

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee
Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy
Report of: 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 Leader of the Council.

Recommendations

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

Contact:

Name: Councillor Richard Leese
Position: Leader of the Council
Tel: 0161 234 3004
Email: r.leese@manchester.gov.uk

1. 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 better outcomes for Manchester residents. In October 2016, the Executive published its collective political priorities and those of individual Executive Members, all of which are aligned to the Our Manchester Strategy. In December 2016 each Executive Member reported to Scrutiny Committees on progress over the previous six months.

1.3 This report sets out how I as the Leader of the Council have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months and my priorities for the next twelve months and is the second of twice yearly reports to this Committee. A complete list of all my activities on behalf of the Council can be found in my public service contract.

2. Leader of the Council - Portfolio

2.1 As Leader of the Council , my portfolio consists of overall policy co-ordination, economic development, external relationships, support on regeneration (North Manchester and City Centre), legal services, and the digital economy (business development). In addition, in the agreed Executive Priorities 2016 – 2020, I have as priorities the north/south divide (locally and nationally), personal relationship with Manchester Residents (Our Manchester) and Devolution (ensuring it delivers for residents).

3. Activity over the Past Six Months

3.1 The Executive finalised its proposals for a three year 2017 - 20 budget in February this year following a very extensive and successful budget consultation. The budget was approved by the Council in March. Cuts over the next three years are not projected to be on the scale of the previous six years and a relatively small number of job losses should ensure employment stability over the next three years. However this smaller level of cut compounds previous cuts and leaves the capacity of the Council extremely stretched.

3.2 Following a competitive process, Joanne Roney, formerly Chief Executive of Wakefield City Council, was appointed Chief Executive and took up post at the

- beginning of April. Joanne has been given clear priorities on the overall delivery of Our Manchester and within that the People Strategy, the integration of Health and Social Care, improving our Children's Services, and ensuring the quality and improvement of universal services. We have been having a formal weekly meeting whilst Joanne gets herself established, and that is now moving to fortnightly.
- 3.3 We have not quite said goodbye to our former Chief Executive and I am delighted to report that not only does Howard remain generally very active in the life of the city, he has joined the board of Manchester International Festival and is on the Factory Strategic Board.
- 3.4 The appointment of independent members to the Our Manchester Forum is still continuing. The Forum is attempting to meet in a more dynamic way, the last meeting at Mad Lab looking at the future impacts of the digital world and the next hopefully visiting the Our Manchester Experience. Establishing Our Manchester has taken some time but we are now in the position of beginning to deliver both thematically and spatially with an emphasis on improved outcomes and demand reduction.
- 3.5 I have continued to take part in Listening in Action sessions though sadly having to miss one as a consequence of the Arena bombing. I have made an offer to staff at these sessions to accept any invitation to go and spend time with them in their place of work which has led to four visits so far.
- 3.6 The Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed the establishment of a single commissioning body for all Health and Social Care in the city which began operation on April 1st this year. Progress is being made in establishing a single Local Care Organisation notwithstanding problems with VAT. Along with other commissioners, I attended a hearing of the Competition and Markets Authority who are looking into the proposed merger of CMFT and USHM, the first step in creating the Single Hospital Service. I am also chairing the Manchester Transformation Fund Accountability Board.
- 3.7 Consultation on a revised Greater Manchester Strategy has been completed but finalising the Greater Manchester Strategy was put on hold pending the outcome of the Mayoral election. The GMCA continues to monitor the impact of Brexit and to propose to government what might be in a post-Brexit deal. The Greater Manchester Spatial Frameworks first consultation has completed and I would now expect a re-write prior to examination in public. All the orders for the Mayoral CA are in place, along with a staffing structure, budget and office base.
- 3.8 A review of City Centre Management was conducted earlier in the year and its recommendations were reported to and agreed by the Executive. Major elements include a significant increase in spending on homelessness and rough sleeping, assertive action on begging, improvements in street cleaning and the management of commercial waste. An interim City Centre Public Services Manager has been appointed to the City Centre Regeneration Team and a City Centre Accountability Board, which I chair, has been established to

oversee activity. We are now reviewing how we set up a better and more direct relationship with City Centre businesses.

