



Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive
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Tuesday, 21 March 2023

Dear Councillor / Honorary Alderman,

Meeting of the Council – Wednesday, 29th March, 2023

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 29th March, 2023, 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

To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2023.

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4. Notice of Motion - Skills for Manchester

Manchester is a place where businesses large and small want to operate and provide jobs for our workforce. Our growth as a city has helped attract a younger, more diverse and higher-skilled population. However, businesses are still struggling to find the right skills that they need and for the jobs of the future.

As a city we must tackle the challenges that this skills gap presents to us otherwise we will cease to grow and build the inclusive economy that our residents deserve.

According to the Institute for Public Policy Research - State of the North Report 2022, just one in six people aged 16-64 in the North of England hold at most a level 1 qualification, compared to just over one in seven in England as a whole. If Government truly wants to level up, then they need to invest in our education and skills system to help us address this challenge.

For too long, central government has not taken a holistic view of skills and education. There is a disconnect between skills and jobs, and between Whitehall and our local labour market in Manchester. Our local businesses, employers, education and skills partners and local leaders understand the local labour market and know what is required to plug the skills gap. However, further devolution is needed to make a success of addressing the challenges which we currently face.

Following the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper last year, Greater Manchester was recognised as a 'trailblazer' Combined Authority, and negotiations began with central government on further devolution of skills budgets. Greater Manchester's leaders have been calling for further devolution of the skills system, careers and more employment support.

Following the Budget earlier this month, the government listened and in Greater Manchester we now have the ability to create the country's first integrated technical education city-region. This is now a step in the right direction in terms of skills devolution, however, there is still more the government needs to do to ensure Manchester has all the necessary powers to provide the skills opportunities Mancunians deserve.

Manchester continues to be a thriving city which is making good progress with our growth in terms of the economy and jobs. We must build on that momentum with our partners in the sector, and call on the government to provide fair funding in order to truly deliver the benefits of 'levelling up'.

This council resolves: -

1. To ask the Leader of the Council to continue to work with the Mayor of Greater Manchester to ensure that Manchester's voice continues to be heard when pushing for further skills devolution from central government.
2. To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the government calling for education and skills to be front and centre of all levelling up activity and investment.
3. To lobby the government to increase spending at all levels of education and skills and to invest further in lifelong learning.

Proposed by Councillor Taylor, Seconded by Councillor Wilson and supported by Councillors Benham, Richards and Whiston

5. Notice of Motion - Calling for an immediate Rent Freeze and end to Section 21 'no fault' evictions

At the end of February, Andy Burnham signed an open letter to

the Government calling for a freeze on private sector rents. He was joined by his fellow Labour metropolitan mayors in London and Liverpool, along with the two co-leaders of the Green Party, Carla Denyer and Adrian Ramsay, the Greater Manchester Tenants Union, the Greater Manchester Law Centre, several Labour Councils, unions and organisations across the country in signing the letter to housing secretary Michael Gove.

What the letter asked was:

The Government must now act to protect renters. We therefore call on the government to follow the lead of the Scottish government and:

- Introduce an immediate freeze on rents to protect renters.
- Implement an immediate ban on evictions until the cost of living crisis is over.
- Deliver on the commitment to end section 21 by fast tracking the much-delayed Renters Reform Bill.

In response Tory Government said: “We continue to work with the sector and tenants, however, evidence shows rent controls in the private sector do not work – leading to declining standards and a lack of investment and may encourage illegal subletting. Our reforms will deliver a fairer deal for renters, including empowering them to challenge unjustified rent increases and a ban on Section 21 ‘no fault’ evictions.”

This response is neither true nor adequate to the urgent action we need right now in this cost-of-living crisis for our city’s private renters.

The urgent nature of the crisis also shows why plans to increase housing supply, even if they were to actually be implemented by this council, are inadequate on their own – any effect on price of new supply would take years to filter through and not make much difference in the here and now.

This council notes that:

- Privately rented homes in Manchester make up around 32% of the total housing stock.
- The average cost of privately renting a property in Manchester, according to property websites, has increased in 2022 by 20.5%, from average monthly rent of £959 to £1,157. In January 2023 that had risen to £1,600.
- Around 40% of council homes have been transferred to the private rented sector through right-to-buy. The UK Housing Review 2022 branding right-to-buy as a ‘strategic failure’. Many of those homes ended up in the unregulated private rented sector and often were NOT offered to families at an

- affordable rent.
- Increasingly unaffordable rents makes the Council's efforts to accommodate homeless people and families by using temporary accommodation inherently inflationary and precarious.
 - Understandably the council are trying every avenue to reduce the costs and provide a decent standard of housing for our residents, however recent proposals to offer to bring private stock up to a living standard and supplement the rent for a period of 12 months, both incentivise private landlordism and leave families at risk of future eviction. This at a time when the higher rent hits families already struggling with the cost of living.
 - The current demand for rented properties at affordable prices has led to an increased power imbalance between tenants and landlords, resulting in tenants being very wary of asking for repairs for fear of eviction, and the rising prevalence of 'bidding wars' – where letting agents encourage private renters to outbid one another for a property. This clearly has a negative effect for renters, particularly low-income households.
 - Manchester's Labour administration's work so far to support private renters, includes the roll out of the short term selective landlord licensing schemes, attempting to stamp out illegal 'no DSS' discrimination, the launch of the concept of a Manchester Living Rent to increase the homes that all Manchester people can afford. The motion for "a potential temporary cap to protect private tenants from further rental increases at a time of crisis" is a further theoretical step in the right direction. We need to commit to real action now.

The council believes that:

- Housing should be regarded first and foremost as homes rather than investment assets.
- Rent controls are needed in Manchester to stop homes in the private rented sector becoming increasingly unaffordable.
- Effective rent controls should be proportionate and data-driven.
- Landlord Licensing schemes are an effective tool to improve conditions in the private rented sector. These schemes should be expanded city-wide.
- Further action is needed to protect private renters and ensure their homes are not in poor condition.
- Private renters are less likely to complain about problems with their homes if they face a threat of losing it as a result. Therefore, the Government should bring forward the legislation it pledged to outlaw no fault evictions immediately.

- The Renters Reform White Paper should be strengthened. The Renters' Reform Coalition's 'Safe, secure and affordable homes for all: A renters' blueprint for reform' should be the basis for reforms to the Private Rented Sector.
- Right-to-buy should not be expanded to include housing associations, as was included in the 2022 Queen's Speech – which outlines a government's legislative agenda.

Therefore, this council resolves to:

1. 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 support the letter to the Housing Minister.
2. To condemn the practice of bidding wars in the private rented sector.
3. Support the Renters' Reform Coalition proposals and lobby the government to strengthen the Renters' Reform White Paper. This includes calls for a national landlord register and abolishing the 'Right to Rent' checks.
4. Oppose any expansion of right-to-buy to include housing associations.

This Council recommends to the Executive as follows;

1. Ensure that officers serve improvement notices on homes with severe hazards to prevent landlords from serving Section 21 notices and enable Rent Repayment Orders if the landlord fails to comply. Council officers should also seek to serve more improvement notices for excess cold in homes that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, and help private renters claim back rent through rent repayment orders when they are eligible to do so.
2. Increase the capacity of the Council's Housing Enforcement and Selective Licensing teams to act.
3. Ensure that officers have the resources needed to strongly enforce the ban on letting agent fees.
4. Instruct officers to find ways that Manchester City Council can work to end the practice of 'bidding wars' in the private rented sector.
5. Instruct officers to submit a plan to the government of possible ways to boost affordable home ownership rates without depleting social housing stock.
6. Publish an annual "living rent index" of what affordable rents would be for Manchester.
7. Maintain a publicly accessible list of Enforcement Notices served on Private Housing in Manchester if no such national database materialises following the Renters Reform bill.
8. Set up, with our GMCA partners, a Great Manchester Renters Reform Forum and ensure that Manchester

Renters are included in its membership.

Proposed by Councillor Johnson, Seconded by Councillor Bayunu and Supported by: Councillors Nunney, Leech and Good

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| 6. Proceedings of the Executive | 33 - 38 |
| To submit the minutes of the Executive on 15 February 2023 (non-budget). | |
| 7. 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. | |
| 8. Scrutiny Committees | 39 - 164 |
| To note the minutes of the following committees: | |
| Communities & Equalities – 7 February & 7 March 2023 | |
| Resources & Governance – 7 February & 7 March 2023 | |
| Health – 8 February, 22 February & 8 March 2023 | |
| Children & Young People – 8 February & 8 March 2023 (to follow) | |
| Environment & Climate Change – 9 February & 9 March 2023 | |
| Economy – 9 February & 9 March 2023 | |
| 9. Proceedings of Committees | 165 - 192 |
| To submit for approval the minutes of the following meetings and consider recommendations made by the committee: | |
| Planning and Highways Committee – 16 February and 16 March 2023 (to follow) | |
| Licensing Policy Committee – 10 March 2023 | |
| Standards Committee – 16 March 2023 | |
| Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 29 March 2023 (to be tabled) | |
| 10. Resolution to designate certain streets as prohibited, licence or consent streets for the purpose of street trading | 193 - 204 |
| To consider the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing | |
| 11. Standards Committee - Annual Report | 205 - 218 |
| The Council is requested to note the report. | |
| 12. Key Decisions Report | 219 - 224 |
| The report of the City Solicitor is enclosed. | |

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joanne Roney', written in a cursive style.

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

Members of the Council

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, 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

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the meeting Clerk:
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This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 21 March 2023** 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 Friday, 3 March 2023

Present:

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

Councillors:

Y Dar, Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Ahmed Ali, Nasrin Ali, Alijah, Amin, Andrews, 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, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Lanchbury, Leech, J Lovecy, Lynch, Lyons, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Newman, Noor, Nunney, Ogunbambo, B Priest, H Priest, Rahman, Raikes, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Rowles, Russell, Sadler, M Sharif Mahamed, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stanton, Taylor, Wheeler, Whiston, White, Wills, Wilson and Wright

CC/23/15 The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business

The Lord Mayor informed the meeting that there were no announcements to make or urgent business for consideration.

CC/23/16 Interests

No interests were declared regarding any of the business contained in the Council Summons.

CC/23/17 Minutes

Decision

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Lord Mayor.

CC/23/18 The Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Budget 2023/24

The Council met to consider and set the 2023/24 budget, Council Tax resolution for 2023/24 and Collection Fund budget for 2023/24. In doing so, the proceedings of the Art Galleries Committee on 15 February 2023, which provided details of the Art Galleries budget for 2023/24 were submitted for approval. In addition, the part proceedings of the Executive on 15 February 2022 were submitted for approval, which contained details on the following:

- Revenue Budget Monitoring Update to the end of December 2022

- Capital Programme Budget Monitoring 2022/23
- Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2023/24 Revenue Budget
- Corporate Core Budget 2023/24
- Children and Education Services Budget 2023/24
- Public Health Budget 2023-26
- Adult Social Care Budget 2023/24
- Neighbourhoods Directorate Budget 2023/24
- Zero Carbon 2023/24 Budget Report
- Homelessness Directorate 2023/24 Budget
- Growth and Development Directorate Budget 2023/24
- Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 to 2025/26
- Schools Budget 2023/24
- Capital Strategy and Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26
- Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24, including Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy
- Budget Equality and Poverty Impact Assessments
- Budget consultation results 2023/24

The Council also considered the following reports:-

- Details of proposed budget amendment
- The Council Tax Resolution 2023/24.

In addition, the Council received the minutes of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 27 February 2023, that considered the Budget Report 2023-2024.

The Lord Mayor provided Council with an explanation of the process to be followed at the meeting to consider and vote on the amendment received and to then consider the documents submitted and in doing so set the Council's budget for 2023/24 by a named electronic vote.

Councillor Rahman moved the proceedings of the Art Galleries Committee and Councillor Craig moved the part proceedings of the Executive, both held on 15 February 2023.

Councillor Akbar then moved the Revenue and Capital Budgets and the recommendations as detailed in the reports submitted, this was seconded by Councillor Craig. Councillor Akbar then presented his budget statement for 2023/24 to Council.

The Lord Mayor reported that Councillor Johnson (Opposition Lead Member on Finance) had submitted her apologies for the meeting. A response to Councillor Akbar's budget statement was made by Councillor Bayunu.

The Council then considered an amendment to the Council Budget 2023/24.

The following amendment to the budget was proposed by Councillor Leech. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Good.

Budget amendment:

To allocate a budget of £900,000 to enable the Council to deliver a Council Tax rebate to Manchester residents in receipt of the maximum Council Tax support equivalent to increasing the maximum support from 82.5% to 85%; to be funded through the transfer from the General Fund Reserve.

To allocate a budget of £1,000,000 to invest additional resources into highways maintenance, to tackle the backlog of road and pavement repairs and gully repairs, to save money on future accident trip claims and to reduce the ongoing day to day maintenance costs on gully clearing and repairs; to be funded from the Budget Smoothing Reserve.

All proposals in this amendment are one off spending commitments for 2023/2024.

The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the vote. The outcome was recorded as follows:

For the amendment (2)**Councillors:**

Good and Leech

Against the amendment (85)**Councillors:**

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

Abstentions (0)

The Lord Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The Lord Mayor then invited the Council to vote on the budget motion as the substantive budget resolution, and in doing so sought Council:-

1. To approve the minutes of the Art Galleries Committee held on 15 February 2023, to agree the Art Galleries budget for 2023/24.

2. To adopt the part proceedings of the Executive held on 15 February 2023, as included in the Council summons and in particular, the Council is recommended to approve as elements of the budget for 2023/24:
 - an increase in the basic amount of Council Tax (i.e., the Council's element of Council Tax) by 2.99% and Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%;
 - the contingency sum of £0.6m (para 6.61 of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and 2023/24 Revenue Budget report submitted);
 - corporate budget requirements to cover levies/charges of £70.060m, capital financing costs of £39.507m, additional allowances and other pension costs of £8.566m and insurance costs of £2.004m;
 - the inflationary pressures and budgets to be allocated in the sum of £22.586m; and delegate the final allocations to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources;
 - The estimated utilisation of £13.146m in 2023/24 of the surplus from the on-street parking and bus lane enforcement reserves, after determining that any surplus from these reserves is not required to provide additional off-street parking within the district; and
 - The planned use of, and movement in, reserves after any changes are required to account for final levies.
3. To note the minutes of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2023, regarding the consideration of the overall budget proposals and in doing so to note the consideration of the budget by the five scrutiny committees.
4. To note the 2023/24 Budget Consultation Results report.
5. To note the Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 report.
6. That in considering the Capital Strategy and Budget for 2022/23 to 2025/26 report to:
 1. Approve the budget changes for the capital programme noted in section 6 of the report.
 2. Note the capital programme as presented in Appendix 3 (£443.8m in 2022/23, £426.8m in 2023/24, £199.7m in 2024/25 and £34.1m in 2025/26) which will require prudential borrowing of £551.8m to fund non-HRA schemes over the four-year period for which provision has been made in the revenue budget for the associated financing costs (within limits previously agreed).
 3. Note that the profile of spend is provisional, and a further update will be provided in the outturn report for 2022/23.
 4. Delegate authority to:

- a) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to approve capital expenditure on schemes which have budget approval.
- b) The Chief Executive and Director of Highways in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment for the approval of the list of schemes to be undertaken under the Highways capital programme.
- c) The Chief Executive and Director of Highways to implement the Highways schemes in accordance with the Capital Approval process and after consultation with the Executive Member for Environment on the final details and estimated costs.
- d) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to add qualifying spend to save projects to the capital budget accordingly up to a maximum of £5m in 2023/24 and then £5m per year thereafter.
- e) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to accelerate spend from later years, when necessary, within the programme subject to resource availability.
- f) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to agree and approve where appropriate the programme of schemes for the delivery of the corporate asset management programme.

7. That in considering the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23, including Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy report, to:

1. Approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and in doing so, approve the following:

- Borrowing Requirements listed in Section 7 of the report;
- Borrowing Strategy outlined in Section 10 of the report;
- Annual Investment Strategy detailed in Section 11 of the report;
- Prudential and Treasury Indicators listed in Appendix A of the report;
- MRP Strategy outlined in Appendix B of the report;

- Treasury Management Policy Statement at Appendix C of the report; and
- Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation at Appendix D of the report.

2. Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, the power to pursue any restructuring, rescheduling or redemption opportunities available, including amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy if the changes require it Any changes required to the Strategy will be reported to members at the earliest opportunity.

8. That in considering the Council Tax Resolution 2023/24 report, the Council was asked to:

1. Adopt those proceedings of the Executive on 15 February 2023 which contain details of the following:
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2023/24
 - Corporate Core Budget 2023/24
 - Children and Education Services Budget 2023/24
 - Public Health Budget 2023/24
 - Adult Social Care Budget 2023/24
 - Neighbourhoods Budget 2023/24 (1 – Communities and Equalities committee)
 - Neighbourhoods Budget 2023/24 (2 – Environment and Climate Change committee)
 - Zero Carbon Budget 2023/24
 - Homelessness Budget 2023/24
 - Growth and Development Budget 2023/24
 - Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 to 2025/26
 - Schools Budget 2023/24
 - Capital Strategy and Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26
 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24, including Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy
2. Note the proposed Savings and Efficiencies as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.
3. Note the proposed Growth and Investments as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report submitted.
4. Note the position on Reserves as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report submitted.
5. Note that the Council Tax determination, included at Appendix 4 reflects the budget position.

6. Note the information on the referenda, as detailed in Section 3 of this report.
7. Approve the Council Tax determination attached as Appendix 4. The Council Tax determination:
 - Calculates the Council Tax requirement in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
 - Calculates a basic amount of Council Tax and an amount of tax for each valuation band (the Council element) in accordance with Sections 31B and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, as amended.
 - Sets an amount of Council Tax for each category of dwellings in each valuation band in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992.
8. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy including borrowing requirement and strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, Prudential and Treasury Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision strategy included at Appendix 5 of the report submitted.
9. Approve the Collection Fund Budget for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 6 of the report submitted.

For the Motion: (82)

Councillors:

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

Against the motion (0)

Abstaining (2)

Councillors:

Good and Leech

Decisions:

1. To approve the minutes of the Art Galleries Committee held on 15 February 2023, to agree the Art Galleries budget for 2023/24.
2. To adopt the part proceedings of the Executive, held on 15 February 2023, as included in the Council summons, and in particular, to approve as elements of the budget for 2023/24:
 - An increase in the basic amount of Council Tax (i.e., the Council's element of Council Tax) by 2.99% and Adult Social Care precept increase of 2%;
 - The contingency sum of £0.6m (para 6.61);
 - Corporate budget requirements to cover levies/charges of £70.060m, capital financing costs of £39.507m, additional allowances and other
 - Pension costs of £8.566m and insurance costs of £2.004m;
 - The inflationary pressures and budgets to be allocated in the sum of £22.586m; and delegate the final allocations to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources;
 - The estimated utilisation of £13.146m in 2023/24 of the surplus from the on-street parking and bus lane enforcement reserves, after determining that any surplus from these reserves is not required to provide additional off-street parking within the district; and
 - The planned use of, and movement in, reserves after any changes are required to account for final levies.
3. To note the minutes of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee held on 27 February 2023, regarding the consideration of the overall budget proposals and in doing so to note the consideration of the budget by the five scrutiny committees.
4. To note the 2023/24 Budget Consultation Results report.
5. To note the Capital Programme Monitoring 2022/23 report.
6. That in considering the Capital Strategy and Budget for 2022/23 to 2025/6 report to:
 1. Approve the budget changes for the capital programme noted in section 6 of the report.
 2. Note the capital programme as presented in Appendix 3 (£443.8m in 2022/23, £426.8m in 2023/24, £199.7m in 2024/25 and £34.1m in 2025/26) which will require prudential borrowing of £551.8m to fund non-HRA schemes over the four-year period for which provision has been made in the revenue budget for the associated financing costs (within limits previously agreed).
 3. Note that the profile of spend is provisional, and a further update will be provided in the outturn report for 2022/23.
 4. Delegate authority to:

- a) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to approve capital expenditure on schemes which have budget approval.
 - b) The Chief Executive and Director of Highways in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment for the approval of the list of schemes to be undertaken under the Highways capital programme.
 - c) The Chief Executive and Director of Highways to implement the Highways schemes in accordance with the Capital Approval process and after consultation with the Executive Member for Environment on the final details and estimated costs.
 - d) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to add qualifying spend to save projects to the capital budget accordingly, up to a maximum of £5m in 2023/24 and then £5m per year thereafter.
 - e) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to accelerate spend from later years when necessary, within the programme subject to resource availability.
 - f) The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources to agree and approve where appropriate the programme of schemes for the delivery of the corporate asset management programme.
7. That in considering the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23, including Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy, to:
1. Approve the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and in doing so approve the following:
 - Borrowing Requirements listed in Section 7 of this report;
 - Borrowing Strategy outlined in Section 10;
 - Annual Investment Strategy detailed in Section 11;
 - Prudential and Treasury Indicators listed in Appendix A;
 - MRP Strategy outlined in Appendix B;
 - Treasury Management Policy Statement at Appendix C; and
 - Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation at Appendix D
 2. Delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources, the power to pursue any restructuring, rescheduling or redemption opportunities available, including amendments to the Treasury Management Strategy if the changes require it Any changes required to the Strategy will be reported to members at

the earliest opportunity.

8. That in considering the **Council Tax Resolution 2023/24** report:

1. Adopt those proceedings of the Executive on 15 February 2023 which contain details of the following:
 - Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2023/24
 - Corporate Core Budget 2023/24
 - Children and Education Services Budget 2023/24
 - Public Health Budget 2023/24
 - Adult Social Care Budget 2023/24
 - Neighbourhoods Budget 2023/24 (1 – Communities and Equalities committee)
 - Neighbourhoods Budget 2023/24 (2 – Environment and Climate Change committee)
 - Zero Carbon Budget 2023/24
 - Homelessness Budget 2023/24
 - Growth and Development Budget 2023/24
 - Housing Revenue Account 2023/24 to 2025/26
 - Schools Budget 2023/24
 - Capital Strategy and Budget 2023/24 to 2025/26
 - Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24, including Borrowing Limits and Annual Investment Strategy
2. Note the proposed Savings and Efficiencies as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.
3. Note the proposed Growth and Investments as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report submitted.
4. Note the position on Reserves as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report submitted.
5. Note that the Council Tax determination included at Appendix 4 reflects the budget position.
6. Note the information on the referenda as detailed in Section 3 of this report.
7. Approve the Council Tax determination attached as Appendix 4. The Council Tax determination:
 - Calculates the Council Tax requirement in accordance with Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
 - Calculates a basic amount of Council Tax and an amount of tax for each valuation band (the Council element) in accordance with Sections 31B and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, as amended.
 - Sets an amount of Council Tax for each category of dwellings in each valuation band in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992.

8. Approve the Treasury Management Strategy including borrowing requirement and strategy, Annual Investment Strategy, Prudential and Treasury Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision strategy included at Appendix 5 of the report submitted.

9. Approve the Collection Fund Budget for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 6 of the report submitted.

