



Economy Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday, 8 October 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Virtual Meeting: Webcast at - https://manchester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/485342

There will be a private meeting for Members only at 1:00pm Wednesday 7 October 2020 via Zoom. A separate invite will be sent to members with joining details.

Advice to the Public

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

Under the provisions of these regulations the location where a meeting is held can include reference to more than one place including electronic, digital or virtual locations such as internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers.

To attend this meeting it can be watched live as a webcast. The recording of the webcast will also be available for viewing after the meeting has concluded.

Membership of the Economy Scrutiny Committee

Councillors - H Priest (Chair), Abdullatif, Green, Hacking, Johns, Noor, Raikes, Shilton Godwin, K Simcock and Stanton

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes

5 - 14

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2020

5. Proposed Planning Reforms, Local Plan and Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

15 - 70

Report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing attached

This report covers the proposed response to the Planning White Paper, published for consultation by the Government which closes on 29 October 2020. It also includes the response to the Government consultation on “changes to the current planning system” which required a response by 1 October. The report also covers the recent changes to the permitted development rights regime, highlighting some of the potential challenges the new rights may bring to the city and concludes with an update on the emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the next steps for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

6. Economic Recovery of the City's Cultural Sector

71 - 96

Report of the Strategic Lead Policy and Partnership and Director of Culture attached

This report provides an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the City's cultural sector. It outlines access to local and national financial support for the sector and the gaps identified in the

assistance needed for the cultural economy.

7. Update on COVID-19 Activity

97 - 122

Report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) attached

This report provides a further update summary of the current situation in the city in relation to COVID-19 and an update on the work progressing in Manchester in relation to areas within the remit of this Committee.

8. Overview Report

123 - 138

Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit attached

This report provides the Committee with details of key decisions that fall within the Committee's remit and an update on actions resulting from the Committee's recommendations. The report also includes the Committee's work programme, which the Committee is asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

Information about the Committee

Scrutiny Committees represent the interests of local people about important issues that affect them. They look at how the decisions, policies and services of the Council and other key public agencies impact on the city and its residents. Scrutiny Committees do not take decisions but can make recommendations to decision-makers about how they are delivering the Manchester Strategy, an agreed vision for a better Manchester that is shared by public agencies across the city.

The Economy Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for looking at how the city's economy is growing and how Manchester people are benefiting from the growth.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. Speaking at a meeting will require a video link to the virtual meeting.

Members of the public are requested to bear in mind the current guidance regarding Coronavirus (COVID19) and to consider submitting comments via email to the Committee Officer. The contact details of the Committee Officer for this meeting are listed below.

The Council is concerned to ensure that its meetings are as open as possible and confidential business is kept to a strict minimum. When confidential items are involved these are considered at the end of the meeting and the means of external access to the virtual meeting are suspended.

Joanne Roney OBE
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Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This agenda was issued on **Wednesday, 30 September 2020** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 3, Town Hall Extension (Lloyd Street Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 3 September 2020

This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of the The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels(Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present:

Councillor H Priest (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Green, Johns, Noor, Raikes, Shilton Godwin and K Simcock

Also present:

Councillor Leese, Leader

Councillor Richards, Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration

Apologies: Councillor Abdullatif, Hacking and Stanton

ESC/20/29 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2020 as a correct record

ESC/20/30 Update on COVID-19 Activity

Further to Minute ESC/20/27 (Update on activity under COVID 19), the Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided a further update of the current situation in the city in relation to COVID-19 and an update on the work progressing in Manchester in relation to areas within the remit of the Committee.

The main points and themes within the report included:-

- An economic overview at a national, regional and local level;
- A sectoral impact update, including the impact on footfall within the city, hospitality and visitor economies;
- Planned reopening dates within the cultural sector and the funding needed for Manchester's Cultural recovery plan;
- The closure of Terminal 2 at Manchester Airport and the potential impact this would have on employment in the city;
- The steps needed to stimulate development & investor confidence in the city;
- Work being undertaken with TfGM to agree a broad overall transport plan to support the gradual opening up of the city with a focus on pedestrian movement and safe use of public transport;
- Work being undertaken around Skills, Labour Market and Business Support following on from the THINK report findings; and

- A progress update on the lobbying of government for additional funding.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- Concern was expressed with the reduction in residential property sales within the city centre might also be linked to cladding issues not just the impact of the COVID19 crisis;
- The increase in demand for turnover rent from hospitality businesses appeared to be a sensible response to the COVID19 crisis and was the Council engaging with landlords of businesses on this
- Concern was expressed on the dangers of monopolisation of hospitality and leisure businesses due to the impact of COVID19;
- How was the city centre likely to be impacted by the recently announced planning reforms;
- Had any progress been made with support for the city's culture sector, including small venues and freelance performers;
- Where would the capacity come from to enable people to transfer their skills into other areas as the city's economy recovered
- How was Kickstart positioned in the city and who would lead on this;
- Had there been any assessments on quality of life and wellbeing and environmental impact assessments in regards to the number of people now working from home;

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration advised that city centre residential sales had been affected due to the issue of remedial works required to the cladding of a number of buildings. This was an ongoing issue and due to a lack of qualified inspectors, was resulting in the slow certification and sign off for many buildings. Discussions were taking place to see if any partnership arrangements could be put in place to speed up this process.

The Leader commented that there had been a surge in mental health issues in the city which could likely be attributed to the increase in home working and there would be a need for some form of "return to work" for businesses as soon as possible to prevent this increasing further. It was also acknowledged that there was an environmental impact of working from home, and it was commented that as autumn/winter approached, there would be an increase in employees home fuel costs. The larger concern was not whether people were working from home but whether people were working at all as the government furlough scheme came to an end. The Leader also commented that there was a need to address the element of confidence within the city amongst businesses and people.

The Head of Local Planning and Infrastructure/City Policy stated that clarification had been sought from MHCLG on the planning reforms' impact on the ability to control the change of use of offices to residential accommodation. He advised that transition arrangements were being put in place which would mean that the Article 4 direction, previously agreed by the Council, which enabled the change of use of offices to residential accommodation to be controlled, would remain in place until the end of July 2021. A further announcement was expected from Government on any changes to the situation after that date.

The Chief Executive of Home Manchester advised that the Arts Council was managing the funds that government had made available to the country's cultural sectors and a small amount had been made available and allocated for small music venues. A second wave of applications for additional funding that had also been made available had also been submitted, the outcomes of which would be known later in September. In terms of the freelance economy, a number of projects were ongoing to support employment within this area of the cultural sector. It was commented that the biggest challenge facing employment within the sector would be next financial year.

The Director of Inclusive Economy advised that the Government had very recently announced the details of the Kickstart Programme, which would provide paid employment for unemployed 18 to 24 year olds claiming Universal Credit, for a 6 month period. Employers would need to demonstrate that the Kickstart opportunities were new or additional and wouldn't displace an existing job. If the employer had 30 or more opportunities, they applied directly to the DWP and once they had carried out their checks, they would be filled by Job Centre Plus. Where employers had fewer than 30 opportunities, they would be encouraged to work through an intermediary, which could be a business, public body, training organisation or charity and once the intermediary had 30 vacancies they would apply to DWP and receive a small one-off admin fee. On top of the wages, employers would receive £1500 to provide equipment and support to the young person. Councils or Combined Authorities had not been involved in the design of the programme nor did they have a formal role in the delivery other than what opportunities might be provided directly by the City Council or by acting as an intermediary. In response to the question relating to funding and capacity to upskill and reconnect residents to employment opportunities, the Director of Inclusive Economy said that given the likely levels of unemployment, the system currently would lack capacity to respond in a timely way.

Decision

The Committee notes the update.

ESC/20/31 Economic recovery narrative for the City

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an overview of plans to develop an Economic Recovery Plan for the city, as a key part of the Council's forward planning in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Plan would primarily be directed at government, businesses and investors and set out a clear and detailed narrative on how the city is well-placed to use its strong assets in order to re-establish economic momentum over the next few years.

The report was accompanied with a more detail presentation delivered by Mike Emmerich of Metro-Dynamics and John McCreadie of Ekosgen who had been commissioned to develop the Plan on behalf of the Council.

The key points and themes in the report and presentation included:-

- The plan would focus on the three strategic aims identified in the Our Manchester Strategy and Our Manchester Industrial Strategy- People, Place and Prosperity, and on the priorities of inclusive growth and the foundational economy and our zero carbon commitments;
- The plan would incorporate transformational schemes and key projects under these areas, which would form part of the Council's ask to the Spending Review, highlighting how these could deliver new jobs, homes and leverage further investment.
- The narrative and projects would form a strong proposition to government, providing a clear plan for the city to come out of recession as powerfully and as quickly as it could, by building on its long-term strengths;
- It would reinforce the importance of regional cities such as Manchester as economic engines, particularly highlighting opportunities in the city centre, the Oxford Road Corridor, North Manchester and Airport City.
- There would also be an emphasis on working with distressed businesses as new opportunities emerged; youth skills and encouraging young people to stay in education; graduate re-skilling; apprenticeships schemes; and support for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents and the over-50's who had also been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19; and
- Following feedback from the Committee, the narrative and key project proposals would be further developed for wider discussion. The document would then be finalised in advance of the Comprehensive Spending Review for submission to Government.

The report would also be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 9 September 2020.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- How would the Council seek to unlock funding from government so that the most disadvantaged residents in the city had the opportunities to access the opportunities that were envisaged as part of the Plan;
- It was important to remember the role of district centres and their contribution to the city's economy and there needed to be a continued focus on these centres going forward;
- It would be essential to obtain the necessary funding from government to deliver the ambition of zero carbon retrofitting of the Council's housing stock;
- Clarification was sought as to who was the primary audience for the Plan and what was unique about Manchester's Plan compared to other cities;
- It was commented that our response to the economic crisis needed to set a longer term trajectory in line with the local industrial strategy and Our Manchester Strategy rather than simply trying to get back to where the city was before the impact of COVID19; and
- It was felt that the narrative of the Plan needed to be mindful of the language it used in relation to "rescuing" those within the foundational sector, as the employment opportunities within this sector were also important to the cities recovery.

Mike Emmerich (Metro-Dynamics) commented that work was taking place to identify real distinctive Manchester propositions that delivered opportunities to all

communities across the city. He also acknowledged the point raised around district centres and advised that this would be picked up and incorporated into the Plan. In terms of low carbon and specifically the housing retrofit programme and fleet de-carbonisation programme, he advised that these were two principle sources of carbon emissions in the city that the Council could directly affect and the Plan contained robust proposals that would profoundly change carbon emissions and fuel policy around affordable homes.

In terms of the audience of the Plan, it was explained that the principle audience of the Plan was government, as it was government who held a lot of the power to unlocking the ambitions for the city. In relation to what made Manchester's Plan unique it was commented that the Plan would be aligned to the key areas of strength that were unique to Manchester, such as its Science and Innovation sector. It was also closely aligned to the Our Manchester approach and had emphasis on achieving a zero carbon target by 2038.

The Leader noted too, the important role that district centres played in the city's economy. He commented that some of the biggest schemes with the proposals were not city centre or district centre based and emphasised that the city centre accounted for 10% of all jobs in Greater Manchester and the GMSF would identify that the city centre would see over 50% of commercial development across greater Manchester alongside the jobs that would come with this. As such it was important to acknowledge the important role the city centre played. He further commend that the business and investor sectors were of equal importance in terms of the audience for the Plan as without these, the city would not be able to get its economy back on to the correct trajectory.

Chris Oglesby (Chair of the Business Sounding Board), commented that it was essential that the city created satisfying, productive jobs for Manchester residents and this was critical to the Plan being successful, not only in high growth sectors but also the foundational sector of the economy, noting that a lot of the jobs created since the industrialisation of the 1980's had been neither satisfying or sustainable. He felt it would be challenging to get central government to empower the city through formal programmes to do more, as such, it was felt that the challenges the city's economy faced needed to be solved at a local level in partnership between the Council, businesses and education providers.

The Leader supported the point made around the language used in the narrative of the Plan centred around low skilled jobs and commented that there needed to be a system that recognised the value of the contribution that those who worked in these made to the economy.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Requests that as the narrative of the Plan develops, it contains more of a balance between the role of neighbourhoods and district centres in correlation to the City Centre.

- (2) Requests that the narrative is clearer on active travel proposals tied to government initiatives and strategies;
- (3) Requests that the language of resilience is reviewed and taken into consideration especially when referring to the foundational economy;
- (4) Requests that part of the narrative focusses on delivering jobs that are satisfying and sustainable.

ESC/20/32 Economy Dashboard

The Committee considered the most recent Economy Dashboard for 2020

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:–

- Could there be comparative data to other major/core cities against the indicators in the dashboard for future reports;
- Was there any update on the extension of completion schedules in some developments and what impact this might have; and
- It was suggested that for future updates connected metrics should be provided

The Research Manager noted the points made around comparative data to other major/core cities and agreed to include this in future dashboards where possible. He also commented that on construction times these were at 90% productivity on sites and work was done to estimate how this affected the development pipeline. He agreed to look to include this in future updates if possible.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the dashboard; and
- (2) Supports the proposal to move to a more integrated approach to economic monitoring that responds to and better supports emerging priorities

ESC/20/33 Housing Revenue Account Delivery model - Northwards ALMO Review

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, which informed Members of the outcome of the recent “due diligence” review of the Arms Length Management Organisation (AMLO), Northwards Housing, undertaken by Campbell Tickell. The report provided a summary of the findings and a proposal to develop a service offer to tenants in light of the findings in order to move to a full consultation and “test of opinion” of tenants and leaseholders to the service being brought in-house.

The main points and themes of the report included:-

- A summary of the rationale for the establishment of Northwards Housing Limited (NHL) in 2005 and its primary objective;
- The current and predicted financial position of the Council’s HRA at the end of the 30-year business plan which was projecting a deficit in excess of £400m.

- The methodology used by Campbell Tickle in undertaking the review of the HRA and Northwards ALMO;
- The main findings from the review, including the current service baseline and challenges to be addressed;
- A summary of the financial and non financial benefits of three options for consideration:-
 - Retention of the ALMO;
 - Return of the Housing service to MCC; or
 - Stock transfer;
- An outline of the next steps in developing the tenants offer, which was a critical part of moving to the test of opinion ballot; and
- An indicative timescale of the next steps should the Executive support the proposal to develop a tenants offer.

The report would also be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 9 September 2020.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committees discussions were:-

- Whilst acknowledging the financial savings returning the housing service to the Council would bring, It was not clear what the benefit to tenants would be by bringing the housing stock back into the Council or how they would receive a better service;
- There was no mention in any of the proposals of how the repair contract would be managed;
- It was questioned what the scope of the brief given to Campbell Tickle to undertake the survey was and what qualifications did they hold to undertake the survey;
- There was serious concern that the proposed financial savings by bringing the housing service back into the Council would result in the loss of jobs to Manchester residents;
- What would happen if the tenants did not agree with the proposal to return the housing stock to the Council;
- It was commented that the savings difference between improving the existing service and removing it, which was reported to be £77m, equated to only £45 per property per year over the 30 year business plan and it was felt that this needed to be clear to tenants on the level of impact this saving would have;
- Some Members were not convinced that the interests of the tenants living in Northwards managed properties were paramount in the proposals being put forward; and
- It would be essential not to lose the best elements of the current service provided by Northwards if the management of the housing stock was brought back under the control of the Council.

The Interim Director of Housing and Residential Growth advised that the report did not refer to how tenants would benefit from bringing the housing stock back into the Council as this was the next stage of the process. This stage was to validate previous assumptions that had been made that there was substance to the indicative and projected savings to be made and improvements to service. In order to deliver

the aspiration to improve services to tenants, there would need to be a test of opinion to see if there was support for the move of the management of the housing stock and to do this there would need to be an offer presented to tenants of what the service would look like if managed by the Council and how they could be engaged with and influence the service in the future.

He advised that the financial savings of returning the housing stock to the Council would be through various components, including shared back office/corporate core functions, achieving significant economies of scale.

It was reiterated that doing nothing was not an option so If the tenants didn't agree following the test of opinion, then other ways would need to be identified to tackle the financial pressures that the HRA faced.

The Leader commented that he felt there was sufficient evidence to maintain the HRA, improve the level of services and improve the overall neighbourhood management of areas by bringing the housing stock back in control of the Council.

The Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration acknowledged the positive from the survey of Northwards tenants undertaken by Campbell Tickle had identified some areas of concern that needed to be looked at in more detail. She also commented that whilst the Business Plan put forward by Northwards identified savings, the Council had had to use HRA reserves for the last few years in order to balance the budget, so questioned why these savings hadn't been identified previously.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Does not endorse the proposal that the Executive confirm insourcing the service remains the preferred option and the intention to take over direct management of the Housing Service into the Council from 5 July 2021 subject to a "test of opinion" involving all tenants and leaseholders.
- (2) Notes the review concludes that doing nothing is not an option and that there is an opportunity to achieve savings of at least £77m over the 30-year business plan by ending the current arrangements under which the Council's housing stock is managed by Northwards Housing Limited (NHL).
- (3) Notes the proposals contained within the report about how the new council controlled service offer will be developed and how, in future, tenants will be involved and empowered in the decision making about services to homes and communities.

ESC/20/34 Overview Report

The Committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

Decisions

The Committee:-

- (1) Notes the report;
- (2) Agrees the Work Programme as submitted

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Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 8 October 2020

Subject: Proposed Planning Reforms, Local Plan and Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Report of: Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing

Summary

This report covers the proposed response to the Planning White Paper, published for consultation by the Government which closes on 29 October 2020.

It also includes the response to the Government consultation on “changes to the current planning system” which required a response by 1 October.

The report then goes on to cover the recent changes to the permitted development rights regime, highlighting some of the potential challenges the new rights may bring to the city.

The report concludes with an update on the emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the next steps for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider the response to the Planning White Paper set out in paragraphs 2.5 to 2.28 and in Appendix 1 of the report and provide any further additional comment they wish to add to the response;
 - Note the response to the consultation on “changes to the current planning system” in Appendix 2 which required a response by 1 October;
 - Note the recent changes to the permitted development rights regime and the potential challenges the new rights may bring to the city; and
 - Note the updates on the emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the next steps for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).
-

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

The proposals in the Planning White Paper consultation from Government include direct matters addressing climate change. Moreover, many of the proposals set out in the consultation will have implications for how zero-carbon targets can be met in the city.

The updates on the emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the next steps for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) deal with two plans that will contain/do contain policies that seek to deliver on the zero-carbon targets for the city.

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	<p>The Planning White Paper includes proposals that will have an influence on this OMS outcome. Our response to the White Paper highlights our concerns with respect to aspects of the consultation that potentially will make the delivery of this outcome harder to achieve.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) will contain or do contain policies that support this outcome.</p>
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	<p>The Planning White Paper includes proposals that will have an influence on this OMS outcome. Our response to the White Paper highlights our concerns with respect to aspects of the consultation that potentially will make the delivery of this outcome harder to achieve.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) will contain or do contain policies that support this outcome.</p>
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	<p>The Planning White Paper includes proposals that will have an influence on this OMS outcome. Our response to the White Paper highlights our concerns with respect to aspects of the consultation that potentially will make the delivery of this outcome harder to achieve.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) will contain or do contain policies that support this outcome.</p>

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	<p>The Planning White Paper includes proposals that will have an influence on this OMS outcome. Our response to the White Paper highlights our concerns with respect to aspects of the consultation that potentially will make the delivery of this outcome harder to achieve.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) will contain or do contain policies that support this outcome.</p>
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	<p>The Planning White Paper includes proposals that will have an influence on this OMS outcome. Our response to the White Paper highlights our concerns with respect to aspects of the consultation that potentially will make the delivery of this outcome harder to achieve.</p> <p>The emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) will contain or do contain policies that support this outcome.</p>

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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 the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

White Paper: Planning for the Future (August 2020), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Changes to the current planning system (Consultation on changes to planning policy and regulations) (August 2020), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report covers the proposed response to the Planning White Paper, published for consultation by the Government which closes on 29 October 2020. Appendix 1 contains a full response to the White Paper setting out proposed answers to the various questions posed. The report below summarises the response drawing out key matters for consideration.
- 1.2 Appendix 2 contains the agreed response to a parallel Government consultation that concluded on 1 October – “Changes to the current planning system”.
- 1.3 The report then briefly considers the recent changes to the permitted development rights and use class orders, highlighting some of the potential challenges the changes may bring to the city.
- 1.4 The report concludes with an update on the emerging Local Plan for Manchester and the next steps for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) are also included.

2.0 Background

Planning White Paper

- 2.1 The White Paper contains a wide range of proposals that, if enacted through new primary and secondary legislation, would present a significant change from the current system of plan making and development management decision process. The main theme running through of all the paper is an intention to “simplify” the planning process. Previous attempts at simplifying planning have generally ended up leading to the opposite outcome and posing significant challenges to the delivery of key outcomes to support the growth of the city. The consultation also focuses heavily on proposals to increase the further digitalisation of both local plan and development management processes.
- 2.2 The White Paper is split into “Three Pillars” which cover the following topics:
 - Pillar One – Planning for Development;
 - Pillar Two - Planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and
 - Pillar Three - Planning for infrastructure and connected places.
- 2.3 The proposed reforms can be summarised as follows:

Pillar One

- Local Plans focusing on the identification of three types of land area that will be designated on maps (growth areas; renewal areas and areas that are protected;
- The majority of development management policies will be established at national scale and set out in a revised NPPF;

- A new single statutory “sustainable development” test, replacing the existing tests of soundness used by Inspectors at the examination of local plans;
- Replacement of the current “Duty to Cooperate” required as part of the local plan process with other strategic cross-boundary processes (not defined in the White Paper);
- Changes to the “Standard Method” for determining housing need and proposals regarding how housing requirement may be considered;
- Land in growth areas would be granted an outline permission when the local plan is adopted and land identified as a renewal area would have a “presumption in favour of development”;
- A streamlined and digitally enabled end to end process which is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed, to ensure planning decisions are made faster;
- Local Plans to be visual and map-based, standardised, based on the latest digital technology, and supported by a new template;
- A new statutory timetable for key stages of the local plan process will be introduced (30 months);
- Retained role for neighbourhood plans; and
- Expectations that the delivery of sites (build out rates) will improve.

Pillar Two

- General questions on views on the current state of design in new developments and sustainability issues;
- Design guides and codes are identified as a key aspect that will either feature in the local plan or be prepared as supplementary planning documents;
- Government to publish a National Model Design Code later this year;
- Establishment of a new body to support design coding and building better places, and that each authority should have a chief officer for design and place-making;
- Proposal to consider how design might be given greater emphasis in the strategic objectives for Homes England;
- Government intend to introduce a fast-track for beauty through changes to national policy and legislation;
- Proposal to amend the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that it targets those areas where a reformed planning system can most effectively play a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change and maximising environmental benefits;
- The design of a quicker, simpler framework for assessing environmental impacts (Environmental Impact Assessments of planning applications and Sustainability Appraisal of Local Plans) and enhancement opportunities;
- A review and update of the planning framework for listed buildings and conservation areas; and
- Improving energy efficiency standards in buildings

Pillar Three

- A new Infrastructure Levy that would incorporate both the previous Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions into one system;
- It is intended that the scope of the Infrastructure Levy could be extended to capture changes of use through permitted development rights;
- Recognition that the removal of developer contributions would impact on the delivery of affordable housing and therefore the reformed Infrastructure Levy would be capable of seeking affordable housing provision;
- More freedom could be given to local authorities over how they spend the proposed Infrastructure Levy. It is suggested that local authorities could spend receipts on other policy priorities, once core infrastructure obligations have been met.
- Exploring ideas around public assets and investments;
- Exploring potential changes to enable more flexible development corporation models;
- Making sure the system has the right people and skills; and
- Stronger enforcement through a review and strengthening of existing planning enforcement powers and sanctions.

- 2.4 Appendix A sets out in full the proposed responses to the various matters considered in the White Paper. There is clearly a lot of detail that is not available at the moment to help inform our responses. Nonetheless, it is clear that the proposals represent a significant challenge in how we use the planning system to enable and deliver key outcomes for the city including economic and sustainable growth, jobs and new homes. The sections below draw out the key aspects from the proposed response.

Pillar One

- 2.5 The proposals for local plans present a very different type of plan to the current Core Strategy adopted in 2012. The main concern with the White Paper proposals is that they would not provide flexibility through what is effectively a zoning process. This rigidity does not allow for change in circumstances and for the planning process to adapt to emerging needs of an area. Moreover, the three proposed area types do not reflect the complexity of a major urban area like Manchester where areas of what might be categorised as growth, renewal and protection are intertwined.
- 2.6 There would also be tension between proposals for much of the development management policy framework to be set at a national level; this would diminish the opportunity for locally distinctive policies that reflect specific local conditions and drive our priorities. It is fundamental there is a local context to Development Management Policies. These have regard to local circumstances and it is simply not possible to have a one size fits all policy.
- 2.7 Whilst we consider there is some merit in reviewing the current tests of soundness, we find it hard to comment on the sustainable development test

proposal in the White Paper as there is no specific detail as to what the test would cover beyond stating it would consider “sustainable development”.

