

## **MINUTES OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY COMMISSION MEETING – TUESDAY 28 JULY 2009**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr Bernard Priest, Manchester CC (Chair)  
Cllr David Lancaster, Salford CC  
Cllr Fred Walker, Wigan Council  
Cllr Keith Swift, Rochdale MBC  
Cllr John Pantall, Stockport MBC  
Roger Ellis, Chief Executive, Rochdale MBC  
Emma Alexander, Corporate Director, Trafford MBC  
Andrea Boulton, Project Manager Finance, Business Improvement Transformation & Efficiency, Stockport MBC  
Sue Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive, Wigan Council  
Megan Nurse, Assistant Chief Executive, Tameside MBC  
Joanne Horrocks, Deputy, AGMA Policy and Research Unit  
Cynthia Thompson, AGMA Collaborative Efficiency Programme Office  
Ian Claydon-Butler, Director, Strategic Procurement Hub, Trafford MBC  
John Holden, Commission for the New Economy  
Claire Corbett, Manchester Improvement Programme, Manchester CC  
Mark Holden, Capacity Building & Change Manager, AGMA Policy and Research Unit  
Margaret Green, Policy Support Officer, AGMA Policy and Research Unit

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Joe Kitchen, Tameside MBC, Cllr John Taylor, Tameside MBC, Cllr Alex Williams, Trafford MBC, Cllr Linda Thomas, Bolton Council, Cllr Jackie Stanton, Oldham MBC, Cllr Shan Alexander, Stockport MBC, Cllr Jack Walton, Bury MBC, Joyce Redfearn, Chief Executive, Wigan Council, Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive, Tameside MBC, Theresa Grant, Corporate Director of Transformation and Resources, Trafford MBC, Mike Kelly, Deputy Chief Executive, Bury MBC, Steve Houston, Director of Finance, Stockport MBC, Elaine Bowker, Strategic Director, Manchester Improvement Programme, Manchester CC and Andrew Donaldson, Assistant Director, Policy, Improvement and Area Working, Bolton Council.

### **2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING – 27 MAY 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2009 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY PROGRAMME UPDATE**

John Holden gave an update on the programme and explained that the aims of the programme were to enhance and grow economic development capacity in Greater Manchester to deliver on the city region agenda and to focus on getting local authorities to work more effectively together.

John explained there were three interlinked areas:-

- the funding had paid for the core team to develop the GM Strategy and articulate both the vision and the milestones to deliver
- to ensure all agencies operating in the conurbation worked towards strategic goals
- to develop city region's intelligence base to better inform strategies being developed

John stated that some of the achievements of this programme were:-

- the GM Strategy was an important milestone for the City Region
- a further key milestone would be achieved later that week when the AGMA Executive Board were due to sign off the document
- on the back of the GM Strategy had been the Statutory City Region pilot which had been important to tie the government into delivering the Strategy

The Chair thanked John for the report and update.

### **4. END OF NWIEP YEAR 1 REPORT**

Joanne referred to the report on the NWIEP investment in AGMA for year one and asked Members to comment on the report and agree to a further report to NWIEP and the AGMA Executive Board in September.

Cynthia highlighted some of the key milestones in relation to the Efficiency Programme but also stressed that this was a three year programme.

One of the key issues highlighted was the importance of establishing the baseline information but it was pointed out that this involved a lot of work and Cynthia explained that to gather robust financial information a stage 0 had now been introduced as part of the maturity model.

Cynthia explained that presently an action plan was being developed which would track the opportunities authorities were taking forward.

The next steps for this programme include an away day in September with the AGMA Collaborative Services Group, which would provide an opportunity to look back and review outcomes and consider the barriers encountered to date.

Members raised concerns that they felt the report did not contain enough detail and without more accurate information in relation to barriers or issues they could not take any action to support this work within their authority.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Commission on 7 October would receive a full report identifying efficiencies and barriers in relation to Customer Contact and Social Needs Transport together with a timetable in relation to the remaining service areas.

Members raised concerns about the alignment of the Regional and Sub-Regional Procurement Hubs and buy-in from authorities to the Sub-Regional Procurement Hub.

It was agreed that the report to the next Commission meeting would also include details of each authority's involvement and the savings or the barriers being encountered by the Procurement Hub.

The group also agreed to defer the report to the AGMA Executive Board until after the next meeting of the Commission and to circulate the NWIEP report electronically to Members for comments.

## **5. NWIEP FUNDING YEAR 2**

Joanne stated that there was now £171k of additional NWIEP funding available and advised Members that an options paper would be circulated electronically for their input and feedback.

A suggestion was made in relation to combining training for Elected Members and officers and Cynthia informed the group that one of the services areas under the Efficiency Programme, Workforce Development, would be looking at opportunities for collaboration on joint procurement of professional development initiatives.

## **6. TOTAL PLACE INITIATIVE**

Joanne referred to this report which was due to go to the AGMA Executive Board on 31 July and also the introduction to this initiative which Joyce Redfearn had given to the April Commission meeting.

As the theme of Total Place is improvement and efficiency, the proposal to the Executive was that they agree the Improvement and Efficiency Commission oversee the pilot and also that as Warrington BC is part of the pilot, an Elected Member from Warrington be co-opted onto the Commission.

Members agreed to oversee this project and also agreed that an Elected Member from Warrington attend meetings of the Commission for agenda items on Total Place.

## **7. SCHEDULE OF FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Members agreed the schedule of future meetings which had been aligned to NWIEP quarterly reporting and claims procedure.

Wednesday 7 October 2009  
Wednesday 27 January 2010  
Tuesday 20 April 2010  
Tuesday 27 July 2010

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The issue of sickness levels within local government was raised and it was agreed to bring some comparisons across AGMA to the next meeting of the Commission for further discussion.

Joanne stated she would be conducting a piece of work over the next month to identify what parts of the GM Strategy fit with this Commission and to ensure all Commissions were prioritising their work to drive this Strategy.

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