

Minutes of: **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 19 July 2022

Present: Councillor D Vernon (in the Chair)
Councillors R Bernstein, C Birchmore, A Arif, N Bayley,
N Boroda, D Green, N Jones, K Peel, T Pilkington and
M Walsh

Also in attendance: Councillor Morris, Cabinet Member for Culture and
Economy
Councillor Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment,
Climate Change and Operations
Lynne Ridsdale, Deputy Chief Executive
Chris Woodhouse, Strategic Partnerships Manager
Laura Swann, Assistant Director (Operations Strategy)
Neil Long, Assistant Director
Donna Ball, Executive Director, Operations
Jacqui Dennis, Monitoring Officer
Chloe Ashworth, Democratic Services.

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: None.

The meeting took place virtually following guidance from Public Health and in Consultation with the Chair due to the heat wave experienced on the evening.

Councillor Vernon informed Members to make any decisions the Local Government Act 1972 requires members to be present in person and does not allow decisions to be made virtually or in a hybrid manner. Therefore, if any decisions are made, they can be agreed in principle and be ratified at a future meeting. Similarly, if the Committee resolve to make and recommendations, then they can do so virtually by a show of hands.

OSC1 APOLOGIES

Apologies are noted above.

OSC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Peel declared an interest in items 8-10 as Deputy Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations so left the meeting after item 7 (19:56pm).

OSC.3 MINUTES

Councillor Birchmore flagged that page 4 of the minutes should be amended to:

It was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor Boroda and it was agreed unanimously.

Subject to the above amendment the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2022 be approved.

OSC.4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

OSC.5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

OSC.6 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no member questions.

OSC.7 CULTURE STRATEGY AND BURY'S TIME AS GREATER MANCHESTER TOWN OF CULTURE

Councillor Morris, Cabinet Member for Culture and Economy provided an overview of Bury Council's Culture Strategy and Bury's time as Greater Manchester Town of Culture.

In December 2019 Bury was named the inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture, an initiative to promote the 'distinctive culture' of towns across the region. As an outcome of the Town of Culture celebrations and recognised potential economic opportunity, a Culture Strategy was commissioned from a partner called Curated Place. This work was also tasked with exploring the opportunity to put cultural investment centre stage of the delivery of "Levelling Up" schemes in Bury and Radcliffe.

Councillor Morris then opened to questions from the Committee.

Councillor Birchmore asked the following questions; If you were writing this as a business plan what aims, and objectives would you have listed for this project? What outcomes do you think you have achieved? What do you think the legacy of this project will be for Bury and the other towns which make up Bury MBC?

In response Councillor Morris advised the proposed aim of the strategy is to be the best borough to be an independent creative in Greater Manchester. The objectives are to contribute to economic growth; to harness and celebrate community pride and identity and to enable delivery of the Levelling Up ambitions through a high-quality events programme in the new Radcliffe and Bury events spaces specifically. The intention is to establish the Borough as a cultural destination to increase visitor footfall and spend and to attract and retain new businesses to the borough, from the creative sector. The outcomes will be financial resilience through self-sufficiency of creative industries; increased business rates from the hospitality industry and the vibrancy of our town centres which will benefit from increased footfall and visitor numbers. Detailed evaluation measures will be determined when the strategy is finalised but are likely to include hotel stays; visitor numbers at principal attractions including Radcliffe hub and Bury Flexi Hall; numbers of resident artists and creative-based industries and increased regional and national media coverage.

In response to a question from Councillor Bernstein about Gigg Lane Councillor Morris advised that as per the report to Cabinet last week there is now a clear opportunity to bring professional football back to the town at Gigg Lane whilst maximising a key community asset, which would see the council provide £450k to release further funding from the Community

Ownership Fund. Throughout our time as Town of Culture and when considering a future Cultural Strategy, we have always intentionally applied the broadest definition of culture, which includes sporting activity, hence for instance the Radcliffe People and Communities Plan having a joint theme on Culture and Sport. The proposals provide the opportunity to bring a range of benefits to the communities surrounding Gigg Lane, providing spaces for creative (priority 3 in the Curate Place proposal) and in particular celebrate the mutually beneficial relationship between creativity and wellbeing, both in the creation and consumption of cultural activity.

During discussion of this item Councillor Peel referenced the Culture Strategy should focus on how to balance the day and night-time economy so that we do not have lots of bars and good nightlife and nothing to visit in the day.

Councillor Walsh sought clarification on assets and historic buildings within the Borough including Radcliffe Manor. In response Councillor Morris advised the military history was a large part of the culture and heritage of Bury. Councillor Morris asked for an invite to see Radcliffe Manor and hear about the history.