- 2.8 The proposal to remove the duty to cooperate needs further detail for a considered discussion. Clearly in Greater Manchester, there has been a long history of local authorities working together on strategic matters where appropriate.
- 2.9 We note that the proposals in effect continue the established approach of a standard method, albeit with some changes proposed that are set out in the accompanying consultation on changes to the current planning system. We therefore reiterate the points we have made with regard to the proposals in the changes to the current planning system consultation (consultation closed 1 October). Further details on that consultation are set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.10 We have significant concerns with respect to the changes to the development management process which would see the introduction of deemed outline consents and the presumption in favour of development that will be hardwired into the local plan process. This would undermine the ability of local communities and councils to manage development and shape how their area develops in future. As an example land in renewal and growth areas would be subject to, respectively, an automatic permission in principle or presumption in favour of development. Any detailed matters would be delegated to officers only.
- 2.11 The proposals around digital solutions need to recognise that the current decision making process already relies on a significant digital based approach. Often delays in the decision making process are down to other factors which includes applicants either not responding quickly or the absence of good quality information. The White Paper again lacks detail on what is actually going to happen to allow for further informed comment. A significant omission in this section is any acknowledgment that local communities do not have equal access to digital technology. The continued push towards online solutions must ensure that access is still equally available to people without the means to acquire or use digital approaches.
- 2.12 The proposal to significantly simplify the volume of material submitted in support of an application is not supported. LPAs have worked hard to ensure the level of information provided allows for proper decision making. It is important the quality of information whilst remaining proportionate to the proposal allows for all issues to be fully addressed and for communities to maintain confidence in the process.
- 2.13 The proposals for Local Plans to be more visual and map based appears to ignore the fact that existing local plans have policies maps which are already readily available online. Moreover, in the case of Greater Manchester, significant levels of mapped information is presented as a shared resource via the MappingGM website.

- 2.14 Given the proposals set out previously in the White Paper, we have significant doubts that a 30 month timescale would be achievable. The process proposed will simply not be able to resolve the complexities surrounding a multitude of increasingly detailed planning matters presented by the influx of sites into the plan.
- 2.15 Neighbourhood plans have a role, where appropriate, within the planning process. In complex urban areas such as Manchester, it is crucial that any neighbourhood planning process is complementary to the fabric of other key processes including the local plan and associated non statutory planning frameworks.
- 2.16 With respect to build out rates, Manchester does not follow the pattern set out in the White Paper. The city has seen sustained significant growth based on a strong pipeline of delivery. Manchester has a track record of delivering major projects with timely planning decision making to start on site. The nature of development from bespoke residential projects to large commercial schemes particularly in and around the city centre, has meant that delivery timescales have inevitably been different to the types of schemes considered in the Letwin Review (focusing on traditional housing sites). The issues around build out are not in our experience planning related.

Pillar Two

- 2.17 The ideas around design guidance and codes will need to be carefully considered alongside existing design guidance that the city already has. Manchester City Council is proud of the high quality development within the city and believes firmly that the Council and its residents are best placed to judge what is beautiful and appropriate for the area. Manchester takes a holistic approach to design, this is not just about appearance but how safety, inclusive access and a response to climate change are embedded from the beginning to delivery.
- 2.18 Manchester would not support a new central body if it took away the ability of the Council to make decisions locally on what type of development is appropriate for the area.
- 2.19 We agree that it is important Home England ensure design principles are embedded within their processes. However, it is important that any decision on what is considered 'beautiful' is taken locally. Manchester City Council agree that Homes England should consider the quality of spaces for example size of rooms and light as part of its objectives.
- 2.20 The Council would object to proposals that could be considered via a 'fast-track' route. Producing and consulting on locally agreed codes/guides is a very extensive process and once in place will need to be reviewed regularly. In addition any proposals will still need to be given proper consideration both by the Council and the current and future residents. Moreover, we do not agree with the proposal to widen the nature of permitted development as this often leads to poor quality development and places that are far from 'beautiful'. This

was very clearly evidenced in the case to the Secretary of State for the Article 4 that now exists to prevent changes of use from office to residential.

- 2.21 In broad terms, the White Paper proposals around climate change and maximising environmental benefits are in line with the Council's policy approach. However, this is yet another part of the White Paper where there is no detail regarding how this will be achieved save for some reference to the role of other legislation/reviews for all future detail on environment policy.
- 2.22 We are concerned about the potential impacts of a "quicker, simpler framework" for assessing environmental impacts, with again detail lacking on what this might mean. The risk is that under the proposed reforms SEA and EIA will be lost or watered down in an effort to speed up planning.
- 2.23 The Council does not support the proposal that "suitably experienced architectural specialists can have earned autonomy from routine listed building". Outsourcing the role of giving consent to work on listed buildings would cause great confusion over accountability and is a recipe for disaster.
- 2.24 In terms of improving energy standards for buildings, the White Paper refers to the proposed Future Homes standards. The Council is already committed via its Climate Change Action Plan to deliver a net zero carbon city by 2038 at the latest, which exceeds the national target of 2050. To deliver on this commitment, the current action plan identifies key activities across a range of measures including planning policy and decision making. The Council is therefore clearly seeking to deliver and indeed to exceed against the national targets suggested in the White Paper.

Pillar Three

- 2.25 The White Paper proposes significant changes to infrastructure funding through the changes proposed to section 106 and the introduction of a new Infrastructure Levy process. The proposal is not supported. There are significant concerns about the establishment of a consolidated Infrastructure Levy. There is a current lack of detail in the White Paper as to the levels that may be proposed. Experience around the country has demonstrated there are significant variations in the values that can be captured from development. It is essential therefore that individual local authorities can continue to apply their own locally derived policies and approaches to deal with their specific circumstances.
- 2.26 The expansion of contributions into permitted development is not supported via the Infrastructure Levy route. We would prefer that such a proposal is considered through the existing developer contributions route. Manchester does not agree with the general proposition of a new levy as set out above and does not support the expansion of permitted development rights for a raft of reasons – not simply the inability to capture CIL/s106.
- 2.27 In terms of more freedom for how the proposed Infrastructure Levy could be spent, we would prefer that further consideration is given to the operation of

the developer contributions regime. The recent easing of restrictions that has already taken place with respect to developer contributions is an example of that approach. In terms of securing the provision of affordable housing we would prefer this is done through a proposal linked to the existing developer contribution route. In the majority of cases we would want to secure the provision of affordable housing on site unless there were valid reasons why this would not be practical. Where affordable housing cannot be provided on site a commuted sum would be ring fenced in a secure account (Manchester's Housing Affordability Fund). This fund would be strategically deployed to support the delivery of affordable homes within an agreed area (the Manchester boundary).

- 2.28 There are no specific questions for the proposals around public assets; development corporations; ensuring the system has the right people and skills; and stronger enforcement powers; and it is therefore information to note.

Permitted Development Rights and Use Class Order Changes

- 2.29 The Government has introduced a number of changes to the system of permitted development rights and use class orders for different types of development over the summer. The permitted development rights changes include:
- Allowing the demolition of a detached purpose built block of flats, or of a detached commercial building falling within the B1(a), (b) or (c) use classes; and construction of new build C3 residential development on the site. Prior approval will be required rather than full planning permission. The existing building must have been vacant for at least six months from the date that the prior approval is applied for, and the new residential development must be either a single detached house or a detached block of flats. The scope in terms of the types of existing building which qualify is limited excluding any building greater than 1,000 square metres, buildings in conservation areas, buildings within 3km of an aerodrome, buildings built after 31 December 1989, and buildings rendered unsafe or uninhabitable by action or inaction of an owner where it is practicable to secure safety or health by works of repair or temporary support.
 - Allowing as permitted development the extension upwards by a further two storeys on existing blocks of flats subject to a maximum height of 30 metres for the overall height of the whole development (i.e. including the existing development). Developers will still need to go through a prior approval process with the local authority before commencing any work.
 - Allowing additional extensions on single dwellings.
 - Ensuring new homes developed through permitted development rights provide adequate natural light for the occupants.

2.30 The changes to the Use Class Orders are set out below.

- A new Class E covering commercial, business and service uses will replace the current use classes of B1 (offices and light industrial), A1 (retail), A2 (financial and professional non-medical services eg solicitors, estate agents), A3 (cafes/ restaurants) and parts of D1 (Clinics, health centres, crèches, day nurseries, day centre) and D2 (Gymnasiums, indoor recreations)
- A new Class F.1 (Learning and non-residential institutions) will replace parts of D1 (Schools, non-residential education and training centres, museums, public libraries, public halls, exhibition halls, places of worship, law courts)
- A new Class F.2 (Local community uses) will replace parts of D2 (Hall or meeting place for the principal use of the local community, Indoor or outdoor swimming baths, skating rinks, and outdoor sports or recreations)

2.31 The proposed changes to permitted development and use class changes require careful consideration as to whether additional Article 4 Directions may be appropriate to manage the quantum and mix of development in key parts of the City (akin to the previous introduction of Article 4 Direction to manage development proposals from offices to residential uses).

2.32 Our previous experience in bringing forward the Article 4 directions with respect to changes from commercial to residential uses illustrates the potential challenge behind the new permitted development rights. The Article 4 process required an evidence base to demonstrate the justification for making the Article 4. The overarching rationale focused on demonstrating that:

- Manchester is a nationally significant area of economic activity;
- The loss of economic uses would have substantial economic consequences at the local level;
- The City can effectively accommodate both employment and residential growth within its boundaries and has plans in place to do so; and
- There is a need and rationale for maintaining high quality residential development standards if wider ambitions are to be achieved.

2.33 Recent research published by MHCLG on previous changes to permitted development rights (offices to residential) has also highlighted significant concerns about the quality of development that resulted from the changes. A number of cases around the country have been highlighted in the professional and general media demonstrating poor design and living conditions for new occupants of the converted office buildings.

Manchester Local Plan

2.34 The emerging Local Plan for Manchester commenced with an Issues Consultation earlier this year. Since then, relevant evidence has been and is continuing to be assembled to inform the plan. It is appropriate to consider the

timetable for the next stages of the plan in the light of the current Covid19 pandemic and the emerging recovery response that the City Council is developing. Moreover, the publication of the Planning White Paper and changes to the timetable for the GMSF have a bearing on the potential next steps with respect to the Local Plan timetable.

- 2.35 The Issues Consultation yielded just over 562 responses from residents, businesses, campaign and interest groups, statutory organisations and developers/landowners. The responses ranged across all the issues considered in the consultation with responses that were received later in the consultation picking up the potential impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic. A summary of the key issues raised by consultees is set in Appendix 3.
- 2.36 The next steps for the Local Plan include the consultation on a Scoping Report for the Integrated Assessment; analysis and further commissioning of key elements of evidence base; and the development of a draft Local Plan. The current work being undertaken on the reset of the Our Manchester Strategy will also prove invaluable in providing further feedback on how residents and organisations see the future of Manchester particularly in the light of the recovery from the Covid19 pandemic.
- 2.37 The Issues Consultation set out an intention to consult on a draft Local Plan in winter 2020/21. There has been a need to consider the timetable as a result of the need to understand the recovery approach to the Covid19 pandemic; delays to the Publication version of the GMSF (see next section for more details on GMSF); and the significant proposals published in the Planning White Paper previously discussed in this report. It is therefore proposed that the draft Local Plan will now be consulted upon in summer 2021. Notwithstanding that delay to the proposed consultation on the Local Plan, it is anticipated that the plan can still be adopted in 2023 as previously envisaged.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

- 2.38 The GMSF is reaching an important stage with a final Publication version of the plan due to be consulted on from early November until 31 December 2020. The plan is then intended to be submitted for examination in summer 2021. The Council's Executive will be considering a report on 14 October 2020 recommending approval of the Publication consultation.
- 2.39 The plan includes specific policies and allocations that directly relate to Manchester including:
- A Spatial Strategy that identifies the significant agglomeration of economic activity at the centre of Greater Manchester within the City Centre and a wider central economic area that includes Central Park and the Etihad campus; the inner areas of the city region, surrounding the City Centre that benefit from a position adjacent to an enormous concentration of economic activity; and to maximise the benefits to Greater Manchester of the continued operation and sustainable growth of Manchester Airport; and Specific allocations at Medipark Extension, Global Logistics and Southwick

Park that set out key economic developments to further develop the opportunity that the Medipark Extension offers because of its proximity to Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (Wythenshawe Hospital) and the wider Roundthorn Medipark Enterprise Zone development is significant; Global Logistics as a key location close to a major international airport, and with improvements to local transport infrastructure, can play a full part in maximising future economic growth; and Southwick Park delivering a specific housing opportunity.

- 2.40 This version of the GMSF will be the third draft plan produced. Although representations are invited at Publication stage, these are then submitted to the Secretary of State along with the draft plan and considered at the Examination in Public. If major new issues arise at the Publication Consultation stage there would need to be further consultation prior to any submission of the plan.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Planning White Paper consultation closes on 29 October 2020. This report and the accompanying appendix A, set out a suggested response. We will collate any further comment received by the Economy Scrutiny Committee and include that in the response to be signed off by the Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport; and the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration.
- 3.2 The response to the Government consultation on “changes to the current planning system” was due by 1 October. Appendix 2 is therefore provided for information.
- 3.3 The proposed changes to permitted development and use class changes require careful consideration as to whether additional Article 4 Directions may be appropriate to manage the quantum and mix of development in key parts of the City (akin to the previous introduction of Article 4 Direction to manage development proposals from offices to residential uses).
- 3.4 The updates on the emerging Manchester Local Plan and the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework have been provided for information. We will continue to update members at appropriate points about progress on the Local Plan and GMSF.

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Appendix 1 - Planning White Paper Responses

1. The White Paper contains a wide range of proposals that, if enacted through new primary and secondary legislation, would present a significant change from the current system of plan making and development management decision process. The main theme running through of all the paper is an intention to “simplify” the planning process. Previous attempts at simplifying planning have generally ended up leading to the opposite outcome and posing significant challenges to the delivery of key outcomes to support the growth of the city.
2. We have not proposed answers to the first four questions as they, in general, cover issues aimed at users of the planning system.

1. What three words do you associate most with the planning system in England?

2. Do you get involved with planning decisions in your local area?
[Yes / No]

2(a). If no, why not?
[Don't know how to / It takes too long / It's too complicated / I don't care / Other – please specify]

3. Our proposals will make it much easier to access plans and contribute your views to planning decisions. How would you like to find out about plans and planning proposals in the future?
[Social media / Online news / Newspaper / By post / Other – please specify]

4. What are your top three priorities for planning in your local area?
[Building homes for young people / building homes for the homeless / Protection of green spaces / The environment, biodiversity and action on climate change / Increasing the affordability of housing / The design of new homes and places / Supporting the high street / Supporting the local economy / More or better local infrastructure / Protection of existing heritage buildings or areas / Other – please specify]

Proposal 1: The role of land use plans should be simplified. We propose that Local Plans should identify three types of land – Growth areas suitable for substantial development, Renewal areas suitable for development, and areas that are Protected.

3. The White Paper sets out its stall with respect to local plans at paragraph 2.7 by stating,

“Local Plans should have a clear role and function, which should be, first, to identify land for development and sites that should be protected; and, second, to be clear about what development can take place in those different areas so that there is greater certainty about land allocated for development and so that there is a faster route to securing permission. They should be assessed against a single statutory “sustainable development” test to ensure plans strike the right balance between environmental, social and economic objectives.”

4. The proposals that specifically deal with local plans revolve around ideas to “simplify” the process and content of plan making. Plans will identify three types of land area that will be designated on maps:
 - growth areas suitable for “substantial development”;
 - renewal areas suitable for development; and
 - areas that are protected.
5. Growth Areas will cover land suitable for comprehensive development which could include former industrial sites; urban regeneration sites; and could also include proposals for sites such as those around universities where there may be opportunities to create a cluster of growth-focused businesses. The term “substantial development” will be defined in national policy in due course. Areas identified in a local plan under this category would have outline approval for development (linked to proposal 5 in the White Paper). Areas of flood risk would be excluded from this category (as would other important constraints), unless any risk can be fully mitigated.
6. Renewal areas “suitable for development” – this would cover existing built areas where smaller scale development is appropriate. It could include the gentle densification and infill of residential areas, development in town centres. There would be a statutory presumption in favour of development being granted for the uses specified as being suitable in each area. Local authorities could continue to consider the case for resisting inappropriate development of residential gardens;
7. Areas that are protected – this would include sites and areas which, as a result of their particular environmental and/or cultural characteristics, would justify more stringent development controls to ensure sustainability. This would include areas such as Green Belt, Conservation Areas, Local Wildlife Sites, areas of significant flood risk and important areas of green space. At a smaller scale it can continue to include gardens in line with existing policy in the National Planning Policy Framework.

8. The White Paper outlines alternative options – firstly, rather than dividing land into three categories, suggesting more binary models. One option is to combine Growth and Renewal areas (as defined above) into one category and to extend permission in principle to all land within this area, based on the uses and forms of development specified for each sub-area within it. A further alternative approach would be to limit automatic permission in principle to land identified for substantial development in Local Plans (Growth areas); other areas of land would, as now, be identified for different forms of development in ways determined by the local planning authority (and taking into account policy in the National Planning Policy Framework), and subject to the existing development management process.

5. Do you agree that Local Plans should be simplified in line with our proposals? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

9. The proposals for local plans present a very different type of plan to the current Core Strategy adopted in 2012. The Core Strategy intentionally sets out a strategic framework to planning the city up to 2027 (the end date of the plan). It provides clear direction on the what, where and when of planned growth within the city, whilst ensuring sufficient flexibility to account for changes in circumstances. The flexibility allowed for is in turn expressed through additional guidance in the form of strategic frameworks and supplementary planning documents. This approach has proven to be effective in maintaining a flexible approach to planning the future of the city. There is no evidence to suggest the existing approach in Manchester is hindering good quality and sustainable development.
10. The main concern with the White Paper proposals is that they would not provide flexibility through what is effectively a zoning process. The White Paper would appear to be proposing to set out a far more rigid approach for local plans to follow that simply does not reflect the need to react to changing circumstances, notwithstanding the requirement for plans to be reviewed every five years. Moreover the three proposed area types do not reflect the complexity of a major urban area like Manchester where areas of what might be categorised as growth, renewal and protection are intertwined. An example is the proposal that Conservation Areas are identified as an area for protection. In Manchester many of the Conservation Areas effectively sit within areas of growth and/or renewal thereby exposing the flaw of seeking to split them off into a category simply headed protection.
11. Neither of the alternative approaches overcome our objections to the Proposal. They would both limit the flexibility that is currently contained within Manchester's adopted local plan and likewise in any future local plan.

Proposal 2: Development management policies established at national scale and an altered role for Local Plans.

12. The White Paper proposes that the majority of development management policies will be established at national scale and set out in a revised NPPF. Development management policies contained in local plans would be restricted to clear and necessary site or area-specific requirements, including broad height limits, scale

and/or density limits for land included in growth areas and renewal areas, established through the accompanying text.

6. Do you agree with our proposals for streamlining the development management content of Local Plans, and setting out general development management policies nationally? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

13. The proposal presents a significant tension in suggesting the development management policy framework should be set at a national level. This will dramatically diminish the opportunity for locally distinctive policies that reflect specific local conditions.
14. It is fundamental there is a local context to Development Management Policies. These have regard to local circumstances and it is simply not possible to have a one size fits all policy. This would be a retrograde step

Proposal 3: Local Plans should be subject to a single statutory “sustainable development” test, replacing the existing tests of soundness.

15. At the examination stage of the **current Local Plan process**, Planning Inspectors will use four tests of soundness to judge whether a plan is sound and can therefore be recommended for adoption. Proposal 3 of the White Paper suggests a new single test to replace the current four tests. The White Paper does not contain any specific detail as to what the test would cover beyond stating it would consider “sustainable development”.
16. The second question covers the matter of Duty to Cooperate. This was introduced to replace the demise of regional planning and to ensure local authorities worked with each other on strategic issues that involved two or more councils. It is a specific test that is considered by Inspectors in Local Plan Examinations and a number of local plans have been found unsound as a result of failing to demonstrate that the plan has taken account of the relevant duty to cooperate issues. The White Paper is silent on what should replace the duty to cooperate, inviting views as part of the consultation. Clearly in Greater Manchester, there has been a long history of local authorities working together on strategic matters where appropriate. The current work on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) is the latest clear demonstration of joint working which follows in the footsteps of joint working on Waste and Minerals Plans.
17. The White Paper suggests an alternative option whereby the existing test of soundness would be retained but reformed in order to make it easier for a suitable strategy to be found sound. For example, the tests could become less prescriptive about the need to demonstrate deliverability. Rather than demonstrating deliverability, local authorities could be required to identify a stock of reserve sites which could come forward for development if needed.

7(a). Do you agree with our proposals to replace existing legal and policy tests for Local Plans with a consolidated test of “sustainable development”, which

would include consideration of environmental impact? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

18. We agree there is some merit in reviewing the current tests of soundness as they do represent an overly complex set of rules to judge local plans by. However, we find it hard to comment on the proposal in the White Paper as there is no specific detail as to what the test would cover beyond stating it would consider “sustainable development”. We would need to see further detail on what the “sustainable development” test would consist of (e.g. would it actually have component parts and hence end up resembling something similar to the current test of soundness).

7(b). How could strategic, cross-boundary issues be best planned for in the absence of a formal Duty to Cooperate?

19. Clearly in Greater Manchester, there has been a long history of local authorities working together on strategic matters where appropriate. The current work on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) is the latest clear demonstration of joint working which follows in the footsteps of joint working on Waste and Minerals Plans. We would therefore commend to Government that they work with Manchester and other authorities across the conurbation to build on what is currently effective under the present system. This will help to retain what does work whilst improving on that matters where the duty to cooperate has clearly fallen short.

20. The suggested alternative effectively operates in the current local plan system. It is common for local plan examinations to involve debates about including a buffer of development land to ensure flexibility within the plan period is allocated sites fail to come forward as expected.

Proposal 4: A standard method for establishing housing requirement figures which ensures enough land is released in the areas where affordability is worst, to stop land supply being a barrier to enough homes being built. The housing requirement would factor in land constraints and opportunities to more effectively use land, including through densification where appropriate, to ensure that the land is identified in the most appropriate areas and housing targets are met.

21. The “standard method” for establishing housing requirement figures in local plans is proposed to be revised. Further details are set out in a separate consultation from Government that closed for comments on 1 October. The agreed response to that consultation is set out in Appendix 2.

22. The White Paper sets out the main issues that will be considered in setting housing numbers for individual local authorities including:

- the size of existing urban settlements (so that development is targeted at areas that can absorb the level of housing proposed);

- the relative affordability of places (so that the least affordable places where historic under-supply has been most chronic take a greater share of future development);
- the extent of land constraints in an area to ensure that the requirement figure takes into account the practical limitations that some areas might face, including the presence of designated areas of environmental and heritage value, the Green Belt and flood risk;
- the opportunities to better use existing brownfield land for housing, including through greater densification. The requirement figure will expect these opportunities to have been utilised fully before land constraints are taken into account;
- the need to make an allowance for land required for other (non-residential) development; and
- inclusion of an appropriate buffer to ensure enough land is provided to account for the drop off rate between permissions and completions as well as offering sufficient choice to the market.

23. The White Paper notes that the standard method would make it the responsibility of individual authorities to allocate land suitable for housing to meet the requirement, and they would continue to have choices about how to do so: for example through more effective use of existing residential land, greater densification, infilling and brownfield redevelopment, extensions to existing urban areas, or new settlements. The existing policy for protecting the Green Belt would remain. It is also proposed for authorities to agree an alternative distribution of their requirement in the context of joint planning arrangements. In particular, it may be appropriate for Mayors of combined authorities to oversee the strategic distribution of the requirement in a way that alters the distribution of numbers, and this would be allowed for.

24. The White Paper suggests that the new approach will negate the need to be able to demonstrate a five-year supply of land. However, it is proposed to maintain the Housing Delivery Test and the presumption in favour of sustainable development as part of the new system.

8(a). Do you agree that a standard method for establishing housing requirements (that takes into account constraints) should be introduced?
[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

25. We note that the proposals in effect continue the established approach of a standard method, albeit with some changes proposed that are set out in the accompanying consultation on changes to the current planning system. We therefore draw your attention to the points we have made with regard to the proposals in the changes to the current planning system consultation.

8(b). Do you agree that affordability and the extent of existing urban areas are appropriate indicators of the quantity of development to be accommodated?
[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

26. We would draw your attention to the points we have made with regard to the proposals in the changes to the current planning system consultation.

Proposal 5: Areas identified as *Growth* areas (suitable for substantial development) would automatically be granted outline planning permission for the principle of development, while automatic approvals would also be available for pre-established development types in other areas suitable for building.

27. A further significant change proposed is that land in growth areas would be granted an outline permission when the local plan is adopted. Moreover, land identified as a renewal area would have a “presumption in favour of development” (the concept is already set out in the current National Planning Policy Framework).

28. Detailed permission in a growth area would then be considered through a “reformed” reserved matters process or a Local Development Order (prepared alongside the local plan linking to any design guidance or masterplan for a specific area). In some cases it may be appropriate for a Development Consent Order to be considered under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects process.

29. In renewal areas, consent for development would be granted in one of three ways:

- for pre-specified forms of development such as the redevelopment of certain building types, through a new permission route which gives an automatic consent if the scheme meets design and other prior approval requirements (as discussed further under the fast-track to beauty proposals set out under Pillar Two);
- for other types of development, a faster planning application process where a planning application for the development would be determined in the context of the Local Plan description, for what development the area or site is appropriate for, and with reference to the National Planning Policy Framework; or
- a Local or Neighbourhood Development Order.

30. The White Paper acknowledges that in growth and renewal areas it would still be possible for a proposal which is different to the plan to come forward (if, for example, local circumstances had changed suddenly, or an unanticipated opportunity arose), but this would require a specific planning application. This is expected to be by exception rather than the rule.

31. In protected areas where development is restricted any development proposals would come forward as now through planning applications being made to the local authority (except where they are subject to permitted development rights or development orders), and judged against policies set out in the NPPF.

32. The White Paper briefly notes that separate to the proposals set out above, the Government intend to consolidate other existing routes to permission which have accumulated over time, including simplified planning zones, enterprise zones and

brownfield land registers. No details are provided on what is meant by “consolidate”.