COUNCIL TAX

SETTING THE AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX FOR THE COUNCIL'S AREA IT IS RESOLVED:

1. That the estimates prepared by the Executive at its meeting on 15 February 2023 be approved.
2. That it be noted that the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer acting under delegated powers has determined the amount of 131,615.1 as the Council Tax base for Manchester for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Section 31A (3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and regulations 3 to 5 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.
3. That the following amounts can be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/24 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:
 - (a) £1,760,525,101 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in the Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act.
 - (b) £1,547,538,333 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
 - (c) £212,986,768 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Sections 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
 - (d) £1,618.25 being the amount at 3(c) above divided by the amount at 2 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
 - (e) Valuation Bands being the amount given multiplying the amount at 3(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands. The band bill is shown in the table below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,078.83	1,258.64	1,438.45	1,618.25	1,977.87	2,337.48	2,697.09	3,236.50

4. That it be noted that for the year 2023/24 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Precepting Valuation bands

Greater Manchester Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
71.96	83.96	95.95	107.95	131.93	155.92	179.91	215.90

Greater Manchester Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services):

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
162.20	189.23	216.26	243.30	297.36	351.43	405.50	486.60

5. That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(e) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1,312.99	1,531.83	1,750.66	1,969.50	2,407.16	2,844.83	3,282.50	3,939.00

1. CALCULATING THE COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT

Section 31A Calculations

- 1.1 Section 31A of the Local Government Finance 1992 requires the Council to make three calculations:

1. an estimate of the Council's required gross revenue expenditure - Section 31A(2)
2. an estimate of its anticipated income (excluding that from council tax) and of reserves to be used to aid the revenue account - Section 31A(3)
3. a calculation of the difference between (i) and (ii) above, (i.e. the Council Tax requirement) - Section 31A(4)

1.2 In its Section 31A(2) calculation the Council is required to allow for the following:

Section 31A(2)(a) - the estimated revenue account expenditure it will incur during the year in performing its functions.

Section 31A(2)(b) - an appropriate allowance for contingencies for the year, e.g. for unforeseen occurrences such as disasters, storm damage, higher than expected inflation etc.

Section 31A(2)(c) - any raising of financial reserves for future expenditure - examples of this include payments into a redemption fund, internal insurance etc.

Section 31A(2)(d) - any revenue account deficit for a previous financial year which has not yet been provided for.

Section 31A(2)(da) – any amount estimated to be transferred from the general fund to the collection fund in accordance with regulations by reference to sums received by the authority in respect of business rates.

Section 31A(2)(e) - any amount estimated to be transferred from the General Fund to the Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 - i.e. the Council's share of any collection fund deficit.

Section 31A(2)(f) - any amounts estimated to be transferred from the General Fund to the Collection Fund by direction of the Secretary of State under Section 98(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 - including an estimate of the shortfall in the collection of Non-domestic Rates in excess of the allowance.

1.3. In its Section 31A(3) calculation the Council must calculate the aggregate of sums to be put against gross expenditure, namely:

Section 31A(3)(a) - estimated income from fees, charges, and government grants (including RSG) plus other sums payable into the general fund (but excluding council tax)

Section 31A(3)(aa) – Any amount estimated to be transferred from the collection fund to the general fund in accordance with regulations by reference to sums received by the authority in respect of business rates.

Section 31A(3)(b) - any amount estimated to be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 - i.e. the Council's share of any collection fund surplus;

Section 31A(3)(c) - sums to be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund pursuant to a direction of the Secretary of State under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 - including allowances for costs of collection of business rates;

Section 31A(3)(d) - the amount of financial reserves/balances which the authority intends to use towards meeting its revenue expenditure

1.4 On the basis of current estimates, the calculations would be as follows:

	HRA £	Other £	Total £
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Section 31A (2)(a)	117,448,000	1,593,112,768	1,710,560,768
Section 31A (2)(b)	0	600,000	600,000
Section 31A (2)(c)	0	35,548,000	35,548,000
Section 31A (2)(d)	0	13,816,333	13,816,333
Section 31A (2)(da)	0	0	0
Section 31A (2)(e)	0	0	0
Section 31A (2)(f)	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	117,448,000	1,643,077,101	1,760,525,101
<u>Income</u>			
Section 31A (3)(a)	(95,794,000)	(975,401,732)	(1,071,195,732)
Section 31A (3)(aa)		(341,667,000)	(341,667,000)
Section 31A (3)(b)	0	(33,232,000)	(33,232,000)
Section 31A (3)(c)	0	(1,121,601)	(1,121,601)
Section 31A (3)(d)	(21,654,000)	(78,668,000)	(100,322,000)
Total Income	(117,448,000)	(1,430,090,333)	(1,547,538,333)

1.5 Council Tax Requirement under Section 31A(4) being the amount by which the aggregate under Section 31A(2) exceeds the aggregate under Section 31A(3) is £212,986,768.

2. CALCULATING THE BASIC AMOUNT OF COUNCIL TAX

2.1. Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires the Council to calculate the basic amount of its Council Tax - this is in effect the Council element of the Band D Council tax.

2.2 This calculated by applying the following formula:

$$R \div T$$

Where:

R: is the Council Tax requirement, and

T: is the approved Council Tax base

2.3 Calculating the Basic Amount of Council Tax

Council Tax Requirement	£212,986,768
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Divided by:

Council Tax Base	131,615.1
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Band D Basic Amount of Council Tax is:	£1,618.25
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Prudential and Treasury Indicators 2023/24 to 2025/26

Please note last year's approved figures are shown in brackets.

Treasury Management Indicators	2023-24		2024-25		2025-26
	%		%		%
Estimated Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream¹	5.49%		5.37%		5.34%
Estimated Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream	10.8		10.6		10.4
	£m		£m		£m
Authorised Limit - external debt					
Borrowing	1,825.1	(1,816.1)	1,811.9	(1,816.1)	1,811.9
Other long-term liabilities	190.0	(190.0)	190.0	(190.0)	190.0
TOTAL	2,015.1	(2,006.1)	2,001.9	(2,006.1)	2,001.9
Operational Boundary - external debt					
Borrowing	1,620.5	(1,698.5)	1,726.3	(1,724.0)	1,728.1
Other long-term liabilities	190.0	(190.0)	190.0	(190.0)	190.0
TOTAL	1,810.5	(1,888.5)	1,916.3	(1,914.0)	1,918.1
Estimated external debt	1,465.5	(1,572.0)	1,611.0	(1,606.0)	1,613.3

Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	0	(0)	0	(0)	0
Estimated Capital Expenditure					
Non - HRA	377.4	(223.2)	155.7	(51.3)	22.5
HRA	49.0	(31.9)	43.7	(14.6)	11.6
TOTAL	426.4	(255.1)	199.4	(65.9)	34.1
Estimated Capital Financing Requirement (as at 31 March)					
Non – HRA	1,854.7	(1,895.8)	1,893.7	(1,898.6)	1,845.4
HRA	321.8	(321.8)	322.5	(322.6)	323.9
TOTAL	2,176.5	(2,220.6)	2,216.2	(2,221.2)	2,169.3

¹ Note that for 2024-25 onward these are based on estimated net revenue budgets.

Maturity structure of borrowing during 2023-24	Upper Limit		Lower limit	
	under 12 months	70%	(70%)	0%
12 months and within 24 months	60%	(70%)	0%	(0%)
24 months and within 5 years	40%	(60%)	0%	(0%)
5 years and within 10 years	50%	(60%)	0%	(0%)
10 years and above	80%	(90%)	30%	(30%)
Has the Authority adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management Code?				Yes

The status of the indicators will be included in Treasury Management reporting during 2023/24. They will also be included in the Council's Capital Budget monitoring reports during 2023/24.

Definitions and Purpose of the Treasury Management Indicators noted above (Indicators are as recommended by the CIPFA Prudential Code last revised in 2017)

Estimated Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

The authority will set for the forthcoming year and the following financial years an estimate of financing costs to net revenue stream. The indicator recognises that ultimately all debts of a local authority fall on the taxpayer, and that therefore when considering affordability, it is important to review the scale of financing costs to net revenue.

Estimated Net Income from Commercial and Service Investments to Net Revenue Stream

The authority will set for the forthcoming year and the following financial years an estimate of new income from commercial and service investments to net revenue stream. The indicator is intended to show the financial exposure of the authority to the loss of income, and therefore the proportionality of commercial and service investment income to the authority's overall budget. This is a new indicator for 2023/24.

Estimated Capital Expenditure

The authority sets a capital budget for each financial year, which includes an estimate of the capital expenditure which might be incurred. The figures here also include changes to other long-term liabilities.

Estimates Capital Financing Requirement

The capital financing requirement reflects the authority's underlying need to finance capital expenditure and is based on all capital expenditure including that incurred in previous years.

Authorised Limit - external debt

The local authority will set for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years an authorised limit for its total external debt, excluding investments, separately identifying borrowing from other long-term liabilities. Other long-term liabilities include PFI's, service concessions and finance leases. Due to the introduction of IFRS16 (Leasing) on the 1st of April 2022, more of the Council's lessee leases will be classed as finance leases and will become other long-term liabilities, therefore the value will increase from previous years. Work is underway to determine the value of this change in accounting standards, but £20.0m has been added to the indicator at this stage and will be reviewed once this work is complete. This prudential indicator is referred to as the Authorised Limit.

Operational Boundary - external debt

The local authority will also set for the forthcoming financial year and the following two financial years an operational boundary for its total external debt, excluding investments, separately identifying borrowing from other long-term liabilities. This prudential indicator is referred to as the Operational Boundary.

Both the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary need to be consistent with the authority's plans for capital expenditure and financing; and with its treasury management policy statement and practices. The Operational Boundary should be based on the authority's estimate of most likely, i.e. prudent, but not worst-case scenario. Risk analysis and risk management strategies should be considered.

The Operational Boundary should equate to the maximum level of external debt projected by this estimate. Thus, the Operational Boundary links directly to the Authority's plans for capital expenditure; its estimates of capital financing requirement; and its estimate of cash flow requirements for the year for all purposes. The Operational Boundary is a key management tool for in-year monitoring.

It will probably not be significant if the Operational Boundary is breached temporarily on occasions due to variations in cash flow. However, a sustained or regular trend above the Operational Boundary would be significant and should lead to further investigation and action as appropriate. Thus, both the Operational Boundary and the Authorised Limit will be based on the authority's plans. The authority will need to assure itself that these plans are affordable and prudent. The Authorised Limit will in addition need to provide headroom over and above the Operational Boundary enough for example for unusual cash movements.

Estimated external debt

After the year end, the closing balance for actual gross borrowing plus (separately), other long-term liabilities are obtained directly from the local authority's Balance Sheet.

The prudential indicator for Estimated External Debt considers a single point in time and hence is only directly comparable to the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary at that point in time. Actual external debt during the year can be compared.

Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days

The authority will set an upper limit for each forward financial year period for the maturing of investments made for a period longer than 364 days. This indicator is referred to as the prudential limit for Principal Sums Invested for periods longer than 364 days.

The purpose of this indicator is so the authority can contain its exposure to the possibility of loss that might arise as a result of it having to seek early repayment or redemption of principal sums invested.

Maturity structure of new borrowing

The authority will set for the forthcoming financial year both upper and lower limits with respect to the maturity structure of its borrowing. These indicators are referred to as the Upper and Lower limits respectively for the Maturity Structure of Borrowing.

Liability Benchmark

The liability benchmark is a projection of the amount of loan debt outstanding that the authority needs each year into the future to fund its existing debt liabilities, planned prudential borrowing and other cash flows. The benchmark shows the gap between the authority's outstanding loans at future points in time and the authority's need to for borrowing (the benchmark). It can be used to identify the debt maturities needed for new borrowing in order to match to future liabilities. This is a new indicator for 2023/24.

Local Prudential Indicators

The Council has not yet introduced Local Prudential Indicators to reflect local circumstances but will review on a regular basis the need for these in the future.

COLLECTION FUND BUDGET 2023/24	2023/24 Budget Estimate £'000
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>COUNCIL TAX</u> (Surplus) / Deficit B/fwd	6,052
<u>Precepts:</u>	
• Mayoral General (including Fire Services)	14,208
• Mayoral Police & Crime Commissioner	32,022
• City of Manchester	212,987
Total Precepts	259,217
Council Tax Total Expenditure	265,269
<u>BUSINESS RATES</u> (Surplus) / Deficit B/fwd	14,580
<u>Payments/Transfers:</u>	
• Mayoral General (including Fire Services)	3,451
• City of Manchester	341,667
Total Payments/transfers	345,118
Business Rates Total Expenditure	359,698
Collection Fund Total Expenditure	624,967
<u>INCOME</u>	
<u>COUNCIL TAX</u>	
Council Tax Income	268,619
Write Off of uncollectable amounts	(1,063)

Allowance for Impairment	(8,339)
Council tax receivable	259,217
<u>Contribution of Council Tax (surplus) / deficit:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayoral General (including Fire Services) • Mayoral Police & Crime Commissioner • City of Manchester <i>(Includes one third of 2020/21 in year deficit)</i>	333 738 4,981
Total Contribution to Council Tax (surplus) / deficit	6,052
Council Tax Total Income	265,269
<u>BUSINESS RATES</u>	
Non-Domestic Business Rates Income	378,682
Enterprise Zone growth above baseline	(979)
Cost of Collection Allowance	(1,122)
Losses in Collection	(10,488)
Increase in Provision for Appeals	(20,976)
Business rates receivable	345,118
<u>Contribution of Business Rates (surplus) / deficit:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayoral General (including Fire Services) • City of Manchester <i>(Includes one third of 2020/21 in year deficit)</i>	146 14,434
Total Contribution to Business Rates (surplus) / deficit	14,580
Business Rates Total Income	359,698

Collection Fund Total Income	624,967
MOVEMENT ON FUND BALANCE	
Council Tax (Surplus) / Deficit C/fwd	0
Business Rates (Surplus) / Deficit Cfwd	0
Collection Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	0

Executive

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 15 February 2023

Present: Councillor Craig (Chair)

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

Also present as Members of the Standing Consultative Panel:

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

Apologies: Councillor Stanton

Also present: Councillors:

Exe/23/11 Minutes

Decision

The Executive approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 18 January 2023.

Exe/23/12 Our Manchester progress update report

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 Deputy Leader (Statutory) reported that work had commenced to transform three heritage railway arches, situated between HOME arts centre’s building and Whitworth Street West, into a talent development centre for artists of all ages, disciplines and stages in their careers. The £3.4m Arches project, which would be operated by HOME, would nurture, attract and retain creative talent in Manchester by providing high quality, low cost rehearsal and training space. The scheme was one of two parts of the Culture In The City project which Manchester City Council secured almost £20m of Government Levelling Up funding for in autumn 2021. He also reported on Factory International having been hailed by Time Out magazine as one of its ‘23 best things to do in the world in 2023’. The venue, not yet opened, was the only UK entry in the top ten of the magazine’s prestigious list of the best things to see and do this year and one of only two British entries.

The Deputy Leader reported that Sixty organisations across the city were set to be awarded £3.4m in funding through the Council’s Our Manchester grants programme for the Voluntary and Community Sector (OMCVS). The OMCVS scheme was the Council’s largest grant programme for the voluntary and community sector and helps diverse organisations provide support for residents. The grants were for multiple financial years in order to help organisations plan and invest with more certainty. Recipients of the grants provided a wide range of services across the city including

supporting residents experiencing poverty, supporting health and wellbeing and supporting communities.

Councillor Leech commented that in relation to the update on HS2, he was concerned with the amended proposals surrounding the vent shaft location in Didsbury West. He also commented on the potential impact within West Didsbury arising from the diversion of traffic arising from the Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway.

The Leader advised that the Council had petitioned Government on a number of issues within the HS2 proposals and was awaiting Government to formally issue new proposals before it could respond. Assurance was given that local ward councillors would be consulted before any response was submitted.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised that ward councillors, local residents and business were being regularly briefed on the Manchester to Chorlton Cycleway. She acknowledged that whilst some decisions may be less favourable than others, the benefits of the new cycleway were far reaching.

Decision

The Executive notes the update.

Exe/23/29 Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval of the final draft Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (MATSIP).

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport advised that the draft MATSIP set the case for investing in active travel measures, primarily in the form of highways schemes but also supporting infrastructure, and how the Council would go about delivering these interventions. .

Active travel schemes were primarily funded externally through competitive bidding processes to Department for Transport, via Transport for Greater Manchester and it was a key aim of the Strategy to support the production of bids and business cases to secure this funding, and to propose a framework which set out which areas of the city should be prioritised in order to achieve the Council's wider policy objectives.

The draft MATSIP also set out the significant benefits to active travel investment across a range of policy areas including public health, clean air and zero carbon. It set out the overall target to make walking the natural choice for short journeys and to double cycling's mode share by 2028 and the four objectives which underpinned this overall target:-

- improving access to the city centre, district centres, parks and other key destinations;
- enabling safe access to schools and colleges;
- improving citywide health and wellbeing
- reflecting the diversity of Manchester and addressing transport inequalities

It was noted that the support and promotion of active travel along with aligned investment in other infrastructure would help reduce transport-related carbon emissions by increasing the overall share of public transport, cycling and walking trips and reducing short journeys by car.

Decisions

The Executive

- (1) Approve and endorse the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan.
- (2) Delegate responsibility to the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment to make any minor amendments to the final Strategy resulting from feedback during the approvals process, prior to its publication.

Exe/23/30 Health and Care Integration: Establishment of Manchester Partnership Board as the Locality Board of Manchester

The Executive considered a report of the Chief Executive, which set out the intention to establish Manchester Partnership Board as the locality board for Manchester as a further step towards health and care integration.

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Greater Manchester (NHS GM) was established with effect from 1 July 2022 replacing ten CCGs in Greater Manchester. The existing Section 75 partnership agreement between the Council and the CCG was transferred to NHS GM on that date. Manchester now intended to establish Manchester Partnership Board (MPB) as the locality board for Greater Manchester, bringing together responsibility for the pooled budget with the exercise of NHS GM functions delegated to place level.

The MPB would operate as a 'hybrid' committee and its remit would be:-

- To be a committee of the ICB at place level, which was able to exercise delegated functions of the ICB other than those functions which related to the Better Care Fund (BCF) Section 75 agreement.;
- To be responsible for the BCF Section.75 pooled budget which the MHCC Board was previously responsible for; and
- To be a consultative forum that brought the leaders in health and care together to take strategic decisions at one time and in one place.

It was reported that Health and Wellbeing Boards would continue to play a key role within integrated care systems. Decisions taken by MPB would be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board in Manchester. MPB's decisions would be informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Care Strategy that were produced by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Note and agree the process for establishing Manchester Partnership Board as the locality board for Manchester.
- (2) Note that the locality board will operate as a hybrid committee arrangement and accordingly:
- (3) Support the decision of NHS GM to delegate functions at place level to Manchester Partnership Board;
- (4) Agree that Manchester Partnership Board acts as a s.75 committee that has responsibility for the Better Care Fund pooled budget; and
- (5) Agree that Manchester Partnership Board operates as a consultative forum that consists of health and care leaders at place level.

Exe/23/31 Disposal of site of former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development (Part A)

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development), which sought approval to dispose of the above property, to Mosscafe St Vincent (herein MSV), on a long leasehold basis to facilitate the delivery of an affordable tenure residential development targeted towards the over-55s.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that the redevelopment of Chorlton Baths would comprise a new residential scheme of 50 apartments (with additional flexible ground floor space for wider community uses). The tenure will be split, with 40 units available for affordable rent, seven units available for shared ownership and three units let to the City Council's Adult Social Care team for use as Neighbourhood Apartments. The proposed scheme would be the first new affordable homes delivered in Chorlton since April 2015.

The scheme would be built to HAPPI design principles and would be low carbon and sustainable.

It was expected that by targeting over 55s, the scheme would free up family housing in South Manchester by encouraging residents out of under occupied homes in Whalley Range, Chorlton and Chorlton Park.

The proposed lease was for a term of 999 years at a premium which was less than the best consideration that could reasonably be obtained on the basis of an unrestricted disposal that would not reflect the high standard of development or level of affordable tenures.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the basis of the land transaction at less than best consideration in accordance with the commercial terms set out in the associated Part B report.
- (2) Delegate authority to the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) to complete the finalisation of terms of the transaction as set out in this report.
- (3) Delegate authority to the City Solicitor to enter into and complete all documents and agreements necessary to give effect to the recommendations.

Exe/23/32 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/23/33 Disposal of site of former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development (Part B)

The Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which set out the financial implications of the proposal to dispose of Chorlton Leisure Centre, to Mosscaire St Vincent (MSV), on a long leasehold basis to facilitate the delivery of an affordable tenure residential development targeted towards the over-55s.

Decisions

The Executive:-

- (1) Approve the basis of the land transaction as set out in Section 2 of the report at less than best consideration
- (2) Authorise the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) to finalise the detailed terms of the transaction as set out in principle in this report.
- (3) Authorise the City Solicitor to enter into and complete all documents and agreements necessary to give effect to the recommendations.

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Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen - In the Chair

Councillors Azra Ali, Benham, Chambers, Connolly, Evans, Hussain, Ogunbambo, H Priest, Rawson, Sheikh, Whiston and Wills

Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader

Councillor Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Councillor Douglas, Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

Andy King, MCRactive

Yawar Abbas, MCRactive

Nicky Boothroyd, MCRactive

Apologies:

Councillors Hilal, Iqbal, Johnson and Wilson

CESC/23/06 Minutes

A Member noted that Michael Gove had not responded to the Committee's invitation to visit the city and expressed concern that the distribution of the Levelling Up Fund had been unfair, noting that Manchester had not been awarded funding.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023 as a correct record.

CESC/23/07 Culture Annual Report

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on culture in the city.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- COVID recovery and impact of the cost-of-living crisis;
- Cultural Impact Survey;
- Core funding for culture;
- Zero carbon;
- Loads to Do;
- Manchester Culture Awards 2022;
- Collaborations and international partnerships;
- MADE – Manchester's Cultural Education Partnership;
- Music Education - My Hub;

- Classical Music collaboration; and
- Cultural Consortium.

Officers provided an overview of the presentation at appendix 1, highlighting that the figure on Board Members who were Manchester residents was 36%, not 24%.

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

- Asking about the organisations which were represented in the figures in the Cultural Impact Survey presentation;
- To recognise the important work of smaller, local projects, such as the community street art project Withington Walls, which might not be included in this data;
- That the percentage of audiences from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities was low and more needed to be done to improve this;
- The impact of class and socio-economic background on accessing and participating in cultural activities, how this intersected with other factors such as race and ethnicity and work to address this; and
- The impact of Brexit on the cultural sector.

The Statutory Deputy Leader informed the Committee about work which had been taking place for a number of years to widen access and participation in the cultural sector, identifying and removing barriers, and advised that this work was continuing.

The Policy and Programmes Manager (Culture) reported that all organisations on their mailing list were encouraged to take part in the survey and that it was mandatory for organisations which were funded by the Council. She advised that over 40 organisations had taken part in the survey, and that this now included the Palace Theatre and the Opera House, as well as many other larger venues, museums and galleries across the city and a number of smaller organisations; however, she advised that many of the commercial music venues across the city did not contribute to the survey. The Director of Culture informed Members about a piece of work which had been carried out in 2022 in relation to the music economy in Manchester. The Policy and Programmes Manager (Culture) advised that her team would welcome the opportunity to include Withington Walls in the survey. A Member commented that Ward Councillors could assist with distributing the survey to organisations they knew locally.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Culture informed Members about the background to the Cultural Leaders Group and the development of the new Cultural Consortium, which, he advised, would be a more democratic and representative body of cultural organisations in the city. He informed Members about the impact of Brexit on the outdoor arts sector, on exporting work and working with international artists in the UK. He informed Members about a seminar which would be taking place at HOME to respond to some of these challenges and work to continue to link with other cities internationally. He reported that work to overcome socio-economic barriers to accessing culture focused on both outreach work and making events within venues more accessible, for example, through offering cheaper tickets. He advised that a number of venues across the city had this kind of offer and that they were working together to find ways to promote them more effectively. He

advised that outreach workers from different cultural organisations were now co-ordinating their work to ensure a better spread across different areas. He also highlighted the role of libraries in reaching communities.