- 3.9 I have continued to Chair the Local Government Association City Regions Board. The RSA's Inclusive Growth Commission which was financially supported both by the Board and by Core Cities has now published its final report. The Board has also continued to work hard on the case for localised employment and skills services.
- 3.10 In March I led a small delegation to Austin, Texas for the digital industries element of SXSW promoting Manchester's leading work on Smart Cities and the Internet of Things. A de-brief will have taken place on June 14th with a view to establish a three year programme for SXSW. Manchester Creative and Digital Assets Ltd is now preparing the business cases for further development at the Sharp Project and for the remodelling of One Central Park. I have supported a new organisation, Allbright, aimed at creating more women entrepreneurs.
- 3.11 Manchester Life has now almost completed the planning for all its phase 1 and phase 2 sites. Sales on phase 1 are going very well. Development work in and around the City Centre continues at pace in both the residential and commercial sectors.
- 3.12 The Northern Powerhouse remains active and I have joined the board of private sector led and funded think tank, the Northern Powerhouse Partnership.

4. Priorities for the Next Six Months

- 4.1 The City Council is now leading on the recovery phase after the Arena bomb. There are five work streams identified: Welfare, Community Cohesion, Economic Recovery, Comms and Finance - though some should have relatively short lives, and all, particularly the first two, need to be integrated into existing work rather than running parallel programmes. I have established a small group of myself, Sue Murphy, Nigel Murphy and the Deputy Mayor Police and Crime, Bev Hughes, to provide oversight of this work.
- 4.2 Our Manchester will continue to be the focus for all our work. I will continue to promote the strengths based approach with partners and to actively engage with staff and residents, guarding against this slipping into sloppy, old-style community development type stuff but maintaining a sharp focus on reducing demand, balancing budgets, and improving outcomes. After three rounds of Listening in Action there will be a rapid appraisal before the next rounds.
- 4.3 The appointment of a new Chief Executive gives an opportunity to review the way the Senior Management Team and the Executive Members Group (EMG) function. I expect Joanne to be bringing her ideas forward in the coming weeks. EMG will move to a more structured approach based on Our Manchester, the budget, the People Strategy, Health and Social Care integration, improving Children's Services, improving Universal Services.

- 4.4 I have taken on the role of Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor and will be keeping my GM economic policy portfolio. It is a new world for GM. The transition group I previously sat on has done its work well and the Mayor has come into a coherent CA staffing structure, with a Chief Executive and other senior staff in place in offices on the first floor of Churchgate House. However there is a lot to do to establish new ways of working and to support the Mayor in making the transition from Westminster ways to the rather more hands on, outcome focussed ways of local government.
- 4.5 The next six months will be a crucial period for Northern transport. The routing for HS2 phase 2 should be finalised and published and with that how it will integrate with Northern Powerhouse Rail. The orders establishing Transport for the North as a statutory body should be underway and plans for Northern Powerhouse Rail should be firmed up. We will continue to push Network Rail and the Department for Transport on finalising plans for Oxford Road and Piccadilly Stations to complete the Northern Hub work. Manchester Airport Group has some major decisions to make in respect of the Manchester Transformation Project and on increasing terminal capacity at Stansted.
- 4.6 Transport infrastructure is a key element of the Northern Powerhouse concept. The Northern Powerhouse Partnership is running a series of workshops across the North built around the prime capabilities identified in the Northern Independent Economic Review. Northern core cities have committed to strengthening their input into Northern Powerhouse, the work being led by the Chief Executive of Sheffield reporting to quarterly Leader and Chief Executive meetings.
- 4.7 City Centre Regeneration will bring some service delivery challenges particularly around begging and commercial waste and the work of the City Centre Accountability Board will be a priority. I would like to commence a review of city centre retail in the next six months and agree new arrangements for liaison with businesses. The ballot to renew the B.I.D. will also be in this period. This needs to be a success and we should explore other possible BIDs.
- 4.8 For the next twelve months I expect to be spending more time with developers and potential end users as well as existing key business partners. I will play an active role in preparations for MIPIM 2018. The Universities will be key partners and alongside existing HEI supported growth in areas like Biomedicine and Sport, there are new emerging areas, for example Cyber and Data Management.
- 4.9 There will be ongoing activity on key development sites including Airport City, Siemens, Etihad Campus, Lower Irk Valley and Collyhurst, New Cross, Ancoats, St Johns, First Street, former BBC site, Manchester Science Park including City Lab 2 and 3, NOMA, St Michaels, Mayfield, Great Jackson Street - all of which will require support (sometimes critical support) from time to time. Good process is being made with the Factory and I am now chairing an Executive Members working group to oversee the progress.