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**Tuesday, 22 November 2022**

Dear Councillor / Honorary Alderman,

### **Meeting of the Council – Wednesday, 30th November, 2022**

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 30th November, 2022, in The Council Chamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.

**1. The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business**

**2. Interests**

To allow members an opportunity to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax or Council rent arrears. 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

**3. Minutes**

9 - 30

To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2022.

**4. Notice of Motion - Support the Climate and Ecology Bill**

This summer, the UK has witnessed the highest temperatures on record, nine regions of drought zones and the driest July since 1935. Alongside this, there is the looming danger of the cost of living crisis with energy prices rising fourfold and experts predicting that two-thirds of the UK population will be under threat of fuel poverty by January 2023.

Our over-reliance on fossil fuels and the need for a transition to renewable energy has never been so clear.

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. The global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, and the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction.

Council will be aware that the UN Environment report published last month, finds that there is currently no credible pathway to 1.5°C in place. In tandem with this there is a severe biodiversity crisis.

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. More than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline. If we fail to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, we increase the risk of further pandemics, rising global temperatures and loss of species. The UK needs a legally enforceable nature target so that, by 2030, nature is visibly and measurably on the path to recovery, in line with the Global Goal for Nature.

This council notes that:

There is a Bill that was introduced into the current UK Parliament in May 2022 - the Climate and Ecology Bill - which, if it becomes law, would require the development of a strategy to ensure that the UK's environmental response is in line with the latest science.

The Bill is the only proposed legislation before the UK Parliament that ensures a comprehensive approach to the joint climate and nature emergency.

It would ensure that:

- The Paris Agreement aim is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK does its full and fair share to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C;
- We halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 to ensure that the UK's ecosystems are protected and restored;
- The UK takes responsibility for its greenhouse gas footprint, including international aviation and shipping, and by accounting for consumption emissions related to the goods and services that are imported and consumed in the UK;
- The UK takes responsibility for its ecological footprint in order to better protect the health and resilience of ecosystems, including along domestic and global supply chains; and
- An independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is set-up, representative of the UK population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the strategy. This would be setup on broadly similar lines to the Climate Assembly 2020 which was very successful and very well received on all sides of the political divide.

Over 130 MPs have publicly pledged their support for the Bill, including Greater Manchester MPs Debbie Abrahams, Rebecca

Long Bailey, Tony Lloyd and Barbara Keeley. Over 200 councils have vouched their backing of the Bill together with two in Greater Manchester.

When Rishi Sunak was appointed Prime Minister, he made the disgraceful decision to shun COP27. It was only after intense pressure from politicians and activist groups that he finally gave in and turned up at the conference. This shows that with enough pressure from MPs and councils, even this Tory government can sometimes be shamed into doing the right thing.

Therefore, this council resolves to:-

- (1) Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
- (2) Write to Manchester MPs Mike Kane, Afzal Khan, Lucy Powell, Jeff Smith and Graham Stringer, letting them know that this motion has been passed, and urging them to sign up to support the Bill; and
- (3) Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the Bill, expressing its support ([joinus@ceebill.uk](mailto:joinus@ceebill.uk)).

**Proposed by Councillor Nunney, seconded by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillors Bayunu, Good and Leech.**

**5. Notice of Motion - Late night trams and a better service**

This Council notes that since Covid shuttered the world, our city has bounced back in a big way. Gigs, restaurants, clubbing, and festivals have blossomed in the wake of the pandemic with millions flocking to Greater Manchester to pursue this entertainment.

If you are out working, or enjoying yourself late at night, residents face a curfew for the tram, expensive taxis, or a risky walk home in the dark.

Ella Watson, a local resident in London, successfully campaigned to get the night tube reinstated to increase women's safety in the city. The night tube is currently running on Friday and Saturday nights on the Central, Jubilee, Northern and Victoria lines. When it's fully operational, the Night Tube runs on Fridays and Saturdays on the Victoria, Jubilee, and most of the Central, Northern and Piccadilly lines.

Since November 2021 the night tube continues to be successful and has surpassed fears that it would have limited customers. The service runs at an off peak cost. Concerns that there won't be enough passengers can be compared to the later running airport line which is much used as the "last tram" home for many. An expansion to service does not mean less use and many users use a day ticket which runs for the whole service. A late-night

level of access to Greater Manchester's Tram services is the best transport option to ensure thousands of women across the region can get home safely in the evenings and at night.

Metrolink has seen a growth in levels of service users on the tram network. Millions enjoy and work as part of the City's famous and vibrant night-time economy. Let's provide a commuter service that extends beyond the 9 – 5 for our hospitality workers.

The population of Greater Manchester is projected to rapidly increase in the coming years as more and more people move to our city. We must have the responsibility and foresight to put into practice safe and accessible public transport. Salford City Council has passed a motion calling for a 3-month trial of a night tram on Eccles via Media City to Ashton-under-Lyne.

This Council resolves to:-

- (1) Congratulate Ella Watson on her work to restore the Night tube and help pursue safe late-night travel for people in Greater London.
- (2) Ask Transport for Greater Manchester to run a 3 month trial of the night tram on the Eccles via Media City to Ashton-under-Lyne service, and to monitor its success.
- (3) Ask the Mayor of Greater Manchester to support this trial.

**Proposed by Councillor Good, seconded by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillors Bayunu, Leech and Nunney.**

**6. Notice of Motion - Call an immediate general election to end the chaos of the Conservative government**

This Council notes that over the last 12 years the Conservative government has caused immeasurable damage to the residents of Manchester and the entire United Kingdom including:-

- The unprecedented Government public service cuts, increased costs from spiralling inflation, increased demand for services, higher energy costs have left our economy on its knees, and the vulnerable, most at need and hard-working residents, families and households shoulder the impact of funding shortfalls
- The housing crisis leaving millions forced to live in unsafe and uninhabitable properties as shocking conditions are being endured by households despairing at the lack of action, increasing mortgage and rental payments, while younger generations are unable to enter the housing market;
- The NHS struggling to cope with record demand and waiting times, social care services are stretched to the limit without a plan to put the health and social care system on a sustainable footing;

- The justice system in crisis with court backlogs reaching unprecedented levels, leaving victims, witnesses and defendants waiting years for justice, with rising crime and fewer police;
- The signature “levelling up agenda”, is just empty rhetoric as inequalities widen;
- The slow progress on developing long term regulatory strategies post- Brexit reducing the UK’s competitiveness, productivity and openness to trade with the world largest trading bloc and reduced British influence in the world;
- The misconduct in public office through a series of scandals including holding parties at 10 Downing Street during Covid lockdowns and the failure to deal with misconduct in ministerial office by senior Conservative MPs; and
- The mismanagement of the economy, real terms reductions in salaries, the devaluation of sterling.

This Council believes:-

- The economic, political and environmental permacrisis and state of flux indicate that despite the attempts of four prime ministers since 2016, a succession of chancellors, secretaries of state, and u-turns the government has run out of ideas, credibility, and confidence having spectacularly failed to deliver on its own promises;
- Despite the financial challenges over the last decade, Manchester Labour and our Council staff have worked tirelessly to challenge the government to provide a fairer funding settlement and ensure Manchester remains a great place to live, work and play, and remain ambitious for the future of the City;
- The Conservative government is implementing a programme far removed from the 2019 manifesto, written before the pandemic and current economic crisis
- The City has no confidence in the new UK Prime Minister and Government to act in the best interests of the citizens of Manchester and the UK; and
- Any “difficult decisions on the public finances” and further sacrifices by the British public should be subject to a new mandate that has gained public endorsement and constitutional recognition

This Council resolves to:-

- (1) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chair of the LGA to request all local leaders who over the last 12 years have worked tirelessly for their places to impose maximum pressure on the government to call a general election.
- (2) Ask the Leader of the Council to write to Sir Keir Starmer, Leader of Her Majesty’s Official Opposition; Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish First Minister; Ian Blackford, Leader of

the SNP at Westminster and Ed Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats urging them to support any motion tabled to stop this blatant abuse of power.

- (3) Ask the Leader of the Council to call on Councillors and MPs of all parties to put our country and our community first and demand an immediate general election so the public can decide on the future of Britain.

**Proposed by Councillor Stogia, seconded by Councillor Richards and supported by Councillors Ilyas, Chambers, Kamal, Reid and Simcock**

**7. Proceedings of the Executive**

31 - 58

To submit the minutes of the Executive on 19 October 2022 and 16 November 2022 and in particular to consider:

**Exe/22/83 Factory International**

- Recommend to Council to approve a Capital Budget increase for Factory International of £25.2m funded by:
  - £10m from the Council's capital scheme inflation provision
  - £15.2m to be met from borrowing

This will increase the total capital budget for the construction of Factory International from £185.6m to £210.8m

- Recommend to Council to underwrite the £7.8m increased costs of Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) of Factory International from capital receipts and note that the venue will not be able to operate without this investment to enable the equipment to be in place.

**Exe/22/95 Capital Programme update**

Recommend that the Council approve the following changes to Manchester City Council's capital programme:

- Growth and Development - Back of Ancoats Mobility Hub. A capital budget virement of £3.739m from the Inflation Budget.

**8. Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23**

To receive answers to any questions that councillors have raised in accordance with Procedural Rule 23.

**9. Scrutiny Committees**

59 - 154

To note the minutes of the following committees:

Communities & Equalities – 11 October & 8 November 2022 (to follow)

Resources & Governance – 11 October & 8 November 2022

Health – 12 October & 9 November 2022

Children & Young People – 12 October & 9 November 2022 (to follow)

Environment & Climate Change – 13 October & 10 November 2022

Economy – 13 October & 10 November 2022

**10. Proceedings of Committees**

155 - 192

To submit for approval the minutes of the following meetings and consider recommendations made by the committee:

Audit Committee – 18 October 2022

Personnel Committee – 19 October 2022

Planning and Highways Committee – 20 October and 17 November 2022

Health and Wellbeing Board – 2 November 2022

Standards Committee – 3 November 2022

Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 30 November 2022 (to be tabled)

**11. Establishment of a Greater Manchester Clean Air Joint Scrutiny Committee**

Report to follow.

**12. Constitution of the Council**

The report of the City Solicitor is to follow.

**13. Key Decisions Report**

193 - 198

The report of the City Solicitor is enclosed.

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Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joanne Roney', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Joanne Roney OBE**  
**Chief Executive**

## Information about the Council

The Council is composed of 96 councillors with one third elected three years in four. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. Their overriding duty is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.

Six individuals with previous long service as councillors of the city have been appointed Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester and are entitled to attend every Council meeting. They do not however have a vote.

All councillors meet together as the Council under the chairship of the Lord Mayor of Manchester. There are seven meetings of the Council in each municipal year and they are open to the public. Here councillors decide the Council's overall strategic policies and set the budget each year.

Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council meetings can be found on the Council's website [www.manchester.gov.uk](http://www.manchester.gov.uk)

## Members of the Council

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### Councillors:-

Ludford (Chair), Y Dar (Deputy Chair), Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Ahmed Ali, Nasrin Ali, Shaukat Ali, Alijah, Amin, Andrews, Appleby, Baker-Smith, Bano, Bayunu, Bell, Benham, Bridges, Butt, Chambers, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cooley, Craig, Curley, M Dar, Davies, Doswell, Douglas, Evans, Flanagan, Foley, Gartside, Good, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hitchen, Holt, Hughes, Hussain, Igbon, Ilyas, Iqbal, Jeavons, Johns, Johnson, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, J Lovecy, Lynch, Lyons, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Newman, Noor, Nunney, Ogunbambo, B Priest, H Priest, Rahman, Raikes, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Rowles, Russell, Sadler, M Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stanton, Stogia, Taylor, Wheeler, Whiston, White, Wills, Wilson and Wright

### Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester –

Hugh Barrett, Andrew Fender, Audrey Jones JP, Paul Murphy OBE, Nilofar Siddiqi and Keith Whitmore.

## Further Information

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

Andrew Woods

Tel: 0161 234 3011

Email: [andrew.woods@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.woods@manchester.gov.uk)

This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 22 November 2022** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

## Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 5 October 2022

#### Present:

The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor Councillor Ludford – in the Chair

#### Councillors:

Y Dar, Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Ahmed Ali, Nasrin Ali, Shaukat Ali, Alijah, Andrews, Appleby, Bano, Bayunu, Bell, Benham, Bridges, Butt, Chambers, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cooley, Craig, Curley, M Dar, Davies, Doswell, Douglas, Evans, Flanagan, Foley, Gartside, Good, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hitchen, Holt, Hughes, Hussain, Igbon, Ilyas, Iqbal, Jeavons, Johns, Johnson, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, J Lovecy, Lynch, Lyons, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Newman, Noor, Nunney, Ogunbambo, B Priest, H Priest, Rahman, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Rowles, Russell, Sadler, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stanton, Whiston, White, Wills, Wilson and Wright

#### **CC/20/62. The Lord Mayor's Announcements - Death of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II**

The Lord Mayor made reference to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and gave recognition to her remarkable 70 year reign and lifelong, selfless devotion to public service, the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

In noting that this was the first meeting of Council since the death of Her Majesty, the Lord Mayor invited the Council to stand for a minute in silent respect.

#### **CC/20/63. The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business - Manchester Older People's Board – Retirement of Board Members**

The Lord Mayor offered the Council's congratulations and gratitude to Bhim Virmani and Jamil Abdulkader in recognition of their long service as Board Members of Manchester's Older People Board.

The Lord Mayor paid tribute to all Age Friendly Board Members and their work to champion and positively change the way we view and treat ageing in the City of Manchester.

As a mark of appreciation, the Lord Mayor presented Bhim and Jamil with certificates of Lifetime Honorary Membership of the Manchester Older People's Board.

#### **CC/20/64. The Lord Mayors Announcements and Special Business - Accreditation of Manchester as a Real Living Wage City**

The Lord Mayor invited Jennifer Atkins (People Director at Bruntwood) and Helen Watson (Domiciliary Care Worker) who addressed the Council on Manchester's Accreditation as a Living Wage City.

The Leader of the Council addressed the Council to explain how Manchester is leading the way as an accredited Living Wage City. The Council recognises the difficulty of the many working Manchester residents, who are not paid the living wage. The accreditation includes over one hundred and sixty employers in the city involved through the work of the Action Group and will benefit over sixty four thousand employees. The Leader of the Council gave an assurance that work will continue to encourage and increase the number of employers, businesses and organisations throughout Manchester to become Living Wage accredited.

#### **CC/20/65. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

#### **CC/20/66. Notice of Motion - National Housing Crisis**

**Councillor Moran proposed the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Lynch:-**

The worst cost of living crisis since the 1950s is coinciding with a national housing crisis. The result of this will be an increasing number of our residents deprived of one of the most fundamental pillars to a healthy and happy life – a secure, stable, and affordable home.

Homeownership is in decline following a period of rising house prices that has made buying a home unaffordable for too many. This combined with a drastic depletion in social housing stock has forced an increasing number of residents into the private rented sector and at the mercy of rising rents and under-regulated tenancies. Worse still, many are left without a permanent residence at all, as levels of homelessness remain high.

Whilst this Council has welcomed the Manchester Housing Strategy it is now calling for the acceleration of its delivery to increase the provision of affordable, secure, high-quality and energy-efficient housing across the city to tackle the root of the housing crisis locally.

However, in the face of a worsening national economic crisis, urgent action is needed to protect our residents, especially those in the most precarious living circumstances, from its severest impacts.

To support residents through the immediate and acute period of the cost-of-living crisis, this Council calls upon Government to:

- Increase Local Housing Allowance rates in line with rising private market rents - making these more affordable and reducing the proportion of income spent on rent at a time when household budgets are increasingly squeezed

- Introduce rent reforms and a potential temporary cap to protect private tenants from further rental increases at a time of crisis
- Legislate a no winter evictions guarantee to protect private tenants from homelessness through the most challenging period of the cost-of-living crisis
- Reform Right to Buy - safeguarding remaining social housing stock for our most vulnerable residents, but also increasing affordable housing targets and expanding pathways to homeownership so that the right to own your own home can still be a realistic goal for all residents
- Prioritise the passing of the Renters' Reform Bill that seeks to improve standards and regulations across the private rented sector to better protect tenants.

**Councillor Leech moved an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Good:-**

The worst cost of living crisis since the 1950s is coinciding with a national housing crisis. The result of this will be an increasing number of our residents deprived of one of the most fundamental pillars to a healthy and happy life – a secure, stable, and affordable home.

Homeownership is in decline following a period of rising house prices that has made buying a home unaffordable for too many. This combined with a drastic depletion in social housing stock has forced an increasing number of residents into the private rented sector and at the mercy of rising rents and under-regulated tenancies. Worse still, many are left without a permanent residence at all, as levels of homelessness remain high.

Whilst this Council has welcomed the Manchester Housing Strategy it is now calling for the acceleration of its delivery to increase the provision of affordable, secure, high-quality and energy-efficient housing across the city to tackle the root of the housing crisis locally.

However, in the face of a worsening national economic crisis, urgent action is needed to protect our residents, especially those in the most precarious living circumstances, from its severest impacts.

To support residents through the immediate and acute period of the cost-of-living crisis, this Council calls upon Government to:

- Increase Local Housing Allowance rates in line with rising private market rents - making these more affordable and reducing the proportion of income spent on rent at a time when household budgets are increasingly squeezed
- Introduce rent reforms and a potential temporary cap to protect private tenants from further rental increases at a time of crisis
- Legislate a no winter evictions guarantee to protect private tenants from economic homelessness through the most challenging period of the cost-of-living crisis
- Reform Right to Buy - safeguarding remaining social housing stock for our most vulnerable residents, but also increasing affordable housing targets, and expanding pathways to homeownership so that the right to own your own home

can still be a realistic goal for all residents recognising the need to prioritise affordable and social rented homes, while there is limited money available to support affordable and social housing.

- Prioritise the passing of the Renters' Reform Bill that seeks to improve standards and regulations across the private rented sector to better protect tenants.

The Council recognises that, unfortunately, it has failed miserably to secure enough affordable and social housing through the Planning process, particularly in the city centre and parts of south Manchester.

The Council accepts that all too often it has allowed developers to avoid affordable housing obligations in new developments, even though viability assessments have calculated multi-million-pound profits for developers.

It recognises that developments of 15 units or more should have a minimum of 20% affordable homes, and that this target is being missed in most housing developments in Manchester.

Council therefore commits to a review of the Council's planning process, including looking at best practise in other local authorities, to ensure that the Council can deliver more affordable and social homes through new developments.

## **Resolution**

The amendment to the motion was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it lost.

The original motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it was carried unanimously.

## **Decision**

This Council calls upon Government to:

- Increase Local Housing Allowance rates in line with rising private market rents - making these more affordable and reducing the proportion of income spent on rent at a time when household budgets are increasingly squeezed;
- Introduce rent reforms and a potential temporary cap to protect private tenants from further rental increases at a time of crisis;
- Legislate a no winter evictions guarantee to protect private tenants from homelessness through the most challenging period of the cost-of-living crisis;
- Reform Right to Buy - safeguarding remaining social housing stock for our most vulnerable residents, but also increasing affordable housing targets and expanding pathways to homeownership so that the right to own your own home can still be a realistic goal for all residents; and
- Prioritise the passing of the Renters' Reform Bill that seeks to improve standards and regulations across the private rented sector to better protect tenants.

## **CC/20/67. Notice of Motion - Support Fair Votes Now**

**Councillor Good proposed the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Johnson:-**

This Council notes that the Labour Party in government successfully implemented Proportional Representation (PR) for several elections, introducing PR into devolved government for Scotland and Wales, in the London Assembly and the Supplementary vote for the Mayoral elections. The introduction of PR for local elections in Scotland has led to an increase in turnout, which was 44.8% at the last elections, held in 2022.

In contrast turnout in Manchester in 2022 was 24.08%, meaning over 75% of eligible voters stayed away.

With the Welsh Senedd reviewing legislation on Single Transferable Vote for local councils, England looks likely to be the only part of the UK without any form of PR at local level.

Earlier in 2022, Labour Mayor for Greater Manchester Andy Burnham voiced public support for a Proportional Representation system for general elections, writing “First-past-the-post, combined with the whip system, takes the votes of millions and turns them into inordinate power for a small Whitehall elite.”

Earlier in 2022, Prospect and the University and College Union (UCU) also voted to embrace more proportional general elections.

The list of trade unions who back some kind of electoral reform is long and growing: Unison, Unite the Union, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), Prospect, University and College Union (UCU), Fire Brigades Union (FBU), Musicians’ Union (MU), Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF), Transport Salaried Staffs’ Association (TSSA), Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU), Napo (Probation and family court staff).

In addition, the Communication Workers Union (CWU) recently unanimously passed a motion calling First Past the Post “undemocratic”. The union will now establish a national policy forum to discuss the merits of PR. As the Labour for a New Democracy coalition has said “more and more trade unions can see that First Past the Post is bad for workers and bad for the UK”.

According to polling, the vast majority of Labour members, and of voters in the United Kingdom, support the use of proportional representation for elections in the United Kingdom. At the most recent (prior to 2022) Labour Party conference, the vast majority of Constituency Labour Party (CLP) delegates supported proportional representation.

The Liberal Democrats have a long standing policy of supporting Proportional Representation. The Green Party of England and Wales has also long supported a move to Proportional Representation. There is therefore unity in the political parties represented at Full Council in support of Proportional Representation.

The last Labour Government put together the Jenkins Commission, which recommended the adoption of the AV+ voting system.

The Conservative Government has also been waging a war against PR, stripping supplementary voting away from Mayoral elections.

The UK's First Past the Post voting system curtails voter choice and leaves millions unrepresented by those elected.

This Council also notes that at the local elections in May 2022 in Manchester, Labour gained 93.75% of council seats, despite only 16.4% of the electorate (those eligible to vote) voting Labour. Manchester Liberal Democrats won only 1 council seat (3.1%) to represent 12.64% of the votes cast. Manchester Greens also won only 1 council seat (3.1%) to represent 11.47% of the votes cast.

This Council believes:

- That it is essential that faith is restored in our democracy by introducing voting systems that fairly represent the electorate's political views at both local and national level. First Past the Post produces binary politics, but no party has the monopoly of wisdom. We need an inclusive politics where the best ideas serve communities in Manchester.
- A system of Proportional Representation in which seats match votes and all votes count equally would help to rebuild trust by ensuring that all political views are represented in Parliament and at local councils in proportion to their level of public support. The systems of Proportional Representation that maintain a constituency link are best, since they mean voters will still have local representatives. Single Transferable Vote and AV+ both fulfil these criteria.

Council therefore resolves to request the Leader of the Council to:-

- Make representations to Manchester's MPs asking them to support a form of Proportional Representation for electing local councils and for general elections, and the return of Supplementary Vote for Mayoral elections.
- Oppose this Conservative Government's efforts to remove existing PR systems, and to write a letter to the Prime Minister Liz Truss condemning the removal of the supplementary vote from elections for Mayor.

**Councillor Karney moved an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Simcock:-**

This Council notes that the Labour Party in government successfully implemented Proportional Representation (PR) for several elections, introducing PR into devolved government for Scotland and Wales, in the London Assembly and the Supplementary vote for the Mayoral elections.

Council notes that the Liberal Democrats, as part of the Coalition Government, had an historic opportunity to change the voting system. They ditched their principles for the trappings of office, led by the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Council notes

the historical discussion and decision at the Labour Party Conference and calls on members not at Conference to contribute to the debate and contact their Members of Parliament.

### **Resolution**

The amendment to the motion was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried. The amended motion then became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried.

### **Decision**

This Council:

- (1) Notes that the Labour Party in government successfully implemented Proportional Representation (PR) for several elections, introducing PR into devolved government for Scotland and Wales, in the London Assembly and the Supplementary vote for the Mayoral elections.
- (2) Notes that the Liberal Democrats, as part of the Coalition Government, had an historic opportunity to change the voting system. They ditched their principles for the trappings of office, led by the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Council.
- (3) Notes the historical discussion and decision at the Labour Party Conference and calls on members not at Conference to contribute to the debate and contact their Members of Parliament.

### **CC/20/68. Notice of Motion - Manchester Windrush and Deportations**

**Councillor Bayunu proposed the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Good:-**

Manchester City Council notes that:

The 2014 Immigration Act has had a huge negative effect on the Windrush Generation and their descendants in Manchester.

People have been affected by the Windrush scandal even if they had legal status, such as those who came to Britain from Commonwealth countries before 1973 and their descendants.

They and their descendants have been subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment including deportation, loss of employment, housing and services including the denial of prompt medical treatment.

Lord Kerslake, the former head of the Civil Service, told BBC's Newsnight that some in government had warned that the way the 2014 Act worked was 'almost reminiscent of Nazi Germany'.

Manchester City Council believes that:

Home Office officials have frequently used the Hostile Environment legislation to deprive migrants of their right to live and work in the UK even if they have legal status.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme has not been effective enough in compensating all victims for their losses and is being unreasonably slow to pay out.

Many of the current problems have their roots in the racist 1971 Immigration Act which ended the right of people from the British Commonwealth to obtain UK citizenship unless they had a parent or grandparent with UK citizenship. This ensured that many white people in the Commonwealth could come to the UK but denied the same rights to most black people from the same countries. The right of abode should be restored to the Windrush Generation who lived in the UK and their descendants.

The use of the UK Borders Act 2007 to automatically deport people who have been sentenced to twelve months or more is racist, as it disproportionately impacts black immigrants (who routinely suffer longer sentences than white people committing the same offences), and has led to people being deported to countries they left as children and where they have no connections, often leaving behind their families.

The Nationalities and Borders Bill creates a second-tier category of British citizenship as Clause 10 of the bill allows the Home Secretary to strip a naturalised Brit of their citizenship without any notice at all and without providing any rationale for the decision.

There is need of a lead member who can focus on understanding the legislation and through direct contact with individuals and community organisations how it impacts on our residents. A Windrush Lead can also inform and support the work of the Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods, who has begun to reach out to the communities impacted, but whose wide ranging portfolio prevents her from the time required to make this work a priority. Especially during the looming Cost of Living Crisis foisted on our residents by the same evil Tory government who also created the Windrush Scandal that we wish to ameliorate.

Manchester City Council therefore resolves:

1. To campaign for a Windrush Act which:
  - Places a duty on public bodies to reduce race disparities for outcomes in their work as exposed by the Government's Race Disparity Audit
  - Establishes a commonwealth community cohesion fund for the development of projects in the UK and the Commonwealth to tackle

disparities and rebuild social and economic ties of communities damaged by the Windrush scandal

2. To campaign for legislation ending the Hostile Environment
3. To campaign for a judge-led independent Public Inquiry into the circumstances which led to the treatment of the Windrush Generation
4. To campaign against the deportations resulting from racist immigration legislation
5. To raise our awareness of the impact of the new Nationalities and Borders bill on our communities, with a special emphasis on the impact on our diverse Muslim communities.
6. To appoint a Windrush Lead on the council who will
  - Advocate for families impacted by Windrush and current legislation
  - Ensure that the resolution from this motion are implemented
  - provide a first point of support for Manchester victims of the Windrush scandal and the Nationalities and Borders bill
  - Support a network of legal, social and voluntary sector organisations to provide an effective service for Manchester people affected by the Windrush Scandal and the Nationalities and Borders bill. To include, for example
    - The groundbreaking work of Anthony Brown, Windrush Defender
    - The advice work being done by Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit
    - The Greater Manchester Law Centre working in partnership with the Greater Manchester Tenants Union and GMIAU

**Councillor Igbon moved an amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Rahman:-**

Manchester City Council notes that:

1. The 2014 Immigration Act has had a huge negative effect on the Windrush Generation and their descendants in Manchester. The 2014 Immigration Act was supported by the Liberal Democrats in the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government.
2. People have been affected by the Windrush scandal even if they had legal status, such as those who came to Britain from Commonwealth countries before 1973 and their descendants.
3. They and their descendants have been subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment including deportation, loss of employment, housing and services including the denial of prompt medical treatment.

Manchester City Council Further notes:

4. Manchester is forever grateful for the contributions of the Windrush Generation to our city and our nation. These courageous men and women came to the UK and contributed not only to our post-war economic recovery but to all facets of social, cultural, and political life. The Council has long celebrated the contribution that the Windrush Generation have made to our city and the UK as a whole.
5. Manchester stands with the Windrush Generation, and all who have been affected by the scandalous treatment of the Windrush Generation by the British Government. They and their families have been put through appalling stress, hardship, and indignity and it is inexcusable that so few have received support through the Windrush Compensation Scheme.
6. Home Office officials have frequently used the Hostile Environment legislation to deprive migrants of their right to live and work in the UK even if they have legal status.
7. The Windrush Compensation Scheme has not been effective enough in compensating all victims for their losses and is being unreasonably slow to pay out. Unfortunately, as of the end of February 2022, only 24% of the initially estimated 15,000 eligible claimants had applied to the scheme and only 6% had received compensation. At least 23 people have died before they received any compensation for the hardship they endured at the hands of the Home Office.
8. The National Audit Office has said the scheme is “not meeting its objective of compensating claimants quickly”. Last year, the cross-party Home Affairs Committee outlined a litany of flaws in the design and operation of the scheme including “an excessive burden on claimants to provide documentary evidence of losses, long delays in processing, poor communication and inadequate staffing.”
9. To recognise the work that this Council has taken in showing our support for our Windrush Communities, such as the Executive Report in 2019 which allowed flexibility to grant a discount for Council Tax payers liable for Council Tax in the city who claim Council Tax Support or have been receiving an amount of Council Tax Support but whose entitlement is reduced or extinguished as a result of a payment from the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

The Council resolves:

- Through the Executive Member for Equalities and the Council Lead Members for Race continue to work alongside Manchester MPs to call for justice for all of those who have been impacted, including legislation such as a Windrush Act to right the Government's wrongs.
- That the Executive, Lead Members for Race and local Councillors to continue to work with community groups and community campaigners to ensure local groups are supported.

- To continue to celebrate the contribution of our communities and continue to commemorate Windrush Day.
- To re-state our opposition to the Government's Hostile Environment policies and call on legislation to redress them.
- To call upon the Government to urgently review and fix the inadequate Compensation Scheme, and through Manchester's Labour MPs to radically reform the scheme and to support calls to move the compensation Scheme to an independent body.
- To signpost residents to free legal aid and support to Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit -Windrush legal initiative and Windrush defenders and provide designated spaces and information across the city.

In response to the amendment, Councillor Bayunu requested that the original motion be withdrawn.

The City Solicitor advised the Council that as the motion had been considered by the Council, in accordance with the Council Constitution (Council Procedure Rules - 14.9), the motion could not be withdrawn and consideration would continue in accordance with the procedure.

### **Resolution**

The amendment to the motion was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried. The amended motion then became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried.

### **Decision**

This Council resolves:-

- (1) Through the Executive Member for Equalities and the Council Lead Members for Race continue to work alongside Manchester MPs to call for justice for all of those who have been impacted, including legislation such as a Windrush Act to right the Government's wrongs.
- (2) That the Executive, Lead Members for Race and local Councillors to continue to work with community groups and community campaigners to ensure local groups are supported.
- (3) To continue to celebrate the contribution of our communities and continue to commemorate Windrush Day.
- (4) To re-state our opposition to the Government's Hostile Environment policies and call on legislation to redress them.
- (5) To call upon the Government to urgently review and fix the inadequate Compensation Scheme, and through Manchester's Labour MPs to radically

reform the scheme and to support calls to move the compensation Scheme to an independent body.

- (6) To signpost residents to free legal aid and support to Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit - Windrush legal initiative and Windrush defenders and provide designated spaces and information across the city.

(Councillor Bayunu declared a personal interest as a member of the Greater Manchester Tenancy Group.)

### **CC/20/69. Notice of Motion - Cost of Living Crisis**

**Councillor Craig proposed the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Karney:-**

This Council notes:

The UK is entering a recession, with inflation at over 10%, a 40 year high, interest rates increasing and the cost-of-living spiralling

Despite rising costs, the real value of pay fell by 3% up to August 2022

Gas has increased 114% and electricity up 85% since April 2022

On 24th September the Conservative Government set out a mini-budget that removed the cap on bankers' bonuses and scrapped the highest rate of tax for people earning over £150,000. Basic rate of income tax was reduced from 20% to 19%

This means someone earning £25,000 will only get £125 more annually but someone earning £500,000 will gain an extra £17,500 a year

This Council Further notes:

In the 2022/23 Council Budget, Manchester City Council prioritised tackling Anti-Poverty by committing over £34 Million to working with residents, community groups and charities on anti-poverty measures

Manchester City Council already has an Anti-Poverty Strategy, and has developed new plans for a more inclusive economy and an action plan to tackle inequalities

In Manchester plans have been moving at pace over the summer to make sure Manchester City Council has a clear Cost-of-Living Action Plan for this winter to support Mancunians during this crisis

Manchester City Council will launch its Community Response Hub on 3rd October to provide one point of contact for all of those who need it

This Council Resolves:

- To do everything it can this winter to support those most in need in this city and in doing so recommends that the Executive launch a Manchester Cost-of-Living Action Plan: a support package of over £8m to help Mancunians
- To organise a Cost-of-Living Summit with partners across the city to ensure every organisation in the city is doing all they can to support Mancunians and to encourage local partnerships to bring together communities
- To call on the Government to declare a Cost-of-Living emergency and provide COVID style support to residents and businesses urgently
- That Manchester will continue to support children on Free School Meals during the holidays this winter and to call on the government to make this permanent.
- Calls on the Executive to endorse an expansion of the Local Welfare Fund this winter to provide emergency hardship support and continue the city's emergency food response
- To continue to work towards achieving a city where everyone gets a fair wage through becoming a Living Wage Place
- To Call on the Government to increase the National Minimum Wage to match the Real Living Wage, and increase Universal Credit and all other benefits in line with inflation.

**Councillor Good moved the following amendment to the motion which was seconded by Councillor Leech:-**

This Council notes:

The UK is entering a recession, with inflation at over 10%, a 40 year high, interest rates increasing and the cost-of-living spiralling

Despite rising costs, the real value of pay fell by 3% up to August 2022

Gas has increased 114% and electricity up 85% since April 2022

On 24th September the Conservative Government set out a mini-budget that removed the cap on bankers' bonuses and scrapped the highest rate of tax for people earning over £150,000. Basic rate of income tax was reduced from 20% to 19%

This means someone earning £25,000 will only get £125 more annually but someone earning £500,000 will gain an extra £17,500 a year

This Council Further notes:

In the 2022/23 Council Budget, Manchester City Council prioritised tackling Anti-Poverty by committing over £34 Million to working with residents, community groups and charities on anti-poverty measures

Manchester City Council already has an Anti-Poverty Strategy, and has developed new plans for a more inclusive economy and an action plan to tackle inequalities

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- To call on the Government to declare a Cost-of-Living emergency and provide COVID style support to residents and businesses urgently
- That Manchester will continue to support children on Free School Meals during the holidays this winter and to call on the government to make this permanent.
- Calls on the Executive to endorse an expansion of the Local Welfare Fund this winter to provide emergency hardship support and continue the city's emergency food response
- To continue to work towards achieving a city where everyone gets a fair wage through becoming a Living Wage Place
- To Call on the Government to increase the National Minimum Wage to match the Real Living Wage, and increase Universal Credit and all other benefits in line with inflation
- To call on the Government to introduce an energy price cap on homes in apartment buildings where residents pay commercial rates, and do not currently benefit from the residential homes cap.

## **Resolution**

The amendment to the motion was put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried. The amended motion then became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was then put to the Council and the Lord Mayor declared it carried unanimously.

## Decision

The Council Resolves:

- (1) To do everything it can this winter to support those most in need in this city and in doing so recommends that the Executive launch a Manchester Cost-of-Living Action Plan: a support package of over £8m to help Mancunians
- (2) To organise a Cost-of-Living Summit with partners across the city to ensure every organisation in the city is doing all they can to support Mancunians and to encourage local partnerships to bring together communities
- (3) To call on the Government to declare a Cost-of-Living emergency and provide COVID style support to residents and businesses urgently
- (4) That Manchester will continue to support children on Free School Meals during the holidays this winter and to call on the government to make this permanent.
- (5) Calls on the Executive to endorse an expansion of the Local Welfare Fund this winter to provide emergency hardship support and continue the city's emergency food response
- (6) To continue to work towards achieving a city where everyone gets a fair wage through becoming a Living Wage Place
- (7) To Call on the Government to increase the National Minimum Wage to match the Real Living Wage, and increase Universal Credit and all other benefits in line with inflation
- (8) To call on the Government to introduce an energy price cap on homes in apartment buildings where residents pay commercial rates, and do not currently benefit from the residential homes cap.

(The Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting for five minutes.)

### **CC/20/70. Notice of Motion - Supporting Our Children and protecting Care Leavers**

**Councillor Sadler proposed the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Bridges:-**

Every elected member and employee of this Council – along with our partner agencies- is a corporate parent to the children in our care.

We are all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after by us.

Our young people in care or who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent.

This includes how families continue their support, care, and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence

As an adult how many times in life do you stop and think, “where do I go from there.” Imagine what that must like for a young person

On their own with no one to help or advise.

Just think about for it a minute

We have already made really important steps to support our cared for and care experienced children better:-

- We made all our care leavers exempt from Council Tax up to the age of 25.
- We gave our Care Leavers Band 1 priority on our housing register.
- We provide specialist support to any Care Leavers facing homelessness without the use of B&B.
- We guarantee Care Leavers first access to our apprenticeships.
- We brought our Leaving Care service back in house and invested in a new home for the service- with trainer flats and emergency accommodation on site.
- We increased “Staying Put” so that young people can stay with foster carers and invested alongside our housing partners to provide move on accommodation for young people who need independence.

However, we cannot be complacent, and we know that we can always do more. We are determined that every decision made in this Council and every policy set here considers the impact on young people in care and those who have experienced the care system.

This motion proposes including “young people in care” and “care experienced young people” as an additional characteristic in all of our Equality Impact Assessments. This will give them a formal recognition and make sure that all decisions that are made and policies that are set consider their specific needs and the impact on them.

