

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee - 3  
January 2018

**Subject:** Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

**Report of:** Executive Member for Environment

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**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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**Wards Affected:** All

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**Contact:**

Name: Councillor Angeliki Stogia  
Position: Executive Member for Environment  
Tel: 0161 234 3311  
Email: [cllr.a.stogia@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.a.stogia@manchester.gov.uk)

**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

None.

## **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

2.2 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.

2.3 The individual priorities for my portfolio are: -

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

2.4 This report is written by Cllr Angeliki Stogia 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 June 2017 – December 2017**

### **3.1 Highways Investment**

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

Having successfully secured additional investment for highway maintenance for the next 5 years, in the last six months I worked with neighbourhood teams and members to consult on the year 1 programme of works. The programme of works was informed by extensive technical assessment during 2016 and 2017 to identify the roads and footways needing treatment.

Following approval of the programme by the executive preventative maintenance works (microasphalt) have been carried out in the following wards: Ardwick, Bradford, Burnage, Chorlton Park, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Fallowfield, Gorton North, Miles Platting and Newton Heath and Moss Side. I have undertaken a number of visits to observe the method and quality of work. Following an early visit it was noticed that gullies were not cleaned before, this resulted in the gully cleansing being undertaken after the treatment of the road surface. Weather permitting, the microasphalt works will re-commence on 19th February 2018 and be completed by 31st March 2018. Works will be carried out in the following wards: Baguley, Chorlton Park, Crumpsall, Fallowfield, Gorton North, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Miles Platting and Newton Heath, Moss Side, Sharston and Woodhouse Park.

Development of the programme for year 2 and year 3 (2018-19 and 2019-20) is already advanced and will be subject to consultation by neighbourhood teams and members. Forward planning will help to secure better value for money, recognising that each year the programme will require a review based on up-to date condition data and any relevant changes to investment plans/neighbourhood priorities.

### **3.2 Highways service improvement**

In response to a report from the Strategic Director of Transport, Highways and Engineering presented to Audit Committee on 31st August 2017, a number of items were raised that needed continuous improvement. The Service has been concentrating in the last six months on reviewing and refining long-standing processes and procedures around work allocation and repair, including:

- the deployment of additional resource (both internally and externally procured);
- the development of potential new call-off contracts for external support;
- utilising more efficient and cost-effective methods of repair in particular circumstances (for example, jet patching where appropriate);
- rolling-out enhanced monitoring and management of performance investment is also being made in drainage repairs as part of the £80 million investment.

### **3.3 Repairs backlog**

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. System monitoring has shown that between January and the end of November 2017, the Service successfully

completed and closed circa 13,500 Works Orders (including many containing multiple surface defects), averaging almost 1,300 orders completed each month.

A historic backlog of repairs, has been reduced by circa 30 percent by November 2017. In addition to the Service having recently changed its method of recording of individual defects against a single Works Order, as reported at the last Neighbourhoods Scrutiny, we are also currently reviewing our own future performance targets for highway maintenance. This is in-line with the industry-wide requirement to move towards a more risk-based approach as specified in "Well Managed Highways – A Code of Practice" that sets new more tailored targets that must become effective by October 2018.

### **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. The Task & Finish Group which has been set up to look at this and wider issues that affect road safety outside schools will have its final meeting in January 2018.

### **3.5 Residents Parking schemes**

We have made significant progress in reviewing residents parking schemes, specifically around the core of the city centre which is suffering from increased parking in residential areas. A number of visits have been undertaken across wards that are facing particular commuter parking issues including Hulme, Ardwick, Ancoats and Clayton and Cheetham Hill. This is becoming a big challenge in many neighbourhoods where parking in residential roads is an increasing problem.

### **3.6 Cycle City Ambition Grant**

Significant progress has been made on the scheme design and construction of the Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway Scheme. The Transport 2040 Strategy, developed by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the district councils, aims to establish cycling as a recognised and attractive component of our future integrated transport offer with an aspiration for 10% of all trips to be made by bike. Site walk-throughs have been taking place with ward members attended by the executive and proposals for local improvements have now been reviewed, costed and consultation on the proposed measures will take place early in the New Year.

### **3.7 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 staff and we will be organising another roll out of the course for staff and members which will cover the basics of climate change science, how we know it is happening, how climate change will affect us in the future, and what we can do about it.

### **3.8 Manchester Food Board**

The Manchester Food Board which brings together a wide range of partners from across the city. The Food Board's submission of Manchester's application for Sustainable Food City Status has been met with success. Manchester has been awarded a bronze award in recognition of our success on taking a joined up, holistic approach to food and in recognition that with our partners we are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food health and sustainability issues.

### **3.9 Clean Air**

Over the last six months officers have continued to work with TfGM and the other specified GM districts to fully understand the Government's plan to tackle roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations and its implications for both Manchester and Greater Manchester. Discussions between TfGM and DEFRA regarding a number of issues, including the lack of guidance and clarity for what local authorities are required to produce, the funding for this and technical issues are ongoing, and will help shape the eventual response. Alongside this work, we have also started conversations with key stakeholders across the city to listen to their ideas on how we improve the quality of air we breathe and help shape our emerging plans in this area.

### **3.10 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 key growth areas which include digital, science and construction. Work continues 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 Manchester's residents. Work to increase the number, quality and take-up of apprenticeships in Manchester and Greater Manchester continues to be a priority. There is a particular need to build on the work that is taking place to develop advanced, higher and degree level apprenticeships across the city.

For the City's residents the particular challenge is the relatively high number who have no/very low levels of qualifications. Over the last few years, we

have developed many good programmes that have targeted our 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 Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) continues 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 and to secure additional funding to enhance its community based ESOL provision and award winning Talk English programme. There has been significant progress made against the ESOL strategy action plan, particularly in terms of mapping provision, contributing to national policy and expanding the volume of ESOL provision in the city. We will continue to invest on the very productive partnership between the two biggest ESOL providers in the city, MAES and the Manchester College, which is moving forward on strengthening progression pathways for ESOL learners.