

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 19 July 2018
Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy
Report of: Deputy Leader of the Council

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 of the Council, Councillor Nigel Murphy

Recommendations

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

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 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

1.2 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 published its collective political priorities and those of individual Executive Members, all of which are aligned to the Our Manchester Strategy.

1.3 This report sets out how I as the Deputy Leader of the Council seek to deliver these priorities.

2.0 Deputy Leader of the Council - Portfolio

2.1 As Deputy Leader of the Council my portfolio includes

- Crime & Community Safety
- Employer Engagement
- Corporate Property
- Communications
- Manchester Industrial Strategy
- Skills & Employment
- Worklessness

2.2 In addition to these portfolio items I will take the lead responsibility for the Town Hall refurbishment project, where a key priority is the creation of social value through the employment of local people in the work to be done over the next six years.

3.0 Work areas for the year ahead

3.1 Crime and Community Safety

The new Manchester Community Safety Partnership strategy 2018/21 was launched early this year with five clear priorities:-

A. Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

This priority will focus on targeted activities to address antisocial behaviour and hate crime. It will include burglary, robbery, vehicle crime, and crimes associated with the evening and night-time economy, including violent crime.

B. Keeping children, young people and adults with vulnerabilities safe

Through early intervention and prevention, the CSP will work with partners to prevent children, young people, and adults becoming victims of crime and being exploited by criminals.

C. Protecting people from serious harm

The CSP will work with partners to protect people from serious harm, particularly focusing on organised criminal activity that targets those with multiple vulnerabilities, where there is a risk of exploitation and/or safeguarding concerns. This will include modern slavery, female genital mutilation, domestic violence and abuse, honour-based violence, sex workers, repeat victims, radicalisation and extremism, sham marriages, child sexual exploitation, and county lines (the exploitation of vulnerable people, usually children and young people, to commit crimes in other geographical areas).

D. Reducing the crime impact caused by alcohol and drugs

Alcohol and drug misuse are drivers for crime and antisocial behaviour, and often cause health and social problems. Alcohol is a factor in a range of offences, particularly violent crimes, domestic violence and abuse. There is also a strong correlation between drug use and acquisitive crime such as shoplifting.

E. Changing and preventing adult offender behaviour

One of our key priorities is to change and prevent offender behaviour and reduce the harm it causes victims, the offender's family and the wider community. Offender management services are delivered locally by Cheshire & Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service. We know that the earlier services engage with and support people at risk of offending, the greater the chance of diverting them away from offending.

I am also a member of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel, the Panel is responsible for holding the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to account on policing issues. As part of my membership I will press for the delivery of Manchester Labour's manifesto commitment to "Demand that we get more police officer protect neighbourhood policing and have a 999 and 101 service that works in return for the increase in the Council Tax funding to the GM Mayor"

3.2 Skills & Employment

One of the key challenges is ensure that the City's businesses and organisations have access to skills needed to continue to grow and that that employment base comes from within the City.

The main challenge within the city is the the relatively high number of residents who have no/very low levels of qualifications. A particular focus is on young people being NEET (Not in education, employment or training), people who have no/low skills, ESA claimants and others with health as a barrier to work; those on low pay/insecure work and those who have ESOL as a barrier to employment. Over the last few years, we have developed many good programmes that have targeted the above priority groups and in some cases, such as with the Healthy Manchester and Fit for Work programmes we have been successful in securing health funding and scaling up programmes across the city. The skills and partnership board has also met regularly and discussions included skills needed in the construction sector, particularly focusing on what skills we have in Manchester/Greater Manchester and what skills we need to deliver on all key sectors, also including and focusing in particular on our transport and housing priorities.

Employment for the over 50s has already been added as an additional priority group our employment and skills activity will focus on. As we are living longer, healthier lives this presents the opportunity to think differently about working as we get older, and there are more older people in employment than ever before. Many people over 50 are at risk of leaving the workforce early, and not necessarily because they want to. Work will focus on how we support people staying in work and taking control of when and how they retire and/or provide them with the opportunity to remain and/or enter and progress in the labour market.

3.3 Employer Engagement

Part of my role is to ensure that Manchester people have access to decent and secure employment, and benefit from the economic recovery of the city. I am meeting with employers to discuss ways to increase the number of living wage employers, eliminate zero hours contracts, and to give employment opportunities to 50-64 age group. We will also work with them to make sure that young people have the skills and knowledge need to thrive in our growing economy.