

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Executive – 30 May 2018

Subject: Executive Priorities 2018/19

Report of: Leader of the Council

Summary

The report sets out the basis for Executive priorities in 2017/18

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended to:

1. Note the key elements that will inform its priorities for the current municipal year
 2. Adopt the commitments made in the Manchester Labour 2018 manifesto as priorities for the Executive
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Wards Affected: All

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Delivery of the 2018/19 budget and Manchester Labour's 2018 manifesto commitments will anchor the City Council's contribution to the Our Manchester Strategy.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The delivery of our priorities may entail prudent variations to the budget for which Council approval will be sought if required.

Financial Consequences – Capital

As above

Contact Officers:

Name: Richard Leese
Position: Leader of the Council
Telephone: 0161 234 3006
E-mail: r.leese@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing this report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. All are available on the Council's website:

- Manchester Strategy 2016-2025 as approved by Executive 6 Jan 2016.
- The Revenue Budget, Capital Budget and Housing Revenue Account 2018/19 as approved by Executive 7 Feb 2018.
- Building Together – Manchester Labour's promise to Manchester (Appendix 1)
- GMS Implementation Plan – and Executive Agenda 30 May 2018
- State of the City Report 2017

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This year will be the third year in which each Executive Member will set out their priorities for the coming year, and for those Executive Members continuing in post, report on their actions over the past six months. This report sets out the policy context in which those priorities will be framed and in particular the commitments made in “Building Together Manchester Labour’s Promise to Manchester”, Manchester Labour’s 2018 election manifesto.

2.0 The Manchester Strategy

- 2.1 Our Manchester, the Manchester Strategy was adopted by the Council in March 2016. The preparation of the strategy was overseen by a wide group of stakeholders through the Manchester Leaders Forum and was subject to an extensive and highly participatory process in which thousands of individuals and organisations told us about the Manchester they wanted to see. It is a ten year strategy for the City, not just the Council.
- 2.2 Our Manchester contains 64 ‘We wills’ grouped under five themes, a thriving and sustainable city, a highly skilled city, a progressive and equitable city, a liveable and low carbon city, and a connected city. Progress against the ‘We wills’ is reported annually in the State of the City Report the most recent of which was published in the autumn of 2017.
- 2.3 Since adopting the Our Manchester Strategy, the City Council working with its partners, has developed the Our Manchester Approach, an asset based approach that aims to underpin everything we do. The Our Manchester Approach puts people at the centre of everything we do. People are more important than processes or procedures. Co-design is a key element of the Approach and has been part of determining the four Our Manchester basics:
- Better lives – it is about people
 - Listening – we listen, learn and respond
 - Recognising strengths of individuals and communities – we start from strengths
 - Working together – we build relationships and create conversations
- 2.4 Similarly, organisations working for Manchester have joined a conversation about which behaviours would best make them into the people needed to deliver Our Manchester eventually settling on:
- We work together and trust each other
 - We are proud and passionate about Manchester
 - We take time to listen and understand
 - We ‘own it’ and we are not afraid to try new things
- All Council staff and many of our partners are receiving interactive training in the Our Manchester Approach through the Our Manchester Experience.

3.0 The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)

- 3.1 The City Council has long recognised that many of its objectives, particularly those related to building an inclusive and sustainable economy from which all

our citizens can benefit, can only be met by working in co-operation with our neighbours on a Greater Manchester footprint, an area that roughly corresponds to our functional economic area. The Greater Manchester Strategy published in 2009 was founded on the comprehensive evidence base of the Manchester Independent Economic Review (MIER) and, alongside the Greater Manchester Transport Fund, set out an ambitious and innovative approach to growing the GM economy and creating jobs.