In response to a Member's question, the Policy and Programmes Manager (Culture) confirmed that community-organised events and activities could be included on the Loads To Do website and she requested that organisers be signposted to the Culture Team.

In response to questions from the Chair about age, the Director of Culture reported that feedback he had received from across the sector indicated that the age group which had been slowest to return following the pandemic was the over-55s, commenting that there was still a feeling of vulnerability about COVID-19 and that people had got used to staying at home. He reported that a lot of older people in the culture sector had decided to retire or take early retirement around this time.

The Chair highlighted concerns that Councillor H Priest had raised in relation to her ward of Charlestown. These included disputing that there was a low level of participation in culture in Charlestown, stating that Charlestown had its own cultural offer which was not being valued or recognised, that the ward was instead being offered outreach work from external organisations and that a production set in Charlestown had won an award but without the involvement of local people. The Statutory Deputy Leader agreed that he would contact Councillor H Priest to discuss this.

The Chair thanked all the organisations in the culture sector and all the volunteers who helped to make many events possible. She also encouraged residents to look at the cultural offer that was available to them.

Decision

To note the report and presentation.

[Councillor H Priest declared a disclosable pecuniary interest due to undertaking freelance work as part of the Festival of Libraries, run by the City of Literature, and left the room for the items on the Culture Annual Report and the Manchester Libraries Strategy Update.]

[Councillor Azra Ali declared a personal interest as a Board Member of the Halle Concert Society.]

CESC/23/08 Manchester Libraries Strategy Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the library strategy and presented a draft vision for libraries.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Delivering the Library Strategy in 2022 and beyond;
- Central, neighbourhood, community and other libraries;

- Warm spaces and the cost-of-living crisis;
- Digital inclusion;
- Children and young people;
- Age-friendly libraries;
- Equalities, diversity, and inclusion;
- Culture and creativity;
- Archives; and
- Manchester City of Literature.

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

- Recognising the important role of libraries and that the national government should provide more money so that they could do even more;
- Praise for the work of the Library Service and the vision for the future of the service;
- Concern that people were reliant on the designated warm spaces offer in libraries, commenting that people should be able to afford to heat their own homes, with help from the state if necessary; and
- Sixth form students using university libraries and whether more could be done to engage with sixth forms and colleges to make students aware of Central Library and other Council libraries they could use.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that, other than minor changes such as providing warm drinks, the warm spaces offer was no different from what libraries normally offered so it was promoting that libraries were warm, welcoming places.

The Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth Services reported that people were spending longer in libraries. In response to a Member's question about school holidays, he reported that the activity offer during this period was currently being reviewed and that he would be happy to discuss this with Ward Councillors. He informed Members that the service would be working with the university libraries to develop a more joined-up approach, including looking at engagement with sixth forms. He reported that a large number of sixth form students did already use Central Library around examination time. The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that students could also be signposted to local libraries and that consideration could be given to providing library maps.

The Chair praised the libraries and library staff in her ward, including the recent visit by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and thanked all library staff for their work.

Decision

To note the report.

[Councillor H Priest declared a disclosable pecuniary interest due to undertaking freelance work as part of the Festival of Libraries, run by the City of Literature, and left the room for the items on Culture Annual Report and the Manchester Libraries Strategy Update.]

**CESC/23/09 Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2022
Annual Update**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which highlighted the annual progress that had been made in the development and achievement of the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (MSPAS) which included an update on the strengthened governance arrangements of MCRActive and identified areas of focus for 2023. An update had been provided against the refreshed strategic themes of the strategy (appendix 1) that were endorsed by Executive in September 2022; the amends were made to respond to the cost-of-living crisis and climate emergency and to ensure that the city built back fairer from the impacts of the global pandemic and remained on target to deliver a sustained increase in participation levels.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Progress on the Manchester Sport and Physical Activity Strategy against the strategic themes, which were:
 - Encouraging residents to move more;
 - Positive experiences for young people;
 - Active adults increasing and sustaining activity levels;
 - World class sport that inspired positive change;
 - Active place and neighbourhoods;
 - Communicating with and connecting communities;
 - Realising the potential of the workforce; and
 - Contribution to a Zero Carbon City; and
- Next steps.

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

- Whether more could be done to promote events held in Manchester, such as the Rugby League World Cup;
- Was there any monitoring of whether events and activities led to an increase in people's longer-term levels of activity;
- Lighting for outdoor sports facilities, particularly in parks;
- Work to reinvigorate the 16 and Under Free Swim Offer; and
- Making more school sports facilities available for community use.

Yawar Abbas from MCRActive acknowledged the Member's comments in relation to the Rugby League World Club, noting that Manchester did not have a strong Rugby League Club network; however, he reported that the Super League Grand Final would be held at Old Trafford in future years, with the women's and wheelchair finals held in Manchester venues over the same period, and that Rugby League was now based at the House of Sport in east Manchester. In response to a Member's question about the definition of "active" in the Active Lives Survey referred to in the report, he advised that this was based on the Sport England measure of 150 minutes of activity during the week which raised the heartrate. In response to a Member's question, he agreed to provide figures on numbers who were active broken down by age, including figures for children and young people. In response to a Member's question, he reported that it had been identified that more coaches were needed to

meet demand in breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and other emerging sports. In response to a question about community alliances and how Ward Councillors could be involved, he offered to progress this outside of the meeting.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) reported that a major event did not on its own trigger a significant increase in participation in sport so in Manchester every event bid had to include a legacy programme and for the Rugby League World Cup this had included a community development programme.

Nicky Boothroyd from MCRactive reported that, in relation to activities in leisure centres, they could monitor whether an event had led to people continuing to engage in physical activity; for example, she advised that, when families signed up for family activity days, this information was used to monitor whether they then joined any further activities. She reported that free swimming had to compete with other activities that were available to children and young people but that an update would be provided at a future meeting on the marketing campaign to promote free swimming. She provided an update on work taking place with schools to make sports facilities available for community use outside of school hours and offered to provide further information at a future meeting. She outlined work with the Parks Service, through the Capital Development Programme, to provide lighting for sports facilities, including using LED lighting for carbon reduction.

In response to a Member's question, the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure acknowledged that there was an issue with the booking system app, that work was taking place to resolve this and that an update could be provided at a future meeting.

In response to a question from the Chair about encouraging more women to be physically active, Nicky Boothroyd reported that there were a number of women-only gym and swimming sessions and that the design of the gym was important, with the heavy weights being located at the back of the gym.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure noted that the Committee had asked a number of questions at its September 2022 meeting, including a question on the response to the cost-of-living crisis, that a written response had been prepared to these questions and that these would be circulated to Members after the meeting. The Chair asked that these be circulated to all Councillors. The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure suggested that the email to all Councillors should also include a copy of the report presented to the Committee, to which the Chair agreed.

The Chair thanked everyone for their work.

Decision

To request that the written response to the Committee's previous questions be circulated to all Councillors by email and that the report considered at today's meeting be attached.

[Councillor Ogunbambo declared a personal interest as the Chair of Blackley Football Club of Manchester]

CEESC/23/10 Revenue Budget Update

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that set out the latest forecast revenue budget position, and the next steps.

Following the provisional finance settlement announced on 19 December the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The risk had moved to the next spending review period 2025/26 where a shortfall of £57m was forecast. This reduced to £40m after the proposed use of £17m smoothing reserves.

The report further described that in November 2022 scrutiny committees were presented with cuts and saving options totaling £42.3m over three years for consideration. The provisional settlement on 19 December reflected a change in government policy and provided more funding than initially expected. This had given the opportunity to review the quantum and phasing of savings. It was now proposed that options of £36.2m were progressed. The settlement also gave some scope for targeted investments which would put the Council in a more sustainable position to face the next spending review in 2025.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources paid tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team for all their hard work in bringing forward the suite of budget reports following the settlement announcements. He stated that the budget settlement needed to be considered in the context of over a decade of austerity that had been imposed on Manchester. He commented that the decision to cut local authority funding was a result of ideological decisions taken by the Government, noting that the Government had failed to recognise or apologise for the instability they had caused to the national economy. He further referenced the impact of inflation, population growth in the city and the cost-of-living crisis that all impacted on budgetary pressures. He commented that the Government had failed to communicate their financial decisions for the city, noting the recent experience of announcements of the Levelling Up bids.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the funding decisions of the Government had effectively forced the Council to increase Council Tax. He advised that the Council was able to deliver a balanced budget and Council Tax would be used to support the most vulnerable residents in the city; support the social care sector and invest in the future of the city.

Decision

To note the report.

CEESC/23/11 Neighbourhood Directorate 2023/24 Budget

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a further update on the priorities for the services in the remit of this

Committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Service overview and priorities;
- Service budget and proposed changes within the areas of:
 - Community Safety and Compliance; and
 - Libraries, Galleries and Culture;
- Workforce;
- Equality and anti-poverty impact; and
- Future opportunities and risks.

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

- To welcome that a number of budget savings options which had originally been put forward were no longer being considered, including proposals to reduce the Neighbourhood Investment Fund and gully cleansing but to express concern about cuts which might be needed in future years;
- Concern about the long-term impact of the financial situation on Manchester residents, especially deprived communities;
- While welcoming that there were few cuts being made, expressing frustration that the financial situation hindered the Council's ambitions for the city and to do more for Manchester residents;
- That Equality Impact Assessments should be provided; and
- The impact of cuts over a number of years on neighbourhoods and community safety.

In response to a Member's question, the Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that, if the city had received the average cut in funding, Manchester would be £77m per year better off. He explained that the national Government had decided to use tax increases over the next two years to reduce debt levels and borrowing but that from 2025 it would use public sector spending cuts and that the Council would be left with a £40m deficit in 2025-2026, even with the use of reserves, unless there was a change of government. He outlined how the Council was investing in the city and key services and focusing on protecting the most vulnerable residents.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) informed Members that Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken where relevant but, as there were no proposals for service reductions, this was not required.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods acknowledged that there had been a lot of pressure placed on services but praised staff's excellent work, particularly the Neighbourhood Teams, stating that they had been looking at how they could work more effectively, address inequalities and support local communities.

The Statutory Deputy Leader stated that the Council had been creative and innovative in response to 13 years of accumulated cuts in order to sustain a good level of service but that the situation was challenging and would become more and

more difficult in future years and that what was needed was a national Government which valued the important role of local government in supporting local communities.

The Chair thanked all the teams within the remit of this report.

Decision

To note the report.

CESC/23/12 Homelessness Directorate 2023/24 Budget

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided a further update on the priorities for the services in the remit of this Committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Service overview and priorities;
- Service budget and proposed changes;
- Emerging pressures and growth;
- Workforce;
- Equality and anti-poverty impact; and
- Future opportunities and risks.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the national and local rise in homelessness and the factors contributing to this. She advised that this meant that there was increasing demand for homelessness services while the Council's overall budget had been reducing; however, she reported, there would be no budget reduction or service reduction for the Homelessness Service this year and she highlighted the key points within the report. She thanked all the staff in the Homelessness Service for their work.

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

- To thank the Deputy Leader and officers for their work;
- To welcome that the homelessness budget was not being reduced and the work to build more social and affordable housing;
- Temporary accommodation, including the amount of time people were spending in temporary accommodation and savings to be achieved through reducing its use;
- The implementation of changes to the Allocations Policy; and
- Ending the routine use of bed-and-breakfast accommodation for families.

The Director of Housing Operations reported that the changes to the Allocations Policy had gone live today and that the impact would need to be monitored but that it should improve the prevention of homelessness and lead to more options and better outcomes for people at risk of homelessness. He drew Members' attention to a report which had been submitted to the Economy Scrutiny Committee on this and offered to share this with Members. He advised that the amount of time spent in

temporary accommodation varied depending on a number of factors, such as the size of the household and any support needs. He confirmed the commitment to end the routine use of bed-and-breakfast accommodation for families, with plans to have significantly reduced the number by June 2023. In response to a Member's point about changing people's perception of what happened if they presented as homeless, he agreed that culture change was needed and informed Members about work which was taking place to address this. In response to a question from the Chair, he confirmed that cost of living rises presented a challenge, with landlords likely to respond to higher interest rates by setting higher rents; however, he advised that the Council was being creative to find solutions and develop a mixed housing portfolio.

The Chair thanked officers in Homelessness for their work and reported that the Committee would be receiving an update report on homelessness in the new municipal year.

Decisions

1. To note the report.
2. To request that the Committee be provided with a copy of the report on the Allocations Policy which has been submitted to the Economy Scrutiny Committee.

CESC/23/13 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.

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023

Present:

Councillor Hitchen - In the Chair
 Councillors Azra Ali, Benham, Chambers, M Dar, Evans, Hilal, Hussain, Iqbal, Johnson, Ogunbambo, H Priest, Rawson, Sheikh, Whiston, Wills and Wilson

Also present:

Councillor Midgley, Deputy Leader
 Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure
 Councillor Douglas, Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure
 Councillor Karney, Ward Councillor for Harpurhey

Sharmila Kar, Joint Director – Equality, Inclusion and Engagement
 Atiha Chaudry, Manchester BME Network
 Cath Dyson, Manchester resident

Apologies:

Councillor Connolly

CEESC/23/14 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 as a correct record.

CEESC/23/15 Digital Inclusion Update

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the Council's digital inclusion work over the last 2 years.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Manchester Digital Strategy 2021-2026: Doing Digital Together;
- Helping the delivery of Corporate Priorities;
- Voter ID;
- Digital Inclusion Action Plan 2021-23;
- Device schemes;
- Data;
- Skills;
- Community Engagement – roadshows;
- Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector support;
- Let's Get Digital campaign and communications;
- UK Communities Renewal Fund Report;
- Sustainability of the digital inclusion programme; and
- Future priorities and projects.

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

- To welcome the work to promote digital inclusion;
- That people who were not online were often excluded from engagement events as they did not hear about them;
- Had there been follow-up with residents who had been given a device and internet access;
- Plans to promote the strategy more widely across the city;
- The digital skills gap among young people and multi-generational digital exclusion;
- Work to help residents who did not live in one of the top 12 most digitally excluded areas;
- Whether the community engagement roadshows would be continuing;
- Digital inclusion for families who had English as an Additional Language (EAL); and
- The role of housing providers in improving digital inclusion for their residents.

In response to a Member's question about wifi access in Council offices across the city, the Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth Services reported that a meeting had taken place with the Director of IT the previous day in relation to a programme of work to improve wifi access across the city and he offered to circulate information on this to Members by email. He advised that promoting the digital inclusion work was a priority. The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that the digital inclusion steering group was looking at having a co-ordinated approach to communicating this work through a range of partner organisations.

The Citywide Services Manager (Reform) confirmed that residents who had been given a device and internet access were followed up, advising that they were provided with a mentor and that research had been carried out by Manchester Metropolitan University. The Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth Services commented that it would be useful to have case studies and that he would take this away as an action point. In response to a Member's question, the Citywide Services Manager (Reform) advised that baseline data was not available but that the Digital Exclusion Index was based on intelligence on the types of people likely to be digitally excluded. He took on board a Member's comments about the importance of doing more to publicise that people could donate their old devices to be refurbished for other people to use. He reported that every area of the city had digitally excluded people in so, although there was a focus on areas with higher levels of digital exclusion, work was taking place across the city. In response to a request for demographic information on residents helped by the strategy, he advised that this could be provided. He reported that the roadshows which were piloted had been useful but might not be the best use of resources; however, talking to residents, directly and through partner organisations, would definitely continue in one form or another, for example, by attending other events.

The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that there was university representation on the steering group and that universities were working to bridge the gap between what young people could do online and what was

needed in the workplace. She advised that intergenerational work had also been discussed and that they were working with schools to deliver some work involving children and their parents or carers. The Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth Services advised that there was a further meeting of the steering group the following day and that Members' feedback would be fed into that.

The Ward Councillor for Harpurhey expressed serious concern about the new requirements for voters to provide ID when voting at polling stations. He reported that only 243 Manchester residents had applied for the Voter Authority Certificate, which people who did not have an acceptable form of photo ID would need to vote in person. He stated that he felt that this new requirement had been introduced by the Government to suppress voting by some groups, including working class people, young people and black and ethnic minority communities. He expressed concern that this would also lead to polling station staff facing conflict because some voters would arrive to vote unaware of the new requirements. He suggested the Committee consider this issue further. He stated that the Council needed to be more pro-active in addressing this issue, including increased communication about voter ID requirements to Manchester residents and doing more to inform people about the option of postal voting. He advised that the Council should communicate directly with Manchester residents and not just online.

The City Solicitor stated that this was an issue of concern to her, as Deputy Returning Officer and the Chief Executive, as Returning Officer, and that they were keen to have the best communication strategy possible on this, although they had been restricted in what they could do and the timing of it by central Government. She committed to working with the Member and with colleagues to communicate effectively with residents the need to bring photo ID to the polling station and how to apply for the Voter Authority Certificate, if they did not have suitable photo ID. The Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth Services highlighted the information in the report which outlined work taking place in relation to this. In response to a Member's question about undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on those turned away from polling stations and not able to vote, the City Solicitor reported that an EIA had been done on the strategy to date and that the Council would look closely at feedback in relation to those who were turned away at the polling station, although it might not be in the form of an EIA. She advised that this information would go to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee, including learning from the election and what could be done differently in future. In response to a question from the Chair, she advised that, unfortunately, residents could not apply for a Voter Authority Certificate at the polling station on the day. She advised that she was in the process of producing an update on this work and offered to share it with Committee Members when it was ready, to which the Chair agreed.

In response to a Member's example of a resident without sufficient data to access their emails, the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that some residents had digital skills and devices but were affected by digital poverty and that work was taking place to make data available via libraries. In response to a Member's question about Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES)'s digital training and flyers in community languages, he advised that he would look into this and respond to the Member. In response to a question about financial exclusion and the closing of high street banks, he reported that financial exclusion was part of the

wider digital strategy and that further information could be provided at a future meeting.

The Citywide Services Manager (Reform) reported that MCC Housing Services, formerly known as Northwards Housing, were still very active in digital inclusion work. The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure reported that the Digital Inclusion Strategy Board was hoping to involve as many housing providers as possible, including having a meeting focused on the role of housing providers and potentially establishing a subgroup to share best practice. The Chair requested that information on this be cascaded to all Ward Councillors. The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure agreed that this would be done, once the initial work had taken place.

In response to a Member's question, the Citywide Services Manager (Reform) outlined how the device lending library with The Bread and Butter Thing in Wythenshawe would work, advising that, if this pilot was successful, it was planned to expand it to other areas of the city.

The Chair thanked officers for their hard work in this area.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure drew Members' attention to the digital inclusion action plan, at appendix one in the report, and asked Members to provide him with any feedback. The Chair asked that the questions and comments that Members had raised at today's meeting be taken on board. The Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure advised that she would take the minutes from this meeting to the steering group to look at how the issues raised could be incorporated into their work.

Decisions

1. To receive a further report on digital exclusion, including financial exclusion, at a future meeting.
2. To note that the City Solicitor will share the update on the work in relation to voter ID requirements with Committee Members when it is available.
3. To note that the Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure will share the information on work with housing providers with all Ward Councillors, once the initial work has taken place.
4. To note that the Deputy Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure will take the minutes from this meeting to the steering group to look at how the issues raised can be incorporated into their work.

CESC/23/16 Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Annual Report 2022

The Committee considered the report of the Joint Director (Equality, Inclusion and Engagement) which provided an update on the Council's activities to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty and the annual report.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Manchester and the Council;
- Equality objectives;
- Workforce equality;
- Progress update 2022-23;
- Governance and
- Next steps and recommendations.

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

- The "tell us once" approach for trans employees;
- The findings and actions from the Workforce Race Equality Review;
- The Gender Pay Gap;
- Improving data collection;
- Inclusive decision-making;
- Recognising the limits of broader group descriptors such as "African" and the wide range of different communities with different experiences that this encompassed and the need to engage with individual communities, including utilising Ward Councillors' knowledge of communities within their ward;
- Request for further information on the Sounding Boards, including which groups were on the Board, which communities they represented and when they joined the Boards; and
- That the percentage of the population of the city from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities was high and projected to increase and the importance of ensuring they were represented.

In response to questions about Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities and about intersectionality, Sharmila Kar, Joint Director of Equality, Inclusion and Engagement, advised that qualitative and quantitative evidence available needed to be used alongside engagement with and building trust with communities. She reported that a lot of work was needed to improve data collection, including taking into account intersectionality and improving communication with people about why data was being collected and how it was being used. In response to a Member's question, she reported that events to celebrate diversity would be reviewed. She recognised that there was still work to be done on inclusive decision-making and advised that the learning from the COVID Health Equity Group could help to inform this work. She recognised the diversity of communities covered by broad descriptors and welcomed the opportunity to work with Ward Councillors on reaching out to individual communities. She reported that the Communities of Identity report would provide further information. She agreed to circulate the requested information on the Sounding Boards, as well as information on targeted engagement work.

The Head of Organisational Development and Transformation informed Members that a more detailed report on Workforce Equality had been considered by the Resources and Governance Scrutiny (RAGS) Committee in November 2022 and that this would be circulated to Members of this Committee. He advised that the trans "tell us once" approach had arisen from engagement with staff, that a working group had been established to progress trans inclusion in the workforce and that the report

to the RAGS Committee provided further information on this, as well as further information on the Race Equality work. He informed Members about the leadership programmes for Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff, advising that there had been some progress in Black, Asian and minority ethnic staff starting to progress higher up in the organisation. He advised that workforce equality profiles would be produced on a six-monthly basis as part of a wider suite of data.

The Head of Workforce Strategy explained how representation was monitored at all levels in the organisation, in addition to monitoring recruitment data and putting in place development programmes, and that improvements had been made but more still needed to be done. He reported that every senior manager had a workforce equality target and that these would be strengthened. A Member requested that information on these targets be circulated to the Committee, to which he agreed.

The Chair questioned whether some of the information which was going to RAGS Committee should be coming to this Committee and advised that this would be discussed further outside of the meeting.

In response to a Member's question, the City Solicitor confirmed that care leavers would be added to the Council's list of priority groups.

The Chair welcomed that people living in poverty had been added as an additional priority group and recognised the additional challenges faced by people from a background of poverty when they tried to progress within organisations. She recognised that first generation immigrants had different experiences, viewpoints and aspirations from second and third generations and asked that this be incorporated into the Communities of Identity report. She requested that equal pay also be included in a future report.

The Deputy Leader thanked officers for their work and welcomed the proposal to work with Ward Councillors on understanding the communities within their ward.

Decisions

1. To note that the Committee will continue to consider reports on Equalities on a regular basis and to request that the two Chairs of RAGS Committee and Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee meet to discuss items to be incorporated into a future report.
2. To request that the different experiences, viewpoints and aspirations of first, second and third generation immigrants be incorporated into the Communities of Identity report, along with the poverty strands.
3. To note that officers will circulate further information to Members, including information on both the Sounding Boards and workforce equality targets and the report previously submitted to the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee.