This will have a real tangible impact on people who have experienced care. We want to make it easier for young people to gain employment at the Council and to develop into senior roles – with guaranteed interview schemes, mentoring and support and reasonable adjustments made to support employees with care experience.

We also want to see our procurement and commissioning of our services to consider the impact on young people with care experience, in the same way as other protected and additional characteristics are and make extra effort to ensure that they can access all of our services.

The Government commissioned an independent national review of children’s social care, and one recommendation was to look at making care experience an additional characteristic. Given the paralysis in Government across departments, we cannot afford to wait for the Government to respond. We will take immediate steps here in Manchester – as we have done before- to be the best corporate parents we can be.

We have a commitment to our young people. To ease them into independence. To allow them to build a prosperous, healthy, and happy future.

These proposals will ensure our young people have the tools to do just that.

This Council therefore request that the City Solicitor examine the inclusion of “young people in care” / “care experienced young people” as an additional characteristic in the Council's Equality Impact Assessments.

**Councillor Lovecy moved an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Reid and accepted by Councillor Sadler (proposer). In accordance with Rule of Procedure 20.3, the amendment was incorporated into the motion.**

Every elected member and employee of this Council – along with our partner agencies- is a corporate parent to the children in our care.

We are all responsible for providing the best possible care, safeguarding and outcomes for the children who are looked after by us.

Our young people in care or who have left care have the right to expect everything from a corporate parent that would be expected from a responsible and good parent. This includes how families continue their support, care, and ambition for their children after they leave home and gain independence  
As an adult how many times in life do you stop and think, “where do I go from there.”  
Imagine what that must like for a young person

On their own with no one to help or advise.

Just think about for it a minute

We have already made really important steps to support our cared for and care experienced children better:-

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- We provide specialist support to any Care Leavers facing homelessness without the use of B&B.
- We guarantee Care Leavers first access to our apprenticeships.
- We brought our Leaving Care service back in house and invested in a new home for the service- with trainer flats and emergency accommodation on site.
- We increased “Staying Put” so that young people can stay with foster carers and invested alongside our housing partners to provide move on accommodation for young people who need independence.

However, we cannot be complacent, and we know that we can always do more.

We are determined that every decision made in this Council and every policy set here considers the impact on young people in care and those who have experienced the care system.

This motion proposes including “young people in care” and “care experienced people” as an additional characteristic in all of our Equality Impact Assessments. This will give them a formal recognition and make sure that all decisions that are made and policies that are set consider their specific needs and the impact on them.

This will have a real tangible impact on people who have experienced care. We want to make it easier for young people to gain employment at the Council and to develop into senior roles – with guaranteed interview schemes, mentoring and support and reasonable adjustments made to support employees with care experience.

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The Government commissioned an independent national review of children’s social care, and one recommendation was to look at making care experience an additional characteristic. Given the paralysis in Government across departments, we cannot afford to wait for the Government to respond. We will take immediate steps here in Manchester – as we have done before- to be the best corporate parents we can be.

We have a commitment to our young people. Too ease them into independence. To allow them to build a prosperous, healthy, and happy future. These proposals will ensure our young people have the tools to do just that.

This Council therefore request that the City Solicitor examine the inclusion of “young people in care” / “care experienced people” as an additional characteristic in the Council’s Equality Impact Assessments.

### **Resolution**

The motion was put to Council and voted on and the Lord Mayor declared that it was carried unanimously.

### **Decision**

This Council requests that the City Solicitor examine the inclusion of “young people in care” / “care experienced people” as an additional characteristic in the Council’s Equality Impact Assessments.

### **CC/20/71. Proceedings of the Executive**

The proceedings of the Executive on 22 July 2022 and 14 September 2022 were submitted. The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations:-

### **Exe/22/61 Capital Update Report**

To recommend that the Council approve the following changes to Manchester City Council’s capital programme:

- Neighbourhoods – Manchester Aquatic Centre. A capital budget virement of £2.930m is requested, funded by borrowing via the Inflation Budget and a further capital budget increase of £0.070m, funded by borrowing.
- Neighbourhoods – Indoor Leisure – Abraham Moss. A capital budget virement of £1.4m is requested, funded by borrowing via the Inflation Budget.
- Growth and Development – Hammerstone Road Depot. A capital budget virement of £2.320m is requested, funded by borrowing via the Inflation Budget and a further capital budget increase of £4.280m, funded by borrowing.

#### **Exe/22/74 Capital Programme Update**

To recommend that Council approve the following changes to Manchester City Council's capital programme:-

- ICT - Future Council Infrastructure Implementation – Hybrid Cloud Programme. A capital budget virement of £0.618m funded by Borrowing via the ICT Investment budget. A capital budget decrease of £2.661m is also requested and approval of a corresponding transfer of £2.661m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund.
- Public Sector Housing – Woodward Court external concrete repairs and Enveloping. A capital budget increase of £3.005m, funded by RCCO – HRA.
- Public Sector Housing – Fire Risk Assessment Additional Work. A capital budget increase of £4.885m funded from by RCCO from the HRA.

#### **Decisions**

The Council approves the following changes to the Council's capital programme:-

- Neighbourhoods – Manchester Aquatic Centre. A capital budget virement of £2.930m is requested, funded by borrowing via the Inflation Budget and a further capital budget increase of £0.070m, funded by borrowing.
- Neighbourhoods – Indoor Leisure – Abraham Moss. A capital budget virement of £1.4m is requested, funded by borrowing via the Inflation Budget.
- Growth and Development – Hammerstone Road Depot. A capital budget virement of £2.320m is requested, funded by borrowing via the Inflation Budget and a further capital budget increase of £4.280m, funded by borrowing.
- ICT - Future Council Infrastructure Implementation – Hybrid Cloud Programme. A capital budget virement of £0.618m funded by Borrowing via the ICT Investment budget. A capital budget decrease of £2.661m is also requested and approval of a corresponding transfer of £2.661m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund.
- Public Sector Housing – Woodward Court external concrete repairs and Enveloping. A capital budget increase of £3.005m, funded by RCCO – HRA.
- Public Sector Housing – Fire Risk Assessment Additional Work. A capital budget increase of £4.885m funded from by RCCO from the HRA.

(The Lord Mayor adjourned the meeting for ten minutes)

**CC/20/72. Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23**

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Rowles regarding whether there was any funding available for alley gating schemes in Moss Side to combat the effects of fly tipping, dumped household rubbish and discarded commercial waste.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Flanagan regarding the construction start and completion dates of the long promised Scotland Hall Road Park play zone.

Councillor T Robinson responded to a question from Councillor Flanagan regarding the possibility of establishing a Miles Platting and Newton Heath Health Task Force, with the aim to tackle the existing health inequalities and provision of more GPs, Dentists and the long promised Health Centre.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Nunney regarding how was the decision made as to how frequently a road should be cleaned, referencing several roads in Woodhouse Park that in his opinion were not cleaned often enough. Councillor Midgely responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding whether the report that the Council commissioned from the private consultancy RedQuadrant to evaluate where the Council was going wrong in its approach to homelessness would be published in full.

Councillor Akbar responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding what progress has been made on plans to upgrade and overhaul the Contact reporting system.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding what action residents should take when travellers were attempting to access Council-owned sites out of normal working hours.

Councillor White responded to a question from Councillor Leech regarding how many shared ownership affordable homes were currently under construction in Manchester, or had been approved through the planning process, but had not begun on site.

Councillor White responded to a question from Councillor I Robinson regarding whether the Council was still committed to, and working on a solution to Grey Mare Lane, in regards to making good on the original plans that were proposed for the retrofit of all homes on the estate

Councillor Rawlins was not present to respond to the question from Councillor I Robinson. The Lord Mayor informed Councillor Robinson that a written response would be provided to her question regarding the Eastlands resident parking scheme coming into effect. And whether there would be an outreach programme plan for residents who weren't able to access the internet/app or didn't feel confident in doing

so. The supplementary question regarding communication on event passes would also be responded to in writing.

The Lord Mayor advised that a written response would be provided by Councillor Rawlins to a question from Councillor Good regarding, what the Council was doing to prevent the increasing number of car crashes in Ancoats.

Councillor Igbon responded to a question from Councillor Good regarding whether the order for 200 new waste bins across Manchester had been placed.

Councillor White responded to a question from Councillor Good regarding what progress had the Council made on seeking funding through Homes England, the GMCA Green Homes Grant funding, and other sources to help resolve the issue of retrofitting works for owner occupiers on the Grey Mare Lane Estate.

Councillor Rahman responded to a question from Councillor Good regarding the number of CCTV cameras operated by Manchester City Council, that were non-functional or in a state of disrepair.

### **CC/20/73. Scrutiny Committees**

The minutes of the following Scrutiny Committee meetings were submitted:

- Communities and Equalities – 19 July and 6 September 2022
- Resources and Governance – 19 July and 6 September 2022
- Health – 20 July and 7 September 2022
- Children and Young People – 20 July and 7 September 2022
- Environment and Climate Change – 21 July and 8 September 2022
- Economy – 21 July and 8 September 2022

### **Decision**

To receive those minutes submitted.

### **CC/20/74. Proceedings of Committees**

The minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Audit – 26 July and 27 September 2022
- Licensing and Appeals - 26 September 2022
- Planning and Highways – 28 July, 1 and 22 September 2022
- Constitutional and Nomination – 5 October 2022

The Council was asked to give particular consideration to the following recommendations from the minute:

### **CN/22/16 Appointments to Council Committees**

To recommend to Council to approve the amendments to committee memberships, as follows:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member to be added</b>	<b>Member to be removed</b>
Communities and Equalities SC	Councillor Sheikh	
Environment and Climate Change SC		Councillor Sheikh
Health SC		Councillor McHale
Audit Committee		Councillor Flanagan

## Decisions

1. To receive those minutes submitted.
2. To approve the changes in appointments to Committees of the Council, as detailed below.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member to be added</b>	<b>Member to be removed</b>
Communities and Equalities SC	Councillor Sheikh	
Environment and Climate Change SC		Councillor Sheikh
Health SC		Councillor McHale
Audit Committee		Councillor Flanagan

## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19 October 2022**

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Hacking, Igbon, Midgley, Rahman, T Robinson, White,

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Ahmed Ali, Butt, Douglas, Foley, Johnson, Leech, Lynch and Stanton

**Apologies:** Councillor Rawlins and Collins

**Exe/22/80 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 14 September 2022.

#### **Exe/22/81 Our Manchester Progress Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which reset Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure the Council could still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025.

The Leader and Deputy Leader both reported on the unveiling of an £8m package of support in response to the cost of living crisis which could adversely affect up to 100,000 Manchester households this winter. The money was being made available to support residents across the city through the expansion of welfare schemes, as well as helping to provide access to food. The response had been inspired by the Council’s work during the Covid-19 pandemic when emergency hubs were set up to help provide people with essentials. To ensure the widest safety net possible would be created, the Council would also take the lead in organising a cost-of-living summit that will bring together partner organisations in Manchester, marshalling their resources and providing a united front to help residents at risk.

In addition the Council would also continue to lobby central government on the urgent need to provide a Covid-like package of support to residents and businesses. Calls would also be made urging the government to increase the National Minimum Wage to match the Real Living Wage, and to increase Universal Credit and other benefits in line with inflation.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development provided an update on the progress that had been made with the commencement of construction for 274 low carbon homes (130 of them for social rent) in Collyhurst as part of the transformative Victoria North project. This phase of development included more than £35m of public investment and formed part of the wider Victoria North project to deliver 15,000

homes to the north of the city centre over the next decade, with at least 20% of them designated as affordable housing.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported on the opening of Wythenshawe Cycle Hub, a state-of-the-art cycle hub located around the park's existing athletics track area which included a pump track, a learn to ride area, mountain bike skills zone, woodland trails and a family trail. The new hub was designed to encourage Manchester residents to get on their bikes and enable them to practice cycling in a safe, traffic-free environment.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods reported on the opening of Mayfield Park, Manchester's first new city centre park in more than a century, consisting of a new 6.5 acre green oasis in the heart of the city. The new park – the first phase in the £1.5bn Mayfield masterplan which was creating a new sustainable, mixed-use neighbourhood close to Piccadilly train station – created a family-friendly and inclusive green space with significant ecological benefits.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment reported on the latest quarterly update report on the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25, which highlighted that the Council remained on target to halve its direct emissions by 2025, in line with the goal to become completely net zero carbon by 2038 or earlier. Since 2018/19 the Council had remained within its carbon budget. Figures for the first three months of municipal year 2022/23 (April-June inclusive) showed that the Council had emitted 5,366 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – 9% less than last year and just 22% of the total budget for the year which was 24,784 tonnes.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported on the strong social value impact the Our Town hall project was having on the city through its spending and employment practices – supporting local businesses and creating a legacy of skills, jobs and inspiration for Manchester residents. It was not just meeting those targets but exceeding them, generating an estimated £13.1m worth of social value benefits. Almost 60% of its spending had been with Manchester-based businesses, compared to a target of 40%, and 45% of the workforce consisted of local labour, against a 30% target. Some 237 new jobs had been created through the project with 40% of these filled by Manchester residents. So far 75 apprenticeships (level two and three) had been created with 68 of them taken up by Manchester people, and a further 48 higher level apprenticeships. The Our Town Hall project had also provided 110 work placements and almost 6,000 hours of volunteering on community and charity projects in the city.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report

## **Exe/22/82 Capital Programme Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which informed Members of requests to increase the capital programme, sought approval for those schemes that could be approved under authority delegated to the

Executive and asked the Executive to recommend to Council proposals that required specific Council approval.

The proposals which did not require Council approval and only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis is required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- Private Sector Housing – West Gorton Balconies. A capital budget increase of £0.350m in 2022/23 is requested, funded by HRA Reserve for essential work of making 40 balconies safe following the failure of a balcony ceiling which presented an immediate Health and Safety Issue.
- Growth and Development – Our Town Hall (OTH) Visitors Centre. A capital budget increase of £0.077m in 2024/25 was requested, funded by OTH reserve to account for significant changes in market conditions, including increases in preliminaries, to fully cost and deliver the full visitor experience.
- Highways Services – Auto Bollards Additional Funding. A capital budget increase of £0.123m in 2022/23 was requested, funded by Parking Reserve to account for several contract variations that had been submitted by the contractor due to change requests that had been reviewed by the project team. These included, but were not limited to, civil engineering work to establish power connections not included in original tender price and a redesign of static bollards due to improved design to ensure disabled access
- Highways Services – Chorlton Area 2 Cycle Scheme Additional Funding. A capital budget increase of £1m in 2023/24 was requested, funded by External Contribution to cover additional costs identified due to delays and contract termination. The delays were attributable to the contractor being unable to access the whole site in the first instance and following several issues with delivery, there was a protracted but sensible contract termination.

The report highlighted that there had been increases to the programme totalling £1.794m as a result of delegated approvals since the previous report to the Executive on 14 September 2022.

Approval had also been given for the following capital budget virements:-

- £3.0m to be allocated for Pioneer House High School from the Unallocated Education Basic Need budget. This project would increase the pupil capacity at the school from 128 to 168 places for SEND pupils aged 11-19 with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).
- £2.6m allocated from Education Basic Need funding for William Hulme's Grammar School. This project would create an additional 18 places of resource provision and rebuild 12 which are currently located in temporary classrooms.

The places would be available exclusively for pupils with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP).

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

(1) Approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:

- Private Sector Housing – West Gorton Balconies. A capital budget increase of £0.350m, funded by HRA Reserve
- Growth and Development – Our Town hall Visitors Centre Additional Funding. A capital budget increase of £0.077m, funded by OTH Reserve.
- Highways Services – Auto Bollard Additional Funding. A capital budget increase of £0.123m, funded by Parking Reserve
- Highways Services – Chorlton Cycle Scheme. A capital budget increase of £1m, funded by External Contribution.

(2) Note the increases to the programme of £1.794m as a result of delegated approvals.

(3) Note the virements in the programme of £5.6m as a result of virements from approved budgets.

## **Exe/22/83 Factory International**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an update on progress with the delivery of The Factory Arts Centre, progress with the redevelopment of St John's and the preparations for the opening of the building.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported on the delivery of Factory International to date, the wider economic, cultural and social benefits to Manchester that the project would bring to Manchester and the significant programme of social value commitments that had been delivered so far.

It was noted that the external environment had remained and continued to be extremely challenging, particularly with the conflict in Ukraine which had disrupted the supply chain and contributed to unprecedented levels of inflation. The shortages in the labour market have also had an impact as well and Covid-19 restrictions had also remained for the construction industry throughout the whole period, which had continued to impact on productivity.

Consequently, in order to ensure that the project could complete to programme and to mitigate any other unforeseen discovery issues, a programme of acceleration works would be required which necessitated an additional budget requirement to £25.2m, funded by £10m from the Council's capital scheme inflation provision which

was already included in the Capital Budget and £15.2m to be underwritten from borrowing.

In addition the Council was requested to underwrite the £7.8m increased costs of the fit out of Factory International from capital receipts to provide the vital equipment required for the venue to successfully open and operate. This revised of Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) budget included an appropriate level of contingency and would be paid to Manchester International Festival (MIF) as a grant that would be drawn down at appropriate intervals, as costs were incurred.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer assured Members that the above could be contained within the existing revenue budget for capital financing and was within the planned and authorised borrowing limit for the Council. It was also highlighted that the value engineering and strive targets had been exceeded, contributing £2.1m back to the Factory International budget. The project team can also demonstrate a further £5m of cost mitigation or avoidance.

The Chief Executive assured the Executive that the project had been very tightly managed, and going forward from this point, there would be the most senior officer oversight from herself and partners to absolutely ensure the project remained within the financial envelope set out.

Councillor Leech, whilst acknowledging that the impact of COVID and the increase in inflation could not have been foreseen, expressed concern that the project had suffered from financial mismanagement, noting that the Council's contribution to the project had increased from an original budget of £114m to over £200m and felt that the project had not been managed as tightly as it could have been. He proposed that the Executive should not agree to recommendations relating to the underwriting of the fit out of Factory International until a clear breakdown was provided on what the money was to be spent on.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note progress with the delivery of Factory International, the wider economic, cultural and social benefits to Manchester and the significant programme of social value commitments.
- (2) Recommend to Council to approve a Capital Budget increase for Factory International of £25.2m funded by:
  - £10m from the Council's capital scheme inflation provision
  - £15.2m to be met from borrowing

This will increase the total capital budget for the construction of Factory International from £185.6m to £210.8m

- (3) Recommend to Council to underwrite the £7.8m increased costs of Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) of Factory International from capital receipts

and note that the venue will not be able to operate without this investment to enable the equipment to be in place.

- (4) Agree the funding for Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FFE) is to be paid to Manchester International Festival (MIF) as a grant that will be drawn down as costs are incurred. £500k of which will be retained as a contingency to cover any further unforeseen costs.
- (5) Note the long-term relationship with Factory International and the ability to recover a significant proportion of the borrowing costs from naming rights income.
- (6) Note the progress made by MIF to prepare the organisation to operate Factory International, including recruitment, business planning, artistic programme development and social value benefits, in the lead up to MIF23.
- (7) Note progress in the development of employment, training and education opportunities and creative engagement programmes as part of Factory International's skills development programme.

**Exe/22/84 Admission Policies for 2024/25 for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools**

The Executive considered a report of the Director of Education, that sought approval to commence consultation on revised admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools.

The Executive member for Children and families reported that formal consultation on changing the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools would commence on the 31 October 2022 and would cover the following key proposal:

- To change the reapplication process for parents applying for a school place in year from three times per year to one.

Currently, waiting lists for schools were cleared at the end of each term and parents wishing to be replaced on a waiting list need to reapply each time. This change would mean that when an application was made, and a lower preference or alternative school place is offered, applicant details would remain on the waiting lists for the higher preference school for the whole or remainder of that academic year only.

It was noted that each individual governing body was the admission authority for primary and secondary schools with voluntary aided, foundation or academy status. The same requirements for consultation applied to these schools/academies, when governors wished to change their admission arrangements (policy).

For those schools who wished to continue to mirror the new arrangements proposed by the Council, a joint consultation process would be undertaken where this was preferred by the governing body.

## Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Agree in principle the proposed revised admissions arrangements.
- (2) Authorise the Director of Education to consult on the proposed implementation proposed revised admissions arrangements
- (3) Authorise the Director of Education to consider any responses received to the consultation and to agree to the implementation of the proposed arrangements
- (4) Agree to adopt the proposed arrangements under delegated powers after consultation:

### **Exe/22/85 School Place Planning**

The Executive considered a report of the Director of Education, which provided an overview of Manchester's current school age population and the numbers forecast for future academic years. It also detailed work previously undertaken and that which was planned to achieve a sufficiency of school places.

The Executive Member for Children and Families reported that in response to the increasing demand for school places the Council continued to work with its partners to develop additional places in targeted areas, utilising capital funding provided by the Government to the Council for this purpose (known as Basic Need capital funding), as well as through access to some additional sources of funding where possible and the development of free schools through the Government's free school scheme.

The continued attractiveness of the city centre as a place to live and work and ongoing residential growth was expected to result in additional demand for primary school places as more residents choose to remain in the area when starting a family. In response to this forecast demand the Council was working with Renaker Build to establish a new primary school as part of the Crown Street phase 2 development. The school would provide 210 places for primary age children along with a 26-place nursery. It would be funded by S106 and basic need capital and is expected to open in 2024.

Historical growth of primary cohorts was continuing to drive increased demand for places at secondary schools along with new arrivals to the city. In response to this demand the Council had commissioned a significant programme of expansions and new schools funded from Basic Need capital and worked with the DfE to secure the delivery of centrally funded free schools. A further two pipeline secondary schools were planned to open and would be delivered by the DfE as part of the central free school programme. Dixons Newall Green Academy would open in 2023 and was set to provide a total of 700 places at the former site of Newall Green Academy in Baguley. The Dean Trust would open a new school in 2027 providing 1050 places at a site in Newton Heath.

It was also proposed that due to the ongoing high levels of demand for specialist provision across the City, a new secondary special school would be brought forward at a site located in Miles Platting. The school is expected to provide 150 places for pupils with an EHCP and would open in 2025. This new investment would be resourced from the High Needs Capital and Basic Need grants.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Support the principle that High Needs Capital and Basic Need funding is used to fund the new special high school;
- (2) Agree that the Council undertakes consultation to gather views on the plans to develop a new special high school as a first step towards identifying a provider for the new school;
- (3) Delegate responsibility to the Director of Education in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services to:
  - a) progress the publication of a specification for the new school and invitations to sponsor based on the outcomes of the consultation.
  - b) Identify a preferred sponsor for the new school to be recommended to the DfE.

## **Exe/22/86 Establishment of the GM Integrated Care Partnership Board**

The Executive considered a report of the City Solicitor and Head of People, Place and Regulation (Legal Services), which sought agreement to the establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (GM ICP) as a joint committee and to agree the terms of reference for the GM ICP.

An ICP was one of two statutory components of an Integrated Care System, alongside the Integrated Care Board (ICB). The minimum core membership of the ICP would consist of 10 representatives from the 10 districts and a member of ICB.

ICPs had a statutory duty to create an integrated care strategy to address the assessed needs, such as health and care needs of the population within the ICB's area, including determinants of health and wellbeing such as employment, environment, and housing.

It was clarified that the Council's representative on the ICP would be the Executive Leader with the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care acting as deputy.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Agree to the establishment the GM Integrated Care Partnership as a joint committee of the ICB and 10 local authorities.
- (2) Agree that Council will appoint the Executive Leader as the Council's representative on the ICP and the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester as substitute member
- (3) Note the proposed Terms of Reference of the GM ICP.

### **Exe/22/87 Biodiversity Strategy**

The Executive considered a report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing, which provided an overview of the draft Manchester Biodiversity Strategy for approval.

The Leader explained that the new Manchester Biodiversity Strategy focused on the need to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity in the City for current and future generations. It was the third Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to be developed in the City, and provided a comprehensive, multi- agency 10-year Action Plan of activity and commitments which would support positive citywide biodiversity impact.

The Council was committed to support the new biodiversity strategy and it was recognised that this was a key strategy for the City, which would play an important role in developing future plans and policies. It was also recognised that there were significant cross overs, linkages and opportunities, to embed and integrate biodiversity into wider City priorities and challenges, to inform our strategic thinking and decision making.

Key thematic links for biodiversity would include influencing post COVID recovery, improving the health and wellbeing of communities, supporting climate resilience, improved place making, better sustainable transport connectivity, reducing flood risk and improving air quality.

The strategy would help to provide a platform for guidance on the conservation of biodiversity and the safeguarding of species. It would help identify the potential ecological impacts of development and highlight possible mitigation opportunities.

### **Decision**

The Executive approve and endorse the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy.

### **Exe/22/88 Hackney Carriage Fare Review**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which set out all the relevant information in relation to a full Hackney Carriage Fare Review.

The Hackney Fare Tariff was last fully reviewed in June 2017 when a 6.42% increase was applied to the distance element of the fare tariff only (waiting time tariff was not adjusted). Minor amendments were made in 2018 and 2020 to reflect charges

introduced at Manchester Airport. It is acknowledged that the fare tariff has not been fully reviewed since 2017.

It was noted that since the last review, running costs had increased by 23%, and that if this increase were to be applied to the fares, this wouldn't be an increase in profit but a recovery of the costs incurred by trade operators

Prior to consideration by the Executive, the proposals had been considered by the Council's Licensing and Appeals Committee, who had been conscious that a balance needed to be met between the need to ensure that the hackney carriage trade remained viable against the needs of the travelling public, particularly those disabled passengers who relied on wheelchair accessible vehicles as well as other residents and visitors to the city. The Committee had not been unanimous in its decision to recommend a 23% increase in distance to the night-time tariff and there had been concerns about the effect this would have on trade in what they considered a competitive night-time market.

When deciding on the recommendations the Committee took into account the volatile state of the economy and the fact that the Trade was still in a financially difficult position due to the effects of the pandemic. However, the Committee was also mindful that passengers were facing a cost of living crisis. Taking these factors into account as well as the fact that they would recommend a further review of Hackney carriage fares in 12 months' time the Committee did not consider it appropriate to recommend an increase in the waiting time tariff at this stage.

The Executive were asked to consider and if in agreement adopt the recommendations put forward by the Licensing and Appeals Committee.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Agrees to increase the Day flag tariff to £2.60.
- (2) Agrees to Increase the Night flag tariff to £3.00.
- (3) Agrees to apply the 23% increase to the rest of the fare on distance on Tariff 1.
- (4) Agrees to apply the 23% increase on the fare on distance on Tariffs 2 & 3 (Night and Bank Holiday Tariffs).
- (5) Agrees not to apply an increase to the waiting time on this occasion and review in 12 months.
- (6) Agrees to retain the current 20p charge for additional passengers but review this in 12 months.
- (7) Agrees to not re-introduce the 20p luggage surcharge at this time.

- (8) Agrees to permit the £1.80 airport pick-up charge to be applied as an extra on the fare card.
- (9) Agrees that the Fare is reviewed again in 12 months' time.
- (10) Agrees to increase the fouling charge from £30 to £50.

#### **Exe/22/89 ICT and Digital Strategy**

The Executive considered a report of the Director of ICT, which provided an update on the development of the ICT and Digital Strategy.

The Deputy Executive member for Finance and Resources reported that the strategy and technology road map were important for the delivery of council priorities to make sure that investment was prioritised in line with the Councils priorities, and that it sat upon robust and secure infrastructure.

The strategy would also underpin the delivery of the next phase of the Future Shape of the Council programme particularly:-

- Delivering an improved service to residents and businesses through an implementation of a new Customer relationship Management (CRM) system and website through the Resident and Business Digital Experience Programme;
- The replacement of the council's main Finance, Procurement and Human Resources system (SAP) which would be at end of life in 2027;
- Moving away from the current data centres to a hybrid cloud approach which would see over 50% of Council servers move to the cloud, thereby reducing costs and improving resilience; and
- Further embedding the systems and processes from the old Northwards Housing organisation into Housing Operations.

Work was ongoing to develop a four-year delivery and investment plan, which once the strategy was agreed, would go via the appropriate Council approval and budget setting routes.

#### **Decision**

The Executive approve the ICT and Digital Strategy

#### **Exe/22/90 Heart of Manchester Business Improvement District**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) and Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which outlined proposals for the new Heart of Manchester Business Improvement District and the arrangements that were needed for the Chief Executive (as Ballot Holder) to hold the Heart of Manchester Business Improvement District ballot.

The Leader reported that in recent years the city centre, as the region's economic hub, had undergone transformational regeneration and benefitted from significant inward investment. This had underpinned Manchester's development as a leading

international city to live, work, study and visit. This proposal related to the third City Centre BID, to run from April 2023 for five years and was focused on both the retail and office sectors (whereas its predecessor BIDs focused solely on retail).

Legislation allowed for a BID to be set up once a vote (a “BID ballot”), with a majority in favour (both in terms of number and collective rateable value), had taken place. If approved in the BID ballot, the proposed HoM BID would be managed by an independent BID body, Heart of Manchester BID Ltd (a company limited by guarantee).

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the receipt of the new Heart of Manchester Business Improvement District 2023 – 2028 proposal from the BID proposer, the Heart of Manchester BID Company Limited (Company Number 08422906)
- (2) Confirm that the proposals do not conflict with any policy formally adopted by, and contained in a document published by the Council.
- (3) Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer the authority to instruct the Ballot Holder to hold the HoM BID ballot.
- (4) Note that if the BID is approved, The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer will be responsible for collecting the HoM BID levy in accordance with the BID arrangements.

## **Executive**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16 November 2022**

**Present:** Councillor Craig (Chair)

**Councillors:** Akbar, Bridges, Hacking, Midgley, Rahman, Rawlins, T Robinson and White

**Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:**

**Councillors:** Butt, Collins, Douglas, Foley, Johnson and Lynch

**Apologies:** Councillors Ahmed Ali, Igbon, Leech and Stanton

**Also present:** Councillor Simcock (Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee)

#### **Exe/22/91 Minutes**

##### **Decision**

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 19 October 2022.

#### **Exe/22/92 Our Manchester Progress Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on key areas of progress against the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 which reset Manchester’s priorities for the next five years to ensure the Council could still achieve the city’s ambition set out in the Our Manchester Strategy 2016 – 2025.

The Leader reported that Manchester had been named by National Geographic magazine as one its top 25 must-visit global destinations for 2023. The city was the only UK city to be recognised in the publication’s influential ‘Best of the World’ list, joining destinations including New Zealand and San Francisco. The accolade recognised the strength of Manchester’s post-pandemic revival and the raft of significant cultural openings in 2023 including Factory International and Manchester Museum after a £15m transformation including new galleries. Manchester was also featured in the ‘family’ category of the list, recognising destinations offering educational journeys for all generations.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported on the opening of Gorton’s new community, integrated health and learning hub, which opened on Tuesday 15 November. The hub would bring together a range of local services under the same roof for the first time, creating a one-stop-shop for local people to access a GP, health and social care services, employment support, cafe and a new Gorton library, all in a purpose built, highly accessible development. Each of the services would open to the public in a phased way through to January 2023. The Hub building would be open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 5pm on

Saturdays, although different services would have different opening times. The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure also reported on the new library space that had been created commenting that it was a testimony to what a library provision could be.

The Deputy Leader reported that from 1 November right through until spring 2023, the Council and fellow members of the Manchester Homelessness Partnership were providing extra support to help people sleeping on the streets move into accommodation through the coldest months. The increased accommodation provision, over and above that which was available all year round, would be available for as long as people needed it. The bed spaces were offered on a referral system to people who had been identified by partners and outreach teams as high priority. The extra accommodation was being funded by the Council, alongside funding from Government.

The Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported that Manchester-based arts organisations would now benefit from almost £25m a year of Arts Council England national portfolio funding over the next three years. New additions to the national portfolio included the National Football Museum, Brighter Sounds, Manchester Collective, Music Action International, Northern Lines, Reform Radio, Sheba Arts and Triple C. Other organisations including arts and creative hub for children and young people Z-Arts, who would now receive £401k a year, had received an uplift in existing funding to expand their work. The funding would run from 2023 to 2026 for cultural organisations that contributed to making Manchester a thriving, equitable, vibrant and liveable city with high quality cultural and creative experiences that all Manchester people could benefit from.

The Executive Member for Health Manchester and Adult Social Care reported that on 31 October 2022 the five-year Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan was launched at a conference held at the Etihad Stadium. In recognition that the continual engagement of the workforce and services across the social determinants of health was critical to developing the detail and successful delivery of the plan, invitations were targeted at frontline workers, managers and leaders in organisations and services that made up the population health system including the VCSE sector, health and housing as well as key city council teams and directorates. More than 200 delegates attended the full day event which was opened by the Council's Chief Executive and Leader, reflecting the priority of tackling inequalities for the city. Feedback from the event had been overwhelmingly positive and work had already begun to sustain this engagement, starting with the first of a number of regular planned bulletins to attendees which formed the starting point for Making Manchester Fairer's emerging workforce engagement strategy.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reported on the development of 130 affordable homes in Belle Vue which had reached a milestone last week with the opening of show homes. The homes were being delivered by developer Countryside and housing association partner Great Places and consisted of a mix of houses and apartment with 89 homes for social rent, 12 homes available for rent at the Manchester Living Rent and 29 for shared ownership. The development would also have 117 properties for sale on the open market. All homes were being built to greener by design standards including electric charging points for every house and

the development was bringing a brownfield site back into use. The Executive Member also reported on a new social benefit hub which had opened at Red Bank (part of the Victoria North regeneration programme) to help people gain employment, training and digital access. The Victoria North Community Hub had been set up by BAM Nuttall and Arup – the contractor working on the Red Bank phase of the regeneration project – as part of their social value commitment for the development. The Council had developed a programme of support to help residents in north Manchester, alongside a range of support services run by city-based voluntary organisations. BAM Nuttall and Arup were also providing the hub with access to laptops and free wi-fi to allow residents to search for jobs, get support with applications and find training opportunities, as well as to access housing and income advice. The hub, which would be available until spring 2024 at the BAM Nuttall site compound in Hargreaves Street, would be open to residents during pre-planned sessions with community organisations rather than on a drop-in basis.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report.

## **Exe/22/93    Revenue Budget Update**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which set out the scale of the budget challenge that the Council faced in respect of its forecasted medium term revenue budget.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources explained that the Council's budget had seen considerable reductions since the programme of austerity started in 2010/11, which saw a significant reduction to central government support for local authorities, in which Manchester had been one of the hardest hit places in the country. Over the last 12 years the Council had had to make £428m of cuts and savings to cope with Government funding cuts and unavoidable cost pressures such as inflation and a growing population.

The report set out the estimated budget position for the next three years and the potential scale of budget cuts required. The assumptions were based on a realistic view of the expected settlement announcements and a forecast of local tax funding available. This resulted in a forecasted funding gap of £28m in 2023/24 increasing to £96m by 2025/26. To date saving options totalling £42m over three years had been brought forward by officers for member consideration, however, a significant shortfall remained which must be addressed.

This meant that there would be a shortfall to balancing the 2023/24 budget of almost £7m increasing to £37m the year after. Officers were working to identify further measures to bring forward in January 2023. The proposed approach would include identifying a further £3m to £4m of savings targeted and deliverable in 2023/24 with a full-year effect of at least £8m, coupled with work to control expenditure in 2022/23 to reduce the in year overspend by a further £3-4m to free up reserves to further smooth the 2023/24 position.

The government's Autumn Statement was expected to be published on 17 November 2022. This would possibly provide more clarity on the direction of funding for Local Government. The provisional settlement expected late in December would provide the funding allocations for 2023/24. The provisional settlement outcome and revised position would be reported to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee and the Executive in January to consider the longer-term position. In addition, Scrutiny and Executive would also consider the final saving proposals to ensure a balanced budget was set and the council remained financially stable.

The Executive collectively expressed its indignation with government in regards to its complete mishandling of the country's economy and its inability to develop a coherent solution to tackle the unprecedented rises in energy costs, the highest levels of inflation for over 40 years and the ongoing cost of living crisis, which was ultimately having the largest impact on those most vulnerable. The Executive committed to supporting the city's most vulnerable within the financial envelope it had available.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report

### **Exe/22/94 Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which set out the progress against the delivery of the 2022/23 capital programme to the end of September 2022, the latest forecast of capital expenditure and the major variances since the Capital Programme Monitoring report submitted in September 2022 and the proposed financing of capital expenditure for 2022/23 and affordability of the Capital Programme.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources advised that the latest forecast of expenditure for 2022/23 was £513.0m compared to the current approved budget of £582.9m, with spend as of 30 September 2022 £150.4m. The £1,038.5m multi-year programme was subject to continual review to establish whether the forecast remained achievable. Whilst the intention was for the Council to progress the programme as stated, some projects and their sources of funding may require re-profiling into future years.

The top 10 projects within the Capital Programme accounted for 77.4% of the total programme and the report provided a focussed look on each of these projects, as well as any other material changes relating to other parts of the programme since the last report to Executive.

The most significant risk facing the programme and major projects overall was the continued high levels of inflation being experienced, particularly where contracts were not yet agreed. There were options available to the Council, such as entering fixed price agreements or elevating risk costs, but the inflationary risk was likely to be priced in a prudent basis. There was also an inflation contingency budget of £11.3m for the whole programme which could be accessed if inflationary pressures were greater than the contingency budgets built into existing cost plans.

The current modelling forecasted that the programme remained affordable within the revenue budget available including reserves. The model forecasted that the capital financing reserves held by the Council would be required to meet the costs associated with the Council's borrowing by 2025/26.

## **Decision**

The Executive note the report

### **Exe/22/95 Capital Programme update**

The Executive considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which informed Members of requests to increase the capital programme, sought approval for those schemes that could be approved under authority delegated to the Executive and asked the Executive to recommend to Council proposals that required specific Council approval.