- 3.2 The GMS and MIER was the basis on which Greater Manchester signed its first devolution agreement in 2009. This agreement was never implemented as a consequence of the 2010 General Election result but did lead to the establishment of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in 2011. The GMS was updated in 2013 to reflect the changing circumstances as the global recession receded and this led to a new devolution agreement signed with government in the autumn of 2014. This new agreement continued to have a strong growth and jobs emphasis but equal weight was now given to public service reform and the delivery of a people-centred approach and cross-service integration.
- 3.3 Key elements of the 2014 agreement included the devolution of the adult skills budget, de-centralisation and devolution of an integrated health and social care system, and, with the advent of a directly-elected Mayor as the eleventh member of the GMCA, powers to have a planned public transport network. Following the Mayoral election in 2017, the GMS has been further updated and its implementation plan appears elsewhere on this agenda. Compared to previous iterations the revised GMS is far more wide-ranging and comprehensive in its approach to place-making but it should be noted that most of the actions do not lie within the remit of the GMCA and require cooperative action by the ten GM Councils, other public sector agencies, and wider civil society to be delivered.

4.0 City Council Budget 2018/19

- 4.1 City Council budgets have been dominated by government imposed austerity and cuts since the election of the Coalition government in 2010. £120,000 a day has been taken from Manchester every day for the last eight years and our 2018/19 budget is £349 million lower in real terms than it was in 2010. At the same time budget pressures have grown, particularly in those services that support the most vulnerable in our society, adults and childrens caring services. It is now widely acknowledged that these services have been chronically underfunded and in many parts of the country are moving to crisis point.
- 4.2 The Council seeks to maintain an ongoing dialogue with our citizens and our budgets have consistently sought to reflect those things Manchester people say are important to them. This is why, notwithstanding the dire overall financial outlook, the Council has chosen to give more support to home and community based care services for adults, is developing a new approach to services for young people leaving care, is spending an additional £100m over five years to improve our roads and pavements, has made permanent the

funding to take enforcement action against fly-tipping, and has increased the budget to play our part in tackling the national homelessness crisis by £3.5 million.

- 4.3 The 2018/19 budget is the second year of a three year budget strategy based on a promise from central government not to change the fundamental financial goal posts over that period of time. The next budget period will be preceded by a comprehensive spending review and the completion of a review of the local government funding formula, both of which alongside BREXIT create enormous uncertainty for our medium-term budget prospects.

5.0 Building Together – Manchester Labour’s Promise to Manchester

- 5.1 The preceding paragraphs frame the context for Manchester Labour’s 2018 election manifesto. As a result of boundary changes, the 2018 elections were all-out elections with all 96 seats in our 32 wards contested. The outcome was a comprehensive victory for the Labour Party, winning 94 of the 96 seats. Building Together, Manchester Labour’s promise to Manchester contains over 44 specific pledges to be delivered in whole or part over the next twelve months. Alongside the budget they will determine the priorities for the Executive as a whole and for each individual Executive Member and will help both the Council, through Overview and Scrutiny, and the electorate to hold us to account.
- 5.2 The Manifesto is not simply a list of proposed actions but also sets out not only what we will do, but also how and why. It states the Manchester Labour view that it is the people of the city who should determine our direction. In adopting the Our Manchester Approach Manchester’s Labour administration is determined to give our citizens, families, communities more say over the things that affect them most and our fight for even more devolution is driven by the belief that decisions should be taken as close as possible to the communities affected with full, democratic accountability.
- 5.3 The Manifesto is realistic, recognising that with current government policies and ongoing austerity driven cuts we cannot do everything we would want to and indeed everything our citizens would want us to do. However, whatever the constraints, we are determined to continue to improve the city in the way our residents want us to. The people of the city have told us that they want a caring city that supports the most vulnerable people in our society, where our young people have the best start in life, and where everyone has good homes, good jobs and safe, clean streets. This is why the manifesto puts health and social care, family and child poverty, young people, housing and homelessness at the top of the list of the things we need to do.
- 5.4 The promises made are set out in full in appendix 1 and so are not repeated here but in addition to the above there are additional sections on quality of life including the imperative of a greener, environmentally sustainable city, transport, our demands of devolution, an inclusive city, and the economy. Economic growth and job creation is not seen as an end in itself but an essential tool to create a healthier, fairer, more equal Manchester.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The Council will together with our people, our workers, our businesses, our many communities continue to build a better Manchester. We will fight for more decisions about the things that affect us locally to be taken locally and for the funding to match to be devolved. Whoever is in government at Westminster, we will stand up for Manchester people, and argue the case for investment in and opportunities for our people. We will continue to listen and respond to the things our citizens say are important. Building Together is an ambitious programme but working with and for the citizens of our great city we will continue to build a Manchester that is fairer, happier and better off in every way.

