

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny

DATE: Tuesday 6th February 2018

SUBJECT: Update on devolution in Greater Manchester

REPORT FROM: The Leader of the Council

CONTACT OFFICER: Chris Woodhouse, Corporate Policy

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This item provides an update on devolution to Greater Manchester. In reality devolution hasn't been a one-off event, rather there have been a series of devolution deals between the region and central government, with the first in November 2014. It has been built on a history of working together as ten local authorities over the last 40 years, more recently through the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA).
- 1.2. Devolution is about local people, including those from Bury, making more of the decisions on local issues, with increasingly issues and opportunities for Greater Manchester being made by Greater Manchester, in Greater Manchester - rather than by Whitehall and Westminster.

2.0 GREATER MANCHESTER MAYORAL ELECTION

- 2.1 In May 2017 the residents of Greater Manchester voted for the region's first directly elected mayor, Andy Burnham.
- 2.2 Having a GM Mayor was one of the conditions of devolution deals with the Treasury. This isn't about Bury and the nine other local authorities losing sovereignty to the GM Mayor, rather the Mayor's power is what previously sat in Westminster. The role has responsibility over transport, housing, policing, fire service provision and industry (in its broadest sense).
- 2.3 The GM Mayor established a senior leadership team with three Deputy Mayors:
 - Councillor Sir Richard Leese – Deputy for Economic Growth and business
 - Baroness Beverley Hughes – Deputy for Policing and Crime
 - Councillor Rishi Shori – Deputy for Young People and Social Cohesion
- 2.4 At a similar time Eamon Boylan was appointed as the Chief Executive for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

- 2.5 Each of the ten Council Leaders and Chief Executives is assigned to a Greater Manchester portfolio. Pat Jones Greenhalgh, Interim Chief Executive, is GM Chief Executive lead for Safer and Stronger Communities. As mentioned above, Councillor Rishi Shori, Leader of Bury Council, is portfolio lead for Young People and Social Cohesion, working alongside Joanne Roney, Chief Executive of Manchester City Council.
- 2.6 With respect to these portfolio areas, specific developments within the last six months have been the establishment of the Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Cohesion Commission (following the Manchester Arena attack in May); design of a Youth Combined Authority for Greater Manchester; and the ongoing development of an updated GM Police and Crime plan – of note Councillor Tamoor Tariq is the chair of the GM Police and Crime Panel.

3.0 OUR PEOPLE, OUR PLACE- GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY

- 3.1 In July a refreshed strategy for Manchester was agreed. Publically launched in October, Our People, Our Place is an update to previous GM Strategies that reflects the changing conditions the region finds itself in, but continues to the principles of joint working that have underpinned previous iterations of regional plans.
- 3.2 The document outlines 10 priority areas and is largely reflective of Andy Burnham's election manifesto. Each priority area has an implementation plan sitting under it, the first set of these being for six months whilst new governance arrangements with the Mayor are developed. The ten priorities are:
- Children starting school ready to learn
 - Young people equipped for life
 - Good jobs for people to progress and develop
 - A thriving economy in Greater Manchester
 - World-class connectivity to keep GM moving
 - Safe, decent and affordable housing
 - Green city region, with high quality culture and leisure for all
 - Safe and strong communities
 - Healthy lives, with good quality care for those that need it
 - Age-friendly Greater Manchester.
- 3.3 There are a series of enablers to make this happen:
- Communities in control
 - People at the heart of all we do
 - Integrated place-shaping
 - Leading the way and taking responsibility
- 3.4 Alongside the strategy is a Greater Manchester Outcomes Framework, outlining the improvements being sought for the region. This has been cross-referenced against Bury's own Outcome Framework, with these being complimentary in detail. Similarly Bury's priorities locally sit well with those of the wider region, so the work taking place within the Borough is having a positive contribution on Greater Manchester rather than competing against it.
- 3.5 Likewise, when considering the enablers in 3.3, these tally with the principles of Bury's Neighbourhood Engagement Framework and system leadership model.

