

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee -
21 June 2017

Subject: Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

Report of: Executive Member for Environment

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 Executive Member for Environment.

Recommendations

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

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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 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.

1.3 The individual priorities for my portfolio are: -

- Roads (inc. Pot Holes) and Pavements
- Keep Traffic Moving
- Transport infrastructure
- Climate Change
- Reducing worklessness

1.4 This report is written jointly by the previous portfolio holder, Cllr Rosa Battle and myself and sets out a summary of the work undertaken over the past 6 months.

2. Executive Member for Environment Portfolio

As Executive Member for Environment, my portfolio includes:

- Highways
- Planning and Building Control
- Transport
- Climate Change
- Food
- Skills

3. Progress and Outcomes December 2016 – June 2016

3.1 Highways Investment :-

£80 million over 5 years for maintenance
£20 million over 5 years for investment

We have successfully secured additional investment for highway maintenance for the next 5 years. The preventative micro-asphalt programme will begin next week, with the carriageway and footway resurfacing programme being finalised and agreed over the next couple of weeks.

3.2 Pothole & Drainage review:-
£1.1 million over 2 years for additional gully resources
Integration of the inspection and repair service

We have secured additional funding to start the process of moving from a reactive drainage service to a programmed service. This will involve securing additional drainage resources over the next 18 months to develop a more intelligent approach to gully cleaning. Each gully across the city will be cleaned and 'dip-tested' to collect information on silt levels which will then help to develop an optimum programmed approach to gully cleaning.

Additional investment is also being made in drainage repairs as part of the £80 million investment.

3.3 Repairs backlog - 12,000 tickets

The Service has for some months now been reviewing performance and developing improved procedures and systems to more effectively and more efficiently identify and repair defects. This has included the formal marking-out of each location where works are ordered; reviewing the technology we use for work identification and ordering directly from site; improving Health & Safety for all staff and operatives working in or near the carriageway; and enhancing management processes to better coordinate and monitor performance around the delivery of appropriate and lasting repairs.

The Service has recently increased the resource it has available for repairs and in parallel, it is working with framework partners to identify and utilise additional sub-contractor resources who over the coming months will help the Service clear a backlog of work and assist in restoring us to a position where all repairs are undertaken within the appropriate SLA period.

In addition to the £100m Highways Infrastructure Programme with £80m dedicated to a targeted programme of planned maintenance over the next 5 years, the embedding of improved reactive maintenance and repair systems and procedures will greatly improve network condition, resilience and response times to stand the authority in good stead for the future.

3.4 Road Safety outside Schools & 20mph

We have secured investment to deliver engineered solutions to improve road safety outside a number of schools across the city. Those schools that are currently risk rated as Red or Amber have been assessed to determine what road safety improvements are required to bring them to a green rating. Proposals have been drafted and costs and a Task & Finish Group has been set up to look at this and wider issues that affect road safety outside schools.

3.5 Residents Parking schemes:-
Sportcity
Hulme
Ancoats area

We are reviewing residents parking schemes, specifically around the core of the city centre which is suffering from increased parking in residential areas. This is becoming a big challenge in many neighbourhoods where parking in residential roads is an increasing problem.

3.6 Climate Change:

Over the past 6 months, we have been working closely with the Manchester Climate Change Agency and Deputy Chief Executive of Manchester City Council to identify ways in which tackling climate change can become more relevant to the lives of Manchester residents. We have also met with the Carbon Literacy Project to discuss ways in which the project can be rolled out to Council Members, staff and residents. We continue the roll-out of Carbon Literacy training for members and we have two sessions for members in the diary as follows:

- 22nd June 4.30pm-7pm
- 28th June 4.30pm-7pm

We Chair of the Manchester Food Board which met in October with a wide range of partners from across the city. The Food Board has recently submitted Manchester's application for Sustainable Food City Status.

3.7 Skills:

The key skills challenges are to ensure that the City's businesses and growth sectors have access to skills needed to continue to grow their business and employment base in the City. The City does well in retaining and attracting graduate talent but there is a need for an enhanced offer for technical skills, in particular to meet the current skills shortages in digital and construction. We will continue to work with the LTE group /Manchester College to implement its strategy including its estates strategy. The apprenticeship levy provides an opportunity to increase the number and quality of the apprenticeship opportunities for the City's residents.

For the City's residents the particular challenge is the relatively high number who have no /very low levels of qualifications. This acts as a barrier to securing and sustaining good quality work with career and wage progression opportunities. There is an opportunity through the devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to focus on improved outcomes for low skilled residents and we will work with the GMCA to help develop the framework and engage the post-16 providers in the City. The Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) receive an Ofsted rating of Good in March of this year. The Service will continue to make improvements to its delivery across the City to ensure that more of the city's residents with low skill levels improve their basic skills and employability. MAES also led on the development of the ESOL Strategy for the City and is working closely with the Manchester College in particular with regard to its delivery. It hopes to secure additional funding to enhance its

community based ESOL provision and award winning Talk English programme.