**CESC/23/17 Our Manchester Voluntary & Community Sector (OMVCS)
Fund**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which provided an update on the OMVCS funding programme for 2023-26.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Application process overview;
- Assessment Panel overview;
- Identification of strategic gap;
- Supporting Communities Fund; and
- Support for applicants.

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

- To welcome that additional funding had been secured;
- Strong concern that the organisations which had received funding through the OMVCS Fund were predominantly from central Manchester and that north Manchester and Wythenshawe were seriously under-represented;
- That some of the organisations which the report stated were delivering in specific wards were not known to Ward Councillors or were not delivering services in that ward but rather delivering services elsewhere which residents of that ward could travel to access and that Ward Councillors had not been asked for their input;
- The importance of funding organisations which had knowledge of their specific localities, rather than just organisations working across many areas;
- Were some organisations duplicating work, leaving gaps elsewhere, or were under-served communities being targeted;
- Why some organisations had been successful and others not, for example, a housing association in one area receiving funding, while a housing association in another area was unsuccessful;
- What work would be done to ensure that the successful organisations did deliver what they had promised;
- Could a breakdown of protected characteristics for successful and unsuccessful organisations be provided;
- Support for organisations which had not been successful in obtaining funding;
- Concern that organisations which did not have the knowledge of how to submit good funding applications were at a disadvantage;
- That the focus of the work going forward should be on how the Fund and the process could be improved to better serve communities in Manchester, particularly more deprived areas, and not just focus on how VCSE organisations could improve;
- That smaller organisations which were doing really good work should be given the opportunity to receive funding, in preference to some of the bigger organisations which had received funding for many years;

- That voluntary organisations were having to provide services which should be provided by the state and to recognise the difficulty in having to make decisions on these applications when the funding was limited;
- Concern that there was a lack of diversity on the assessment panel and could service users be on the panel; and
- To request that a meeting be arranged for Committee Members to discuss this further.

The Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) reported that work had taken place with the aim of increasing funding to north Manchester and BAME-led and BAME-serving organisations and that there had been some improvements but he recognised that more work needed to be done. He reported that a degree of diversity had been built into the co-design process and the panel process, including encouraging an awareness of the risk of bias. He advised that a piece of work had been carried out looking at the organisations which had been recommended by the panel to check that it would not be duplicating Council investment for the same activity in the same organisation. In response to a question from the Chair, the Assistant Chief Executive clarified that organisations could receive other funding from the Council but that checks had been carried out to ensure that it was not for the same work.

The Assistant Chief Executive reported that three-quarters of the successful organisations had said that they would be delivering services in north Manchester but that his team would need to look at the details of what this meant in practice. He highlighted the development fund, which would help organisations to be in a better position to bid for funding and advised that it would be targeting areas of the city where organisations had not applied to the OMVCS Fund. He reported that some of the organisations which had been successful in being awarded OMVCS Funding had been successful last time while others were new. He advised that there was a comprehensive scoring process determining which organisations were awarded funding, including looking at whether they met the aims of the Fund, the quality of the organisation and their ability to deliver for Manchester residents. He advised that the due diligence process included looking at where organisations were delivering services and that this would also be built into the monitoring of the programme. He informed Members that an annual report would be produced on the 60 organisations in the two programmes and that this would monitor the impact of the organisations, comparing it to what they said they would deliver. He drew Members' attention to the detail in the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) but added that more work would be taking place to understand the different groups served by the organisations. He acknowledged a Member's point about the broad area headings of north, central and south Manchester including within them very different wards and stated that some further work would be done on this. He reported that the panel members had been given training to try to ensure that organisations which had skills in writing good quality applications were not unfairly advantaged over those who did not have the same level of bid-writing skills. He highlighted the support that Macc would be providing to organisations.

The Strategic Lead (Resources and Programmes) reported that a number of workshops had been held over the summer to help VCSE organisations overcome the barriers to submitting funding bids and that these had been quite well-attended.

The Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) reported that equality monitoring data collected during the application process related to the recipients of the services, not those who were running the organisation, and that information on the former could be provided. He outlined the monitoring arrangements for successful organisations to ensure that they were delivering what they had set out in their bid.

The Assistant Chief Executive reported that a “lessons learnt” exercise from this process would be carried out and that he would welcome Members’ thoughts on this, including on how to involve Ward Councillors and service users. He advised that, if Members had concerns about any specific groups which had been awarded funding, they could raise this during the due diligence process. In response to a question about whether some of the funding that had been allocated could be recalled and allocated to different groups, he reported that there was no appeals process in relation to the funding decisions; however, he reiterated that Members could raise concerns about specific organisations if they claimed to be doing work in their ward where this was not the case, as part of the due diligence process before the funding was confirmed. The Policy and Programmes Manager (Communities and VCSE) requested that, if Members did have any concerns, that they raise them as soon as possible via the Our Manchester Fund email address or by emailing him directly.

The Chair outlined the process for members of the public to speak at scrutiny committee meetings. She stated that members of the public did not have a right to speak at meetings but could do so if invited by the Chair. If members of the public had a special interest in an item on the agenda and wanted to speak, they should tell the Committee Officer, who would pass the request to the Chair. Groups of people would usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. Although no requests had been made in advance, on this occasion, she agreed to permit Atiha Chaudry from the Manchester BME Network to speak on behalf of the VCSE groups present and Cath Dyson to speak as a member of public, not affiliated to any of the groups.

Atiha Chaudry from the Manchester BME Network spoke on behalf of representatives from a number of VCSE sector organisations who had attended the meeting. She reported that she had attended a meeting of the Committee in 2018 in relation to the previous round of OMVCS funding where VCSE groups had raised similar points to the ones being raised today. She informed Members that some marginal improvements had been made since then but a lot of the same issues were still present. She welcomed the points that the Committee Members had made. She advised that the funds needed to be invested well, through understanding local communities, and that she was not sure that this had been done well enough. She stated that her group had been involved in the co-design process but not the decision-making process. She stated that she and the other attendees she was representing wanted to work in partnership with the Council to ensure the investment went to the places and people who most needed them, to reduce inequality, reduce poverty and improve lives. She asked that the decisions be looked at again. She reported that a lot of the funding had gone to larger organisations which had been funded for a number of years but would have been better allocated to smaller organisations. She expressed concern at the lack of funding for small BME-led organisations. She stated that some organisations were ticking boxes on forms to

say that they worked with all communities when this was not the case. She stated that the geographic and demographic issues with the distribution of funding had not been adequately addressed. She questioned the way the development fund was being used, as Macc were already funded to do development work.

The Assistant Chief Executive advised that it had been a very difficult process, given the level of demand for funding and the complexities involved. He stated that the Supporting Communities Fund had been set up to support smaller, community organisations. He informed Members about work taking place in relation to other Council and partner funding streams to look at how development funding could be used to support other organisations.

Cath Dyson, a Manchester resident, addressed the Committee in relation to the EIA at appendix one in the report. She expressed concern that the document conflated the terms “sex” and “gender”. She stated that, in her view, LGB (lesbian, gay and bisexual) should be categorised separately from T (trans) in the document, with the latter being under the heading “gender reassignment”. A Member expressed concern that this was not inclusive or relevant to the report and referred to a motion previously passed by the Council in relation to trans issues. The Chair suggested that this issue would be more relevant to the Communities of Identity report, rather than a report focusing on funding for VCSE organisations.

The Deputy Leader reported that difficult decisions had had to be made due to the volume of applications and the amounts that had been applied for; however, she advised that she took on board the comments raised and would look into these, including improving the process for the next funding round and looking at how development funding could be used in the best way possible to support smaller organisations. She highlighted that the list of groups which had been funded included some excellent organisations doing really good work.

The Chair thanked volunteers across the city for all their hard work and staff for providing this report.

Decision

To arrange a meeting between the Deputy Leader and Members of the Committee to discuss this further.

[Councillor Hussain declared a disclosable pecuniary interest as a Director of Muslim Writers North and left the room for this item.]

CESC/23/18 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, 7 February 2023

Present:

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

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Lynch, Deputy Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Stanton, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Apologies: Councillor Kirkpatrick and B Priest

RGSC/23/7 Minutes

Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/8 Revenue Budget Update 2023/24

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, which outlined the latest forecast revenue budget position and the next steps. Following the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 19 December, the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The financial risk around balancing the budget had moved to the next Spending Review period in 2025/26 where a shortfall of £58m was forecasted. This would reduce to £41m after the proposed use of £17m smoothing reserves.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Council identified cuts and efficiencies totalling £42.3m over three years for consideration by Scrutiny Committees in November 2022. It was now proposed to progress options of £36.2m, a reduction of £6.1m overall;
- Changes arising from the Settlement, including to Business Rates Retention; the Services Grant; and Social Care and Funding;
- The additional investment proposals included within the Budget;
- £16m of reserves per annum for three years were proposed to close the pre-Settlement budget gap and this would be rephased following receipt of the Settlement to support a sustainable position, particularly to support closing the budget gap in 2024/25 and to deal expected funding shortfalls in 2025 and beyond;

- The indicative workforce reduction linked to the savings proposals has reduced from 70 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) over the three years to 60, which was anticipated to be managed via natural turnover and vacancies;
- A second phase of public budget consultation was undertaken between 7 January and 7 February with a full analysis and results reported to Budget Scrutiny Committee on 27 February; and
- The final budget position for 2023/24 and future years will be confirmed at February 2023 Executive. This will be after the Final Finance Settlement is received, expected early February.

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

- Acknowledging that the government's announcements had deferred difficult financial decisions to 2025/26 and did not provide certainty or financial security for councils over the longer term;
- Commending officers for their work on the budget; and
- Noting the Council's dependency on government funding and business rates income rather than council tax, and that residents would focus on the proposed council tax increase.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources wished to place on record his thanks to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team for all their hard work following the Settlement announcement. He stated that the Budget Settlement needed to be considered in the context of over a decade of austerity imposed on Manchester. He stated that if the city had received the average cut in funding Manchester would be £77m per year better off. He commented that the decision to cut local authority funding was a result of ideological decisions taken by the Government, noting that the Government failed to recognise or apologise for the instability they had caused to the national economy. He further referenced the impact of inflation, population growth in the city and the cost-of-living crisis on budgetary pressures. He commented that the Government had failed to communicate their financial decisions for city, noting the recent experience of announcements of the Levelling Up bids.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the budget decisions of the Government had effectively forced the Council to increase Council Tax. He advised that the Council was able to deliver a balanced budget and Council Tax would be used to support the most vulnerable residents in the city; support the social care sector and invest in the future of the city.

In response to the Chair's comments regarding how residents would view the increase in council tax as significant despite the Council being reliant upon government funding and business rates income, the Executive Member for Finance and Resources highlighted Manchester's low council tax base compared to other Core Cities and stated that the cumulative impact of not increasing council tax would affect the Council's ability to provide services. He explained that the decision to increase council tax was not taken lightly and that residents on the Council Tax

Support Scheme (CTSS) would be provided with additional support at the point of billing. The discretionary housing provision would also be used to support those experiencing difficulty during the cost-of-living crisis.

The Leader of the Council reiterated comments regarding the complexity of local government finances and highlighted how the profile of resources available to the Council had changed over the last decade. She stated that this was an intention strategy of the government to reduce grant funding and increase council tax rates.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/9 Corporate Core Budget 2023/24

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, the City Solicitor, and the Assistant Chief Executive, which provided a further update to members on the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- It was now proposed that savings options of £36.2m are progressed, of which £7.712m is within the remit of this scrutiny committee;
- The Corporate Core is made up of Chief Executives and Corporate Services and has a gross budget of circa £317 million and a net budget of circa £98.9 million and employs over 2,000 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees;
- Traded services within Operations and Commissioning are also within the remit of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee, and have a gross budget of £22.9 million, a net income budget of £13.7 million and 126 employees;
- Initial proposed cuts and savings options suggested in November 2022 amounted to £10.26m over the three years. As a result of the improvement in the short-term budget position following the Autumn Statement and Provisional Finance Settlement, proposed cuts and savings of £2.920m have been removed or deferred until later years;
- Revised core budget savings will be delivered through a combination of:
 - Transformation delivered through the Future Shape Programme.
 - Review of workforce structures and capacity and adopting a realistic view on abilities to fill longstanding vacancies.
 - 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 of £170k additional income generation and £3.29 million efficiencies;

- Budget pressures and workforce implications; and
- Future opportunities and risks.

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

- Whether any consideration had been given to raising the proportion of council tax covered by the Council under the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS), and
- The likeliness that all vacant units within the Gorton Hub would be let.

The Leader of the Council introduced the item and explained that in proposing the budget for the Corporate Core directorate, officers had tried to protect frontline services to ensure continued support for the most vulnerable residents, particularly given the current cost-of-living crisis. She highlighted decisions to invest money into helping communities through discretionary payments, funding for food provisions and expanding debt support and emphasised that support was available for those in need.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that the Council was considering changing the level of council tax paid by residents on CTSS from the current maximum of 17.5% to 15%. Any change would require a full consultation, and this was anticipated to be undertaken within the next year. Any changes would then be implemented through the 2024/25 budget process.

In response to the Chair's query regarding vacant units in the Gorton Hub, it was stated that it was decided to include a second floor on the Hub during the design phase as it was felt that this would be cost-effective if the building was let and that there was demand for office space. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer was confident that the vacant units would be let through the reconfiguration of council offices and as the Hub became established and attracted potential occupants for partnership working.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/10 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2023/24 to 2025/26

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) and the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which outlined the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2023/24, an indication of the 2024/25 and 2025/26 budgets, and the outlook for the 30-year HRA business plan in light of the budget proposals.

It also sought Executive approval to increase rents in line with current Government guidance of restricting rent increases to a maximum of 7% for all properties, except

PFI properties, where standard increase of CPI +1% (11.1%) was proposed, also in line with Government policy.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Social rents were subject to annual increases aligned to a national rent policy, which was usually up to the consumer price index (CPI) plus 1%. The cost-of-living crisis resulted in the Government launching a consultation exercise and it had been advised that the maximum social rent increase would be capped at 7%, with an exception for properties within PFI contracts;
- As a result of increased numbers of Right to Buy; the in-house management of the Northwards Housing stock; overspends on repairs and maintenance; heating charges; and PFI contractor costs, it was forecasted that expenditure would be £14.940m higher than income and this would need to be funded by additional use of reserves;
- The HRA budget complied with the statutory requirement to be in balance over the three-year budget strategy period, although there was a small deficit over the course of the 30-year business plan;
- The average weekly rent, including increases, which would come into effect from April 2023;
- Housing benefit levels had not been capped and the proposed rent increases would be covered in full for those residents in receipt of 100% housing benefit entitlement, and tenants in receipt of universal credit would also be partially protected from the impact of any increase in rents; and
- The impact over the life of the business plan of the proposed 7% rent increase for all properties, except PFI properties. At the end of 30 years the deficit with a 7% increase for all properties and 11.1% increase for PFI properties is c£19m, but if rents for every property were increased by 11.1% the position after 30 years shows a £123m improvement to a c.£104m surplus.

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

- Noting the major impact of raising rents by 7%, as opposed to following usual practice and increasing by 11.1%, and the difference in revenue over 30 years because of this;
- Whether loss of rent income as a result of bringing voids – properties which have been unoccupied for a period of time – back into use and retrofitting properties was accounted for in the 30-year business plan;
- Whether there was a procedure in place to refer tenants applying for the HRA hardship fund to the Corporate Core hardship fund to maximise resources; and
- Why the anticipated savings from the decision to bring Northwards-managed housing back into the Council had not been fully realised, and whether this would have affected the decision had it been known at the time.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that the cost-of-living crisis and rising inflation had a direct impact on the HRA and rent-level setting. He

stated that the Government's instability and lack of attention on housing issues was causing local impacts in Manchester. He explained that the HRA was used to undertake repairs, maintenance, fire safety works, retrofitting and zero carbon improvements to 12,500 properties which were managed by the Council.

Approximately 60% of tenants were in receipt of Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and would have their rents covered either in full or in part and it was proposed to significantly increase the hardship fund within the HRA from £200k a year to £1million, which he explained would be targeted at those most in need. He also stated that increases in communal heating charges were previously capped at 20% but recent rises in energy costs had impacted this and an increase was proposed.

In response to a member's query, the Executive Member for Housing and Development confirmed that any loss of rent as a result of retrofitting had been factored into the HRA business plan. He emphasised the Council's aim to improve homes to ensure properties were cheap to run and heat and that this could mean that the turnaround time for bringing voids back into use could be longer as a result of insulation and other energy investment works. He highlighted that a significant amount of work was being undertaken to reduce the number of voids.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development acknowledged the importance of referring residents to the Council's support fund and that social, council and PFI tenants may be eligible for this. This would be communicated, and support would be maximised across the Council.

The Head of Finance for Corporate Core and Strategic Development explained that of the proposed savings from bringing the Northwards housing stock back in-house identified in the original business plan, around £1.6million had been realised to date. He reflected that some proposals within the retained business case were not realisable or deliverable, such as the closure of neighbourhood offices. He stated that the move to in-house management had begun to stabilise, and the efficiency of the operating model was being assessed to ensure an effective service going forwards. The Director of Housing Operations reiterated this and explained that it was within a different context from previously given the new Social Housing Bill and Regulatory Framework.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that this would not have altered the decision to bring the Northwards housing stock back in-house and highlighted that over 90% of 1500 responding tenants initially surveyed were in favour.

He also stated that further savings would be made as leases on neighbourhood offices expired and were consolidated with existing premises.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/11 Changes to Council Tax Charges for Unfurnished and Empty Properties and Second Homes

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which considered the impact of the Government's plan to introduce further discretionary powers for Councils to charge the 100% long term empty premium on empty and unfurnished homes after one year instead of two from 1 April 2024 and to charge a higher rate of Council Tax for empty, furnished properties (including second homes) from 1 April 2024.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The proposal to introduce a 100% premium on empty, furnished properties (including second homes) from the date they become empty could provide an increase of up to £4,611,438 in Council Tax and charging the Long-Term Empty premium after one year instead of two could provide an additional increase up to £1,227,198;
- Since 2019, a 100% premium had been charged on properties left empty and unfurnished for over two years; a 200% premium on those empty for between five and ten years; and a 300% premium on those empty for more than ten years;
- There were 733 properties in Manchester that had been empty and unfurnished for 1-2 years, 2,846 properties that were classed as empty and furnished for twelve months with no change to the liable person and a further 2,525 properties that had been empty for less than 12 months;
- Charging the Long-Term Empty premium would encourage owners to bring properties back into use and the Council would also benefit from the New Homes Bonus as a result of this;
- Empty, unfurnished properties owned by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) would not be affected by the addition of this premium as they qualify for a separate 100% discount due to their charitable status;
- These proposals would be open to public consultation as part of the wider budget consultation exercise; and
- The Council was proposing to adopt the power to increase the charge on empty, furnished properties, but defer a final decision to use it until the consultation exercise was complete and there was a better understanding of the effect of the changes and how the new powers may impact on the Council's wider housing strategy.

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

- Welcoming the proposed changes;
- Concerns that social tenants would have increased liability for council tax which would not be eligible for Council Tax Support where tenancies overlap;
- Whether council tax would continue to be charged where a resident has had to vacate their property due to ongoing cladding and fire safety remediation works;
- Issues around 'phantom tenancies', where a landlord claims that a tenancy was in place to refute council tax liability but there is no record of such;

- Whether the Council was still able to issue Empty Dwelling Management Orders, to assume control of long-term unoccupied properties and bring them back into use;
- Noting the significant number of properties in Manchester where the Council Taxpayer is deceased, and what influence the Council to encourage beneficiaries to bring these properties back into use;
- Issues around short-term and holiday lets such as Air BnB; and
- The Council's relationship and influence with Registered Providers to address long-term voids.

The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that the proposed legislation change would allow local authorities to charge a higher rate of council tax on different categories of empty properties. This would include second homes and those empty between tenancies.

The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that the Council had a discretionary hardship fund for residents struggling to pay their council tax and that the Council could address the habit of Registered Social Landlords allowing overlapping tenancies, which caused issues with residents being liable for additional council tax and ineligible for council tax support at one property.

In response to a query regarding whether council tax would continue to be charged where a resident has had to vacate their property due to ongoing cladding and fire safety remediation works, it was confirmed that council tax exemption was applied where a property was deemed unfit to occupy by an official body or organisation, such as the fire service, and a resident would only be liable for council tax at the property which they temporarily occupy. There was no exemption class for properties which the resident chose to vacate the property of their own volition, although the Council had the power to make local variations through the Executive.

The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that anecdotal evidence suggested that 'phantom tenancies' operated in Manchester. This was addressed by requesting proof of tenancy, such as an energy bill, and checking Experian to identify if the landlord was liable for council tax during a specific period. Some difficulties in this were acknowledged due to Manchester's status as a national and international destination.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer also highlighted that the proposed changes would come into effect from April 2024 and some questions around this had been factored into the second phase of the budget consultation, which was underway. This would ensure that there were no unintended consequences as a result of implementing the policy and would enable any issues like those raised by committee members to be addressed prior to implementation.

In response to a question from the Chair regarding the Council's influence to encourage beneficiaries to bring properties back into use where the Council Taxpayer was deceased, the Head of Corporate Revenues confirmed that the

Council monitored whether probate had been awarded where a Council Taxpayer had passed away. Further information on the impact of probate applications on council tax exemptions would be provided following the meeting.

The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that upon the introduction of the long-term empty council tax premium in 2013, residents who contacted the council to complain about an empty property were signposted to the Council's Empty Properties Team, who were able to advise on available grants to bring empty properties back into use, although it was noted that austerity measures had impacted this.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development advised that Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMO) were still in operation, although restricted under the Conservative-Lib Dem coalition government, and used where a property had been empty for a minimum of two years and met other criteria. He explained that Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) could also be utilised in certain situations, and he reflected that there were 6000 empty properties in 2017 compared to less than 2000 currently.

Much of the discussion focused on short-term and holiday lets, such as those advertised by Air BnB. The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that the Council did not have information on how many empty properties in Manchester were being advertised on Air BnB as addresses were not displayed on the Air BnB website and officers had contacted the company to no avail.

Members were also advised that some holiday homes would be liable to pay business rates where they were let or advertised to let for over 140 days a year. This would be beneficial to the Council where a company had several properties to let but it was acknowledged that an individual leasing out one property would be eligible for business rates relief.

In response to a suggestion that members could provide information on suspected Air BnB properties within their wards, members were encouraged to contact an officer in the Strategic Housing team who was leading on this work. The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that there was no mandatory registration system for Air BnB which made it difficult for the Council to know which properties were being used as short-term lets. He also advised that some work to collate a database had been undertaken with residents in Moss Side and that information was cross-referenced with House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) Licensing and planning applications for changes of use.

The Council also responded to a national consultation undertaken by the government last year on short-term lets and requested that the government introduce mandatory registration.

The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that empty social housing properties were exempt from paying council tax. The Executive Member for Housing and Development also stated that the Council worked closely with the registered

providers in Manchester and would be concerned if social housing properties remained empty in the long-term, given the number of people on the Housing Register, although he noted that many registered social landlords also aimed to get stock back into use quickly. He also explained that the Council had an agreement in place with larger registered providers to ensure that isolated stock would not be sold into the private market and would be sold to other providers to maintain.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/12 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.