The proposals which did not require Council approval and only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis was required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- Growth and Development – Back of Ancoats Mobility Hub. A capital budget virement of £3.739m was requested in 2023/24 from the Inflation Budget to address construction inflation costs. £18.761m of grant funding had been received from Homes England for the construction of this innovative scheme that will provide sustainable mobility solutions and car parking to Ancoats Phase 3, thereby supporting the delivery of 1,500 new homes and accompanying jobs. Despite a thorough design review and cost management process over recent months, the project cost had risen to £24.780m. This increase of £6.019m was driven primarily by construction inflation of 19.9% which totalled £3.739m.

The proposals which did not require Council approval and only required Executive approval were those which were funded by the use of external resources, use of capital receipts, use of reserves below £10.0m, where the proposal could be funded from existing revenue budgets or where the use of borrowing on a spend to save basis was required. The following proposals required Executive approval for changes to the City Council's capital programme:-

- ICT - Jadu Forms Migration. A capital budget decrease of £0.179m was requested and approval of a corresponding transfer of £0.179m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund, to upgrade the platform to the latest version to enable residents to continue to be able to use the Council's website.
- ICT – Remote Access Solution. A capital budget decrease of £0.095m was requested and approval of a corresponding transfer of £0.095m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund, to support a project for the replacement of

Callsign, exploiting existing technologies, simplifying the user experience, and utilising existing licenses already procured as part of an enterprise agreement.

- Highways Services – Patching Defect Repairs Programme Additional Funding. A capital budget increase of £0.552m in 2022/23 and £2.206m in 2023/24 was requested, funded by External Contribution, , to address the current funding pressure on the patching programme due to increasing construction and general inflation costs, but also to continue to reduce the backlog of defects and therefore, limiting the Council's exposure to highways claims.

The report highlighted that there had been increases to the programme totalling £0.309m as a result of delegated approvals since the previous report to the Executive on 19 October 2022.

Approval had also been given for the following capital budget virements:-

- £0.164m from the Parks Development Programme (PDP) to match fund an external contribution from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). This was a joint project between the Council / Manchester Active and the LTA. It was proposed that the existing tennis facilities located across the city would be upgraded, with a number of improvements being made.

If the recommendations in this report were approved the General Fund capital budget would increase by £2.484m across financial years. This would also result in an increase in the prudential indicator for Capital Expenditure in corresponding years. Monitoring of all prudential indicators was included within the Capital Monitoring Report during the year.

## Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Recommend that the Council approve the following changes to Manchester City Council's capital programme:

- Growth and Development - Back of Ancoats Mobility Hub. A capital budget virement of £3.739m from the Inflation Budget.

- (2) Approve the following changes to the Council's capital programme:

- ICT - Jadu Forms Migration. A capital budget decrease of £0.179m and approval of a corresponding transfer of £0.179m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund.
- ICT – Remote Access Solution. A capital budget decrease of £0.095m and approval of a corresponding transfer of £0.095m to the revenue budget, funded by Capital Fund.

- Highways Services – Patching Defect Repairs Programme Additional Funding. A capital budget increase of £2.758m funded by External Contribution
- (3) Note the increases to the programme of £0.309m as a result of delegated approvals.
- (4) Note the virements in the programme of £0.164m as a result of virements from approved budgets

### **Exe/22/96 Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy**

The Executive considered a report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services, Strategic Director Growth & Development and Strategic Director Children and Education Services, which provided an update on the development of an Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy for Manchester (2022 – 2032).

The Executive Member for Housing and Development, reported that the strategy set out a long-term vision which considered how best to improve accommodation options for people in need of care and support to help them remain independent for as long as possible, building on progress already made, and building an improved partnership approach to tackle the challenges faced, better understand and meet need and demand.

The four key objectives for the Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy had been agreed as follows:

- Work collaboratively to identify the need and demand for homes that will better enable independence.
- Ensure better care and support at home.
- Build the supported housing we need and improve pathways into it.
- Improve “move on” from temporary supported housing into good quality independent accommodation.

A delivery plan for each of the four objectives would follow the strategy, with named responsible officers overseeing the programme boards (with partner representation) which will be set up for each objective to oversee delivery of the commitments that had been set out. A comprehensive programme of consultation had been carried out with a range of audiences including Members, commissioners, providers and user groups.

Once the Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy had been finalised, considered, and pending approval by the Executive, delivery plans and a programme board for each objective would be established. The actions detailed in the delivery plan would set out a clear blueprint for how officers would realise the Strategy’s vision and fulfil the commitments that had been made. The delivery plan would be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The Strategic Housing Board, which had representation from all relevant Council services and MHPP, would oversee the strategy implementation and an annual

performance update would be published to report progress on the four key objectives.

## **Decision**

The Executive agree to adopt the Manchester Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy (2022-2032).

### **Exe/22/97 Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director – Neighbourhoods, which provided an update on the key findings identified in Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS), specifically regarding sport specific playing pitches and courts.

The current position for all pitch sports was either demand was being met or there was a shortfall. The future position showed exacerbation of current shortfalls in some playing pitch types.

The PPOSS provided a clear strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities between the strategy period 2022 - 2031. As such formal adoption of the strategy was required by the Council. Its robustness was built on the extensive consultation carried out with clubs, leagues and providers including education establishments and community organisations and users

The Strategy framed the priorities for future investment and the continued development of the playing pitch and associated infrastructure. Whilst the analysis within the PPOSS would assist in determining the priorities for investment, it did not guarantee deliverability of projects. All projects would be subject to sources of funding (primarily from external sources) being made available to be developed in consultation with National Governing Bodies of Sport and supported as appropriate by the Council.

The majority of sites had recommendations to maximise use through improved pitch quality and maintenance. There was also a need to secure long-term community use at school / Council / Community sites to sustain and grow affiliated sport and informal play. An Action Plan had been developed which identified there was a need to either protect, provide, or enhance existing facilities to address projected deficiencies over the lifespan of the strategy (2022 – 2031).

A Council led steering group would monitor and lead implementation of the PPOSS which would remain a live working document to be updated annually to reflect current area and sport specific priorities. Site specific plans would be added to the Leisure Capital Programme once the business case and investment strategy was brought forward.

## **Decision**

The Executive approve the Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy for adoption by Manchester Planning Authority

### **Exe/22/98    Delivery of Affordable Housing - Project 500 Update (Part A)**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided a progress update on the delivery of affordable homes as part of Project 500 and sought agreement for the disposal of a portfolio of sites in Council ownership for the provision of affordable homes.

The Executive Member for Growth and Housing reported that Project 500 set out to deliver affordable homes on small, non-commercially facing land assets owned by the Council which would be facilitated by seven Registered Providers (RPs). 27 sites had been identified as deliverable as part of Phase 1 of Project 500. This would deliver 378 affordable homes – 89% available for Social Rent or Manchester Living Rent.

Many of the sites were in areas of very high demand for affordable housing – principally North and East Manchester and correlated with areas of intervention identified within the city's recently published Housing Strategy (2022-2032). The tenure mix across the project had been designed to deliver the optimal outcome to support the Council's objectives, whilst remaining viable at a portfolio level.

In line with the Council's obligations to demonstrate and achieve Best Value, an appraisal had been undertaken for each site to consider residual land value. The appraisals had regard to the schemes proposed and was benchmarked against current build costs and values.

The fragmented nature of the sites and challenging development environment had prompted officers to review the proposal to dispose of the sites by way of a long lease. Following long discussions with Manchester Housing Providers Partnership (MHPP) regarding the tenure of the sites to be disposed of and the difficulties expressed by MHPP that would be presented if the disposals were on a long leasehold basis it was considered that the reasons put forward by MHPP represented an overriding reason not to dispose of the sites on a leasehold basis.

The fundamental reasons (amongst others expressed by MHPP) was the change to Homes England funding requirements as well as the recent leasehold legislative changes relevant to long leaseholds for residential premises. In addition, although Shared Ownership structures were exempted from such legislative changes, MHPP anticipated that across the project there would be a large presence of initial shared ownership structure sales to buyers. In view for the potential of such buyers to eventually staircase to 100% and then call on the freehold transfer of their home, MHPP had stipulated that a freehold interest was needed to meet the requirements on final staircasing and the demand to take the freehold by the buyer.

The Council was able to continue to secure their required objectives by way of freehold disposals of the sites rather than by way of long leasehold disposals and so it was proposed to dispose of the sites on a freehold basis. This was also aligned

with the revised Homes England position, which required as a minimum a 999-year lease where this was available.

## **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the progress to date.
- (2) Approve the disposal of the identified land on the principal terms set out in the report.
- (3) Authorise and delegate the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer to agree and finalise the detailed terms of the transactions.
- (4) Authorise the City Solicitor to seek such statutory consents as may be necessary in regard to the disposal of identified land and conclude and complete all documents and agreements necessary to give effect to the terms agreed and the recommendations in this report.

### **Exe/22/99 King Street Multistorey Car Park & King Street West Shops (Part A)**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which sought approval for the disposal by way of a surrender of the Council's leasehold interest in the King Street West multi storey car park (MSCP) and ground floor retail shops to facilitate the redevelopment of the site.

The Leader advised that the disposal of the Council's asset (MSCP and ground floor shops) would create a development platform to undertake the wholesale redevelopment of a cornerstone area of Deansgate and King Street West. The redevelopment was planned to be one of the first major schemes to be brought forward following the adoption of the St Marys Parsonage SRF and was anticipated to provide a catalyst for the other schemes in the vicinity.

Fundamental to the redevelopment would be demolition, which would necessitate the closure of the ground floor shops. Engagement with the tenants had been ongoing during the SRF and planning process but both MCC and the developer would endeavour to work closely with each of the tenants to ensure that they were offered advice and guidance along with as much notice as possible in respect of the date by which vacant possession of the units was required.

It was acknowledged that the closure of these retail units would result in the extinguishment of some businesses and as a consequent, a small number of job losses, should any of the businesses choose to permanently close. The precise impact could not be evaluated at this moment but it was hoped that these businesses could be supported to consider relocating locally and retain staff where possible.

Supporting the sustainable redevelopment of sites not fulfilling their commercial potential and maximising the contribution to the city was key to the success of the

SRF strategy. Over 500,000sq/ft of [new] office space would be created within this area. This new development would contribute to the economic success of the city through new jobs, homes and other infrastructure as well as providing a significant new income from business rates and council tax.

The direct revenue and capital implications of the acquisition were set out in the report of the same title on Part B of this agenda.

## **Decisions**

### **The Executive**

- (1) Approve the decision to declare the asset surplus to operational need for disposal by way of surrender of the lease.
- (2) Note the proposal to return to Executive in the event that (1) it has not been possible to secure vacant possession of the site by agreement and a formal request be made to consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Powers and (2) following a period of negotiation with the beneficiaries of any adjoining third party rights affected by the proposed development, the freeholder has not reached a settlement and has requested the Council consider use its powers under section 203 Housing and Planning Act 2016 .
- (3) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, Strategic Director of Growth & Development in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Resources to negotiate and finalise the details and terms of the disposal by way of surrender together with the property, commercial and any ancillary arrangements.
- (4) Delegate authority to the City Solicitor to enter into and complete all documents or agreements necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report

### **Exe/22/100 Mayfield Phase 1 Update (Part A)**

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which provided an update on progress on the Mayfield development and informed Members of proposals for the Mayfield Development Partnership Limited Partnership (MDPLP), in which the Council (through various contractual and joint venture arrangements) was a partner, to enter into a partnership with a Landsec (Land Securities Group plc) special purpose vehicle for the delivery of the first phase of commercial development and to acquire an interest in the neighbouring Macdonald Hotel car park site.

The Leader reported that despite some delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, substantive progress had now been made on delivering the first phase of Mayfield, which would set a strong foundation for realising the overall development. Mayfield Park had been completed and was opened to the public in September 2022.

Following the acquisition of U&I PPP Limited (the former preferred private sector development partner for the site), Landsec had expressed a desire to progress with

the first phase of commercial development at the earliest opportunity. The delivery of Phase 1 would kickstart the future phases of development, provide essential investment to the site, and begin to bring new businesses and jobs to the area

The MDPLP had been negotiating with Landsec on development delivery arrangements to deliver the first phase, and were now looking to enter into this arrangement, which could then be extended to future phases. The agreement did not alter the terms of the overarching Public Sector and Partnership joint venture arrangements, reported to the Executive in September 2016. The public sector partners had been advised by an independent property agency and every care had been taken to ensure that the partners received best value from the arrangements and that any risks to the Council and the other public sector partners were minimised.

However, it was noted that should the delivery arrangements fail, and the expected receipts were not received, the Partnership would be required to meet the future costs of the maintenance of the site, including the running costs of the park. These were estimated to be £750k for 2023/24, and reaching £1.1m p.a. by 2025/26.

It was also reported that the current owners of the Macdonald Manchester Hotel on London Road recently marketed the car park adjacent to the hotel for sale as it was considered to be surplus to their operational requirements for the hotel. This site was included within the Mayfield SRF. The MDPLP had made an offer to the owners to purchase the site, with the price based on independent valuation advice. This offer had now been accepted and terms agreed, in principle, for the sale

The acquisition costs would be met by the public and private sector partners which make up the MDPLP, in line with their respective interests. This meant that the Council's contribution to the acquisition would be £1.262m and it was proposed that these costs were funded from the existing approved Strategic Acquisitions Budget.

In addition, there was a requirement for additional working capital from the public and private sector partners in the MDPLP in order to maintain the operational and development activities of the Partnership and enable the preparations needed for the delivery of Phase 1. The Council had previously provided land and working capital to a value of approximately £4.25m. to the Partnership. The Council's share of the additional capital was £90k, of which £83k is already budgeted for within the Mayfield budget. It was proposed that the £7k difference is transferred from the Strategic Acquisitions Budget to the Mayfield Budget.

To support the public sector limited partnership's funding of the acquisition and enable the development to progress there was also a need to refinance the existing public sector partnership (which made up 50% of the overall Partnership joint venture). Significant historic costs were incurred relating to the original procurement of U&I PPP Limited, costs for negotiating the original public sector and Partnership agreements and the more recent property advice to inform the Phase 1 arrangements. It was anticipated that the refinancing of historic public sector partnership costs and the additional capital funding to the Partnership would enable the realisation of future capital receipts provided from the longer-term re-development of the Mayfield site, including from the development of the Macdonald car park site.

The report was accompanied by a Part B report, which outlined the confidential commercial terms of the arrangements for both of these transactions.

## Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the progress made on delivery of Phase 1 of the Mayfield development.
- (2) Note the terms of the arrangements for delivery of Phase 1 of the commercial development of Mayfield and for acquiring the Macdonald Hotel car park site as set out in this report and the detailed confidential commercial terms for those transactions as set out within the Part B report on Mayfield Phase 1 on the agenda.
- (3) Approve a virement of £886k from the Strategic Acquisitions budget to the Mayfield budget.
- (4) Approve the use of the Strategic Acquisitions budget (£1.262m) and the Mayfield budget (£90k) to fund additional working capital to the Partnership by way of loan notes in the sum of £1.316m to facilitate and support the delivery of Phase 1 of the Mayfield development and the acquisition of the Macdonald Car Park.
- (5) Approve the use of £879k from the Mayfield budget to refinance some of the historic development costs of the public sector limited partnership.
- (6) Delegate authority to the City Solicitor to complete and enter into any necessary contractual or ancillary documents required to give effect to the above recommendations and the arrangements as set out in the report.
- (7) Approve, in the Council's capacity as shareholder or limited partner, the entering into or completion of any necessary contractual or ancillary documents on behalf of Mayfield Development Manchester Limited, Mayfield Partnership Limited Partnership, Mayfield Partnership (General Partner) Limited, Mayfield Development Partnership Limited Partnership and Mayfield Development (General Partner) Limited required to give effect to the above recommendations and the arrangements as set out in the report.
- (8) Note that in accordance with paragraph 18 of Part 4, Access to Information Procedure Rules and paragraph 14 of Part 4, Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's constitution, and having considered the advice of the relevant statutory officers, the Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the above decisions are deemed as urgent, in that any delay caused by the call-in process, would seriously prejudice the legal or financial position of the Council or the interests of the residents of Manchester and as such has exempted these decisions from Call In.

## **Exe/22/101 Exclusion of Press and Public**

### **Decision**

The Executive agrees to exclude the public during consideration of the following item which involved consideration of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of particular persons and public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

## **Exe/22/102 Delivery of Affordable Housing - Project 500 Update (Part B)**

Further to Minute Exe/22/98, the Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which set out the land valuation and financial ramifications in respect of the proposals to dispose of a portfolio of sites in Council ownership for the provision of affordable homes in relation to Project 500.

### **Decision**

The Executive note the valuation information contained in this report.

## **Exe/22/103 King Street Multistorey Car Park & King Street West Shops (Part B)**

Further to Minute Exe/22/99, the Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which set out the financial implications of the proposed surrender of the long leasehold interest the Council holds for the multi storey car park (MSCP) and ground floor retail shops at King Street West.

### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the decision to declare the asset surplus to operational need for disposal by way of surrender of the lease of the MSCP and ground floor retail shops at King Street West.
- (2) Note the proposal to return to Executive in the event that (1) it has not been possible to secure vacant possession of the site by agreement and a formal request be made to consider the use of Compulsory Purchase Powers and (2) following a period of negotiation with the beneficiaries of any adjoining third party rights affected by the proposed development, the freeholder has not reached a settlement and has requested the Council consider use its powers under section 203 Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- (3) Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, Strategic Director (Growth and Development) in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member for Finance and Resources to negotiate and finalise the details and terms of the disposal by way of surrender together with the property, commercial and any ancillary arrangements.

- (4) Delegate authority to the City Solicitor to enter into and complete all documents or agreements necessary to give effect to the recommendations in this report.
- (5) Note the net revenue budget growth of £1.46m that will be required to offset the loss of income, and that this will need to be considered as part of the 2024/25 budget process.

#### **Exe/22/104 Mayfield Phase 1 Update (Part B)**

Further to Minute Exe/22/100, the Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which outlined the confidential commercial terms of the arrangements for the delivery of the first phase of commercial development and to acquire an interest in the neighbouring Macdonald Hotel car park site as part of Mayfield Phase 1 redevelopment.

#### **Decisions**

The Executive:-

- (1) Note the contents of the Mayfield Phase 1 Update Part A report.
- (2) Endorse the proposal for the Mayfield Development Partnership Limited Partnership (acting through its general partner) to enter into agreements with the Landsec SPV for delivery of Phase 1 of the commercial development of Mayfield as set out in the report.
- (3) Note the intention of the Mayfield Development Partnership Limited Partnership (acting through its general partner) to acquire part of the leasehold interest in the Macdonald Hotel.

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## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hitchen - In the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Benham, Connolly, M Dar, Hilal, Hussain, Iqbal, Johnson, Ogunbambo, Rawson and Wilson

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

Councillor Reid, Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Judge, Lead Member for the Armed Forces

Louise Harding, MCRactive

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Chambers, Evans, H Priest, Whiston and Wills

### **CESC/22/37                  Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2022 as a correct record.

### **CESC/22/38                  Homelessness Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Housing Operations that provided an update on the plans for winter for people who slept rough and the Homelessness Commissioning Strategy.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Updates on the transformation progress;
- Describing the Enabling Independence Strategy, the Council wide strategy on supported accommodation; and
- Noting that Members had requested that a full homeless scrutiny update report be presented to the 10 January 2023 meeting.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Recognising that people experiencing homelessness often also had complex needs associated with substance misuse and mental health, and the response and support to this needed to be appropriate;
- Recognising the importance of prevention initiatives to avoid people experiencing homelessness;
- Prevention Hubs needed to be established across all areas of the city;
- The need to reduce the use of Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation, especially for families;

- Private Landlords needed to do more to improve the quality of their properties and respond to repairs in a timely manner;
- Housing Associations should improve the turn around times to re-let vacant properties to reduce the reliance on the Private Rented Sector;
- Data was sought on ethnicity and temporary accommodation occupancy;
- How equalities considerations informed the approach to address homelessness; and
- More information was requested on the Peony Project.

The Committee heard from Councillor Reid, Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. She reiterated the concerns raised regarding the impact on rates of homelessness of the cost-of-living crisis and rising childcare costs that had been articulated by the Members. She stated that it was important that families who were placed in temporary accommodation were housed close to the child's school and support network. She called for an end to housing families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation and called for more Social Housing to be delivered across the city. She also supported a call for an immediate end to no fault Section 21 evictions and called for the use of Council controlled advertising boards to promote help and advice.

The Deputy Leader informed the Committee that the Manchester Homelessness Partnership had been relaunched on 10 October 2022. She stated that homelessness presented a significant challenge for the city and would be exacerbated by the current cost of living crisis. She stated that if Manchester residents wished to support homeless people, they should contact the many voluntary support organisations or donate to the Real Change MCR campaign. She further commented that people could also donate goods to the Mustard Tree. She further commented that the Council continued to lobby government to adequately fund services to support homeless people. She called for an end to no fault Section 21 evictions, an increase in the Local Housing Allowance Rate and for developers to build more affordable homes.

The Assistant Director for Homelessness advised that it was recognised that people experiencing homelessness often had complex needs and the response and support offered needed to be appropriate to meet their needs and provide wrap around support. He reiterated the importance of prevention work to avoid homelessness, adding that this was everyone's responsibility. He stated for example that if a landlord did serve a notice to quit officers would work on behalf of the tenant to negotiate and engage with the landlord to maintain the tenancy, adding the need for professional, quality landlords to operate in the Private Rented Sector. In response to a specific question, he provided a definition of the term 'intentionally homeless' and the duty on the authority in such cases.

The Assistant Director for Homelessness advised that B&B accommodation was only used in exceptional cases and for no more than six weeks; however, there were circumstances when this this period was extended. He advised that the average length of stay was 25 days. He stated that different departments did work closely together such as Children's, Adults and Community Mental Health services.

The Director of Housing Operations stated that, following the meeting, he would circulate information on the Housing Strategy that described the approach to refurbishing the Council's own assets to accommodate homeless people. In regard to Registered Social Housing voids, he stated this could be attributed to issues with the supply chain; however, he acknowledged this was an issue that needed addressing. He further advised that the intention was to build upon and expand the Prevention Hubs model. In response to a question asked regarding commissioned accommodation, Members were informed that this was Housing Related Support services delivered by third party Registered Housing Providers.

The Strategic Lead for Homelessness described that the Peony Project was a project that provided supported accommodation for women with complex needs. She said this provided intensive support to enable people to move on into suitable alternative accommodation. She advised that more information would be provided in the report scheduled for the January 2023 meeting. In response to a question regarding Floating Support, she advised that this was a new model of service delivery and would be evaluated with the intention being to roll this model out more widely across the city. She reiterated the point raised earlier that homelessness prevention was everyone's responsibility and provided an example of primary care signposting people to appropriate sources of support and advice.

The Assistant Director for Homelessness paid tribute to the staff working in the homelessness teams and paid tribute to their dedication and commitment to supporting some of the most vulnerable residents in the city. He said the team collectively had a vast knowledge and experience and he was keen to listen to their suggestions as to how the service could be improved.

The Chair advised that Members would be discussing and agreeing the scope of the report scheduled for January 2023 at the rise of this meeting. She requested that the report authors liaise with both Lead Members for Race as this report was being written to ensure the points raised regarding equalities were addressed.

The Chair stated that she would write to the Secretary of State Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and invite them to visit Manchester to witness the experience of homelessness in Manchester. She further called on all Manchester MPs to lobby the Secretary of State on this issue.

## **Decisions**

1. The Committee note the report and would be agreeing the scope of the report scheduled for January 2023 at the rise of this meeting.
2. That the Chair, in conjunction with the Deputy Leader, write to the Secretary of State Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and invite them to visit Manchester to witness the experience of homelessness in Manchester.

**CESC/22/39****Armed Forces Covenant Update and Annual Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services and Strategic Management Team Armed Forces Champion that introduced the Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report for 2021/22.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Noting that the report would be presented to Council;
- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information on the formation of the Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group;
- Describing that the Armed Forces Act 2021 placed new statutory duties upon councils and other statutory bodies to have due regard to the principles of the Covenant when exercising certain housing, education, or healthcare functions; and
- Next steps.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- The Committee welcomed the report and the progress described;
- Welcoming that the Council had achieved Gold Status from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme due to significant progress in becoming a forces friendly employer;
- Did the other boroughs across Greater Manchester have the Gold Status;
- What was being done to support those ex-service personnel who experienced homelessness in Manchester;
- Were soldiers from the Commonwealth entitled to access the same support; and
- Welcoming that the Armed Forces had been added to the Council's Equalities Impact Assessment template to ensure all services had due regard to the impact their service had on this community.

Councillor Judge, Lead Member for the Armed Forces, spoke of his pride in the report and paid tribute to the team who had delivered this important area of work. He stated that it was a 'living' report which reflected the lived experience of ex-service men and women. He stated that he had immense pride in the Armed Forces Day each year and stated that this was very well attended in Manchester. He stated that it was his ambition to have the national Armed Forces Day event held in Manchester, and he would continue to lobby for that.

In response to the specific questions, Councillor Judge advised that eight of the ten boroughs across Greater Manchester had obtained the Gold Status from the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. He further stated that those ex-service personnel who experienced homelessness in Manchester were known to services and voluntary groups and there was regular engagement to offer support. He further advised that Commonwealth soldiers were entitled to the same support and made reference to his experience of working with a Commonwealth soldier and his family who now lived in the Help For Heroes housing scheme delivered at Canada Street. He further advised the Committee that any omitted names from war memorials could be added and if Members were aware of any such cases to contact him directly.

The Committee also heard from the Equalities Specialist Officer who spoke of his experience since leaving the Armed Forces. He further commented that the refresh of the online Armed Forces Toolkit had been important to ensure the Council provided necessary and improved information, links, and signposting for veterans, reservists, their families, and professionals working with the armed forces community.

## **Decision**

The Committee welcome the report and support the call for the national Armed Forces Day event to be held in Manchester.

### **CESC/22/40                      Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an update on the key findings identified in Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS), specifically regarding sport specific playing pitches and courts. The site-specific action plan that accompanied the strategy would remain a live document managed by the Council and partners for the lifespan of the Strategy (2022 – 2031).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing how Places for Everyone linked with the PPOSS;
- Analysis of population and housing growth to calculate likely future demand on a sport by sport and area basis;
- An update on the Manchester Capital Schools Programme (2021 – 2026);
- Information on the Manchester's Sport & Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2028, noting that this set out a vision to get all residents moving more across the life course helping to transform their health and wellbeing;
- Governance arrangements;
- Describing the vision and strategic aims;
- An update on supply and demand, and sports specific key recommendations;
- Investment opportunities; and
- Conclusions.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Third generation artificial grass (3G) pitches in South and Wythenshawe areas, including plans underway for Hough End and Wythenshawe Park sites;
- The need for access to 3G pitches to be affordable to all residents;
- The need to consider all environmental implications;
- The need to work with all schools to ensure that community groups and clubs could access their pitches at weekends;
- Had population demographics been taken into consideration when devising this strategy;
- Recognising the importance of getting more Manchester residents active; and

- The need to improve 'non official' pitches in parks, by installing markings and improvements to the pitch surfaces.

The Commercial Manager (Neighbourhoods) noted that a report entitled 'Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy Update and Proposed Refresh' had been considered at the Committee's September meeting and this had included consideration of affordability. She further confirmed that consideration was given to gender specific provision.

Louise Harding from MCRactive advised that demographics had been taken into consideration when devising the strategy and that the strategy would address inequalities in provision. She further advised that work was underway with the Football Association to consider the approach to pitches. Discussions were ongoing with schools regarding the issue of use of school pitches at weekends. In response to a question from the Chair regarding provision in the north of the city, she advised that she would discuss this further outside of the meeting.

The Chair asked that a written response be provided to Councillor Evans in answer to a question he had submitted regarding 3G pitches in Wythenshawe. Officers confirmed that this would be done following the meeting.

### **Decision**

The Committee endorse the Manchester Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy.

[Councillor Ogunbambo declared a personal interest as Chair of Blackley FC]

### **CESC/22/41            Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained a list of key decisions yet to be taken within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme.

## **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 October 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Andrews, Davies, Good, Kirkpatrick and Rowles

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Rahman, Deputy Leader (Statutory)  
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Stanton, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources  
Randel Bryan, Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive – Factory International

**Apologies:** Councillor Lanchbury, B Priest and Wheeler

#### **RGSC/22/39 Interests**

Councillor Joan Davies declared a personal interest in item 5 – Factory International.

#### **RGSC/22/40 Minutes**

#### **Decision:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Thursday, 6 September 2022, be approved as a correct record.

#### **RGSC/22/41 Factory International**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Strategic Director of Growth and Development which provided an update on progress with the delivery of The Factory Arts Centre, progress with the redevelopment of St John's and the preparations for the opening of the building.

Key themes and points in the report included:

- Creative industries are the fastest growing sector in Manchester and the creation of Factory International will sustain and grow this vital sector as well as strengthening Manchester's reputation as a nationally and internationally important centre for culture and creativity;
- Anticipated visitor figures both in a festival year and non-festival year;
- The number of jobs provided by the development of Factory International and St John's Quarter;
- The work of The Factory Academy in providing training and skills;
- Cost pressures facing the project, despite tight management and work to preserve completion dates;

- The total forecast outturn position for the project is a shortfall of £19.7m excluding the acceleration works, additional contingencies and risks;
- The strategic principles underpinning a five-year campaign from 2021 to support projected income targets for commercial sponsorship and philanthropic support;
- Contractual arrangements between the Council and Manchester International Festival;
- Inspiring local communities is central to the vision for Factory International and a creative engagement strategy will be delivered to focus on several workstreams; and
- How Factory International will be environmentally sustainable.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussions included:

- The positive benefits of the project;
- What was meant by 'management contracts';
- Requesting more information on the Kickstart scheme and whether this had started;
- Seeking reassurance that there will be no requirement for future capital expenditure increases for the project, particularly given current price uncertainties;
- Whether officers remained confident that the Factory International remained set to open in June 2023;
- If a broad prediction of income generation from sharing the naming rights to Factory International was available;
- How Factory International would be inclusive and inviting to all residents, given the current cost-of-living crisis;
- If any further requests would be made for central government funding; and
- Requesting clarification on the breakdown of costs that the additional £25 million would be spent on.

The Director of Capital Programmes explained that management contracts consisted of the main contractor acting as an agent for the employer and has responsibility for entering into individual supply chain contracts on the employers behalf as opposed to undertaking construction themselves. The contractor would advise on the programme and costs and manage individual contracts. In this instance, a contractor would have no input into design and the Council employs a separate design team.

The Executive Director of Factory International explained that the Kickstart programme reflected Factory International's continued commitment to providing access for those traditionally socially and culturally excluded from the arts. It will provide hands-on experience and improve confidence needed to get jobs within the cultural sector.

Factory Academy was highlighted as being central to the work of Factory International and has ran for a number of years. Apprenticeships, traineeships and other opportunities were also offered.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer acknowledged that the volatility of the current economic climate meant that they were unable to guarantee there would be no further requests for increased expenditure for the project but advised members that final cost estimates were stable.

Officers were also confident that Factory International would meet its target completion date of June 2023 and members were advised that the Council and partners endeavoured to accelerate works to ensure comfort around the target date.

Much of the committee's discussion focused on naming rights. The Executive Director of Factory International informed members that an initial independent analysis had been undertaken to survey similar venues which have previously secured sponsorship to provide an accurate assessment of the value of naming rights. The valuation for Factory International amounted to £25 million. Market challenges were acknowledged but were not anticipated to impact fundraising ambitions.

Advanced conversations with leading brands for naming rights had taken place and were being developed. Members were advised that this would be a long-term collaboration and Factory International would seek to meet and exceed its fundraising target through naming rights.

The Statutory Deputy Leader also assured members that he sits on two Ethics Committees – one for Manchester International Festival and one for the Council – which scrutinises potential sponsorship partners to ensure they are appropriate and relevant.

In response to a query regarding how Factory International would appeal to different communities and interests, particularly given the current cost-of-living crisis, the Executive Director of Factory International explained that a broad programme of music, commercial events and free public events would be offered to cater for all interests.

There were also initiatives such as £10 or less tickets for main artistic experiences and consideration was being given to how the space could be used by the public and community groups during the day at low or no cost.

The Leader of the Council explained that the Council had worked closely with the Arts Council and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) and the Minister for Culture had attended the launch of the programme. Members were also advised that whilst there was currently no indication of additional government funding, the Council would consistently endeavour to secure funding for all cultural programmes.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the report outlined the reasons for all cost increases since the project commenced, including the additional £25 million required. This could be split into work package commitments and the works programme, which are confirmed, and the potential costs until project completion.

In summarising the discussion the Chair emphasised the positive aspects of the project. However, he also noted that there had been a number of previous requests for additional funding and that since the NTP there had been significant and expensive changes to the design. He expressed the hope that there would be no further requests for additional funding and that the building would open on time in 2023.

### **Decision:**

That the Committee

1. notes the report and
2. endorses the recommendations being made to the Executive.

### **RGSC/22/42 Our Town Hall Progress Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an update on the refurbishment and partial restoration of the Town Hall and Albert Square under the Our Town Hall (OTH) project.

Key themes and points in the report included:

- Increase from 74% to 90% cost surety of the project at the end of June 2022;
- Acknowledgement of a very challenging period for the construction industry;
- The Date for completion (25 June 2024) is under review following a series of delay claims from contractors;
- The project cost plan for construction is reporting within budget, but significant risk pressures have arose in the period since Notice to Proceed (NTP), such as the conflict in Ukraine, energy prices and labour and material shortages;
- Progress made with Social Value, with a number of the project's Social Value KPIs already over-delivered;
- The project has been recognised as an exemplar model of construction industry best practice that is delivering first rate quality, opportunities for the people of Manchester and is respectful of the environmental impact construction can have on neighbouring businesses;
- Work under way to develop the operating model for the building, including revenue costs and planned occupants; and
- The Mitigation Action Plan 2021-22 and its focus and outcomes.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussions included:

- How baseline targets for local labour and spend were formulated;
- How the number of apprentices who are Manchester residents could be increased;
- Commending the social value work of the project;
- The current volatility of the construction industry, and how confident officers were that the project could overcome these pressures;

- Plans to showcase the heritage assets within the Town Hall and whether these would be accessible to the public;
- Increasing publicity of the project and works;
- Welcoming the partial reopening of Albert Square, and what the ongoing maintenance arrangements would be;
- Whether the Sculpture Hall inside the Town Hall would be reopened to the public and whether the names of recent Lord Mayors would be incorporated;
- How confident officers were that no further budget increases would be required;
- Whether the project was on-track for completion in 2024;
- Requesting an update on the nesting falcons found in the Town Hall; and
- Clarification on what was meant by the '*Monte Carlo simulation*'.

The Project Director explained that 6-8 months of market testing and a tender engagement process with two shortlisted bidders had been undertaken to test which contractor could provide best value and meet the key performance indicators (KPIs) for local labour and spend. Members were informed that the KPIs were significantly better than anticipated prior to the procurement process.

In response to a query regarding increasing the number of apprentices who are Manchester residents, it was explained that £28 million-worth of works were still to be procured and a social value clause is included in every contract with contractors held to account on this. This would help to increase the number of locally-based apprentices working on the Our Town Hall project.

The Project Director acknowledged that the project was halfway to completion and that a number of things were driving volatility but the project was progressively working towards a level of surety and confidence.

Members were advised that an inventory of heritage assets in the Town Hall had been recorded prior to the works commencing and many of these, such as paintings and furniture, were being stored safely or under conservation and restoration and would be returned to the Town Hall upon its reopening. These would be located around the building and in spaces that are accessible on a day-to-day basis. A visitor experience was also planned for the Town Hall to showcase many exhibits and the history of the building.

The Statutory Deputy Leader highlighted that the Town Hall was the civic heart of Manchester and that the Council had a duty to preserve this and ensure it is accessible to residents.

The Project Director acknowledged the opportunity for more publicity of the project but explained that it could be difficult to communicate with certain communities. As the project progressed, planning was underway for the launch and reopening of the Town Hall and this would increase the amount of publicity.

With regards to the maintenance of Albert Square, Members were advised that there are plans for tree-planting at the appropriate time and installation of street furniture and lighting. A maintenance schedule had been devised for hard finishes and drainage and this forms part of the Council's planning for overall maintenance costs

for the Town Hall and Albert Square. No solution had been found to alleviate damage to statues caused by skateboarding but the project team continued to look into this.

Assurances were provided that the only traffic entering the Square would be pre-booked deliveries for businesses and the Town Hall and construction vehicles for events in the Square, such as the Christmas Markets with access and egress controlled.

The Project Director advised the committee that officers have been prudent in identifying potential risks and have assigned financial allowances for contingencies.

It was explained that the *Monte Carlo* simulation is a computer programme that runs 10,000 simulations ranging from low-probability to absolute certainty for individual risks. This then provides cost figures for completion if the unfactored value of 100% of risk is realised and when factored for a more likely position. The Project Director provided assurances that it would be highly unlikely that 100% of risk would be realised.

The Project Director advised that nesting falcons are a protected species and that all work had ceased upon discovery. Access was secured to prevent future nesting and the building was covered in scaffolding and a wrap.

It was confirmed that the project would be delayed beyond June 2024 but it was not yet known when this would be delayed until. Work had been undertaken to mitigate embedded delays and this had been reduced by three months already with officers hopeful of reducing further.

The Statutory Deputy Leader expressed his thanks to officers for their work on the project.

### **Decision:**

That the Committee

1. notes the report;
2. requests that a report on maintenance schedules for public realms be brought to a future meeting; and
3. requests that a further update on the Our Town Hall project be provided in 12 months.

### **RGSC/22/43 ICT and Digital Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an update on the development of the ICT and Digital Strategy.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The ICT and Digital Strategy and technology road map are important in the delivery of council priorities to make sure that investment is prioritised and that infrastructure is robust and secure;
- How the Strategy would enable delivery of the next phase of the Future Shape of the Council programme such as
  - Delivering an improved service to our residents and businesses through an implementation of a new Customer relationship Management (CRM) system and website through the Resident and Business Digital Experience Programme.
  - The replacement of the council's main Finance, Procurement and Human Resources system (SAP) which will be at end of life in 2027.
  - Moving away from our current data centres to a hybrid cloud approach
  - Further embedding the systems and processes from the old Northwards Housing organisation into Housing Operations.
- Feedback from consultation undertaken with service users, Directorates and member panels;
- The role of the ICT and Digital Design Authority Board in the implementation of the strategy, its membership and terms of reference; and
- The development of the ICT & Digital Future Operating Model.

The Universal Technology Programme Manager also provided a presentation on the End User Device project at the meeting, which highlighted objectives, outcomes delivered to date, the type of devices deployed and carbon savings.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- Commending the comprehensive and well-written report;
- How users are embedded into the project and whether this is stakeholder-led;
- The Digital and ICT Design Authority Board, and whether the Council had considered a more decentralised structure to reduce risk;
- Whether the Strategy would be '*project management-based*' or '*project-based*';
- How the Strategy would reduce carbon output; and
- Device security, and whether increased use of laptops and hybrid working practices would lead to higher risks of data breaches.

The Director of ICT informed members that stakeholder engagement would differ between projects and some would involve consulting with residents. The roll-out of Office 365, which was an internal system, was cited as a positive example of stakeholders with officers and members involved at the earliest opportunity.

The Director of ICT confirmed that the Digital and ICT Design Authority Board was a centralised group and there was no current intention to consider a decentralised approach. It was explained that a centralised approach would help to prioritise and identify areas across the Council service for investment.

In response to whether the projects within the Strategy would be '*project management-based*' or '*project-based*', members were advised that large-scale programmes would be run as projects with an established process for undertaking

these. Product owners would also be identified to own the entire lifecycle and to manage implementation and assess benefits.

The presentation provided by the Universal Technology Programme Manager highlighted that all equipment rolled out as part of the End User Device project was modern and future-proofed to meet or exceed current requirements.

New computer monitors rolled out as part of the End User Device project would help to reduce carbon output by using detection software to dim or switch off when a user was not present. The new monitors also used half the amount of power compared to previous infrastructure.

The Universal Technology Programme Manager explained that these improvements would save 63 tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> per year.

Members were advised that all computers are encrypted and an internet connection is required to access any data and files on the Council's network, which mitigated the risk of data breaches if the equipment was lost or stolen.

Assurances were also provided that there had not been any increase in incidents of theft or loss of equipment or any increase in risk or threat of data breaches since the increase of home and hybrid working practices. Officers were provided with locks to secure devices to desks and access to lockers in the Council's offices. Safe bags were also provided to carry equipment to and from the workplace.

Although officers have a personal responsibility to look after Council-owned equipment, it was reiterated that they should surrender the device if they are threatened or at harm.

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented that the Council takes cybersecurity extremely seriously.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

### **RGSC/22/44 Resident and Business Digital Experience Programme (RBDxP)**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an update on the Resident and Business Digital Experience Programme (RBDxP).

The key points and themes within the report included:

- RBDxP forms part of the Future Shape transformation programme which aims to enable the Council to be in the best possible shape to deliver its ambitions whilst meeting external challenges as a result of budget pressures;
- RBDxP will see the replacement of the existing customer relationship management system, content management system (website) and integration layer in one single integrated platform;

- The works will allow the Council's front-facing systems to interact to the benefit of residents and businesses;
- 3 core user groups have been devised, made up of service users, residents and businesses, to help design digital services, support implementation and ensure that solutions meet user requirements and accessibility needs;
- Key progress of the programme to date; and
- Next steps and an indicative implementation plan.

The Programme Manager also provided a presentation at the meeting, which highlighted objectives, examples of improvements, progress to date, the engagement approach and next steps.

Key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- Reiterating the importance of co-designing the system with users;
- How the new system would improve usability and what benefits it will provide residents;
- The work that core user groups would be involved in and what this would entail;
- How the Council could reduce the number of digitally-excluded residents; and
- Welcoming the Technology and Implementation Partner which the Council has contracted to support the programme; and
- Whether the Council was confident that the Technology and Implementation Partner was a suitably sized organisation to work with.

The Programme Manager acknowledged that the current services were fragmented and users had to login multiple times to reach Council services. RBDxP would create a single system for data to be held in and this would allow future works to offer richer services to residents and business and to identify trends in what services customers are accessing through the Council's website. It would also enable the Council to react quicker to changes.

The Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Service explained that feedback from engagement sessions with members and residents had been incorporated into the aims of RBDxP. Suggestions which the Council was looking to enable included uploading photographs when reporting issues and reporting on behalf of someone else and being informed of outcomes.

The Deputy Member for Finance and Resources also advised that the programme would enable the growth of the Council's in-house digital expertise.

In response to a query regarding the work of the core user groups and what this would entail, members were informed that respective Neighbourhood Area Managers would advise members in their neighbourhood meetings on what this work involved.

The Digital Social Inclusion Lead informed the Committee that there was an estimated decrease in the number of digitally-excluded residents since 2019 but a widening skills gap was acknowledged. The Digital Social Inclusion team was working closely with the ICT team to ensure that service design meets the needs of those digitally-excluded.

The Digital Social Inclusion Lead also expressed a desire to work with voluntary and community sector organisations to help those who are less likely to seek out digital inclusion opportunities.

It was also highlighted that RBDxP would improve service delivery through traditional routes and channels such as telephony as a result of staff delivering services via these channels using the new and improved technology introduced as part of the programme. A recent example of new technology improving service provision through the telephony access channel was the option to request a call back from the customer service centre without having to wait on the line.

The Programme Manager expressed confidence that the Technology and Implementation Partner organisation was suitably sized to work with the Council and that this allows them to meet the needs of Manchester City Council compared to other, larger tenders who were inflexible to the Council's requirements.

The Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources expressed his thanks to the presenting officers and to those in the customer service centre who provide advice and help for Manchester residents.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented that ICT is one of the Council's most complex services which undertakes transformative work to provide residents and businesses with a seamless digital experience. He expressed his thanks to the Deputy Executive Member and officers and wished them luck with the further rollout of the programme.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

### **RGSC/22/45 Budget Process and Revenue Budget Update 2023/24 to 2025/26**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided a summary of the impact on revenue budget position following recent government announcements and the proposed budget process for the update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Capital Strategy.

The key points and themes within the report included:

- An overview of government's recent budget announcements;
- Expectations of the government's Medium-Term Fiscal Plan, which is scheduled to be announced on or around 23 November 2022;
- The deferral of the Spending Review (SR) and indications that the Fair Funding review of how local government funding is allocated will not happen during the current SR period;
- The unlikelihood that there will be resources to cover the cost of the inflationary increases and pay awards which amounts to an additional £42 million to be funded for Manchester City Council;

- The Adult Social Care Discharge Fund, which can be used flexibly by local health and care systems to improve pathways for people to leave hospital when they are ready;
- A part year cost reduction in 2022/23 of £0.6 million as a result of no longer requiring the £1.5 million which was added to directorate budgets to fund the employer contribution to National Insurance due to reductions in this;
- The impact of the energy price cap on the Council's utilities contracts is being assessed but initial indications are that this will reduce the 2022/23 electricity costs by an estimated £2.4 million; and
- A full budget update and an overview of the savings and cuts options under development will be presented to the Resources and Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2022.

The key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion included:

- Recognising the announcement of the government's Medium-Term Financial Statement has been brought forward, and
- Commending officers for their work in extremely challenging circumstances.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented that the Council would continue to lobby government for fair funding for local authorities. This was vital to the delivery of services and to protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

It was also stated that 1-year Government Finance Settlements did not provide certainty and prevented forward planning.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the Council's budget process would continue as planned and it was likely that further options for budgetary cuts would have to be considered.

It was also anticipated that the Government Finance Settlement would be received later than usual.

In summarising, the Chair wished officers luck going forwards.

#### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

#### **RGSC/22/46 Overview Report**

The Committee considered the report by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided 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 included the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to amend as appropriate and agree.

#### **Decision:**

That the Committee note the report and agree the work programme.

## **Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 8 November 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Simcock (Chair) – in the Chair  
Councillors Andrews, Davies, Good, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles and Wheeler

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council  
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Stanton, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Reid  
Councillor Russell

#### **RGSC/22/47 [14.00-14.05] Minutes**

#### **Decision:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Tuesday, 11 October 2022, be approved as a correct record.

#### **RGSC/22/48 [14.05-14.50] Workforce Equality Strategy Implementation Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation which provided an update on progress to date to increase diversity, to ensure the Council is an inclusive employer and to challenge discrimination.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The context and background to the development of the Workforce Equality Strategy;
- How the Council had created a more diverse workforce at all levels by developing existing staff and opening opportunities out to Manchester residents through:
  - The Leadership Pathway Programme
  - Apprenticeships
  - Work experience
  - Involvement in career fairs across schools, colleges, universities and within the community;
- Engagement and communications on the Strategy;
- The development and embedding of the Our Manchester fifth behaviour (OM5B), which reinforces the Council's commitment to being an equal, inclusive, and fair organisation;
- Staff attendance at Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)-related training;

- Works to transform the ways in which the Council recruits and selects, including:
  - Procuring and implementing a new Applicant Tracking System, which will be more intuitive and easier for managers and applicants to use and will provide the data needed to plan improvements;
  - Improvements to recruitment processes;
  - Requesting that all selection panels are diverse in terms of gender and race; and
  - Creating a new website and developing a more compelling and appealing brand for the City Council as an employer.
- Progress and feedback from staff networks, equality champions and allies;
- Setting and monitoring targets across a range of measures;
- Workplace adjustments and trans inclusion; and
- New and existing policies and the Policy Forward Plan for the next 12 months.

A number of guests from the Council's Leadership Pathways Programme, Diverse Panels, Women's Equality Network, Pregnancy & Parenting Group, Neurodiverse Employees Group and the Race Equality Network Assurance Working Party attended the meeting and shared their experiences and achievements.

Key points and queries which arose from the Committee's discussion included:

- Expressing thanks to the guests who attended to share their experiences;
- Acknowledging potential implications from the Retained EU Law Bill, where EU derived law will expire on 31/12/2023 unless the government retains it;
- Whether some of the rights and protections identified in staff contracts would be revoked upon the expiry of the Retained EU Law Bill;
- Concern over some testimonials, particularly from female employees who felt they needed to take annual leave rather than sick leave for women's health reasons;
- Inconsistencies in managers' approaches to and understanding of equalities and how this could be resolved;
- Requesting that a future update report includes reference to the work and progress made by senior and middle managers to implement the Strategy;
- Noting the progress made on diverse interview panels, and querying what could be done to increase the number of these;
- Whether staff still self-define their equalities information;
- Recognising an increase in the number of disabled employees, and querying whether this was due to the Council proactively hiring more disabled people or current employees receiving a disability diagnosis during their employment;
- The need to raise understanding and awareness of a father's role and caring responsibility, particularly in male-dominated teams;
- Commending the Menopause Policy, but acknowledging a need to continue raising awareness and to address period-shaming;
- Whether the Council specifically recruits care-leavers;
- Requesting that a future update report examines progress to date against the schedule of actions from 2021/22; and
- The need to have a series of measures to track progress.

The Chair opened discussion on the item by thanking guests for their attendance and presentations.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation (HRODT) explained that nearly all of the Council's policies are embedded into employment contracts. The Council would be unable to vary these without employee consent and trade union agreement.

It was explained that employment contracts were based on English employment law and a set of terms and conditions, known as the 'Green Book', which are negotiated nationally through collective bargaining arrangements with the National Joint Council (NJC).

The Talent and Diversity Lead acknowledged the need for managers to be consistent in their approach to and understanding of equalities but that there also needed to be understanding and confidence. He acknowledged that some work was needed around supporting managers, being clear around unacceptable behaviour and what was expected of managers.

The Director of HRODT emphasised that there was not a 'one size fits all' approach to achieving consistency amongst managers. The new Our Manchester fifth behaviour - *'We show that we value our differences and treat people fairly'* – was important in raising expectations of staff and work was underway on identifying expectations of managers.

In response to a query regarding how the Council could increase the number of diverse interview panels, the Talent and Diversity Lead suggested that more could be done to highlight the purpose and importance of diverse panels and how these help the Council's decision-making processes.

Early discussions had been held with trade unions regarding the Council's recruitment and selection policy, which would enshrine the mandate for diverse panels, and this would be considered by Personnel Committee in the future. A new learning and development course would also be launched for managers who recruit, which the Director of HRODT hoped would help to embed understanding of the need for and advantages of diverse panels.

The Director of HRODT commented that many employees had found participating on a diverse recruitment panel hugely beneficial.

Reassurances were provided that the work over the past 12 months had tried to build understanding, buy-in and commitment and that this was essential to continue making progress.

In response to a query regarding whether staff still self-define their equalities information, the Director of HRODT advised that work had been undertaken to change the categories for those self-declaring their race, ethnicity and other equalities information because many of the previous categories were not felt to be correct. It was confirmed that staff could self-declare their equality information online and that this was confidential.

Officers were currently unable to assess whether the increase in the number of disabled employees was due to the Council proactively hiring more disabled people or current employees receiving a disability diagnosis during their employment. It was explained that the new recruitment system would be able to track different groups and how they progress through the recruitment process.

The Talent and Diversity Lead also clarified that the Employee Equality Networks individually define their membership criteria and not the HROD team.

The Director of HRODT acknowledged that a lack of understanding and awareness of a father's role and caring responsibility was a societal issue and that HROD would address individual examples on a case-by-case basis.

Members were also informed that the Council has an interview guarantee scheme for care-leavers, disabled people, and those leaving the armed forces. Statistics on the number of guaranteed interviews which have been held would be provided outside the meeting.

The Director of HRODT highlighted that progress was being made against the 2021/22 schedule and the team assessed this monthly. There was a range of measures in the Strategy, the majority of which are tracked, and a future update report could examine progress to date against the schedule of actions from 2021/22.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that it was important for the Council to encourage staff to be able and feel comfortable to express their views in order to make the necessary changes and progress.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources thanked officers for the report and their work and expressed his gratitude to the guest speakers for their attendance and their honest, powerful and brave testimonies. He stated his belief that a talented and diverse workforce was essential for the Council to reflect the city's population and to provide better services for residents.

He welcomed the challenge from the Committee and highlighted the Council's journey since the Independent Race Review in 2019. It was important not to lose sight of this work as the country faced another period of austerity.

#### **Decision:**

That

1. the report and progress to date be noted and
2. the Committee requests the next update on the implementation of the Workforce Equalities Strategy examines the work of middle and senior management in achieving the priorities outlined in the Strategy.

#### **RGSC/22/49 [14.50-15.20] Update on Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation which outlined the Council's progress on delivering the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the impact of the pandemic on the workforce and to the delivery of the strategy. The report also set out a plan to review the strategy and provided an insight into the Council's sickness absence rates.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Promoting and supporting employee wellbeing is a key workforce priority for the Council;
- The Strategy is split into two thematic areas; '*high quality working life*' and '*mentally and physically healthy people*';
- The impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of the Strategy, and how the Council protected the health and safety of the workforce whilst continuing to deliver services to Manchester residents;
- The achievements of the Strategy to date;
- Improving the financial wellbeing offer for staff is a key priority in the context of the cost-of-living crisis with the Council providing access to financial education programmes, counselling, debt management, affordable borrowing, salary advances and a meaningful staff benefit package;
- How the Strategy will be reviewed through a model of best practice, staff engagement and workforce intelligence;
- 93,296 days were lost due to sickness absence in 2022, 27.4% of which were due to stress/depression and 13.5% due to Covid-19;
- Adults, Neighbourhoods and Children's Services have the highest levels of sickness;
- Mixed/multiple ethnic employees have the highest sickness absence rates of all ethnicities and employees aged over 50 have the highest sickness absence rates.
- Female staff also have higher sickness absence rates than males; and
- The Management Attendance Policy and role of HR in managing attendance.

Key points and queries that arose from the Committee's discussion included:

- Whether remote working had improved employees work-life balances;
- How many employees worked fully remotely and whether the Council would ever offer fully-remote working contracts;
- The Council's expectation that staff work from the office for half of the week, and whether this was operationally-led;
- The process for employees reapplying for flexible working if their initial request is denied;
- How consistency on flexible and remote working requests is managed between services;
- Whether the staff survey included sections on health and wellbeing and flexible working; and
- The significance of disability on absence and sickness rates; and
- A lack of statistics within the report related to the number of sickness days caused by disability; and

- What data the Council had on Return-to-Work meetings and the impact these had on recurrent sickness absence.

The Head of Workforce Strategy explained that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy was developed in 2018 based on the Council's understanding of the challenges faced by the workforce at that time. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the workforce and delivery of the Strategy was highlighted and this was reflected in some of the sickness absence rates.

Some key achievements arising from the delivery of the Strategy to date included membership of the Good Employment Charter, the development of a Menopause Policy, the roll-out of Leadership and Development Programmes and a Mental Health First Aid programme.

The Head of Workforce Strategy also advised the Committee that the Council had improved its financial wellbeing offer to support staff with the cost-of-living crisis.

A review of the Strategy would be undertaken soon and would be informed by workforce engagement and sickness absence trends.

In response to queries around remote and hybrid working, the Head of Workforce Strategy explained that sickness absence rates decreased during the pandemic when some employees worked from home.

The Director of Human Resources, Organisation Development and Transformation (HRODT) explained that both currently and throughout the pandemic, approximately 50% of the staff worked from the workplace due to the nature of their role. It was confirmed that approximately 20-30 employees were permitted to work from home fully due to either medical conditions or the nature of their work, although they were required to physically attend team meetings.

Members were advised that the approach to hybrid working and office presence was both operationally-led, in that managers examined the nature of their workforce and the work they do, and the benefits of working in the office on team-building and socialisation.

The City Solicitor provided an example of how lawyers within the Children and Families Legal Group often benefitted from working from home whilst attending virtual court hearings, as this provided a level of quietness and confidentiality and allowed better focus. She explained that the operational element of working and the needs of the service and staff were key.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that the expectation for staff to work in the office 50% of their working week was a rule-of-thumb and that staff often felt differently about working practices. Some roles were difficult to recruit as candidates often wanted to work from home.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that the Council needed to support staff to work well, regardless of their location, but there needed to be a

connection between the workforce and workplace. It was her preference that team meetings and 1-2-1s were held in person.

In response to a query around the process for employees reapplying for flexible working if their initial request is denied, the Head of Workforce Strategy informed the Committee that a rejected application could be appealed to a senior manager within the service and that if new information or changes to circumstances had arisen, a new application could be submitted.

The Head of Workforce Strategy acknowledged issues around consistency in approving flexible working requests but commented that HR can provide support where applications are shared with them. Understanding and awareness of flexible and home working needed to be increased and a record of all approved requests was maintained. Figures on the number of flexible working requests that were approved could be provided following the meeting.

Members were also advised that there was a focus on health and wellbeing within the 2022 staff survey to understand the impact of work on this and these findings would be built into the Strategy.

The figures for Return-to-Work meetings were included in the HR Dashboard and shared monthly with Directorate Management Teams. Assurances were provided that HR Business Partners worked with Heads of Service in areas with high sickness absence rates and low Return-to-Work completion rates to understand patterns and impacts and how improvements could be made.

It was acknowledged that more work could and would be undertaken to address the equality impact of sickness absence. It was also confirmed that statistics related to the number of sickness days caused by disability were available and could be provided following the meeting.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources took the opportunity to thank officers for their work on the Strategy. He recognised the need for the Strategy to benefit all Council employees and stated his belief that staff were the Council's biggest asset and that every employee should be able to fulfil their potential, develop their career and provide the most effective service for residents.

#### **Decision:**

That the report and progress to date be noted.

#### **RGSC/22/50 [15.20-15.50] Revenue Budget Update**

In introducing the item, the Chair proposed to take items 7 and 8 together.

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which outlined the priorities for the services in the remit of the Committee and detailed the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers.

Key points and themes within the Revenue Budget Update report included:

- The Council is forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £44 million in 2023/24, £85 million in 2024/25, and £112 million by 2025/26;
- After the use of circa £16 million smoothing reserves in each of the three years, the estimated budget shortfall reduces to £28 million in 2023/24, £69 million in 2024/25 and £96 million by 2025/26;
- There remained a budget gap of £7 million to close to get to a balanced budget in 2023/24 despite proposals outlined in the report;
- The Council's 2023/24 funding from central government will be confirmed in the provisional finance settlement, expected late in December 2022;
- Increases in interest rates will have a significant impact on the cost of borrowing and the ability to support the future capital programme;
- The Council's robust reserves strategy has proven successful in managing risk and timing differences to deliver balanced and sustainable budgets and provide the time necessary to deliver on its planned savings
- The anticipated reduction in usable earmarked reserves over the next four years to under £100 million;
- Resources required as a result of inflationary pressures, service pressures and the reversal of the 1.25% National Insurance increase;
- Investment in anti-poverty measures, amounting to £1.8m in 2022/23 and £3.55m in 2023/24;
- Progress on identifying savings and cuts options;
- Public consultation on proposed Council Tax levels and the savings and cuts measures put forward by officers will take place between November 2022 and January 2023; and
- Next steps for the budget process.

Key points and queries which arose from the Committee's discussion included:

- Acknowledging that £24 million had been reincorporated into the budget position from business rates, and queried why this was not reflected for subsequent years;
- Whether there was any indication that the business rates pilot scheme was to continue;
- If the staff pay award had been agreed and whether this was more than budgeted for;
- The financial position of the Council if the period of austerity between 2010 and 2019 had not occurred;
- Whether it could be assumed that there would be no budget gap around gas inflation from 2024/25 onwards, given the volatility of energy prices;
- The cumulative effect of budget cuts year-on-year was powerful;
- The need to make more assumptions due to delays from government and the instability this causes;
- How the government's mini budget in October 2022 impacted the Council's borrowing costs; and
- Commending the Council on continuing to fund and support the welfare support budget and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCSE).

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the business rates pilot was due to end and had been removed from forward budget assumptions. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had strongly indicated that the pilot scheme was unlikely to end next year and £12 million had been factored into the budget assumption for this.

Members were informed that the Council had collected more money from business rates last year than anticipated. This could only be spent in arrears and £12.649 million had been factored into the forecast business rates surplus for 2023/24

The Deputy City Treasurer explained that the government was intending to review the business rates pilot as it reviewed business rates more generally and had suggested the possibility of changing the baseline of the percentage of rates which councils could keep, which could detrimentally impact the Council's budget if increased. This was unlikely to change for 2023/24 due to delays to business rates reform and receiving the Finance Settlement.

The Deputy City Treasurer confirmed that the staff pay award had been agreed and was a flat increase of £1,925 for all employees, except the Chief Executive and craft workers, regardless of their position on their pay grade. Members were also advised that a 4% salary increase had been forecasted for subsequent years, compared to 2% usually budgeted for.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources acknowledged that Manchester City Council was a well-managed and financially-responsible authority and stated that the fault was the direct result of ideological decisions taken by the government over the previous decade. He explained that the Council's budget had been unfairly cut by £428 million since 2010/11 and that if Manchester had received the average cuts to funding the city council budget would be £77 million per year better off.

Members were informed that the problem was not solely experienced by Labour Councils and there was a £3 billion shortfall and gap for local authorities across the country next year. A recent survey conducted by Grant Thornton found that 1 in 6 councils would run out of money in 2023/24.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources provided assurances that the Council would continue to provide fundamental services for residents and focus on priorities which residents want. He called on the government to support councils during this period to enable them to continue providing essential services, driving local economic growth and support the most vulnerable in our communities.

In response to a query around gas inflation, the Deputy City Treasurer explained that the Council had been prudent in its assumptions, prices had fallen since the contract was entered into and it was anticipated that energy prices would reduce from the peak levels seen as the economy went into recession.

The Committee was also informed that interest rates had stabilised upon the current Prime Minister going into office and there was sufficient funding capacity within the capital financing budgets to fund the current programme. However, it was

acknowledged that there would be an impact on funding future programmes. It was difficult to predict the impact on future years' given current uncertainty.

The Leader of the Council reiterated that this was the most unpredictable financial year which the Council had faced in a considerable amount of time. She stated that there had been an intentional and ideological approach to the role and services of local authorities from the central government, which did not match with the support provided by local authorities during the pandemic. She reiterated that budget pressures were felt by local authorities across the country, regardless of political leadership, and asked that central government matched inflationary pressures and included inflationary uplifts in addition to a flat funding figure, which would enable local authorities to protect services.

The Leader of the Council also thanked staff for identifying savings in a thoughtful and considerate way which minimised the risk of impacting residents' lives, which the Executive Member for Finance and Resources and the Chair echoed.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

### **RGSC/22/51 [15.20-15.50] Corporate Core Budget Proposal 2023/24**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, the City Solicitor and the Assistant Chief Executive, which outlined the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Council needed to identify savings/cuts/cost avoidance of over £100 million over the next three years;
- The Corporate Core is made up of Chief Executives and Corporate Services and has a gross budget of circa £329 million and a net budget of circa £79.8 million and employs over 2,000 Full-Time Employees (FTE);
- Traded services within Operations and Commissioning are also within the remit of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee, and have a gross budget of £22.2 million, a net credit budget of £14.4 million and 126 employees;
- Core budget savings will be delivered through a combination of:
  - Transformation delivered through the Future Shape Programme.
  - Review of workforce structures and capacity
  - Good housekeeping and delivery of efficiencies.
  - Delivering a corporate programme of work on ensuring the basics are right, sound and competitive procurement, approach to managing inflation, ensuring income budgets are maximised and charges appropriate.
- Further budget savings and efficiencies made up £300k additional income generation and £3.29 million efficiencies;
- Budget pressures and workforce implications; and

- Future opportunities and risks.

The Committee discussed this report with item 7 – Revenue Budget Update.

### **RGSC/22/52 [15.50-16.00] Overview Report**

The Committee considered the report by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions that fell within the Committee's remit and the Committee's work programme, which was to be amended as appropriate and agreed.

An update was requested on the progress of a previous recommendation that a Major Contracts Oversight Board be established. It was confirmed that the Board was due to hold its first meeting at the end of November 2022.

The Chair also requested that a report on the Council's Complaints Policy be added to the Committee's work programme.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted and the work programme agreed and amended to include a report on the Complaints Policy.



## Health Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair

Councillors N.Ali, Appleby, Bayunu, Curley, Karney, Newman, Reeves, Riasat, Richards and Russell

#### Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care

Councillor White, Executive Member for Employment and Development

Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Institute of Health Equity (virtually)

Andrew Maloney, Deputy Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

Guy Cresswell, Executive Director, Great Places Housing Group (virtually)

### HSC/22/39 Minutes

#### Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2022 as a correct record.

### HSC/22/40 Making Manchester Fairer: Tackling Health Inequalities in Manchester 2022-2027

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided an update on the work of the Making Manchester Fairer Task Group.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Making Manchester Fairer 2022-27 described the actions that the city would take to reduce inequalities, with a focus on the social determinants of health;
- The Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan would be launched for staff within the wider population health system at The Making Manchester Fairer Conference on Monday 31 October 2022;
- The final version would be accompanied by a communications campaign;
- Providing a summary of themes, plans and key actions;
- Information on the Kickstarters, four schemes that could be implemented quickly to give the plan momentum;
- Information on the Making Manchester Fairer Task Group and Network, noting that they would have oversight of the collective development and delivery of the plan;
- The agreed mechanism to undertake the evaluation and monitoring of the plan;
- The approach to workforce engagement;
- The approach to resident and community involvement; and
- Providing a selection of case studies.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Welcoming the report and recognising the important work that was being delivered on behalf of the residents of the city to address health inequalities;
- Condemning the Government for failing to address health inequalities;
- Calling for a coalition of voices, hosted in Manchester to challenge the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on this issue;
- Noting that in New Zealand, the Prime Minister had challenged all policy makers to address health and wellbeing in all their decision making;
- Welcoming the inclusion of businesses in the work to address health inequalities and recognising the relationship between good employment and health outcomes; and
- Noting the good work provided by the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector, however noting that they would need to be supported to change and adapt to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Committee heard from Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Institute of Health Equity. He reiterated the stark health outcomes and inequalities experienced by Manchester residents and how Covid had exacerbated and further highlighted these. He stated that health inequalities had been subject to three significant factors, namely austerity, the pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis. He stated that currently there was no indication from government that they were seeking to address health inequalities and were following ideological economic policies rather than the overwhelming evidence, adding that this was ultimately dangerous for the health of the population.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot commented on the progress and approach adopted in Manchester adding that this experience was used as an exemplar model, and that other regions, particularly in the North East were keen to develop similar plans to address health inequalities. He said that as more regions adopted this evidence-based model it would provide leverage to persuade the government to engage seriously on this issue. He stated that he would support the call for a coalition of voices that brought together all partners and different regions to then invite the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to listen to the case for addressing health inequalities. He suggested this could involve the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Universities.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot welcomed the insightful contribution from the Deputy Director of Public Health to recent discussions at an Advisory Board on the issue of structural racism. He stated that this Board had provided a clear steer for the need for a detailed understanding of this issue, and the importance of doing this 'with' communities affected by racism.

In response to comments raised by a Member in regard to health inequalities experienced by older residents, he acknowledged this and stated that he fully supported any activity to address this. He commented that it was evidenced that social isolation was as harmful to health outcomes as smoking cigarettes. In response to a Member's comment regarding the impact of damp homes on people's health, particularly respiratory conditions, Professor Sir Michael Marmot stated that this was understood. He added that the Institute of Health Equity had recently

published a report entitled 'Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes and Health Inequalities in the UK'.

Professor Sir Michael Marmot advised that the Health Equity Network had recently been launched that had been hosted by the University of Manchester. He described that this network sought to bring businesses, in partnership with the Public Sector, Health and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector into the discussion and actions to address health inequalities. He stated that the three domains that the Network would consider were in relation to Good Employment, including pay and conditions; Goods and Services and the impact of Anchor Institutions. He stated that Legal & General had joined the Health Equity Network which was a very positive development. He advised that the work and outcomes of this network would be assessed and reported.

The Deputy Director of Public Health discussed the importance of tackling structural discrimination and racism. She stated that this could only be achieved through meaningful commitment, collaboration and coordination across all systems. She reiterated the importance of involving all communities and all voices, noting that this would include those that were traditionally regarded as being overtly challenging or difficult. She stated that it was recognised that a 'one size fits all' approach was not appropriate and bespoke and appropriate engagement would be required. She stated that it was important to establish trusted relationships and dialogue with communities acknowledging their lived experience of racism. She said these conversations and listening would be assisted by connecting through trusted community networks and neighbourhood teams, using a Community Development approach. She stated this would build on the lessons learnt from the Winning Hearts and Minds activities and the work of Covid Health Equity Manchester that arose in response to the pandemic. The Director of Public Health commented that the lessons learnt and experience of delivering the vaccination programme would also help inform this approach to community engagement.

The Deputy Director of Public Health acknowledged the comment raised regarding older people and advised that the final plan would include a specific element regarding the life course, that included older people.

The Director of Public Health advised that the Plan was a system wide plan that involved all Council Departments, including housing.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care paid tribute to the Director and the Deputy Director of Public Health and all staff involved in producing the report. He further welcomed the Members' ongoing challenge and scrutiny of this important area of work. He further commented that GP's were now included as members of the Provider Collaborative Board and the issue of fair work was included on the Board's agenda for discussion. He stated that addressing health inequalities was central to the work of health and social care integration in Manchester. He further paid tribute and appreciation to Professor Sir Michael Marmot for his continued support and contribution to the work of the city.

The Chair in closing this item of business thanked Professor Sir Michael Marmot for his continued support for the work being progressed in Manchester and for attending

the meeting. She further thanked the Director of Public Health, the Deputy Director of Public Health and all staff involved in this work. She further stated that she would be attending the Making Manchester Fairer Conference on Monday 31 October 2022.

## **Decision**

The Committee recommend that the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care organise a coalition of voices event, hosted in Manchester by the Mayor of Greater Manchester to invite and challenge the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the issue of health inequalities.

## **HSC/22/41 The Edenfield Centre**

The Chair introduced this item of business by stating that following the recent Panorama programme, where an undercover reporter had filmed inside the hospital showing disturbing and upsetting scenes, a senior representative from the Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust had been invited to the meeting to address the Committee.

In addition, the Committee would hear from the Council's Executive Director of Adult Social Services and Interim Deputy Place Based Lead, Manchester Locality.

The Chair further explained that the role of Health Scrutiny Committee was to consider how the Council and its partners in the NHS delivered health and social care services to improve the health and wellbeing of Manchester residents. The Committee could make recommendations about how they could improve these services.

The Chair advised that for anyone concerned about the care they were receiving or someone they cared for or has been affected by the issues raised in the BBC Panorama programme, they should not hesitate to contact the dedicated free helpline on 0808 175 3323. This was a confidential service staffed by trained and skilled practitioners who would be able to offer advice and support.

For completeness the statements are provided in full below:

### ***Statement from the Deputy Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust***

*Thank you for inviting me to speak to the Committee.*

*As you will no doubt be aware, the issues I'm about to speak to are extremely sensitive and are also subject to a number of ongoing investigations, including by Greater Manchester Police. As these proceedings are being live streamed and public, I therefore have to be cautious in what I can say to you today. I'm sure you will have questions and I will come on to how you can raise these formally, through our Programme Management Office, as I conclude.*

### ***By way of context***

*The Edenfield Centre is a secure hospital unit which provides inpatient treatment on our Prestwich site. Edenfield is approximately 1 mile away from the Trust HQ, situated near Phillips Park and Waterdale Meadow. The Centre has 12 wards within the secure perimeter, with around 160 inpatient beds and 600 staff.*

*On the afternoon of 8 September 2022, the BBC first informed us in writing that Panorama had conducted secret filming at Edenfield earlier this year (between March and June). They provided detailed information which listed a number of allegations about behaviours witnessed during their undercover filming – not of all which, we were told, would be broadcast. We formally requested to view the footage, but the BBC refused access to the programme in advance of broadcast.*

*However, we immediately notified Greater Manchester Police and Bury Safeguarding (who had also received a letter) and used the written allegations to take immediate action to protect patients.*

*At that point, it was clear that the BBC were alleging poor provision of services at the Edenfield Centre, including inappropriate or neglectful behaviour and a toxic staff culture. The information provided in advance by the BBC related to approximately 40 patients and approximately 25 staff.*

*We immediately recognised the seriousness of the allegations and set about taking immediate action. From a practical point of view, a Daily Executive Management Team was set up, chaired by Professor Craig Harris (deployed in from NHS Greater Manchester), who also took on the role of Programme Director for the newly created Programme Management Office. Our first and immediate priority was to ensure patient safety, so we acted quickly to:*

- Conduct detailed, senior clinical reviews of all the affected patients to ensure their safety*
- Put in place additional advocacy support for patients, their carers and their families*
- Deploy additional senior clinical and operational management to the Edenfield Centre to ensure that appropriate working practices are being followed – some of our most experienced and senior staff from other areas were redeployed to the centre itself*
- Close the Edenfield Centre to new admissions and close a number of beds*
- We also suspended a significant number of staff, without prejudice, pending investigations – I'll return to this point in a moment.*
- And we commissioned an independent clinical review of the Edenfield Centre, led by Dr David Fearnley (Chief Medical Officer at Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust).*

*We anticipate that this review will present its findings to the Trust Board at the end of this month.*

*On the day of broadcast, 28 September, we opened a new, confidential freephone helpline for people who were affected by the issues raised in Panorama or those who wanted to report anything that they thought would be relevant to the investigations. Details of this, and other sources of support and routes for reporting crimes were*

*published on the GMMH website – and publicised by partner organisations including Greater Manchester Police.*

*Partnership working has been absolutely central to our response. Straight away we established close, regular contact with local and national partner organisations including NHS England, the Ministry of Justice, NHS Greater Manchester (the Integrated Care Board), neighbouring mental health Trusts (such as Pennine Care) and the Bury Safeguarding Unit – all of this to ensure the safety of our services.*

*The CQC – who also received a letter from the BBC on 8 September and whose response was included alongside our own in the broadcast – have also been in contact frequently. You might have seen that the CQC have also been criticised in recent media reports on this matter. Last week, the BBC reported that the CQC noted “strong” leadership at the Edenfield Centre and only suspended its “good” rating of the Centre in September, after the BBC had given the CQC information arising from its secret filming.*

*Separately, Greater Manchester Police began an investigation into the allegations contained in the BBC programme. This is ongoing. We are working with GMP to see if further footage can be obtained from the BBC to ensure that we have covered every base in ensuring patient safety and taking forward the necessary remedial, including disciplinary, action that may be required. Between gathering the secret footage in March through June 2022, the BBC only first notified us two-to-three months later - on 8 September - of their findings and allegations.*

*The police assured us last week that there was no reason why their own investigation should prevent us from making progress with our internal disciplinary processes. I am sure you will understand that I cannot say much more than has already been published in partner briefings with regards to disciplinary processes at the present time - because I do not want to prejudice them in any way. We expect to have some more news on this matter very soon. Suffice to say, disciplinary procedures began immediately on receipt of the Panorama letter a month ago, and we are making rapid progress in this respect.*

*You will also no doubt appreciate that we have rightly been inundated with requests for information and assurance from multiple sources. Because of the nature of how the Edenfield Centre is commissioned, our patients come from across the Greater Manchester region and beyond. As such there are various routes of governance and assurance, and we are doing everything we can to ensure that all interested parties receive updates and information when we can share them.*

*This incident has, as you can imagine, put even more pressure on our limited capacity and resources – both from an operational and management perspective – but it’s safe to say that we have all been working tirelessly to do what is necessary to ensure our patients are safe and to put things right.*

*At this point, I should add a personal reflection. So let me be very clear: what we all saw on Panorama was utterly appalling and shocking. It was extremely uncomfortable to watch.*

*It's fair to say that this has been, without a doubt, the most challenging period in the Trust's history to date. Everyone has been shocked by the allegations and our colleagues were as horrified as everyone to view the programme. You only need a cursory glance at social media to see the kind of reaction from the public – and, unfortunately, some of our staff have been subject to a high level of abuse, which makes the duty of protecting our services and service users even more pressing. We have a responsibility to all our staff and service users to ensure a safe and proper working and therapeutic environment.*

*And it's important to recognise that, whilst Edenfield is part of GMMH, the Trust is extremely large, with over 6000 staff and serving 60,000 patients across multiple boroughs and many geographical sites. You may be aware of other challenges we are facing in our other services, not least in Manchester on which you were briefed by my colleagues at your last meeting. Arguably this speaks to the wider picture of the pressures on the NHS in general, and on mental health services in particular which has been widely reported in recent months, and in the aftermath of the pandemic. We are focused on improvement and recovery.*

*We do not believe that the behaviours depicted at the Edenfield Centre on BBC Panorama are reflective of the vast majority of our services, or our staff. But of course we are not complacent about this and we are all working extremely hard to ensure that no one ever experiences this kind of poor care within our services.*

*With that in mind, I must emphasise that we are in constant contact with partners across the system. And we are very grateful for the support, the challenge and the guidance we are receiving from local, regional and national stakeholders – including some in this room today.*

*Let me end by saying that we are wholeheartedly committed to doing whatever it takes to put right these wrongs – and to preventing them from happening again. Our Chief Executive, Neil Thwaite, has promised honesty, candour and transparency as we go forward. And through our relationships, with your Chair and with other colleagues across the council, we will continue to keep you updated on progress.*

*I unfortunately can't take questions. But if you do have any further questions please contact the Programme Management Office at [progofficeEC@gmmh.nhs.uk](mailto:progofficeEC@gmmh.nhs.uk)*

*Thank you.*

### **Statement from the Executive Director of Adult Social Services, Manchester City Council**

*Due to the significant serious nature of the concerns raised this incident is categorised as a safeguarding enquiry; this involves a coordinated response across GM Local Authorities. This is being led by the Director of Adult Social Services – Bury Council and the Bury Safeguarding Partnership with support from Manchester City Council and other local authorities. An ongoing series of weekly directors' strategy meetings is taking place to monitor and coordinate interventions and work with partner agencies to ensure the safety of patients on the wards.*

*We have mobilised a team of Senior Social Workers who are in the process of undertaking multidisciplinary care and wellbeing reviews with patients. We have a small number of Manchester patients identified at present, but we are expecting this number to increase in the coming weeks and months.*

*We have provided guidance to our workforce including contact centre staff and front-line practitioners across our teams, to ensure that we can give information and advice to patients and families who may require our support. We have established systems and processes to capture all relevant incoming information that is relevant to the enquiry.*

**Statement from the Interim Deputy Place Based Lead, Manchester Locality**

*Edenfield was discussed at the meeting of the Manchester Partnership Board on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October and the Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust provided the Board with an update. NHS and social care partner organisations in Manchester are supporting the work to ensure that patient safety is prioritised in partnership with the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board.*

*Finally a copy of these statements will be circulated to members of the Committee after the meeting*

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- The Committee unanimously condemned the appalling treatment and abuse of vulnerable patients entrusted to the care of the Trust;
- The Panorama programme demonstrated a systemic failure at the Trust;
- The Committee could not be confident that these failings were isolated to the Edenfield Centre;
- The senior leadership at the Trust were ultimately accountable for the failings witnessed, describing what was reported as a catastrophic failure on behalf of the Trust;
- Noting that when the Trust had previously presented to the Committee they had portrayed themselves as making significant improvements in the care of patients, the Committee were of the opinion that this was evidently not correct and trust and confidence between the Committee and the Trust had been lost;
- The Trust needed to engage with and meet all patient groups, community activists, families and carers, and local Councillors to hear and respond to all concerns raised in regard to the care of patients;
- Members questioned the efficacy of the Trust's Whistleblowing Policy and the Trust needed to review these cases to consider any patterns that should have alerted management to issues within the organisation; and
- The Committee unanimously called for a Public Inquiry to consider the issues at Trust.

The Deputy Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust replied by stating that the Trust and its Board accepted that they were ultimately responsible for the quality of service. He stated that he had listened to the views of the Committee and these, along with those of all stakeholders would be reflected upon and included

in the improvement plan. He advised that the Committee would be kept informed of this work.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that there was a duty to support all the victims and their families who had experienced abuse and neglect. He advised that he would be lobbying the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to launch a Public Inquiry to consider the issues raised in the BBC programme.

### **Decision**

The Committee recommend that the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to ask that a Public Inquiry is launched to examine the issues raised in the BBC programme.

### **HSC/22/42 The Impact of the Recent Heatwave**

The Chair recommended that this item of business be deferred to the December meeting of the Committee. This recommendation was supported by the Committee.

### **Decision**

To defer consideration of this item of business to the December meeting of the Committee.

### **HSC/22/43 Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy (2022-2032)**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services, the Strategic Director Growth & Development, the Strategic Lead for Commissioning, Children and Education and the Strategic Lead for Homelessness.

The report provided an update on the development of an Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy for Manchester (2022-2032). Describing that its key aim was to improve housing with care and support options to meet people's needs and better enable their independence.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing that this was a partnership strategy, developed between Adults, Children's, Homelessness, Strategic Housing and Manchester Housing Providers' Partnership (MHPP) provider;
- The strategy was the product of an extensive consultation, with both internal and external key stakeholders;
- Describing the four key objectives of the strategy; and
- Next steps.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Planning policy needed to include a requirement for developers to ensure all new build homes were adaptable in the future;
- Recognising the need and challenge to engage with the Private Rented Sector on this issue;
- Noting the importance for people to remain in their homes so they could remain connected to their community and support networks; and
- The need to consider the support offered to older residents who were owner occupiers and had limited resources.

The Deputy Director Adult Social Services informed the Committee that people were at the heart of Strategy, adding that it was recognised that housing was a significant contribution to a person's health and wellbeing. She further made reference to the report 'Extra Care Growth and Developments in Manchester' that had been considered at the Committee's June meeting, that had described the activities to support residents to right size and remain in or close to their community. She further commented that the Better Outcomes Better Lives programme would also support people to remain in their homes where appropriate.

In regard to the issue of new developments the Head of Housing Services stated that developers were challenged on the issue of future adaptability, however it was often an issue of affordability for developers. He stated as the Council developed and sought to approve the Local Plan this would be an opportunity to consider if this should be included as a planning condition. He further noted the comments from the Committee in regard to the challenge presented by the Private Rented Sector on this issue. In response to a comment raised regarding the Housing Allocations Policy he stated that this had been amended in November 2020 and a report on the outcome of the policy changes would be considered by the Economy Scrutiny Committee in the new year. It was noted that if the Council decided that it wanted to review the policy again this could take approximately 2 years based on the previous review.

Guy Cresswell, Executive Director, Great Places Housing Group spoke on behalf of Manchester Housing Providers' Partnership. He stated that the strategy was fully endorsed by the Partnership. He stated that the Partnership supported the evidenced based strategy and welcomed the whole system approach to deliver the best outcomes for Manchester residents.

## **Decision**

The Committee agree that the final version of the Enabling Independence Accommodation Strategy (2022-2032) be taken for consideration by the Executive in November 2022.

## **HSC/22/44 Overview Report**

The 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.

Appended to the report for information was the Manchester Autumn and Winter Vaccination Plan 2022-3.

**Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.



## Health Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022

#### **Present:**

Councillor Green – in the Chair

Councillors Appleby, Bayunu, Curley, Karney, Newman, Riasat, Richards and Russell

**Apologies:** Councillor Reeves

#### **Also present:**

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

### **HSC/22/45 Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 as a correct record.

### **HSC/22/46 Public Health Annual Report 2022**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that explained that, as part of the statutory role of the Director of Public Health, there was a requirement to produce an annual report on the health and wellbeing of the local population, highlighting key issues.

The Committee were informed that the annual report could either be a broad overview of a wide range of public health programmes or may have a focus on a particular theme. This year the focus continued to be on the City's response to Covid-19, capturing our response during the second year of the pandemic. This report was a successor to the 2021 Annual Report, *The Manchester Difference*. The two were designed to be viewed together as a complete reflection on the most acute stages of the pandemic and the beginning of our efforts to recover, from January 2020 to August 2022.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- To place on record their continued confidence, support and appreciation to the Director of Public Health and all of his team;
- Stating that the report was excellent and was testimony to the importance of public services;
- Recommending that this report be shared across all directorate leads as an example of best practice when reporting activity;
- Supporting the person-centred approach evidenced throughout the report;
- That cuts to public services resulted in increased deaths, adding that it was important that the national enquiry recognised this important point; and

- Recognising the important decision taken in Manchester to test patients for COVID prior to them being discharged to a care home setting, noting this this important decision taken locally had saved lives.

In introducing his report, the Director of Public Health paid tribute to all those professionals and volunteers across the city who had responded collectively to the pandemic. He commented that the report would be submitted as evidence to inform the national inquiry into the pandemic.

The Director of Public Health stated that the decision taken locally by Manchester and Trafford to introduce testing prior to a patients discharge from a hospital into care home was captured in Volume 1 of the report, adding that this also would be submitted as evidence to the national inquiry. The Committee were advised that following final sign off, the report would be submitted to the national archives; printed copies made available in public buildings; published online and in different formats, including braille and other languages.

In response to a specific question regarding the legacy of the Sounding Boards, the Director of Public Health described these as being a positive legacy of the pandemic. He said that resources had been secured to continue these models, adding that these were recognised as an important vehicle to reach different communities on a range of public health issues, such as screening services.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care welcomed the report and stated that it was excellent both in terms of content, style and substance. He stated that this was an important document in terms of a historical record of Manchester's response to the pandemic. He also welcomed the person-centred approach to the document and how this captured personal testimonies that highlighted the Manchester spirit. He further recognised the importance of this document and the learning to inform any response to a potential future pandemic. He stated that the report was testament to the stated ambition for the city to address health inequalities. He referred to the quote in the report that 'The Manchester message had to be a bold, brave and trusted voice' and stated that the report demonstrated that it had been.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **HSC/22/47 Revenue Budget Update - Cover Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that set out the financial challenge facing the Council, the latest forecast position, and the next steps.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The Council was forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £44m in 2023/24, £85m in 2024/25, and £112m by 2025/26. After the use of c£16m smoothing

reserves in each of the three years, this gap reduced to £28m in 2023/24, £69m in 2024/25 and £96m by 2025/26;

- Setting out the high-level position;
- Describing the officer identified potential savings options to reduce the budget gap totalling £42.3m over three years;
- Noting that even after these proposals there remained a budget gap of £7m to close to get to a balanced budget in 2023/24 and further savings options would be developed between now and January 2023 and be reported back to Scrutiny committees in February; and
- Each scrutiny committee were invited to consider the current proposed changes which were within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agrees to the final budget proposals in February 2023.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care introduced this item by giving an account of his personal experience of accessing social care to support a family member. He stated that his experience, both as a resident accessing services and as an elected Member, was that all staff across the service genuinely cared about the residents of Manchester and every decision taken by officers had this as their primary consideration.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the reports presented were currently officer proposals only. He stated that the Government's Autumn Statement and final financial settlement were still to be announced. He stated that the public consultation on the Council's Budget had commenced and would run until 7 January 2023, adding that difficult decisions would need to be taken and it was important to hear the views of Manchester residents. He commented that the financial situation the Council found itself was not the fault of the Council, adding the Council was a well managed and financially responsible organisation and this could be evidenced. He stated that the fault was the direct result of ideological decisions taken by the government over the previous decade. He stated that the budget cuts imposed on Manchester had been unfair. He stated that since 2010 Manchester had lost £438m from the budget and if Manchester had received the average cuts to funding the city council budget would be £77m per year better off. He stated that it was calculated that the gap in Local Authority funding nationally was in excess of £3bn, adding further that it was estimated that one in six councils could run out of money next year. He called upon the government to protect councils as these drove local economic growth and provided essential services for some of the most vulnerable in society, especially in the context of the worsening cost of living crisis.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

**HSC/22/48 Public Health Budget 2023-26**

**HSC/22/49 Adult Social Care Budget 2023-26**

The Committee considered the report of the Director Public Health and Interim Deputy Place Based Lead (Manchester) and the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that explained that these reports were the first in the cycle for the budget programme 2023-26. They set out an overview of the services within the remit of this

scrutiny committee and the key priorities. The budget growth assumptions in the Medium-Term Financial Plan were set out. The report provided a draft set of officer proposals for further savings for 2023-26, developed in the context of the financial challenge facing the Council, for comments by Health Scrutiny.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an overview of the service and priorities;
- A description of the service budget and the proposed changes;
- Describing the proposed savings programme;
- Workforce implications;
- Equality and Anti-Poverty Impact; and
- Future opportunities, risk and policy considerations.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Welcoming the very personal testimony given by the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care, adding that this evidenced how Councillors were aware of, and responding to the challenges experienced by many Mancunians;
- That budget cuts imposed on the city had detrimental impacts on health outcomes and reduced the life expectancy of many Mancunians;
- That continued budget cuts had a direct impact on the wider determinants of health outcomes; and
- The importance of recognising that budget cuts had been imposed each year on the city for over ten years.

In response to a question regarding the savings proposal of £270k in Children's Public Health the Director of Public Health explained that the commissioning intention was to review and revise the service model and specification. This would be co-designed with stakeholders including the Local Care Organisation and the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services. He stated that the intention was to protect frontline services. He advised that monitoring of all decisions would be undertaken by the Local Care Organisation Accountability Board.

In response to specific savings proposals related to transport services; access to day services and extra care charges, the Executive Director of Adult Social Services stated that any proposed changes would involve conversations with affected individuals and their families and that an Equalities Impact Assessment would be undertaken for each eventual budget decision taken, noting that a further report on the budget proposals would be presented to the Committee at their February 2023 meeting. The Committee further noted that the Better Outcomes Better Lives programme, an invest-to-save programme of service delivery, would continue to be reported to the Committee along with other transformation work.

In response to a comment regarding workforce, the Executive Director of Adult Social Services commented that the importance of this was fully understood, adding that despite the continued challenges there was a strong and positive culture amongst the workforce. She added that the staff were the best asset she had and paid tribute to them. She further commented that Manchester was contributing to the ongoing work

at a Greater Manchester-level on the issue of staff retention. The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care echoed this statement and he further paid tribute to the senior leaders across the service.

In closing this item of business, the Chair recognised the difficult work undertaken by officers in bringing forward these proposals as they fully understood the impact these decisions had on residents. She welcomed the assurance given that conversations with effected individuals and their families would be had as any changes were implemented.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **HSC/22/50 Charging Reforms and Fair Cost of Care**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described that the social care white paper set out government plans with regard to adult social care funding reform. A revision to charging thresholds and the introduction of a care cap were due to take effect from October 2023. Progress was being made to fully understand the detailed requirements and make preparations covering process, establishment capacity and systems.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- A Fair Cost of Care programme had been undertaken in accordance with government requirements and the returns submitted accordingly;
- The results of this exercise would inform the government of the total likely cost;
- Funding for this change was to be funded from the health and social care levy (National Insurance) increase which had since been reversed by Government. However, they had committed to continue to invest the £13.8bn;
- The Council had assumed that the reforms would be fully funded from the £13.8bn and was therefore cost neutral;
- Failure to fully fund the changes from central government resources would present a significant financial risk to the Council with the implementation and transition arrangements impacted; and
- Further updates would be provided to the Committee into 2023 as the work progressed and specifically to cover the required policy changes.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Recognising that the work described had been very intensive for officers; and
- Welcoming the brevity of the report, adding that it was succinct and very informative.

The Deputy Executive Director of Adult Social Services commented that the majority of the work involved had been delivered within existing teams and resources, adding that the exercise had been informative. The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care paid tribute to the work delivered by the Deputy Executive Director of Adult Social Services. The Committee were advised that update

reports would be provided to the Committee during 2023, adding that any changes to adult social care funding would be communicated nationally and staff appropriately updated as to any changes once finalised.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **HSC/22/51 Overview Report**

The 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.

The Chair advised the Committee that a report on Gambling Related Harms would be included on the Work Programme for consideration at the 7 December 2022 meeting.

A Member requested that the report listed for the 7 December 2022 meeting on Learning Disability also provides information on the local response to the recent CQC report that looked at what people with a learning disability and autistic people experienced when they needed physical health care and treatment in hospital. The Committee supported this recommendation.

A Member also discussed the need to scrutinise the provision and delivery of acute health services across a range of activities. The Chair stated that she would discuss the most appropriate way to progress this with the Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care.

### **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, subject to the above comments.

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair

Councillors Abdullatif, Alijah, Amin, Bano, Gartside, Hewitson, Johnson, Lovecy and Sadler

#### Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative

#### Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

#### Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children Services

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Shilton Godwin, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Wright, Member of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

#### CYP/22/44                      Minutes

#### Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2022.

#### CYP/22/45                      Bee Green summit update and Education Green Climate Change Action Plan 2022-24

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which provided an update on work done by the Council to support the education sector with decarbonisation since the previous report to the Committee on the Climate Emergency in January 2022. It also outlined the plans for this work moving forwards, with the action plan refreshed bi-annually following on from several review points within the two years.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Background information;
- Progress to date in relation to:
  - Bee Green Education Summit;
  - Green Bee Assembly;
  - Schools Hub;
  - Education Services' Climate Change Action Plan 2022-24; and

- Plan Launch and World Car Free Day; and
- Future opportunities.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- Plans to work with schools who had not engaged with the Bee Green event;
- School carbon emission figures and whether the Key Performance Indicators in the appendix should include a specific target for reducing carbon emissions;
- How the Council could help schools to focus on the climate change crisis, given the other pressures on schools, their pupils and families at the present time;
- Travel to school, including the safety of pupils walking and cycling to school;
- The role of Ward Councillors, including how they could engage with schools and sharing information with Ward Councillors about the work the schools in their wards were doing;
- To request that school governors be given carbon literacy training; and
- Recognising the important role of the Manchester Environmental Education Network.

The Director of Education advised that there were always competing priorities and challenges for schools but that the Council was committed to keeping this issue high on the agenda, making it a priority and supporting schools to do the same. She informed Members that an audit was taking place on the progress schools in Manchester had made so far in addressing climate change. She reported that some schools had already made a lot of progress with this while some were still at a very early stage with this work, not because they were unwilling to address it but because they did not know how to start to approach this. She reported that, following the audit, the Council would look to group schools together to provide support.

The Graduate Management Trainee reported that there was not currently a tool available to calculate school emissions but that work was taking place to look at how this could be achieved and to try to calculate energy use per pupil and that a clearer picture of emission levels was needed before setting targets. In response to Members' comments on rising energy bills and funding available to help schools reduce the amount of carbon produced by their heating systems, he informed Members about some of the funding which was available, that information on this was available on the online schools hub and that the Council could assist schools with applying for these funding streams. The Director of Education informed Members that information was being sent to schools the following week about how they could reduce their energy use. The Graduate Management Trainee reported that procurement was another area where schools could reduce their carbon emissions through working together to source sustainable, local providers. The Chair suggested that schools sign up to the Council's Ethical Procurement Policy and Social Value Policy.

In response to a Member's question, the Post-16 Lead outlined how the Council, schools and settings worked together to understand and respond to labour market intelligence on green skills and green jobs. In response to a Member's question about figures on the level of engagement with the online schools hub, he advised that

he would look at what data was available on this. In response to a question about ward-level work on climate change, he advised that he and his colleagues were working in conjunction with ward action plans and liaising with other teams, including Neighbourhood Teams, and the Highways Service, to ensure a joined-up approach. He informed Members that this included working together on a pilot project in relation to active travel. The Chair expressed concern that Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) had so far not been able to find funding for some sustainable travel projects.

The Executive Member for Children's Services highlighted that integrating the school action plans with the ward action plans was referred to in the action plan and he encouraged the Ward Councillors to ensure that this was taking place in their ward. He recognised the important role of Ward Councillors and advised that he would email all Councillors to encourage them to engage with schools on climate change and that he would arrange for Ward Councillors to have access to school action plans. He reported that carbon literacy training was available for school governors and that this would be made clear and that the Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport was working to increase the number of carbon literate people in schools. He confirmed that the Council was working with the Manchester Environmental Education Network.

The Graduate Management Trainee acknowledged a Member's comment about parental engagement, reporting that the Green Bee Relay referred to in the report would be a good way of initiating this.

The Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee welcomed the work outlined in the report, in particular the focus on children and young people's voices and giving them ways of taking action to address climate change. She advised that some actions to address climate change were more easily achieved than others and that this should be taken into account when prioritising actions. She highlighted a report by the Manchester Climate Change Partnership which was going to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee meeting the following day and which indicated that the city was failing to meet its targets on its journey to reach zero carbon by 2038. She reported that the age, design and condition of school buildings was a challenge and that schools would need a lot of support to address this. She encouraged the Council to be more ambitious than the targets set by the Department for Education (DfE) on rolling out carbon literacy training. She reported that she had attended the Bee Green event and asked whether it would be better to spend the money on trying to engage with the schools who were not currently engaged in this work.

Councillor Wright, Member of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee, stated that it would be useful to have a breakdown of the current position in relation to school buildings and which were likely to require more work to reduce carbon emissions and what access to funding was available. She asked to see the information that was on the schools hub in relation to climate change.

In response to a question from Councillor Wright, the Graduate Management Trainee clarified that the figure on the percentage of education emissions which came from travel and transport, included all school travel, relating to both pupils and staff. He proposed a travel survey to better understand how pupils were travelling to school

and informed Members about the school streets toolkit which was being developed. He reported that a task group was looking at installing solar panels on school buildings and overcoming the barriers that schools faced in doing this.

The Chair informed the Committee that she and the Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee had been working with TfGM to ensure a more equitable provision of school buses across Greater Manchester by September 2023. She advised that a report would be brought to either this Committee or the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee once this work had been completed. She advised that this would have a significant impact on the number of car journeys by parents to take children to school. She also stated that it would be beneficial to have a RAG rating for schools, to monitor the progress they had made in relation to addressing climate change and support them to improve. The Post-16 Lead reported that this would be done through the audit process.

The Executive Member for Children's Services explained that the Bee Green summit had been a form of quality engagement which had informed the action plan and that it was the actions arising out of the summit that were important, rather than the event itself.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport thanked the Director of Education, the Executive Member for Children's Services and all those involved for their work on this, which went beyond that which was outlined in the report. She advised that the information and resources on the schools hub was the legacy of the Bee Green summit and asked officers to provide a briefing to Members on this.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CYP/22/46 Admission Policies for 2024/25 for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education which sought approval to commence consultation on revised admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools. The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 19 October 2022.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- Background;
- Main issues;
- The proposal to change the re-application process from three times per year to one and the benefits of this;
- Oversubscription criterion, which were not changing;
- Consultation; and
- Other admission authorities.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions

were:

- To support the proposal that applicant details remained on the waiting lists for the higher preference school for the whole or remainder of that academic year, rather than parents having to re-apply each term;
- Families who had to move, sometimes more than once, due to domestic abuse and what was being done to support them in obtaining a suitable school place;
- The medical evidence required to be classed as Category 2 (children with exceptional medical/social needs) under the oversubscription criterion and costs associated with this;
- Children in a school nursery who were not successful at getting a place in the Reception year of the school;
- The importance of communication to parents on applying on time and putting more than one preference on the admissions form; and
- Travel to school and further education settings, including the financial costs for families, and the environmental costs.

The Head of Access and Sufficiency reported that, where families were placed in temporary accommodation, the Council worked to provide travel solutions to enable the children to continue to attend their existing school but, where this was not possible, they would look to provide a more local school place as quickly as possible and the process for this had recently been improved. She advised that parents were usually able to provide documents that they already had, such as letters about hospital appointments, as evidence that their child should be classed under Category 2 and, therefore, there was no additional cost to the family. In response to Members' questions, she reported that a high proportion of in-year applications were offered a place at one of their preferred schools but that this was more difficult at secondary level and that, as more secondary places were made available, this should improve. In response to a question about families re-applying for a preferred school, she reported that, once children had started attending at a school which was an alternative offer, most families chose for their child to continue at that school, rather than continuing to re-apply for the school they had originally preferred. She advised that there was currently more availability for primary school places but, if Members had concerns about particular primary schools where children from the school nursery were not getting a place in Reception, she could look into it to see if parents were applying after the deadline and whether more needed to be done with those nurseries to communicate the importance of submitting an application on time. The Director of Education clarified that attending a school nursery did not guarantee a place in the school's Reception year; however, there was now better sufficiency of places at Reception level and sometimes the reason for not getting a place was because parents thought they did not need to submit an application because their child already attended the nursery, or because they did not submit it on time, and all the places were allocated to families who had submitted the application on time. The Chair advised that nurseries could help to communicate this information to the parents.

The Committee discussed secondary school places, in particular in the north of the city, and a Member shared concerns about children who had not started secondary school because the school they had been offered was of a different faith from the

family's. The Executive Member for Children's Services offered to discuss the specific cases raised with the Member. He emphasised the importance of the Council and primary schools communicating strongly to parents about the importance of including more than one school preference on the admissions form. The Chair suggested that this issue be discussed with Ward Councillors in the north of the city as it was likely that other primary schools were aware of issues with parents not accepting the secondary school places that were offered. She expressed concern about children who were not in school, including those whose parents had chosen Elective Home Education (EHE) and asked for up-to-date figures on this, including a breakdown by areas of the city. The Director of Education reported that school attendance was improving and that her service was looking at children who had not returned to school. She stated that, where families had not got a place at their preferred school, they were advised to send the child to the offered school and that they could still try to obtain a place at their preferred school through the waiting list or an appeal, or look for another alternative school. A Member commented that some families would be concerned about the cost of buying a school uniform for their offered school if their child might later get a place at the preferred school.

### **Decisions**

1. To support the proposal that applicant details remain on the waiting lists for the higher preference school for the whole or remainder of that academic year, rather than parents having to re-apply each term.
2. To note the formal consultation on changing the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools and community high schools will commence on 31 October 2022.
3. To ask that up-to-date figures on children who are not in school, including those whose parents have chosen Elective Home Education (EHE) be included in a future report and that this include a breakdown by areas of the city.

### **CYP/22/47 School Places**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Education and the Head of Access and Sufficiency which provided an overview of Manchester's current school age population and the numbers forecast for future academic years. It also detailed work previously undertaken and that which was planned to achieve a sufficiency of school places. The Committee was invited to comment on the report prior to its submission to the Executive on 19 October 2022.

The main points and themes within the report included:

- The school age population;
- Approach to securing sufficient school places; and
- Actions to secure sufficient school places, including work to progress the establishment of a new secondary special school at a site identified in north Manchester.

Some of the key points and themes that arose from the Committee's discussions were:

- The impact of the growth of the city centre on inner city wards and the need to consider the sufficient provision of schools and medical facilities for the expanding population;
- Could the Department for Education (DfE) override the Council's proposals in relation to the new secondary special school; and
- Timescales in relation to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

The Director of Education advised that her service was being included more in the planning related to residential developments and she highlighted that a city centre school was being built. She reported that the Council had involved the DfE when undertaking the Free School Presumption Process so that they were assured about the way the Council was carrying out the process. Therefore, she advised, it was less likely that they would overrule it and they had never overruled the Council on this previously.

The Head of Access and Sufficiency informed Members about the statutory 20-week process for EHCPs, advising that currently the Council was delivering about 80% of EHCP requests within this timeframe. She reported that the Council was working with schools to improve support to children before and during the time taken for the EHCP application process, with a focus on early intervention and support before the child had an EHCP in place.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Executive Member for Children's Services highlighted the demand for more school places in Wythenshawe, due to the closure of Newall Green High School, and that this was being addressed through the opening of a new school next year. Referring to the Newton Heath school, he reported that the need for an additional school in north Manchester had been identified some time ago and that the Council had worked very hard to identify a site for it. The Head of Access and Sufficiency reported that the Co-op Academy Belle Vue was already open in temporary accommodation with a reduced number of places and would offer the full number of places from next year. In response to a further question from the Chair, she advised that, once these new high schools were fully open, there should not be a need for any further new high schools, unless there were any long-term major residential developments in future, in which case her service would be involved in planning for this. In response to a question from the Chair about whether the new high school in Belle Vue could open up to other year groups, she advised that this was an option which could be considered.

In response to a question from the Chair about special schools, the Head of Access and Sufficiency drew Members' attention to the information in the table at 5.9 in the report which outlined what had been done to increase specialist provision in the city, as well as the proposed new special school. She reported that the vast majority of children attending the city's specialist provision were Manchester children.

The Chair advised that Ward Councillors needed to ensure that they were aware of developments in their area and the impact on infrastructure, including the need for sufficient schools.

## Decision

To note the report.

### **CYP/22/48 Update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care**

The Committee received a presentation of the Deputy Strategic Director for Children's Services which provided an update on the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

The main points and themes within the presentation included:

- A reset in children's social care;
- A revolution in family help;
- A just and decisive child protection system;
- Unlocking the potential of family networks;
- Transforming care;
- The care experience;
- Realising the potential of the workforce;
- A system that was relentlessly focused on children and families;
- Implementation; and
- Manchester's readiness.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Deputy Strategic Director for Children's Services advised that there were aspects of the report which he welcomed, in particular the call for investment in services, but that the Council was waiting for the details of the policy before being able to form a fuller view of it. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that the outcome of the Review was welcomed overall by the social work profession but that there were concerns about some of the proposals, which they would need to see the details of before forming an opinion, including the regional care consortiums and plans for the social work workforce. The Executive Member for Children's Services welcomed the discussion on reform and investment in children's services which this had raised but expressed concern about how the national government would respond to the call for investment and the impact of the current backlog of legislation waiting to go through parliament, as some elements of this would require additional legislation.

In response to a Member's question about the proposal for a windfall tax on profits in the children's social care market, the Deputy Strategic Director for Children's Services referred Members to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on children's homes and a recent article on the difference in Ofsted judgements between private providers and local authority providers; however, he advised that there were some very good private providers which the Council wanted to work with and he outlined how quality of care and value for money were monitored through commissioning arrangements and commissioning officers, social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers and Ofsted. The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that the Council had significantly reduced the number of children who were Looked After and those who were in residential provision, which was the primary area where there was the issue of profiteering. He advised that next

month's budget report would include the costs relating to individual children due to the complexity and range of their needs. He reported that his service was not waiting for a response from the national government to make improvements and outlined work already taking place to continuously improve, working collaboratively with a range of partners within the city and across Greater Manchester.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **CYP/22/49 Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained key decisions within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

The Chair invited Members to contact her with any suggestions for the work programme and she suggested that the Committee might want to look at Multi-Systemic Therapy at a future meeting.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the work programme, subject to the above comments.



## Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair

Councillors Chohan, Doswell, Holt, Hughes, Ilyas, Jeavons, Nunney and Wright

**Apologies:** Councillor Lyons and Razaq

#### Also present:

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Councillor A. Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Samantha Nicholson, Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency

### **ECCSC/22/33          Minutes**

The Chair requested that Councillor White's title be corrected to Executive Member for Housing and Development.

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2022 as a correct record, noting the above amendment.

### **ECCSC/22/34          Manchester's Annual Climate Change Report 2022**

The Committee considered the report of the Manchester Climate Change Agency that provided a summary of Manchester's Annual Climate Change Report for 2022. This annual report was based on the latest emissions data released by the UK Government's Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The Annual Report enabled Manchester to track its progress against the carbon reduction targets, carbon budget and zero carbon date of 2038 that were set out in the city's Climate Change Framework, and its recent 2022 Update;
- Describing that the city achieved a 12% reduction in emissions in 2020 (the most recent data from BEIS) which, despite being a greater increase than previous years, was still below the original 13% per annum target and was largely driven by reduced activity during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns;
- Providing an estimate of emissions for 2021 which predicted an increase of 6% compared to 2020, driven by an increase in activity as we came out of lockdowns;
- Providing a high level summary of activity that had been carried out in support of the city's Framework by Manchester Climate Change Partnership, its Advisory Groups, and Manchester Climate Change Agency in 2022; and

- Noting that it did not identify new priorities for next year, as in previous Annual Reports, as these had been captured in granular detail in the 2022 Update to the Framework.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Expressing concern that the situation in regard to the city's carbon budget was worse than anticipated;
- Noting that was even when the pandemic was taken into consideration;
- More information was sought on the next steps in response to the report;
- The need to report measurable milestones and progress against established targets, noting this was important to give residents confidence and keep people motivated;
- The need for the Council to lead on this agenda and seek to use all its powers of influence and leverage on the issue of carbon reduction, especially in regard to buildings and travel;
- The need to engage landlords in the Private Rented Sector on the issue of retrofitting;
- Everyone needed to take immediate actions and responsibility to address climate change;
- Further information and updates on the work of the Zero Carbon Coordination Group were requested for consideration by the Committee;
- More information was sought on the approach to Green Growth in the city;
- The need to promote the Manchester Climate Ready website, noting that this was a very useful resource;
- A report on indirect emissions should be submitted for consideration by the Committee; and
- The need for a just transition (A just transition seeks to ensure that the substantial benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically – be they countries, regions, industries, communities, workers or consumers.)

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency supported the call for the Council to use all of its spheres of influence and their duties and powers to address climate change. She stated that the next steps and actions reported in the Framework remained, noting the need to prioritise the recommendations to realise the improvements required. She noted the request for a report on indirect emissions and key milestones. In response to establishing and reporting against measurable targets she stated that consideration was being given as to how this could be best achieved, noting the challenges presented in doing this in a meaningful way. She acknowledged and agreed with the comment made regarding the importance of messaging to keep citizens motivated on this important issue for the city.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer informed the Committee that the subject of Green Growth was regularly reported to the Economy Scrutiny Committee. In response to the issue of reporting against measurable outcomes she stated that activity and trend data would also provide information in regard to the city's direction of travel. She further added that the issue of Public Sector Funding remained a concern.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport noted that the Committee had raised a number of questions in relation to the Airport and the aviation industry. She stated that a substantive report was scheduled to be considered by the Committee at their January 2023 meeting and this would be the opportunity to discuss this subject area in more detail. She further commented that conversations were ongoing regarding school buildings and noted the discussion that had been held at the recent meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. She advised that additional resources had been allocated to strengthen the communications and step-up campaigns. She further advised that there was a requirement in all cultural event and VCSE grant applications to demonstrate how they would mitigate climate change.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport concluded by thanking the Committee for their continued support and rigorous challenge on this important issue.

The Chair in closing this item advised that she would meet with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to discuss and agree the scope of future reports to schedule into the Committee's Work Programme to pick up on the themes discussed during the meeting.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCSC/22/35      Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan: Quarterly Progress Report, Quarter 2 2022-23 (July – Sept 2022)**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an update on progress in delivering the Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) during Quarter 2 2022-23 (July - September 2022).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Noting that a refresh of the CCAP 2020-25 was approved by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and Executive in September 2022;
- That the refreshed CCAP will be implemented across all workstreams from Quarter 3;
- Providing an introduction and background;
- Highlighting the key messages from the Quarter 2 Progress Report, noting that the Council was making good progress in meeting its target to reduce its direct CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50% by 2025; and
- Key achievements.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Noting the progress reported and thanking all officers involved for their continued commitment on this important work;

- Noting that emissions associated with business travel had increased and virtual meetings should be prioritised;
- Further information on the Fallowfield Loop/Manchester Cycleway was requested;
- An update was requested on the activities of the Zero Carbon Finance and Investment Sub-Group;
- The need for the Council to lead on this agenda and seek to use all its powers of influence and leverage on the issue of carbon reduction;
- Despite the reluctance from government to adequately respond to the climate crisis, Manchester and the wider city region were taking action to address climate change;
- Active travel, including safe pavements to promote walking and that installing bike stands in appropriate places needed to be prioritised;
- Specific resources should be allocated to deliver active travel in the city; and
- Good practice and lessons learnt from other cities needed to be shared and consideration given as to how they could be implemented across Manchester.

In response to the Committee's discussion, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that she was in discussions with other Core Cities regarding good practice and lessons learnt and commented that Manchester was regarded as leading on this agenda. She advised that she was committed to the issue of Active Travel and that a report on this was scheduled to be considered by the Committee in January 2023, and this would include information on the findings of the public consultation. She advised that Climate Change was embedded across all Council strategies, such as Public Health. In regard to funding to support Active Travel she advised that in addition to the continued lobbying of government for fair funding, all opportunities for funding were explored across Greater Manchester. The Committee noted that budget related reports were scheduled for consideration. She further advised that Highways was reported to the Economy Scrutiny Committee.

In response to the questions raised regarding the Fallowfield Loop the Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised that all affected ward Members had been consulted and updated, however if Members had specific questions they could contact her directly. She further added that she would pick up the issue raised in relation to parks outside of the meeting and update the Member directly.

The Strategic Lead – Resources & Programmes provided an update on the Zero Carbon Finance and Investment Sub-Group by advising that this work had progressed over the previous months and involved UK Core Cities. He stated that the intention was to work together to maximise private sector investment to support and deliver programmes of work to address climate change. He advised that a business case would be developed and submitted to government to secure investment to support this work. He advised that there were significant potential and interest from the private sector to progress this. The Committee welcomed and supported Manchester's involvement in these important discussions.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that provided an overview of the draft Manchester Biodiversity Strategy.

The Committee had been invited to comment on the report prior to it being considered by the Executive.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Providing a definition of biodiversity;
- Describing the benefits of biodiversity;
- Information on the new Environment Act requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery Networks;
- Providing a narrative on the development of the Biodiversity Strategy; and
- Describing the aims and objectives of the Biodiversity Strategy, noting that the Council was committed to supporting the new biodiversity strategy.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Welcoming the legal commitment to improve biodiversity on development initiatives by 10%;
- What monitoring of these developments would be undertaken and would developers be held to account;
- Did these initiatives have to be delivered on the site or could they be delivered in other locations;
- Could we ask developers to commit to more than 10%;
- More needed to be done with partners, such as Transport for Greater Manchester and Metrolink, to ensure the land they owned was managed to support biodiversity and to act as nature corridors;
- Noting the importance and need for nature corridors to support biodiversity;
- The need to 'retrofit' the city centre, noting the lack of shade from trees and the support these offered to biodiversity;
- The need to lobby government for appropriate funding to support improvements to biodiversity;
- Recognising the importance of green spaces for the mental health of all residents; and
- Noting the positive example of delivering quality green space in the Mayfield development and that this should be used as an exemplar model for developers.

The Planning and Infrastructure Manager advised that ideally the 10% biodiversity improvement would be delivered on the site but recognised that this would not always be practical. He advised that in those circumstances alternative sites would be considered in Manchester, or in Greater Manchester if a site could not be identified in the city. He said that an action plan for the agreed site and project would be agreed and this would be a mechanism to monitor the project. He stated that 10% was the minimum requirement; however, the Local Plan could be used as a mechanism to increase this ask if it was felt to be appropriate.

The Senior Policy Officer stated that the concept of connectivity was understood, adding that every space was part of the wider network and this evidence-based Strategy would inform all decision making. He advised that there were a number of stakeholders who were committed to the Strategy, and this would serve as an important catalyst to improve biodiversity across the city and the wider city region. He further stated that the Strategy would also improve the wider environment and also address social inequalities. He stated that ultimately nature would be the barometer to measure success of this approach.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer advised that this Strategy would complement and sit alongside the Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan and the Tree Action Plan.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that a partnership approach to deliver nature-based solutions and all levers of influence and sources of funding would be accessed to support this activity.

### **Decision**

The Committee recommend that the Executive approve and endorse the Manchester Biodiversity Strategy.

### **ECCSC/22/37      Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an update on progress in delivering waste, recycling, and street cleansing services, describing how the activity contributed to the climate change agenda and key priorities for future.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information on a variety of activities, including the waste strategy; recycling contamination rates; food waste, textiles and fly-tipping;
- Key updates in relation to Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM) activity;
- Key updates in relation to the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing contract;
- Information in relation to the investment in the Waste Collection and Street Cleansing Services;
- Information on a range of Waste and Recycling Campaigns and Initiatives, including case studies; and
- Listing the priorities identified for 2023/24.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Waste and Recycling Centres should be open to all to dispose of waste and to reduce incidents of flytipping;
- Providing an example of inconsistent messaging provided by staff employed at Household Waste and Recycling Centres;

- More compliance and enforcement activity was required to address flytipping and influence behaviour change;
- Communication between officers within the compliance team with both residents and Members needed to be improved;
- More information was sought in regard to the investment in alleyways;
- More information was sought as to where the 200 new litter bins would be situated;
- The call for attention to those areas that were not designated as formal district centres but were well used in neighbourhoods;
- How many full time contract monitoring officers were employed;
- Questioning the compliance rate figures provided in relation to contract monitoring;
- Recognising the significant contribution local volunteers played in keeping the city tidy and thanking the Keep Manchester Tidy team for their continued support;
- Had consideration been given to underground waste storage;
- The need to ensure cycle lanes were cleaned regularly to ensure they were safe for all users; and
- More needed to be done to address the issues related to commercial waste, particularly that experienced in the city centre.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing noted the issues reported by the Member following his recent experience when attending a Household Waste and Recycling Centre. She stated that she would raise the issue with SUEZ. She stated that it was important to reiterate that these centres were for household waste only and businesses were required to have their own waste management arrangements. In response to the comments raised in relation to compliance and enforcement activity she stated that she would relay the comments from the Committee back to the relevant strategic lead with responsibility for this activity, adding that enforcement and compliance activity was reported to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. She added that both services did work closely together and added that prosecutions for flytipping were publicised.

In response to the point raised regarding underground waste storage, the Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing advised that consideration had been given to this however this would be very costly to deliver in Manchester due to all of what was currently underground, however opportunities to think creatively were being considered in areas of new developments.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing noted the comment made in regard to commercial waste. She advised that the lessons of the previous commercial waste project that had been delivered would be reviewed to take this forward. She further commented that good practice from other cities would be reviewed to inform this approach also. She advised that Members would be kept informed of this activity.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing informed the Members that there were two full time contract monitoring officers employed. Noting the comments from the Committee she stated that Members could accompany officers when undertaking these inspections. If Members were interested in taking up this offer to contact her and these would be arranged.

The Strategic Lead, Waste, Recycling and Street Cleansing advised that initially the new litter bins would be deployed within the city centre but would then be rolled out through wards and district centres. She advised that potential locations would be visited and assessed to ensure bins were placed at appropriate sites. In response to specific issues raised regarding the Fallowfield ward she stated that she would discuss this with the Members outside of the meeting with a view to addressing the concerns they had.

The Contract Manager (Waste) described that the approach to alleyways was twofold, namely using compliance action where appropriate through the Neighbourhood Teams to take action and influence behaviour change, and secondly through a review of the Biffa inspection model to ensure this was fit for purpose.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods stated that she continued to raise the concerns and issues experienced by Members at meetings at a Greater Manchester level. She further advised that Biffa were held to account and were challenged. She advised Members that the leaf sweeping schedule had been circulated for information. She acknowledged that resident behaviour change in relation to waste and recycling was essential, and she further paid tribute to all residents who were proactive in their neighbourhoods on this issue. She further paid tribute to the Keep Manchester Tidy Project Officer for her continued commitment and enthusiasm.

The Chair stated that she welcomed the consideration of textiles in the report. She further advised that she would meet with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to discuss and agree the scope of reports to schedule into the Committee's Work Programme to pick up on the themes discussed during the meeting.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCSC/22/38      Overview Report**

The 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.

As stated during consideration of the previous agenda items the Chair advised that she would meet with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport to discuss and agree the scope of reports to schedule into the Committee's Work Programme to pick up on the themes discussed during the meeting.

### **Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

## Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022

#### Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair

Councillors Doswell, Holt, Hughes, Ilyas, Lyons, Nunney, Razaq and Wright

**Apologies:** Councillor Chohan

#### Also present:

Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Councillor Ahmed Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

### **ECCSC/22/39          Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2022 as a correct record.

### **ECCSC/22/40          Revenue Budget Update - Cover Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that set out the financial challenge facing the Council, the latest forecast position, and the next steps.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- The Council was forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £44m in 2023/24, £85m in 2024/25, and £112m by 2025/26. After the use of c£16m smoothing reserves in each of the three years, this gap reduced to £28m in 2023/24, £69m in 2024/25 and £96m by 2025/26;
- Setting out the high-level position;
- Describing the officer identified potential savings options to reduce the budget gap totalling £42.3m over three years;
- Noting that even after these proposals there remained a budget gap of £7m to close to get to a balanced budget in 2023/24 and further savings options would be developed between now and January 2023 and be reported back to Scrutiny committees in February; and
- Each scrutiny committee was invited to consider the current proposed changes which were within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agrees to the final budget proposals in February 2023.

#### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ECCSC/22/41          Neighbourhood Directorate 2023/24 Budget**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services that described that this report was the first in the cycle for the budget programme 2023-26. It set out an overview of the services within the remit of this scrutiny committee and their key priorities. The budget growth assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan were set out. The report provided a draft set of officer proposals for further savings for 2023-26, developed in the context of the financial challenge facing the Council.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an overview of the service and priorities;
- A description of the service budget and the proposed changes;
- Describing the proposed savings programme;
- Workforce implications;
- Equality and Anti Poverty Impact; and
- Future opportunities and risk.

The Chair in opening this item of business stated that the Leader, Councillor Craig, had written an open letter to the PM, Rishi Sunak to discuss the role cities could play in addressing the urgent challenge of climate change and what the Government needed to do to support it.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- The Committee condemned the government for failing to adequately fund Local Authorities;
- Stating that the current government was not committed to addressing climate change;
- Noting that the continued imposed budget cuts on the city could potentially hamper the good work underway by the Council to deliver on its carbon reduction ambitions;
- Noting that these budget cuts were being imposed at the time of a cost of living crisis;
- Noting that continued imposed budget cuts harmed the residents of the city;
- Consideration needed to be given to maximising revenue to the Council from commercial events that were delivered in Manchester parks;
- Information was requested on the decision not to host bonfire events across Manchester parks;
- A concern was expressed that charging residents for replacement recycling bins could result in increased incidents of flytipping;
- Were abandoned domestic bins reused;
- Could any savings be realised through a review of the Biffa contract;
- An assurance was sought that there was currently no proposal to withdraw any of the Climate Change Priorities listed; and
- Concern was raised in regard to the proposal to temporarily suspend gulley cleaning, especially at this time of year.

In response to the comments and questions from the Committee, the Parks Lead informed the Members that an assessment of the savings achieved through

withdrawing bonfire events compared to any further demand of community safety interventions, noting the discussion regarding anti-social behaviour associated with bonfire period, would be undertaken. She advised that analysis of this would inform future budget proposals. The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods stated that bonfires also needed to be considered in terms of the environment and emissions. Members were also advised that a commercial strategy related to parks did exist, noting that this was in the process of being reviewed. Members recommended that an update report on this would be provided to the Committee at an appropriate time, adding that it was important to recognise that parks were invaluable spaces for residents of Manchester, especially at this time of a cost of living crisis.

In response to the discussion on bins, the Director of Commercial and Operations, Waste Recycling and Street Cleaning advised that where possible, abandoned bins were collected, emptied, cleaned and reused, adding that there was a significant cost associated to this process. He advised that most other authorities charged for replacement recycling bins and there currently was a charge for replacement grey bins. The Committee were advised that the Biffa contract was closely monitored and opportunities for efficiency savings were always considered, noting that there were currently no budget savings proposals to be achieved via this contract.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that there were no proposals to reduce the resources allocated to deliver the Climate Change Priorities, however, she expressed caution that difficult decisions could not be ruled out in future years.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods stated that a briefing note on the approach to gulley cleansing would be circulated following the meeting.

In closing this item of business, the Chair noted that the discussion had prompted requests for additional reports, namely the item on parks and commercial activity and how this could be used to generate income and also a report on the incidents of flytipping and the introduction of charging for replacement domestic recycling bins. The Chair advised that the work programme would be updated to include the items requested by Members.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **ECCSC/22/42      Embedding a Zero-Carbon Workforce Culture**

The Committee considered the report of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Transformation that provided information on the progress being made towards embedding a zero-carbon culture within the Council (as part of the Carbon Literacy journey).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that the *'Manchester City Council - Climate Change Action Plan - Work Plan 2022-23'* set out activity to be

progressed to support the delivery of the '*Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-25*';

- In 2020 the Our Manchester Strategy was reset, placing a more explicit focus on zero-carbon at the heart of the strategy which subsequently became a priority within the City Council's Corporate Plan;
- Providing an update on key progress to date, noting that Carbon Literacy training was developed with The Carbon Literacy Project and was launched in 2019;
- As of January 2022, the Carbon Literacy Training was a mandatory training course for all Council employees;
- Senior Leaders in the Council would continue to be a priority group, with steps to ensure that new senior starters (alongside all new starters) completed the training within 12 weeks of their start/move date;
- Having achieved Silver Accredited status earlier this year, the next target was to achieve Gold Accredited status by 2025 whereby 50% of our employees would be accredited as Carbon Literate;
- Elected Members were encouraged to complete the training and at the time of reporting, 53 of 96 members had been certified as carbon literate;
- Recognising that there was an appetite for the Carbon Literacy training to be upscaled beyond the City Council directly employed workforce as part of the next phase of the training;
- Noting there was an action to develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Carbon Literacy training;
- Embedding zero-carbon as a Council priority within new and updated policies and strategies;
- Describing the approach to communications to articulate the Council's story of positive climate action;
- A summary of the work undertaken with schools and education settings across the city to support them to develop and deliver actions to reduce their carbon emissions; and
- Providing a number of Carbon Literacy case studies.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Welcoming the progress reported to date;
- Welcoming the examples of how the carbon literacy training had been embedded across the workforce;
- Congratulating the team for achieving the Silver Accreditation status from the Carbon Literacy Project, noting that the City Council was still only one of three Local Authorities to be Silver Accredited alongside Dacorum Borough Council and North Somerset Council;
- Was the target of 50% of employees to be accredited as Carbon Literate by 2025 ambitious enough;
- Consideration should be given to extending the training as a potential revenue stream for the Council;
- Members should be involved in training of community groups, noting their role as community leaders; and
- Noting that consideration needed to be given to how training was delivered, noting the need for this to be delivered in different languages.

The Head of Organisational Development updated the Committee by advising that since the report had been published 1631 members of staff had completed their Carbon Literacy Training; and all of the officers at the Senior Leadership level would have completed their training by the end of December of this year. She further advised that 79 Councillors had completed the training to date and all of the remaining Members would have completed this by the end of December of this year. She advised that access to this training had been made easier to improve uptake and added that all new starters to the organisation and movers within the organisation were required to complete this mandatory training within 13 weeks of commencing their role. She advised that Carbon Literacy Training for Trainers opportunities were also being improved, with a commitment from managers that interested staff would be released from their role to facilitate this, noting that this was a good personal development opportunity for staff. She added that Carbon Literacy Training would also form part of the new Members induction programme. In terms of the targets for training staff she commented that it was important to recognise the levels of staff turnover, however this target for staff training was monitored and reviewed.

The Head of Organisational Development stated that there was an ambition to extend this training to groups and audiences outside of the Council, however this could not be done at the detriment to training the Manchester City Council workforce. The Assistant Chief Executive added that the Council worked closely with the Manchester Climate Change Partnership to consider delivering wider training opportunities, including working with schools.

The Head of Organisational Development stated that there was evidence that the carbon reduction had become embedded across teams, noting that this was reflected in conversations and decisions taken by teams. She stated that examples of good practice were communicated and shared between departments. The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport informed the Committee that there was a cross council department working party to consider climate change, recognising that this issue was cross cutting and could not be considered in silos. She added that this group would include consideration of next steps and opportunities for rolling out carbon literacy training outside of the Council.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport informed the Committee that there was a wealth of programmes and initiatives being delivered across the city to address climate change and consideration would be given as to how to best capture and record this wealth of activity, recognising the comments made regarding the need to articulate and promote examples of good practice.

The Head of Neighbourhoods advised the Committee that Neighbourhood Officers engaged in strength-based conversations with residents and community groups to understand their specific requirements and asks to support them develop environmental projects and initiatives.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

## **ECCSC/22/43      Update on the Role of Neighbourhood Teams in Developing Local Climate Change Activity and Partnership Working**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided updated information on how the Neighbourhood Teams and Climate Change Neighbourhood Officers were supporting local communities to engage in local climate change activity and reduce their carbon footprint.

The report included an update on ward level Climate Change Action Plans and an update on the In Our Nature programme pilot schemes and future delivery of the programme.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an update on ward level Climate Change Action Plans;
- Examples of developing best practice to support local communities to deliver activities that contributed to the city's ambition of becoming a net zero carbon city by 2038;
- An update on the In Our Nature programme pilot schemes and future delivery of the programme;
- Community engagement and awareness raising update, noting that the Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) provided local communities with funding to make their neighbourhoods better places to live. £20,000 of NIF was available for each ward in Manchester to help groups deliver events and initiatives that benefited the community;
- Examples of the work delivered with children and young people across the city;
- Describing initiatives on active travel, clean air and transport;
- The consideration and approach to inclusivity and diversity;
- An update on the communications campaign; and
- Conclusions and priorities for the next twelve months.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Good practice and lessons learnt should be shared across Neighbourhood Teams working in wards;
- Recognising the need to maximise the impact and outcomes of this work whilst recognising the differences and challenges experienced by different neighbourhoods; and
- Noting feedback from residents in relation to ward level Climate Change Action Plans it was proposed to establish a Task and Finish Group, chaired by Cllr Wright to evaluate the plans and the associated Key Performance Indicators and other meaningful outcome measurements and reporting.

The Neighbourhoods Strategic Lead advised the Committee that an event had been recently held that brought staff from the different Neighbourhood Teams together to share their experiences and lessons learnt. She advised that this had been a very productive exercise and the intention was to repeat this periodically. She further advised that an outcome of this exercise was to create a library of best practice that would act as a resource for officers. The Head of Neighbourhoods advised that a similar event would be arranged for Members in the new year.

The Head of Neighbourhoods advised that there was challenge in providing ward specific emissions data, however work was underway with the Tyndall Centre and the Climate Change Partnership to develop more detailed analysis and modelling of this in the 6 areas where the Our Nature project had been delivered. She further referred to the CREDS online tool as useful resource for local groups and Councillors.

The Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods addressed the Committee and made reference to the work that was being delivered in his ward. He stated that it was important that businesses were actively engaged on the issue of climate change, in particular in regard to waste and litter.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods stated that Neighbourhood Officers were a vital link to communities, noting that they engaged with residents on a host of various issues however everything was underpinned by addressing climate change. She commented that she recognised that ward level Climate Change Action Plans needed to be led and informed by residents and they should respond to the concerns and ambitions of those residents, adding that these also needed to be culturally responsive and appropriate. She further commented that staff in the Neighbourhood Teams were pivotal in bringing groups and services together at a local level and an update on this activity could be provided to Committee at a future meeting.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that it was important to listen to and respond to the concerns of young people on the issue of climate change. She further paid tribute to the Manchester Climate Change Youth Board noting that they would be hosting a Youth Climate Change Conference, Saturday 12 November 2022.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods and the Committee paid tribute and appreciation to all of the staff working on behalf of our residents in the Neighbourhood Teams.

## **Decision**

To recommend that a Task and Finish Group, chaired by Cllr Wright be established to evaluate the ward level Climate Change Action Plans and the associated Key Performance Indicators and other meaningful outcome measurements and reporting.

## **ECCSC/22/44      Overview Report**

The 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.

The Chair commented that a number of additional reports had been requested following discussion on the previous agenda items. The Chair stated that she would

speak with the relevant Executive Members regarding the appropriate scheduling of these items and the work programme would be updated accordingly.

**Decision**

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme, noting the above comment.

## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 13 October 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Johns (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Good, Moran, Noor, I Robinson and Shilton Godwin

#### **Also present:**

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor Johnson

Councillor Judge

Councillor Lynch

Councillor Newman

**Apologies:** Councillor Raikes and Taylor

#### **ESC/22/38 Minutes**

#### **Decision:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 8 September 2022, be approved as a correct record.

#### **ESC/22/39 District Centres**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Growth and Development and the Director of Development which provided an update on regeneration, investment and development programmes focused on several district centres across the city.

The key points and themes within the report included:

- Manchester has 17 designated district centres within its Local Plan and each centre is distinctly individual, with a variety of economic and social characteristics;
- Funding opportunities available to kickstart district centre regeneration and investment, such as GMCA's Brownfield Housing Fund and Evergreen Fund, Levelling Up Funding, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Council's Affordable Housing Programme;
- Works undertaken in Wythenshawe, Moston Lane, Gorton and Chorlton;
- The planned programme for future works and investment in Strangeways, Cheetham Hill, Harpurhey and Newton Heath; and
- As part of investment into district centres, Small Business Roadshows were held in Moston, Withington and Longsight and concentrated on digital skills, upskilling employees, financial training and wider business community networking.

In introducing the item, the Chair informed those present that each district centre would be focused on in turn with an opportunity to ask questions regarding each area. The Chair had also received statements from local ward members and would relay these at the appropriate time in proceedings.

The Chair also explained that members of the committee had undertaken a site visit in Wythenshawe town centre with officers and local ward members prior to the meeting and acknowledged the opportunities available.

The key points and queries that arose from the Committee's discussion on the general approach to district centres included:

- The strong sense of pride and community across Manchester;
- The need to consider permeability, accessibility, good signage, the quality of the public realm and cleanliness in district centres;
- How digitally-excluded residents will be consulted;
- Plans for additional Small Business Roadshows and whether these could be held in specific areas;
- The importance of the Business, People and Skills theme within the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF);
- Requesting an update on the progress of government discussions about SPF funding;
- Footfall monitors, and whether this data is shared with businesses;
- What support was available for the hospitality industry following the pandemic from both central and local government; and
- How the order of district centre works was prioritised and whether this is *need-led* or *opportunity-led*.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development highlighted the significant work that had been undertaken to improve district centres across Manchester and the value of the Institute of Place Management and the District Centres Subgroup's work.

The Committee was informed that common issues for district centres included footfall, residential provisions and diverse offers. It was acknowledged that the high street had changed as a consequence of a rise in online and out-of-town shopping.

Members were advised that the next Small Business Roadshow would be held in Hulme and that requests for other locations would be relayed to the Work and Skills team, who are eager to extend this to other areas.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development concurred with the need to share data on footfall with local businesses and explained that this had happened in Withington and resulted in some businesses changing their opening hours to when the district centre was busiest.

In response to queries regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), the Strategic Director for Growth and Development explained that funding through the Business, People and Skills theme would be administered by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and funding based on Skills was scheduled to be assessed towards the end of the SPF programme. Bid rounds would open in due course over

the next few years and both GMCA and Manchester City Council would work to protect valuable services and maximise the use of resources across Greater Manchester.

The Head of Neighbourhood Management recognised that not all residents had access to the internet to take part in consultations and advised that Neighbourhood teams understood the communities they worked in and had strong networks to provide a multi-form way of communicating plans.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that support for the hospitality industry was available during the COVID pandemic but this had ended. The Executive Member supported the industry's calls for further intervention on business rates and VAT. The 6-month energy cap for businesses was welcomed but it was felt to not provide security for an appropriate amount of time.

The Strategic Director of Growth and Development also highlighted that The Growth Company offered an advice service for businesses and would circulate further information on this.

With regards to whether district centre works were *need-led* or *opportunity-led*, it was reiterated that a 'one size fits all' approach was not being taken. Some district centres had strong business or community networks and required Council support and empowerment to achieve their vision whereas others required deeper interventions to facilitate improvements.

It was stated that areas of deprivation and in need of support were identified in all Council decisions.

The Strategic Director of Growth and Development also advised that the schedule of improvements to district centres was devised through analysis of need, demand and opportunity and that where the Council had levers, such as land assets, a stronger basis for intervention was possible.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

#### **a) Wythenshawe**

The Committee was addressed by Councillors Eddy Newman and Astrid Johnson, ward members for Woodhouse Park, and Councillor Tommy Judge, ward member for Sharston. They raised issues including the history of Wythenshawe Civic Centre, their hopes for its regeneration, and asked questions regarding housing, active travel, and consultation processes.

The key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion on Wythenshawe town centre included:

- Requesting an update on progress with Levelling Up Funding (LUF), and when a final decision on this was expected;

- How much of the LUF bid was capital funding and how much was revenue funding;
- Whether discussions had taken place with developers to identify alternative funding mechanisms should the LUF bid be unsuccessful;
- Housing plans for the area, what constituted 'mixed tenure' and whether this will include social housing;
- Acknowledging the challenges of a '*night-time economy*' and how these issues would be addressed;
- Whether sufficient education provisions were available to support increased housing development;
- Opportunities to incorporate nature-based solutions and meet zero carbon targets through regeneration schemes;
- The need for sufficiently-powered Electrical Vehicle charging points, and the percentage of provisions within the scheme;
- The impact of inflation in the construction industry on the scheme's budget; and
- The need to ensure an appropriate and socially-beneficial retail offer.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reiterated the committee's comments on the importance of infrastructure and highlighted the reopening of Newall Green High School which would help to provide school places in Wythenshawe.

The Executive Member also acknowledged the opportunity to establish a '*night-time economy*' in Wythenshawe and explained that safety could be promoted and managed through planning and licensing regulations.

The Strategic Director of Growth and Development explained that the Council was identifying various workstreams to ensure that sustainability and biodiversity are factored into the new proposals for Wythenshawe town centre.

The Director of Development commented that the second round of Levelling Up funding was currently underway and a decision on whether this will be awarded to the Council was expected by the end of 2022. Some queries from central government had been received in respect of the Council's bid, which the Director of Development advised was a good sign.

In response to a query regarding how much of the LUF bid was capital funding and how much was revenue funding, the figures were not available to share at the meeting but assurances were provided that a robust financial management plan was in place to cover Council fees, operational costs and the necessary external resources.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised the committee, in response to a query around Electrical Vehicle charging points, that a report on the Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was due to be considered by the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee and the Executive in December 2022.

Assurances were provided that a minimum of 20% of the 1500 homes planned to be built in Wythenshawe would be affordable, as per the Council's policy, and the Executive Member for Housing and Development expressed hope that this figure would increase. Discussions with partners around affordable housing were underway and members were advised that there was 16,000 council and social rent homes in Wythenshawe already and that housing providers can access various funding schemes such as Homes England funding and brownfield land funding to develop affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership homes.

Private market sale and private rent homes would also be available to ensure mixed tenure within the town centre.

The Director of Development provided assurances that the Council was conscious of cost inflation when creating the LUF bid and that this included provisions for inflation, optimism bias and contingencies with officers confident that the budget would allow delivery of the bid's aspirations.

Assurances were also provided that, because the Council would be the landlord of retail spaces, it would have the power and oversight to prohibit unsavoury businesses operating within the shopping centre.

b) **Moston Lane**

In introducing the item, the Chair informed the committee that Councillor Julie Connolly, ward councillor for Moston, had provide a written representation and was supportive of the proposals.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development commented that Moston Lane was a vibrant shopping centre in North Manchester but acknowledged some challenges and opportunities to diversify land and housing assets.

Funding had been received from the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), which would help to improve green space and neighbourhoods.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development informed members that long-term aspirations included further housing development and increasing job opportunities within Moston.

In response to a query regarding the status of the SPF funding, the Strategic Director of Growth and Development explained that SPF was split into three themes – Communities and Place, Supporting Businesses, and Skills and Employment. The Communities and Place theme was devolved to local authorities from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and consisted of £5 million for Manchester City Council. Proposals are submitted to GMCA with the final sign-off from government.

The Council was currently awaiting formal approval of the funding for Moston Lane but there had been no indication that the proposals did not meet the criteria for SPF funding.

c) **Gorton**

In introducing the item, the Chair informed the committee that Councillor Julie Reid, John Hughes and Afia Kamal, ward councillors for Gorton and Abbey Hey, had provided a written representation which highlighted recent and ongoing positive developments, including a GP surgery, library and job centre, within Gorton.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development welcomed the opening of the Gorton Hub and informed members of the popularity of Gorton Market which had an opportunity to develop a frontage to the high street.

d) **Withington**

In introducing the item, the Chair informed the committee that Councillor Angela Gartside, ward councillor for Withington, had provided a written question regarding when the safer streets scheme would be delivered.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development responded that significant active travel investment had occurred in Withington and cited the Didsbury-Manchester segregated cycleway as an example. It was confirmed that safer streets scheme was out for consultation and had not been fully delivered but there was a strong commitment to this.

It was also explained that Withington was well served by the bus and tram network and it was anticipated that the Beryl Bikes scheme would be extended to Withington in the future.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development acknowledged that district centres needed to be well served by public transport and that there are safe walking and cycle routes.

A recent LUF bid for Withington had been unsuccessful but the Executive Member for Housing and Development commented that lessons had been learnt.

In response to a query regarding what this learning included and how this could be applied to future bids and works to district centres, the Strategic Director for Growth and Development informed members that the Council received positive feedback on the LUF bid for Withington. It was recognised that the proposed investment into public realm and what this would deliver did not meet the expectations of the Department for Transport (DfT).

It was stated that some of the works proposed within the LUF bid, such as Withington Baths, had progressed with Shared Prosperity Funding.

e) **Chorlton**

The key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion on Chorlton district centre included:

- Acknowledging Chorlton as an active community with a strong identity;

- Referencing the 'night-time economy' in Chorlton and how this was sometimes at the detriment of the 'daytime economy';
- Interest from local residents and community groups to attract investment; and
- The need to implement sustainable active travel routes.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development recognised ongoing work in Chorlton and the need to evaluate the wider impact of this across the area. Meetings between Chorlton Vision and local councillors were taking place to assess several sites which would help to deliver hundreds of new homes and reinvigorate the district centre.

Positive housing developments, including at Chorlton Baths, were recognised and welcomed.

f) **Cheetham Hill and Strangeways**

The key points and queries that arose from the committee's discussion on Cheetham Hill and Strangeways district centres included:

- Where the opportunity in Strangeways was emerging from and what were the driving forces behind this; and
- Illegitimate and fraudulent businesses in Strangeways and what could be done to prevent these being established.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that a new college facility and housing had been developed in Strangeways but challenges around crime and antisocial behaviour in the area were well-documented.

A masterplan for the area and engagement with local members was anticipated to expand the improvements in the city centre into Cheetham and Strangeways.

The Strategic Director for Growth and Development noted that works to district centres was not a 'one size fits all' approach and acknowledged the particular issues affecting the Strangeways area. Members were advised that works in Strangeways and Cheetham were in their early stages.

The Council would look at its landholdings and assets within the area to identify opportunities and demand for housing and business. The Strategic Director for Growth and Development recognised that a multi-agency approach was needed in Strangeways and Cheetham but the Council had levers over freehold land in the area. The Council's Neighbourhoods team can identify breaches in the licences for these sites and escalate this to the Enforcement team.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development added that the Council had recently shut down some businesses engaging in fraudulent or illegal activity in partnership with other agencies.

The Executive Member reiterated the need for positive aspects within the community and cited the school, college and affordable housing within Strangeways and Cheetham as examples.

g) **Harpurhey**

In introducing the item, the Chair informed members that Councillor Pat Karney, ward member for Harpurhey, was in support of the works outlined in the report.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised the Committee that there are 10 footfall monitors in district centres across the city to identify trends. Recent data indicated that district centres had recovered from the pandemic quicker than the city centre in terms of footfall and Harpurhey was recognised as a popular, resilient district centre.

h) **Newton Heath**

In introducing the item, the Chair informed members that Councillor June Hitchen, ward member for Miles Platting and Newton Heath, had submitted a question regarding future plans for improving Old Church Street in Newton Heath.

In response to this, the Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that much of the Newton Heath's district centre was privately-owned and this made improving shop fronts challenging. The Council would work to ensure that businesses in Newton Heath and across the city were viable and that owners had the ability to invest in their business. It was explained that whilst there are some grants for these works, these are not always available and can be competitive.

It was hoped that improvements to district centres would increase viability and encourage business owners to reinvest profits into the district centre.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that significant investment was going into Newton Heath with the Silk Street development, which consisted of 69 social-rent, low-carbon homes adjacent to Newton Heath district centre and the canal.

It was suggested that the Silk Street development highlighted the opportunity to increase housing within district centres and subsequently improve viability and footfall.

**ESC/22/40 Overview Report**

The Chair informed members that the Work Programme for November 2022 would be amended to add the word 'Update' to the Poverty Strategy report.

It was also clarified with regards to the response to a previous recommendation that a subgroup be established on housing retrofit that a formal task and finish group would not have been the right approach and that the quarterly policy panel, which was already established, was best placed to assess and develop the retrofit programme.

It was also agreed that a report providing an overview and update on the work of Shared Prosperity Funding would be added to the Committee's Work Programme.





## **Economy Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10 November 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Johns (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Bell, Good, Moran, Noor, Raikes and Shilton Godwin

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader of the Council

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development

**Apologies:** Councillor I Robinson and Taylor

#### **ESC/22/41 Minutes**

#### **Decision:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on Thursday, 13 October 2022, be approved as a correct record.

#### **ESC/22/42 Economic Strategy Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Growth and Development, which provided an update on the development of a new Economic Strategy which sets out how the next phase of Manchester's growth can ensure that the city's economy is both high performing and drives a reduction in inequalities.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The vision and key purposes of the Strategy;
- One option for the structure of the Strategy is to have five themes which sit around the core outcome of ensuring that Manchester's economy is one of the most high-performing, whilst reducing inequality. The other themes would include:
  - A strategic approach to development and investment
  - Thriving, productive and innovative sectors
  - World class infrastructure, places and talent
  - Zero carbon growth
  - Including more people in economic opportunity
- Engagement to be undertaken through roundtables and policy panels with leading economists; business engagement through the Business Sounding Board, Our Manchester Business Forum and Anchors Group; and partner engagement through the Our Manchester Forum and other relevant boards;

- A proposal to approach an external organisation to provide challenge and thinking about the future of economic growth in the city and how this can have the greatest impact on reducing inequality; and
- The Strategy will be scoped during autumn 2022 and will be formally developed in the first part of 2023 with formal approval in early summer 2023.

Key points and queries that arose from the Committee's discussion included:

- Commending the focus on economic growth;
- Whether there was an intention to focus on living costs, income and middle-tier jobs;
- The role of Manchester City Council both in the Greater Manchester region and wider North of England and the benefit of working in partnership to develop the economy;
- A need for a broader focus around socioeconomic barriers such as unemployment and disability to reduce economic inequality;
- How the objectives of the Strategy can be married with zero-carbon targets;
- The importance of considering the types of industries to attract to Manchester;
- Energy retrofitting, and how this was being undertaken for the Northwards housing stock;
- If any difficulties had been experienced with retrofitting listed buildings;
- How the Strategy would address negative externalities and impacts of growth; and
- What a 'resilient economy' looks like.

The Strategic Director of Growth and Development emphasised that the Council had a long-term approach to growth and that the Economic Strategy did not signify a fundamental change in the Council's focus. She highlighted that Manchester's economy was much stronger than 20 years ago and some of the issues it currently faced were very different, such as unprecedented demand for housing, which needed to be addressed, but the Council would continue to work in partnership with the markets, utilise its assets and take a strategic approach to development and attracting external funding. The Strategy would be owned collectively by stakeholders and developed inclusively to recognise the need for collaboration in addressing a potentially-challenging economic period.

The Strategic Director of Growth and Development acknowledged a need to examine living costs and income and commented that key enablers for work would be studied as part of work on the Strategy. It was also stated that Manchester has an increasingly-recognised national role and the Strategy needed to reflect the Council's position both within Greater Manchester and the wider region.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development commented that removing barriers to economic growth and investment which exacerbate inequality is a key objective for the Strategy.

Members were advised that significant work had been undertaken to retrofit Northwards housing stock, which had been brought back under Council ownership. The Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Housing and Development had recently visited properties in Harpurhey and Charlestown which would be

retrofitted to zero-carbon standards. Other works included spending £83 million in recent years on energy improvements to Council-owned properties in North Manchester; providing energy advice to 2100 residents which saved an estimated total of £370k a year; insulating 1600 solid-wall properties; external rendering insulation to 14 high-rise blocks of flats; high and low-rise heat pumps to 580 homes; solar voltaic panels on 2350 roofs and homes; solar thermal panels on 8 retirement blocks; low-energy lighting to 300 blocks of flats; 11,000 homes with high-efficiency condensing boilers; 12,000 homes with double glazing; 5000 homes with cavity wall insulation; 7000 homes with loft insulation; and securing external funding for these works.

In reference to listed buildings, it was highlighted that work is undertaken closely with the Planning and Listed Building Officers to ensure retrofits are sympathetic and appropriate to conservation areas where applicable. Some external works are inappropriate but works such as double glazing, door sealant and heat source pumps could be installed to improve energy efficiencies of listed buildings.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development recognised that more needed to be done and that the Council wanted all properties to be of a standard which meant it would be cheaper, safer and warmer for residents.

The Strategic Director for Growth and Development acknowledged the enormous cost of retrofitting the Council's housing stock and work was being undertaken to identify new and innovative ways to invest in sustainable retrofit and development. The Council was working on this with 3Ci, a partnership between Connected Places Catapult, Core Cities UK, London Councils and other local authorities across the UK, and other Core Cities.

Assurances were provided that the Council would seek to employ all possible levers to address challenges between growth and sustainability. The quality of development, businesses and sectors would be an important consideration and the definition of a 'resilient economy' would be established partly through the development of the Strategy and external challenge. The Strategic Director for Growth and Development explained that diversity between industries would be at the heart of the Strategy and help the resilience of the economy.

In response to a query as to how the Strategy would address negative externalities and impacts of growth, the Strategic Director of Growth and Development explained that Council-owned land and assets would be used to mitigate risk and meet the priorities and objectives of the Strategy.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

### **ESC/22/43 Poverty Strategy Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Inclusive Economy which provided an overview of the work undertaken to date to develop a

refreshed Poverty Strategy, referred to as the Anti-Poverty Strategy in the report, for the city.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Poverty remains a significant and complex problem for Manchester residents, is driven by many external factors and has persisted despite the best local efforts to reduce it.
- A significant amount of partnership work had been undertaken to deliver the 2017 Family Poverty Strategy over the past five years against a backdrop of health and economic challenges which highlighted and exacerbated poverty in Manchester;
- The new Anti-Poverty Strategy provided an opportunity to identify the impact of these challenges and extend the Strategy to cover all households with and without children;
- Conversations with key stakeholders and partners helped to shape the development of the new Strategy as well as understanding the lessons from the Family Poverty Strategy;
- An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken in June 2022 to identify how poverty impacted on different communities of identity. This indicated that all communities of identity were more likely to live in or experience poverty with the biggest impact felt by disabled residents, people from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds, the over 50's and people with one or more protected characteristics;
- The EIA has informed the engagement process of the Strategy, particularly with residents;
- There were 4 suggested priorities and actions to be included in the final strategy, which were subject to further refinement with our stakeholders as well as formal consultation:
  - Preventing Poverty
  - Mitigating Poverty
  - Pathways Out of Poverty
  - Good Governance and Effective Delivery
- The Manchester Anti-Poverty Strategy will sit under the Making Manchester Fairer Plan and will support the delivery of these priority actions, along with other key actions identified through the development of the Strategy;
- A formal online consultation on the draft strategy will be carried out in mid-December, with the final Strategy being taken to Executive in January 2023.

The key points and queries that arose from the Committee's discussion included:

- Welcoming the proposed priorities;
- How much focus was placed on prevention of poverty and relief that could be provided, given the context of the cost-of-living crisis;
- How targeted the evidence base was;
- How the outcomes and delivery of the Strategy would be measured;
- Commending the pathways out of poverty referenced in the Strategy;

- How long “breathing space” periods to pause enforcement against residents for non-payment of fines or other charges when they are accessing professional support or help would last;
- Whether the Council had considered reviewing the use of bailiffs for debt collection;
- How frequently members will receive progress updates on the work within the Anti-Poverty Strategy;
- Consultation with ethnic minority communities and the voluntary sector;
- Vagueness within Appendix 1 with regards to gender reassignment and what data the anecdotal evidence referred to in the appendix is based on;
- The stigma around the term ‘poverty’, and welcoming training provisions for frontline workers to recognise the signs of poverty;
- What actions were being taken to remove or address barriers to people using work as route out of poverty, such as childcare or transport; and
- Highlighting the importance of good quality work as a pathway out of poverty.