9(a). Do you agree that there should be automatic outline permission for areas for substantial development (areas) with faster routes for detailed consent? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

33. We have fundamental objections to this proposal. Our objections lie in two principal points. Firstly, the proposal represents a seismic negative challenge to the current long established approach of determining planning applications as a discrete process. The planning acts have long enshrined the principle that planning decisions are made in accordance with the policies of the development plan subject to any material considerations that may also contribute to the decision. Placing the principle decision of establishing development is acceptable within the local plan removes fundamental established elements of decision making that may not be apparent at the plan making stage. It places a significant challenge on the local plan to consider site specific matters simultaneously across a raft of potential development proposals. This presupposes that development proposals are all at a stage where such a consideration can be undertaken. As a result it harms the flexibility of the local plan by forcing it to be far more prescriptive. The second key aspect is that we consider that such a process will not make local plan making faster (i.e. the proposed 30 month process set out at Proposal 8). The burden of sweeping up often very complex planning application matters into the local plan process will, in our view, inevitably lengthen the time taken to produce a local plan. All the parties involved in bringing a planning application forward in the current system will place a significant focus on the plan making stage suggested by the White Paper. It is likely therefore that, despite the intentions of the White Paper to simplify matters, what will happen is an increasing volume of material being submitted into the local plan process in lieu of the fact it has now become the de facto planning committee.

9(b). Do you agree with our proposals above for the consent arrangements for and areas? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

34. Given our fundamental objections at question 9(a), it is clear that we would not support the proposed consent arrangements set out in the White Paper.

9(c). Do you think there is a case for allowing new settlements to be brought forward under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

35. We do not have any comment on this question given that the situation outlined does not apply to Manchester.

Proposal 6: Decision-making should be faster and more certain, with firm deadlines, and make greater use of digital technology

36. The Government state in the White Paper, “...we want to see a much more streamlined and digitally enabled end to end process which is proportionate to the scale and nature of the development proposed, to ensure decisions are made

faster. The well-established time limits of eight or 13 weeks for determining an application from validation to decision should be a firm deadline – not an aspiration which can be got around through extensions of time as routinely happens now.” To this end they propose a range of approaches including:

- The greater digitalisation of the application process noting an intent to ensure the validation of applications is integrated with the submission of the application so that the right information is provided at the start of the process. They note that as part of the forthcoming Spending Review, the Government will prepare a specific, investable proposal for modernising planning systems in local government;
- New, modular, software solutions to increase automation of the process and encourage digital innovation and provide access to underlying data. The Government intend to work with tech companies and local planning authorities to modernise the software used for case-managing a planning application;
- Shorter and more standardised applications with the amount of key information required as part of the application reduced considerably and made machine-readable. They propose that a national data standard for smaller applications should be created. For major development, beyond relevant drawings and plans, there should only be one key standardised planning statement of no more than 50 pages to justify the development proposals in relation to the Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework;
- Data-rich planning application registers will be created so that planning application information can be easily found and monitored at a national scale, and new digital services can be built to help people use this data in innovative ways;
- Data sets that underpin the planning system, including planning decisions and developer contributions, need to be standardised and made open and digitally accessible;
- A digital template for planning notices will be created so that planning application information can be more effectively communicated and understood by local communities and used by new digital services;
- Greater standardisation of technical supporting information, for instance about local highway impacts, flood risk and heritage matters. Design codes will help to reduce the need for significant supplementary information, but we recognise there may still need to be site specific information to mitigate wider impacts. For these issues, there should be clear national data standards and templates developed in conjunction with statutory consultees;
- Clearer and more consistent planning conditions, with standard national conditions to cover common issues;
- A streamlined approach to developer contributions, which is discussed further under Pillar Three; and
- The delegation of detailed planning decisions to planning officers where the principle of development has been established, as detailed matters for consideration should be principally a matter for professional planning judgment.

37. The government also set out that there should be a clear incentive on the local planning authority to determine an application within the statutory time limits. This could involve the automatic refund of the planning fee for the application if they

fail to determine it within the time limit. It is also suggested that some types of applications should be deemed to have been granted planning permission if there has not been a timely determination, to ensure targets are met and local authorities keep to the time limit in the majority of cases. The White Paper notes Government want to ensure that the facilities and infrastructure that communities value, such as schools, hospitals and GP surgeries, are delivered quickly through the planning system.

10. Do you agree with our proposals to make decision-making faster and more certain? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

38. First and foremost, it needs to be recognised that the current decision making process already relies on a significant digital based approach. Manchester, like many authorities, has invested in digital solutions and continues to do so. This ensures there is a timely delivery of decisions set against the standard targets of eight and 13 weeks. Often delays in the decision making process are down to other factors which includes applicants either not responding quickly or the absence of good quality information. This is another point in the White Paper where more detail on what is actually going to happen is required to allow for further informed comment.
39. A significant omission in this section is any acknowledgment that local communities do not have equal access to digital technology. The continued push towards online solutions must ensure that access is still equally available to people without the means to acquire or use digital approaches.
40. The proposal to significantly simplify the volume of material submitted in support of an application is not supported. LPAs have worked hard to ensure the level of information is what is required to allow for proper decision making. It is important the quality of information whilst remaining proportionate to the proposal allows for all issues to be fully addressed and for communities to maintain confidence in the process. The danger is the over-simplification of information to the point that it does not fulfil the purpose of providing sufficient informing for the decision maker.

Proposal 7: Local Plans should be visual and map-based, standardised, based on the latest digital technology, and supported by a new template.

41. A key aspect of the proposals is to utilise the latest digital technology to deliver local plans that are more visual and map-based compared to the current system of plans. The White Paper states that the Government "...want to support local authorities to radically rethink how they produce their Local Plans, and profoundly re-invent the ambition, depth and breadth with which they engage with communities. We will set up a series of pilots to work with local authorities and tech companies (the emerging 'PropTech' sector) to develop innovative solutions to support plan-making activities and make community involvement more accessible and engaging."

11. Do you agree with our proposals for accessible, web-based Local Plans? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

42. First and foremost, local plans in terms of the current policies maps are already readily available online. Moreover, in the case of Greater Manchester, significant levels of mapped information is presented as a shared resource via the MappingGM website¹. MappingGM provides a range of maps that users can explore Greater Manchester's housing, planning, infrastructure, socio-economic and demographic data. The maps are open for all to use, and most of the data used is freely available to download. It is clear therefore that we already seek to present information in a visual and map-based manner.

Proposal 8: Local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate will be required through legislation to meet a statutory timetable for key stages of the process, and we will consider what sanctions there would be for those who fail to do so.

43. A new statutory timetable for key stages of the local plan process will be introduced. It is instructive to note the White Paper highlights that the average time taken from the plan publication stage to adoption rose from an average of 450 days in 2009 to 815 days in 2019. This coincides with changes to the local plan process and overall planning system introduced by the respective coalition and Conservative governments that sought to simplify previous processes.

44. The White Paper sets out that local plans will have to be produced over a 30 month timescale, save for where current plans have been adopted in the past three years or are already at an advanced stage towards adoption where an additional 12 months will be added to enable work to commence on the new style local plan. The specific stages proposed are set out below:

- **Stage 1 [6 months]:** The local planning authority “calls for” suggestions for areas under the three categories, including comprehensive “best in class” ways of achieving public involvement at this plan-shaping stage for where development should go and what it should look like.
- **Stage 2 [12 months]:** The local planning authority draws up its proposed Local Plan, and produces any necessary evidence to inform and justify the plan. “Higher-risk” authorities will receive mandatory Planning Inspectorate advisory visits, in order to ensure the plan is on track prior to submission.
- **Stage 3 [6 weeks]:** The local planning authority simultaneously
 - (i) submits the Plan to the Secretary of State for Examination together with a Statement of Reasons to explain why it has drawn up its plan as it has; and
 - (ii) publicises the plan for the public to comment on. Comments seeking change must explain how the plan should be changed and why. Again, this process would embody ‘best in class’ ways of ensuring public involvement. Responses will have a word count limit.
- **Stage 4 [9 months]:** A planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State considers whether the three categories shown in the proposed Local Plan are “sustainable” as per the statutory test and accompanying national guidance

¹ <https://mappinggm.org.uk/>

and makes binding changes which are necessary to satisfy the test. The plan-making authority and all those who submitted comments would have the right to be “heard” by the inspector (whether face to face, by video, phone or in writing – all at the inspector’s discretion). The inspector’s report can, as relevant, simply state agreement with the whole or parts of the council’s Statement of Reasons, and/or comments submitted by the public.

- **Stage 5 [6 weeks]:** Local Plan map, key and text are finalised, and come into force.

45. The White Paper posits two potential alternative options:

- The existing examination process could be reformed in order to speed up the process. For instance, the automatic ‘right to be heard’ could be removed so that participants are invited to appear at hearings at the discretion of the inspector. Certain Local Plans, that are less complex or controversial, could also be examined through written representations only, as is usually the case with Neighbourhood Plans at present.
- A further alternative could be to remove the Examination stage entirely, instead requiring Local Planning Authorities to undertake a process of self-assessment against set criteria and guidance. To supplement this, the Planning Inspectorate could be utilised to audit a certain number of completed plans each year in order to assess whether the requirements of the statutory sustainability test had been met. However, there is a risk that this option wouldn’t provide sufficient scrutiny around whether plans meet the necessary legal and policy tests.

12. Do you agree with our proposals for a 30 month statutory timescale for the production of Local Plans? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

46. Given the proposals set out previously in the White Paper, we have significant doubts that a 30 month timescale would be achievable. The process proposed will simply not be able to resolve the complexities surrounding a multitude of increasingly detailed planning matters presented by the influx of sites into the plan.

47. We also have significant concerns about the opportunities for local communities and organisations to get involved in the process. The White Paper suggests ‘...comprehensive “best in class” ways of achieving public involvement..’ in the first six months of the process. However, experience shows us that the early stages of plan making can often prove challenging in engaging the wider community; it is often when plans have been further formulated (i.e. Stage 3 in the White Paper process) where levels of engagement significantly rise. We are not convinced that the hyperbole of “best in class” truly understands that people tend to get more interested when proposals on the ground become apparent, which would invariably be at the Stage 3 identified in the White Paper. However, by that stage, the proposals suggest a six week consultation (akin to the publication stage of the current system albeit merging it with the current submission stage).

The proposals remove at least one stage that most local authorities undertake within the current Regulation 18 stage of consulting on a draft plan, prior to then moving to a finalised plan at the Regulation 19 publication stage and subsequent Regulation 20 submission stage. It therefore strikes us that the process outlined in the White Paper runs contrary to the suggested intentions of the proposed reforms to make the planning process more accessible and allow for early engagement.

48. We do not support either of the alternative options suggested in the White Paper as both diminish the opportunity for public involvement at a crucial stage of the plan making process.

Proposal 9: Neighbourhood Plans should be retained as an important means of community input, and we will support communities to make better use of digital tools

13(a). Do you agree that Neighbourhood Plans should be retained in the reformed planning system? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

49. Neighbourhood plans have a role, where appropriate, within the planning process. In complex urban areas such as Manchester, it is crucial that any neighbourhood planning process is complementary to the fabric of other key processes including the local plan and associated non statutory planning frameworks.

13(b). How can the neighbourhood planning process be developed to meet our objectives, such as in the use of digital tools and reflecting community preferences about design?

50. Existing support via Government funding and associated services already play a key role in enabling neighbourhood planning groups to develop their plans. This is likely to be the best way to continue supporting the process including any additional help on digital tools and design matters. A key aspect on design is to ensure that any localised approach is complementary to the design process that already takes place at the whole authority level. We provide further comment on design matters in our answers to Pillar Two.

Proposal 10: A stronger emphasis on build out through planning

51. The White Paper highlights the link between what is termed “..plans for a simpler and faster planning process...” to be accompanied by a “...stronger emphasis on the faster delivery of development, especially for Growth areas where substantial development has been permitted.” Research undertaken in the Letwin Review (2018) is cited where the build out of large residential developments can be slow due to low market absorption rates, with some sites taking over 20 years to complete.

14. Do you agree there should be a stronger emphasis on the build out of developments? And if so, what further measures would you support? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

52. Manchester does not follow the pattern set out in the White Paper. The city has seen sustained significant growth based on a strong pipeline of delivery. Manchester has a track record of delivering major projects with timely planning decision making to start on site. The nature of development from bespoke residential projects to large commercial schemes particularly in and around the city centre, has meant that delivery timescales have inevitably been different to the types of schemes considered in the Letwin Review (focusing on traditional housing sites). The issues around build out are not in our experience planning related.

Pillar Two – Planning for beautiful and sustainable places

53. This part of the White Paper includes a further eight proposals that revolve around two main themes: firstly seeking to distil previous work from Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission; and secondly on sustainable communities with a particular focus on the natural and historic environment.
54. Manchester already has a strong tradition of high quality design. The Council adopted, in 2007, a “Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Guidance”. This document brought together key development principles to assist in the delivery of a cohesive and sustainable City. It involved all sections of the community and stakeholders to ensure it covered design in a fully holistic manner. Much of the current document was drawn from the highly successful previous editions of the Guide to Development in Manchester. This guidance was further enhanced by the publication of the Manchester Residential Quality Guidance in 2017. Prior to that the city had adopted in 2015, the London Housing Design Guide space standards as an interim measure, pending the preparation of Manchester-specific guidance. The Manchester Residential Quality Guidance completed the picture, providing clear direction on what is required to deliver sustainable neighbourhoods of choice where people will want to live and also raise the quality of life across Manchester.
55. The production of high quality design guidance is one key aspect. The other is the day to day delivery of that guidance within the schemes that are delivered across the city. This involve tireless negotiation by the local planning authority to ensure developers and landowners promoting schemes deliver against the high standards set out in our policies and guidance. The focus continues to be on outcomes that are right for Manchester.

15. What do you think about the design of new development that has happened recently in your area? *[Not sure or indifferent / Beautiful and/or well-designed / Ugly and/or poorly-designed / There hasn't been any / Other – please specify]*

56. Manchester City Council is proud of the high quality development within the city and believes firmly that the Council and its residents are best placed to judge what is beautiful and appropriate for the area. Manchester takes a holistic approach to design, this is not just about appearance but how safety, inclusive

access and a response to climate change are embedded from the beginning to delivery.

16. Sustainability is at the heart of our proposals. What is your priority for sustainability in your area? [*Less reliance on cars / More green and open spaces / Energy efficiency of new buildings / More trees / Other – please specify*]

57. All of the above and for Manchester to be a place where people thrive, businesses succeed and all residents can fulfil their potential

Proposal 11: To make design expectations more visual and predictable, we will expect design guidance and codes to be prepared locally with community involvement, and ensure that codes are more binding on decisions about development.

58. The Government has already published a National Design Guide in 2019 and they now propose to publish a National Model Design Code later this year. It is noted that the new design code will sit alongside recent guidance on cycling and walking (published in July 2020) and complement a revised and consolidated Manual for Streets.

59. In line with the expectation set out about design codes in Pillar One, proposals are put forward for design guidance and codes to be prepared locally with community involvement, and ensure that codes are more binding on decisions about development. The Government is proposing to set up a body to support the delivery of provably locally-popular design codes, and propose that each authority should have a chief officer for design and place-making.

17. Do you agree with our proposals for improving the production and use of design guides and codes? [*Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.*]

60. Manchester already has a strong tradition of high quality design. The Council adopted, in 2007, a “Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Guidance”. This document brought together key development principles to assist in the delivery of a cohesive and sustainable City. Much of the current document was drawn from the highly successful previous editions of the Guide to Development in Manchester. This guidance was further enhanced by the publication of the Manchester Residential Quality Guidance in 2017. Prior to that the city had adopted in 2015, the London Housing Design Guide space standards as an interim measure, pending the preparation of Manchester-specific guidance. The Manchester Residential Quality Guidance completed the picture, providing clear direction on what is required to deliver sustainable neighbourhoods of choice where people will want to live and also raise the quality of life across Manchester.

61. MCC also works well with local communities when developing guidance/frameworks for particular areas of the city. It has recently supported the 'Withington Village Partnership' and 'We are Withington' (collaborative partnerships between local people and local businesses) to develop the Withington Village Framework. Setting out the vision and opportunities in the Village, it was developed following a series of community consultation events and stakeholder meetings and provides a guide to investment and development in the area.
62. However, as well as being hugely time consuming to produce, codes would be more detailed. Care would need to be taken to ensure that codes or 'pattern books' are not so prescriptive that innovation is stifled and new development becomes a pastiche of a few original designs. Design codes often lead to a 'race to the bottom' rather than pushing for ever increasing quality. It is important that in an effort to get standards and styles agreed in advance, we don't create bland, repetitive communities without an individual sense of place. It will often be the case that no local consensus can be reached, particularly when local people are asked to comment on what they consider 'beautiful' or when many in the local community don't want any development at all. In these cases, as a democratic body, the role of the Council is key and well placed advice and arbitrate on what is appropriate for the area.

Proposal 12: To support the transition to a planning system which is more visual and rooted in local preferences and character, we will set up a body to support the delivery of provably locally-popular design codes, and propose that each authority should have a chief officer for design and place-making.

18. Do you agree that we should establish a new body to support design coding and building better places, and that each authority should have a chief officer for design and place-making? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

63. Manchester would not support a new central body if it took away the ability of the Council to make decisions locally on what type of development is appropriate for the area. Manchester City Council already has a Chief Officer responsible for Place-making and agree this is important in driving good quality design across the City. Good design, however, can be subjective and codes should not be used to stifle innovation and should be flexible enough to allow new ideas and ways of working to be considered.

64. Manchester as will be the case with other large urban areas as a distinct character and feel and this is not something a national body can fully understand.

Proposal 13: To further embed national leadership on delivering better places, we will consider how Homes England's strategic objectives can give greater emphasis to delivering beautiful places.

19. Do you agree with our proposal to consider how design might be given greater emphasis in the strategic objectives for Homes England?

[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

65. We agree that it is important Home England ensure design principles are embedded within their processes. However, it is important that any decision on what is considered 'beautiful' is taken locally. Manchester City Council agree that Home England should consider the quality of spaces for example size of rooms and light as part of its objectives.

66. As already noted it is not agreed a national body should lead on such a key issue in Manchester.

Proposal 14: We intend to introduce a fast-track for beauty through changes to national policy and legislation, to incentivise and accelerate high quality development which reflects local character and preferences.

67. In line with the proposals noted in Pillar One, the Government intend to introduce a fast-track for beauty through changes to national policy and legislation, to incentivise and accelerate high quality development which reflects local character and preferences. This will be achieved through a number of ways including:

- Additional policy in the NPPF to encourage schemes that are in line with design guides and codes;
- In growth areas requiring that a masterplan and site-specific code are agreed as a condition of the permission in principle which is granted through the plan;
- Further legislate to widen and change the nature of permitted development, so that it enables popular and replicable forms of development to be approved easily and quickly, helping to support 'gentle intensification' of towns and cities, but in accordance with important design principles (concept of a pattern book approach);
- Develop a limited set of form-based development types that allow the redevelopment of existing residential buildings where the relevant conditions are satisfied. These would benefit from permitted development rights relating to the settings in which they apply. Prior approval from the local planning authority would still be needed for aspects of the design to ensure the development is right for its context.

**20. Do you agree with our proposals for implementing a fast-track for beauty?
*[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]***

68. No, Manchester City Council does not agree that these proposals could be considered 'fast-track'. Producing and consulting on locally agreed codes/guides is a very extensive process and once in place will need to be reviewed regularly. In addition any proposals will still need to be given proper consideration both by the Council and the current and future residents.

69. Moreover, we do not agree with the proposal (para 3.19) to widen the nature of permitted development as this often leads to poor quality development and places

that are far from 'beautiful'. This was very clearly evidenced in the case to the Secretary of State for the Article 4 that now exists to prevent changes of use from office to residential.

Proposal 15: We intend to amend the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that it targets those areas where a reformed planning system can most effectively play a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change and maximising environmental benefits.

Proposal 16: We intend to design a quicker, simpler framework for assessing environmental impacts and enhancement opportunities, that speeds up the process while protecting and enhancing the most valuable and important habitats and species in England.

70. In broad terms, this section of the Planning White Paper is in line with the Council's policy approach regarding the need to take a proactive role in promoting environmental recovery and long-term sustainability, mitigating and adapting to climate change, reducing pollution and making our city more liveable through enabling more and better green spaces and tree cover.

71. However, this is yet another part of the White Paper where there is no detail regarding how this will be achieved. We are concerned about the potential impacts of a "quicker, simpler framework" for assessing environmental impacts, with again detail lacking on what this might mean. The risk is that under the proposed reforms SEA and EIA will be lost or watered down in an effort to speed up planning. The White Paper points to the role of other legislation/reviews for all future detail on environment policy. Key things to keep a watch for will be:

- The Environment Bill, currently before Parliament, that will legislate for mandatory net gains for biodiversity as a condition of most new development and introduce Local Nature Recovery Strategies which will identify opportunities to secure enhancements through development schemes and contributions;
- Autumn consultation on amendments to NPPF regarding proposed generic development management policies. DM decisions will then be based on the NPPF policies but the Local Plan will be able to provide local, spatially specific policies e.g. views, locations for woodland, renewable energy, public access. The intention is also for the NPPF to require all new streets to be tree lined, informed by the England Tree Strategy, currently under consultation. (Work on Manchester's Tree Management Plan, Our rivers Our City as well as the range of SRFs should help to provide local intelligence on where spatially specific policies may be useful);
- Government response in Autumn to the comments made on the Government's Future Homes Standard consultation in 2019. This will clarify the role LAs can play in setting energy efficiency standards in new build developments;
- Potential strengthening of policies and processes for managing flood risk and the development of a national framework of GI standards. The White Paper

refers to both but there's no detail regarding what they might be and whether they'll come forward as part of the consultation on NPPF or elsewhere;

- Autumn consultation on the detail of moving from EIA to a simpler more streamlined method for environmental assessment;
- Potential removal of some Listed Building Consent requirements; and
- The assumption that as planning authorities will no longer be managing planning obligations they'll be able to switch some resources to enforcement. This ignores the fact that the proposed Infrastructure Levy would need managing and that the skill set for managing contributions is very different from enforcement.

Proposal 17: Conserving and enhancing our historic buildings and areas in the 21st century

72. The White Paper also states the Government will seek to review and update the planning framework for listed buildings and conservation areas, to ensure their significance is conserved while allowing, where appropriate, sympathetic changes to support their continued use and address climate change. Government wishes to explore whether there are new and better ways of securing consent for routine works, to enable local planning authorities to concentrate on conserving and enhancing the most important historic buildings.

73. The Council does not support the proposal that "suitably experienced architectural specialists can have earned autonomy from routine listed building." Outsourcing the role of giving consent to work on listed buildings would cause great confusion over accountability and is a recipe for disaster.

Proposal 18: To complement our planning reforms, we will facilitate ambitious improvements in the energy efficiency standards for buildings to help deliver our world-leading commitment to net-zero by 2050.

74. The final proposal in Pillar Two sets out the Government's commitments with respect to energy efficiency standards for buildings including existing aspects already consulted on last year in the Future Homes Standard which set targets to 2025. A further commitment is set out to explore options for the future of energy efficiency standards, beyond 2025.

75. The Council is already committed via its Climate Change Action Plan to deliver a net zero carbon city by 2038 at the latest, which exceeds the national target of 2050. To deliver on this commitment, the current action plan identifies key activities across a range of measures including planning policy and decision making. The Council is therefore clearly seeking to deliver and indeed to exceed against the national targets sets out by the White Paper.

Pillar Three – Planning for infrastructure and connected places

76. This section includes four proposals that focus on the delivery of infrastructure, setting out the current process with respect to developer contributions and proposing changes to that process.
77. The first proposal in Pillar Three seeks to set up a new Infrastructure Levy that would incorporate both the previous Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 developer contributions into one system. The intention is that the Infrastructure Levy would be based upon a flat-rate, valued-based charge, set nationally, at either a single rate, or at area-specific rates.
78. It is intended that the scope of the Infrastructure Levy could be extended to capture changes of use through permitted development rights (the examples given are office to residential conversions and new demolition and rebuild permitted development rights). It is suggested that this approach would increase the levy base, and would allow these developments to better contribute to infrastructure delivery and making development acceptable to the community.
79. It is recognised that the removal of developer contributions would impact on the delivery of affordable housing and therefore the reformed Infrastructure Levy would be capable of seeking affordable housing provision.
80. The final proposal identifies that more freedom could be given to local authorities over how they spend the Infrastructure Levy. It is suggested that local authorities could spend receipts on other policy priorities, once core infrastructure obligations have been met.

21 When new development happens in your area, what is your priority for what comes with it? *[More affordable housing / More or better infrastructure (such as transport, schools, health provision) / Design of new buildings / More shops and/or employment space / Green space / Don't know / Other – please specify]*

81. All of the matters suggested in the question are important albeit their level of importance will vary according to the nature and location of any specific development.
82. This goes to the heart of local decision making that each application must be treated on its merits and the outcomes required to support the city. Often issues will have to be balanced which is where local knowledge had a pivotal role.

Proposal 19: The Community Infrastructure Levy should be reformed to be charged as a fixed proportion of the development value above a threshold, with a mandatory nationally-set rate or rates and the current system of planning obligations abolished.

22(a). Should the Government replace the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 planning obligations with a new consolidated Infrastructure Levy, which is charged as a fixed proportion of development value above a set threshold? *[Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]*

83. This proposal is not supported. There are significant concerns about the establishment of a consolidated Infrastructure Levy. There is a current lack of detail in the White Paper as to the levels that may be proposed. Experience around the country has demonstrated there are significant variations in the values that can be captured from development. It is essential therefore that individual local authorities can continue to apply their own locally derived policies and approaches to deal with their specific circumstances.