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting would be held on Monday, 27 February at 10am. He also highlighted that there were two substantive items included on the work programme for the meeting in May, in addition to the annual work programming session.

Decision:

That the report be noted and the work programme agreed.

Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 March 2023

Present:

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

Also present:

Councillor Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods

Apologies: Councillor B Priest

Thanks

In opening the meeting, the Chair noted Councillor Priest's apologies and that this would have been his last meeting before retiring in May. The Chair wished Councillor Priest well in his retirement and thanked him for his work on the committee.

RGSC/23/14 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/15 Update on the progress of Manchester's Park Development Programme 2021-2025

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview of the financial (revenue and capital) position for parks and an update on the programme of investment to deliver revenue savings beyond 2021.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The objectives and vision of Manchester's Park Strategy;
- Progress on the delivery of the Strategy;
- The balanced revenue budget position which had been maintained to generate income and capital investment to enhance the parks offer;
- There was an estimated 4.7million visits to Manchester's parks in 2021/22;
- The additional investment for parks provided by S106 funding and match funding from strategic partners, such as British Cycling, the Lawn Tennis Association, Transport for Greater Manchester (via Highways) and Veolia;
- A total of £3.56million was invested across the Parks estate through Park Development Programme and Section 106 and Parks in Partnership (PIP) funding; and

- The projects completed in 2022/23 and future projects planned.

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

- Welcoming the report and progress made on the Park Development Programme;
- How new partnerships are attracted in order to generate income;
- Progress in the development of the Age Friendly Strategy;
- The safety of women and girls in the city's parks, and how this was being considered by the Council;
- Welcoming developments at Heaton Park for families; reopening The Orangery; providing electric vehicle charging points; and being used as a base for school buses to promote walking and the wider park;
- How the average length of a visit to parks is measured;
- How the increase in income had been achieved; and
- What challenges had been faced during progress of the Park Development Programme.

In introducing the item, the Chair welcomed the report and stated that he had shared the report with the Chairs of the 'Friends of...' groups for the three parks within his ward of Didsbury East to highlight the grants available.

The Parks Lead stated that strong progress had been made on the delivery of Manchester's Park Strategy and she recognised the 13% uplift in visitor numbers and significant investment through the Parks Development Programme and ad hoc funding from Section 106 and partner investments, which enabled investment of over £3.5million across the parks' estate in the past year. She stated that this had enabled the service to maximise its assets, widen participation and visitor numbers, generate income from supplementary services such as cafes. It provided support to reduce the gap between income and expenditure, which ensured a sustainable budget position.

The Parks Lead also wished to place on her record her thanks to stakeholders and partners who supported the day-to-day delivery of park services and investment.

In response to a member's query regarding new partnerships, the Parks Lead explained that many partners and stakeholders had approached the Parks service due to the value of Manchester's parks and the benefits of being aligned with them. The service worked with potential partners to identify the outcomes that they could deliver to ensure best value in the long-term.

Work on the Age Friendly Strategy was progressing strongly and there was significant focus on the accessibility and inclusivity of parks. This included setting an age-friendly standard when considering future developments, the suitability of infrastructure and reflecting on the need for face-to-face communications with visitors.

The Parks Lead noted that the design of parks and green open spaces nationally had largely been male-led and landscapes could reflect a gendered view. Manchester's parks service aimed to reset this balance by ensuring links with the Youth Council and the Council's Youth team. Consultation had also been undertaken when

developing the Park Plans with 'Friends of...' groups who utilised and supported individual parks on a daily basis. This would also be extended to reach those who do not use parks to understand reasons and issues behind this.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods highlighted the need for the Park Strategy to align with the Our Manchester Strategy, and this reflected priorities for the safety of women and girls and being age friendly. She explained that extra lighting would be provided where needed to improve safety. She also stated that the Council would assess all possible revenue streams for its parks.

In response to the Chair's query regarding measuring length of time spent in parks, it was explained that the service employed new technology which tracked general location, amount of time spent on site and areas of the park visited through anonymous mobile data. The Parks Lead confirmed that this technology was fully compliant with data protection regulations and was useful in providing concrete data on the usage of parks.

The Parks Lead advised that increased income had been generated through utilising this data to highlight the popularity of concessions and market these to potential partners. She emphasised the great assets within Manchester's parks which were celebrated and helped to bolster interest from potential partners. Members were also advised that following investment in cycle tracks at Wythenshawe Park, coached cycling sessions were held which generated additional income.

Members were informed that ice cream sales were the most profitable concession and generated around £130k of income per year.

In response to a query regarding challenges to the Park Development Programme, the Parks Lead explained that the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted partnership working with communities, which was a key priority for the Programme, and noted challenges in working with difficult-to-reach communities. She explained that this was the first time that the service used a funding workstream for the Parks in Partnership (PIP) scheme. Lessons had been learnt as a result of this and good progress had been made on the workstream in the last year with 98 PIP applications received.

Issues with price increases in the construction industry and delays were also acknowledged but these were communicated effectively to stakeholders to ensure transparency.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/16 Update from the Revenues and Benefits Unit

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an update on the activity of the Revenues and Benefits Unit as set out in the June 2022 Scrutiny Report, including final details of recently completed Covid schemes and ongoing cost of living schemes delivered by the service.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Benefits administration, including Council Tax Support and the management of the Welfare Provision Scheme and other discretionary schemes;
- The financial support provided by the Household Support Fund scheme; the Energy Grant Scheme; the Council Tax Support Fund; the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding programme; and the Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding scheme;
- Performance in the collection of council tax and how the Council balances collection whilst working in an ethical way and supporting those residents on a low income; and
- Performance in the collection of business rates and the financial support provided to businesses through various Business Rates Reliefs and grants.
- Data for the 2021/22 financial year and available data to show activity between 1 April and 31 December of the 2022/23 financial year.

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

- Commending the service for its work and the support provided to residents;
- Whether the Council would be able to continue using earnings and employer information supplied by HMRC if the trial of this scheme was to end;
- If the Council attended or was represented at community Cost-of-Living advice events;
- Whether the Council could contact residents who had not yet used the Post Office vouchers provided as a one-off grant to households in receipt of Council Tax Support where bank details were not known;
- What officers would change if they had a magic wand;
- Noting that the temporary Household Support Fund had been extended for 12 months, and how the Council would deal with the impact of this ending;
- Why 100% of business rates had not yet been collected;
- How much of the business rates growth the Council had retained; and
- Noting that there were 92 residents who earned over £40,000 a year and were not engaging with the council in respect of arrears and querying the reasons and circumstances behind this.

The Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services highlighted key points and achievements outlined within the report and explained that the Revenues and Benefits unit sought to ensure that any available local and national funding had the best impact for residents and communities whilst supporting the Council's priorities and Our Manchester Strategy.

The Head of Corporate Revenues explained that recent discussions with the Cabinet Office suggested that the HMRC trial would continue for those authorities already participating following productive meetings with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). However, he confirmed that the Council would not receive earnings and employer information if the scheme was not implemented nationally.

The Head of Corporate Assessments stated that there was no direct representation of the Revenues and Benefits service at cost-of-living advice events, but other

organisations and agencies would be able to signpost attendees to the Council and other schemes if required. He explained that the Helping Hands document captured the range of support available, but discussions could be held with the Neighbourhood teams to understand whether attendance from the Revenues and Benefits unit could add value to the events.

In response to a query regarding unused Post Office vouchers, the Head of Corporate Assessments explained that the Council had a high level of reach when issuing the Energy Bills rebate compared to other Core Cities and nationally. He explained that there were fewer opportunities to reach residents eligible for the Discretionary Fund and that text messages, postcards and social media posts were used to encourage take up of Post Office vouchers.

In response to a query as to what officers would change if they had a magic wand, it was suggested that any mistrust of the service or perception that it was not there to help residents would be removed.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer noted that it was difficult to understand the impact of the Household Support Fund ending but the Council could not mitigate for national policy decisions on funding. She explained that the Council would balance the schemes it had in place and the 2024/25 budget would include funding for schemes such as Council Tax Support.

In response to queries around business rates, the committee was advised that there was still 3 months remaining of the collection period and it was hoped that the collection rate would increase to 97% with officers continuing to pursue collections. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed that Greater Manchester as a region retained 100% of business rates growth above the baseline, which equated to approximately £10million per annum for Manchester and a share of this was returned to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

A request was made by a member for a map showing the council tax band of every property in individual wards. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that this information would have to be provided in a citywide map for ethical reasons.

In response to a query by the Chair, the Head of Corporate Revenues explained that there was a multitude of reasons as to why some residents earning over £40,000 per annum were not engaging with the Council in respect of council tax arrears. Examples included domestic issues, financial troubles and being unwilling to pay. He explained that the HMRC trial helped to engage with residents in this situation.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commended the work of the Revenues and Benefits Unit and took the opportunity to encourage residents in need of help to contact the Council for support.

Decision:

That the Committee

1. notes the report, and

2. expresses hope that the HMRC information-sharing scheme continues and is rolled out nationally.

RGSC/23/17 Refreshed Community Asset Transfer Policy Update

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which outlined key points of a review of the Community Asset Transfer Policy, which had been requested by the Statutory Deputy Leader, and proposed a revised Policy.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Community Asset Transfer (CAT) involved the leasing of Council land or buildings to a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisation, usually at less than market value for local social, economic, or environmental benefit;
- The numbers of completed and ongoing Community Asset Transfers;
- The methods and work undertaken as part of the policy review;
- Feedback received through the review; and
- The aims and objectives of the revised policy and process.

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

- Welcoming the greater clarity and transparency of the revised policy;
- Requesting that a list of all assets available for transfer be provided to members on a biannual or annual basis; and
- Whether there was a reduction in the number of community assets as more were transferred to VCS organisations.

In introducing the item, the Statutory Deputy Leader stated that many VCS organisations in Manchester utilised the Council's community assets to deliver valuable services for communities. He stated that there was currently an ad hoc process for expressing interest in a CAT and the revised policy would provide a fair and transparent application process for VSC organisations.

The Head of Estates and Facilities explained that the Council had a long history of working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector and key feedback indicated that the previous policy was technical, and the approach was unclear. He stated that the revised policy and process was clearer and included changes such as offering opportunities to the sector as a whole; being more proactive in advertising opportunities for CATs; and aligning the policy with the Council's wider asset management planning to be clearer on which buildings are available for transfer.

In response to a member's request for a list of all assets available for transfer, the Statutory Deputy Leader advised that this information would be made available on the Council's website and would be updated regularly.

The Statutory Deputy Leader also commented that there was natural turnover in the availability of community assets, and he stated that empty community assets were of no benefit to the Council or the community and he wished to fully utilise these.

Decision:

That the committee endorses the recommendations made to the Executive.

RGSC/23/18 Progress on Council Motions over the last 12 Months

The committee considered a report of the City Solicitor which provided an update on the progress made in respect of motions that had been passed before Manchester City Council over the last 12 months.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Decisions on motions were considered by the members of the Council's senior management and any necessary plans of action agreed and acted upon. Progress was then tracked on a periodic basis by SMT; and
- The actions taken for each of the motions passed over the last 12 months with the progress made to date.

The Chair noted that many of the Council motions did not require action from officers and the City Solicitor explained that this was due to the political nature of some resolutions. She stated that these motions were recorded nonetheless and that she liaised with the Leader's Office to ensure that any actions arising from motions of a political nature, such as where the Council resolved to lobby the government, were also documented.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/19 Progress Update on the Major Contracts Oversight Board

The committee considered a report of the Head of Integrated Commissioning and Procurement which provided an overview of the work of the Major Contracts Review Board and the development of the Delivery Model Assessment Policy which will set out the issues to be considered in deciding on the approach to future major contracts.

Key themes and points within the report included:

- The establishment of the Major Contracts Review Board was recommended by this committee in July 2022 to evaluate all major contracts;
- The main aims and terms of reference of the Board;
- The work of the Board to date; and
- A clear policy framework had been created to guide decision-making on the appropriate delivery model options for major contracts, which was of heightened profile following the adoption of a recent Council motion that advocated insourcing as the default option for services.

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

- Welcoming the update;

- If and how the Board considered potential future contracts and the possibility of insourcing in the future;
- Why works were considered out-of-scope of the policy framework for major service delivery model decisions;
- The need for greater clarity in the policy as to the criteria for a contract being awarded through a key decision;
- Suggesting that the work of the Association for Public Service Excellence, which the Council subscribed to, be highlighted in the policy's scope;
- Noting that trade unions were not mentioned in the discussion paper, and querying how the Council would liaise with trade unions where it was considering bringing a service in-house;
- The need to reflect the democratic will and electoral mandates;
- The number of silver and bronze contracts and the process for awarding these; and
- How Members could find information on the Council's contracts.

In introducing the item, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the Board had oversight of those contracts which were of significant reputational, financial or strategic importance to the Council but did not have oversight of major capital contracts and those between the Council and other public bodies. She stated that the Board had met three times since its establishment in November 2022 and there had been a focus around delivery models.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer stated that the report aimed to highlight the importance of the lead-in time for deciding the approach to future major contracts and it was important to understand and have capacity within these services, which was a key objective of the Board. The Strategic Lead – Commissioning also explained that the draft Delivery Model Options Discussion Paper would introduce new practice and require officers to consider insourcing when assessing all contracts rated gold.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer clarified that works listed as out-of-scope referred to major capital construction and not lower-level maintenance and the wording of this would be revised for clarity.

She confirmed that she was the statutory officer for contract decisions and that these needed to be transparent and account for value-for-money and policy direction. It was also stated that the Council was a democratic local authority and would be mindful the mandate of elected members.

In response to discussions around trade unions, the committee was advised that these were referenced as part of the engagement consultation, and this was included on the agenda of the next Corporate Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting.

The Strategic Lead – Commissioning stated that there were currently over 1000 lines in the contract registers, although these included Framework Agreements and low-level contracts. Members were also advised that the contract for a new contract management system had recently been awarded with the new system being implemented soon.

He also explained that all formally procured and awarded contracts over £25,000 were uploaded to The Chest, which was the Council's procurement portal and was available for public inspection through the website. The Council also had to publish spend data for all expenditure over £500 monthly, which was also available on the website. It was clarified that some social care spending was not included due to data protection regulations around personal information.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented that the Delivery Model Options Discussion Paper and Policy were in the early stages of development and assured members that this would reinforce the Council's commitment to insourcing where appropriate. He acknowledged that residents wanted value-for-money and the best use of public funds to deliver high-standard services. He stated that the policy would provide the Council with the capacity to progress and deliver on the commitment to insourcing whilst also continuing to provide important services for residents.

Decision:

That the Committee

1. notes the report;
2. recommends that the works listed as out-of-scope of the policy be clarified to reflect that this did not include maintenance; and
3. recommends that the work of the Association for Public Service Excellence be highlighted in the policy's scope.

RGSC/23/20 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.

The Chair informed members of the committee that the next meeting would consider two substantive items and work planning for the new municipal year.

Decision:

That the report be noted, and the work programme agreed.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair
Councillors Curley, Newman, Reeves, Riasat, Richards and Russell

Apologies: Councillors Nasrin Ali, Appleby, Bayunu and Karney

Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Foley, Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Cllr Shilton Godwin, Chair, Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee
Caroline Bradley, Associate Director of Primary Care (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Dr Paul Wright, Deputy Medical Director (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Gordon Reid, Deputy Head of Primary Care (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Ben Squires, Head of Primary Care (Greater Manchester), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Jim Rochford, Secretary, Manchester Local Dental Committee
Don McGrath, Chair, Manchester Local Dental Committee
Lara Shah, Deputy Head of Medicines Optimisation Strategy (Manchester), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Jamie Higgins, Senior Medicines Optimisation Adviser, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Samantha Nicholson, Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency
Anna Bond, Manchester Climate Change Agency
Charlotte Brien, Nurse Manager, Be Smoke Free Manchester
Katherine Miller, Citizen Representative, Be Smoke Free Manchester
Laura Taggart, Services Manager, CGL Manchester
Jackie McVan, Head of Services - Greater Manchester, CGL Manchester
Lucy-Rose Graham, Citizen Representative, CGL Manchester
Neil Walbran Chief Officer, Healthwatch Manchester
Thomas Carr, Healthwatch Manchester

HSC/23/07 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023 as a correct record.

HSC/23/08 Revenue Budget Update

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that set out the latest forecast revenue budget position, and the next steps.

Following the provisional finance settlement announced on 19 December the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The risk had moved to the next spending review period 2025/26 where a shortfall of £57m was forecast. This reduced to £40m after the proposed use of £17m smoothing reserves.

The report further described that in November 2022 scrutiny committees were presented with cuts and saving options totaling £42.3m over three years for consideration. The provisional settlement on 19 December reflected a change in government policy and provided more funding than initially expected. This had given the opportunity to review the quantum and phasing of savings. It was now proposed that options of £36.2m were progressed. The settlement also gave some scope for targeted investments which would put the council in a more sustainable position to face the next spending review in 2025.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources paid tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team for all of their hard work in bringing forward the suite of budget reports following the settlement announcements. He stated that the budget settlement needed to be considered in the context of over a decade of austerity that had been imposed on Manchester. He stated that the result of this was that the Council's budget had reduced by £428m in total over this period. He commented that the decision to cut local authority funding was a result of ideological decisions taken by the Government, noting that the Government had failed to recognise or apologise for the instability they had caused to the national economy. He further referenced the impact of inflation, population growth in the city and the cost-of-living crisis that all impacted on budgetary pressures. He commented that the Government had failed to communicate their financial decisions for the city, noting the recent experience of announcements of the Levelling Up bids.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the funding decisions of the Government had effectively forced the Council to increase Council Tax. He advised that the Council was able to deliver a balanced budget and Council Tax would be used to support the most vulnerable residents in the city; support the social care sector and invest in the future of the city.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care reiterated the need to consider the suite of budget reports in the context of more than a decade of austerity and repeated cuts to funding. He stated that, despite the lack of appropriate funding for NHS Services and Adult Social Care, both nationally and locally, Manchester Council had remained committed to supporting the most vulnerable residents in the city. He also paid tribute to the work of the City Treasurer, the Deputy City Treasurer and the officers for bringing forward these reports.

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

- Thanking the Executive Member and officers for their continued work to support the residents of Manchester and supporting the key priorities identified;
- Commenting that the decision to delay future cuts to local authority budgets was a cynical move by the Government, noting the timing of the next General Election;
- Request that any Adult Social Care charging be handled sensitively; and

- Noting that Steve Barclay, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care had declined the invitation to visit Manchester and meet with the Committee.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/09 Public Health Budget 2023-26

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Public Health that provided a further update to Members on the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and details the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing the final proposals for the Public Health budget programme 2023-26;
- Providing an overview of the services within the remit of this scrutiny committee and the key priorities;
- Describing the budget growth assumptions in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP); and
- Providing an updated set of proposals for further savings for 2023-26, developed in the context of the financial challenge facing the Council, for final comments by Health Scrutiny.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/10 Adult Social Care Budget 2023-26

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that provided a further update to Members on the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an overview of Adult Social Care services and key priorities;
- Providing a detailed overview of the budget, including:
 - The financial requirements to conclude the existing three-year Better Outcomes Better Lives savings programme;
 - The budget growth assumptions for the service as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP);
 - An updated set of proposals for the necessary savings for 2023-26, developed in the context of the financial challenge facing the Council, for final comments by Health Scrutiny, with notable changes from the previous proposals; and
 - Detail of the additional funding announcements made in the Autumn Statement and included in the provisional finance settlement and the recommendations made for how this funding was deployed.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/11 Access to NHS Primary Care: GP, Dentistry and Pharmacy

An overview on the provision and access to General Practice services across Manchester

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Medical Director, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care (Manchester Locality) and the Associate Director Primary Care, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care (Manchester Locality) that provided information and an overview on the provision and access to General Practice services across Manchester.

This report built upon the information presented to Health Scrutiny in September 2021 specific to access to General Practice; and provided the context, services in place that were currently providing access to General Practice, as well as describing the challenges and pressures General Practice was facing and plans to make sure patients could get access to their GP Practice and appropriate care.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information on the introduction of Integrated Care Systems;
- Information on the implications of these arrangements both in a national and Manchester context;
- Noting that there were 83 GP Practices in Manchester that provided access to primary medical care services and the contractual requirements;
- Information relating to the Primary Care Network Enhanced Access;
- Information on the Greater Manchester Clinical Assessment Service;
- Information on the GP Out of Hours service;
- Providing an update on current access and provision, noting that the Covid pandemic had resulted in a significant shift in the way that patients accessed services at their GP Practice;
- Describing that as part of winter planning 2021/22, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) had established a pilot to provide access to additional GP appointments by an online video consultation provider (Livi), funded via the national Winter Access Fund (WAF) allocation;
- Winter pressures and surge planning;
- General Practice Pressures, with information on Primary Care Situation Reporting;
- Discussion of the additional issues that had impacted upon General Practice in Manchester over recent years adding to the increase in demand and pressure;
- Information on recovery, highlighting some of the work underway and planned to support this; including workforce recruitment and retention and Primary Care Quality Recovery and Resilience Scheme (PQRRS) which aimed to reduce

unwarranted variation, tackle inequalities in health outcomes and support general Practice in recovery; and

- Conclusions.

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

- Recognising the important and hard work undertaken on behalf of residents by all Manchester GPs and Practice staff;
- Welcoming the information provided in relation to NHS Greater Manchester Surge Hubs and if the intention was to continue with this model;
- Welcoming the information within the report, however the anecdotal evidence from residents was that it was still very difficult to secure a GP appointment;
- Condemning any aggression or threats to GPs and Practice staff;
- The information for the public relating to Walk In Centres needed to be updated on the website as this still referred to modifications introduced during the pandemic;
- The Committee had argued against the closure of Walk In Centres in Manchester, commenting that additional Walk In Centres would have taken the pressure off GP Practices;
- The need for planning of GP Practices when developing new housing schemes across the city to ensure the demand was met;
- Welcoming the support described that was provided for refugees in the city, adding that the Government had failed to fund resources required in Manchester to support refugees; and
- Noting the important thread of Health Equity that ran through the suite of reports.

The Deputy Head of Primary Care (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care advised that the Surge Hubs had significantly increased capacity and had been introduced rapidly to respond to unprecedented demand. He commented that this had been funded using Greater Manchester resources. He advised that analysis of this model was currently being undertaken and it was anticipated that these would remain until the end of March this year. He further referred to the MARIS (Manchester Acute Respiratory Infections Service) service that had been introduced to support patients with respiratory conditions.

The Deputy Head of Primary Care (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care advised that under the new ICB arrangements the NHS were working much closer with the Council when new housing schemes were being developed. He made further reference to the work that had been reported to the previous meeting of the Committee that had discussed the approach to improving and maximising the use of the existing GP estate.

The Deputy Medical Director (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care responded to the comments made regarding difficulty experienced by residents attempting to access appointments by advising that all feedback was welcomed and considered. He said that best Practice in regard to this was shared, recognising that a one size fits all approach was not appropriate and resources needed to be managed efficiently. He further commented that workforce recruitment would also address pressures experienced at sites. In response to a question regarding data and 'pressure points in the city' he stated that this would be supplied

following the meeting. Similarly, he advised that data in relation to the uptake of Child Vaccinations would be provided following the meeting.