In introducing the item, the Deputy Leader of the Council explained that work had been undertaken to refresh the Poverty Strategy, which had been renamed the Manchester Anti-Poverty Strategy to demonstrate the Council’s commitment to reducing and eradicating poverty within the city. The Strategy would form part of the Council’s work on ‘Making Manchester Fairer’ and was an important piece of work given the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis. She highlighted that Manchester was ranked the 6<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority in 2019 and 42% of children in the city live in poverty.

The Director of Inclusive Economy commented that the Council had access to both local and non-local levers to address poverty and a Family Poverty Strategy was already in place. She explained that the Anti-Poverty Strategy was devised by drawing on the Council’s substantial evidence base, a literature review, and extensive targeted consultation.

The Director of Inclusive Economy concurred with members’ comments on the importance of prevention and highlighted how the Council had amplified its response to the cost-of-living crisis. The Anti-Poverty Strategy would be positioned between this response and the Making Manchester Fairer Action Plan, which addressed the relationship between poverty and health inequity.

The Strategy and Economic Policy Manager explained that the evidence base for the Strategy was drawn from publications by organisations such as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Resolution Foundation. Whilst the Council had a lot of data, it was acknowledged that it did not have a reliable overall measure of poverty at a Manchester-level. The data available provided a probability of characteristics and demographics of those who may experience poverty and work had been undertaken closely with the team working on Making Manchester Fairer.

In response to a query around measuring outcomes and delivery, the Strategy and Economic Policy Manager acknowledged difficulties in identifying trends and patterns between indicators of poverty and the actions taken as part of the Strategy. External circumstances would also affect the measurement of delivery and the focus would need to be on evaluating individual projects and their effectiveness.

The Deputy Leader of the Council explained that there had been significant engagement with Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority (BAME) groups through Covid-19 work and the Council was keen to build on this engagement as work progressed on the Anti-Poverty Strategy. The Strategy and Economic Policy Manager advised that there had been discussions with many organisations working with BAME residents and there would be a formal online consultation for all residents and group sessions with key organisations across a range of communities.

The Director of Inclusive Economy highlighted the Council's robust system for using bailiffs, particularly in cases where a resident is receiving council tax relief. She explained that the Strategy sought to address how good practice could be shared between the Council and partner organisations and create an aligned approach.

Clarification on how frequent progress would be updated to Economy Scrutiny Committee would be provided once the Strategy was live and there was a process for measuring progress. The work of the Strategy would also impact the information within the Economy Dashboard, which committee members received in their agendas.

The Deputy Leader of the Council concurred with members' comments around the stigma of poverty and its impact on mental health. She emphasised that the Council wanted to highlight the support and resources available for residents who may be struggling and this would be embedded into the final version of the Strategy.

In response to a member's query about what was being done to address issues such as childcare and travel, which could be a barrier to employment and getting out of poverty, it was explained that affordable and accessible childcare was a key component of the current Family Poverty Strategy to enable parents to access work. This would be continued in the new policy. The re-regulation of transport had already yielded benefits in terms of capped fares - £1 single for children & young people and £2 for adults. In addition, the Our Pass for young people had been important in enabling young people to travel across the conurbation for post-16 education and training of their choice.

In discussing the importance of good quality work, members were reminded that the next meeting of Economy Scrutiny would consider the Living Wage and Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter.

#### **Decision:**

That the report and proposed priorities for the Manchester Anti-Poverty Strategy be noted.

#### **ESC/22/44 Revenue Budget Update**

In introducing the item, the Chair proposed that item 8 – Growth and Development 2023/24 Budget Proposals – be discussed in conjunction with this item.

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which outlined the financial challenge facing the Council, the latest forecast position, and the next steps.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Council is forecasting an estimated budget shortfall of £44 million in 2023/24, £85 million in 2024/25, and £112 million by 2025/26;
- After the use of circa £16 million smoothing reserves in each of the three years, the estimated budget shortfall reduces to £28 million in 2023/24, £69 million in 2024/25 and £96 million by 2025/26;
- There remained a budget gap of £7 million to close to get to a balanced budget in 2023/24 despite proposals outlined in the report;
- The Council's funding from central government would be confirmed in the Provisional Finance Settlement, which was expected in late December 2022;
- The indicative medium-term position, planned use of reserves and the level of savings proposals to date;
- An assumed council tax increase of 1.99% per annum and Adult Social Care precept of 1% per annum;
- Indicative workforce reduction linked to savings proposals was anticipated to be managed through natural turnover and vacancies;
- Public consultation on the proposed council tax levels and savings and cuts measures would take place from early November 2022 until January 2023 and a full analysis would be reported to Budget Scrutiny in late February; and
- The next steps for the budget process.

The key points and queries that arose from the Committee's discussions included:

- Expressing disappointment at the budget cuts imposed by central government;
- Commending officers for maintaining a strong financial standing for the Council and continuing to support residents; and
- If and how a reduction of 70 FTE as outlined in the report would impact the workload of teams and services;

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources introduced the item by highlighting Manchester City Council as a well-managed and financially-responsible authority and stated that the budget shortfall was the direct result of ideological decisions taken by the government over the previous decade. He explained that the Council's budget had been unfairly cut by £428 million since 2010/11 and that if Manchester had received the average cuts to funding the city council budget would be £77 million per year better off.

Members were informed that the problem was not solely experienced by Labour Councils and a recent survey conducted by Grant Thornton found that 1 in 6 councils would run out of money in 2023/24.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources provided assurances that the loss of 70 FTE would be through natural turnover and there would be no need for voluntary retirement or severance, meaning there would be little impact on the

workload of officers and teams. The dedication and commitment of staff to the city enabled the Council to continue providing services for residents.

The Directorate Head of Finance highlighted that this was the first-stage of the process but more savings were needed to ensure a balanced budget. A report would be provided to Scrutiny Committees in January 2023 and a firmer position was anticipated then as the Autumn Statement and Finance Settlement would be released.

### **Decision:**

That the report be noted.

### **ESC/22/45 Growth and Development 2023/24 Budget Proposals**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Growth and Development which outlined the priorities for the services within the remit of the Economy Scrutiny Committee and highlighted the initial revenue budget changes proposed by officers.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Growth and Development directorate was made up of City Centre Growth and Infrastructure, Strategic Development, Strategic Housing, Planning, Building Control and Licensing, Investment Estate, Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES), Work and Skills, Digital Strategy and Highways;
- The Growth and Development directorate has a gross budget of £35.5 million and generates £44.8 million in income;
- The Highways service has a gross budget of £25.1 million;
- Proposed savings for these services had been identified and amounted to £3.54 million over three years;
- Proposed savings and income generation included:
  - Additional income from Manchester Airport Group to the Investment Estate department, although this was dependent on meeting forecasted performance;
  - A saving of £170k once the former Gala Bingo building in Wythenshawe is disposed of and outstanding borrowing is settled;
  - Deletion of a vacant grade 4 post in the Strategic Housing department;
  - Generating increased income through Highways;
  - Deletion of two vacant posts within the Highways service and one Neighbourhood Liaison post;
  - Temporarily reducing gully cleansing for three years;
- There were no budget growth proposals or emerging pressures within the directorate;
- An overall reduction of 4 Full Time Employees (FTE) was anticipated as part of the savings proposals but this would be managed through natural turnover and deleting vacancies; and
- The directorate continued to be affected by Covid-19, particularly in the Investment Estate service, and work was ongoing to assess requests for rent holidays on a case-by-case basis.

The key points and queries that arose from the Committee's discussions included:

- The importance of the Work and Skills service and Manchester Adult Education Services (MAES) and how these were funded;
- Whether the Strategic Assets Management Plan would be scrutinised by Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee;
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority's (GMCA) budget proposals and how these would affect Manchester City Council;
- Expressing concern over the proposal to temporarily stop gully cleansing;
- How temporarily reducing gully cleansing would save money;
- How the Council would continue to engage with neighbourhoods if it deleted the Neighbourhood Liaison Officer post as proposed;
- Suggesting that Highways Inspectors be concentrated in areas of regeneration;
- The impact of deleting the vacant post in the Highways Maintenance Team; and
- Whether the increased fee income from design and project management work, outlined in Appendix 1, was an external income generator or an internal cost.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that the Growth and Development directorate was income-generated through assets, investment estate and new homes which helped to generate net income for the Council to support other services and wider work.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure highlighted the interconnectedness of budget cuts and that these would have knock-on impacts on different services and enabling the Council to achieve its priorities.

The Director of Inclusive Economy explained that the Adult Education budget was largely a central government budget and had been cut over the previous 10 years. MAES was funded by a portion of this budget which is devolved through GMCA but there had been no increase in this, which had resulted in MAES using reserves, particularly during the Covid pandemic. The number of teaching and non-teaching staff was reduced in 2021 as a result of this and this had been highlighted to GMCA and central government.

The Work and Skills service was part of the Core Cities budget, which had been reduced slightly in 2020 and no changes had been or were anticipated to be made to this budget.

In reference to GMCA's budget proposals, the Directorate Head of Finance advised members that there had been an indication on some of the financial support and charges from GMCA. This was not finalised and he endeavoured to address this outside of the meeting.

In response to a query regarding the Strategic Assets Management Plan, the Strategic Director of Growth and Development explained that this would bring together information, policies and procedures on the Council's assets and would provide a framework for decision-making as to how these assets would be used. The

Plan would fall within the remit of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee but a briefing note could be provided to members of Economy Scrutiny Committee, which the Chair welcomed.

The Leader of the Council welcomed the questions and challenge from the Committee. She commended the work and proposals of officers, who sought to prioritise the most vulnerable services and residents. She stated that the situation the Council faced was a result of an ideological attack faced by cities like Manchester and political choices and that this had informed the proposed budget cuts.

The Head of Network Management advised that the Highways service had undertaken significant work to identify what he referred to as the “least-disruptive” savings. He reiterated that the proposal was for the gully cleansing service to be halted for two years and to move to a risk-based approach. There had been significant investment into gully cleaning and highways repairs in recent years and this enabled useful data collection to inform the frequency of gully cleaning. The proposed approach would look at the resilient and key route networks, city and district centres and areas prone to flooding and identify the best way forward for the next two years. Reactive gully cleaning machines would still be in operation to quickly respond to key areas.

Assurances were provided that cycle lanes would continue to be cleaned as part of regular and scheduled inspections.

In response to a question around the Neighbourhood Liaison Officer post, it was acknowledged that the approach to communication and engagement with neighbourhoods required improvement and there was a proposal to work closely with Neighbourhoods teams to facilitate this.

The Head of Network Management commended the work of Highways Inspectors and assured members that utilities companies are held to account for any damage they cause to highways. They are required to rectify any damage and are fined if they do not comply. Highways worked closely with Planning Officers and developers to ensure the use of suitable materials in and improvements to and maintenance of surrounding areas of new developments. The Committee was reminded that a report on Highways would be considered at the meeting in January and would provide further information on this.

The Head of Network Management explained that increased fee income from design and project management work related to fees which are charged to internal projects for the design of improvement schemes. A benchmarking exercise had been undertaken and officers proposed a small uplift in fees in line with what other local authorities and private sector organisations charged. The Committee was informed that another benchmarking exercise had been undertaken around fees charged to developers and an increase was proposed for when developers want the Council to adopt roads or undertake highways improvements to junctions.

In response to the Chair’s question around the impact of the proposal to delete a vacant post in the Highways Maintenance Team, the Head of Network Management stated that this would have only a small impact around the timing of works. Officers

were confident that the service would remain able to respond to issues in line with the code of practice and that safety would not diminish.

**Decision:**

That the report be noted.

**ESC/22/46 Overview Report**

The Committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions within the Committee's remit, the work programme, responses to previous decisions and the Economy Dashboard.

**Decision:**

That the Committee note the report.

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## **Audit Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Lanchbury - In the Chair  
Councillors Curley, Russell, Simcock and Wheeler  
Independent Co-opted member: Dr S Downs

#### **Apologies:**

Independent Co-opted member: Dr D Barker  
Councillor Good

#### **Also Present:**

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Stanton, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources.  
Alistair Newall, Mazars (External Auditor)

### **AC/22/38      Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2022 as a correct record.

### **AC/22/39      Oral update: the unaudited 2021/22 Accounts**

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer gave an oral update on progress towards finalisation of the unaudited 2021/22 Annual Accounts.

The key points which the Committee was invited to note were:

- The unaudited accounts (2021/22) have been published and are open for public inspection until 4 November 2022.
- The Whole of Government Accounts (WGA - 2020/21) have been completed for submission to the Government, as part of the consolidated audited accounts of organisations across the UK public sector.
- External Auditors were on-site and work has commenced (2022/23 accounts) and was underpinned by regular meetings with the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and Deputy City Treasurer to oversee progress of the audit which was said to be on track in terms of the revised timetable.
- The implementation of a 'statutory override' (a temporary change to legislation) was anticipated in relation to the accounting methodology for highways assets in light of its impact on the finalisation of the 2020/21 accounts, nationally. A delay was therefore possible in relation to the completion of the current financial year's accounts (2022/23), with timescales yet to be determined.
- Sign-off of the external audit of the unaudited 2021/22 accounts was anticipated for early next year, this was however dependent on the outcome and resolution of the accounting methodology issue.

In a discussion about likely timescales for the statutory override, the Deputy City Treasurer outlined the steps involved based on current understanding of the timescales involved for the override's enactment itself, to the interpretation of guidance to undertake technical adjustments for incorporation into the accounts. Based on current knowledge, sign off as anticipated in the early new year. The Committee noted this.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

### **AC/22/40 Oral update: External Audit Progress (Mazars)**

Having duly noted the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer's update on the current position of the 2021/22 unaudited accounts, the Committee heard from Alistair Newall (Mazars) about the commencement of Mazar's audit work on the accounts (2022/23).

Mr Newall confirmed that audit work had commenced and that a good experienced team of six auditors was in place (working a mixture of on-site and remotely) with view to completion of the audit of accounts within two months. He indicated that the early focus on planning and the identification of testing samples in the early stages had had a positive impact and that lessons learnt from previous challenges around resource management had proved effective.

A further update on the progression of external audit would be brought to the next meeting.

### **Decision**

To note the progress outlined.

### **AC/22/41 Oral Update: Appointment of External Auditors**

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer updated the Committee on progress on the appointment of an external auditor.

The key points which the Committee was invited to note were:

- That the first stage of procurement is complete and as such, six audit firms had been offered contracts (one of whom was Mazars)
- The next stage of the procurement process was the allocation of those firms to individual local authorities, in line with PSIA arrangements. An announcement was expected within the next couple of months, subject to no complexities arising from the PSIA consultation process.
- The fees would increase at a rate of approximately 150% when compared to previous rates. Whilst the impact of the fee increase on the budget was as yet unknown, it was felt that this would support the delivery of future audit work of a greater quality and breadth than was previously possible.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer responded to a question about how the decision to allocate is made. She explained that the process followed was part of established PSIA procurement procedures where an assessment was undertaken to determine which provider was best placed to deliver the work across the country. For example in Greater Manchester the request was for a firm that could deliver audit work across all of the Greater Manchester Authorities in view of the extent of collaboration across the boroughs.

The Committee was invited to note that of the six firms who had progressed to the second stage of the procurement process, a number of whom's names were known to the Council, with two new entrants to the market were included on the list. No decision could be made until the consultation period of the PSIA allocation process had elapsed and the responses subsequently evaluated. Members were also invited to note that the PSIA had sought through its tendering processes to actively encourage new entrants to the market, through the structuring of contracts specifically to encourage bids from firms who did not yet have a long track history of local government audit work but were seeking to become established providers.

### **Decision**

To note the update.

### **AC/22/42 Internal Audit Assurance (Q2)**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Audit and Risk Management which provided an update on progress on the agreed Audit Plan in the second quarter of the 2022/23 municipal year. The report also referenced additional work that had been assigned to the Audit Service and copies of the Audit Opinions issued during the period July 2022 to September 2022 as an appendix.

The report provided information about:

- The delivery of the Audit Programme
- Resourcing and the Audit Plan
- Children's Services and Education: Management Oversight and Supervisions, Foster Care Payments and the OfSTED Improvement Plan, Supporting People, Elective Home Education, Safer Recruitment in Schools, School financial Health Checks and Follow up Audits for individual schools with a limited assurance opinion.
- Adult Services: Management oversight and supervisions, payments, adaptations and Adults Quality Assurance Framework,
- Corporate Core and Information Governance: Core, ICT and Information governance
- Neighbourhoods; Growth and Strategic Development: Pest Control, Youth and Play Provision Transition, Avro Hollows, Building Control, Housing Operations – Consumer and Building Safety Regulations and Highways Pothole Grant activity
- Procurement, Contracts and Commissioning: Social Value, Our Town Hall -

Management of Work Package Delivery, Adult Social Care: Contract Governance, The Factory - Management of Work Package Delivery and Payments, New Contract Management System, Counter-Fraud and Investigations (proactive and reactive corporate cases), and Other Reactive Investigations including Business Grants, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Housing Tenancy

The Head of Audit and Risk Management introduced the report outlining the above points of consideration and responded to questions and comments from the Committee.

In response to a comment about the time taken to implement the reviewed Audit and Risk Management Service's staffing structure, the Head of Audit and Risk Management responded that following advice from HROD, the decision had been taken to widen the process to a whole service review. The scale of change and complexities around staff migration had led to challenges in finalising the role descriptors for the Health and Safety team. However, these had very recently been agreed. Next steps were described as sign off from HROD and progression to the consultation period.

In response to a query about how costs to the Local Authority were recovered where it was under a statutory duty to intervene in remedial work for dangerous buildings, the Head of Audit and Risk Management advised that work in that area had not yet commenced. The Committee recognised that where those costs were attached to the sale of a particular piece of land, the time taken for those funds to be returned to the the Director of Planning, Building Control's budget could be in some cases, extremely lengthy and sought to explore what actions could be taken to manage those deficits. The Head of Audit and Risk Management agreed to explore whether this matter could form part of the scope of Internal Audit's work in that area.

In response to comments about the number of limited assurance opinions issued to schools around compliance with 'safer recruitment' policies, the Head of Audit and Risk Management explained that whilst the Local Authority offered training to schools, officers were seeking to explore how compliance assurance could be strengthened. Discussions moved to schools financial health checks. The Committee noted the progress described in the report and asked what measures were being undertaken to ensure that guidance on financial compliance had been appropriately strengthened, including other Authority approaches. The Head of Audit and Risk Management explained that samples used the report were to a limited degree, skewed, in that they comprised of a mixture of targeted and randomly selected schools with some selected purely on the basis that they had not been visited for an audit of any given capacity for some time. Capacity as a result of staff vacancies and the segregation of duties within smaller schools remained a prevalent issue to be resolved. The Head of Audit and Risk Management added that whilst these findings were not uncommon across the wider school estate, there was no room for complacency, and as such, officers would seek to explore to what extent other authority's approaches had achieved. However as both the budget and estate had reduced over the recent years, the ability of the Authority to provide support and challenge to schools had declined. In terms of action points, the Authority would be writing to all schools about the findings of the thematic audit and following issue of

the final audit report (an Executive Summary of which would be provided to the Committee), next steps would be agreed. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer added that majority of the Local Authority's school estate were primary schools where challenges around divisions of duty were most likely to occur. Additional guidance on how to practice safely was therefore being developed in light of pressured resources within the schools sector.

There was a discussion about the volume and complexities of various grant funding schemes and their reliance on assurance processes to be overseen by internal audit and finance capacity resources. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer described the challenge and additional burden this placed on the services as a direct result of the associated governance and the assurance processes which underpinned them. The committee was advised that different government departments and funding institutions have different requirements and processes.

The Head of Audit and Risk Management responded to questions about the report's reference to ICT's Vulnerability, and Asset Management programmes, noting the issue of a reasonable assurance opinion. The Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources referred to the refreshed ICT and Digital Strategy which would be considered at the upcoming meeting of the Executive for approval and would address the points raised in the audit. A rollout of staff training on the new Data Strategy, a strand of which would establish a solution for the retention of important documents, whilst adhering to regulatory framework. A bespoke training exercise for elected members was also planned. In response the management of vulnerabilities he described a reasonably defensible position with further information to follow in due course. With regard to the Authority's website and Customer Relations Management (CRM) system, these too were under review, with a view to improving accessibility for residents, the vision being that CRM would eventually accommodate virtually all resident-facing Council Services and improve resident's digital experience

## **Decision**

To note the update.

## **AC/22/43 Outstanding Audit Recommendations (Q2)**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Audit and Risk Management which summarised the current implementation position and arrangements for monitoring and reporting internal and external audit recommendations in accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

In addition to the report's introduction and background information, the following information was also included:

- Current Implementation Position Update
- Outstanding Recommendations – over 12 months
- Significant / Critical Overdue Recommendations – 6 to 12 months
- Significant / Critical Overdue Recommendations – 1 to 6 months
- Reporting timescales for recommendations which are as yet not due a response.

With reference to outstanding recommendation in relation to Mental Health Casework, the Head of Audit and Risk Management advised that training of staff would take place during 21 – 28 October 2022. A member questioned whether consideration given been on the likely impact of scheduling the training during the school's half term holidays and could be reflected in the evaluation of it's uptake. provided. The Executive Member for Finance and Resources added that whilst he was satisfied to see that the training was in place, the point made about its scheduling was valid. He suggested that the next scheduled report, should provide the committee with the appropriate level of assurance that eligible staff had undergone the appropriate training in order that the Committee could be satisfied that that the recommendation had been fully implemented. The Head of Audit and Risk Management agreed to pass those comments on to the Director.

In respect of foster care overpayments, the Committee was asked to note that an audit of the foster care service was currently in progress and, as such, the Committee's earlier recommendation on foster care payments would be addressed in full in the forthcoming report. The audit was described as a full scale analytical review of data population for such payments, with reasonably positive results yielded to date.

In respect of the overdue recommendation associated with Avro Hollows Tenant Management Organisation (TMO), the Head of Audit and Risk Management gave clarification that a 3 month priority for recommended interventions to address the identified gaps in assurance had been passed to the TMO and the Director of Strategic Housing.

The Committee noted the progress and timeline on the introduction of a centralised contract management system. In response to the partially-implemented overdue significant recommendation for Waivers and Contract Extensions, a member expressed the view officers should be invited to attend the Committee and so that members were able to get a better understanding of the barriers to implementation. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer commented that there were occasions where waivers and / or direct allocations were an appropriate procurement method. She gave assurance that effective measures were in place to monitor contract extensions and waivers and support informed decision making, adding that where it was agreed that a procurement exercise was indicated, this was duly followed up. She also said that that the flexibility to extend contract arrangements formed part of the Council's contract awarding practices and benefited the Council particularly for longer contract awards.

## **Decision**

To note the report

## **AC/22/44 Work Programme and Recommendations Monitor**

The Committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which set out its future Work Programme for the forthcoming municipal year.

A member asked that the Corporate Risk Register and the Management of Inflationary Risk reports currently scheduled for the Committee's January 2023 meeting be brought forward to the next meeting of the Committee.

A member noted that the report on governance and management of complaints was scheduled for the committee's next meeting. He stated that he was aware that the Complaints function was being used in relation to the management of requests for information that related to the extension of the Christies car parking scheme and questioned whether the complains function was an appropriate vehicle to manage such requests. He asked whether the scheduled report could include an update on that particular matter.

The Committee suggested the following additions to its annual training event:

- ICT systems and governance considerations
- Treasury Management
- Capital / Revenue budgets

The Chair suggested that a paper be brought to the next meeting with an overview of proposed items to be considered in the December training event. In the interim, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer agreed to circulate a note to members of the committee which listed Frequently Asked Questions in relation to capital and revenue budgets.

## **Decision**

To agree the Committee's Work programme, subject to the amendments above.



## **Personnel Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19 October 2022**

**Present:** Councillor Akbar (Chair) – in the Chair

**Councillors:** Bridges, Hacking, Igbon, Midgley, Leech, T Robinson, Stanton and White

**Apologies:** Councillor Craig, Rahman and Rawlins

**Also present:** Councillors Ahmed Ali, Butt

#### **PE/22/7 Minutes**

##### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 as a correct record.

#### **PE/22/8 Arrangements between the City Council and NHS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Human Resources and Organisation Development, which detailed the arrangements for the Manchester Place Based Lead for GM Integrated Care System, and the Deputy Place Based Lead as well as an agreement to create a joint post of Director of Equalities, Inclusion and Engagement with the NHS.

The role of a single responsible Place Lead for Integrated Care had been recognised as a core feature of the locality approach intended as part of GM's development as an integrated care system. Their responsibility would include driving the local integration of health and social care and connecting that to wider public services to address the social determinants of health, with the purpose of improving health outcomes, improving the quality of care, reducing health inequalities and maximising the value of public resource

In Manchester, it had been decided that the Place Based Lead would be the Chief Executive of Manchester City Council (Joanne Roney), Joanne had been performing this role (as well as her substantive role of Chief Executive) since implementation on 1 July 2022.

A post of Deputy Place Based Lead had been created and an external appointment had been made, with the candidate aiming to start in January 2023. In the meantime, the Director of Population Health (David Regan) had been appointed as Interim Deputy Place Based Lead to cover until the substantive post holder is in place including a period of handover. As a consequence of this cover arrangements for the Director of Population Health had been put into place with the appointment of Dr Cordelle Ofori as Interim Deputy Director for Public Health.

In addition, there was currently, in the former MHCC structure, a post of Director of Workforce, OD and Inclusion and this post was now part of the functions set under

the Place Based Lead. It had been agreed to rescope this role to be a Joint Director (across health and local government) and retitled to Joint Director of Equality, Inclusion and Health Engagement. The Council would fund half of this post which would reflect the focus on health but also the wider council requirements. The post would be responsible for the current council equalities team and their work programme which would be synthesised with wider work on Marmot and engagement and would report into the Director of Population Health. The current postholder, an NHS employee, would remain so, on existing terms and conditions and pay, so would not appear on the payroll of the Council.

## **Decisions**

The Committee:-

- (1) Note that the Chief Executive has also taken on the role of Place Based Lead, under a secondment agreement.
- (2) Note that the role of Deputy Place Based Lead has gone to external recruitment with an appointment having been made and note that in the meantime the Director of Population Health is acting up into this role, retaining his statutory DPH responsibilities.
- (3) Note that cover for the Director of Public Health will be provided by Cordelle Ofori in the capacity of Interim Deputy Director for Public Health.
- (4) Note the creation of a Joint Director of Equalities, Inclusion and Engagement with the NHS and the transfer of the City Council Equalities Team to that post.

## **Planning and Highways Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 20 October 2022**

**Present:** Councillor Curley - In the Chair

**Councillors:** Shaukat Ali, Andrews, Baker-Smith, Y Dar, Davies, Flanagan, Hewitson, Kamal, Leech, J Lovecy, Lyons, Riasat, Richards and Stogia

**Apologies:** Councillors Riasat and Stogia

#### **PH/22/55      Supplementary Information on Applications Being Considered**

A copy of the late representations received had been circulated in advance of the meeting regarding applications 130387/FO/2021 and 133576/FO/2022.

#### **Decision**

To receive and note the late representations.

#### **PH/22/56      Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2022 as a correct record.

#### **PH/22/57      133700/FO/2022 - Former Jacksons Brickworks Site, Ten Acres Lane, Manchester - Miles Platting and Newton Heath Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that described that the application related to a former brickworks site that has been vacant for many years. Due to past use, there was a legacy of contamination across the site which has been challenging in terms of bringing forward its redevelopment.

In 2021, the current applicant was able to demonstrate how the site could be remediated and a strategy was subsequently approved following a robust assessment of how this would be delivered.

The application now under consideration was for development following the implementation of the strategy. It would create 716 homes, with 378 (134 apartments and 244 houses) in a first phase together with a community building, a community and pocket parks. 338 dwellings would follow in a second phase, which also included the provision of a secondary school. Parking, public realm and landscaping would be provided throughout.

The Committee held a site visit prior to the meeting to see the proposed access points to the site.

The applicant's agent addressed the Committee and referred to amendments to the application resulting from the comments raised at the previous meeting. The amendments related to the access to the site from Hallam Road. All vehicular access to the site has been removed from Hallam Road. A dedicated drop off/pick point will be introduced. The proposed pedestrian/cycle route is integral to the masterplan for the proposal site and provides sustainable access for school pupils from the canal tow path and the district centre. The applicant accepts the additional conditions proposed. The development will provide 716 much needed homes to the area, as well as a secondary school and associated playing fields, that will be available for the community to use and green space. The proposal will provide significant investment to the area and provide employment and training opportunities for local people.

Councillor Flanagan addressed the Committee as a ward councillor before leaving the meeting. The Committee was thanked for attending the site visit and receiving photographs from Councillor Grimshaw and were reminded of the objection made. The proposed site included an area of contaminated ground and the proposal to develop the area for new housing and a new high school is welcomed. The objection from the ward councillors relates to an agreement with the developer that Hallam Road would not be opened to pedestrian and vehicular access. The ward councillors have stated that they have seen a plan since speaking to the developer, that will open another entrance to the proposed school which would increase traffic usage. The plan is not included in the application being considered and includes a pedestrian and cycle route. The Committee visited the proposed site and noted the entrance to the nursery school at Briscoe Lane PS is on Hallam Road. Hallam Road is a narrow and congested road. A new crossing was installed to improve safety for accessing the school, however, the proposal will reduce safety for nursery children and parents. The Committee was requested to approve the proposal as submitted and to include an additional condition, to keep Hallam Road unchanged to ensure no pedestrian access or vehicular traffic is allowed through or as an access to a future school site. The local ward councillors believe that if access was allowed on Hallam Road, it would become a main drop-off/pick point for the proposed school and that would make the road a dangerous area for the young children attending the nursery.

The planning officer noted the concern expressed relating to Hallam Road as a future high school drop off/pick point. The committee was informed that allowing access through Hallam Road would provide the benefit of opening the existing community to the proposed community and the new facilities included in the proposed development. Not allowing access will result in a longer journey for those pupils accessing Briscoe Lane PS from the proposed development area and will include using main roads. The access through Hallam Road is supported. The new high school will have a travel plan with a designated drop off and pick up point to improve safety of school children. The application includes a condition to monitor the impact on Hallam Road, with possible additional mitigation if required once the high school was opened.

Members of the committee commented on the application. Reference was made to the size/ quality of the drawings of the road layout within the committee report. The proposed width of the roads on the development is limited and this will result in vehicles parking on the pavement. There are no details of cycling being encouraged in the new development, such as storage or accessing cycle lanes around the area.

Officers were asked for information regarding the depth levels of contamination to the land in the development area, what will happen to it and what investigations have taken place. Also, is there is a significant issue regarding the removal of the contaminated ground, would any additional cost impact on the number of affordable homes within the development.

The Director of Planning reported that a programme of remediation had taken place over eighteen months ago on identification and removal of the contamination from the ground on the development site. Following the earlier application for the remediation work on the site to understand what contaminants are present, a number of conditions had been included and the developer is still required to discharge the remainder of the conditions. A condition is included within the application report being considered to ensure that all of the requirements are carried out. The developer had already stated that brownfield funding has been received to deal with the removal of the contaminated ground.

The Committee was advised that all plans relating the application and all other plans for planning applications are available to view on the Council website and can be provided to members. The width of the proposed roads met the council standards and there is 100% provision for secure cycle parking and off road car parking for the site. Due to the residential nature of the estate and it being located away from the main roads, it was not necessary to include cycle lanes, but there will be access to the Rochdale Canal tow path, to join up with the cycle network. The development has included cycling infrastructure rather than retrofitting them later on. Also, the application includes the intention is to install a pedestrian cycle route on Hallam Road.

Councillor Andrews moved the Officer's recommendation of Mind to Approve, subject to a legal agreement in respect of a reconciliation clause and proposed the inclusion of an additional condition for the closure of Hallam Road as an access to the development site by pedestrians, cycles and vehicles to ensure the safety of school children.

Councillor Saukat Ali seconded the proposal.

## **Decision**

The Committee resolved to Mind to Approve the application (subject to a legal agreement in respect of a reconciliation clause), for the reasons and subject to the conditions set out in the report submitted. The Committee also approved the inclusion of an additional condition that requires Hallam Road is closed to pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access to the proposed development site.

(Councillor Richards declared a personal interest in the application and left the meeting room, taking no part in the consideration and decision making.)

(Councillor Flanagan spoke on the application as Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath and then left the meeting, taking no part in the consideration and decision making).

**PH/22/58      130387/FO/2021 - The Former Gamecock Public House, Boundary Lane, Manchester M15 6GE - Hulme Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing for a part 7, part 11 storey purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) building providing 197 bed spaces. The Committee was 'minded to refuse' a proposal for a part 9 part 13 storey (PBSA) building providing 261 bed spaces on 31 May 2022 as the scale was over dominant and the lack of parking in close proximity to the entrance for those with disabilities.

There were 72 objections to the original submission from neighbours, an objection from 'Block the Block', Aquarius Tenants and Residents Association, Hulme Community Forum, On Top of the World Hulme, Hopton Hopefuls, a letter from 2 employees of Manchester University, the GP practice on Booth Street West, the Guinness Partnership and One Manchester and 3 representations from members of the public supporting the proposal. Councillors Annette Wright and Lucy Powell MP objected to the scheme considered in May. There were 25 objections from neighbours and an objection from 'Block the Block' to the revised proposal.

Councillors Wright and Igbon objected for the reasons the Committee were Minded to Refuse the earlier application and a resident objected on the grounds of overdevelopment, the council should plan for local people in Hulme and the site should accommodate 3 or 4 storey extra care homes. The council should utilise its CPO powers.

The application had been amended to reduce the height to that agreed on appeal. Ten parking spaces, were proposed for disabled people in close proximity to the site. As such a refusal could not be substantiated.

Sally Casey (Chair - Aquarius Tenants and Residents Association) addressed the Committee to object to the application. The issue of the growing number of students attending the Universities and the problems, in finding accommodation is not the fault of the people of Hulme and student accommodation should be better balanced across Manchester rather than being concentrated in Hulme and Moss Side. Hulme has already accommodated the new university developments, and this could not continue. The amended application is inappropriate, is over development and is bigger than the residential blocks adjacent to it. The proposal would have a negative impact on the community, particularly young people. The limited size of the rooms in the building may have a negative impact on students. The Committee was requested to refuse the application.

The applicant's agent explained how the application has been amended to address the points raised by Committee, including a reduction in the height by three storeys, ie 20% to that similar to a scheme agreed on appeal in 2008. The number of bedrooms had reduced from 261 to 197. Ten on street parking spaces will be converted to spaces for disabled people. Students need a safe and secure, centrally located home and a place to study and Hulme is close to places of study. Purpose built student stock is one of the Council's only tools in managing the increase in the use of properties in residential areas. There is not enough student accommodation, and the growth of the universities will impact further with overseas students

significantly increasing (2022-2026). Students are commuting because of a lack of appropriate locations in Manchester. A community space will be available to the local community. The development will provide £20m of investment and jobs and will provide benefits to the area.

Councillor Wright (Hulme ward) stated that the proposal has not changed much. The building does not benefit the area or community. The reasons for refusal still apply. The scale and massing remained a concern and will be taller than both Cooper House and Hopton Court. The parking converts existing parking spaces into those for disabled people. People who drive and work in the city centre and study locally all park on the streets in the area and this does not provide a solution to the reason to refuse. The building restricts/reduces natural light into adjacent homes and may impact on the health of residents through reduced vitamin D levels. The number of people being attracted to the area is too high. The developers have not properly demonstrated that there is need for this type of student accommodation in Hulme. Students are sharing residential houses in Hulme because it is cheaper and better than that proposed. International students are buying accommodation because they will not live in this type of student accommodation which then reduces the availability of homes. The Committee is requested to be minded to refuse the application for the reasons stated. If the Committee is unsure, then a site visit would help members to see the small size of the site and the impact the development will have on nearby homes.

Councillor Igbon (Hulme ward) explained that the Aquarius area of Hulme is surrounded by university buildings and that gives an idea of the number of people attending the ward on a daily basis and the impact this has on the lives of the people who live there. Students were located outside of Manchester as MMU, was not their first choice, and had been allocated via the clearing process. MMU have not considered the accommodation needs of the students or prepared appropriately for the numbers coming to the city. The proposal provides no amenity space and will not add to or improve the area. Students will need access local services and amenities and no reference has been made to the provision of green space. The site is located on a busy road junction and the application does not include any additional crossing facilities or provide a positive environmental change to support the community. The inclusion of a community space includes a number of conditions for the community for its use. The application assumes that students will not need parking spaces which is unrealistic. The inclusion of disabled parking is not sufficient, and it should be on site. The application does not provide any benefit for local residents or the area and shows a lack of consideration for those who may live in the proposed building with limited living space and amenity.

The planning officer stated that the applicant could only respond to the reasons for Minded to Refuse given by the Committee, relating to height and massing and a lack of parking for disabled people. The height is within parameters that have been acceptable on appeal. The parking issue was addressed with ten spaces proposed near the site.

The Chair referred to the terminology in the application that referred to student bed spaces and the similarity this has with the dispersal programme undertaken by the Home Office to provide accommodation for asylum seekers. He believed that the

language provided a negative image of Manchester and students who expect a good standard of accommodation. He referenced the recent pandemic and the challenges students faced when they were unable to leave their accommodation and the impact this had on mental health and wellbeing. The officer stated that the accommodation is similar to other student accommodation schemes across City and the country. It 6/8 bed cluster accommodation with separate study areas and on-suite facilities and shared-communal areas. Manchester has a shortage of student accommodation, and the proposal will help to address this need and free up the rented and social housing that is often used by students.

Members spoke on the application and the committee was reminded that the Mind to Refuse decision was for the reason of the scale of the proposal and the dominant visual impact this would have on the area and the lack of parking in close proximity to the entrance for those with disabilities.

Councillor Flanagan stated that the height of the amended design is still too high. Provision of disabled parking in the proximity of the entrance, is a Council policy and has not been properly addressed. Students have the same requirements as all members of our society, including disabled parking spaces and developers should be held to account. The application does not improve safety for pedestrian at a busy junction. For those reasons, Councillor Flanagan stated that he was Mind to Refuse the application.

The officer stated that four spaces are proposed on Booth Street West. The proposal is of a similar height to that approved through the appeal process. The distance to Hopton Court is 44 metres and 21 metres to Cooper House. The issue of safety at the junction was not previously raised by members.

Councillor Lyons commented that the development was unlikely to reduce the numbers of students living in multiple occupancy/ shared accommodation and city centre accommodation due to the cost of the new accommodation and the requirements of students who could afford more expensive, centrally located accommodation. The height and massing appeared to be excessive and for those reasons he was Mind to Refuse the application.

The officer stated that students live in different types of accommodation and this proposal would help to address an overall shortage. The Council is advised by the universities and accommodation providers that the city lacks this kind of cluster accommodation. The application provides a form of development that has been allowed on appeal and the committee should consider this carefully.

Councillor Leech referred to the disabled parking being off site and suggested that the spaces could be used by non-residents. On that basis the application should be Mind to Refuse.

Councillor Richards noted the points and concerns raised but considered that the planning policy for student accommodation in residential areas did not strike the right balance and needed to be reconsidered.

The planning officer stated that policy H12 in the Core Strategy is key to determining if the application is appropriate.

Councillor Lovecy referred to policy H12 and questioned whether the location is compatible with existing development. The location is close to the Oxford Road corridor but is close to a residential neighbourhood with other similar high-rise buildings and Councillor Lovecy considered it to be over development and for those reasons she would be Minded to Refuse.

The officer stated that the concerns raised are addressed in the committee report.

Councillor Davies referred to student movements and their use of taxis and free buses which indicates that movement is not limited to walking. Students occupying other types of accommodation has impacted on the availability of family homes and had increased accommodation cost and land values. Officers were asked how policy H12 impacts on housing provision.

The planning officer stated that the committee is not considering land value in considering the application.

The Director of Planning informed the committee that consideration of the application should only be based on planning policies. Issues raised on the adequacy of the policies can be noted and can be discussed when policies are reviewed.

Councillor Andrews asked the City Solicitor's to advise on the number of the times the Committee can be Minded to Refuse an application. The Committee was advised that there is no restriction, but the committee must provide planning related grounds and reasons for its decision.

Councillor Andrews acknowledged the previous allowed decision referred to but stated that this proposal had to be considered on its own merit. He proposed the Committee to refuse the application, for the reason that local residents will be caused dis-amenity.

Councillor Lyons seconded the proposal.

The Director of Planning confirmed that because the Committee is considering an amended application, it could only be Minded to Refuse.

Councillor Flanagan proposed a Minded to Refuse for reasons relating to:

- The scale of the proposal and the dominant visual impact this would have on the area.
- The lack of parking in close proximity to the entrance for those with disabilities
- The use of on-street spaces for disabled parking spaces.
- Policy PH12 (3) – High density developments should be sited in locations where this is compatible with existing developments and initiatives, and where retail facilities are within walking distance. Proposals should not lead to an increase in on-street parking in the surrounding area
- Policy PH12 (6) – Consideration should be given to the design and layout of the student accommodation and siting of individual uses within the overall development in relation to adjacent neighbouring uses. The aim is to ensure that there is no unacceptable effect on residential amenity in the surrounding

area through increased noise, disturbance or impact on the streetscene either from the proposed development itself or when combined with existing accommodation.

Councillor Andrews withdrew the proposal to refuse the application.

Councillor Lyons seconded the proposal made by Councillor Flanagan.

## **Decision**

The Committee resolved to be Minded to Refuse the application for the following reasons:

- The scale of the proposal and the dominant visual impact this would have on the area.
- The lack of parking in close proximity to the entrance for those with disabilities
- The use of on-street spaces for disabled parking spaces.
- Core Strategy - Policy PH12 (3) – High density developments should be sited in locations where this is compatible with existing developments and initiatives, and where retail facilities are within walking distance. Proposals should not lead to an increase in on-street parking in the surrounding area
- Core Strategy - Policy PH12 (6) – Consideration should be given to the design and layout of the student accommodation and siting of individual uses within the overall development in relation to adjacent neighbouring uses. The aim is to ensure that there is no unacceptable effect on residential amenity in the surrounding area through increased noise, disturbance or impact on the streetscene either from the proposed development itself or when combined with existing accommodation.

### **PH/22/59      134732/FO/2022 - Manley Park Play Centre, York Avenue, Manchester, M16 0AS - Whalley Range Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that described planning permission was granted in March 2021 for extensions to an existing single storey community centre building located within Manley Park, this followed a previous approval in 2020 for extensions to the existing play centre. The extensions approved were to provide indoor covered activity spaces at the Community Centre to the north and south of the existing building. The approved extension to the south was to form a 9.2-metre-high activity hall, whilst the extension to the north was of a lower height (approximately 5 metres in height). Works have commenced on site to deliver these approved extensions.

The current proposals sought to provide a further enlargement to the rear of the existing building, a new front entrance, together with roof amendments to provide a more unifying design across the proposed development. The revised proposals indicate an increase in height of the activity hall to 9.3 metres.

110 addresses were notified of the proposals, 4 responses were received, 3 raising concerns with the proposals and particularly implications in terms of pedestrian and highway safety in the vicinity of the park.

Whilst a majority of the proposed works have previously been considered acceptable consideration of the additional extensions and amendments to the existing building is required in particular implications in terms of impacts on the visual amenity and character of the area together with consideration on residential amenity.

The matters raised above are set out and considered in full within the main body of this report. As the applicant is identified as an elected ward Councillor and objections have been received this application is being reported to Committee.

Councillor Flanagan moved the Officer's recommendation of Approve for the application.

Councillor Lyons seconded the proposal.

### **Decision**

The Committee resolved to Approve the application for the reasons stated and subject to the conditions set out in the report submitted.

(Councillor Dar declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application and left the meeting room, taking no part in the consideration and decision making.)

### **PH/22/60      134245/FO/2022 - West Didsbury & Chorlton Football Club, Brookburn Road, Manchester M21 8FF - Chorlton Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that described the application proposals related to the retention of a temporary 50 seater stand for supporters at West Didsbury And Chorlton Football Club. The stand was originally approved for a temporary 3 ½ year period in 2013 by the Council's Planning Committee with a subsequent further temporary consent granted in 2016 which expired in April 2020. The football club submitted a further extension of time application in July 2019 with a new location of the stand, this application was not determined, with the applicant withdrawing it from consideration earlier this year after the submission of the current application.

The stand was required to enable the football club to meet the standards set out by the Football Association, the temporary stand was intended to be replaced by a more permanent structure and this is still the intention of the football club when funding and the requisite permissions are in place. In the intervening period the football club still require the temporary stand and have submitted a further application for its retention at the site.

As part of the notification of this application 68 addresses were written to and site notices were posted and advertisement placed in the Manchester Evening News given the sites location within the Chorltonville Conservation Area. 18 responses

were received, 17 of these set out objections to the proposals including, amongst other matters; impacts of noise from supporters; a further temporary permission would be contrary to planning legislation; parking issues associated with the football club on residential streets; and, residents are not being listened to and the football club continues to expand.

The Applicant's agent addressed the Committee and referred to key points in particular to objections received regarding the temporary stand. It was reported that the previous applications could not be taken forward for the replacement with a permanent structure due to the availability of funding raising to carry out the work this was made more difficult as a result of the covid pandemic. The temporary stand will enable the club to continue to fulfil the seating arrangements in accordance with the FA standards. The additional five year period will allow the club time to work towards achieving the funding required to cover the costs of a permanent structure. There will be no impact on the green belt and the club works hard to be a good neighbour to the community.

The planning officers advised the Committee that there are a set of circumstances that would warrant an additional temporary period being granted.

Councillor Flanagan noted the objections raised and that the application did not seek to increase what is already in place and moved the Officer's recommendation of Approve for the temporary approval for a temporary 50 seater stand expiring 20th October 2027.

Councillor Leech seconded the proposal and asked officer if any solution had been found to address the issue of banging on the side of the stand.

The planning officer reported that matter has been discussed with the application and not solution had not been found for the type of stand used, however Environmental Health Officers had concluded that due to the position of the stand and the distance from local resident's properties the noise would not considered excessive and was acceptable under the current arrangement.

## **Decision**

The Committee resolved to Approve a temporary 50 seater stand, to expire on 20 October 2027, for the reasons stated and subject to the conditions set out in the report submitted.

**PH/22/61      133576/FO/2022 - Oakwood Resource Centre, 177 Longley Lane, Manchester, M22 4HY - Northenden Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that described the applicant was proposing to erect 20 no. two storey residential dwellings on the site of the now vacant oakwood Resource Centre. The proposed accommodation would be affordable, split equally between shared ownership and social rent. Correspondence has been received from eleven local residents, as well as the adjoining children's nursery. The main concerns raised include impact on residential amenity, pedestrian/highway safety, existing ecology and insufficient parking.

The planning officer advised the Committee of an additional recommendation would be included, in the event that the Committee approved the application, regarding secure cycle parking proposed for each plot. The condition would ensure that this is provided and retained for the future.

The applicant addressed the Committee on the application.

Councillor Andrews moved the Officer's recommendation of Approve for the application with the inclusion of the additional condition.

Councillor Leech seconded the proposal.

### **Decision**

The Committee resolved to Approve the application, with the additional condition concerning secure cycle parking, for the reasons stated and subject to the conditions set out in the report submitted.



## **Planning and Highways Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 17 November 2022**

**Present:** Councillor Curley (Chair)

**Councillors:** Shaukat Ali, Andrews, Baker-Smith, Y Dar, Davies, Hewitson, Kamal, Leech, J Lovecy, Riasat and Stogia

**Apologies:** Councillor Flanagan, Lyons and Richards

#### **PH/20/62. Supplementary Information on Applications Being Considered**

A copy of the late representations received had been circulated in advance of the meeting regarding application 133513/FO/2022.

#### **Decision**

To receive and note the late representations.

#### **PH/20/63. Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022 as a correct record.

#### **PH/20/64. 133513/FO/2022 - 43 Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4NQ - Deansgate Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing for an application to create an external seating area including a timber canopy with a retractable roof cover. The structure would be fixed to the ground floor slabs and would be 3 metres in height. The size of the outdoor area would measure 11.8 metres by 11.4 metres.

The area would be able to accommodate 11 tables for up to 58 people. Planters would be placed along the boundary with the nearest residential properties along with timber barriers and railings.

The planning officer reported that a management plan and drawing for the proposed seating area had been submitted by the applicant. The plan had been assessed by Environmental Health and they have confirmed that, if the application was allowed, the plan is considered to be acceptable.

The applicant's agent addressed the Committee and explained that the seating area is proposed as a permanent feature in connection with the White Lion PH on

Liverpool Road. The applicant is keen to develop the design and appearance of the outdoor area. The PH currently has a temporary outdoor seating arrangement, and this has been in place since 1998. The proposal submitted will be smaller than the current seating arrangement and will be an improvement to the poor-quality furniture used previously. The consideration of the initial proposal for a steel pergola was changed to a timber material and the size of the area was reduced following consultation with planning officers. The consultation and acceptance of the amended design by planning officers is not mentioned in the planning report. No objections have been raised by Environmental Health, GMP or the Archaeological Advisory Service. The management plan submitted sets out the time of use for the area and arrangements for dispersal and use of CCTV. During the consultation process no reference was made that the PH would be considered as a non-designated heritage asset and this first came to light when the committee report was released. The report does not give reasons why the PH is considered as a non-designated heritage asset. Specialist guidance has been sought that questions the council's judgement on the heritage significance of the PH and seating area. The applicant has offered to accept a five-year temporary approval of the proposal and has given an undertaking to work with the Castlefield Forum in the future to help deliver the Castlefield Masterplan. The report does not mention this offer. The applicant refutes the reasons for the recommended refusal of the application, to the suggested significant harm to the heritage assets in the area. The area is smaller than the existing space, the pergola is an open structure, and the planters are set a lower level and do not restrict views. The applicant believes the proposed structure and the benefits it will bring to the site and wider setting would outweigh the negative impacts outlined in the report. The alternative to the proposal would be the use of cheap plastic furniture that is stacked when not in use.

The planning officer noted that the use of the area for eating, and drinking has been in place since 1998. The current management arrangements in place require the furniture to be removed from the area in the evening and this is the same arrangement with other premises in other areas of the city centre. The types of external furniture available can be attractive and is used in other premises. It is considered that the size and permanent nature of the proposal will impact on all the heritage assets in the conservation area and listed buildings. The White Lion PH, although it has been altered externally, is a vintage building and is considered as a non-designated heritage asset. The test of the impact of the proposal has been evaluated and the committee report provides the reasons why the benefits of the proposal to the conservation area, do not outweigh the harm to heritage assets, listed buildings and other non-designated assets.

Councillor Leech asked officers is it their view that the application for this permanent structure is not acceptable or did this view apply to any proposal for a permanent structure.

The planning officer stated that in considering any application it was unlikely a permanent structure would be supported in that location to preserve the feeling of openness around the Roman Gardens area. The paved area outside the White Lion PH contributes to the site as part of improvements made during the 1980-1990s period. The site has important views of the Roman road line into the Roman fort. A

permanent structure would obstruct the views and that would not be in the interests of the Conservation Area.

Councillor Baker-Smith asked officers to explain the purpose of holding negotiations with the applicant to amend the proposal, if the intention was not to agree to the application.

The planning officer stated that the evaluation process of the scheme involves the receiving of views of consultees. Officers had considered the application and had indicated that they did not support the original proposal. The applicant had submitted an amended proposal and following evaluation officers do not consider the proposal to be acceptable.

Councillor Davies supported the officer recommendation and noted that any planning application for the area will receive scrutiny. Reference was made to the alignment of the proposal to the existing PH roofline. The management proposals submitted need to be considered and it was suggested that a premises licence variation may be required, and additional conditions added. The point was made that Liverpool Road attracts many visitors and contains a combination of heritage assets and modernity with a mixture of residential and business premises. It is important that this continued and that area is managed and controlled to maintain its attractiveness.

Councillor Andrews moved a recommendation of Refusal for the application for the reasons set out within the report and referred to the officer's view that there was no clear and convincing justification for the proposal.

Councillor Riasat seconded the proposal.

## **Decision**

The Committee refused the application for the reason detailed in the report submitted (see below):

Reason for refusal:

1)The creation of an external structure associated with the reconfiguration of the outside seating area at land adjacent to the White Lion Public House by virtue of the siting, scale, appearance, and materiality would form an excessively large, dominant and incongruous within setting off the public house, the Castlefield conservation area and adjacent listed buildings. This would have an unduly harmful impact on the character and visual amenity of the local area and result in less than substantial harm to the historic environment. There would not be the required public benefits to outweigh this harm. The proposal is therefore contrary to the provisions of policies SP1, EN1, EN3, CC9, CC10 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012), saved policies DC18 and DC19 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester (1995) and NPPF.

(Councillor Kamal did not take part in the consideration or vote on the application.)

**PH/20/65. 134052/FO/2022 - Land Bounded by Varley Street, Sandal Street, Bradford Road and Stracey Street, Manchester - Miles Platting and Newton Heath Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing for an application to erect 28 two and three storey residential dwellings comprising of 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom houses. Parking, and landscaping would be provided.

The proposal site was previously occupied by Sandal Court and terraced housing and was cleared under Compulsory Purchase Order powers several years ago. The site is bounded by Varley Street, Sandal Street, Bradford Road and Stracey Street. Two letters of support have been received, along with 27 letters of objection and one letter submitted individually by 48 members of Miles Platting Community and Age Friendly Network. (MPCAN). The main concerns raised include impact on residential amenity, loss of green space, loss of trees and layout of development.

The planning application was a full detailed application for the works to be undertaken as part of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract, this development site is on land bounded by Varley Street, Bradford Road, Sandal Street and Stracey Street and is identified as Cell 7.5b. The development of Area 7.5b offers the opportunity at the eastern area of the estate to provide for a choice of family homes for outright market sale, with space for private gardens and off-road parking. It forms part of a larger development area to the east of Varley Street, which was developed out approximately ten years ago, but this cell was delayed because of its proximity to a gas holder, which has been subsequently decommissioned, thereby allowing this part of the neighbourhood to be finally completed. The accommodation proposed would be in the form of 28 two and three storey 2, 3 and 4 bed houses together with landscaping, parking and boundary treatment.

The planning officer had no additional information to add.

There was no one to speak in favour of or against the application.

Councillor Andrews moved the officer recommendation to Approve the application, subject to the reasons stated and conditions detailed in the report submitted.

Councillor Dar seconded the proposal.

### **Decision**

The Committee resolved to Approve the application for the reasons stated and subject to the conditions set out in the report submitted.

## Health and Wellbeing Board

### Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022

#### Present:

Councillor T Robinson, Executive Member for Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care (MCC)  
 David Regan, Director of Public Health (MCC)  
 Paul Marshall, Strategic Director of Children's Services  
 Vicky Szulist, Chair, Healthwatch  
 Dr Murugesan Raja Manchester GP Forum  
 Katy Calvin-Thomas - Manchester Local Care Organisation  
 Kathy Cowell, Chair, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust  
 Rupert Nichols, Chair, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

#### Apologies:

Councillor Bev Craig, Leader of the Council  
 Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Children and Schools Services (MCC)  
 Bernadette Enright, Director of Adult Social Services  
 Dr Geeta Wadhwa, Manchester GP Forum

#### Also in attendance:

Councillor Collins, Deputy Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care  
 Sophie Black, Health Protection Programme Lead  
 Peter Cooper, Commissioning Manager  
 Julie Jerram, Programme Lead, Public Health Team  
 Naaira Zaman, Project Manager, Public Health Team  
 Owen Boxx, Senior Planning and Policy Manager NHS, GM Integrated Care

### HWB/22/20 Appointment of Chair

The Committee Support Officer informed members that the Chair had sent apologies for the meeting and asked for nominations for a Chair for the meeting. Councillor T Robinson was nominated by a Board member, this was seconded and agreed by the Board.

#### Decision

To appoint Councillor T Robinson as Chair for the meeting.

### HWB/22/21 Minutes

#### Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 as a correct record.

### HWB/22/22 Reset of the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health that set out how the Board would operate under the revised Integrated Care System arrangements from January 2023, noting that it had previously been agreed to revisit the role and function of the Board once the new Greater Manchester (GM) NHS Integrated Care System was established.

The Chair stated that all partners listed in Appendix 2 of the report to be written to inform them of the arrangements from 2023, noting that the proposal would be to convene three times per year and to have nominated deputies from each statutory representative.

The Chair also recommended that an update report be submitted for consideration at the January 2023 meeting.

### **Decision**

1. The Board agree the revised arrangements set out at section three of report and the appendices and specifically:
  - a. Approve the use of the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes as the Board reporting Framework.
  - b. Approve the revised terms of reference and membership.
  - c. Move to three meetings each municipal year.
  - d. Review the terms of reference and membership annually.
2. To submit an update report to the January 2022 meeting of the board.

### **HWB/22/23                      Manchester Public Health Annual Report**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health that described that as part of the statutory role of the Director of Public Health there was a requirement to produce an annual report on the health and wellbeing of the local population, highlighting key issues.

The Board noted that the report could either be a broad overview of a wide range of public health programmes or may have a focus on a particular theme. This year the focus continued to be on the City's response to Covid-19, capturing our response during the second year of the pandemic. This report was a successor to the 2021 Annual Report, *The Manchester Difference*. The two are designed to be viewed together as a complete reflection on the most acute stages of the pandemic and the beginning of our efforts to recover, from January 2020 to August 2022.

In introducing his report, the Director of Public Health paid tribute to all those professionals and volunteers across the city who had responded collectively to the pandemic, with particular reference given to the nurses at the Central Coordination Hub.

The Assistant Director of Public Health provided an outline of the work on the Annual Report and the importance of the document as a record for the city and the input of the people involved.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care welcomed the report and stated that the report was excellent both in term of content, style and substance. He stated that this was an important document in terms of a historical record of the Manchester response to the pandemic. He also welcomed the person-centred approach to the document and how this captured personal testimonies that highlighted the Manchester spirit. He further recognised the importance of this document and the learning to inform any response to a potential future pandemic. He stated that the report was testament to the stated ambition for the city to address health inequalities. He referred to the quote in the report that 'The Manchester message had to be a bold, brave and trusted voice' and stated that the report demonstrated that it had been.

## **Decision**

To note the report.

### **HWB/22/24                      Manchester Healthy Weight Declaration**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health that described that the Healthy Weight Declaration had been developed by *Food Active!* a healthy weight programme delivered by the Health Equities Group, commissioned by Local Authority Public Health and NHS Teams. It is a strategic, system-wide commitment made across all council departments to reduce unhealthy weight in local communities, protect the health and wellbeing of staff and residents and make an economic impact on health and social care and the local economy.

The declaration presented the opportunity for local authorities to lead local action and promote healthy weight and overall good health and well-being in communities. It had been adopted by a number of local authorities across the country, including several in the North-West. Manchester had developed a local declaration that would support and promote city-wide activity under the four strands of the Healthy Weight Strategy. It would instigate a communications plan that would see the declaration promoted across stakeholder venues in the city (e.g., GP surgeries, sports centres, school canteens, green spaces), giving leverage for the engagement of a broad range of partners under our whole-system approach while recognising the economic challenges that families face with the cost of living.

The Board welcomed the report and supported the Healthy Weight Declaration. Members noted that this would require difficult conversations to be had with residents, especially in the context of the cost-of-living crisis. Members recognised the importance of prevention work, and work with young people and children undertaken in neighbourhoods to address obesity. Members noted the significant consequences that obesity had on a person's health outcomes, and this was the reason why these difficult conversations were so important.

The Board were advised that the findings of the National Child Measurement Programme would highlight the impact of the pandemic on obesity rates in children. The Board were informed of a range of programmes around the topic of healthy eating and food preparation that had been delivered in Wythenshawe, noting this was one example of projects delivered locally however the ambition was to scale these

up. The Board were also advised of the work of the Manchester Food Board, Chaired by Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, adding that this work had been reported to the Health Scrutiny Committee.

## **Decision**

The Board approve the Healthy Weight Declaration.

### **HWB/22/25                      Gambling Related Harms**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Public Health provided an update on the national, regional, and local context of Gambling Related Harms. This included a summary of the key findings from the Public Health England (PHE) Gambling-related harms evidence review and the recently published Greater Manchester (GM) Strategic Needs Assessment on Gambling Related Harms.

The report provided an overview of some of the activities that had been taking place to support the strategic development of the gambling related harms programme both locally and sub-regionally.

The report was seeking approval for the development of a local gambling related harms plan which would be aligned to the priorities set out in the GM 'Preventing and Reducing Gambling Related Harms Programme'. It would aim to respond to the findings from GM Strategic Needs Assessment and prioritise the delivery of key activities over the next 12 months.

The Board in welcoming the report acknowledged the appropriate tone of the communications campaign. The Board further welcomed the acknowledgement that for every individual person directly affected by their own gambling, an average of six others were indirectly affected, noting that gambling affected the most vulnerable and those experiencing deprivation. The Board noted that gambling, particularly that associated with sports had become increasingly normalised in society. The Board discussed that the prevalence of gambling was increasing in the cost of living crisis, commenting that often people regarded gambling as a route out of poverty.

The Chair stated that he welcomed the report and commented that it was very accessible. He requested that this report and the accompanying presentation be circulated to all partners and key stakeholders. The Director of Public Health advised that this would be arranged following the meeting.

## **Decision**

The Board:

1. Acknowledge the Greater Manchester Strategic Needs Assessment on Gambling Harms.
2. Support the development of a local Gambling Related Harms plan in line with the GM Preventing and Reducing Gambling Harms Programme priorities.

3. Identify leads within their respective organisations and/or services to contribute to the development and/or delivery of the local Gambling Related Harms Plan.

#### **HWB/22/26**

#### **Cost of Living Crisis**

The Board considered the report of the Interim Deputy Place Based Lead (Manchester) that described that a Cost of Living (Health and Social Care) Task Group, chaired by the Interim Deputy Place Based Lead, had been established to coordinate the health and social care response to the cost of living crisis in Manchester.

The report described that as its first task, the Group had undertaken a piece of work to collate information from key health and social care organisations with a view to arriving at a collective understanding of the range of activities being undertaken in response to the crisis. In doing so, the Group had identified six common themes where collective action was being taken, with further activity planned. Additional focus has been placed on the priority wards where enhanced activity was most likely to be needed to mitigate against the impacts of the crisis.

Katy Calvin-Thomas, Manchester Local Care Organisation advised the Board that issues related to the cost of living crisis were being identified and escalated through the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams. She advised that for those residents who were identified as requiring additional assistance funding was available to provide equipment to enable people to remain living safely in their home.

The Board acknowledged that the cost of living crisis was impacting on all residents, recognising that this included staff and appropriate consideration needed to be given as to how best support staff. The Board noted that the cost of living crisis would impact people's mental health and commented further that schools needed to be supported to ensure that no child went without a meal.

The Chair commented that the established partnership approach in Manchester would be essential to supporting residents in the city, adding that this issue would be prolonged. He further requested that information of the cost of living crisis helpline and the work undertaken by Angela Harrington, Director of Inclusive Economy in response to the crisis be circulated to all partners and key stakeholders. The Director of Public Health advised that this would be arranged following the meeting.

#### **Decision**

The Board note the report and committed to ensure their respective organisations continue to support this work.

#### **HWB/22/27**

#### **Children's Board Annual Report 2021-2022**

The Board considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services that described that The Children's Board provided overall leadership for the shaping and delivering the vision for children, young people and their families, which is 'Our Manchester – building a safe, happy, healthy and successful future for children and young people'. The Annual Report 2021 – 2022 provided an overview of

the work undertaken by the Board and highlighted the strategic context in which the Board operated, and the progress made against key metrics in the outcomes framework.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services stated that Our Year had enabled significant engagement with young people at a locality level. He said that the brilliance, resilience and determination of young people in the city had shone through, adding that this gave him great confidence in the future. He said that the branding of Our Year had increased awareness and accessibility for young people, adding that this could be achieved with little cost. He said that making spaces and buildings available to support this activity had been very positive and he further made reference to the support offered by local businesses.

In response to a question on what can be done through the Board relating to children's related health, following on from Our Year, the Strategic Director referred to early years and the limited engagement, interaction and social development of children born during the period of the pandemic. Practitioners are seeing a larger gap in some children's school readiness and learning than seen before the pandemic. The response of the Board and the Public Health team will be to work towards closing the gap.

The Strategic Director of Children and Education Services called for Ambassadors from all partners to continue this work by ensuring that the voices of young people were heard, listened to and responded to. Further this voice should inform all planning and decision making. He further made reference to the recent motion passed by Council to 'Supporting Our Children and protecting Care Leavers' that called for the inclusion of "young people in care" and "care experienced young people" as an additional characteristic in the Council's Equality Impact Assessments, stating that this was very significant.

The Chair stated that Our Year had been a political and strategic priority for the Council, and he paid tribute to the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services and the Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People for their dedication and commitment to the young people of the city. The Board was informed that through discussions with other authorities, Our Year has been recognised in other cities and its purpose has resonated widely with colleagues.

## **Decision**

The Board:

1. Note the report and recognise the progress that has been made during the reporting period and priorities identified.
2. Recognise the strategic importance of the Children's Board and continue to provide the necessary governance.

**HWB/22/28**

**Better Care Fund (BCF) Return**

The Board considered the report of the Senior Planning and Policy Manager, NHS GM Integrated Care that described that NHS England had requested that a BCF return was completed for Manchester which demonstrated the plan to successfully deliver integrated health and social care.

The plan focused on the requirement to reduce long length of stay in acute settings and to provide support for people to remain in the community by having effective discharge pathways and social care provision.

NHS England requested that the plan was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board retrospectively as the plan needed to be submitted to NHS England by 26 September 2022.

The Board welcomed the report and the approach described. The Chair stated that this approach would support the continued integration of health and social care to best support the residents of Manchester and improve health outcomes.

### **Decision**

The Board:

1. Approve the Better Care Fund return.
2. Approve the narrative return in support of the Better Care Fund plan.
3. Approve the capacity and demand template.



## Standards Committee

### Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022

#### Present:

Independent Co-opted Member: Nicolé Jackson – In the Chair

Councillors Andrews, Connolly, Evans, Lanchbury, Nunney and Simcock  
Ringway Parish Council: Councillor O'Donovan

**Apologies:** Independent Co-opted Member: G Linnell

#### ST/22/19 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 16 June 2022 were submitted for approval.

It was proposed that the wording relating to paragraph number 3 for item ST/22/10 'Review of the Operation and Efficacy of the Member/Officer Relations Protocol' be amended to the following:

*To request the recirculation of the Member/Officer Relations Protocol to all elected Members, following its adoption by Council.*

#### Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

#### ST/22/20 Draft Code of Corporate Governance

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that proposed both a revised draft of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance (the Code) which was in accordance with published guidance, and a revised process. Compliance with the Code was monitored on an annual basis through the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

The report provided an introduction and context, noting that a review of the Code had been carried out to improve the document and process. This had included a review of good practice across peer local authorities such as Core Cities (including Leeds, Bristol, and Birmingham), other Greater Manchester authorities and examples highlighted by Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, including Lambeth and Westminster.

The report described that the Code would be submitted to Audit Committee on 29 November 2022. Once any comments from Standards and Audit Committees had been incorporated, subject to the views of those committees, it was proposed that a recommendation be made to full Council that, for agility, the Code be a standalone document rather than sit within the Council's Constitution and the responsibility for approval of the Code of Corporate Governance rest with Audit Committee by way of delegation by full Council to the Audit Committee. Once finalised, the updated Code

would be communicated to key stakeholders including Heads of Service, to support effective understanding and delivery of the Council's commitments to good governance across the organisation. Amendments to the Code of Corporate Governance would continue to be reported to Standards Committee and Audit Committee.

In response to comments from the Committee, Members were informed that this was an overarching document that set out the principles of Corporate Governance, and that the Annual Governance Statement to be considered at the June 2023 meeting would report specific areas of activity in greater detail. In response to a query from a Member, the Committee were also advised that a specific report on Member Training was scheduled to be considered at the March 2023 meeting of Standards Committee.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **ST/22/21      Members' Update on Ethical Governance**

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor that sought the Standards Committee's comments on, and approval of, the draft Members' Update on Ethical Governance for November 2022.

In response to comments from the Committee, Members were informed that reminders were sent to all Members regarding the need to ensure that their Register of Interest declarations were up to date, noting this activity was also reported to the Committee as part of the ongoing assurance process.

### **Decision**

To approve the content of the draft Members' Update set out in the Appendix for circulation to all Members.

### **ST/22/22      Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022**

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor that informed the Standards Committee of the new grounds for disqualification from being elected to, or being a Member of, a local authority that have been introduced by the Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022.

The report described that The Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022 ("the 2022 Act"), which came into force on 28 June 2022, introduced new grounds on which a person was disqualified from being elected to, or holding, certain positions in local government in England, including the position of councillor.

The 2022 Act gives effect to the Government's commitment to legislate in this area. It expanded the new disqualification criteria beyond the offences consulted upon in 2017 to ensure that they were specific and comprehensive in disqualifying individuals subject to the relevant notification requirements or relevant orders imposed in respect

of sexual offences, and includes the territorial equivalents of such notification requirements and orders in the devolved nations (and the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) in the event that someone subject to such territorial equivalents subsequently stands for elected office in England.

The City Solicitor stated that she would confirm with the Head of Elections that the requirement for candidates to declare when standing that they were not disqualified under the newly inserted Section 81A of the Local Government Act 1972 was included on the nomination forms in advance of the May 2023 local elections.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

#### **ST/22/23      Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct for Members**

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor that presented the Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct for Members for comment.

The report described that the Greater Manchester (GM) Chief Legal Officers had met to discuss the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct in light of the central government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life report. They had not however made any recommendation as a group for the 10 GM local authorities. The view of the GM Chief Legal Officers is that individual Councils needed to consider their own position in relation to the LGA Model Code. As at the date of writing of the report 4 GM Councils had adopted the LGA Model Code; 6 had not.

The City Solicitor stated that a further report would be submitted to the June 2023 meeting with the updated Manchester City Council Code of Conduct for Members where the Committee would be asked to endorse the Code prior to its submission to Council for adoption.

### **Decision**

That the City Solicitor submit an updated Manchester City Council Code of Conduct for Members to the June 2023 meeting.

#### **ST/22/24      To propose amendments to the arrangements for dealing with complaints against Members**

The Committee considered the report of the City Solicitor that set out the Monitoring Officer's proposals for amendments to the Arrangements. The Committee noted that the Council's Arrangements were last reviewed by the Standards Committee in June 2019.

A Member recommended that paragraph 2.9 of the Arrangements be amended to introduce a timeframe of 10 working days for the complainant to respond in relation to their preferred option for dealing with the situation where the Monitoring Officer

had refused a request for anonymity otherwise the complaint would be dismissed, noting that this would ensure consistency with prescribed time scales. This recommendation was agreed by the Committee.

A Member further recommended that reference in the Arrangements to 'He' or 'She' should be replaced with 'they'. This recommendation was agreed by the Committee.

### **Decision**

The Standards Committee recommend that Council approve the Arrangements as amended subject to the above recommendations.

### **ST/21/25      Work Programme**

The Committee considered the report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit that invited the Members of the Standards Committee to consider its work programme for future meetings and make any revisions.

Members noted that during discussion of a previous agenda item it had been noted that the Annual Governance Statement would be considered at the June 2023 meeting.

The City Solicitor advised a Member who raised an issue regarding residents being advised that they should use the Council's complaints system as a mechanism to raise queries that she would discuss this outside of the meeting with relevant officers to ensure this would be picked up by the correct Committee for consideration as it was outside the remit of the Standards Committee.

### **Decision**

To note the report and agree the Work Programme.

## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Council – 30 November 2022

**Subject:** Urgent Key Decisions

**Report of:** The City Solicitor

### Purpose of report

To report those key decisions that have been taken in accordance with the urgency provisions in the Council's Constitution.

### Recommendation

To note the report.

### Wards affected: All

<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b> - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
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N/A
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Our Manchester Strategy outcomes	Contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	N/A
A highly skilled city: world class and home-grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	N/A
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	N/A

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	N/A
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	N/A

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

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

**Financial consequences for the Revenue budget:**

None

**Financial consequences for the Capital Budget:**

None

**Contact officers:**

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**Background documents:**

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. Background**

- 1.1 The Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules) establishes a procedure for dealing with key decisions where action needs to be taken immediately for reasons of urgency and is therefore not subject to the normal call-in arrangements.
  - 1.2 The procedures states that the chair of the appropriate scrutiny committee must agree that both the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances, and to it being treated as a matter of urgency.
- 2.** Such decisions are to be reported to the Council.

### 3. Urgent Key Decisions taken since the last meeting of Council

- 3.1 A list of key decisions requiring exemption from the call-in procedure that have been taken since the last meeting of Council is listed below.

Date	Subject	Reason for urgency	Decision Taken by	Approved by
16 November 2022	Approve capital expenditure of the refinancing of some of the historic development costs for the Mayfield development, in accordance with the priority returns set out in the Public Sector Agreement.	The expenditure will be funded from the Strategic Acquisitions budget. The Macdonald car park site is or strategic importance to the completion of the Mayfield development. In order to ensure that the transaction can go ahead the members of the partnership have agreed that partnership members will fund the expenditure in accordance with the priority returns, as set out in the Public Sector Partnership Agreement Under the terms of the agreement for the acquisition of the Macdonald car park, exchange is required to take place within 4 weeks of agreement of terms with completion within 4 weeks of exchange. An extension has already been secured to allow for the Council's governance procedures but any delay beyond the Executive meeting on 16th November could put the transaction in jeopardy. Not to secure the site would mean the potential loss of a key gateway site to the development Full details are contained within the Executive reports Part A and B of 16 November 2022	The Executive	Cllr Simcock (Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee)
18 October 2022	Approval of delivery of Household Support Fund 3, spending £6.453m government Fund to	HSF3 runs from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. Government confirmation of funding and of the scheme requirements were received on 30 September 2022. The timing of final government	Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer	Cllr Simcock (Chair of Resources and Governance

	support households across Manchester impacted by the energy and cost of living crisis and to increase the revenue budget by that amount for the grant received. Funding was confirmed by the Department for Work and Pensions on 30 September 2022.	confirmation of the scheme means that if the scheme were to progress through the standard Key Decision process there would be a delay in the provision of critical support to Manchester residents.		Scrutiny Committee)
4 October 2022	To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer the authority to instruct the ballot holder to hold a Heart of Manchester BID (Business Improvement District) ballot	Confirmation of final ballot information delayed.	The Executive	Cllr Marcus Johns (Chair of Economy Scrutiny Committee)
16 November 2022	Approval to the Council's contribution as part of Mayfield Partnership through the public sector and private sector partnership arrangements associated with Mayfield to support the strategic acquisition of the Macdonald Hotel car park, Travis Street and the phase 1 development.	<p>The expenditure will be funded from the Strategic Acquisitions budget. The Macdonald car park site is of strategic importance to the completion of the Mayfield development</p> <p>Under the terms of the agreement for the acquisition of the Macdonald car park, exchange is required to take place within 4 weeks of agreement of terms with completion within 4 weeks of exchange. An extension has already been secured</p>	The Executive	Cllr Simcock (Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee)

		<p>to allow for the Council's governance procedures but any delay beyond the Executive meeting on 16th November could put the transaction in jeopardy.</p> <p>Not to secure the site would mean the potential loss of a key gateway site to the development</p>		
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