

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 4 January 2018

**Subject:** Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

**Report of:** Deputy Leader

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**Summary**

This report provides an overview of work undertaken and progress towards the delivery of the Council's priorities as set out in the Our Manchester strategy for those areas within the portfolio of the Deputy Leader, Councillor Sue Murphy.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report.

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## 1. Introduction

The Our Manchester Strategy was formally adopted by the Council in January 2016 and sets the ambitions for the city for the next ten years, to 2025, for Manchester to be:

Thriving – creating great jobs and healthy businesses

- Filled with talent – both home-grown talent and attracting the best in the world
- Fair – with equal chances for all to unlock their potential
- A great place to live – with lots of things to do
- Buzzing with connections – including world-class transport and broadband

Executive Members are collectively and individually responsible for supporting the delivery of the Our Manchester Strategy and for providing political oversight and direction to officers for the better outcomes for Manchester residents. In October, the Executive also published its collective political priorities and those of individual Executive Members, all of which are aligned to the Our Manchester Strategy.

This report sets out how I as Deputy Leader have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months.

## 2. Deputy Leader - Portfolio

As Deputy Leader, my portfolio includes:

- Public Sector Reform
- Inclusion – including Family Poverty
- Voluntary Sector
- International links
- Civic events
- Support on Regeneration (Wythenshawe and South Manchester)

**For this year, my main priorities are:**

- Reduction in Family and Child Poverty
- Our Manchester (including fairness and cohesion, and engaging the voluntary sector)

## Progress and Outcomes June 2017 – December 2017

## 3. Our Manchester

We're continuing the work to embed Our Manchester across the council and with partners. The Our Manchester Experience is up and running and feedback has been very positive. We are recruiting more guides, not just from the Council but from partners. These are people who do this alongside their own job. This means we'll be able to get more people to participate and help spread the behaviours we want to have as standard. Some members have already been on it and anyone who wants to

go will be able to do so. We've been mixing groups so staff from across the organisations get to work with people from other departments and partners.

The Listening in Action staff engagement events have continued, and again feedback has been positive. The questions to the leader and Chief Executive have been on a whole range of topics. The next set will include looking at some of the issues from the BHeard staff survey. Again, any member who wants to join one will be welcome. It really makes a difference to staff to work with members in a different way.

The Our Manchester Investment Fund has had a number of bids. This is a fund to look at how we do things differently, to help deliver the 'we wills' in the Our Manchester Strategy. So far funded projects have included Health and Housing - looking at how different housing providers in an area can work together to support older people, Social First Responders – looking at training people to be able to respond to emergencies, and Grow Reading – how we continue this successful project from last year and embed it better. The Fund is also being used to create posts developing better links with community groups.

There has been a review of the governance, and the Manchester Investment Board has been revamped and is now named the Our Manchester Investment Board. Investment in this case doesn't necessarily mean money, but time and expertise. The membership has been reviewed and includes GMP, GMFRS, health partners, housing providers and the voluntary and community sector. The Leader and Chief Executive have joined the board. The purpose is to monitor progress against the targets in the Our Manchester Strategy, but also to encourage people to bring forward new ideas for discussion.

#### **4. Social Inclusion**

We know that austerity is having a devastating impact on some people in our city. Universal Credit will make this worse. At the last Council, we called for the roll out to be stopped. We will continue to push this through our MPs and others. We will also look to support families who are struggling by looking at how we implement the action plan from the Family Poverty Strategy and concentrate on the three themes.

Sustainable Work as a route out of poverty – focusing on programmes like Working Well to get residents back into work, and making sure Manchester residents have the skills to access the new jobs that are being created.

The Basics – raising and protecting family incomes – making sure that jobs are sustainable and pay a decent wage, as well as looking at how we address welfare reform and food and fuel poverty.

Boosting Resilience – working with families to build their resilience and help them cope.

There are leads for each of these themes, and we will be bringing them together in the new year. We want to include not just the council but other organisations and residents on the boards working on how we tackle these issues.

## **5. Voluntary and Community Sector**

The outcome of the funding process has been announced. The next step is to carry out due diligence on all the groups who have been offered funding. As well as this we need to work with the small number of groups who will no longer be funded to work out the impact on them and how we minimise the impact on service users where possible.

## **6. Community Cohesion**

Work continues as part of the recovery plan after the arena attack. The fact that we already work closely with our communities has given us a good grounding to do this.

The national definition of anti-semitism will be put to Full Council with a recommendation to adopt it. This is as a result of a recommendation from this scrutiny committee.

## **7. Health**

The integration of health and social care is an enormous piece of work and I have been working with Councillor Bev Craig who leads on this. My area of work has been on the provider selection board, which will ultimately sign off the final contract. I am also now a member of the Manchester Health and Care Commissioning Board, which will be commissioning provision, and I am deputy chair of this board.

## **8. Equalities**

An update from each of the Lead members came to this scrutiny committee last meeting. We have been successful in bidding for funds from the Cities of Suffrage fund, which is to mark the Centenary of Women being given the vote. This is particularly significant as Manchester is the birthplace of the Suffragettes. The Pankhurst Centre and the People's History Museum are part of the bid, and it also means that the remaining funding for the Womanchester statue of Emmeline Pankhurst will be in place for the centenary. It's great to see Councillor Andrew Simcocks work recognised and soon to be completed.

## **9. International**

The amount of interest and visits from other countries has increased. This helps us strengthen our international links, particularly important as Brexit approaches. For the first time in many years we have had two new permanent consuls – for the Czech Republic and Romania. Our link with Wuhan remains strong and I visited earlier this year. We are continuing to work on the co-operation agreement we signed with them. The universities in particular are doing this, with the launch of an Alumni network in February.

## **10. We Love Manchester Emergency Appeal**

The fund so far has raised around 18 million pounds and we estimate we will have distributed about 14 million after Christmas. We are one of the first funds to make

payments for those who have suffered psychological trauma. I am also a member of the Memorials Advisory Group, looking at planning for a permanent memorial.

## **11. Local Government Association**

As well as continuing as a member of the Leadership board and Executive, I have continued as part of the Brexit Group. The main focus has been on making sure that powers that come back from the EU are devolved further – to councils and combined authorities. At the moment we are lobbying for the powers of the committee of the regions – which has statutory powers to comment on and scrutinize proposed legislation – to be passed to local authorities to give councillors a right to influence legislation in the UK.