The Associate Director of Primary Care (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care welcomed the comments and feedback from the Committee. She stated that demand on GP Primary Care had risen across the city and she acknowledged the comments made regarding funding for refugees in Manchester. She advised that they continued to work with the Home Office to seek increased investment to support this activity.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care reiterated the point raised regarding the failure of the Government to adequately fund the needs of refugees in the city. He said despite this Manchester had a long and proud history of welcoming refugees into the city. He reassured the Members that the Deputy Leader, along with members of the Public Health team had undertaken a visit to all hotels used to accommodate refugees and he suggested that the Committee may wish to receive a report on this area of activity at a future meeting. The Committee endorsed this suggestion.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care advised that GPs were very much included in the conversations that were undertaken by the various Boards that were referred to in section 2.1 of the paper.

Decision

To note the report.

An overview on the provision and access to NHS Dental services across Manchester

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Primary Care & Strategic Commissioning, NHS Greater Manchester that provided an overview on the provision and access to NHS Dental Services across Manchester.

This report provided the context of current provision and services which were in place that were currently providing access to NHS dental services, as well as describing the challenges and pressures dental services were facing and initiatives to support patients in both improving their oral health and to access appropriate care through NHS dental services.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information on General Dental Care, Specialised Dental Services and Secondary Care Dental Services;
- Discussion on the impact of Covid, noting that the risk of cross-infection was significantly increased for services operating in and around the mouth;
- Information on the national contracting and performance arrangements;
- Patient feedback information and analysis;

- Information on the actions to improve access to NHS dental services, noting that all NHS General Dental Practices continued to prioritise patients in pain, children, patients who were deemed as high risk, such as those receiving treatment for cancer, and those who were mid-way through a course of treatment;
- Information on access to Urgent Dental Care services; noting that there were 13 Urgent Dental Care sites across Greater Manchester, with provision in the City of Manchester;
- Information on Secondary Care Dental services;
- Information on the initiatives to address health inequalities, including the Dental Home for Looked After Children;
- An update on the Healthy Living Dentistry (HLD) project;
- Child Friendly Dental Practice (CFDP) Scheme; and
- Projects to improve oral health, noting that oral health was particularly poor in Manchester and across Greater Manchester.

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

- Recognising the challenge presented by the pandemic to the delivery of dental services;
- Patients who had not accessed dentists during the pandemic should not be penalised and removed from a Practice's patient list;
- Noting and condemning the national contract arrangements that resulted in Practices only being funded to deliver NHS services for 55% of the adult population;
- Residents experienced difficulties in registering with NHS Dentists;
- Recognising the importance of oral health on wider health outcomes;
- Further data was requested in relation to children's oral health;
- Support the call for water fluoridation in Manchester as a means of improving oral health, noting the positive outcomes this had delivered in Birmingham; and
- What was being done to support access for vulnerable residents.

The Head of Primary Care (Greater Manchester), NHS Greater Manchester stated that the frustrations and challenges articulated by Members were not unique to Manchester and were a national issue. In response to requests for additional Manchester specific data following the meeting he advised that this would be provided. In response to a question regarding the numbers of children accessing NHS Dentistry, he advised that in Manchester this was 52.2% of children compared to the national average of 46.9%, commenting that children were a priority group in recognition of the importance of oral health and wider health outcomes. Reference was further made to 'Baby Teeth DO Matter' as one example of initiatives to improve children's oral health.

The Chair, Manchester Local Dental Committee stated that an important Public Health intervention to improve oral health in Manchester and Greater Manchester would be the introduction of fluoridation and he called for the Council to lobby for this. Members endorsed this suggestion and recommended that the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care lobby for the introduction of water fluoridation in Manchester.

The Secretary, Manchester Local Dental Committee advised that COVID had significantly impacted on the service due to the nature of transmission. He advised that following the relaxation of rules activity had begun to increase by approximately 50% compared to the previous year, noting that they were still in a recovery phase. He commented that it had been noted that patients who were now presenting were requiring more treatment due to not seeing a dentist during the pandemic.

The Head of Primary Care (Greater Manchester), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care acknowledged the comment regarding support for vulnerable residents. He advised that it was recognised and that this need would increase due to the changes in the demography of the city. He commented that work was underway to address and plan for this through workforce recruitment and training to increase capacity and specialist provision. He further commented that Practices were encouraged to support patients if a patient felt that they had unfairly been removed from a Practice's patient list.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care thanked Jim Rochford, Secretary, Manchester Local Dental Committee and Don McGrath, Chair, Manchester Local Dental Committee for agreeing to attend the meeting at short notice and contribute to the discussion and answer Members' questions.

Decision

The Committee recommend that the NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care lobby for the introduction of water fluoridation in Manchester.

An overview on the provision and access to Community Pharmacy services across Manchester

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Primary Care & Strategic Commissioning, NHS Greater Manchester that provided an overview on the provision and access to community pharmacy services across Manchester, supporting the recently published Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Manchester.

This report provided the context of current provision and services which were in place that were currently providing access to community pharmacy, as well as describing the challenges and pressures facing these services.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background; noting that the needs of the population of the City of Manchester for pharmacy services were determined by the locally developed Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)
- Noting that the PNA assessment had been recently reviewed, and the Manchester Health and Wellbeing Board had endorsed the publication of the latest PNA on 25 January 2023;
- Discussion of the main issues, including current provision, opening hours, advanced and enhanced services;
- Future service provision; and
- Consideration of the pressures in service delivery.

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

- Recognising and welcoming the range of services delivered by community pharmacies and the important role these played in local communities, particularly during the response to the pandemic; and
- Reiterating and recognising the importance of this service in the context of health equity.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/12 Access to Patient Participation Groups in Manchester

The Committee considered the report of Healthwatch Manchester that described that a mystery shopper exercise on all Manchester GP Practices had been conducted by Healthwatch Manchester with the purpose to review access to Patient Participation Groups by Manchester citizens.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing the main issues identified, concluding that access to Patient Participation Groups was generally poor and patients were not being involved in their local GP practises enough; and
- Recommendations.

One of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions was: -

- Was there any guidance to address barriers to inclusion and participation in Patient Participation Groups.

The Chief Officer, Healthwatch Manchester stated that NHS England had produced useful written guidance in relation to Patient Participation Group and this included consideration of inclusivity.

The Associate Director of Primary Care (Manchester Locality), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care commented that she had welcomed the report and was happy to work with Healthwatch with a view to progressing their recommendations.

Decision

To note the report and endorse the recommendations that.

1. Access to Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) needs to improve and that GP Practices:

- Adopt a clear method across the board of how a person can join the PPGs so that every Practice has the same process

- Make this process accessible to the wider population such as those who do not have access to the internet or those who were unable to visit the Practice

2. The GP Practices in Manchester who we contacted need to restart their Patient Participation Groups if they have not done so already. Where possible the previous members of each Practice's PPG need inviting to this reformation as well as providing this opportunity to all other patients.

3. The staff in each GP Practice need to familiarise themselves with the role and requirements regarding Patient Participation Groups in order to support PPGs more effectively and efficiently.

HSC/23/13 Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Control

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Director of Public Health that provided information and an updated overview of progress and activity for addiction services commissioned by Manchester Public Health Team. This report followed an initial report to Health Scrutiny on 12 January 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Describing that Manchester City Council (Public Health) commissioned services were:
 - Manchester Integrated Alcohol & Drug Service for adults provided by Change, Grow, Live (CGL).
 - Young Person's Specialist Substance Misuse Service, also provided by CGL.
 - In-patient Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation Services provided by various providers.
 - Primary Care Community Pharmacy Services provided by various providers.
 - Manchester Dual Diagnosis Liaison Service provided by Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.
 - Drug and Alcohol Social Work Team, delivered by Manchester City Council.
 - Be Smoke Free, which was a community level Stop Smoking / Tobacco Treatment Service.
- Providing a description of each service's offer;
- An outline of performance and an overview of trends; and
- Describing positive developments and challenges identified.

The Committee then heard from Lucy-Rose Graham and Katherine Miller who spoke of their individual experiences. They described their respective reasons and circumstances that resulted in them accessing the service; their experience of treatment and support; and the positive outcomes achieved.

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

- Thanking the two citizens for attending the meeting and sharing their experience with Members;

- What key message would the citizens present give as a means of improving the services described;
- Calling on the Government to adequately fund these important services, noting the positive impact they had on people's lives;
- Noting the proliferation of Vape shops on the high street and the increased occurrence of vaping witnessed amongst young people;
- What was the approach to Nitrous Oxide, commonly known as laughing gas; and
- What provision was made by the services to accommodate people for whom English was not their first language.

Lucy-Rose Graham and Katherine Miller both stated that increased publicity of the respective services would be welcomed, noting that it was important for people to access the correct services and means of support. Consistency of staff was also noted as being important, commenting that trusted relationships were formed during the recovery period.

The Programme Lead commented on the points made regarding vaping. She stated that there was a need for a distinction to be made between vaping as a means of stepping down from tobacco addiction and the use of vaping as a recreational substance. She described that currently the legislation surrounding vaping was very limited and primarily fell under the remit of Trading Standards. She commented that the restrictions placed on the promotion and marketing of tobacco was not applicable to vaping. She advised that work was underway with schools to address the issue and highlight the harms of vaping amongst young people and in addition to this the North West Task Force was currently considering this also.

The Commissioning Manager stated that the issue of Nitrous Oxide was recognised as an issue across Greater Manchester. She stated that work was underway to raise awareness of the associated harms across a range of different professionals and with young people. She stated that it was important to change the perceptions of this substance. She further described that Nitrous Oxide is also a priority for the Community Safety Team, following increased reports of ASB related to its use. The Services Manager, CGL Manchester advised that the legal status of Nitrous Oxide was currently being reviewed and CGL were delivering specific work on this issue with schools.

The Nurse Manager, Be Smoke Free Manchester and the Services Manager, CGL Manchester both described the range of initiatives they used to accommodate and support all residents to access their respective services. These included using interpreters, drop in clinics, text service, attending events to support homeless people and targeted sessions in localities.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/14 Climate Change and Health

The Committee considered the report of the Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency and the Deputy Director of Public Health that described that in 2022, the

Manchester Climate Change Partnership, supported by Manchester Climate Change Agency, updated Manchester's five year Climate Change Framework (2020-2025) to provide more granular targets for staying within our carbon budget and to highlight the co-benefits of climate action, including tackling health inequality.

The Making Manchester Fairer plan was developed alongside the Framework refresh and so was aligned to it.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the Climate Change Framework;
- Describing the purpose of the 2022 Climate Change Framework Update;
- An overview and update on the city's direct emissions;
- Discussion of the city's indirect, or consumption-based, emissions;
- An overview of work by Manchester Metropolitan University and Manchester's Climate Change Partnership Adaptation and Resilience Advisory Group;
- Health and wellbeing, noting the link between health inequalities and climate change
- The Making Manchester Fairer plan was developed alongside the Framework refresh and so is aligned to it; and
- Recommended actions and key messages of the 2022 Update.

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

- Noting the impact poor air quality and pollution had on health;
- Was air quality monitored;
- Noting the importance and relationship between active travel and health outcomes;
- The need to ban single use vape pens;
- Was the NHS considering their carbon footprint and taking actions to reduce these; and
- Noting the heatwave experienced in 2022 consideration needed to be given to providing cool banks, especially for older residents noting the impact that extreme heat had on health outcomes.

The Deputy Director of Public Health commented that the Making Manchester Fairer approach involved a collaborative approach across all directorates and partners, noting the consideration given to health outcomes that informed the Draft Active Travel Strategy. Members were advised that the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee would be considering the Draft Active Travel Strategy at the meeting of 9 February 2023. The Chair requested that the Scrutiny Support Officer circulate this report to Members of this Committee for information.

The Deputy Director of Public Health acknowledged the comments made regarding clean air and stated that there was a range of work to address this, especially working with schools and young people via the Neighbourhood Teams. In regard to the issue raised regarding cool hubs she advised that she would feed these comments back to the Health Protection Team.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency advised that air quality was monitored in Manchester and actions around this specific issue were included in the Framework. She further stated that the relationship between health outcomes and active travel was fully understood and again was included in the Framework. In response to the comments made regarding Making Manchester Fairer when considering the previous agenda items the need for a just transition was fully understood and included in the Framework.

The Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency stated that the NHS were looking at their carbon footprint and devising and implementing plans to reduce this across a range of activities.

The Committee welcomed Councillor Shilton Godwin, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee. She thanked the Committee for considering this important report. She commented that the acknowledgement and recognition of the relationship between health and climate change was increasingly recognised and informed the responses to this.

The Chair advised that the Committee would continue to schedule items on health and climate change in the new municipal year, with the scope of these items to be determined. The Chair noted that this work would also be reflected in the Making Manchester Fairer work that would be reported to the Committee.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care paid tribute to the response of the Public Health Team during the unprecedented heatwave that Manchester experienced in 2022. He advised that the learning from that experience would inform future responses.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/15 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.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair
Councillors Nasrin Ali, Appleby, Bayunu, Curley, Karney, Newman, Riasat and Richards

Apologies: Councillors Reeves and Russell

Also present:

Councillor T. Robinson, Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care
Tom Hinchcliffe, Deputy Place Based Lead
Mark Edwards, Chief Operating Officer, Manchester Local Care Organisation
Bridget Hughes, Interim Associate Director of Operations, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust
John Foley, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust
Dan Smith, Head of Operations, North West Ambulance Service
Ian Moses, Area Director, North West Ambulance Service
Dr Sarah Follon, Associate Medical Director, NHS GM (Manchester Locality Team)
Sarah McGovern, Director of Transformation, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Darren Banks, Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Professor Matt Makin, Medical Director, North Manchester General Hospital, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Rachael Barber, Medical Director, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
Alison Lynch, Group Deputy Chief Nurse, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

HSC/23/16 Accessing NHS Services

The Committee considered the report of the Manchester Health and Care System Partner Organisations that described that the Health Scrutiny Committee had requested an extraordinary meeting to discuss the issues experienced by Manchester residents in accessing health and care services over the winter period (2022/23).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Setting out the challenging operating environment this winter, including high demand across all sectors, increased Covid, Flu and strep A infections, industrial action and high staff sickness rates;
- Describing the work undertaken, as part of wider winter planning, to ensure people continued to have access to the services they needed when they needed them; and
- Specific information requested by the Committee in relation to:
 - A&E waiting times

- Ambulance waiting times
- Patient discharge from acute hospital settings
- Waiting times for those patients requiring elective and cancer treatment
- Access to vaccination

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

- The Committee thanked all NHS workers for their continued commitment to supporting Manchester residents;
- Recognising the unprecedented pressure placed on the already fragile health and social care system by the pandemic;
- Describing the local and national situation as a crisis, resulting from years of underfunding from government;
- Recognising the pressures this had placed on all staff working across this sector;
- Highlighting the stark statistic detailed within the report that people in Manchester were disproportionately affected by the pandemic, with mortality rates more than 25% higher than the national average;
- The Committee would be seeking an urgent meeting with Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to discuss the concerns raised by the Members on behalf of the residents of Manchester;
- How could patients access Virtual Wards;
- Would the Surge Resilience Hubs continue to be delivered, noting the positive impact these had on facilitating increased numbers of GP appointments;
- What types of treatment did the Same Day Emergency Care cover;
- Clarification was sought regarding the data in relation to Ambulance hand over times and how this was reported in the paper;
- Noting that delays in Ambulance hand overs resulted in crews being delayed and unable to respond to other patients;
- Further information and an assurance was sought on the validation exercise, of which 10% of those who responded back had opted to be removed from the waiting list;
- A&E Departments needed to have appropriate facilities to support those patients attending who presented experiencing a mental health crisis; and
- Further information was sought on the M-Thrive programme and how schools could access this support.

In introducing the report, the Director of Public Health advised that all partners contributed to the GM SORT meetings that were described in the paper and they currently met three times per week. In response to a Member's question he advised that these meetings would continue in some form under the new Integrated Care Board arrangements.

The Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust described that, whilst it was recognised that Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) were not currently able to deliver the level of service they wished to as a result of the current pressures and the remaining issue of COVID, it was worth noting that the numbers of patients currently admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of COVID was only short of the maximum figures experienced at the height of the pandemic. He advised that the number of elective surgery procedures had reduced, due to the

workforce and resources having to be redeployed during the pandemic. He described that this situation had impacted significantly on patient waiting lists. He described that all GM Hospitals, services and partners had worked together to respond to the pandemic, with a mutual aid approach. He described that this approach would continue during the recovery stage. He stated that all opportunities to increase capacity, including using facilities across the UK were being explored with NHS England. He stated that the priority remained patient safety and all options and decisions were considered in line with national clinical guidance.

In relation to cancer care, the Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust said that, despite the challenge presented during the pandemic, Manchester had continued to sustain a level of cancer treatment, adding that further significant improvements had been realised in waiting times since November 2022.

In relation to Urgent and Emergency Care, the Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust stated that Manchester had witnessed a significant increase in patients presenting to these services, many of which required admittance to hospital, adding that this increased demand for bed space significantly impacted on pressures experienced in hospitals. He added that another pressure experienced was due to the number of people, approximately 300 patients, who were currently admitted to hospital in Manchester but were medically fit to be discharged. He advised that the Resilient Discharge Programme would be evaluated with the intention to roll this out more widely if viable. Clarification was also provided in regard to the 'back to basics' pilot that was referred to within the report; commenting that this involved staff being trained and supported to engage with patients at an early stage to plan for a safe and managed discharge from hospital, using a strength-based approach. Members requested further data on these patients following the meeting and it was agreed that this could be provided.

In relation to Children's Services the Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust stated that the pandemic had resulted in a significant increase in demand for mental health services, noting that there had been an 82% increase in demand for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). He added that the importance of these services for both the young person and their families was understood. The Medical Director, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital described that the M-Thrive Hubs had been initiated in response to this increased demand. She described that this resource was designed to assist and support young people and their families in their home and school settings. She advised that young people could be referred to this resource via a number of routes, including youth workers, health professionals and schools.

The Associate Medical Director, NHS GM (Manchester Locality Team) advised that the Surge Resilience Hubs were funded until the end of March 2023. Following this an evaluation of this and other initiatives would be undertaken to inform future planning and service delivery.

In relation to the validation exercise and patient waiting lists, the Director of Transformation, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust advised the Committee that this exercise had been undertaken by contacting patients by a number of different methods. She advised that the responses from patients were

reviewed by clinical teams, in consultation with the patient to agree a way forward. The Medical Director, North Manchester General Hospital, MFT reassured the Committee that there was no patient coercion and further commented that muscular skeletal issues that had rectified themselves over time accounted for the majority of cases that opted to be removed from the waiting list. He advised that this did not stop patients being rereferred for treatment if required. The Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust commented that the issue of health inequalities and the harms related to delays in treatment on communities was understood and an exercise to understand patterns and trends in this approach was underway.

In regard to the issue of health inequalities, the Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust commented that this was acutely understood in Manchester. He made reference to the approach undertaken to Health and Lung Checks that saw services go to communities and neighbourhood settings in a targeted approach. He advised that this approach had been pioneered in Greater Manchester. The Director of Public Health further made reference to the work of COVID Health Equity Manchester (CHEM) that arose from the local response to the pandemic as evidence emerged that Covid 19 had a disproportionate impact on some communities who already experience health inequalities in our city. Black, Asian and minority ethnic people, people born outside the UK, disabled people, and those at high occupational risk and/or in poverty were more likely to contract Coronavirus and had poorer mortality outcomes at varying rates. The Committee also noted the Making Manchester Fairer work that had also been reported to the Committee.

In response to a specific question that sought his ask of the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Group Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust advised that this would be the need for a system wide approach to investment and policies.

In regard to Same Day Emergency Care, the Medical Director, North Manchester General Hospital, MFT provided examples of the types of procedures that could be undertaken using this model, advising that this approach reduced the need for hospital admissions and reiterated that patient safety was the priority.

The Chief Operating Officer, Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO) advised that patients would only be considered for Virtual Wards if clinically appropriate and safe to do so. He advised that both clinicians and patients would be involved in these decisions. The Medical Director, North Manchester General Hospital, MFT provided examples of the types of illness or conditions that could be remotely monitored using this model of patient care. He stated that this approach was strengthened by the introduction of shared patient records. He added that patients and their families were provided with clinical contacts. The Medical Director, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital described the Virtual Wards that existed to support children, noting that that these predominately related to respiratory care pathways.

In response to the discussion regarding A&E Departments needing to have appropriate facilities to support those patients attending experiencing a mental health crisis, the Executive Director of Adult Social Care stated that she had recently met

with colleagues at the MRI site, along with colleagues from Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (GMMH) to consider how this could be improved at this location, using a partnership approach. The Medical Director, North Manchester General Hospital, MFT referred to the improvements made at the North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH) A&E site that had seen the introduction of the Green Room, describing this as an appropriate space for mental health patients. He further described that NMGH had very strong established relationship with GMMH. The Chair noted that Members of the Committee would be visiting NMGH on 2 March 2023 and if it was appropriate Members would be interested in visiting the Green Room facility.

The Acting Chief Operating Officer, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust stated that Manchester had experienced significant underinvestment in mental health services from government over a number of years. He further added that an additional ask from government would be for a Workforce Strategy, to recruit at all levels as this was critical to delivering mental health services. In response to a specific question from a Member, the Interim Associate Director of Operations, Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust stated that they did utilise translation services and provided printed material in a number of different languages for patients for whom English was not their first language. A Member discussed the need for cultural sensitivity when patients underwent a mental health assessment and asked that specific information on this activity was provided in future update reports from the Trust.

Representatives from the North West Ambulance Service provided clarification in regard to the terminology used within the report and the data sets presented. In response to the discussion regarding concern for staff wellbeing, the Area Director, North West Ambulance Service acknowledged the significant impact the pressures were having on staff wellbeing and morale. He stated that everything was done to support and relieve staff, adding that the results of the staff survey were also reviewed.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care expressed his gratitude to all representatives for attending and contributing to the discussion. He stated that the detailed report that had been submitted clearly demonstrated the strong established working relationship that existed across all the health and social care partners in Manchester. He advised that despite the continued lack of funding from the government, services in Manchester continued to work collaboratively and imaginatively to support Manchester residents.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that the welfare of frontline staff was paramount, and he expressed his continued admiration and gratitude for their continued commitment and professionalism.

In concluding its deliberations, the Committee resolved to convene a delegation to visit the offices of the Department of Health & Social Care to seek an urgent meeting with Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. At this meeting the delegation would present the case, using the evidence presented today, for increased investment in the health and social care sector in Manchester to improve the health outcomes of all Manchester residents.

Decision

The Committee agree to convene a delegation to visit the offices of the Department of Health & Social Care to seek an urgent meeting with Secretary of State for Health and Social Care. The delegation will present the case for increased investment in the health and social care sector in Manchester to improve the health outcomes of all Manchester residents.

