



Classification	Item No.
Open	

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	25th November 2020
Title of report:	Update on Combined Authority activity
Report by:	Leader of the Council
Decision Type:	Non Key Decision
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on the activity of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and associated bodies following a previous update in September 2020.

Recommendation(s)

That Council notes the report and agrees that further updates on the Combined Authority are provided to future Council meetings

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides an update on work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority following an update to Council in September 2020.
- 1.2 During this period the region has, along with the rest of the country faced new national restrictions in relation to Coronavirus; firstly in terms of the three-tiered approach and subsequently the further restrictions which came into force on the 5th November 2020.
- 1.3 Since the last update there has been two meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the minutes of which can be found through the following link
<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=136>

2.0 Greater Manchester Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment

- 2.1 Following consultation on two previous drafts in 2016 and 2019, Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework [GMSF]) has now progressed to a stage where the AGMA Executive Board has recommended to districts that they approve for consultation and for submission to the Government for Examination.
- 2.2 A report was tabled at Cabinet on 11th November, and is tabled as an item for this Council meeting, which sets out the a strategic overview of what the GMSF is planning for across Greater Manchester and highlights the key proposals for Bury in terms of homes, jobs, the environment, infrastructure and other background information. It also describes the key benefits that the GMSF will bring to Bury and examines the implications of Covid and the recently released Planning White Paper before setting out when and how consultation on the Publication GMSF will take place. It is proposed that the GMSF should be subject to a eight-week period of public consultation between 1 December 2020 November and 26 January 2021.
- 2.3 The GMSF is one of the suite of strategic documents setting out how Greater Manchester can achieve the ambition set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy. It sits alongside other plans and strategies, including the Transport 2040 Delivery Plan (also tabled at 11th November Cabinet), Local Industrial Strategy, Housing Strategy, 5 Year Environment Plan, Digital Strategy and Cultural Strategy.

3.0 Community Safety and Cohesion

- 3.1 In October, the Standing Together Annual Report was published highlighting community safety activity in the region over the past year. This report detailed that overall crime numbers in the region have decreased by 8% over the last twelve months, with a 10% reduction in domestic abuse and 6% reduction in victim-based crime.
- 3.2 The report acknowledges the additional pressures that Coronavirus has places on protecting the most vulnerable in our communities. The Greater Manchester Domestic Abuse Partnership Board held virtual meetings and worked with schools to support children, produced guidance for GPs and secured additional emergency accommodation for women fleeing abuse.
- 3.3 Also since the last update to Council a 'Plan to Tackle Hate Crime' has been published, focusing on reducing intolerance and hate in communities. Hate crime is defined as 'any criminal offences perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by hostility, prejudice, towards someone based on a personal characteristic'. In Greater Manchester hate crime is monitored across six strands: race, religion, sexual orientation, trans identity, disability and alternative subcultures. Figures show there were 488 hate crime prosecutions in Greater Manchester from March 2019 to March 2020.
- 3.4 The Plan was launched during the national Hate Crime Awareness Week (10th-17th October). Within the Hate Crime Plan includes a specific focus on support for victims of

such crime and work on the TravelSafe Partnership to combat hate crime across the TfGM network.

- 3.5 The Plan builds on existing advisory and scrutiny panels, including those across protected characteristics, with applications have been promoted locally and regionally throughout October for members of the new Greater Manchester Race Equality Panel and takes place at a time when Bury Council and Bury CCG will be publishing a joint Inclusion Strategy following equality review activity over the summer and autumn of 2020.
- 3.6 Regional activity in relation to Community Safety has also heavily focused on the period around Halloween and Fireworks night, as part of Operation Treacle as part of a partnership approach both locally and regionally between local authority, Greater Manchester Police, and Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue colleagues to ensure the consistent dissemination of advice, information and support to keep people safe and aware of local/national restrictions.

4.0 Cultural Recovery

- 4.1 In December 2019 Bury was named as the inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture. Whilst 2020 has been a very different year to what was originally envisaged, Bury has been at the centre of Greater Manchester's work promoting the value of culture. United We Stream GM has led the way with livestreaming performing arts, literature, comedy, and music, with the vast majority of this activity having being streamed for The Met Theatre in Bury. United We Stream has raised over £475k to support the regional cultural, creative and night time economy. United We Stream will return over the festive period and once again be primarily based in Bury with further information to be shared through the Bury GM Town of Culture social media channels.
- 4.2 Within the region's Covid Recovery plans a specific Cultural Recovery Strategy has been developed to recognise the importance of the sector to both the region's economic and social wellbeing. Within this is confirmation that Bury's title as Town of Culture will continue in 2021, recognising much of the planned activity for this year, particularly in relation to the Happy Festival celebrating the life and influence of Victoria Wood, has not been able to take place as planned.
- 4.3 The Cultural Recovery Action plan will be a key driver of activity, alongside the LGA's recent Creative Places report, to inform a revised Cultural Strategy for Bury.