22(b). Should the Infrastructure Levy rates be set nationally at a single rate, set nationally at an area-specific rate, or set locally? [*Nationally at a single rate / Nationally at an area-specific rate / Locally*]

84. Notwithstanding our objection in principle to the Infrastructure Levy noted in question 22 (a), we believe it would be nigh on impossible to develop a national rate even if the Levy was introduced. We maintain that it remains appropriate for local authorities to derive local approaches via the current system of developer contributions and hence by that means capture value from development.

22(c). Should the Infrastructure Levy aim to capture the same amount of value overall, or more value, to support greater investment in infrastructure, affordable housing and local communities? [*Same amount overall / More value / Less value / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.*]

85. Given our answers to questions 22(a) and 22(b) we maintain our view that we do not support the concept of the proposed Infrastructure Levy. Notwithstanding that point, it should be local authorities, working with their communities, to develop and decide the prioritisation of investment specific to their circumstances.

With respect to Q22(d), we are still consulting with colleagues in finance

22(d). Should we allow local authorities to borrow against the Infrastructure Levy, to support infrastructure delivery in their area? [*Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.*]

Proposal 20: The scope of the Infrastructure Levy could be extended to capture changes of use through permitted development rights

23. Do you agree that the scope of the reformed Infrastructure Levy should capture changes of use through permitted development rights? [*Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.*]

86. Whilst we would agree there is merit in seeking to capture value from permitted development, applying this principle via the proposed Infrastructure Levy mechanism is not supported. We would prefer that such a proposal is considered through the existing developer contributions route. Manchester does not agree with the general proposition of a new levy as set out above and does not support the expansion of permitted development rights for a raft of reasons – not simply the inability to capture CIL/s106

Proposal 21: The reformed Infrastructure Levy should deliver affordable housing provision

87. We propose to answer questions 24(a) to 24 (d) and 25(a) with the following response. As stated in our previous responses, we do not support the concept of the proposed infrastructure levy. In terms of securing the provision of affordable housing we would prefer this is done through a proposal linked to the existing developer contribution route. In the majority of cases we would want to secure the provision of affordable housing on site unless there were valid reasons why this would not be practical. Where affordable housing cannot be provided on site a commuted sum would be ring fenced in a secure account (Manchester's Housing Affordability Fund). This fund would be strategically deployed to support the delivery of affordable homes within an agreed area (the Manchester boundary).

24(a). Do you agree that we should aim to secure at least the same amount of affordable housing under the Infrastructure Levy, and as much on-site affordable provision, as at present? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

24(b). Should affordable housing be secured as in-kind payment towards the Infrastructure Levy, or as a 'right to purchase' at discounted rates for local authorities? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

24(c). If an in-kind delivery approach is taken, should we mitigate against local authority overpayment risk? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

24(d). If an in-kind delivery approach is taken, are there additional steps that would need to be taken to support affordable housing quality? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

Proposal 22: More freedom could be given to local authorities over how they spend the Infrastructure Levy

25. Should local authorities have fewer restrictions over how they spend the Infrastructure Levy? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

88. We would prefer that further consideration is given to the operation of the developer contributions regime. The recent easing of restrictions that has already taken place with respect to developer contributions is an example of that approach.

25(a). If yes, should an affordable housing 'ring-fence' be developed? [Yes / No / Not sure. Please provide supporting statement.]

89. See proposed response at paragraph 87.

Proposal 23: As we develop our final proposals for this new planning system, we will develop a comprehensive resources and skills strategy for the planning sector to support the implementation of our reforms. In doing so, we propose this strategy will be developed including the following key elements:

90. The White Paper finishes with a section considering the potential transitional arrangements that may be required in bringing forward the proposals set out previously. It refers to the parallel consultation on changes to the current planning system (see next section for more details). It also covers other aspects of the planning process including:

- Public Assets and Investment:
 - Ensuring investment in new public buildings supports renewal and regeneration of town and city centres across the country.
 - Exploring how disposal of publicly-owned land can support the SME and self-build sectors.
- Supporting innovation in delivery including exploring potential changes to enable more flexible development corporation models that can drive housing, regeneration and employment.
- Making sure the system has the right people and skills and the Government's belief that the proposed new approach to simplify planning will enable a redesign of how planning services are delivered. This links to a further proposal in the White Paper to develop a comprehensive resources and skills strategy for the planning sector to support the implementation of the Government's reforms.

Proposal 24: We will seek to strengthen enforcement powers and sanctions

91. The White Paper concludes with a brief focus on enforcement with a proposal for a review and strengthening of existing planning enforcement powers and sanctions available to local planning authorities to ensure they support the new planning system. This will include implementing commitments from the

Government's response to the consultation on unauthorised development and encampments, to strengthen national planning policy against intentional unauthorised development and ensure temporary stop notices are more effective. It will also consider what more can be done in cases where the Environment Agency's flood risk advice on planning applications is not followed.

92. There are no specific questions for Proposals 23 and 24 and it is therefore information to note.

26. Do you have any views on the potential impact of the proposals raised in this consultation on people with protected characteristics as defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010?

Appendix 2: Changes to the current planning system

The standard method for assessing housing numbers in strategic plans

(Changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need, which as well as being a proposal to change guidance in the short term has relevance to proposals for land supply reforms set out in Planning for the Future)

Q1: Do you agree that planning practice guidance should be amended to specify that the appropriate baseline for the standard method is whichever is the higher of the level of 0.5% of housing stock in each local authority area OR the latest household projections averaged over a 10-year period?

Manchester welcomes the opportunity to use a higher baseline, however we have concerns about the proposed use of 2018-based household projections. Whilst Manchester understands the reasons for using the latest projection figures it is concerned with methodological issues within the 2018-based SNPP (and associated SNHP) that has led to undercount of the population in Manchester. These issues have already been highlighted in a letter from the Chief Executive of MCC to the ONS (September 2019).

The result is that the proposed methodology provides a lower figure for Manchester than the current methodology. This is contrary to the Government's stated aims of ensuring a better distribution of homes is achieved with more homes identified in high-demand and emerging demand areas across the country following "powerful representations that the current formula underestimates demand for housing in the growing cities in the Northern Powerhouse by being based on historic trends"

As an alternative, we'd welcome the option to use the high migration variant (recognised as an official statistic by the ONS) to produce a more appropriate Local Housing Figure for Manchester.

Q2: In the stock element of the baseline, do you agree that 0.5% of existing stock for the standard method is appropriate? If not, please explain why.

Whilst we are not convinced there is a direct link between current stock and new growth, 0.75% of current stock would give a more appropriate figure for Manchester.

Q3: Do you agree that using the workplace-based median house price to median earnings ratio from the most recent year for which data is available to adjust the standard method's baseline is appropriate? If not, please explain why.

In Manchester, there is a significant difference between workplace-based and residence-based earnings due to a large number of workers travelling into the city from neighbouring areas. As such, Manchester believes that the residence-based median house price to median earnings ratio would be more appropriate and would produce a figure more relevant to demand for housing in the city.

Q4: Do you agree that incorporating an adjustment for the change of affordability over 10 years is a positive way to look at whether affordability has improved? If not, please explain why.

The affordability at this point in time is more relevant than the change in affordability over the last ten years. If more relevant measures were used elsewhere in the formula ie the 2018 high migration figure and the residence-based median house price to median earnings ratio, further adjustments would be unnecessary.

Q5: Do you agree that affordability is given an appropriate weighting within the standard method? If not, please explain why.

See above response to questions 3 and 4

Do you agree that authorities should be planning having regard to their revised standard method need figure, from the publication date of the revised guidance, with the exception of:

Q6: Authorities which are already at the second stage of the strategic plan consultation process (Regulation 19), which should be given 6 months to submit their plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination?

Q7: Authorities close to publishing their second stage consultation (Regulation 19), which should be given 3 months from the publication date of the revised guidance to publish their Regulation 19 plan, and a further 6 months to submit their plan to the Planning Inspectorate?

If not, please explain why. Are there particular circumstances which need to be catered for?

There should be a transitional period allowed for with plans that are at an advanced stage. We do not have a specific view on the timescales proposed.

Delivering First Homes

(Securing of First Homes, sold at a discount to market price for first time buyers, including key workers, through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system. Proposal is for 25% of affordable units to be First Homes on site if possible otherwise via cash contributions. Value of contributions must be at least the equivalent value to current local policy)

Q8: The Government is proposing policy compliant planning applications will deliver a minimum of 25% of onsite affordable housing as First Homes, and a minimum of 25% of offsite contributions towards First Homes where appropriate. Which do you think is the most appropriate option for the remaining 75% of affordable housing secured through developer contributions? Please provide reasons and / or evidence for your views (if possible):

i) Prioritising the replacement of affordable home ownership tenures, and delivering rental tenures in the ratio set out in the local plan policy. (NB Government's favoured option)

ii) Negotiation between a local authority and developer.

iii) Other (please specify)

Manchester City Council does not support the First Homes proposal. Introducing a 'First Homes' requirement would also directly displace other homes that meet the needs of those who can't afford to buy i.e. social rented property. The current proposal for at least 25% of all affordable homes to be First Homes redirects limited resources (in the form of s106 contributions) away from funding housing solutions (social and affordable rented homes) for the most vulnerable residents - essentially those most in need of genuinely affordable homes. Government support for long-term initiatives supporting key workers into home ownership is welcomed. However, First Homes is targeting a different occupier profile to existing affordable housing products and as such requires its own affordable tenure financed through a separate funding stream directly from the Government.

With regards to current exemptions from delivery of affordable home ownership products:

Q9: Should the existing exemptions from the requirement for affordable home ownership products (e.g. for build to rent) also apply to this First Homes requirement?

Yes we agree the existing exemptions should be applied.

Q10: Are any existing exemptions not required? If not, please set out which exemptions and why.

Given our agreement in Q9, we have no further comment for this question.

Q11: Are any other exemptions needed? If so, please provide reasons and /or evidence for your views.

Given our agreement in Q9, we have no further comment for this question.

Q12: Do you agree with the proposed approach to transitional arrangements set out above?

MCC believes LAs should have flexibility to accept alternative tenure mixes where significant work has already been undertaken (including pre- application) prior to the introduction of the new national policy.

Q13: Do you agree with the proposed approach to different levels of discount?

(NB First Homes must be at least 30% below market value. If reduced further, the need for 25% of units to be First Homes will not change)

Q14: Do you agree with the approach of allowing a small proportion of market housing on First Homes exception sites, in order to ensure site viability?

Q15: Do you agree with the removal of the site size threshold set out in the National Planning Policy Framework?

Q16: Do you agree that the First Homes exception sites policy should not apply in designated rural areas?

Supporting small and medium-sized developers

(Temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing (currently 10 or fewer dwellings), to up to 40 or 50 units to support Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) builders as the economy recovers from the impact of Covid-19)

*Q17: Do you agree with the proposed approach to raise the small sites threshold for a time-limited period?
(see question 18 for comments on level of threshold)*

MCC does not agree with the proposal to raise the threshold under which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing. We do not believe that this is an appropriate way of supporting SMEs and have not seen any evidence to suggest that SMEs in particular would benefit from this proposal. It is not reasonable to assume that major housebuilders do not build sites of 50 or fewer units so this is not a targeted approach. The need for affordable housing, however, is well evidenced and MCC does not believe that an opportunity for increasing the supply of affordable housing can be missed even for a limited period.

Q18: What is the appropriate level of small sites threshold?

- i) Up to 40 homes*
- ii) Up to 50 homes*
- iii) Other (please specify)*

iii) There should be no change to the threshold. Whilst flexibility in the mix of affordable housing products and tenure could be helpful, the raising of the threshold above which affordable housing contributions are expected could significantly reduce cities' ability to deliver affordable homes.

Q19: Do you agree with the proposed approach to the site size threshold?

No, MCC does not agree with any changes to the current threshold.

Q20: Do you agree with linking the time-limited period to economic recovery and raising the threshold for an initial period of 18 months?

No, MCC does not agree with any changes to the current threshold even for a limited period. The need for affordable housing is too important.

Q21: Do you agree with the proposed approach to minimising threshold effects?

Given our answers to Q19 and Q20, we do not accept any changes to the current approach.

Q22: Do you agree with the Government's proposed approach to setting thresholds in rural areas?

Not applicable to our area.

Q23: Are there any other ways in which the Government can support SME builders to deliver new homes during the economic recovery period?

Extension of the Permission in Principle consent regime

(extending the current Permission in Principle to major development (up to 150 units) so landowners and developers now have a fast route to secure the principle of development for housing on sites without having to work up detailed plans first.)

Q24: Do you agree that the new Permission in Principle should remove the restriction on major development?

MCC does not agree that extending PiP to major schemes is helpful to the economy or practical. Fast track, or automatic permission, has significant risks attached to it and removes democratic accountability and scrutiny from the process. As a minimum the process must consider liveability standards, zero carbon, wider environmental outcomes and economic recovery impacts.

Extending PiP to major developments will undermine our requirements for good quality sustainable development. Applications for major development are often complex and have individual issues that need to be addressed on a case by case basis and therefore need proper scrutiny through the standard planning application process. In para 106 of the consultation document, the Government actually gives an example of why PiP for major schemes is unworkable. It states 'the inclusion of a maximum height parameter would add further complexity to the determination of Permission in Principle as it starts to bring in design considerations, and may in practice lead to greater confusion - for instance, a high height threshold may only be acceptable for part of the site given the impact on neighbouring dwellings.' This demonstrates that maximum and minimum thresholds cannot be agreed in principle without determining first what height is acceptable on different parts of a site?

The whole process discourages developers from spending time discussing plans with local people therefore undermining meaningful consultation. Community expectations will not be fulfilled and the process will prove very divisive.

Q25: Should the new Permission in Principle for major development set any limit on the amount of commercial development (providing housing still occupies the majority of the floorspace of the overall scheme)? Please provide any comments in support of your views.

As set out in our answer to Q24, we do not subscribe to PiP being changed to include major development proposals.

Q26: Do you agree with our proposal that information requirements for Permission in Principle by application for major development should broadly remain unchanged? If you disagree, what changes would you suggest and why?

No, Determining an application for up to 149 units requires more than a 5 week determination time. It gives very little time for the public and others to have their say and for their concerns to be properly considered.

Q27: Should there be an additional height parameter for Permission in Principle? Please provide comments in support of your views.

Height should be a factor but it is just one of many factors that are essential in making an informed decision on a proposed application. MCC does not believe PiP for major applications is a workable proposal.

Q28: Do you agree that publicity arrangements for Permission in Principle by application should be extended for large developments? If so, should local planning authorities be:

- i) required to publish a notice in a local newspaper?*
- ii) subject to a general requirement to publicise the application or iii) both?*
- iv) disagree*

If you disagree, please state your reasons.

Even extending publicity to include newspapers and/or social media will not allow for meaningful consultation given the very tight timescales for determination.

Q29: Do you agree with our proposal for a banded fee structure based on a flat fee per hectare, with a maximum fee cap?

No, para 113 states 'We think lower fees are reasonable because a local planning authority only needs to make a decision on the principle of the development, not on the technical details of the development like a normal planning application.' MCC does not believe a decision on principle can be made without considering height, density, layout, access, liveability standards, zero carbon, wider environmental outcomes etc, therefore, the Council is required to determine the application without essential information and within 5 weeks. This is an added burden to the Council.

Q30: What level of flat fee do you consider appropriate, and why?

Given our objection in response to Q29, we have no further comment for this question.

Q31: Do you agree that any brownfield site that is granted Permission in Principle through the application process should be included in Part 2 of the Brownfield Land Register? If you disagree, please state why.

There has been very limited take up of PiP in the city so far under current policy and guidance. You will note our objections to the proposals to extend the scheme and hence we do not see PiP providing a helpful way to deliver development.

Q32: What guidance would help support applicants and local planning authorities to make decisions about Permission in Principle? Where possible, please set out any areas of guidance you consider are currently lacking and would assist stakeholders.

There has been very limited take up of PiP in the city so far. You will note our objections to the proposals to extend the scheme and hence we do not see PiP providing a helpful way to deliver development.

Q33: What costs and benefits do you envisage the proposed scheme would cause? Where you have identified drawbacks, how might these be overcome?

The scheme will prove divisive in local communities and cause a lack of trust in the Council. The Council are being asked to make decisions on schemes without having all the information which is likely to result in low quality development which is unpopular with local people.

Q34: To what extent do you consider landowners and developers are likely to use the proposed measure? Please provide evidence where possible.

We believe that it will not generate much take up as in our experience very few landowners and developers will apply for outline permission. We are concerned that any reduction in fees may result in a rush of applications.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Q35: In light of the proposals set out in this consultation, are there any direct or indirect impacts in terms of eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations on people who share characteristics protected under the Public Sector Equality Duty?

If so, please specify the proposal and explain the impact. If there is an impact – are there any actions which the department could take to mitigate that impact?

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Appendix 3 – Local Plan Issues Consultation Comments (February – May 2020)

Overall Analysis

The consultation response yielded a total of 562 responses comprising 498 replies by email, and online comments submitted via the Objective consultation website from 64 people/organisations. The submissions fall broadly into those from individuals, from landowners and developers, from campaigning organisations, from statutory consultees, and from MCC partner organisations.

In summary, 500 responses (89% of the total response) were from individuals with 247 of those responses (44% of the total response) focusing on a campaign to protect Ryebank Fields in Chorlton. Four per cent of the response came from landowners and developers; with a similar proportion of the replies from campaigning organisations (3%) and statutory consultees (4%).

Comments from Individuals

The comments from individuals (mostly local residents) cover a wide range of topics. Many people have commented on just one topic while others have commented on a whole range of subjects. Some of the submissions are very short while others have submitted lengthy documents.

The comments are from people across the city and beyond. Within this, there are clusters of comments from some particular local areas. The greatest number of comments are about Ryebank Fields. These are mainly from nearby residents in Chorlton, plus some living over the border in Trafford (Stretford), and elsewhere. There are also particular clusters of comments from people in the city centre, and from the Fallowfield-Rusholme area. The remaining comments are mostly spread out across the remaining various parts of Manchester, with some from neighbouring Greater Manchester (GM) districts, and a small number from further afield. Comments have also been received directly from some Manchester councillors.

The main topics raised by individuals include:

- **Affordable/social housing**; there is a wish to see more affordable/social housing of various types, including in the city centre.
- **Biodiversity**; protection and enhancement of flora and fauna
- **Built heritage** - heritage should be better protected, sighting in particular pressures on city centre buildings from new development
- **City centre**; mostly arguing for lower density development, or against overdevelopment
- **Climate change**; many submissions emphasise the importance of tackling the climate emergency. Of these, most are encouraging the Council to do more. There is some scepticism of the growth agenda in general, and growth at the airport in particular.

- **Cycling and walking**; there is support for more and better cycling and walking infrastructure, particularly in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the move away from public transport.
- **Delivery of the plan**: The Local Plan should be implemented in practice; some concern/scepticism about whether it will actually happen.
- **Green belt**: opposition to building in the green belt, particularly around the airport
- **Green spaces**: support for protection of existing green spaces; calls for more of them in the city centre - a perception that these have been a low priority and that this should change; Covid has shown the need for space for exercise, time with nature, and mental & physical health.
- **HS2**: generally opposition to development associated with HS2, and scepticism of the need for it. However, others supported it, or made points about maximising growth opportunities that may arise
- **Manchester Airport**: mostly opposing further growth due to the impact on the local environment, climate change, and also traffic congestion particularly on the motorway network. There is opposition to both the airport itself and nearby associated development including warehousing.
- **Nutsford Vale**: designate as a country park and retain it as a semi-wild space
- **Piccadilly Gardens**: negative perceptions of its physical appearance, and crime/anti-social behaviour in the area
- **Public Space**: there is support for more public spaces, and especially for more green spaces, particularly in the city centre where there is a perceived lack of parks, etc.
- **Ryebank Fields**: there is a large campaign to protect Ryebank Fields in Chorlton from any development. This is by far the single biggest message coming from the consultation. The emails include 247 on the subject of Ryebank Fields. Of these, 245 are opposed to development and two are in favour. The main point is that Ryebank Fields should be protected from development by being designated a Local Green Space. Various arguments are given to support this: the fields are close to local homes & accessible to a large number of local residents; well used by local people for activities including exercise (running, walking), dog walking, children's play, foraging; a haven for wildlife with rich biodiversity; help tackle climate change (carbon capture, etc) and improve local air quality, particularly due to the large number of trees; a unique asset in the urban area, and a change to more managed municipal parks.
- **Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) and student houses**; concern over antisocial behaviour such as rubbish and noise, along with a perception that some areas have too many of these types of homes.

Comments from Landowners & Developers

We received 22 submissions from land/property owners/developers, mostly via a professional agent. They identify their own land/property holdings and make a case

for development or protection of them. They are supportive of growth and development in general. The specific points made generally relate to promoting their individual sites and interests.

Some of the main points made are as follows:

- Most are supportive of the overall vision, particularly with regard to growth, vibrancy, and connectivity. Some are supportive of other aspects of the plan such as zero carbon.
- City Centre:
 - A number of submissions argue for promotion of the visitor economy including hotels, particularly in the city centre.
 - The owner of parts of Piccadilly Gardens indicates they are broadly supportive of improvements in the area.
 - A flexible approach to development in the city centre is needed.
 - The operator of the Manchester Arena argues in favour of the city centre and against out-of-centre development.
 - The owner of much of King St argues for a flexible approach to the use of such sites.
- Housing:
 - Various arguments are put forward in favour of particular types of housing development.
 - Overall, there is support for a variety of housing types, locations, and tenures.
 - The Home Builders Federation “*support the Council in looking to provide a significant increase in housing provision but consider that the objectives should also seek to ensure that sufficient homes are met to meet local needs and to balance with the economic growth.*”
 - Support for affordable housing subject to viability.
- Other issues raised include:
 - Respondents with land/property outside the city centre argue for a greater emphasis on regeneration/development of communities outside the centre.
 - The Council should not be setting different targets or policies outside of Building Regulations.

Comments from Campaigning Organisations

Campaigning organisations seek to increase awareness of their own areas of interest, often with specific suggestions. The main comments received are as follows:

- A **joint submission** was received from five organisations (**Rising Up! Manchester**

Families, Climate Emergency Manchester, Greater Manchester Housing Action, Steady State Manchester). This, or versions of it, was submitted by 90 individual respondents. In addition to specific policy suggestions, points made include:

- The 'momentous change' of the past decade requires a more radical departure from previous approaches
 - Opposed to development of Manchester Airport due to climate change
 - Opposed to the housing growth figures, which they say should be reduced due to 'strain on local infrastructure' and risk of gentrification/'slumification'
 - Opposed to the proposed increase in office floor space, which they say should be reduced due to Covid
 - Propose prioritising wellbeing and environmental considerations including ecology and energy use
 - Prioritise people over cars
 - They question growth projections
 - They propose 'scenario based planning' to take account of an unpredictable future
 - They say that some of the plan's aims contradict others; growth v carbon neutral, development v green space
 - Food Security and supporting biodiversity, and carbon sequestration should be included
 - Prioritise reuse of existing buildings over new development
 - Affordable housing target is too low, and 'loopholes' allowing developers to avoid contributing should be closed
- **Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA)** are seeking to protect pubs from speculative redevelopment into housing, particularly in the light of the Covid-19 restrictions which are expected to harm the viability of many pubs. They make various suggestions to support the viability of local pubs. They argue for the role of pubs in communities, and tackling loneliness, particularly for older men. They also note the role of 'historic pubs' in Manchester's visitor economy; *"a factor in attracting even more visitors to Manchester is to ensure the preservation and enhancement of its historic public houses."*
 - **Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)**; They support the timely adoption of a local plan to avoid 'off-plan' development. They challenge the growth forecasts, including for jobs, industrial and office floorspace requirements. They argue that the housing requirement is overestimated by 15% and request a review using the ONS 2018 data. They opine that *"Manchester is mostly urban, so the Green Belt, rural fringe and green space is immensely important, and it is for everyone's benefit that we write to champion the value of countryside."*

- **Chorlton Voice**; seek a greater focus on neighbourhoods rather than the city centre, are sceptical of the growth agenda and promote quality of life/environment instead, opposed to HS2 and growth at the airport. They make a number of more detailed policy points.
- **Community-Led Action and Savings Support (CLASS) in alliance with the Greater Manchester Savers network**; argue for much greater emphasis on including disadvantaged people in the policy development process, suggest a wide range of amendments, and argue for a substantial increase in properties available for social rent.
- **Greater Manchester Trust for Recreation**; support the spatial development proposals, particularly relating to housing in/near district centres. Argue for a stronger focus on the needs of young people. They also promote some of their redundant facilities for development.
- **Levenshulme Clean Air**; “a community group of parents and residents in Levenshulme, calling for healthy air for everyone”. They say that communities in Manchester suffer from illegal levels of air pollution which should be tackled through reducing the need to travel, prioritising active & sustainable modes, and ensuring no new development worsens air pollution. They make a number of more detailed policy suggestions.
- **Living Streets**; argue for an urban form that facilitates walking and cycling, prioritising people over cars etc, and make a large number of specific points. They support the emphasis on climate change and improving air quality across the city, and the target to become zero-carbon by 2038. They also argue that the Council’s clean air proposals need to be strengthened, particularly to reduce private car use.
- **Macintosh Village Residents Forum**; largely echo the points made in the joint submission, see above.
- **Manchester & Stockport Canal Society**; argue for the protection of the route of the canal from development, so it can be reopened in future
- **Manchester Civic Society** makes a wide variety of comments. They question the validity of underlying assumptions. Amongst other things, they argue for higher importance to be given to the Victoria Park Conservation Area (also see below), industrial heritage embodied in buildings, and better protection for the setting of listed buildings, most importantly the town hall. They also argue for social housing in the city centre, and feel that this should not be located separately from the development of which it is part. More generally, they opine that built heritage is not valued enough, and that Manchester’s character is being eroded. They note the loss of listed buildings which they say the Council has apparently chosen not to enforce protection.
- **Manchester Friends of the Earth** emphasise that “*the city needs to halve its carbon emissions in the next 5 years and reach zero carbon within the 15 to 20 year timeframe of this plan. And at the same time we must reverse the decline in nature and green spaces to help the city adapt to the changing climate.*” They provide a large number of specific points in support of this

overall goal.

- **Ramblers (Manchester & Salford Ramblers)**; endorse action on climate change as a key issue; opine that new developments should include significant improvements in provision for walking and cycling; suggest that everyone in Manchester should live no more than a 5-minute walk or 300m from a quality green space; and also argue for strong street design standards.
- **Rusholme & Fallowfield Civic Society** are an active civic group in Fallowfield & Rusholme who have organised a significant number of submissions from local people. They make various suggestions but are mainly aiming for a greater emphasis on the areas outside the city centre.
- **Shelter** has provided a detailed response with an analysis of the city's housing/homelessness situation and a policy response to it. In particular, they argue: *"Scaled-up delivery of social-rent housing, by both the Council and housing developers, is what is needed to tackle Manchester's housing emergency. It is the only tenure that will provide a genuinely affordable and quality housing option for the many people in the city experiencing homelessness, who are on the council's housing waiting list, as well as many others who are struggling in unaffordable, inappropriate and poor-quality housing in the city... Local Plans have the potential to act as a useful tool for securing the social-rent housing that communities desperately need, particularly from private sector developers."*
- **Schuster Road & Park Range Residents' Association** (Rusholme); argue for a change in the local housing stock away from student accommodation and HMOs, to help facilitate a more settled and stable community. They argue for more social housing in the area. Wilmslow Road shops should be managed to avoid *'an over-supply of restaurants, take-aways and shisha bars at the expense of local shops'*. Trees, parks and green spaces need better protection. The Victoria Park Conservation Area should be managed as a visitor destination but they suggest it is instead being degraded. They say *"we are proud of our vibrant community, buildings and greenery. We want to share and celebrate Victoria Park with the rest of Manchester and beyond for as many generations to come as possible."*
- **Steady State Manchester** argues for a 'viable economy' particularly to help safeguard the environment - in implied opposition to the Council's growth agenda. They make a large number of specific points, many echoing the joint submission (see above). Amongst other things they strongly oppose development of the airport due to the impact on climate change. They also argue that the consultation was not fully accessible.
- **Theatres Trust**: Make various points but emphasise that the plan should *"continue to place strong focus on the city's cultural provision and facilities, including robust policy protecting from loss of valued venues."* They note that Manchester includes two of the Trust's 'Theatres at Risk': Hulme Hippodrome and Theatre Royal.
- **UK Green Building Council**; supports a commitment to a zero-carbon Manchester by 2038. They make various specific points, including the need to

decarbonise heating of buildings in particular. They are supportive of zero-carbon buildings and make points about how this can be achieved. They also argue for stronger biodiversity commitments.

Comments from Partner Organisations including Specific Consultees

There are many organisations that the Council works with to deliver or coordinate its work. Many of these are government or voluntary organisations, and include both local and national organisations. They generally seek to make us aware of any practical or technical issues they consider particularly relevant. We mostly already have close working relationships and joint strategies with them.

‘Specific Consultees’ are organisations that we are required by law to consult; mostly national agencies, utilities, and neighbouring local authorities. See Appendix 2. Not all provided comments but they have generally provided fairly comprehensive submissions at times with technical details. They generally seek to provide practical guidance rather than promoting a particular point of view.

The main comments received are as follows:

- **Canal & River Trust:** Is broadly supportive, and makes various specific policy recommendations and comments. They say *“with 96% of land adjacent to waterways outside the Trust’s control, our waterways are vulnerable to the impact of development. We believe however that successful planning policies can help to secure positive place making and high quality developments which both protect and maximise the opportunities presented by our waterways”*.
- **City of Trees:** Support the plan’s references to the importance and role of Green Infrastructure (GI) in helping to create *‘a more liveable, sustainable and resilient Manchester’*, but advocate for *‘a bolder statement of increasing it’* to *‘meet the needs of a growing population and help us to adapt to predicted climate change impacts especially flooding.’* They go on to provide more detailed points on the specific proposals.
- **Coal Authority:** No comments at this stage
- **Department for Education (UK Government):** They note that local education authorities must ensure sufficient school places, including at sixth form, and have a key role in securing contributions from development to new education infrastructure. They support the use of planning obligations to secure developer contributions for education. They say that the next version of the Local Plan should seek to identify specific sites which can deliver the school places needed to support growth.
- **Environment Agency:** Broadly support the proposals and give a large number of specific policy points. They say they are *“pleased with the current scope and issues identified for the forthcoming plan, in particular the commitment to improve green spaces/infrastructure and achieve carbon neutrality through sustainable development.”*
- **Highways England:** Provide detailed considerations, and request further dialogue to *‘understand the current transport provision, alongside individual*

and cumulative transport and highway traffic impacts associated with any proposed site allocations likely to impact the SRN.’ In particular, they highlight the area around Manchester Airport and the proposed location of the HS2 station adjacent to M56 Junction 5 as locations of interest.

- **Historic England:** Disagrees with the draft vision, and questions the underlying assumptions/evidence base. They provide various points about the role of heritage and how it can support the wider objectives of the plan and the city. They say that the profile of heritage in all areas of the plan needs to be increased. Policies should *“engage with heritage in terms of its potential for place making as well as offering clear and positive direction that will support the conservation and restoration of heritage assets at risk, opportunities to gain maximum public value and the need to engage with heritage and local character early in the policy making and design processes.”*
- **Homes England:** Have not provided detailed comments, but state *“The housing ambitions within this Issues Consultation are noted. The Housing Infrastructure Fund allocation recently announced for Manchester supports the delivery of this and we are keen to continue to work with you to fulfil your housing growth ambitions.”*
- **Greater Manchester Minerals & Waste Team:** Welcome the statement that materials and waste will need to come from a new circular economy, involving the reuse and recycling of materials already in circulation, and significantly increased use of sustainable and renewable materials.
- **Manchester Airports Group:** Supports the proposals, which they say *‘recognises the importance and scale of benefits that Manchester Airport provides to the city’*. They argue for *‘a greater focus on the provision of transport infrastructure (across all modes) to support the airport, the Airport Gateway and Airport City’* which would, they say, *‘enhance the area’s accessibility and help ensure that all of Greater Manchester and the site allocations can capitalise on the economic and employment benefits that the Airport brings’*.
- **Manchester City Council - Work & Skills Team:** While they support the vision, they say the objectives should be strengthened by making a clearer link to the inclusive growth/inclusive economy agenda to ensure that growth is sustainable and beneficial to Manchester’s residents and communities, rather than being an end in itself. They go on to provide more detailed comments in support of this view.
- **Manchester Climate Change Agency:** Suggest the inclusion of: *‘Development will be planned to ensure that its location helps to keep Manchester’s direct CO2 emissions (from buildings and transport) within a limited carbon budget and that all aviation emissions from Manchester Airport are consistent with the Paris Agreement, as part of a UK aviation strategy’*.
- **Ringway Parish Council:** Oppose the proposals for growth at and around the airport. They say: *“The current Core Strategy has placed too much emphasis on ‘the growth of Manchester Airport’ ‘as a catalyst for the regional economy’. The over development of Manchester Airport formerly Ringway Airport has*

caused untold devastation to Ringway Parish and other Manchester communities living in its shadow.”

- **Manchester College (LTE Group):** Suggest that there should be more of a focus on the areas outside the city centre.
- **National Grid:** Advise of the location of specific assets, at Heaton Park and the Mersey Valley.
- **Network Rail:** Request protection of existing rail freight facilities at nine sites (not all within the MCC area), and say they are concerned about the ability of our stations and infrastructure to cope with the extra number of people expected/encouraged by the local plan. They request ‘commensurate infrastructure funding / developer contributions’.
- **NHS:**
 - **Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust:** Detailed comments submitted with regard to North Manchester General Hospital, Crumpsall. They outline *“how the exciting and unparalleled regeneration of the NMGH site can transform it into an integrated and vibrant healthcare-hub”*. Further details on their other hospital sites may follow at later stages of the plan process.
 - **NHS Property Services Ltd.:** Substantial rebuilding and expansion of hospital and other health facilities is expected, with potentially some funding using S106/CIL.
- **Sport England:** broadly agree with the Vision and Objectives but feel the health & wellbeing element can be strengthened, and provide a number of detailed policy points to support this. They also state: *“It is strongly advised to avoid the use of local standards for outdoor sport and instead include a policy for obtaining developer contributions. Sport England has been working ... to help the Council prepare a process for calculating appropriate contributions for sport based on the evidence and to link that to a Local Plan policy.”*
- **Trans Pennine Trail:** Generally support the proposals, particularly around sustainable transport.
- **Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM):** Detailed response including the following key points:
 - One slight variation on the spatial principles set out in 2.11 could include the promotion of or support for, further commercial and residential development around Wythenshawe town centre to complement the development of a second economic hub around Manchester Airport.
 - The proposed HS2 station at Manchester Airport will also offer the opportunity of increase investment, whilst the station itself will not be within Manchester the investment opportunities will be around the Airport especially if there are good transport connections to the proposed HS2 station, such as an extension to Metrolink.

- Additional issues to address include:
 - The poor quality of the walking and cycling network and public realm in many locations across all three areas – the challenge also includes maintaining the network where it has been upgraded.
 - Conflict between different users of the highway network and achieving community and local stakeholder support/buy-in to re-allocate road space to overcome these conflicts.
 - Air quality in some locations.
- There will also be a need to expand the existing GM EV charging infrastructure network which provides access to public EV charging.
- Achieving Greater Manchester's carbon targets will require substantial reductions in carbon emissions from transport.
- The importance of linking the GM 2040 Transport Strategy sets out a Transport Vision for "World class connections that support long-term sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all. The 2040 Transport Strategy, 5 year Delivery Plan will set out the transport interventions required across GM for the next 5 years.
- Agree that the Local Plan should address all parking needs;
- Suggest the need for policies that help encourage increased levels of active travel; aid the implementation of a Streets for All approach; and that aid the implementation of the GM Clean Air Plan will also contribute to delivering better health outcomes.
- **United Utilities:** Broadly supportive; wish to engage early on particular large sites and proposals; support the sustainability proposals, particularly regarding surface water and drainage (climate change).

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 8 October 2020

Subject: Economic Recovery of the City's Cultural Sector

Report of: Strategic Lead Policy and Partnerships and Director of Culture
(Home Manchester)

Summary

The report provides an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on the City's cultural sector; outlines access to local and national financial support for the sector and the gaps identified in the assistance needed for the cultural economy.

The sector faces unprecedented challenges as one of the last industries able to reopen on a financially viable basis. It is also an industry reliant on a highly-skilled, flexible but vulnerable freelance workforce that has been severely impacted by a loss of business. The cultural offer is an intrinsic part of the city centre economy and is fundamental to the wider economic recovery of the city.

A Manchester Culture Recovery Plan has been developed with a wide range of partners and stakeholders and a COVID-19 Culture Recovery Board has been established to lead the city's response to the pandemic and aid the sector's recovery.

Cultural partners have responded creatively to the crisis with many seeking new and digital solutions to engaging audiences and participants. And there have been campaigns to reach out to residents and visitors to connect them to the available offer and promote the reopening of some of the city's key institutions in recent weeks.

There are a number of initiatives to assist businesses, support freelancers and deliver reopening strategies at a local and national level. Emergency assistance was made available by Arts Council England and the Government has put in place a Culture Sector Recovery Fund for England. However, there is evidence that the current level and means of support available will be insufficient to sustain the sector for the duration of the continued period business disruption and that additional support will be needed to stimulate a recovery.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the information provided in this report.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Cultural organisations in the city lead the way in their response to the climate crisis with joint efforts to reduce carbon emissions and by engaging audiences.

Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The city's cultural offer is an intrinsic part of the economic and social life of Manchester and is interconnected with the hospitality sector and night time and visitor economies. The sector is under huge threat as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Manchester Culture Recovery Plan described in the report sets out a strategy for the stabilisation and stimulation of the cultural sector so that it can play an active role in the city's economic recovery and emerge from the financial impact of the crisis.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The cultural and creative industries sector employ a wide variety of staff, freelancers and creative practitioners. The strength of Manchester's highly skilled talent pool is a key feature in the city's attractiveness for inward investors and the report highlights a raft of projects and programmes that nurture the talent and skills of the city's residents, provide pathways into the sector and access to employment.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The Culture Recovery Plan identifies the need for the sector to recover and support inclusive growth. The cultural sector delivers entry-level jobs and levels up educational achievement for residents. It brings neighbourhoods together in mutual understanding. It proudly showcases the diversity in our communities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Manchester has a world-leading cultural offer for residents and visitors to access. It adds to the vibrancy of the city centre providing key visitors attractions which engage local people and connect to the city's schools and education offer.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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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 the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Arts and culture has an important role to play in the recovery of Manchester and the UK. In addition to the direct economic impact of the culture sector, it plays a key role in the city's complex economic system. The cultural sector has a crucial role to play in promoting and encouraging a return to normal economic activity by demonstrating confidence, positivity and care which will be vital in support of Manchester's plans to mitigate the worst impacts of the impending economic recession. Promoting Manchester as a city that is open for business and leisure both locally, nationally and ultimately internationally will need the arts and cultural sector to be open, active and at its creative best to support the city's place-based promotional activity.
- 1.2 However, the COVID-19 crisis has, and continues to have, a devastating impact on the sector. The Council is working with strategic partners and cultural organisations to support and advocate for the urgent needs of the sector.
- 1.3 Officers have been in regular contact with the cultural organisations that the council supports through its investments and funding agreements and have conducted wider surveys of cultural businesses in April and May 2020 to gain an in-depth insight to the challenges and risks being faced by organisations in the sector. They are continuing their ongoing close relationship with cultural partners providing advice, information on access to funding and support accessing business grants.
- 1.4 The Cultural Leaders Group chaired by the Director of Culture has become an invaluable resource, meeting weekly and now fortnightly to share knowledge and prepare joint strategies for reopening and recovery.
- 1.5 The information and depth of awareness of the impact of the pandemic on the sector has enabled the council to respond to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) inquiry on the impact of COVID-19 on the sector and brief Arts Council and other strategic partners on the challenges faced in the city.

2.0 Overview of the impact of COVID19 on the city's cultural sector

- 2.1 From the start of the national lock-down, organisations began modelling a number of scenarios working towards a return to full operations. As it became clear that social distancing measures will continue at least to the end of the calendar year, companies started to cancel all public facing and live events planned for the remainder of the summer and their autumn/ winter 2020 seasons.
- 2.2 For most cultural businesses, their autumn/ winter period is the most important period in their business cycle, delivering the most densely packed cultural season and providing a substantial proportion of annual earned income through ticket and other revenues. For companies that run festivals, they

cancelled their spring and summer events at short notice and programmes planned for the autumn/winter were cancelled or online versions arranged.

- 2.3 From the start of the crisis, it was anticipated that some organisations would be facing insolvency as their reserves became exhausted and that businesses would have to make difficult choices around staff redundancies.
- 2.4 Most cultural organisations are reliant on a significant amount of earned income from sources including ticket sales and earnings from cafe, bar and retail operations. Those companies most reliant on earned income include theatres, cinema and music venues and venues with significant pre-sales have had to refund tickets compounding cash flow difficulties. The dramatic changes to these businesses has a major detrimental impact on their supply chain many of whom are freelancers.
- 2.5 In Manchester, our cultural sector includes major theatres, large-scale event spaces and music venues that are wholly reliant on commercial income sources and are impacted nationally (and in some cases internationally). They too are critical to the cultural ecology and night time economy, and their continuation is important to the city centre recovery strategy.
- 2.6 Organisations providing rented work spaces and rooms for hire also have had a major gap in income. As restrictions were relaxed in the summer and within the rules for social distancing and return to work, we have seen a return for tenants seeking to operate again from premises e.g. artists' studio groups, craft makers workshops, and dance studios.
- 2.7 Earned income from private sector sponsorship and individual giving has been growing in the city over recent years but the financial pressures sponsors are under means businesses have had to withdraw their financial support. University funding is also at risk given the considerable financial pressures they face.
- 2.8 There are several live capital cultural projects in the city and the temporary suspension of building work and other impacts to construction industry supply chains has led to programme delays and increased costs.
- 2.9 Freelancers make up a significant proportion of the sector's workforce and supply chain. The Council's 2018/19 Cultural Impact Data Survey reports a total number of 2,010 employees, across 1128 full-time equivalent (FTE) roles and total number of 2,112 FTE freelancers (*responses from 39 public funded cultural organisations*). Across the wider creative industries sector, the freelance rate is even higher, with over 80% reported amongst film and broadcast industries. This community of workers is a crucial feature of the sector; having a flexible and skilled talent base in the city is one of the reasons Manchester has been able to grow its cultural offer and attract creative and digital sector growth. The sector acknowledges that freelancers in the supply chain are possibly the most vulnerable and the most valuable in terms of the creation of artistic products. Without creative practitioners, there is no creative and cultural offer.

- 2.10 In response to announcements in July of the difficulties facing live music venues in the city, the Council has been working in collaboration with the Music Venue Trust to develop its understanding of the needs of music venues which are cornerstones of the music industry and night time economy. In August 2020 music charity Brighter Sound hosted a music venue round-table with the Executive Member for Skills, Culture & Leisure - Cllr Rahman, to discuss the sector's challenges. In response a range of advisory support was put in place to assist businesses access the government's Culture Recovery Fund and the feedback has been used to inform plans for outdoor events.
- 2.11 Government business support measures such as the Job Retention Scheme and emergency funding for the sector has to date helped to sustain organisations, delaying the point at which some companies have had to make staff redundant. Many companies now await news of their applications to the DCMS Culture Recovery Fund in mid-October 2020 which was launched in the summer.

3.0 Local and national financial support

3.1 Access to mainstream government funding for businesses

- 3.1.1 Business grants and rate relief - The Government's Coronavirus related business grants and extension to business rate relief have been of benefit to some businesses where the nature of the premises, business functions and size of the business rate liabilities have made it possible for cultural business to apply. Unfortunately many cultural companies are also registered charities which rendered them out of scope for Small Business Rate Relief and the Small Business Grants.

The extension of Retail Rate Relief to the hospitality & leisure sector has been of benefit to small public venue operators which have also been able to access the Retail Hospitality and Leisure Grants. Cultural officers worked with the Business Rates team to assist cultural businesses with their applications, helping them to access these programmes and benefits where they apply.

The Culture Team identified almost 100 small cultural businesses and micro enterprises that were unable to access the government's COVID-19 business grants and worked with the Work and Skills team to encourage applications to a Council administered Discretionary Grant programme which was available to small businesses that were ineligible for the grant schemes above.

- 3.1.2 At least one major cultural organisation has reported use of a government backed loan. The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and Bounceback loans are available to the sector but many have fears about their ability to repay the loans available. But The Job Retention Scheme has been a welcome and vital form of support and cultural organisations have been furloughing staff where possible. An extension to the furlough scheme is being called for by the sector to avoid further redundancies this autumn. The newly announced Job Support Scheme is likely to benefit those companies able to return, at least in part, to operation but will not be able to protect jobs in

cultural companies which are still unable to reopen or those subject to local or further national COVID-19 restrictions.

- 3.1.3 Coronavirus Self-Employment Income Support Scheme has, and will continue up to the end of April 2021, to provide a assistance to established freelancers in the sector but it has been widely reported that the eligibility criteria excludes freelancers that, for instance; started in their roles after the tax year 2018/19; or who have portfolio careers with earnings from a number of sources (which is a common situation for many freelancers in the cultural and creative industries sector). There are fears that those new entrants to the industry, working as freelance artists and creative practitioners, will have been the most adversely affected and there may be a significant impact on talent retention.

3.2 **Public & Lottery Cultural Funding**

Arts Council England (ACE) and the National Lottery Heritage Fund both responded very quickly to the crisis, repurposing existing grants programmes to provide COVID-19 Emergency funding measures designed to ensure companies stay solvent and survive the initial months of the crisis.

ACE also announced that its National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding programmes will be extended from 4 to 5 years. This is widely seen as a helpful move allowing greater time for recipients to undertake the extensive business planning process required to inform NPO proposals.

ACE also announced some targeted support for creative practitioners and has grant-aided a number of industry bodies to distribute funds e.g. Help Musicians UK and Outdoor Arts UK. This is widely seen as being a very positive step.

However, commercial operators in the creative sector such as commercial theatre and events venues and music venues - were not able to access any of the ACE Emergency funds because they are not normally funded by the public sector for their work. These venues are a highly valued part of the creative and cultural ecology in the city.

3.3 **Culture Recovery Fund**

- 3.3.1 In July 2020, the Government announced a £1.57 billion package of support to protect cultural, arts and heritage institutions and at the end of July, details were released about how the first round of funding (£622m) from the £880 million grants programme for England would be distributed by Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England.

The Culture Recovery Fund comprises:

- £270 million of repayable finance
- £880 million grants
- £100 million of targeted support for the national cultural institutions in England and the English Heritage Trust.

- £120 million capital investment to restart construction on cultural infrastructure and for heritage construction projects in England which were paused due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- £188 million for the devolved administrations in Northern Ireland (£33 million), Scotland (£97 million) and Wales (£59 million).

3.3.2 A £500 million Culture Recovery Fund Grants fund administered on behalf of the Government by Arts Council England is distributing the majority of the £880 million grants programme. This is providing grants to profit and not for profit cultural organisations based in England who are at imminent risk of failure. Applications range from a minimum value of £50,000 up to a maximum of £3 million and the funding is to be used to ensure that by 31 March 2021 organisations were able to be fully or partially reopened, or to be operating on a sustainable, cost efficient basis, so that they are able to reopen at a later date. Applicants will be notified about the success or otherwise of their applications in October 2020.

In August, there was also an early release of a portion of the grant fund targeted at 'grass roots' music venues which benefited 11 of Manchester's small live music venues.

3.3.3 The Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage is being administered jointly by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England which are presently considering grants between £10,000 to £3 million from a £92 million fund. This was open to heritage organisations, heritage sites, venues and attractions to ensure that by 31 March 2021, successful applicants can reopen or can operate on a sustainable and cost-efficient basis so that they are able to reopen at a later date.

3.3.4 Culture Recovery Fund - Repayable Finance - the scheme has been made available for cultural organisations requiring economic support over £3 million. The application process is being administered by a new independent Culture Recovery Board appointed by DCMS and has a total value of £270 million to loan. Organisations have been prohibited applying for both a Culture Recovery Fund grant and repayable finance.

3.3.5 Cultural Capital Kickstart Fund provides £120 million for capital projects, £55 million of which being distributed by Art Council England with the other £65 million being managed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in partnership with Historic England. It will provide additional capital funding to existing capital grant awarded projects that can demonstrate a funding shortfall due to COVID-19.

3.4 Funding Flexibilities

3.4.1 Three main funding sources for core funding for Manchester arts and cultural organisations include Arts Council England (ACE), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Manchester City Council (though the Cultural Partnership Agreements Grants and Strategic Cultural Investments). All three funders moved in-step at the start of lockdown to suspend the

conditionality of their funding agreements, allowing recipients to plan and implement contingency measures and use the funding where it is most needed and without having to adhere to their projected outcomes and outputs.

- 3.4.2 The Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure advised organisations that reporting on their funding agreements was suspended from the beginning of April 2020 for the first quarter of 2020/21, with a further communication in May to extend the arrangement to the second quarter until 30 September 2020, in line with ACE and GMCA.
- 3.4.3 Reflecting the tentative steps to reopening the sector over the summer in September, the council wrote to funded organisations to advise them that their funding agreements and associated monitoring will be reinstated from 1 October. The deadline for the culture team's annual Cultural Impact Survey was extended in line with ACE's annual data survey until 30 September 2020.

3.5 Other local support for the sector

- 3.5.1 The need for the sector to respond to the very immediate and significant challenges being faced by freelancers has led to two new initiatives. Manchester International Festival's Artists & Freelancer Drop with the development of online resources and a GM Artists Hub.
- 3.5.2 MIF Artist And Freelance Creative Drop-In - MIF has been hosting free regular drop-in sessions on Zoom where artists and creatives can come together to share experiences and ideas during lockdown. The sessions were initially run daily and are currently weekly hosted by different leading creative practitioners across creative disciplines.
- 3.5.3 GM Artists Hub - The project has been backed by Community Arts Northwest, Contact, hÅb + Word of Warning, HOME, Manchester International Festival, Octagon Theatre Bolton, Oldham Coliseum Theatre, Royal Exchange Theatre, SICK! Festival, Sustained Theatre Up North, The Lowry, Waterside Arts & Creative Industries Trafford and Z-arts. Leading arts professionals from these companies are providing 1-2-1 advisory sessions.
- 3.5.4 United We Stream Greater Manchester is a new on-line broadcast platform established by GMCA during the lock-down period to provide a way of promoting live music and performances from the city to audiences locally and further afield. Events on the platform are free to view, but audiences are invited to make donations. Funds raised through donations have supported a relief fund for night-time economy businesses, the Mayor of Greater Manchester's Charity and Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy Charity.

4.0 Culture during local-down

- 4.1 At the start of lock-down, companies were forced to postpone or cancel exhibitions, events and project plans. Most cultural partners have reacted quickly to the challenge of the suspension of face-to-face activity by seeking alternative ways to deliver their programmes on-line or in different ways. Alternative COVID-secure projects and special initiatives during lock-down

have demonstrated some creative approaches to maintaining relationships with audiences, participants and artists.

- 4.2 **The Men's Room** is an arts and health charity supporting men and trans people who sex work, are homeless or both and is supported through the council's Cultural Partnership and Our Manchester Grants programmes.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and lock-down arrangements, The Men's Room has continued managing its casework with clients and has been working through emergency accommodation hostel work; helping vulnerable service-users to isolate and to receive food parcels, medicine, and prescriptions in conjunction with health and social care professionals, while also providing ongoing emotional support.

The organisation has been supporting service users to maintain mental well-being in a number of ways, including through access to creative activities through a Creative WhatsApp group, 'arts packs', setting daily arts challenges and the team has also been live-streaming our creative sessions on the platform Zoom. Equipping service-users with digital technology has also been a priority, utilising funding to provide devices and mobile data to service-users who are currently less digitally connected allowing them to access vital services such as the housing options team, benefits services, make pip claims, contact GPs and to access digital creative sessions.

The Men's Room is now open 3 days a week on an appointment basis and the company is delivering COVID-safe face-to-face small group sessions, with the support of developers U+I providing the temporary use of a railway arch in the Mayfield Depot.

- 4.3 **Manchester Histories** works with resident communities and heritage partners to mark Manchester's people, histories and heritage. It is supported by the City Council's through a Cultural Partnership grant and promotes an annual Manchester Histories Festival. Normally held each June, this year's festival was disrupted due to the COVID crisis but the team moved quickly to create an alternative online event.

In September 2020, Manchester Histories broadcast its first ever *DigiFest* live from Manchester Central Library. It celebrated 50 years of the landmark legislation *The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons' Act 1970*, affectionately known as 'Alf's Act', and 50 years of Disabled People's Rights. It was free and open to all, raised the profile of the ongoing struggles for disabled people's rights bringing new perspectives to many watching. Over 3,000 people tuned in over the two days of live and pre-recorded content, contributed by a public open call and commissions. Led by disabled people, and with high levels of access for the audience the team and contributions *DigiFest* made the most of the medium.

Compered by comedian Jackie Hagan, viewers were led into thought provoking, moving, entertaining and fascinating online experience, exploring the positive legacy of Alf's Act as well as the contemporary challenges of

today. Debates about the right to life in the wake of doctors encouraging disabled people to consider 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders at the height of the COVID-19 crisis, mingled with art and music commissioned from disabled artists in response to the festival's themes. Projects exploring disabled people's 'life-worlds' - including one by young deaf sign language users in South Africa using the medium of photography, lockdown blogs from disabled people's perspectives and historical dramas including the stories of incarceration experienced by people with learning difficulties.

The two-day live digital event was accompanied by in-depth filmed pieces and an online gallery which are still accessible now, including three short films about the life and work of Alf Morris specially produced for the event.

- 4.4 **Manchester Jazz Festival (mjf)** is the city's longest running music festival and is an established part of Manchester's cultural programme. It has been supported since its inception by Manchester City Council through Events funding.

The festival, held annually, has grown to feature hundreds of musicians, across over 80 free and charged events, partnering with multiple venues in the city. The festival champions jazz artists and presents new and original material through commissions and premieres, as well as delivering year-round talent development opportunities and international debuts.

The festival, planned for May 2020 - its 25th anniversary, had to be cancelled and tickets refunded and instead Manchester Jazz Festival produced in just six weeks an innovative four-day digital alternative *mjf2020:Jazz Unlocked*. Streamed on the festival's Facebook and YouTube channels the programme featured live 'from home' performances, specially filmed commissions, discussion, interviews and highlights from previous festivals.

mjf proudly committed 100% cancellation fees to its contracted artists that were due to perform at the physical festival (the first in Europe to do so). 194 individual musicians participated in *mjf2020* and all live performers were paid. Of the musicians featured, 74% were based in the north; 44% based in Greater Manchester, with the programme's contributors exceeding mjf's diversity and *Keychange* (gender balance) targets.

mjf2020:Jazz Unlocked attracted nearly 39,000 views across social media platforms, and set a programming format and standard that other festivals across Europe have since championed and emulated. This format will inform mjf's planned hybrid festival model for 2021.

The digital festival was delivered with producing partner Jazz North, and the programme was top and tailed with what became the first UK live jazz group performances since lockdown. It was held at Bury Met in partnership with United We Stream GM.

- 4.5 **Contact**, Manchester's flagship is a council supported arts venue for young people and for diversity. It continued to partner with Spoken Word organisation, **Young Identity** to provide a platform for young poets to talk about the issues that are important to them, alongside established authors

(E.g. Tony Walsh and Louise Wallwein). These are uplifting events that also provide opportunities for peer support and feedback from industry professionals. In April, Contact hosted the first ever *Young Identity: One Mic Stand* as a live-streamed event on their website, at which participants contributed from their homes and in June the organisations partnered again to deliver *One Mic Stand Black Lives Matter* special via Young Identity's YouTube channel.

- 4.6 The visual arts charity, **Venture Arts**, which is also supported through the council's Cultural Partnership Grants, worked hard to ensure their clients, adults with learning disabilities, remained connected to creative activity and to each other by delivering sessions on the meeting platform Zoom and ran a successful crowdfunding campaign to provide participants with i-pads as both a creative and communication tool. Venture Arts participant, Emlyn Scott, said, *"The new iPad gave me so many things – hope, routine, communication! I love it and am so grateful to all those who donated to the appeal! I had my passion back in my life, I started photographing my garden more and the moon – because there were no planes the sky was clearer."*
- 4.7 **Community Arts NW (CAN)** is an arts development organisation supported by the council that works with diverse communities and artists to increase access to cultural production for people who may be marginalised (e.g. refugee and asylum seekers / unemployed / self-taught etc). The *Horizons Festival*, co-produced by CAN and HOME, was unable to take place during Refugee Week in June 2020 as planned. In response CAN curated some exciting digital work, sharing a programme of workshops, performances, films and discussions in association with some of the international artists in CAN's creative community in Manchester, many who are refugee or asylum seekers. As well as still being able to celebrate Refugee Week and Manchester's status as the most linguistically diverse city in Western Europe, CAN was able to provide paid opportunities for artists.

With funding from the European Social Fund, CAN is offering free training for unemployed creatives and community leaders who use the arts with communities. Following a successful pilot, a further 11 participants will benefit from *CAN DO Creative Training* with professional development sessions on employability, self employment including finance, project planning, fundraising and health and safety.

Dominic, a current participant, says of his experience of the training: *"It's a great course! So far, it's helped me get my passion back for my art form. If you want to improve your CV and sell your work, this is a great place to start."*

- 4.8 **Manchester City of Literature** - In response to the Coronavirus crisis and responding to the needs of its partners, the newly formed City of Literature team quickly launched an interim web presence www.manchestercityofliteratureconnected.com. In a crowded online realm, the new website helps to bring together all the literary focused activity in the city in one place, gives profile and prominence to partner projects, local publishers' promotions, online-events and activities and resources such as those for

school children - as well as poetry and other writing competitions, international opportunities.

5.0 Reopening Strategies

- 5.1 As part of the work of the Cultural Leader's Group, chaired by the Director of Culture, three subgroups have been meeting virtually to jointly plan and develop reopening strategies and have been consulting with national industries bodies to review government guidance. There is a Museums and Galleries group, a Performing Venues group and a team looking at the safe return of Participatory Cultural Activities.
- 5.2 The first organisations to fully or partially reopen were museums, galleries and heritage attractions from 4 July 2020, as restrictions were lifted and because of the relative ease with which they can operate in a COVID-safe way, managing the physical distancing of visitors. In Manchester, these include the National Football Museum, Manchester Art Gallery and most recently the Science and Industry Museum, the Whitworth and Manchester Museum. Organisations have pre-booking systems in place for audiences with the ability to welcome additional visitors up to their COVID-safe capacity level.
- 5.3 Cinema and outdoor performances were also allowed to resume activity from 4 July 2020, with many cinemas finding it difficult operating below capacity and encountering issues around the international release schedules for films that had been disrupted. HOME for example chose to delay the opening of its cinemas until early September 2020.
- 5.4 Performing arts venues, including theatres such as HOME and the Royal Exchange, music venues such as the Bridgewater Hall, Stoller Hall and smaller independent music venues were permitted to reopen from 11 July 2020. However, performance venues continue to find it hard to do so in a way that meets current government guidelines on physical distancing in enclosed spaces, whilst opening in a way which is also financially viable. Local lockdown measures in Greater Manchester limiting the meeting of mixed households has compounded the issue in the city for the sector. There are also complex requirements to ensure that performers are safe which impacts on actors, musicians, orchestras, ensembles and choirs.
- 5.5 The Culture Recovery Plan looks optimistically towards 2021 and if funds allow, the opportunity to announce that Manchester's cultural offer back in business. 2021 is a Manchester International Festival year and planning is underway to focus on a high profile spring and summer citywide programme and high profile campaign.

5.6 Re-opening dates

N.B.: Most venues are opening with modified operating hours and services.

July

- ☐ Halle St Peter's (wedding venue and restaurant only)

- ☐ Manchester Central Library - City Library only
- ☐ 8 Manchester branch libraries
- ☐ National Football Museum

August

- ☐ Manchester Craft & Design Centre
- ☐ Elizabeth Gaskell's House
- ☐ Museum of Science & Industry
- ☐ Manchester Central Library
- ☐ Manchester Art Gallery

September

- ☐ People's History Museum
- ☐ The Portico Library
- ☐ Further 6 branch libraries and 5 community libraries
- ☐ Centre of Contemporary Chinese Art
- ☐ HOME (cinemas, bars and restaurant)
- ☐ The International Anthony Burgess Foundation
- ☐ The Whitworth
- ☐ Manchester Museum
- ☐ Castlefield Gallery
- ☐ Z-arts planning to reopen for participatory activities

6.0 Culture Recovery Plan and Culture Recovery Board

- 6.1 The cultural and creative industries sector forms a vital part of the city's economy - 'creative and digital' is identified as a key growth sector and a global strength in the Local Industrial Strategy. Seeing a return to this normally thriving community of businesses and freelancers is essential. The Council has established a COVID-19 Culture Recovery Group with a reporting line for the Director of Culture into the Economic Recovery strand of the city's plan.
- 6.2 For our towns and cities to recover, attracting employees, shoppers and visitors to our urban centres, we are reliant on there being a vibrant cultural offer. The cultural sector can play a catalytic role in recovery strategies with campaigns to attract people back to city life. In Manchester, we also hope that cultural offer will also play a key part in rebuilding active neighbourhoods and be an integral part of high street programmes.
- 6.3 **The Manchester Culture Recovery Plan** articulates a need for a £72m investment to secure the future of the city's cultural institutions and cultural offer - making it possible for the sector to recover and reopen. (Culture Recovery Plan attached as Appendix 1 and the financial plan as Appendix 2).

The plan has been developed in collaboration with sector representatives to:

- a) Stabilise organisations to ensure they do not become insolvent as a

result of the crisis and are in a position to reopen when that becomes possible again.

- b) Stimulate cultural activity, re-start the cultural economy and enable the sector to play a central role in rebuilding the citywide economy.
- c) Provide place-based coordination, communications & marketing support.

6.3.1 The two-year plan aims to provide a flexible place-based strategy and programme which will enable the city to respond to the changing challenges of the pandemic and city's economic recovery. It has been codesigned with partners and there will be an inclusive approach to delivery and coordination with the active promotion of cultural diversity and community cohesion at its heart.

6.3.2 The plan features new collaborations and partnerships connecting the creative industries and cultural sector to pool and share resources and to widen reach. It will involve freelance practitioners, small, medium and large scale organisations, working together, to help to build a more robust and inclusive sector.

6.3.3 *"The sector will be one of the last out of a devastating lockdown. This is devastating because arts and cultural organisations are about mass gatherings – something we can no longer take for granted. As social distancing is likely to be here until the end of the year or beyond, some arts and cultural organisations are unlikely to survive. Others will need fundamental changes to what they do and how they do it.*

The domain of freelance artists and creatives – vital to our city's creative health – is now damaged, possibly devastated, clearly threatening their ability to support the recovery of our communities and economy.

This harm goes wider – into the creative industries sector and its web of shared people, supply chains and the cross- fertilisation of ideas and content.

Now, more than ever, we need this sector's power to help our residents understand their history – what Manchester means to the world, and what it means to be part of Manchester."

Manchester Culture Recovery Plan - August 2020

6.3.4 The plan has been developed with varied forms of engagement and consultation within the sector and with strategic partners. At a local level the Recovery Plan was informed by consultation with;

- Cultural Leaders Group;
- GMCA;
- ArtsChain (network of participatory arts practitioners);
- What Next? GM;
- HiDDEN (network of small heritage venues);
- GM Theatres Network;
- Small Theatres Network; and
- Age Friendly Manchester.

6.3.5 Nationally, the Culture Recovery Plan was informed by consultation with;

- Arts Council England;
- Information provided by Core Cities;
- Local Government Association;
- UK Theatre;
- Cinema Exhibitors Association;
- plus Tate Network; and
- What Next? (National).

Subsequently, the plan has been shared with colleagues in the Core Cities Network and the newly established Northern Culture Network.

6.4 Delivery strategy

6.4.1 Manchester's submission to Government as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review included a summary of the city's Economic Growth Plan which will be published in early October. The Plan is structured around the People, Place and Prosperity themes of the *Our Manchester Industrial Strategy* and includes a number of capital projects to support the cultural and creative sector in the city and a '*Phoenix Programme*' to support the sector between autumn and spring/summer 2020.

6.4.2 Officers are working to support creative and cultural businesses to access all the relevant business and sector specific support available to them. Cultural partners with the council are also seeking a diverse range of additional funding sources to bring forward the initiatives described in the Culture Recovery Plan. Together we are putting forward the case for coordinated and cooperative place-based programmes so that in Manchester we can drive the recovery strategy in a collaborative way, leveraging the best possible outcomes for the sector, the city and our residents.

6.4.3 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority has prepared a draft GM Culture Recovery plan which also recognises that the cultural sector is well-placed to help support the economic and civic recovery of Greater Manchester and to encourage residents to return to our high streets, town and city centres. It is important to support complementary Greater Manchester wide working where possible.

7.0 Concluding challenges

7.1 The sector is under significant pressure because of the COVID-19 crisis with many organisations making casual and contracted staff redundant in an effort to reduce costs until such time that they are able to return to full operation. The sector has also seen huge disruption to its talent base and freelance ecology.

7.2 Whilst Government support through the Culture Recovery Fund and the efforts with funding flexibility provided by Arts Council England, National Heritage Lottery Fund and others has been welcomed, it is becoming clear that the existing measures up to 31st March 2021 will not be sufficient to sustain the

sector in its current form. Without additional targeted support this financial year and next, cultural organisations, including venues large and small are likely to become insolvent and fail.

- 7.3 If across the country more major national and regional institutions fail, local authorities and other strategic partners may need to mothball sites and encourage new operators in the future. There is a long-term risk of city centres being blighted by having anchor institutions out of operation for years to come.
- 7.4 Officers will continue to maintain contact with cultural partners and music venues supporting and advising individual businesses and sharing information, advice and guidance and details of funding opportunities. The Council with its strategic partners and cultural leaders will continue to champion the needs of the cultural sector in the city and seek the support needed to deliver the Culture Recovery Plan.

8.0 Recommendations

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the information provided in this report.

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CULTURE RECOVERY PLAN



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



Councillor Luthfur Rahman
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR
SKILLS, CULTURE
AND LEISURE

FOREWORD

Manchester is recognised as the second most-visited city in England, after London. Our world-class cultural organisation, enviable music and events offer, and our reputation for creativity and diversity are the reasons people want to visit the city. We want to keep it that way.

Unfortunately, many in the sector – theatres, music venues, museums, galleries, and the creative and technical teams, as well as the freelancers who work with them – are facing tough times ahead. They will be some of the last to reopen and return to operating at capacity. The sector is in dire need of support to prevent the loss of income to the city, the loss of jobs, and the loss of Manchester’s cultural and creative buzz.

That is why I have convened the Manchester Cultural COVID Recovery Board to work with the sector to develop a sector stabilisation and stimulus plan. It is why I am making the case to the Government for significant resources to be allocated to Manchester, to back our recovery plan.

Of course, cultural renewal isn’t just about culture; it is about much more. As part of our wider visitor economy, the cultural economy supports employment in the hospitality, night-time and retail sectors. It is about people and society. The impact our cultural and creative sector has on our society is something we have long recognised and championed. It includes community and cultural festivals, groundbreaking international work addressing current issues, and citywide events that

celebrate Manchester’s uniqueness and diversity. Despite the difficulties our local cultural partners are currently facing, I have been so impressed that they have continued to be concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of residents. I know they are already thinking about how they can support and engage with communities in recovery – and I thank them for that.

The Council has been working closely with Arts Council England, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and others to support organisations to stay afloat over these past difficult months. However, without further support from the Government and others, the future looks bleak.

This document summarises the post-COVID-19 position for the cultural sector in the city, the challenges it is facing, the stabilisation measures it requires and, of course, the contribution our creative partners can make to the city’s economic and social recovery. We can all support this plan in different ways: by advocating for the sector; telling people why culture and arts are important to you and to the city; and by making investment in the sector, whether that is grant aid, sponsorship, or simply buying a ticket.

I hope you will join me in keeping the lights on for Manchester.

COVID-19 CULTURE CRISIS

By mid-March 2020, all our arts and cultural venues were closed – with slim prospects of any fully opening soon. It could be late autumn by the time they're back, and then only with social distancing.

The impact is huge, and it now falls to every decision-maker in every sphere to realise the brilliant potential in supporting the recovery of Manchester's cultural sector as we emerge from the COVID-19 emergency.

We must have – and we must all support – a comprehensive recovery plan for arts and culture, because Manchester is the beating heart of the region's cultural sector. Our galleries, museums and cultural venues usually teem with visitors, confirming us as the nation's cultural centre outside the capital.



Best Exhibition:
ZArts – A World inside a Book

CULTURE CENTRE STAGE

In 2017/18, the city's cultural organisations generated over £137million – £41million of which was direct employment. These organisations reached more than 4.4million people, and they are just in the organisations the Council helps to fund. Add the rest, and the case for the importance of the cultural sector for the economy, society and place-making is obvious.

Arts and culture were key to our growth pre-COVID-19, and they'll be crucial to our recovery too. They're what makes Manchester the city it is. They are our reputation. They're what bring people here. Getting our arts scene up and running gets our economy back on track. Putting arts and culture centre stage says Manchester is open for business and leisure – locally, nationally and internationally.

It says:

**“Manchester
is confident,
positive and
fighting these
new economic
threats with
all its old
creativity
and flare.”**



Young Creative: Olivia Lee

HEALING CULTURE

More important still: this is the must-not-miss moment for inclusive growth post-COVID-19 – this sector delivers entry-level jobs and levels up educational achievement for disadvantaged residents. It brings neighbourhoods together in mutual understanding. It proudly showcases the diversity in our communities.

This sector can counter the social damage done by lockdown – to mental health, jobs, training and education. It will do so because we're leaders in boosting health through the arts, in reaching and involving audiences that become excluded, in using culture to teach, inspire and bring strangers together – to commemorate, remember, celebrate and, most importantly, find hope and joy in our neighbourhoods as well as the city centre.

All this is waiting to enhance Manchester's recovery.

CULTURE SHOCK

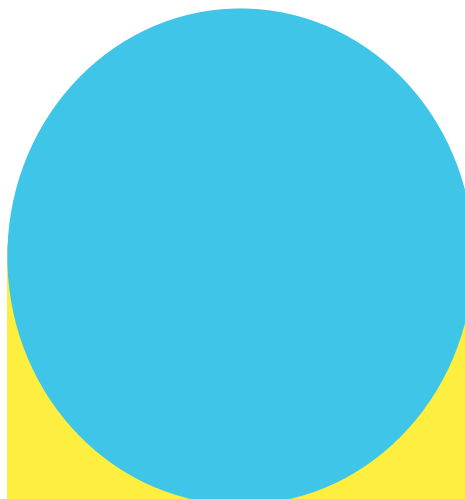
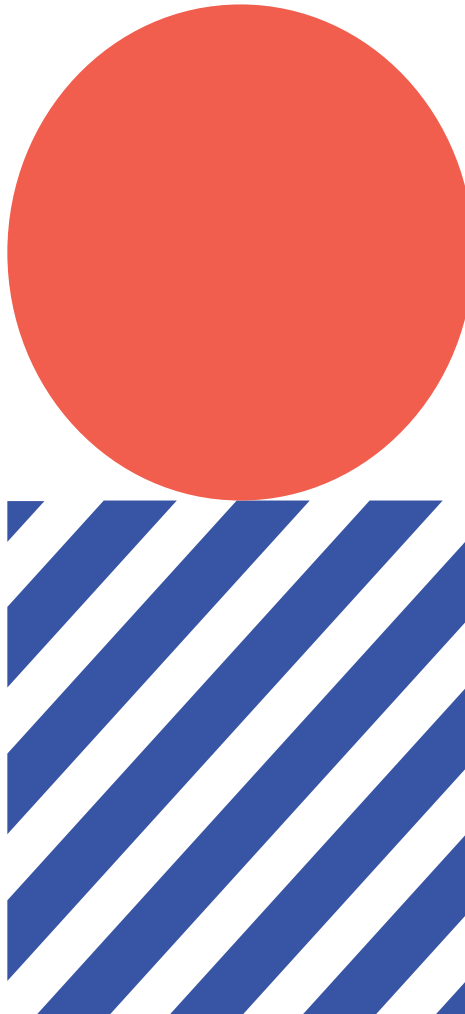
Yet we need to be realistic. The sector will be one of the last out of a devastating lockdown.

This is devastating because arts and cultural organisations are about mass gatherings – something we can no longer take for granted. As social distancing is likely to be here until the end of the year or beyond, some arts and cultural organisations are unlikely to survive. Others will need fundamental changes to what they do and how they do it.

The domain of freelance artists and creatives – vital to our city's creative health – is now damaged, possibly devastated, clearly threatening their ability to support the recovery of our communities and economy.

This harm goes wider – into the creative industries sector and its web of shared people, supply chains and the cross-fertilisation of ideas and content.

Now, more than ever, we need this sector's power to help our residents understand their history – what Manchester means to the world, and what it means to be part of Manchester.



TOWARDS RECOVERY

Yet we can recover. Arts and cultural organisations – large and small – shared their knowledge and supported one another in lockdown, working hard to stabilise their businesses and also offering something to audiences and participants.

We found some kind of cultural organisation in every part of our city in 2018 – offering their own thing to a range of people and communities. They can help make sure the recovery reaches everyone equally.

They're now looking at a recovery programme.

It has to be influenced by the release of the national lockdown, so for planning we're using this estimated lockdown timeline (highly likely to change) as a flexible guide:

June/July 2020

Limited returns to work in some buildings, but with social distancing. No public allowed in buildings.

August – December 2020

Limited, phased relaxation of social distancing for galleries, museums etc, and possibly cafes and restaurants.

January 2021

Further relaxation of social distancing for cinemas, theatres and concert venues.



Inspiring Innovation:
HOME Unlimited Theatre and RashDash

CULTURE CHALLENGE

A national survey has looked at what audiences and participants want, and how the pandemic has influenced the way they behave. People may not return to their previous behaviour.

However, we know the sector is resilient. Its creativity and inclusiveness will find solutions to the economic, social and place-making challenges. Creatives will provide ideas, as well as hope, joy and moments of remembrance, celebration and togetherness. They will bring communities and neighbourhoods together and support young and vulnerable people.

The spirit of sharing in the artistic and cultural community has grown stronger in lockdown. So we can work with one another – and with audiences and participants – as equals, in new and trusting ways to create, together as much as possible, the recovery plan.

Uncertainty about the easing of social distancing is also an opportunity. Organisations may have time, space and kit – maybe people – yet be unable to commit to projects for large audiences or other earned income. This could be the chance for projects that support communities and artists who are prone to be excluded, to recover and reimagine the future.

Summing up, the challenges are:

1. The sector will be badly damaged at all levels by lockdown.
2. The recovery period will be influenced by the extended lockdown.
3. Audiences' and participants' attitudes, values and – more importantly – needs are changing.

The opportunities are:

1. Arts and culture have a vital role in the recovery.
2. A collaborative, supportive, diverse community of artists, creatives, audiences and participants can help to co-author a deliverable, inclusive recovery plan.
3. Space, time and resources to rethink and reimagine.

APPROACH AND STRUCTURE

We need the plan quickly, so we must agree a conceptual structure for it.

We propose three stages, each of which increases access and participation, and works in environmentally sustainable, low-carbon ways.

Short term

Stabilisation and quarantine – April to June 2020 (approx.)

- + Stabilisation of businesses, reducing costs and ensuring they can plan for recovery
- + Getting info on Government support for cultural organisations and freelance creatives.

Short-term quarantine programme

- + Develop new work
- + Support artists and creatives
- + Keep in touch with audiences
- + Support vulnerable people
- + Develop talent.

More than twenty-five arts and cultural organisations in the city are providing online. See more on this.

<https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/info/500361/coronavirus/7928/coronavirus/23>



Company Chameleon in partnership with 42nd Street



Long term

Un-Lock: Creating the New Normal
– December 2020 to end of
August 2021

Programme of events, projects and interventions across the city. At its core will be Manchester International Festival (MIF) 2021, which will support the recovery of our communities and neighbourhoods, and build a sustained message that the city is open and embracing the future.

January – April 2021

Coming out of Restart, Repair and Rethink, smaller gatherings will build audience engagement with an inclusive tone, and promote resident engagement while profiling the city's international outlook, standing for peace, hope, fairness and inclusion.

May – September 2021

This will be a significantly more open and less socially distanced phase – Do It Differently A Culture-Led Response to the COVID-19 Crisis, Summer 2021. Opens with (possibly reimagined) Manchester Day Parade. MIF in July is the heart of this phase – the major pillar in the whole recovery programme, and a beacon for work in earlier phases. End this programme segment with Festival of Manchester, late August.