Recommendations are at the front of the report.

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Introduction

“Let’s build a fairer Britain where no one is held back. A country where everybody is able to get on in life, to have security at work and at home, to be decently paid for the work they do, and to live their lives with the dignity they deserve.

Let’s build a country where we invest our wealth to give everyone the best chance. That means building the homes we need to rent and buy, keeping our communities safe with more police officers, giving our children’s schools the funding they badly need, and restoring the NHS to its place as the envy of the world.

Let’s build a Britain that works for the many not the few.”

That’s the vision set out in Labour’s 2017 general election manifesto – a vision that captured the imagination of our citizens and produced the best general election results the city has ever seen. It is a vision reflected in Manchester Labour’s manifesto for our City.

Eight years of austerity have been forced on us by Conservative & Liberal Democrat politicians, politicians Manchester rejected overwhelmingly at the ballot box. The money, power and opportunities stolen from our city, first by the Coalition and now by the current cold, uncaring Tory Government mean we cannot do everything we would want to do. For that we need a radical Labour Government in Westminster and every Labour councillor elected in Manchester on May 3rd will bring that prospect forward.

Our budget for this year is £349 million lower in real terms than it was in 2010. £120,000 a day has been taken from Manchester, every day, for the last eight years. These cuts have been politically-motivated and deliberately targeted at the areas of greatest need, at Labour cities like Manchester. Even with only the average cut, our city would be £1.5 million a week better off. Now the Conservatives seek to increase the burden on household budgets by forcing up the regressive Council Tax to cover up their economic failures.

Manchester is Different

Manchester Labour believe it is the people of the city who should determine our direction. They have told us they want a caring city that supports the most vulnerable people in our society, where our young people have the best start in life, and where everyone has good homes, good jobs and safe, clean streets. Manchester Labour will not allow those who do not share our values, whether rogue landlords, exploitative employers, those who want to divide our community, or a Tory Government that only looks after its own, to go unchallenged. We, together with the people, the workers, the businesses, the many communities in our city, will continue to build a better Manchester.

A strong Labour Council will continue to fight for more decisions about the things that affect us locally to be taken locally and for the funding to match to be devolved. And whoever is in government, Manchester Labour will stand up for Manchester people, making the case for investment in and opportunities for our people.

On May 3rd cast three votes for Labour. Give us your support to fight for a fair, strong, and united Manchester.



**Manchester Labour always has
and always will stand up
for Manchester people.**

Health and Social Care

Manchester people made caring for those most in need in the City their number one priority so it is the number one priority for Manchester Labour. By taking control of our health and care services we will protect our NHS and help Manchester people live longer, healthier, happier lives.

We will:

- Increase pay for homecare workers to at least the Manchester Living Wage
- Employ more people to support vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes using the 1.5% Council Tax increase raised for adult care
- Begin construction of at least 200 homes for older people at social rents as part of our extra-care schemes
- Invest to improve local access to community mental health services



**Our Number 1 priority -
care for those most in need in our City.**

Family and Child Poverty

Working with the last Labour Government we massively reduced family poverty. Benefits changes brought in by the Lib Dem/Tory Coalition have hit Manchester families hard. Everywhere Universal Credit has been introduced it has made poor people poorer.

We will:

- Continue to fight against the roll-out of the broken Universal Credit system in Manchester
- Ringfence £1 million in the budget specifically to support the victims of Universal Credit
- Continue to support food banks with £100,000 committed in 2018
- Exempt care leavers from Council Tax until they are 25
- Support a Poverty Truth Commission for Manchester so that the voices of people experiencing poverty can be heard



Since 2010 central government has made poor people poorer. Manchester Labour will do all it can to support our most vulnerable citizens.