5.0 GM Environment Fund

- 5.1 The Greater Manchester Environment Fund aims to raise public, private and philanthropic funds to deliver strategic and co-ordinated natural environment projects to help GM to deliver the targets of the GM Five Year Environment Plan. The intention of the fund is to attract monies and provide officer resource to help develop and deliver environmental projects to meet our own strategic priorities.
- 5.2 The fund aims to attract more finance and to aggregate this where possible and spend it in a more co-ordinated way. This should benefit Bury by providing greater levels of

investment and more effective improvements in our local natural environment. The fund is currently in development and Bury Council is actively engaged in its development and implementation to ensure that both our natural environment and carbon targets are suitable progressed.

- 5.3 The proposal to prioritise of the development of a Carbon Offsetting facility will help Bury to deliver carbon sink projects that will help achieve our carbon neutrality aspirations set out in the Bury 2030 strategy.
- 5.4 In addition a bid is being submitted by the GMCA on behalf of the ten local authorities to the Government's Green Homes Grant: Local Delivery Phase 1 Fund. This funding will be used to upgrade the energy performance and to install renewable energy heating in those homes with poor energy performance and occupied by people on low income. This will help to address fuel poverty, improve the health and wellbeing of our vulnerable residents whilst also reducing carbon emissions.

6.0 Preventing Rough Sleeping

- 6.1 The A Bed Every Night(ABEN) programme has provided a key accommodation and support pathway for people who are experiencing rough sleeping, or at imminent risk, in Greater Manchester for the last 2 years. It has been delivered as one part of a wider system of activity to prevent and relieve rough sleeping, including the Rough Sleeper Initiative, Rapid Rehousing Programme, and Housing First pilot, to provide options and complementary resources for people who rough sleep.
- 6.2 The September update to Council outlined that ABEN phase 3 seeks to increase accommodation capacity and ensure further wrap-around support for individuals. ABEN Phase 3 funds 15 bed spaces in Bury, an increase from 10 the previous year. Linking this provision with ABEN operationally and strategically with our other multi-agency stakeholders especially health will provide a more robust service with more positive longer term outcomes for our rough sleepers.
- 6.3 To supplement this the locality has been successful in securing £81k of Next Steps funding to bring a total capacity of 30 bed spaces through to the end of the financial year.

7.0 Brexit Readiness

- 7.1 On 16th November 2020 the latest Greater Manchester Brexit Readiness meeting took place, including representatives from the GMCA, GM Health and Social Care Partnership, Greater Manchester Police, Local Resilience Forum, Growth Company and local authority representatives. These monthly meetings have been reinstated given the proximity to the end of the transition period which ends on the 31st December 2020.
- 7.2 The partnership meeting considered the latest regulations and guidance from national government, including the Border Control regulations which begin to come into force from 1st January 2021; business continuity planning given the concurrency of the transition period ending during a time of Coronavirus pressures; and to co-ordinate advice and information to individuals and businesses on changes as a result of the UK's exit from the EU.

- 7.3 The next Bury Brexit Readiness meeting is scheduled to take place on 1st December 2020.

8.0 Update on Waste and Resources Contract

- 8.1 During the national lockdown (5th November-2nd December 2020), Household Waste Recycling Centres have remained open, operating their normal opening hours.
- 8.2 During the lockdown residents will be urged to only visit facilities where essential. Residents who do visit household waste recycling centres are encouraged to separate waste and recycling before their visit to make it easier to use the site quickly; maintain two-metre social distancing from other site users; and wash their hands/use hand sanitiser before and after their visit.
- 8.3 A Borough wider paper and card recycling campaign has taken place, with all households with a kerbside collection (83,000) having had their green bin stickered during their bin collection. Over the course of late October and into November, crews used red stickers to highlight 'contaminated bins' to highlight what should be recycled in each bin. This was accompanied by radio adverts on Tower FM and an social media animation to mirror the audio campaign.
- 8.4 From a wider waste and recycling education perspective, virtual sessions continue to take place instead of sessions taking place in schools. In October, this involved seven sessions for schools and three for community groups to over 400 participants. In November they have 20 sessions booked in already. The Prestwich Environmental Forum have booked a virtual session on 9th December.

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 That Council note the updates from the Combined Authority, with further updates to be presented to future Council meetings

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

Bury 2030 takes account of regional opportunities for the locality.

Equality Impact and considerations:

24. *Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:*

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*

- (b) *advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
 - (c) *foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*
25. *The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.*

Equality Impact considerations included on the individual Combined Authority reports.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
No specifically arising from this report; any specific risks in relation to GMCA/AGMA activity referenced in the respective individual reports.	.

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications arising from the report

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer

There are no specific financial implications arising from the update report. Any financial implications arising from proposals involving the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are considered as and when decisions are needed to be made at an individual district council level.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Background papers:

None

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
AGMA	Association of Greater Manchester Authorities
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
GMSF	Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – officially know as Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment