

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet: Strategic Communities Portfolio Holder Meeting

Date of Meeting:	22 July 2013
Report of:	Jez Goodman
Subject/Title:	Response to Greater Manchester 2013-20 Strategy
Portfolio Holder:	David Brown

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Combined Greater Manchester Authority recently launched a consultation on the Greater Manchester Strategy for 2013-20. The Strategy set out what Greater Manchester will do to achieve economic growth and fulfil its economic potential. The consultation is open until 17 June.
- 1.2 Cheshire East Council's response to this consultation has been agreed at Director level, but requires Portfolio Holder sign-off as well.
- 1.3 A key point made in the Cheshire East response is that it is important for the Strategy to acknowledge Greater Manchester's geographical neighbours, their relevance to the Strategy and the contributions they can make towards realising the Strategy's aspirations. (The Strategy currently makes no reference to the Cheshire & Warrington Authorities, or to Merseyside or Lancashire.) In Cheshire East's case, there are particularly strong economic linkages and shared interests with Greater Manchester, as shown by data on commuting flows, migration flows, industrial composition and research/ HE activity. The response also emphasises the two-way nature of the relationship - Greater Manchester supports Cheshire East's economy, as well as vice-versa – and the role that transport networks and infrastructure can play in supporting both areas' economies.
- 1.4 Other points in the Cheshire East response relate to: the constraints on the support that Greater Manchester public sector partners can offer to businesses and investors; increasing the Strategy's focus on climate change and explicitly acknowledging the relationship between climate change and economic growth; the key export markets the Strategy identifies; the need for additional information about some of the proposed performance targets; and the use of up-to-date statistics.
- 1.5 As well as producing its own response, Cheshire East has drafted a joint submission on behalf of Cheshire & Warrington sub-regional partners. This joint response has already been shared with Directors at

the three Authorities, and with the Cheshire & Warrington LEP and the sub-regional Programme Office.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the Cheshire East response to the Greater Manchester 2013-20 Strategy.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure that the Strategy takes more account of the views and interests of Cheshire East. To ensure that Greater Manchester partners recognise the key role that Cheshire East can play in helping to realise Greater Manchester's ambitions.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 No direct impact on Cheshire East Wards. However, Cheshire East's comments about economic linkages with Greater Manchester are of most relevance to the northern parts of the Borough, i.e. those that are close to Greater Manchester. Similarly, the Strategy is likely to have much more impact on the Borough's northern Wards than on southern Wards.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Notwithstanding any other legal power available to the Council to respond to the consultation on the Greater Manchester Strategy, Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides such a power.

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 No risk management issues.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Background: The Combined Greater Manchester Authority recently launched a consultation on the Greater Manchester Strategy for 2013-20 (published at http://www.agma.gov.uk/gmca/gms_2013/index.html). The Strategy's vision is

to “secure long-term economic growth and enable the city region to fulfil its economic potential, whilst ensuring that our residents are able to contribute to and share in that prosperity.” The consultation is open until 17 June. The Strategy and other consultation papers are available from the above web page, or can be provided on request. The Cheshire East draft response (3-4 sides of A4) can also be provided on request.

- 10.2 Options: The Portfolio Holder is invited to approve the existing draft response, or to request further changes.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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