

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 21 June 2018
Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy
Report of: Deputy Leader

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:

- Our Manchester including
- Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
- Public Sector Reform
- Inclusion – including Family Poverty
- Voluntary Sector
- International and Civic
- Equalities

Progress and outcomes for January – May 2018 and priorities for 2018/19

3. Our Manchester

Staff engagement through Listening in Action events has continued, and the format has changed to talk more about how we can use the Our Manchester Approach as an integral part of everyone's role. The Our Manchester experience has continued, with very positive feedback from those who have done it. All members have been invited to do the OM Experience, and some evening sessions have been scheduled to make it easier for those who work to book a place.

The revamp of the Our Manchester Investment Board has started to have an impact, with greater participation from partners. We have a space on the agenda of every meeting to discuss ideas at an early stage rather than tabling papers which has helped the meetings be more creative and participatory.

Priorities for the next phase are continuing to embed the Our Manchester Approach, look at how we extend the place based work, and to have more engagement with residents. Clearly for the latter two member involvement is crucial.

4. Social Inclusion

Work on the Family Poverty Strategy has continued and gained pace. The core group is meeting regularly, with good attendance from all partners. The three themes (Sustainable work as a route out of poverty, the basics – raising and protecting family income, and boosting resilience) now have their own steering groups set up. We are looking at how to involve more residents in the steering groups.

Priorities for the next year in the Manifesto include continuing to fight against the roll out of Universal Credit. This has not happened across the whole of Manchester yet, and we know the impact will be devastating. We are producing support material for people to know where to get help, and have set aside £1 million in the budget to support those most in need as a result of Universal Credit.

To support the Family Poverty Strategy, we are working to establish a Poverty Truth Commission, with Commissioners drawn from people with lived experience and across the private and public sector. The Commission will be independent, supported but not led by the Council.

5. Voluntary and Community Sector

All groups that were awarded money from the Our Manchester Voluntary Sector Fund have received their first payments, and those who received transition funding are putting together development plans. We're working with them to identify the support they need. We're also looking at how to address the gaps identified in the impact assessment. I will work with the Task and finish group to help shape future rounds.

The next piece of work is to review the infrastructure contract. We will co-design the new contract with the sector, and are working with Health colleagues to make sure that the infrastructure work they fund is part of the review.

6. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

This is a new part of my portfolio. Our manifesto commitments are clear.

- Ensure a bed is available for every rough sleeper every night
- Invest an additional £3.5 million homelessness services with a focus on prevention
- Invest at least £14 million with our partners to move families from temporary into permanent accommodation
- Continue to work with our partners through the Homelessness Charter, including homeless people themselves, to ensure services meet their needs and those of the wider community.

I've started to review what we're doing, and will be setting up a small officer group to help me do this. A review of the strategy is already underway and will be going to the Executive later this year. I want to look particularly at how we move people into suitable accommodation, and how we meet their support needs. I've committed to going out to meet front line staff to see for myself what their challenges are.

7. Equalities

We already have Gold accreditation under the Equalities Framework for Local Government and this is due for re-accreditation. We have a proud record and a good story to tell. All lead members will be involved in the visit and peer review.

8. International

We are still receiving large numbers of requests for visits, and are working with a number of people who are interested in appointing honorary or full time consuls – particularly in light of the work that is expected to be created post- Brexit. Our sister city relationship with Wuhan has been strengthened since the signing of our co-operation agreement and the profile of the city was raised by visits from the Prime Minister and a parliamentary delegation. Our city sister relationship has been nominated for an award as an example of good practice in China/UK relations.

9. LGA

I am still a member of the LGA Leadership Board, and my main piece of work has been as the Labour representative on the Brexit Task and Finish Group. It's about to be renamed the Brexit Task Group as the finish is still away off. We're concentrating on maintaining a voice for local government in influencing legislation that passes back to the UK from the EU, shaping the promised successor programme to EU structural funds, and the role of port authorities and the implications of any customs agreement.

10. Domestic Violence and Abuse

I have agreed to lead on this work and am Chairing the Strategy Board. This is particularly important as we are due to recommission services for domestic violence and abuse.