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023

Present:

Councillor Green – in the Chair

Councillors Appleby, Bayunu, Curley, Karney, Newman, Reeves and Russell

Apologies: Councillors Nasrin Ali, Riasat and Richards

Also present:

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

Sophie Hargreaves, Director of Strategy, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Matt Makin, Medical Director, North Manchester General Hospital, MFT

Julie Taylor, Locality Director of Strategy / Provider Collaboration (Manchester), NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care

Jonathan Kaye, Co-Chair of the Steering Group and Clinical GP Lead

Juliet Eadie, Senior Commissioning Manager, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care

Sally Ferris, Chief Executive Officer Together Dementia Support

Trish Dwyer, Later Life Service Manager, Manchester Services, GMMH

Jeff Seneviratne, Dementia Carers Expert Reference Group (Dementia United & Chair of the Trustees, Together Dementia Support)

Nazir Patel, Outreach Worker, LMCP

Liaqat Ali, citizen of Manchester

HSC/23/17 Minutes

In moving the minutes of 8 February 2023, a Member commented that the information available to the public via the website regarding how to access the Walk-In Centre in Boots was still out of date. The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care stated that he would follow this up.

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8 February 2023 and 22 February 2023 as a correct record, noting the above comments.

HSC/23/18 Update on Pathway Developments for Unpaid Carers

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services that described progress to develop a comprehensive pathway of support for Unpaid Carers in the city, noting that the report focused on Adult Carers who are aged 18+ years.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;

- Describing the significant work that had been achieved over the past five years to recognise the importance of Carers in the city and improve access to a whole range of services;
- Describing that Commissioners, working together with Carers Manchester Network, had agreed a pathway of support for Carers and describing this model and noting that investment in the Carers VCSE organisations had been at the heart of the work, with all funding targeted at different organisations to deliver certain aspects of the work;
- Detailing key updates on progress;
- Information relating to Carers Manchester Network;
- Impact of the Cost-of-Living increase;
- Information on the Carers Manchester Contact Point and outcomes;
- Communications and marketing;
- Support for Carers in their respective localities and neighbourhoods;
- Information on the Carers Emergency Fund and data in relation to this activity over the previous two years and case studies;
- Information in regard to the Adult Social Care Carer's Team and associated case studies;
- Carer's Emergency Card, noting that this card was issued to a carer as a means of informing other professionals should the carer be involved in an accident or emergency admission to hospital;
- Describing the work with Manchester GPs and Health partners;
- The approach to carers in employment; and
- The Commissioning Strategy and priorities for the next two years.

The Committee then heard from Nazir Patel, Outreach Worker, LMCP. He described the work his service provided to identify and support carers, especially those that did not identify themselves as carers and for whom English was not their first language. He provided numerous examples of the different ways people were supported. Mr Liaqat Ali, a citizen of Manchester spoke of his experience as a carer and the positive impact LMCP had on him and his family. He spoke of the many different ways he had been supported, including income maximisation, support during the pandemic, regular meetings and peer contact, trusted advice regarding vaccinations and the opportunities this support had given him to pursue his own hobbies and interests.

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

- Thanking Mr Patel and Mr Ali for attending the meeting and sharing their experience with Members;
- Recognising the important and invaluable role that carers played in Manchester;
- Recognising the good work provided by LMCP;
- Welcoming the detailed and informative report that had been submitted and commented that the information should be shared with all Councillors;
- What was being done to reach and support carers in 'hard to reach' communities;
- Noting the census figures presented in regard to the numbers of carers in Manchester and questioning if these reflected the true numbers of carers in Manchester;
- Noting the importance of a well-planned and managed transition for young carers as they moved into adult services;

- Noting the comments made regarding the future funding of LMCP and the outcomes of the Our Manchester Voluntary & Community Sector Fund exercise, what was being done to secure future funding to continue the delivery of this service; and
- Was there a strategy to support Council staff who were carers.

The Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning stated that all avenues and opportunities to identify and engage with hidden carers were being explored. She made reference to all staff working with the Local Care Organisation receiving Carer Awareness training and having access to a carers tool kit, and she further made reference to having affiliate members of the Carers Manchester Network', such as Age UK who would identify carers through the course of their activities. She also stated that work was delivered with a range of groups, including LGBTQ+ groups and that more information could be provided following the meeting. She stated all staff working at the Contact Centre were trained regarding carers assessment awareness and that everyone who requested or referred would be assessed but eligibility was determined by the Care Act. She commented that the issue of digital exclusion was understood, and work was underway to address this, including work delivered by the libraries service and the telephone helpline. In response to a specific question regarding the take up levels of Carers Allowance she advised that this data was held by the DWP, however commented that benefits awareness and support with applications to maximising income was a key element of support offered to carers.

The Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning noted the discussion regarding the census data and stated that an exercise would be undertaken to analyse this data further. She further commented that a briefing could be organised for all Members to promote the work that was described within the report. In response to the discussion regarding young carers, she stated that there was a wealth of activity and information on this area of work, and this was normally reported to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, however consideration would be given as to how this information could be incorporated into any future update reports to the Committee. In response to the comments regarding the continued funding of LMCP, she advised that whilst they had been unsuccessful in their bid for funding via the Our Manchester Voluntary & Community Sector Fund exercise, discussions were ongoing to consider alternative funding opportunities. In response to a specific question, she confirmed that the Carers Emergency Fund did now include tumble dryers.

In response to the discussion regarding employment and carers, the Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning advised that the Council had an agreed approach to supporting carers who were employed. She advised that by ensuring Manchester City Council, as a larger public sector employer, was a beacon of good practice would provide leverage when promoting this with other organisations and employers.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care welcomed the report and placed on record his appreciation to the Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning and her team for producing such a detailed report. He further paid tribute to all the carers in the city, noting the important role they played. He stated that the increased reliance on unpaid carers was a direct result of years of funding cuts imposed by the government.

Decision

The Committee recommend that a briefing be arranged for all Members of the Council to highlight the breadth of work described within the report.

HSC/23/19 Dementia Developments in Manchester

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services and the Director of Public Health that described recent work to invigorate the Dementia pathway and improve services for people diagnosed with Dementia and their Carers.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background, noting that according to the NHS, Dementia was a syndrome (a group of related symptoms) associated with an ongoing decline of brain functioning;
- Data on Dementia diagnosis rates;
- Describing the work delivered with South Asian communities;
- Describing the multi-agency Dementia Steering Group had refreshed its membership to include people and Carers with lived experience to ensure that the transformation of the post-diagnostic pathway delivered high quality, timely, equitable and effective services;
- Describing how the Steering Group had worked together to develop a new Vision for how Dementia care and support was progressed, and a new Action Plan ensured that key organisations and sector leads were accountable; and
- Reporting that there was recognition of the vital role that the VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise) organisations, with specific expertise in Dementia support, with a proposal to develop a citywide VCSE Dementia Alliance.

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

- Information was sought as to the makeup of the Dementia Steering Group;
- How was the lived experience of people for whom English was not their first language captured and responded to;
- Noting the projected figures presented regarding the prevalence of dementia and the impact this would have on families;
- Further information was sought as to the job descriptions of the Dementia Care Co-ordinator and the Dementia Specialist Nurses;
- The Government should fund a Dementia Care Co-ordinator post at each Primary Care Network; and
- Noting the complexity of dementia and noting the importance of good quality adult services to support people living with a diagnosis of dementia.

The Co-Chair of the Steering Group and Clinical GP Lead stated that the Dementia Steering Group was a multi-disciplinary group and included the voice of the patient and lived experience. The Later Life Service Manager, Manchester Services, GMMH commented that work was ongoing to engage with a range of communities in

Manchester, including African Caribbean community groups using culturally appropriate settings, including faith settings.

The Co-Chair of the Steering Group and Clinical GP Lead described the role of the Dementia Care Co-ordinator as being responsible for completing a relevant wellbeing plan for an individual, however more importantly it provided a named contact for a patient and their families. He stated that this was very important for people as it was important to recognise the complexity of a dementia diagnosis, adding that it was important not to dismiss dementia as simply an older person's condition. He added that the wellbeing plan would be produced and agreed with the patient and the ambition would be to have this digitally shared, with consent with other health practitioners so that patients were not required to repeat their stories. He stated that the ambition would be to have a dedicated Dementia Care Co-ordinator at each Primary Care Network. Regarding the MFT Dementia Specialist Nurses Members were advised that information on this role profile would be circulated following the meeting.

The Later Life Service Manager, Manchester Services, GMMH advised that it was recognised that there were levels of unmet need in the city, and they were conscious of the need to ensure that services responded to and met the needs of patients. The Chief Executive Officer, Together Dementia Support stated that sessions and events were delivered that were culturally sensitive and language appropriate. She further noted the importance of connectivity and informal peer support. She advised that this was an ongoing consideration of the Steering Group.

In response to a question asked in relation to Memory Assessment Team Service the Senior Commissioning Manager, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care clarified the data presented in relation to assessments.

The Executive Member for Healthy Manchester and Adult Social Care welcomed the report and described that a lot of work had been initiated both at a local level and a Greater Manchester level to deliver services to support people living with dementia.

The Chair of the Trustees, Together Dementia Support welcomed the report and welcomed the opportunity to discuss the subject area at Committee. He stated that the report represented work in progress and called for the need to address the fragmented nature of care for dementia patients across health, social care and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise sector. He endorsed the ambitions described within the report, particularly those in relation to post-diagnostic support and carer pathways. He stated that in delivering on these stated ambitions Manchester would become a beacon model.

The Chief Executive Officer, Together Dementia Support endorsed the previous contribution adding that it was important to recognise the importance of good services to enable people living with dementia to live well. The Co-Chair of the Steering Group and Clinical GP Lead added that all services needed to be codesigned to meet and respond to the cultural needs of all Manchester communities.

The Chair, in endorsing the work described within the report, stated that the Committee would commit to receiving an annual update on this important area of activity.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/20 Pennine Acute Disaggregation Update

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Strategy, MFT and Locality Director of Strategy/Provider Collaboration (MICP) that provided an update regarding the dissolution of the former Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust (PAHT) and re-provision of services by both Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and the Northern Care Alliance (NCA).

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the acquisition of the Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust;
- An overview of the disaggregation approach and the context of complex services;
- A summary of proposals to disaggregate four complex services namely Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Rheumatology and Urology; and
- Providing a summary of the assessment of the impact of these proposed changes on North Manchester residents in terms of quality, equality, patient choice, travel and access.

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

- Members welcomed the update and noted that the proposals did not represent any asset stripping at North Manchester General Hospital.

Decision

To note the report.

HSC/23/21 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.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the work programme.

HSC/23/22 Councillor Eddy Newman

The Chair recognised that this would be the last meeting that Councillor Newman

would be attending as he was retiring. The Committee wished to place on record their appreciation for his many years of dedication and service to the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Reid – in the Chair
Councillors Abdullatif, Alijah, Amin, Bano, Bell, Cooley, Hewitson, Johnson, Judge, Lovecy, Sadler and Sharif Mahamed

Co-opted Voting Members:

Mr G Cleworth, Parent Governor Representative
Mr Y Yonis, Parent Governor Representative

Co-opted Non-Voting Members:

Miss S Iltaf, Secondary Sector Teacher Representative

Also present:

Councillor Bridges, Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Jordan Navarro, Parent Carer Forum
Tom Dainty, Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership

Apologies:

Councillor Gartside
Canon S Mapledoram, Representative of the Diocese of Manchester
Ms L Smith, Primary Sector Teacher Representative

CYP/23/06 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023.

CYP/23/07 Annual report on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Education which outlined the continued work coproduced with parents/carers and children/young people to improve the experience of children with SEND and their families and provided information on the local offer available to support them to achieve these outcomes. The report also provided an update on progress with actions following the Local Area SEND inspection in November 2021 and ILACs inspection in March 2022 as well as an update on the new inspection framework for SEND.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- New inspection framework;
- Overall school population with SEND;
- Provision in Manchester;

- Education;
- Health;
- Care;
- Joint commissioning;
- Coproduction with parents, carers, children and young people; and
- Next steps.

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

- To welcome the positive report and thank everyone involved for the work that had been done;
- Children who had not yet been assessed as having SEND and were not receiving the support they and their families needed;
- Concern about children with SEND in Elective Home Education;
- Preparation for adulthood, including moving towards greater independence and transition to adult social care, where necessary;
- The benefits of parents receiving support from other parents with children with SEND, including recognising the work of the Parent Carer Forum;
- The barriers to accessing activities for children with SEND, including children who were neurodiverse, and the benefits of projects which enabled them to access physical activities such as climbing and gymnastics;
- Families with English as an Additional Language; and
- To request that a breakdown of children with SEND by ethnicity be included in a future report.

The SEND Lead reported that there were some waiting lists for assessment, particularly in relation to the social communication pathway, which included autism, and that these had been lengthened because of the pandemic. She reported that once children were on the pathway the experience and outcomes were more positive. She advised that, due to the pandemic, children had experienced much less social interaction, and, therefore, more children, particularly children in early years, were displaying difficulties in communication and interaction with their peers and the level of referrals into a range of services had significantly increased. She reported that the Council was working with a range of partners, including the health service, schools and parents, to ensure that needs were met while children were waiting for a diagnosis, including providing training for schools and special schools supporting mainstream schools. She also reported that the Riding the Rapids course for parents and carers of children with autism had been extended to those who were waiting for a diagnosis and that parents and schools could refer a child to the M-Thrive hubs if they were concerned about their well-being while they were waiting for a diagnosis. She informed Members about the SEND information, advice and support service, which, she advised, could provide interpreters where necessary, and SEND Local Offer drop-ins, which were another way for parents to get advice and information in a range of community languages and which were attended by representatives of the Parent Champion Group. In response to a Member's question, she informed the Committee about the role of specialist Health Visitors who supported children aged 0 – 5 with SEND and their families. She also informed Members about a new tool being piloted which Health Visitors would be using to

screen children from age 1 upwards. In response to a question about the reasons for the higher percentage of children with SEND in Manchester and why this was increasing, she reported that there was a range of factors including the higher levels of disadvantage in the city and, that due to legislative changes, parents now viewed getting an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) as a way of getting support for their child so they were more likely to request one. In response to a Member's question about the late diagnosis of autism in girls, she informed Members about the Autism in Schools programme, which she advised there was a lot of learning from, and she offered to provide further information on this in a future report. In response to the comments about accessing leisure activities, she reported that there was now an extensive community offer for children with SEND and that she would welcome suggestions of other providers. She advised that the Local Offer and Engagement Team was working to break down barriers to accessing community activities with the aim of making all activities accessible to all children and young people.

Tom Dainty from Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership confirmed that there had been a higher level of referrals but that this had not necessarily led to a higher level of diagnosis. He informed the Committee about four autism hubs which were being set up in Manchester and the development of a new model for under-5s which identified needs and looked at ways to meet the needs rather than waiting for a diagnostic pathway, advising that this approach had worked successfully elsewhere, notably in Portsmouth. A Member welcomed this and requested that further information on this model be included in a future report. In response to a question about how parents and carers could be supported, including while they were waiting for an assessment, he informed Members about a neurodiversity toolkit for parents and carers which was being used elsewhere the country and which they were looking at utilising in Manchester.

Jordan Navarro from the Parent Carer Forum highlighted the benefits of responding to the child's observable needs. He welcomed that the SEND Community Offer was open to children who did not have a recognised diagnosis and that the whole family could attend the activities, not just the child with SEND. In response to a Member's question, he outlined how the Forum was being, and could continue to be, supported, including financial and resource support, promotion of activities and good communication and co-production with partners, including partners communicating with smaller groups set up to support parents.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Education reported that, where a mainstream school commissioned a temporary place at another school for a child on their roll, the school where they were on roll was responsible for issues such as transport, rather than the local authority. The Member requested that officers look into this issue as she reported that in some cases families were not receiving support with transport when it was needed.

The Service Manager (Transition) reported that early identification was important to a smooth transition to adult social services and working systematically to identify people who the service already knew about. She reported that a Project Manager was being recruited to recognise from the age of 14 who might require adult social care or adult health services and to encourage people to make a referral at an earlier stage. She advised that preparation for adulthood should be considered from Year 9

for a young person with an EHCP and she outlined multi-agency work to address this. She reported that her team were working alongside Children's Services and Education Services to meet with young people and their families to discuss what they wanted for their future at an early stage. The Assistant Director of Education reported that, in addition to the transition work outlined, independence was embedded in planning for children with SEND throughout their childhood, from when they were diagnosed, for example, looking at travel training to help them to become more independent.

In response to a question about Home School Transport, the Director of Education informed Members that a new policy was being implemented. She highlighted some of the challenges in this area, including recruitment of drivers and passenger assistants and access to transport, and advised that a range of solutions were used, including giving families budgets to get their child to school and providing travel training to help children with SEND learn to travel independently.

The Chair highlighted the shift towards greater independence and independent learning for young people with SEND. She expressed concern that Early Years provision could be too chaotic for autistic children and that not all staff in the sector had a good understanding of the needs of children with SEND. She praised the Grange School and encouraged Members to visit it. She expressed concern that there were not sufficient numbers of Health Visitors to identify all children with SEND at the earliest stage. She also expressed concern that there was insufficient funding for the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant and about the impact of the pandemic. She welcomed the adoption of the new approach referred to which had been used successfully in Portsmouth, the Health Visitor pilot for screening children from the age of 1 and the planned new special school in north Manchester.

Decision

To request that a breakdown of children with SEND by ethnicity and further information on the Portsmouth model be included in a future report.

CYP/23/08 Thriving Babies, Confident Parents Service

The Committee considered the report and presentation of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided an overview of the Thriving Babies, Confident Parents Programme.

Key points and themes in the presentation included:

- Think Family approach;
- Overview of the Thriving Babies programme;
- Impact and evaluation; and
- Next steps.

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

- To welcome the excellent work taking place;

- Specialist support for families from ethnic minority communities; and
- The role of housing and homelessness services.

The Assistant Director (Early Intervention and Prevention) reported that the teams working in this area were diverse but that she recognised the Member's point about specialist support for families from ethnic minority communities and that they would look into this. She outlined how they worked with the interpreting service, including them in the training and having the same interpreter throughout their work with a family so they had a consistent team around them. She stated that they had good relationships with the Housing and Homelessness Services, ensuring that homelessness prevention work took a whole family approach and training Early Help practitioners on the duty to notify where there were damp and other housing issues. She reported that the Thriving Babies, Confident Parents Programme included responding to and addressing some of these housing issues. Officers outlined some of the pathways now available to respond to housing issues, including a pathway for responding to mould issues.

In response to a Member's question, the Assistant Director (Early Intervention and Prevention) informed Members about the partnership work with the national voluntary and community organisation HomeStart and with Manchester Mind. The Team Manager (Early Help) advised that it was hoped that some parents who had been through the Thriving Babies programme would volunteer to help other parents.

In response to a Member's question, the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services reported that the Committee would receive a report on fostering at a future meeting and that this would include information on support for families with Special Guardianship Orders.

The Chair reported that the Committee had previously looked at the issue of homeless families and that she had attended a recent meeting of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee, looking at the issue of homelessness. She highlighted some of the challenges facing families in Manchester. She welcomed the work of the Thriving Babies, Confident Parents Programme to support families and enable them to stay together. She suggested that the universities could measure the outcomes for families over a number of years. She praised the valuable work of Early Help and Sure Start.

In response to a question from the Chair about Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, the Team Manager (Early Help) reported that staff and volunteers were trained on this and were educating parents on the risks. Councillor Cooley stated that she had a contact who was an expert on this subject and could present her experiences to the Committee. She suggested that the Committee could consider an item on this at a future meeting, to which the Chair agreed.

Decision

To consider an item on Foetal Alcohol Syndrome at a future meeting.

CYP/23/09 Revenue Budget Update

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that set out the latest forecast revenue budget position, and the next steps.

Following the provisional finance settlement announced on 19 December the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The risk had moved to the next spending review period 2025/26 where a shortfall of £57m was forecast. This reduced to £40m after the proposed use of £17m smoothing reserves.

The report further described that in November 2022 scrutiny committees were presented with cuts and saving options totaling £42.3m over three years for consideration. The provisional settlement on 19 December reflected a change in government policy and provided more funding than initially expected. This had given the opportunity to review the quantum and phasing of savings. It was now proposed that options of £36.2m were progressed. The settlement also gave some scope for targeted investments which would put the Council in a more sustainable position to face the next spending review in 2025.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources paid tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team for all their hard work in bringing forward the suite of budget reports following the settlement announcements. He stated that the budget settlement needed to be considered in the context of over a decade of austerity that had been imposed on Manchester. He stated that the Government had failed to recognise or apologise for the instability they had caused to the national economy and referenced the impact of inflation, population growth in the city and the cost-of-living crisis on budgetary pressures. He commented that the Government had failed to communicate their financial decisions for the city.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the funding decisions of the Government had effectively forced the Council to increase Council Tax. He advised that the Council was able to deliver a balanced budget and that Council Tax would be used to support the most vulnerable residents in the city; support the social care sector and invest in the future of the city. In response to a Member's question, he provided an update on the Mayoral precept to fund policing and the fire and rescue service.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/23/10 Children and Education Services Budget 2023/24

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided a further update to Members on the priorities for the services in the remit of this Committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022. The Committee was invited to consider the current proposed changes which were within its remit and to make recommendations to the Executive before it agreed to the final budget proposals on 15 February 2023.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Service overview and priorities;
- Service budget and proposed changes;
- Use of reserves and new grants; and
- Workforce implications.

The Executive Member for Early Years, Children and Young People thanked the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Head of Finance (Children, Education and Schools) for their support. He reported that the position of Children's Services was positive, with service improvements having been made, which had been recognised in the service's most recent Ofsted report, and he highlighted the investments that had been made in Children's Services in recent years, which had supported this. He outlined some of the key points from the budget report, including how investments would be used to save costs later on, for example, early intervention to prevent children from needing to enter the care system. He highlighted that an additional £500,000 had been invested in Youth and Play services last year and that earlier budget proposals which had been presented to the Committee in November 2022 had included a reduction in that; however, he reported that this reduction was no longer being considered.

A Member welcomed the approach being taken, the innovative work and that the service was investing to save. The Chair highlighted how the investing to save approach had successfully been used over recent years, during a period where the Council had experienced continuous cuts from the national Government, and how this success compared favourably to the position of many other local authorities.

A Member commented that the Neighbourhood Investment Fund was supporting food pantries and food banks, which many families with children were sadly needing to access at the present time. The Chair stated that Free School Meals should be available for all children.

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/23/11 Schools Budget 2023/24

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Children and Education Services which provided a summary of the confirmed Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocation from the 2023/24 settlement announced in December which was reported to Schools Forum on 16 January 2023. It stated that schools would receive a new grant from April 2023 and this grant was also outlined in the report.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- DSG 2023/24 allocation;
- Additional schools funding 2023/24; and
- Schools Forum.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Head of Finance (Children, Education and Schools) reported that work had been taking place with the Schools Forum in relation to maintained schools which had built up a large balance. She advised that her team analysed the plans that the schools in this position had for this funding and that, if they did not have appropriate plans for using the funds, the money was taken back. She advised that previously the balances had been looked at over a five-year period but that, following approval by the Schools Forum, they were now being looked at over a two-year period. The Director of Education reported that the money taken back from these schools went into the High Needs Block of the DSG to be used for the benefit of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

Decision

To note the report.

CYP/23/12 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.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin – in the Chair
Councillors Chohan, Holt, Hughes, Ilyas, Lyons, Nunney, Razaq and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Doswell

Also present:

Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Stanton, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources
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 Ahmed Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Johns, Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Committee

ECCSC/23/08 Minute's Silence For All Victims Of The Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

The Committee and all those present observed a minute's silence to remember all those victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

ECCSC/23/09 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 as a correct record.