Councillor Vernon sought assurances of the details of the Purple Flag Accreditation. In response Councillor Morris advised the accreditation follows a two-year renewal process with a full renewal every two-years and an interim renewal in-between. The submission date for the full renewal is the 7th October 2022 and the work for this is led and co-ordinated by the Economic Development and Projects service within Business Growth and Infrastructure Department. Licensing Officers within the Public Protection Service have limited involvement but do supply information to support the renewal application relating to the night-time economy in Bury. Information would include current schemes including Best Bar Non scheme (GMP Led), PubWatch, Bury Driver Safety Initiative, Licensed Premises Women's Safety Charter, Taxi/Private Hire Trade Liaison Meetings and Compliance visits to Licensed Premises which are undertaken in collaboration with GMP.

In response to concerns about areas who are not as touched by the Culture/ major regeneration projects Councillor Morris advised that it is about connecting people to place and communities more than physical buildings.

During discussions of this item Councillor Bernstein sought assurances on how Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) will support the cultural economy in Bury. In response Councillor Morris advised the Council is in constant dialogue with colleagues across TfGM. We benefit from good transport links notably the Metrolink, where of course at the interchange have public art through a text-based neon. In addition, we ensure linkages with our Live Well service to maximise the opportunities for active travel options.

Councillor Vernon sought clarification on the Business Improvement District (BIDs), the appointment of a consultant and retail business owners. In response Councillor Morris advised the procured consultant is The Mosaic Partnership who have a wealth of experience in setting up BIDs. There is currently a Board made up of a number of Bury businesses who meet monthly to progress the work plan and next steps. The board will manage the process until the BID Director/Manager is appointed.

In response to a question from Councillor Jones regarding the cultural skills development programme Councillor Morris advised; this would be resourced from within a reconfigured team. Pending the establishment of additional specialist resources the council will also work with other cultural partners to harness their expertise, by repurposing the board that was established to lead Town of Culture delivery into a wider cross-borough culture board.

Questions regarding the indicative Annual events budget were asked. Councillor Morris clarified that any budget for events is part of the wider consideration of the Curated Place proposal in the context of resource constraints. There is not currently an existing core budget within the Council for delivering events, though many are supported through the Event Safety Advisory Group.

It was moved by Councillor Vernon and seconded by Councillor Jones, and it was agreed unanimously:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee voice their support for the Cultural Strategy and requests Cabinet to carry out further work on funding streams to support it. The Committee requested that Councillor Morris report back to it within the Municipal year.

It was agreed that:

1. Councillor Morris be thanked for her update and attendance at the Committee.

OSC.8 CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY

Councillor Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations provided an overview of the Climate Action Strategy.

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and has made a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2038. This aligns with the target for Greater Manchester. In October 2021, following public consultation, the Council published its Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan. These documents outline how the Council will work towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2038.

During discussion of this item Councillor Walsh sought clarification on the current flood defences on Hardy's Gate Bridge. Councillor Quinn explained the reason for the original plan of remodelling the bridge didn't go ahead due to a funding gap and whilst it is not at immediate risk there is a 1 in 40 chance a storm could be detrimental to flooding in the immediate area.

Councillor Bernstein asked based on where we are today are we confident that we will reach carbon neutrality by 2038. In response to the question Councillor Quinn stated the Council continues to prioritise climate action, and this was acknowledged last year with the publication of our Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan and the creation of a Climate Action Team. There has been some positive progress recently but there needs to be a change from the government to ensure we are successful. It is also important to recognise that we need to act quickly as it is estimated at the Greater Manchester level that we will use up our Carbon budget in the next 6 years, which means that by 2028 we will already be on the path to greater than 1.5C of warming. The Council is heavily reliant on government being able to make the necessary national changes that help to support the Council to achieve its carbon reduction goal, as there are many areas that we simply do not have necessary level of influence i.e., decarbonisation of the energy grid.

Councillor Birchmore sought assurances regarding getting vehicle charging points on a proposed development on the East Lancs Paper Mill site. Councillor Quinn advised that for a number of years, the Environment Section have been recommending planning conditions requiring that all new residential properties with a dedicated parking space be provided with an electric vehicle charge point. However, following the release of the new Building Regulations in June 2022, electric vehicle charge points will be required by law on all new residential properties with a parking space. This will be enforced by Building Regulations and so will no longer be needed as a condition on planning applications.

Councillor Vernon questioned what action was taken to access the potential £8.5 million funding as Bury received £2.5 million. In assurance Councillor Quinn advised that Bury council were originally awarded £8.5 million to deliver a range of decarbonisation measures across 16 of our corporate buildings. The government set extremely challenging timelines for delivery of the decarbonisation measures and these challenges were made even more difficult by late notification of award, timescales changing throughout the project, the impact of COVID and long lead in times for delivery of equipment. Despite best efforts to deliver the original works it became necessary to reduce the scope in order to meet the agreed timescales and ensure the Council was not liable for the costs (if work ran over). Everything possible was done to enable works that were achievable in the timeframe to be delivered and we were able to complete decarbonisation works at 8 of our buildings.