Medium term

Restart, Repair and Rethink –
June to December 2020 (approx.)

A flexible programme that can respond to changing health and economic circumstances. Focus on communities and the arts and cultural sector, building towards Un-Lock and the beacon event – MIF 21 (see below).

Development of thinking and new models for the future.

In a different world, what needs repair and what needs rethinking?

- + What do communities and neighbourhoods need and want?
- + What are audiences' concerns?
- + How will artists make and present work and respond to this?
- + How do we build on our strengths and networks here and abroad?
- + How do we resist xenophobia?
- + How do we learn and share learning with others here and abroad?
- + How do we engage and support those worst hit by lockdown?

We'll develop this conversation with communities, artists, audiences and our networks to understand the impact COVID-19 has had on future re-engagement with arts and culture.

An artist-led conversation with communities and schools will cover the future they want, rebuilding audience confidence – particularly with the most vulnerable – resulting in events for Un-Lock.



Circus House

Additional points:

- + Get maximum leverage from the artistic strengths of the city, particularly of music through Music Cities Network, and of literature through UNESCO City of Literature.
- + International networks such as UNESCO City of Literature, Music Cities, Danish partnership, Euro Cities and twin cities should feed into the programme.
- + Libraries – a major physical and creative resource – should play a major part in all dimensions of this recovery.
- + Consider bringing co-ordinated promotion of Christmas 2021 into this plan.
- + Build all this into a co-ordinated marketing and PR campaign targeted at residents and regional, UK and international markets.



Culture Recovery Plan Budget - Outline Resource Requirement August 2020

The Culture Recovery Plan Budget provides an outline of the resource it is forecast will be needed to stabilise the sector and support stimulus activity to enable the sector to play its full role in the city's creative, economic, social and well-being recovery. The budget has been produced in consultation with partners and with estimates drawn from previous delivery of the city's calendar of events.

Please note that this funding is not currently in place. The council with partners is working hard to identify sources of funding, which will include further calls to central Government and potential private investors. We are also working with the sector to identify areas of collaboration and individual organisations' fundraising objectives that will contribute to stabilisation and/or programming - as well as where additional support will be required.

The budget outline will be reviewed once the outcome of applications to the Government's Culture Recovery Fund are known.

		2020/21	2021/22	Totals £
		£	£	£
1	Organisational Stabilisation Sub Total	20,735,901	15,210,564	35,946,465
2	Stimulus Plan			
	Restart, Repair, Rethink			
	Arts venues as classrooms	2,500,000	750,000	3,250,000
	Community programmes	800,000	1,000,000	1,800,000
	Apprenticeships, Skills and resources programme	3,500,000	3,500,000	7,000,000
	Digital Transformation	1,800,000		1,800,000
	Music Cities Recovery programme	4,000,000	4,000,000	8,000,000
	Public space animation	600,000	1,000,000	1,600,000
	Sub Total (Restart, Repair, Rethink)	13,200,000	10,250,000	23,450,000
	Unlock			
	Commissioning programme	500,000	4,000,000	4,500,000

	January - April programme	200,000	-	200,000
	April – September programme	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
	September – January programme	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Sub Total (Un-lock)	700,000	7,000,000	7,700,000
	Sub Total - Stimulus Plan	13,900,000	17,250,000	31,150,000
3	Coordination & marketing			
	Marketing & communications	2,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000
	Programme coordination	100,000	100,000	200,000
	Sub Total (Coordination & Marketing)	2,100,000	3,100,000	5,200,000
	TOTAL	36,735,901	35,560,564	72,296,465

Manchester City Council Report for Information

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 8 October 2020

Subject: Update on COVID-19 Activity

Report of: Strategic Director (Growth and Development)

Summary

This report provides Committee Members with a further update summary of the current situation in the city in relation to COVID-19 and an update on the work progressing in Manchester in relation to areas within the remit of this Committee. Further detail on specific issues will be available as required.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the update.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the issues addressed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city

Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	<p>This unprecedented national and international crisis impacts on all areas of our city. The 'Our Manchester' approach has underpinned the planning and delivery of our response, working in partnership and identifying innovative ways to continue to deliver services and to establish new services as quickly as possible to support the most vulnerable in our city.</p> <p>A reset of the Our Manchester Strategy is now underway following a meeting of the Our Manchester Forum on 16 June 2020. An extensive engagement exercise will take place to inform a draft document in late 2020 and a final version in February 2021.</p>
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	

Contact Officers:**Name:** Pat Bartoli**Position:** Director of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure**Telephone:** 0161 234 3329**Email:** p.bartoli@manchester.gov.uk**Name:** Angela Harrington**Position:** Director of Inclusive Economy**Telephone:** 0161 234 3171**Email:** a.harrington@manchester.gov.uk**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

None

Economic Recovery Workstream- Sitrep Summary

As at: 25/09/20 (updated fortnightly) Changes since last updated highlighted in yellow.

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
General overview	<p>Chancellor statement 24/09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job Support Scheme. Guidance to be published shortly. 6 month scheme, starting 1 Nov. To be eligible, employees work a min of 33% of their hours. For remaining hours not worked, govt and employer pay a third of wages each. Mainly for SMEs. Only large businesses that can prove they've been adversely affected will be eligible. (<i>Initial concerns raised about support for those where partial working not possible ie aviation, music sector, live events and support for freelancers.</i>) • Extension of self-employment scheme on similar terms to existing job support scheme. • 'Pay as you grow' scheme for businesses which took govt guaranteed loans. Loans to be extended from 6 to 10 years, with move to interest only payments or suspension of payments if 'they are in real trouble; for up to 6 months. Business Interruption Loans to be extended for up to 10 years. Plus a new loan scheme in Jan. • VAT deferral plan- 12 months interest free payment plan. • Hospitality and tourism- planned VAT increase from 5% to 20% due from Jan cancelled. Lower rate of 5% to remain until March 31 next year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ipsos Mori carried out large scale business survey work of key sector impacts/business needs. Presentation of findings 25/09 • Business Sounding Board- has been working on B2B viral campaign to build confidence in returning to city centre workplaces- was due to go live 24/9. MCC supporting BSB on dashboard of city centre performance data. Business views to be sought on impact of latest changes to understand support needed.

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manchester Business Sounding Board 22/09- Major frustrations raised by businesses on latest restrictions, disruption, nuanced messaging on working from home and potential six month period of restrictions. CBI State of the Economy Report 20/09- UK among hardest hit in GDP terms, sector impacts (unsurprisingly hotels & restaurants, arts & entertainment and services), recovery in spending, recovery hinges on management of C19, near time cashflow constraints biting hard, poorest likely to be hit hardest, concerns re Brexit scenarios and major issue of business preparedness. 	

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
Sectoral Impact	<p>Footfall figures- Footfall slowly increasing week on week.</p> <p>Week of Sun 12th- 19th Sept (Springboard)</p> <p>Year % week % Total -44% +1%</p> <p>St Ann's Square -50% +11%</p> <p>Exchange Square -50% +11%</p> <p>King Street -45% -5%</p> <p>Market Street -45% -5%</p> <p>New Cathedral Street -39% +1%</p> <p>UK comparison high street -29% +2% week</p> <p>Mancr monthly footfall v last year for August: -44.8 % (-38.3 % UK)</p> <p>Significant increases over 14-20 Sept in Fallowfield (41.1%), Withington (30.4%), Cheetham Hill (30.3%), Northenden (24.9%), Rusholme (24.6%).</p> <p>Lowest increase in Harpurhey (1.9%).</p> <p>Hospitality- Govt announcement 22/09 - pubs, bars, restaurants and other hospitality venues must close at 10 pm from Thursday. Table service only. Major concerns raised by the hospitality sector ie around viability of the sector, potential for restaurants to condense bookings, pinch points for movement of people.</p> <p>UKHospitality Chief Executive- <i>"These restrictions are a further, potentially fatal, blow for many hospitality businesses. In isolation, they may appear moderate, but the cumulative effect is going to be hugely damaging. The government must immediately announce an exhaustive package of financial support, otherwise our sector is facing ruin. Employment support must be extended."</i></p>	<p>Hospitality- Work engaging with representatives from the China town business community has commenced to support restaurants with use of outdoor space. Work to identify ways to support venues into the winter including use of eg gazebos is ongoing.</p> <p>NHS COVID App for businesses launches 24/09 enabling the public to automatically "check into" venues.. Designated businesses and organisations, including hospitality, close contact services and leisure venues, will be legally required to display an official NHS QR code poster.</p> <p>Recruitment of new Covid Response officers to work with Environmental Health team has commenced as well as new comms/branding for specific district centres</p>

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
	<p>Whitbread (6,000 jobs at risk) 22/09 Revolution Bars Group has confirmed it is looking at various strategic options, including the possibility of reducing the size of its estate through a CVA (25/09)</p> <p>Visitor economy- Concerns re govt announcement to abolish tax free shopping to all international visitors after Dec 2020. Marketing Manchester urging Treasury to reconsider decision and instead extend tax free scheme to all international visitors. UK would now be the only country in Europe not to offer tax-free shopping to international visitors, which would put at risk £60 million of tax-free sales to GM visitor economy.</p> <p>NatWest Tourism Barometer- fortnightly report surveys 100 businesses in North. Urban/rural divide. Over 8 week period so far, recovery has been slower in urban destinations. Data shows concerning picture for Mancr. In Mancr the percentage of businesses trading with both lower revenue levels and lower visitor numbers are double the average figures for the north, at 60% and 62% respectively, compared to 31% and 30%. Picture also replicated in other northern cities. (23/09)</p> <p>Culture/Events/Sport sector- Live sports events-plans for phased return of fans paused. Business conferences and exhibitions will not reopen on 1st October. (22/09)</p> <p>Venues update: People's History Museum opened 01/09/ The Portico Library opened 01/09/ Centre of Contemporary Chinese Art - 02/09/ HOME opened 04/09 (cinemas, bars and restaurant)/ The International Anthony Burgess Foundation 08/09/</p>	<p>Visitor economy- <i>One Year Recovery plan</i> nearing completion (emerged from discussions with GM Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group).</p> <p>Mancr has won bid to host UKinbound 2021 annual convention- travel trade assn- Feb 21 at The Midland Hotel. #FindYourSpaceMCR (campaign targeted at tourism, hospitality, leisure and cultural sectors) 867,000 impressions on Twitter and 2.19 m impressions on Facebook. (09/09) Campaign to be expanded to wider regional and national audiences in the Autumn.</p> <p>Visit Britain launched UK wide 'Escape the everyday' campaign to boost domestic tourism through Autumn and Winter. 21/09</p> <p>Culture/Events/Sport:</p> <p>Food and Drink Festival rescheduled to April 21.. Wild in Art (who also curated Bee in the City) to lead <i>50 Windows of creativity</i> across city centre in Autumn-showcase work of local artists. (See also separate papers on events plan)</p> <p>Officers to meet with Cultural Leaders Group next week and venues sub group of Business Sounding Board to discuss impact of this week's measures on cultural sectors, plus measures to lobby govt, actions as a sector, and asks of GMCA and other funding partners.</p> <p>Cultural Recovery Board met 10/09 with focus on ACE Fund and reopening of venues.</p>

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	<p>The Whitworth - 14/09/ Manchester Museum - 14/09/ Castlefield Gallery 16/09/ ZArts planning to reopen for participatory activities - 28/09</p> <p>Visitor numbers- 14-20 Sept: Central Library: 3,112 (Mon- Sun) Slight rise on previous week. Art Gallery: 1,544 (Mon- Sun) (1,308 previous week) HOME 8,664 (Sun- Sat) previous week 7,188 (13-19/09)</p> <p>Cultural venues with operations including food and beverages offers will be impacted by govt announcement that curtails operating hours to 10pm and requires table service.</p>	<p>Cultural/ Creative Industries Training & Skills The Factory Academy (TFA) is positioned to respond to support cultural and creative industries sector employers & engage with the Kickstart programme.</p> <p>Factory Futures - launched 23/09 - The programme has been designed to align to the Government's 'Plan for Jobs' aims featuring traineeships and the Kickstart programme. It includes a five-year fully funded pre-employment training programme for 1,400 young people, aged 19-24, who are unemployed or on Universal Credit.</p> <p>Kickstart – TFA working with ACE, sector skills lead - Creative & Cultural Skills and youth arts company Curious Minds to develop a Kickstart bid on behalf of cultural and creative organisations in GM and the NW. With a system to manage the process with DWP supporting cohorts of employers access the programme.</p> <p>Training Academies - start on 28/10 & 18/11 – training for 40, unemployed, young people who would like to learn about the sector & develop vital employability skills. This will become a talent pool for paid internships/kickstart roles. Virtual open day on the 21/10</p> <p>GM Cultural Skills (employer) Consortium will have a virtual meet up in Oct.</p> <p>Music Venues- A survey is going out to music venues to assess the latest position and challenges being faced, current levels of operation in the city and to scope existing applications for govt support via the Culture Recovery Fund.</p>

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	<p>Aviation- The Government's announcement last week that it would reintroduce duty free after Brexit, was accompanied by a decision to scrap tax-free shopping for all tourists visiting the UK. Airport concerned this will have a major impact on its business but also on retail more generally.</p> <p>Fears of further restrictions pushing down travel shares, esp. International Airlines Group.</p> <p>Regionalisation of travel corridors has now been confirmed and attention now moves onto testing, which will be necessary to reopen markets that are currently closed or at risk of closing. Pushing to reopen routes to New York is also in the news this week – Heathrow are leading campaign, also relevant to Manchester.</p> <p>Regionalisation of travel corridors has meant that only certain Greek islands rather than the whole of Greece were removed from the safe travel list, and</p>	<p>DCMS announced £1.57 billion investment 'Culture Recovery Funding' and Culture Recovery Fund Grants - £500m for England Both rounds have closed. Announcement of funding decisions due: <i>Round 1</i> Under £1 million - from 30/9 & no later than 5/10 Over £1 million - 23/10 <i>Round 2</i> Under £1 million - 16/10 Over £1 million - 6/11 Capital Kickstart Fund. £120m to support existing arts & heritage capital projects that have experienced delays to build programmes. £55m to be distributed via ACE. Eligible projects that have applied will receive a decision by 10/11.</p> <p>Invitation to Sec of State for Culture to visit Mancr made public.</p> <p>Aviation- MA signed a letter to the Chancellor along with the Association of International Retail (AIR), Marks & Spencer, and Heathrow amongst others. The letter details a total expected impact across the UK of up to 70,000 jobs and £5.6 billion lost from the economy. (22/09)</p> <p>22/09- Airport pleased to welcome first cohorts of international student arrivals this week. Students arrived on Cathay Pacific and Hainan charter flights and marks the start of six weeks of daily flights from China, specifically for students. Airport been working closely with UK universities and the China Forum to ensure a safe system of travel in place for the students, as well as colleagues and partners supporting these flights. First weekend of flights went smoothly, ready for increased volumes of student arrivals from next week onwards. Still a long way from guest volumes this time last year when record numbers of international students arrived. Over the weekend there were 91,000 guests. Drop of 77% on same weekend last year.</p>

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	<p>Madeira and the Azores were kept on the safe travel list when Portugal was removed. Hungary, Slovenia and Guadeloupe have all also been removed from the safe travel list, though Sweden, Thailand and Singapore have all been added.</p> <p>easyJet, IAG and Cathay Pacific have joined Ryanair and Wizz Air in announcing reductions in previously stated capacity plans.</p> <p>Daily passenger volumes peaked in August and are now decreasing slowly as the end of summer approaches. As of 13 Sept, cumulative traffic at Manchester since 1 Feb 2020 has been 4.1million, 79% down from the same period in 2019. Weekly passengers as of 13 Sept fell 6% from the previous week.</p> <p>As of last week, total UK seat capacity had fallen to 35% of 2019 levels compared to European capacity of 41%. Scheduled capacity increases in the US for the end of Sept have now been scaled back.</p> <p>Thomas Cook brand has been resurrected as an online-only travel agent, owned by Chinese travel conglomerate, Fosun Tourism Group.</p> <p>The EU's 80/20 slot rule waiver (i.e. an airline has to use a slot 80% of the time to retain it) has been extended into the winter 20/21 season. MAG is opposed to this waiver in principle, and intend to respond to the EU's consultation accordingly, as it risks airlines holding slots but not using them, resulting in no revenue for the airport but also preventing other airlines using them. There is a risk of distortion, with airlines likely to restart London</p>	

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	<p>services before Manchester ones. However, the impact of the waiver is expected to be primarily concentrated on Heathrow and Gatwick, where slots are in very short supply, and the material impacts upon Manchester or other MAG airports are expected to be limited. (22/09)</p> <p>Higher Education Institutions- MMU- 20% more students than anticipated. Using additional space to deliver learning at ie Odeon/Great Northern. (18/09)</p> <p>Inward investment- Steady flow of new enquiries- majority are high quality projects with high end jobs across sectors: fintech, e-commerce, cyber security, adv man, life sciences & logistics. Increasing number of UK based relocation enquiries incl from London (primarily fintech/ financial and professional services). Legal sector increasingly regarded as an opportunity.</p> <p>World Investment Report 2020 (UNCTAD- global foreign direct investment projected to drop by 40% this year with recovery not expected by 2022. Challenge for Mancr is to lower the impact as much as possible. Pipeline of 500 projects, 250 live/ in active discussion (90 delayed).</p>	<p>UoM is working hard on visa applications, organising flights into Mancr and issuing regular messages to international students.</p> <p>Virtual fintech mission hosted last week involving 200 people and led to a number of new live enquiries. Forthcoming virtual events around e-commerce, innovation and life sciences. Targeted one to one programme aimed at legal sector north shoring opportunities, in conjunction with UofM (Law and Tech Initiative). MIDAS continuing contact with largest foreign owned companies in GM. (22/09)</p>
Development	<p>Stimulating development & investor confidence, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding current impact through intelligence gathering. • Assessing sources and levels of investment, and any obstacles (access to debt). • Seeking financial and other support needed to enable early start of key projects. • Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures. It is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Reforms- See separate papers on MCC responses. • Announcement of Government approval on 04/08 for Getting Building Funding for BASE Manchester Innovation Activities Hub at MSP (£4M) and Mayfield (£23M). Draft offer letters received early September, with final terms being negotiated with GMCA. • 3 Manchester approved in principle for Round 1(22/09) of the Brownfield Land Fund (for schemes due to start 2020-21) - New Cross Central, Mulbury

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	<p>becoming increasingly apparent that the appetite of contractors to bid for apartment led residential schemes has been significantly impacted in the short term due to issues in the supply chain (i.e. loss of subcontractors and access to materials). This concern has also been raised by developers of commercial schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites. • Expediting design & planning phases of projects. • Productivity increased across most major sites- 97% of infrastructure and construction sites now operating. Social distancing measures impacting on programmes. Issues re supply chain/access to materials. Infrastructure sites are now achieving 89% of pre-Covid productivity. Housing sites 93% of sites now open. Reports that contractors are planning to reduce workforce by 11 % within the next 3 months. 	<p>City - New Cross Zone A and Viadux. Prioritisation for the next round is expected to start in the next 2 months. Decision awaited on the bid for an additional 10% allocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key shovel ready schemes are included within Recovery Plan. • Pre contract discussions have been held with Homes England on Northern Gateway, with a view to entering in a contract in September, securing £51.6m in Housing Investment Fund grant that must be fully expended by March 2024. • Community consultation on the first phase of the delivery of Collyhurst will be restarted in advance of planning applications for the delivery of approximately 270 homes (including up to 130 new Council properties) in Collyhurst Village and Collyhurst South and the first phase of a new park. The intention is that this consultation exercise will lead to the submission of planning applications in the Autumn of 2020. Scheme could commence Spring 2021. • NOMA and Central Retail Park live consultations on regeneration frameworks
Affordable Housing	<p>Risk to developer and investor confidence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with RP's and other developers to understand current impact and forward plans. • Assessing sources and levels of investment, and any obstacles • Investigating grant funding, financial and other support needed to enable early start of key projects • Understanding supply chain issues and identifying appropriate support measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) called for RP's to provide revisions of their business plans by September. This will identify any viability risks but should also identify progress on development programmes. • Managing existing onsite, pipeline and planned development with RP's. These were referenced in the June Executive report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 398 homes under construction and anticipated in the 2020/21 year. Re-mobilization of sites now underway.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developing guidance/share good practice for safe operation of sites ● Expediting design & planning phases of projects. ● Risk of registered providers slowing down or pausing programmes to consolidate finances/liquidity ● Ensure Zero Carbon and Fire safety provision are part of the programmes. ● Potential flooding of the PRS sector as the short term let market shrinks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 252 homes currently in the programme for 2021/22. ○ New projects emerging. ○ The scheme with Clarion has been finalised to deliver shared ownership homes for the full development ● Silk Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Silk Street funding has been approved and will be progressing through the Capital Strategy Board. The project team being established to take this through to delivery with Rowlinson Construction. ● Progressing the establishment of a Local delivery vehicle. Looking to start on site with key projects and novate across. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CBRE will be appointed on 31/07/2020 to undertake master planning and cost build up of the proposed sites for the vehicle. It is anticipated that this will take approx 4 weeks which will then feed into the financial modelling and business case scheduled to be included in the report to Oct Executive ● Project 500 progressing. Will deliver 500-600 homes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ward members will be contacted about the sites within their wards in Sept. (13/08) ● Entering into formal agreement with Homes England and signing an MOU to take a partnership approach to accelerated development. Complements similar arrangements with GMCA. Report to Oct Executive ● Ongoing intelligence gathering with developers to understand status of projects and support needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MHPP Growth workstream capturing current position and plans. ● Prioritisation of land assembly and due diligence to allow acceleration of build programme.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with Your Housing Group to bring forward a 200+ newbuild scheme in East Manchester with 60% planned for affordable housing
Transport and Infrastructure	<p>Work with TfGM to agree a broad overall transport plan to support gradual opening up of the city with a focus on pedestrian movement and safe use of public transport linked to an agreed package of measures to support safe pedestrian access.</p>	<p><u>Recent Manchester Specific Transport Usage Data</u></p> <p><u>Bus Patronage</u> +1.6% (770,773) trips from the previous week (vs. +1.6% GM-wide). Network mileage -13.9% from the same month last year (vs. -17.2% GM-wide)</p> <p><u>Metrolink</u> Metrolink Network patronage had a week on week decrease of 1.3% GM-wide. East Didsbury line was -2.7% (848) trips</p> <p><u>Highway</u> In Manchester, the weekly average private vehicle trips was -16% from typical volumes during the same period last year. The Regional Centre figures are slightly lower -20% (The GM-wide figure is -16%)</p> <p><u>Rail</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piccadilly footfall is now in excess of 50,000 per day (-50% from last year though) Victoria daily footfall around 5,000 per day (+30% from the start of month) <p>New national figures from train operators show 3 million fewer passengers on Tuesday 1st September than a year ago, with only a slight increase in commuters. The data indicated that total journeys were just 38% of the equivalent day in 2019, a proportion that had been steadily increasing over the last two months but is only marginally higher than last week.</p> <p><u>Cycling & Walking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant drop in cycle volumes (GM) over first two weeks of Sept- around a third.