Young People Matter

We have prioritised children and young people, with more staff to ensure our children are safe and well cared for. Far more children are starting school ready to learn and our schools have done a great job in raising standards.

We will:

- Continue to support school improvement
- Having succeeded in doubling the youth budget to increase provision, we will start work on the city's second youth zone, and at the same time ensure that young people can influence and access the services they need
- Target £50,000 to feed children who come to school hungry
- Continue our school meals service to ensure better nutrition
- Build on Sure Start's Labour roots to support all the children and families who need it most

Establish a new leaving care service to make sure all the young people the Council looks after make a successful transition to adult life



**Fighting to improve the quality
of education for our young people.**

Housing

Manchester is a rapidly growing city. This is to be celebrated, and we welcome those who have chosen to make Manchester their home. We need to build more high quality housing, of all types. Every Manchester resident has the right to a decent, secure home they can afford.

We will:

- Increase the number of homes being built of all types to meet the wide-range of need and demand in the city including 500 units of social and other secure, decent housing for rent at a level that can be fully met by housing benefit.
- Continue to build more homes than any other comparable city, around 10,000 this year with a third available to families on lower incomes.
- Reject the Tory/Lib Dem definition of affordability – 80% of market rent. We believe that no one should have to spend more than 30% of their household income on their housing costs, and for individuals and families on the lowest incomes even that is too much.
- Pilot landlord licensing across the city, with a view to rolling out the practice across Manchester and to use all the limited powers we do have to the full to tackle rogue landlords.



**More homes being built including
over 500 council & other secure,
low rent homes.**

Homelessness

Tory cuts have turned homelessness into a national epidemic. Manchester Labour has put more into trying to prevent homelessness, to find good accommodation for homeless people as quickly as possible, and working with our many partners, to provide the support many rough sleepers need to get off the street.

We will:

- Ensure a bed is available for every rough sleeper every night
- Invest an additional £3.5 million in 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.



**Tory cuts have turned homelessness
Into a national epidemic. Manchester
Labour will invest an additional £3.5m
in homelessness services.**

Quality of Life

A cleaner, greener and welcoming Manchester is in all our interests and Labour is committed to making this a reality. We will continue to support the art and leisure facilities that bring enjoyment to so many citizens.

We will:

- Make the funding for our fly-tipping hit squads permanent, following successful action against 8000 perpetrators
- Focus on apartment blocks to bring the level of recycling there up to the 50% level of four bin households
- Nurture the green lungs of the city – parks and open spaces, rivers, trees – with new parks in the Lower Irk and Medlock Valleys and £12 million invested in our existing parks
- Ensure that our historic buildings are a part of the city's future as demonstrated by the refurbishment of our grade 1 listed Town Hall
- Continue, with community support, in keeping all our libraries open, and invest a further £2.1 million in library services and facilities.
- Continue to support the arts at every level, from grassroots and neighbourhood activity through to the Manchester International Festival and the development of the Factory.



**Manchester Labour is committed
to making Manchester a cleaner greener
and welcoming city**

Transport

All cities need proper transport links in order for citizens to reach their potential. In Manchester, Labour recognises the challenges to commuters of all types, and is committed to tackling the problems of congestion.

We will:

- Continue the £100 million investment in our roads and pavements that began last year, reduce the blight of potholes and over time get all our roads to a good standard and keep them there
- Develop a comprehensive set of parking policies that prioritise the needs of local residents and businesses, controlling and discouraging commuter and non-resident parking in residential areas, improving road safety and the local environment.
- Work with Chris Boardman and the Combined Authority to implement the Made to Move report, making cycling safer, getting more people walking and cycling
- Prioritise ongoing reductions in our emission of greenhouse gases and take action to make the air we breathe clean



Investing an extra £100 million in our roads, campaigning for a properly planned, affordable bus service

The Economy

We must ensure that Manchester people have access to decent, secure employment, and benefit from the economic recovery of our city.