4.0 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

- 4.1 Earlier this year Bury's Health and Wellbeing Board signed of the Bury Locality Plan. This sets out the transformation proposals for the Borough in terms of the integration of health and social care, keeping people well for longer, reducing failure demand and tackling the wider determinants of health.
- 4.2 Having a Locality Plan in place is an essential condition of accessing Transformation Funding from the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership. Detailed investment proposition documents were submitted as part of bidding process, and £19m has been successfully secured to develop new models of care, such as Home First and scale up interventions including social prescribing.
- 4.3 At a GM level, a commissioning review has been undertaken by Deloitte at the request of the GM Health & Social Care Partnership. Its purpose was to consider what might be most appropriate to commission once across GM, what may be commissioned in a 'cluster' of areas (for example across the North East Sector) and what should be commissioned at a local area level, as well as developing GM-wide standards. It is still expected that significant commissioning remains based within a locality – though within the locality this will be done with greater integration, through a Strategic Commissioning Function (eg Bury's One Commissioning Organisation) rather than the Council and CCG commissioning separately.

5.0 BURY'S REPRESENTATION IN GREATER MANCHESTER

- 5.1 Work is underway to understand the degree to which Bury is represented within the Greater Manchester governance environment, in terms of representation at meetings and on Boards.
- 5.2 A number of these are outlined in the Annual Appointments report of May's Full Council and this includes reference to regional scrutiny groups.
- 5.3 Many meetings though are not designed to have specific representation from every locality, with a more thematic approach. Even for those that do draw on each locality, consideration is made to the most appropriate representative for Bury to attend – at times it may be the council officers or Councillors, whilst at others it may be colleagues from the CCG, police or local business community.
- 5.4 Arrangements are being trialled through Team Bury Leadership Group to capture information from these meetings, from whoever has attended, to share key briefings and provide a mechanism with which to report back a Bury voice. This is to ensure that Bury can take advantage of opportunities within Greater Manchester, whilst retaining its own unique and appealing identity.

6.0 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) is a joint plan that will provide the land for jobs and new homes across the region. It is being produced by all ten councils working together, to provide a co-ordinated consideration of requirements in terms of transport, schools, health provision and utility networks.

- 6.2 More than 27,000 responses were received overall as part of the initial consultation into the first draft of the framework, with these now able to be viewed on the GMCA website.
- 6.3 Work is taking place to produce a second version of the plan, in light of the initial responses, with an aim of maximising the region's brownfield sites. The intention is for this to be published in June 2018. Following publication of the draft plan there will be a 12-week consultation with the public.
- 6.4 Bury's Local Plan will reflect the Spatial Framework once confirmed.

7.0 BUSINESS RATES

- 7.1 Greater Manchester has put itself forward to pilot 100% retention of Business Rates with effect from April 2017.
- 7.2 Previously Local Authorities retained 50% (Local Authorities 49%; Fire Authorities 1%) with the remaining 50% going to the Government for redistribution through the Annual Funding Settlement. The Funding Settlement has been adjusted to reflect this change – to ensure a nil overall impact.
- 7.3 100% retention presents both risks (e.g. impact of appeals) and opportunity (e.g. business growth) to Local Authorities. As this is currently a pilot, the arrangement with the DCLG is that it will operate on a "no detriment" basis.

8.0 AUTUMN BUDGET 2017 AND THE FUTURE

- 8.1 In the Chancellor's Autumn Budget, the government agreed to strengthen the devolution to the region, the fifth such agreement (in addition to the Memorandum of Understanding that devolved the health and care spending). This included the allocation of £243 million Transforming Cities Fund; confirmation that GM will be a pilot for the Housing First scheme to support rough sleepers with the most complex needs turn their lives around; and the development of a local industrial strategy.
- 8.2 Transport will be of particular focus in 2018 following the recent 'Made to Move' report produced by Chris Boardman as part of the GM Moving campaign. Bury Council is due to refresh its Sports and Physical Activity Strategy early in the new year, so there will be a good opportunity to cast this in light of initiatives in the region.
- 8.3 In addition the GM Mayor has announced plans to utilise transport powers that he has responsibility for under devolution to reform bus services, with a public consultation due in the summer of 2018, and has signalled an increase in capacity on the Bury Metrolink line.
- 8.4 The Adult Education budget for the region was due to be devolved in April 2018, though this has been delayed, with the 2017 snap General Election and Brexit negotiations cited as reasons for this.

9.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 Scrutiny are asked to note this report and highlight if they would like to receive similar reports in the future.

List of Background Papers:-

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