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		<p>GM Wide Data Data from the last week shows the following differences with the position on 09/03 showing a gradual but slow increase in public transport usage across GM, with car travel much closer to pre lockdown levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Metrolink patronage 9/3/20 = 122,613 14/7/20= 31884 4/9/20=53,215 18/09/20= 56,884 ○ Bus 9/3/20 515,309 14/7/20 191,093 24/8/20 238,503 4/9/20 292,832 18/09/20 333,220 Rail 9/3/20 104,795 14/7/20 28,700 11/09/20 48,123 18/09/20 47,871 GM Highway 9/3/20 5,082,000 14/7/20 4,032,000 25/8/20 4,370,915 8/9/20 4,528,836 18/09/20 4,838,128 <p>Latest year on year data on car park usage across the NCP Joint Venture car parks shows a mixed picture. Generally those car parks that focus on retail or leisure markets (King St West and Arndale) are doing better in terms of recovery to last year's volumes, than those focussing on commuters or business related journeys (eg Spinningfields). 01/09</p> <p>Face Coverings- Compliance across the transport network remains around 80% on bus and is now between 90-95% overall on rail. Compliance on Metrolink last week</p>

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		<p>was near 89% in the AM peak, but fell to just below 77% in the evening peak</p> <p><u>City Centre Transport Strategy consultation launched this week.</u></p> <p><u>Emergency Active Travel Fund</u> MCC has obtained £180k from the first phase of the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) to contribute to funding of work undertaken at Deansgate and Stevenson Square.</p> <p>Proposals have been submitted by TfGM for phase 2 of EATF. A bid to the value of £14 m was submitted on 7th Aug and £5.5 m of this was for proposals to support active travel within Mcr. Decision delayed and not expected until October.</p>
	Analysis of businesses' plans for reopening, working with TfGM, CA, Chamber, Growth Company	TfGM linked into Day Time Economy recovery group work
	Identify and implement interventions that support social distancing and support business reopening and procure necessary equipment to facilitate this.	A presentation on outline proposals for the re - purposing of more city centre streets and open spaces to support hospitality businesses was given to the City Centre Infrastructure Working Group on 23rd July. These initial ideas are now being developed further in consultation with members to support businesses over Autumn period. The proposals seek to draw on best practice from other cities in the UK and abroad.
	Continue with highway works that can be undertaken during lockdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing with all our major projects that are on site and continuously monitoring government guidance about construction Finding ways to accelerate all our programme of walking and cycling schemes aiming to have early starts on all our programmed projects

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining our roads at business as usual levels by inspecting them and making repairs • Resurfacing and treating many more main roads than originally planned to take advantage of lower traffic levels • Working with TfGM to review bus stops and increase pedestrian phasing at signalised crossings.
Skills, Labour Market and Business Support	<p>Significant growth in the number of Manchester residents claiming Universal Credit. Evidence base for THINK work shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89% rise in claimant count in Manchester during April & May - 33,825 claimants; • affects every LSOA in the City & all age ranges; • particular impact on young people which has seen an increase of 98% (national fig 109%) & over 50s (73%); • concentrations in areas with large Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities e.g. Longsight, Moss Side, Cheetham • 32% of Manchester residents are either furloughed (62,200) or receiving self-employment support (15,900); • Job losses compounded by significant drop in levels of vacancies; • 800 16-18 year olds who would normally pursue apprenticeships or move into employment at risk; • 74% national decline in apprenticeships • circa 10,000 graduates who would normally stay in the City will struggle to get graduate level work. <p>ONS release in September - Aug figs- for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THINK have produced their report on skills & labour market recommendations (shared with Scrutiny Committee Members at the last meeting) with 6 key priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) minimise the number of Manchester residents moving from furlough to redundancy as the job retention scheme winds down; (2) support unemployed Manchester residents to re-enter work as quickly as possible especially young people, those aged over 50 and BAME; (3) maximise new job creation, increasing overall labour demand in the City; (4) minimise the number of young people who become unemployed after leaving education and training in Manchester; (5) support apprenticeships & other training opportunities to better equip employers with the skills to survive & grow, while helping more residents to progress & upskill in their careers; (6) improve the support available to unemployed, long-term inactive residents to reduce the risk that they are “crowded out” of the jobs market with the influx of new claimants • Following the Kickstart launch we continue to work with MGC and GMCA, in addition to briefing

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	<p>Manchester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claimant count: 35,275 all ages up from 34,255 in July; 7090- aged 16-24; 21870 up from 21,445 (July)-aged 25 to 49 and 6405 up from 6220 aged over 50. Of the 35,275, men account for 21,680 and women 13,595. The increase in claimant count numbers of 1,020 over the last month represents a large increase but not as sharp an increase as in April & May. It is expected that the next significant rise in unemployment will be in October when furlough comes to an end <p>4.4% of 16 & 17 year olds were NEET in July and 3.6% were unknown, giving a combined fig of 8% which is above national & GM averages.</p> <p>The majority of post-16 providers are registering on line this year which may impact on school leavers taking up their offer.</p> <p>UOM and MMU have raised concerns about the employment outcomes for their class of 2019 as well as 2020. Also an impact on students employability from the loss of work experience and internships.</p> <p>Digital exclusion correlates strongly with social exclusion and its effect on residents has been exacerbated by the Covid crisis.</p> <p>Latest Growth Company fortnightly survey- GM companies planning redundancies increased to 9% for period 29/09- 14/09- up from 2%. (23/09)</p> <p>Also reports: No of GM businesses reporting cashflow issues decreased by 1% to 29% (17/08- 14/09)</p>	<p>employers and partner organisations to gauge interest and understand opportunities and challenges. Work continues internally to develop models for The Council's approach as both an employer and advocate for the scheme, including how we can promote and influence the delivery to ensure maximum impact across the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kickstart briefing note has been produced and associated comms being developed. FSB (support organisation for SME's) has launched a national gateway for the Kickstart scheme, to provide an easy route for SME's to participate in the scheme. Return to post-16 colleges and 6th forms is going well. Enrolments on level 2 & 3 courses are up but fewer enrolling on level 1 courses Adult Education providers have also returned. Social distancing in class rooms, reduces capacity & efficiency and where possible online learning is being used to enable similar numbers of learners accessing learning. Early indications are that retention on online courses is lower than traditional approaches and a challenge for learners with low skill levels. Meetings have taken place with the career leads in UOM and MMU to identify gaps including the under-employment of graduates and link HEIs to more business & work opportunities Landing page is now live on the Council website. www.manchester.gov.uk/HelpToGetWork. Soft launch has taken place & 30 residents have registered support. Early intel is that 60% of those registering for support are aged between 25 and 44, most of whom are already unemployed. Further communications are being put in place to raise awareness.

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	<p>No. of businesses reporting less than 6 months reserves decreased by 5% to 27% (17/08- 14/09)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An application to DWP's Flexible Support Fund is being explored to wrap around our existing work club offer to offer enhanced support in BAME communities. • The Manchester Adult Education & Skills Partnership is working together on a Comms plan to better promote learning & skills opportunities to employers, residents & community organisations; • Manchester Digital Device Scheme has been set up & a steering group established to manage the roll out and evaluation of the device scheme. • 30 x £50K projects have been agreed with GMCA (one with a focus on digital access, one with a focus on adult education collaboration and promotion and one to extend the ESOL Advice Service) • The ESOL Advice service will be developed as a cross GM project (excluding Wigan, Bolton and Stockport) which will bring with it efficiencies of scale and has already peaked the interest of other MCA areas. • The Work & Skills, MAES & Commissioning teams are working with Manchester's home care providers to connect unemployed residents to the employment opportunities and agree future approaches to training & progression within the sector, delivery for the first cohort of learners starts in the next couple of weeks. • Employ GM website has been developed to include a specific retail campaign. The site has seen over 25000 visitors and there were 1,454 unique visitors to the site in the last week. • Grant funding payments to SMEs as at 30/08 MCC paid over £101.8 m (allocation £121 m). The W&S team is dealing with the final enquiries relating to the Discretionary Business Grants scheme with the final payments to go out by the end of September. To

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		<p>date the scheme has paid out £5.4m and will be fully spent by the end of September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W&S team are working with the Business Growth Hub to provide additional support to tier one construction contractors to build local supply chains. Some initial meetings with contractors are scheduled to get this underway. • GMCVO have a loan fund of £1.5m to support social enterprises to recover from the effects of Covid and are prioritising their support for organisations in the sector delivering employability & skills support and working with BAME communities • The govt announced yesterday new funding to support businesses impacted by coronavirus. Businesses in England required to close due to local lockdowns or targeted restrictions will now be able to receive grants of either £1,000 or £1,500 every three weeks. To be eligible for the grant, a business must have been required to close due to local coronavirus restrictions. The Work & Skills Team is working with the Business rates team to promote the scheme. • A new fund to support individuals on low income (UC or tax credit recipients) to self-isolate has been announced. Further details awaited. • MCC will relaunch our Brexit web pages and actively promote webinars & sources of support to businesses in the City. • Officers are finalising an ERDF bid which if successful would see an additional £2.6m to support business start-up & support services through GM libraries, delivered by the Manchester Business Library service through BIPC.
Funding	No specific known impacts on current external funding bids caused by C19 as yet. Known bids	The City Policy team is continuing to track new funding opportunities from a range of sources including

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	<p>progressing through funding approval processes as expected.</p> <p>Team in City Policy developing a funding action plan based on C19 recovery and Corporate priorities</p>	<p>Government and European programmes which remain open to UK applicants. The main funds of note this week are:</p> <p>1) Public Sector Decarbonisation £1 billion fund. Announced by the Chancellor in July. Further details of this are expected imminently.</p> <p>GMCA written to Chief Execs advising that a GM bid will be made and asking districts to join that bid. At this stage it is our view that we should do so. It is estimated the funding will be open from 17th October, and GM LA's will be able to apply for £20-40m of capital funding. Officers to progress with GMCA colleagues and through internal Zero Carbon Coordination group.</p> <p>2) Green Recovery Challenge Fund</p> <p>The Resources & Programmes team are supporting 2 GM bids, with EOIs submitted 24/9/20. Successful EOIs will have 3 weeks in which to submit a full application.</p> <p>Groundwork GM - looking to include Wythenshawe Woodlands & work to remove invasive species from river valleys in GM, inc. Irk, Mersey and Medlock.</p> <p>Lancashire Wildlife Trust - further greening of Rochdale Canal in city centre.</p> <p>3) Horizon 2020 Green Deal- opened on 22/09 with applications due by Jan 26th 21.</p> <p>Resource & Programmes team will be identifying any relevant calls and bringing to the Zero Carbon Coordination Group if any bidding opportunities found.</p>

Issue/theme/activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
Strategy & Economic Narrative Review	C19 has necessitated a review of existing strategies to understand whether they are fit for purpose given the predicted exacerbation of existing inequalities. This will inform the Economic Recovery Plan & Our Manchester Strategy reset. Formal refreshes would not take place until 2021 when the Our Manchester Strategy has been reset and the full impact of C19 is known.	Economic Recovery Plan update- A summary version of the slides and projects has been submitted to Government with the CSR submission. (See separate attachments). The final version of the Plan will be finalised and professionally designed to allow use locally and nationally to build business and investor confidence and for lobbying.
External Influencing & Lobbying	The Government's economic response to C19 has been fast moving and feeding in Manchester's priorities has required a coordinated approach.	Comprehensive Spending Review- Submissions to Government have now been made by the Council, Greater Manchester, UK Core Cities and the Convention of the North. Final versions can be circulated to members. The submissions have been cross referenced to ensure consistency.
Economic Intelligence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to engage with Manchester Businesses and Key sectors to understand current status re Covid related impacts. 2. Understanding of businesses in rented spaces and analysis to support the Business Rates Discretionary Grants. 3. Need to understand status of development pipeline across the city. 4. Need to update population modelling (MCCFM), reflecting both the impacts on and from the economy. 5. Demand appraisal for residential lettings market in Manchester post pandemic. 6. Challenge re the scale of analytical capacity required to support this, other Covid-19 workstreams and Business as Usual activities. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ipsos Mori large scale survey of Manchester based businesses now closed. Interviews with over 700 businesses between 16/07 and 17/08. Headline findings presented to EMG Economic Recovery Group on 25/09. 2. Tracking underway - pipeline used to support Financial Resilience work - including forecasting potential council tax & business rates revenues - drafts for forecast CT / BR revenues from new development with Finance colleagues for comment 3. Update of the MCCFM is in progress, more difficult and time consuming than normal due to macro uncertainties. ONS Mid Year Estimates released recently to support this work. 4. Data sweep complete - work now underway to collate trends across sub-sectors (mainstream, students, short term lets) to contribute to overall appraisal. 5. Ongoing discussions to re-prioritise work areas and understand where the gaps may be. Risk we could run out of internal capacity. Future format for

Issue/theme/ activity area	Impact/ challenges experienced	Key planning and response activity being undertaken
		economic monitoring currently being considered.

25/09/20 Response to a question from Cllr Russell on:**Support for girls, women, and black, Asian and minority ethnic community residents into work /careers**

The Work and Skills Team will play an important role in aspects of the City's recovery plan relating to skills, employment, training and business support and growth.

Areas of work for the team as part of this plan include:

- Supporting newly unemployed residents back into employment.
- Ensuring our residents aged 16-19 are supported as they transition into sustainable employment, education or training opportunities.
- Support the wider employment and training of our young people through traineeships, apprenticeships and graduate employment.
- Support the creation of skills, training and employment opportunities for adult residents.
- Ensuring that our organisation's approach to social value reflects and supports the above work areas and provides opportunities for local businesses to grow.
- Stabilise and support businesses affected by the pandemic and enable new business to start and grow.

Across all these areas of work we have identified the city's black, asian and minority ethnic residents, in particular black residents, as a cohort who are disproportionately affected by coronavirus and the economic consequences of the pandemic. The other two groups who have been disproportionately affected by the rapid rise in unemployment are young people and those aged over 50. The evidence on women is less clear at the moment, as fewer women than men are appearing in the claimant count. It is likely that more will have left the labour market and become economically inactive but we won't have the evidence on that for some time.

Pre-Covid, the Work & Skills Team has worked with partner organisations in the City including schools, colleges, training providers and Jobcentre Plus to increase the opportunities for young people and residents from disadvantaged communities in our growth sectors and worked with businesses to diversify their workforces. Examples include the work with Tech Manchester who have accessed Fast Track Digital funding from the Combined Authority to train up local women in Hulme, Moss Side and Fallowfield in software engineering with guaranteed interviews for all who participate. Tech Manchester work closely with an African Women's organisation. We support Innovate Her to work with girls in schools to engage & excite more of them about a career in digital and did a specific programme with Savannah Wisdom on a programme for young women from a South Asian background. We have also worked with Digital Advantage, a CIC to secure funding to develop a digital internship programme for SEND young people, which builds on successful digital programmes in our special schools.

The impact of Covid has highlighted the need to focus more on race as a cross-cutting theme that is relevant to all of the recovery work areas, and the team is undertaking a number of activities to support initiatives for BAME residents.

Specific examples of work currently underway include:

Match funding the business case for the development of MIAH, a project designed by The Blair Project. MIAH is a black-led STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) skills hub which will be based on Manchester's Oxford Road and support up to 20 BAME led small and medium sized enterprises and provide opportunities for careers in STEM for young people;

Locally funded work clubs play an important role in the heart of the community. Data gathered last year indicated that 28.4% of residents attending local work clubs were from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, which accounted for 919 residents. Given the recent increases in unemployment in these communities we have applied for flexible support funding from DWP to enhance the offer.

Proposal currently going through an approval process to include BAME residents as a "priority cohort" within our social value policy and guidance to ensure that opportunities created in our supply chains are targeted at these residents specifically.

Linking in with ESOL provision (where a significant number of service users are non-white) to refer into other services such as Working Well.

Commissioning Black People Music (BPM) to host a series of CEIAG workshops for the black community during and beyond the - See My World Pan-African themed Festival. Workshops include a focus on the creative and digital industries, mental and physical Health in the workplace, employability and entrepreneurialism and community Resilience.

Digital Inclusion programme - as part of the programme, libraries are steering a working group for those organisations who support residents with English not first language or who are from our black, asian or ethnic minority communities with their digital skills. The working group has decided that they would like to become a network, to better reach more of the community and engage them with digital for both work and life. A number of the organisations are also exploring the potential of supporting their own workforce to digitally upskill.

Funding InnovateHer, a national skills initiative which is dedicated to giving girls aged 12-16 the skills, self-belief and confidence to pursue a career in digital. They deliver an eight week after-school programme with a focus on encouraging greater equality and diversity in technical roles. The Work & Skills budget has provided funding for six Manchester schools in total over the past two years. Schools that were chosen have a diverse demographic of girls and include; Cedar Mount in Gorton, Whalley Range High School, and Eden Girls Leadership Academy in Cheetham Hill.

Supporting delivery of the Factory Futures traineeship scheme that aims to connect disadvantaged young people from all backgrounds, who would not normally pursue a career in the arts or creative industries, with opportunities as part of Manchester International Festival and The Factory.

The Our Town Hall Project has now implemented equality and diversity monitoring across the project and undertakes activities to specifically target under-represented

groups, for example project Architects Purcell supported a careers event at Manchester Islamic High School for girls in 2019. The following year they were able to offer work experience to a student from that event who became interested in studying construction in the built environment and is looking to pursue a career in architecture. A placement has been agreed and will commence in Autumn 2020.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Economy Scrutiny Committee – 8 October 2020

Subject: Overview Report

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the following information:

- Recommendations Monitor
- Key Decisions
- Items for Information
- Work Programme

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to discuss and note the information provided.

Wards Affected: All

Contact Officers:

Name: Mike Williamson
Position: Team Leader- Scrutiny Support
Telephone: 0161 234 3071
Email: m.williamson@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 the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

This section of the report contains recommendations made by the Committee and responses to them indicating whether the recommendation will be implemented, and if it will be, how this will be done.

Items highlighted in grey have been actioned and will be removed from future reports.

Date	Item	Recommendation	Response	Contact Officer
10 Oct 2018	ESC/18/45 Gap analysis of the City's Bus network service	To request information including a summary of data that has been used to date to underpin current findings, including information on frequencies of services and services that have been removed or reduced in the last three years.	A response to this request is still outstanding	Pat Bartolli

2. Key Decisions

The Council is required to publish details of key decisions that will be taken at least 28 days before the decision is due to be taken. Details of key decisions that are due to be taken are published on a monthly basis in the Register of Key Decisions.

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution is an executive decision, which is likely:

- To result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
- To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the city.

The Council Constitution defines 'significant' as being expenditure or savings (including the loss of income or capital receipts) in excess of £500k, providing that is not more than 10% of the gross operating expenditure for any budget heading in the in the Council's Revenue Budget Book, and subject to other defined exceptions.

An extract of the most recent Register of Key Decisions, published on **25 September 2020**, containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

Development and Growth					
Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
Brownfield Land Register Update 2019 2019/03/01D To publish Manchester's Brownfield Land Register.	Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 29th Mar 2019		Report and Recommendation	Louise Wyman – Strategic Director Growth and Development louise.wyman@manchester.gov.uk
Delivering Manchester's Affordable Homes to 2025 - Establishment of Strategic Partnership with Homes England (2019/09/05A) To negotiate and formalise a Strategic Partnership with Homes England to enable the delivery of Manchester Affordable Homes to 2025	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 4th Oct 2019	In consultation with the Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Finance and HR	Report and Recommendation	Steve Sheen s.sheen@manchester.gov.uk
Delivering Manchester's Affordable Homes to 2025 - Disposal of sites (2019/09/05B)	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 4th Oct 2019	In consultation with Strategic Director (Growth and Development)	Report and Recommendations	Steve Sheen s.sheen@manchester.gov.uk

To agree the disposal of sites in Council ownership for the provision of affordable homes			and Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Finance and HR		
Delivering Manchester's Affordable Homes to 2025 - Establishment of Partnership arrangements with Registered Providers (2019/09/05C) To establish partnership arrangements with Registered Providers together with their partners/consortium for defined areas in the North, Central, South and Wythenshawe areas of the City.	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 4th Oct 2019	In consultation with City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive) and the Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Finance and HR	Report and recommendation	Steve Sheen s.sheen@manchester.gov.uk
Delivering Manchester's Affordable Homes to 2025 -Agreement of legal terms (2019/09/05D) To enter into and complete all necessary legal documents and agreements to give effect to delivering Manchester's Affordable Homes to 2025	City Solicitor	Not before 4th Oct 2019		Report and recommendations	Fiona Ledden, City Solicitor fiona.ledden@manchester.gov.uk

<p>Buying back former Council properties - Policy approval (2019/09/05E)</p> <p>To approve a policy for the Council to buying back properties which have been sold under the Right to Buy to increase the amount of social housing and to reduce the number of former Council properties entering the private rented sector.</p>	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 4th Oct 2019	In consultation with the City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive) and the Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Finance and HR, following consultation with local Ward Members.	Report and Recommendation	Martin Oldfield m.oldfield@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Buying back former Council properties - Setting of purchase prices (2019/09/05F)</p> <p>To agree purchase prices and make any necessary arrangements to purchase properties in line with the policy</p>	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 4th Oct 2019	In consultation with City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive) and the Executive Members for Housing and Regeneration and Finance and HR	Report and recommendation	Martin Oldfield m.oldfield@manchester.gov.uk

Heron House General Letting Consent (2019/11/25A) To agree to the disposal by Leasehold of office accommodation at Heron House.	Chief Executive	Not before 24th Dec 2019		Briefing Note & Heads of Terms	Mike Robertson m.robertson@manchester.gov.uk
Purpose Built Student Accommodation in Manchester (2020/05/28F) To agree an approach to Purpose Built Student Accommodation, following a consultation exercise with key stakeholders, to help to guide the decision making process in advance of the review of the core strategy, and request that the Planning and Highways Committee (or agreed interim procedure of planning determination by the Chief Executive) take this into material consideration until the core strategy has been reviewed.	Executive	3 Jul 2020		Report and Recommendation	Dave Roscoe d.roscoe@manchester.gov.uk, Pat Bartoli p.bartoli@manchester.gov.uk
Demolition of former police station at Grey Mare Lane (2020/08/19B)	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Oct 2020		Briefing Note & Eastlands Regeneration Framework 2020	Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk

To approve funding for the demolition of the former police station.					
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3. Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – October 2020

Thursday 8 October 2020, 10.00am (Report deadline Monday 28 September 2020)				
THEME – Planning reforms and economic recovery of the Cultural Offer				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director / Lead Officer	Comments
Proposed Planning Reforms	<p>To receive a report that outlines the Government's proposed planning reforms and the potential implications these will have to the Council and the City's economy.</p> <p>To include information on the progress to date with the Local Plan and GMSF</p>	<p>Cllr Stogia (Exec Member for Environment, Planning and Transport)</p> <p>Cllr Leese (Leader)</p> <p>Cllr Richards (Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration)</p>	<p>Julie Roscoe Richard Elliott Duncan McCorquodale</p>	
Economic recovery of the City's Cultural Sector	To receive a report on the impact of COVID19 on the City's cultural sector; access to national and local financial support and any potential gaps	<p>Cllr Leese (Leader)</p> <p>Cllr Rahman (Executive Member for</p>	<p>David Houlston Dave Moutrey</p>	

		Skill, Culture and Leisure)		
Economy COVID19 Sit Rep Report	To receive the most up to date Economy COVID19 Sit Rep report that details how the Council and the city is progressing with the recovery phase of COVID19 against the areas within the remit of this Committee.	Cllr Leese (Leader)	Louise Wyman David Houlston Angela Harrington Richard Elliott Pat Bartoli Ruth Ashworth	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.		Mike Williamson	

Thursday 5 November 2020, 10.00am (Report deadline Monday 26 October 2020)				
THEME – North Manchester Regeneration and OMS				
Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director / Lead Officer	Comments
Budget paper	Precise details to be confirmed	Cllr Leese (Leader) Cllr Richards (Exec Member for Housing and Regeneration)	Louise Wyman	
North Manchester General Hospital	To receive a report that provides details on the anticipated economic and social benefits that the development will bring to the local community and wider area and consider and comment on the North Manchester General Hospital SRF	Cllr Leese (Leader)	Louise Wyman Angela Harrington	
ALMO Review	To receive a report that provides a review the outcome of the Test of Opinion and proposals for insourcing prior to the Executive ratifying the preferred option.	Cllr Richards (Exec Member for Housing and Regeneration)	Louise Wyman Kevin Lowry	
Economy COVID19 Sit Rep Report	To receive the most up to date Economy COVID19 Sit Rep report that details how the Council and the city is	Cllr Leese (Leader)	Louise Wyman David Houlston Angela Harrington	Item for Information only

	progressing with the recovery phase of COVID19 against the areas within the remit of this Committee.		Richard Elliott Pat Bartoli Ruth Ashworth	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.		Mike Williamson	

Themes identified at the Committee's 2020/21 Work Programme setting meeting (Items highlighted in grey indicate that these have been included in the work plan of one of the above meetings)	
Theme	Tentative Date of meeting
Manchester Airport To include information on addressing the economic recovery of the Airport whilst tackling the Climate Emergency	Post Nov 2020
Building Back Better To include information on:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clearer understanding of what the Council's levers are and the options available to the Council • The use of levers to deliver a fairer society, better/higher skilled jobs, better pay and green economy • Addressing inequalities, linked to Economy Dashboard 	Post Nov 2020
Digital Economy and the Impact of COVID19 on how the City operates To include information on:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Digital Economy and the development of a Digital Strategy • Review of office space in the city and implications of COVID19 in businesses/employees returning to work • Review of the next employment sectors at risk of de-labourising and interventions to re-skill people in advance • Automation and technology in the workplace and implications for employment opportunities 	Post Nov 2020
Transport To include information on:-	Post Nov 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Centre Infrastructure issues and aspirations for long term transport investment • Bus Franchising 	
Outcomes of the THINK report recommendations To include a review of the impact of the recommendations within the THINK report with an opportunity to hear directly from residents on how they have been affected	Post Nov 2020
Manchester College To include an update from the Manchester College on its performance and how it is recovering from the impact of COVID19	Post Nov 2020
Work and Skills To include details around the assistance provided to BAME communities impacted by COVID19 in developing skills for employment opportunities and assistance to small businesses impacted by COVID	Post Nov 2020

Previous Items identified by the Committee to be scheduled (New items added in blue)				
Theme – Strategic Regeneration				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Northern Gateway	To receive an update on the progress and outline anticipated wider social and economic benefits to North Manchester from the development that has been made with the Northern Gateway since the last time it was considered by the Committee	Cllr Leese (Leader) Cllr Richards (Exec Member for Housing and Regeneration)	Louise Wyman Ian Slater	
Outcome of the consultation with stakeholders in relation to the proposed Housing Affordability Zones	To receive a report on the outcome of the consultation with stakeholders on the four proposed Housing Affordability Zones	Councillor Richards (Exec Member for Housing and Regeneration)	Louise Wyman	See November 2017 minutes
Theme – Transport and Connectivity				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Bus Franchising update	To receive an update on the Greater Manchester Mayors proposals to	Cllr Leese	Richard Elliott	

	franchise the regions bus service impact this will have on the city's economy			
Theme - Skills development for Manchester residents aged 16 and over.				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Higher Education provision and its impact on the City's economy	To be determined	Cllr Rahman (Exec Member Skills Culture and Leisure)	Angela Harrington	
Hospitality and Tourism skills gap	To receive report on the issue around skills challenges within the hospitality and tourism sector	Cllr Rahman (Exec Member Skills Culture and Leisure)	Pat Bartoli Angela Harrington	See November 2017 minutes
Theme – Growing the Manchester Economy				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Business Survival rates and the impact on the economy	To receive a report that details the survival rate of new start up business within the city and the economic impact to the city when these businesses fail	Councillor Leese	Mark Hughes (The Growth Company) Louise Wyman Pat Bartoli Angela Harrington	
City Centre Business Engagement	TBC	Councillor Leese	Pat Bartoli Louise Wyman	

Theme - Miscellaneous				
Item	Purpose	Lead Executive Member	Lead Officer	Comments
Our Manchester Strategy re-set	To receive a report that details the findings from the engagement process on the re-set of the Our Manchester Strategy	Cllr Leese (Leader)	Louise Wyman David Houliston	
Outcome of the findings from the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research	To receive a report in regards to what is needed to be achieved at Manchester Airport to address carbon emissions	Councillor Stogia	TBC	TBC