

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 31  
January 2018

**Subject:** Delivering the Our Manchester Strategy

**Report of:** Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

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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 Neighbourhoods.

**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 published its collective political priorities and those of individual Executive Members, all of which are aligned to the Our Manchester Strategy. The individual priorities for my portfolio are: -

- Increase recycling rate
- Clean Streets
- Manage the Biffa waste contract
- Re-negotiate GM Waste Deal
- Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the light of the new policing model

1.3 This report sets out how I as the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods have sought to deliver these priorities over the past six months, along with the work outlined below I have visited teams across my portfolio including a Friday night / Saturday morning out with the taxi licensing enforcement to see the issues that they deal with.

## 2. Executive Member for Neighbourhoods - Portfolio

2.1 As Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, my portfolio includes:

- Crime & Community Safety
- Licensing Policy
- Neighbourhood Management including Waste Strategy & Collection
- Maintenance of Parks, Cemeteries & Allotments
- Management of Physical Environment & Environmental Services
- Public Service Reform Reforming Justice

2.2 In addition to my portfolio in Manchester I am also Chair of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority.

### **3. Progress and Outcomes June 2017 - December 2017**

- 3.1 I will run through each of my individual priorities and provide an update on the progress that has been made over the last six months.

#### **Increase Recycling rates**

- 3.2 Members are fully aware of the work undertaken last year where new grey bins were provided for all, these changes have resulted in recycling now being in excess of 50% for these properties, it also means that we are on target to spend over £7m less on waste disposal than we would have done if the changes had not been made.
- 3.3 Recycling in apartment and container areas is considerably lower than it is in the four bin household areas, with apartment blocks being as low as 10%. Apartments account for over 20% of residences within the City and it is projected to grow over the coming years. We are working with residents of apartments to ensure they have the equipment available to recycle well. As there is a great diversity of apartments within Manchester, bespoke solutions need to be found, meetings have already taken place with around 50 apartment block managers, to discuss good practice and ways to improve recycling at their properties and to offer assistance; it is acknowledged that additional recycling containers will be required for apartments to give residents the same opportunity to recycle as four bin households.

#### **Clean Streets & Managing the Biffa Waste Contract**

- 3.5 I hold regular meetings with the Waste and Recycling team and receive a weekly monitoring report on the performance of Biffa. In addition to these meetings I have monthly meetings with directors of Biffa to oversee the implementation of the improvement plan. Meetings have been held with members to brief them about the plan and sessions have been held in neighbourhoods to highlight local concerns.
- 3.6 During the period, September to November the overall performance on the street cleansing service has significantly improved, including:-
- Completion rates averaged around 85% over the period. This is over a 30% improvement based on 2016.
  - Improved Leaf fall plan actioned and delivered effectively with minimal issues raised. Estimated 3,000+ tonnes collected over eight weeks
  - Both Biffa and MCC inspection scores show significant improvement with 99% of streets rated B or above on day of cleanse.
  - Last three months City Centre score above 99% grade B, Grade B+ average over 90% with November being 92.7%
  - CRM quality checks by MCC averaging over 97% over the period
  - Original jobs not done reports for fly tipping at 2% and for cleansing under 5% for the period.

### **Re-negotiate the GM Waste Deal**

- 3.8 In April 2009, the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (which is all GM councils except Wigan) entered into a 25-year Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreement with Viridor Laing (Greater Manchester) Ltd to deal with the disposal of domestic waste and recycling from across the conurbation.
- 3.9 The PFI contract between GMWDA and Viridor Laing (Greater Manchester) Ltd was mutually terminated in September 2017, as part of the arrangements GMWDA have paid back outstanding bank loans in full and through alternative finance arrangements have been able to secure significantly reduced interest rates resulting in savings of £20 million per year. The GMWDA continue to supply fuel to the Runcorn facility under revised contract arrangements between GMWDA and the Thermal Power Station Company (TPSCo) this has resulted in a further £7 million savings per year. The GMWDA are seeking to procure Greater Manchester Waste and Resource Management Services, including:
- residual waste management services
  - household waste recycling and transfer services
  - bio waste management services, and all associated works

### **Reducing crime and antisocial behaviour in the light of the new policing model**

- 3.10 The new model was designed to ensure that neighbourhood policing continues to take place in Manchester. Concerns have been raised regarding problems people were having contacting the police via 101 and with the shift patterns that means that officers are not always available to attend community meetings and events and the, briefing sessions with Chief Superintendent Wasim Chaudhry were arranged to discuss some of the issues as well as the inconsistency in the way that members are informed of incidents within their wards. Further meetings will be arranged on a local basis.
- 3.11 In January the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee received reports on Community Safety, Youth Justice and Anti-Social Behaviour of Young People along with an update from Greater Manchester Police which included details of the Travel Safe program. This initiative run in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester and local public transport providers to target patrols in areas at the times of day where the public transport network suffer from crime and antisocial behaviour, the team also visit schools to educate youngsters on the dangers, impacts and consequences of crime and antisocial behaviour.