It was agreed:

1. Councillor Quinn Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations be thanked for his attendance and update.

OSC.9 UPDATE ON THE GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

Councillor Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations attended and provided an overview Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan. The report sets out the case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and Greater Manchester's annual mean standards for NO₂ in 2021.

The Health Scrutiny Committee were asked to note the 'Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan' document has been submitted to the Secretary of State as a draft document subject to any comments from Bury Council ahead of the next Air Quality Administration Committee.

During discussion of this item members sought assurance on the change from the Government revoked the direction requiring the implementation of a category C charging zone. In response Councillor Quinn advised that as a result of legal action, in July 2017 the Secretary of State issued a Direction under the Environment Act 1995 requiring seven Greater Manchester local authorities, to produce a feasibility study to identify the option which will deliver compliance with the requirement to meet legal limits for nitrogen dioxide *in the shortest possible time*. In Greater Manchester (GM) Authorities have worked together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle NO₂ Exceedances at the Roadside, referred to as GM CAP. Following Government guidance a best performing option was identified within an Outline Business Case (OBC) for further consideration and discussion with stakeholders and the public to aid the development of the Full Business Case.

In March 2019 the GM Authorities agreed the submission of the OBC that proposed a package of measures that was considered would deliver compliance in Greater Manchester in the shortest possible time, at the lowest cost, least risk and with the least negative impacts. This involved a Charging Clean Air Zone Class C with additional measures.

In July 2019 the Secretary of State issued a direction under section 85 of the Environment Act 1995 requiring the 10 GM local authorities to implement the local plan for NO₂ compliance for the areas for which they were responsible, including a Charging Clean Air Zone Class C with additional measures, but with an obligation to provide further options appraisal information to demonstrate the applicable class of charging clean air zone and other matters to provide assurance that the local plan would deliver compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest.

Councillor Birchmore questioned the ANPR cameras purpose; in response Councillor Quinn advised the ANPR cameras that have been installed can be utilised for data capture which would allow the Greater Manchester authorities to better understand vehicle fleet currently in operation, and their associated emissions. Using this data allows us to understand how vehicle fleets have naturally renewed over the course of the project, and whether the impacts of Covid-19 has altered typical cycles. Where ANPR cameras are located adjacent to air quality monitoring, additional analysis can be undertaken to be understand how specific vehicle types might be contributing to overall emissions.

Councillor Bernstein sought clarification on recommendation 6; in response Councillor Quinn advised It means we are keen to work with Department for Transport to consider an appropriate regulatory device which would require that all private hire journeys within GM to be undertaken by a driver and vehicle which are both licensed by one of the 10 GM local authorities. Councillor Bernstein asked for a written response to how this would work for out of borough residents wishing to commute into the Borough or into Greater Manchester with a local taxi company.

Councillor Birchmore questioned the equipment reliability that provides the data for all measurements of traffic pollution levels over the last five years. In response Councillor Quinn advised we are always keen to make all our air quality monitoring results available to our communities and other interested parties. The Bury Council website you mention is currently being updated to include the 2021 results and in addition to this, the following data is also available

- All the real-time data recorded at our 3 automatic monitoring sites is all available at uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data.
- All our diffusion tube annual results are available at <https://cleanairgm.com/data-hub/diffusion-tubes>.

In response to questions Councillor Quinn assured Committee members that Greater Manchester leaders have committed to a participatory approach to the development of the new Plan to ensure the proposals are well-grounded in evidence in terms of the circumstances of affected groups and possible impacts of the Plan on them, and therefore the deliverability and effectiveness of that Plan. Jacqui Dennis, Monitoring Officer clarified this will be subject to public consultation.

OSC.10 HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE AND LGA PEER REVIEW

Councillor Quinn provided the Committee with an overview of Highways Maintenance and the recent LGA Peer Review.

Councillor Vernon requested an update from the LGA Peer Review Team visit and follow up action planning day that took place on the 12 July. In response Councillor Quinn assured members the follow up action day took place this week. Three members of the LGA team came back to Bury and facilitated a workshop with officers. This workshop looked at communication, internally, with members and with residents and stakeholders. From this an action plan is being drawn up and actions allocated across Engineers and Street Scene. There is also work taking place to develop a communications strategy for both publicising what we are doing, why and also how we engage with members on the development of programmes of work and the delivery of schemes.

Councillor Bernstein further questioned who the communications strategy is aimed at in terms of behavioural change. In response Councillor Quinn advised the terminology is from the LGA, and is aimed at communications with the public, our partners such as TfGM and with elected Members. Then to raise awareness with the public, elected Members and our partners in

connection with what we are implementing and achieving in connection with highways maintenance. By behaviour change this could refer to a more collaborative approach with our partners and Members in developing highways maintenance strategy together a better understanding by everyone of highway maintenance and improved customer satisfaction.

Councillor Birchmore wanted to voice positive feedback from Radcliffe residents on the roads being done in the area.

The Chair thanked Councillor Quinn for his contribution to the meeting.

OSC.11 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR D VERNON
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.50 pm)