We will:

- Ensure local businesses and local jobs are prioritised in the procurement of council goods and services
- Aim to increase the number of real living wage employers in the city
- Ensure the rights of trade unions to organise in workplaces especially where public money is involved
- Prioritise proper apprenticeships
- Campaign against exploitive zero hour contracts
- Make sure our young people have the skills and knowledge that allow them to thrive in our growing economy
- Give special attention to the 50 – 64 year age group that now contain the most economically excluded parts of our communities



**A growing economy that
benefits everybody**

Our Demands of Devolution

Manchester Labour believes decisions should be taken as close as possible to the communities affected, with full, democratic accountability. Devolution to Greater Manchester must mean a genuine transfer of power to the people of our city. As this process continues over the next year.

We will:

- Demand the council is given all necessary legal and financial powers to build council, social and affordable housing to address the housing crisis and fully meet the needs of our people.
- Campaign at every level for a city-wide Renters' Charter covering security of tenure, control over rent rises, and an abolition of unfair letting fees, as well as city-wide landlord licensing.
- Ensure the Mayor and the Combined Authority make public transport serve the public, by extending democratic control over bus services with straightforward smart ticketing covering bus, train and tram. We will fight any government attempt to make rail routes in Manchester 2nd class by denying us fair funding.
- Protect our NHS by resisting privatisation of services as Health & Social Care is devolved to Greater Manchester, and keep our health service public.
- Demand that we get more police officers, 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.

An Inclusive City

Manchester is a welcoming city, proud of our diversity, but all of us brought together as citizens of this great English city. We believe we should live together with mutual respect and tolerance and oppose all manifestation of extremism. We will strive to ensure that in this city nobody is left behind and continue to fight hate crime.

Manchester Labour has been at the forefront of the battle for equality for decades from opposing Clause 28 to building Age Friendly Manchester. We are proud that half of Labour Councillors in Manchester are women. We will stand up for all people to be recognised as equal and oppose discrimination in all its forms.

In adopting the Our Manchester approach Manchester's Labour Council is determined to give our citizens, families, communities more say over the things that affect them most. Our work with the Homelessness Partnership is just one example where we have pioneered ways of co-designing services where people with lived experience of the issues we are trying to tackle play a crucial part in deciding what we need to do about them. Over the next two years all Council, and many of our partners', staff will be trained in this approach and it will be rolled out into key service areas starting with local health and care services.



**Our Manchester - a city where
nobody is left behind.**

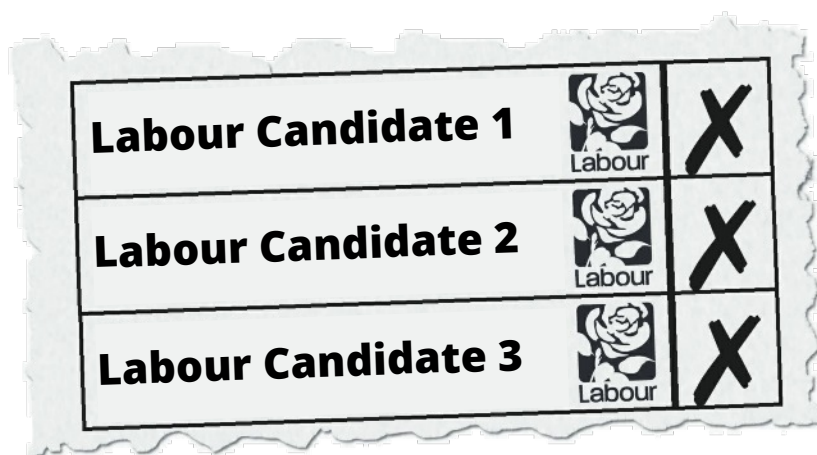
Keeping Our Promises

Our 2018 manifesto gives you our promise that we will continue to listen, to stand up for Manchester people, and respond to the things you say are important.

We said at the beginning we cannot do everything we want, everything you want, but Manchester Labour is not going to allow this Tory Government to undo all we have achieved over the last two decades. This is an ambitious programme but Manchester Labour working with and for the citizens of our great city will continue to build a Manchester that is fairer, happier and better off in every way.

On May 3rd cast three votes for Labour.

Let's keep building together.



**On May 3rd elect a strong Labour Council.
Use your three votes for Labour.**