive co-production and widespread consultation the strategy addresses a wide variety of housing issues giving priority to the following issues:-
- tackling homelessness and rough sleeping
- Making a positive difference to private tenants
- Developing healthy homes services to support vulnerable households
- Improving access to social housing for those who need it.
- Identifying pathways to make properties carbon neutral
- New models of delivery – ensure land supply to deliver homes by 2037
- Investing in truly affordable housing
- Increase choices in the housing market for GM households

Specific work is already underway on many of the issues raised in the Strategy, including homelessness and rough sleeping, the private rented sector, work to accelerate housing delivery and detailed work on the definition of affordability and affordable housing, working towards a commitment to deliver 50000 affordable homes by 2037, with at least 30000 being for social or affordable rent.
B) Police and Crime Panel – Councillor Emsley – Meeting of 31st January 2019

2.10 Probation Services
Following the changes set out by the government in ‘Strengthening Population’ the Probation Service will operate across two divisions. A separate GM division and a division comprising Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and Cumbria. The change will balance a large case load in the North west and realise the benefits of delivering co-terminously within the devolved GM environment.

2.11 Chief Constable Ian Hopkins
Chief Constable Ian Hopkins’ contract has been extended for a period of two years until 2021.

2.12 Tackling Modern Slavery.
In Rochdale the police, the Council and other agencies have been working together to tackle modern slavery, criminal exploitation and drug dealing. This led to a number of arrests and the charging of twenty people in 2018 in relation to drugs offences and the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults.

C) Waste and Recycling Committee – Councillor Susan Emmott – Meeting of 14th March 2019

2.13 Procurement of future waste management
The committee is still in the process of procuring waste management services, biowaste offtake capacity and transitioning to mobilisation of future contract arrangements. Following receipt of tenders for lots 1 and 2 from Suez Recycling, Recovery UK and Veolia ES. Following evaluation outcomes Suez was appointed as the preferred tenderer for Future waste management. Following cancellation of Lot 3 procurement tender submissions were invited for lot 3 from In Vessel composting facility operators. Any short listed organisations that pass the evaluation phase will be included on a framework for 4 years. Framework organisations will then be invited to bid for contracts at their own treatment facilities. This approach will give GMCA flexibility over future arrangements.

D) Transport for Greater Manchester Committee – Councillor Burke - Meeting of 15th March 2019

2.14 Contactless payment
Passengers on Metrolink are set to benefit from a new and easy to use contactless payment system when it is launched on the 15th July. It is one of the first tangible steps towards ‘Our Network’, the Mayor’s 10 year plan to create an integrated, modern, accessible London style transport system. The new intelligent contactless system will cut out the need to buy a ticket.

2.15 Wayfinding System
Residents and visitors to Manchester are set to benefit from a new system which helps them navigate their way around Manchester on foot. 28 eye catching and informative signs have been installed at prominent locations, providing a clear route between the stations and important shopping and cultural destinations. It is hoped the wayfinding system will help encourage active travel, reduce congestion
and tackle air quality.

2.16 Putting the us in the bus
Schools, community groups and volunteer organisations have been asked to bid to TfGM to win a decommissioned yellow school bus. Interested groups have until 14th July to submit bids. Entries will be judged on a number of criteria including originality, creativity and community benefit.

E) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Holly 15th March, 12th April and 14th June 2019

2.17 The O&S Committee
has met three times since February considering a variety of matters. The main topics which have been scrutinised are the GM Work Programme, the GM Culture Strategy, the GM Skills Pilot and the GM Productivity and Inclusive Growth Programme.

F) Health & Social Care Partnership Board – Councillor Rowbotham – Meeting of 8th March 2019

2.18 GM Learning Disability Strategy update
The GM Learning Disability Strategy is a key priority and was launched in Summer 2018. It is a commitment to make improvements in a variety of areas to make a tangible difference to people’s lives. There is already significant progress with a variety of new strategies taking shape and being implemented across all authorities. Rochdale has worked with First Buses to improve people’s experience of bus travel and is working on a bespoke commissioning project which will seek to move people back into the area, focussed on person centred support and real co-production.

2.19 Framework for Independent Living in GM
A holistic approach to identifying people’s physical, psychological, social and biological needs is required for GM residents to live as well as possible for as long as possible. This approach will involve patients, health and social care providers, local authorities, the third sector and other agencies. Clinical frailty is a key factor. GM wish to adopt an asset based approach to supporting people with clinical frailty, placing an emphasis on what they can do, rather than what they can’t, maximising independence and continued societal contribution.