ECCSC/23/10 Revenue Budget Update

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that set out the latest forecast revenue budget position, and the next steps.

Following the provisional finance settlement announced 19 December the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The risk had moved to the next Spending review period 2025/26 where a shortfall of £57m was forecast. This reduced to £40m after the proposed use of £17m smoothing reserves.

The report further described that in November 2022 scrutiny committees were presented with cuts and saving options totaling £42.3m over three years for consideration. The provisional settlement on 19 December reflected a change in government policy and provided more funding than initially expected. This had given the opportunity to review the quantum and phasing of savings. It was now proposed that options of £36.2m were progressed. The settlement also gives some scope for targeted investments which would put the council in a more sustainable position to face the next spending review in 2025.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources paid tribute to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team for all of their hard work in bringing forward the suite of budget reports following the settlement announcements. He stated that the budget settlement needed to be considered in the context of over a decade of austerity that had been imposed on Manchester. He stated that the result of this was that the Council's budget had reduced by £428m over this period, and that if the city had received the average cut in funding, Manchester would be £77m per year better off.

He commented that the decision to cut local authority funding was a result of ideological decisions taken by the Government, noting that the Government had failed to recognise or apologise for the instability they had caused to the national economy. He further referenced the impact of inflation, population growth in the city and the cost-of-living crisis that all impacted on budgetary pressures. He commented that the Government had failed to communicate their financial decisions for the city, noting the recent experience of announcements of the Levelling Up bids.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that the funding decisions of the Government had effectively forced the Council to increase Council Tax. He advised that the Council was able to deliver a balanced budget and Council Tax would be used to support the most vulnerable residents in the city; support the social care sector and invest in the future of the city.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that despite the challenges the budget proposed a further £1m investment into waste and street cleaning. This would support Basic Services and Street Cleaning and was in addition to the £1m investment into waste and street cleaning put forward as part of the 2022/23 budget. It was further proposed that there be a further investment of £1.2m to support specific activity in and around the City Centre, District Centres and key arterial routes.

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

- Noting the importance of considering the suite of budget reports in the context of 13 years of cuts and austerity;
- Stating that the Government's funding was unfair; and
- Recognising the hard work of Executive Members and officers in bringing forward the suite of reports.

Decision

To note the report and endorse the recommendation that the Executive approve these budget proposals.

ECCSC/23/11 Neighbourhood Directorate 2023/24 Budget

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided a further update on the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an overview of services and priorities;
- Information relating to the service budget and proposed changes, noting that the overall Neighbourhood budget is £130m, the services under the remit of this scrutiny had gross budgets of £66.057m and net budgets of £60.603m with 176 FTE;
- There was no projected workforce impact of activity to deliver the savings;
- Investment and Growth Proposals;
- Future opportunities and risks; and
- Noting that consideration had been given to how the proposed savings could impact on different protected or disadvantaged groups.

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

- How would the additional investment described in the Investment and Growth proposals be used and allocated across the city; and
- Welcoming the proposal to defer the introduction of charging for replacement recycling bins until 2025/26.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) stated that he welcomed the investment described by the Executive Member for Finance and Resources and as outlined in the Investment and Growth proposals, however it was important to recognise that there were immense pressures on the service as a result of years of budget cuts. He commented that the detail as to how this investment was to be allocated and used was yet to be finalised. He advised that by working with Biffa it was anticipated that this funding would be used to tackle hotspots and problematic areas. He stated that if Members had suggestions for areas for attention, he would welcome this feedback.

The Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) addressed the discussion on the introduction of charging for replacement recycling bins. He commented that this had originally been suggested as a savings option prior to the final settlement announcement. He described that further modelling on this proposal would be undertaken. The Executive Member for Finance and Resources commented that the decision to defer this decision was the correct one, especially in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods commented that the continued cuts to funding had severely impacted on the Council's ability to deliver services and Departments had been forced to find efficiencies year on year. She stated that all opportunities for investment to support local communities would continue to be pursued. She stated that Neighbourhood Teams would continue to work in partnership with business, voluntary organisations, such as Keep Britain Tidy to engage with residents, local communities and elected Members on the issue of waste and recycling.

Decision

To note the report and endorse the recommendation that the Executive approve these budget proposals.

ECCSC/23/12 Zero Carbon 2023/24 Budget Report

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided an overview of the funding secured and invested to date to enable delivery of Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2020-2025.

The report also set out what had been delivered as a result of the additional revenue funding provided from the Council's budget for 2022/23 and highlighted the priority actions to be delivered between 2023-25.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information on the funding to deliver Manchester City Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25;
- Noting that to date, the Council had already put in place investment of approximately £227m to deliver the 5-year Climate Change Action Plan along with an additional direct revenue investment of £800k secured as part of the 2022/23 budget setting;
- Noting that the additional revenue investment of £800k which was secured as part of the 2022/23 budget setting was providing important additional capacity, particularly in delivering the city-wide actions;
- Describing progress during 2022/23 against a number of work streams; and
- Priorities for 2023/24.

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

- Recognising the significant and ambitious work undertaken as described to address climate change;
- Thanking the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and her Deputy and all officers concerned for their commitment to this work; and
- What was the plan to convert the remaining 50% of our waste collection fleet to be replaced by electric vehicles.

The Zero Carbon Manager stated that the refreshed Climate Change Action Plan that had been considered by the Committee included a specific workstream action to develop a business case for exploring how to convert the remaining 50% of our waste collection fleet to be replaced by electric vehicles, adding that this was to be completed by July 2024.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that climate change was at the forefront of all decision making across Directorates. She reiterated the position that it was everyone's responsibility to take actions to address climate change. She commented that the report clearly articulated the positive outcomes the continued investment in this area of activity had on reducing carbon emissions. She stated that Manchester remained committed to addressing the issue of climate

change despite the failure of the Government to take this issue seriously, especially on the important issue of housing retrofitting.

In response to a question raised regarding the ambitions and targets of the Manchester Food Board and their Sustainable Food Policy it was suggested that a more detailed report on this specific subject area be considered at a future meeting of the committee.

The Chair in concluding this item of business stated that she welcomed the continued commitment to invest in actions to address climate change and fully endorsed the report.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCSC/23/13 Draft Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Development) that presented the final draft Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan.

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;
- Describing the development of the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan;
- Information on the consultation process and describing the key themes arising from the public consultation; and
- Providing an update on Staff Travel policy.

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

- Welcoming the strategy, noting that it clearly articulated the commitment, ambition, vision and principles;
- Sustainable transport was a constant issue raised by residents when speaking with elected Members;
- Consideration needed to be given to the format and imagery used on documents to ensure it was appropriate and reflected Manchester;
- Noting that road crossings were an important feature that could be introduced to support walking;
- The need for connectivity across wards;
- The importance of a reliable bus service;
- The need to tackle off road bikes but retain access to green open spaces;
- More information was sought on Vision Zero; and

- Requesting a further detailed report on Staff Active Travel be submitted for consideration in the new municipal year.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport thanked all of the team for their work in bringing forward this strategy. She further paid tribute to her former deputy, Councillor Taylor who had led on this issue previously. She stated that it was important to recognise that this was a work in progress and the strategy would be reviewed and updated going forward, noting the comments expressed regarding appropriate imagery and the section that discussed targets for primary school children and secondary school children and associated travel to school. She recognised the comments from the Members' discussion that the notion of active travel cut across many different issues, including health, education and accessibility. She stated that the report articulated the scale of ambition the Council had for the city and the residents of Manchester. She commented that this strategy had been drafted in consultation with a range of partners and complemented and supported other Council strategies, such as Healthier Lives, Clean Air and Zero Carbon.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport commented that this was a person-centred strategy, adding that an important aspect would be behaviour change in relation to transport adding that this could only be achieved if the systems were in place to encourage and support this. She further commented that a report on Vision Zero would be included on the Committee's work programme at an appropriate time to coordinate with when this would be considered by the TfGM Transport Committee.

The Deputy Executive Member for Environment and Transport paid tribute to officers for organising and delivering meaningful and well attended public consultation events, adding that this had been recognised and valued by residents. She further welcomed the recognition of the views captured at the Young People's Green Summit.

The Strategic Director (Development) commented that the Economy Scrutiny Committee would be considering the Growth and Development Budget paper that further discussed resources to deliver on this ambition.

The Interim Head of Infrastructure and Environment advised that Active Travel was a key element of the Sustainable Travel Strategy, and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) were working closely on the issue of public transport, including bus services.

The Committee welcomed Councillor Johns, Chair of the Economy Scrutiny Committee. He stated that the Economy Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the development of this plan at their meetings of July 2022 and more recently in January 2023. He recognised and welcomed that key issues and considerations raised by the Committee had been included into the draft strategy, however there were issues that had been raised that he felt had not been adequately addressed, in particular in relation to the integration of public transport; building works and developments and gully cleaning and maintenance, with specific reference to those on cycle paths.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the draft strategy would be reviewed to strengthen these references in the report and thanked Councillor Johns for his contribution.

Decision

The Committee recommend that the Executive approve and endorse the Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan.

Decision

ECCSC/23/14 Zero Carbon Focused Communications and Engagement Update

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Strategic Communications, and Director, Manchester Climate Change Agency that provided an overview of the investment into zero carbon focused communications, and early assessment of impact.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Information in relation to the research that had been conducted commissioned prior to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Information in regard to communications activity;
- Information on the Behavioural Change Campaign;
- Communications linked to the refreshed Climate Change Framework;
- Information on the integrated citywide communications campaign;
- Information on the approach to citywide engagement activity;
- Manchester Climate Change Agency activity; and
- Reporting mechanisms.

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

- Noting the positive work undertaken by residents in Whalley Range in relation to zero carbon and recommending that the video that showcased this resident engagement be shown at a meeting of full Council;
- Noting that the research referred to within the report was pre pandemic and asking if there was an intention to undertake this exercise again; and
- How was impact and reach measured and did we work with other core cities and share good practice on this area of activity.

The Head of Strategic Communications stated a consistent approach was taken across all departments and policies to ensure that the key messaging on the issue of zero carbon was aligned. He advised that using intelligence and research enabled the assessment of how these key messages landed, noting that the impact and outcomes would not always be immediately apparent. He further discussed the limitations of using Twitter as a measure, adding that a more valuable route was to engage in networks and in conversations with residents and communities on the issue of zero carbon. He commented that Neighbourhood Teams were key to

working with residents, understanding what mattered to them and supporting initiatives on the issue of zero carbon. He further stated that good practice on this, and a range of related activities was shared with councils across Greater Manchester and with the Core Cities network.

In response to the 2019 research referred to in the report, he advised that this had provided a very useful baseline, however recognising the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis the intention was to commission this research again.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that she received regular reports on this area of activity and the approach was regularly reviewed to ensure it maximised impact. She further stated that she would welcome feedback on the Members Newsletter that had been produced and periodically circulated.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport noted the comments from the Committee regarding the request to have the video shown at Council and she advised that she would discuss this with the Leader.

Decision

To note the report and recommend that the Executive Member for Environment and Transport discuss with the Leader the request to have the video referred to by Councillor Holt shown at a meeting of Council.

ECCSC/23/15 Household Waste and Recycling Rates Campaigns

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an update on the approach to communications and engagement with Manchester residents to reduce their own carbon impact by reducing the waste they produced, reusing what they could and disposing of or recycling items using legitimate routes.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Providing an update on the Resource & Waste Strategy (2018);
- Information on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), noting that EPR was intended to transfer the full cost of dealing with packaging waste from Local Authorities to producers;
- Data in relation to recycling performance;
- Information on relation to communications and campaigns;
- Information on the approach to engagement; noting that it was important to note that communication and campaigns were not the same as engagement; and
- Describing the priorities for 2023/24.

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

- Welcoming the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), stating that this should reduce the incidents of litter and increase recycling rates;

- Expressing disappointment that glass bottles would not be collected by DRS in England;
- Expressing concern that incidents of flytipping were increasing and consideration needed to be given to relaxing the restrictions at Household Waste and Recycling Centres to enable small business to dispose of their waste;
- Consideration needed to be given to introducing additional collections, particularly for cardboard during the Christmas period;
- Consideration needed to be given to the format of the annual recycling calendars, especially the font size used; and
- The number of free Bulky Waste collection offer needed to be increased per household.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement stated that the Deposit Return Scheme was welcomed and commented that this could potentially realise savings to the Authority. He stated that the frustrations regarding glass not being included were shared. He commented that the issue of flytipping was understood and campaigns and work, both at a local level and GM level were underway to address this. In regard to Christmas collections, he commented that planning had already commenced for this activity across all waste streams.

The Head of Strategic Communications referred to the comments raised regarding the calendars by stating that this document contained a lot of information and that the font size would be reviewed following the feedback from Members. He stated that residents could also receive information and notification reminders via email.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods stated that a detailed report on the enforcement activity to address flytipping was reported to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee. She requested that the Scrutiny Support Officer circulate the latest report for information to members of this Committee.

The Project Manager, Service Improvement stated Household Waste and Recycling Centres were not intended for waste resulting from commercial activity. He acknowledged the issue expressed regarding the permit scheme and added that this was to be reviewed. With regard to the Bulky Waste collection service, he added that the vast majority of these requests for service were undertaken free of charge, and the service was committed to working with residents if they were approached with a request for any additional collections. The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods added that this service needed to be considered in the context of the wider budget and pressures on this service.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCSC/23/16 Planning Policy and Climate Change

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that considered how planning policy contributed to addressing climate change.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing a general overview of current planning policy;
- An update on emerging planning policy, Places for Everyone and the Manchester Local Plan;
- A summary of proposals announced at the national level on 22 December 2022;
- Key information on carbon standards for new build homes; flooding mitigation and heat island mitigation;
- A summary of the current consultation on updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); and
- Potential future changes to NPPF via the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

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

- Recognising the challenges and barriers some residents had experienced when attempting to install energy efficiency measures to their homes due to the physical limitations of the building, consideration needed to be given to future proofing properties through the planning policy;
- Discussion of the approach to enforcement of planning conditions, adding that residents needed confidence that agreements entered into as part of planning agreement were upheld and adhered to;
- Noting the carbon emissions associated with the construction phase of developments;
- Recognising that the National Planning Policy Framework was a critical development in addressing climate change; and
- Recognising the importance of wildlife corridors to support and enhance biodiversity and that the National Planning Policy Framework should be used to maximise the delivery of these.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that climate change was at the forefront of all considerations and commented that a report entitled 'Local Plan Update' was to be considered at the Economy Scrutiny Committee that afternoon. In response to the comment raised regarding future proofing properties she commented that a distinction needed to be made between new build and retrofitting. She commented that a holistic approach was taken to energy efficiency and climate change by considering this in a wider context of place making and the wider physical environment, including supporting biodiversity. She advised that submissions would be made to the Future Homes Standard consultation, noting the Government had made a commitment to introducing a Future Homes Standard by 2025, for new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that they worked within existing legislation to enhance and maximise environmental benefits when negotiating with developers, making reference to bike storage and higher insulation standards in new developments. She added that good practice and experiences from other Authorities were also considered.

In regard to enforcement of planning conditions, the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that this was achieved via the conditions attached to a

planning consent and associated legal agreements. She stated that in the vast majority of cases these were adhered to and that she would discuss the specific issue a Member had raised outside of the meeting.

The Planning and Infrastructure Manager acknowledged the comments raised regarding the levels of carbon associated with the construction phase of developments. He stated that a lot of research was underway to consider the materials used and viable alternatives and the findings of this would inform the Local Plan. The Committee requested that a report on this specific aspect of work relating to construction materials and carbon emissions be submitted for consideration at an appropriate time. The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing added that all developments were required to have an agreed Construction Management Plan to minimise the worst impacts as a result of development and made reference to the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCSC/23/17 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.

In discussing the Work Programme, Members requested that reports on the following topics be scheduled for consideration in the new municipal year: Consumption based emissions (including food); Staff Travel policy; Vision Zero; Planning and Construction (with specific consideration of the emissions associated with the construction phase and materials); Biodiversity (including information on the findings of the open space audit); and the analysis of the impact of the additional investment of the £1m into waste and street cleaning that had been discussed as part of consideration of the budget report.

Decision

The Committee notes the report and agrees the March work programme.

ECCSC/23/18 Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation - Solar Farm Purchase (Part A)

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer that provided information on the progress of negotiation and Due Diligence for the purchase of a Large-Scale Renewable Energy Generation Project to ensure the Council can achieve the CO₂ savings as set out in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2025.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background; and
- Describing progress to date and next steps.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCSC/23/19 Exclusion of Press and Public

A recommendation was made that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following items of business.

Decision

To exclude the press and public during consideration of the following items which involved consideration of exempt information as provided for in the Local Government Access to Information Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**ECCSC/23/20 Large Scale Renewable Energy Generation - Solar Farm
Purchase (Part B)**

Decision

To note the report.

Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 March 2023

Present:

Councillor Shilton Godwin (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Holt, Hughes, Nunney and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Lyons and Razaq

Also present:

Cllr Rahman, Statutory Deputy Leader
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Igbon, Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Councillor Ahmed Ali, Deputy Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure

ECCSC/23/21 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 as a correct record.

To note the minutes of the meeting of the Climate Change Ward Action Plans Task and Finish Group held 23 February 2023.

ECCSC/23/22 Housing Retrofit

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director, Growth and Development that provided an update on the Council's proposals to decarbonise the city's housing, incorporating an update on Green Skills.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Retrofit targets, noting that the Council's Housing Strategy 2022-32 set a target of retrofitting at least a third of the city's 67,300 social rented properties by 2032;
- Analysis of the housing stock in Manchester using the modelling exercise carried out by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in 2021;
- Retrofit measures;
- Progress and emerging plans for decarbonising Council-owned properties and other social rented properties;
- Information on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund;
- Challenges relating to social housing;
- Considerations relating to private sector housing;

- Considerations relating to private rented properties;
- Cross-tenure approaches and area-based schemes;
- Neighbourhood-based approaches to retrofit;
- Key enablers, noting that the Our Retrofit Plan was founded on four key enablers: resident engagement, skills, funding and partnerships.
- Funding arrangements;
- Monitoring and reporting arrangements; and
- Conclusions.

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

- Recognising the significant amount of work delivered by officers to date on this important area of work;
- The government needed to be lobbied for adequate funding to enable Manchester to deliver on the stated ambitions;
- Recommending that the Chair write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The purpose being to invite him to meet with the Committee to discuss the proposals for Manchester to decarbonise the city's housing stock, recognising the importance of this to address climate change and support residents during the cost-of-living crisis.
- How realistic was the target of completing the zero-carbon retrofitting of a minimum of 1/3rd of the 67,300 homes managed by Manchester Housing Providers and achieve an EPC rating of B or above across this stock by 2032;
- Welcoming the reported neighbourhood-based approaches to retrofit;
- The need to identify all private landlords in Manchester;
- Noting the difficulties experienced by leaseholders in obtaining permission by owners to undertake retrofitting works;
- The need to ensure all new builds are future proofed to ensure those properties do not require retrofitting in future years;
- Recognising the importance of skills and training to deliver the ambitions described; and
- Information on the outcomes of the referenced skills bootcamps.

The Senior Project Officer, Housing and Residential Growth stated that all funding opportunities were being explored, including working with other Local Authorities across Greater Manchester.

The Zero Carbon Programme Manager acknowledged the challenges experienced by leaseholders and those in the private rented sector. She stated that this was why the neighbourhood-based approach was important as this work and improvements realised could influence these sectors. The Committee were also informed that larger social housing providers were encouraged to work with and support smaller providers. The Director of Development and Strategic Housing stated that landlord licensing would be used to gather information and data and engage with private landlords and impose housing standards on licensed properties.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure stated that the issue of skills was important and also very challenging. He stated that the pipeline of traditional construction works in Manchester made it difficult for staff to be released to

attend training, and this was in addition to funding challenges. He stated that these challenges were understood, and work was underway to address these. He referred to the detailed section within the report that discussed specifically the subject of skills.

The Work and Skills Lead advised that analysis of the outcomes of the skills bootcamps would be undertaken, advising that that these were available to people who were already in employment and were seeking to upskill or retrain.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that he welcomed the report and paid tribute to all of the officers involved for their hard work in bringing this important work forward. He reiterated the comments expressed by Members for the need for adequate funding from the government. He stated that this work needed to be delivered at scale and at speed to address emissions and climate change and to support residents at this time of a cost-of-living crisis.

Decision

The Committee recommend that the Chair write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The purpose being to invite him to meet with the Committee to discuss the proposals for Manchester to decarbonise the city's housing stock, recognising the importance of this to address climate change and support residents during the cost-of-living crisis.

ECCSC/23/23 Manchester Green and Blue Strategy and Implementation Plan

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that provided the annual update on the delivery of the Green and Blue Implementation (GBI) Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Noting that the Strategy contributed to delivering Manchester's Climate Change Action Plan by helping to create a more climate resilient city;
- Describing progress made during 2022/23 and setting out the key priorities for 2023/24;
- Information on the Environment Agency with regards to their role concerning pollution and flood risk;
- Information on the Our Rivers Our City Strategy,
- Providing an update on the Tree Action Plan;
- Noting that an update on Victoria North would be brought to Scrutiny later this year; and
- Future priorities.

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

- How would the required 10% improvement in biodiversity be measured;

- Information on the impact of Ash dieback, a serious disease of ash trees was requested;
- Noting the potential for conflict between conservation and access to green spaces;
- Information on the Green Space Audit was requested;
- Noting the importance of green corridors to support wildlife; and
- Planning applications should be scrutinised to ensure tree planting and their locations were appropriate.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer described that the measurement of the 10% improvement in biodiversity was to be undertaken using a prescribed agreed national methodology. Members were advised that a management plan would report progress on this activity. The Chair asked that information in relation to this be included in future update reports.

In relation to skills the Policy Officer stated that working within existing partnerships and networks all opportunities were explored to translate these into practical opportunities for skills and training, referring to the In Our Nature project and the opportunities realised.

In response to the impact of Ash dieback, the Neighbourhood Team Lead stated that intelligence gathering in relation to this was currently underway. The Chair asked that information in relation to this activity and resulting actions be included in future update reports.

The Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing stated that the importance of green space was understood, especially in the context of the Marmot Review and the pandemic. She said that analysis of the Green Space Audit was currently being undertaken. She further referred to the discussion of tree planting and planning applications. She stated that lessons were learnt in regard to this activity, adding that other Council departments, such as Highways, were conscious and responsive to the issue of trees and were part of the GBI Group.

The Planning and Infrastructure Manager noted the discussion regarding connectivity and the importance of green corridors. He stated that neighbouring authorities worked together collaboratively to promote and support this area of activity.

Decision

To note the report.

ECCSC/23/24 Parks and Open Spaces - Parks Climate Change Action Plan

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an overview of Manchester's Parks Climate Change Action Plan.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Setting out the background to the development of the plan;
- Describing how the plan aligned to the wider ambition of the Council;

- Providing an overview of the action plan; and
- Conclusion and next steps.

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

- Clarification was sought regarding the use of glyphosate in parks and seeking an assurance that no general glyphosate-based treatments had been used to manage weeds in parks since 2019 and was only used to treat Japanese Knotweed and occasionally Giant Hogweed;
- An update was sought in relation to energy generation in parks;
- The described action plan needed to have Key Performance Indicators included that could be monitored, reported and evaluated;
- The target should be for all staff working in the service to have undergone their carbon literacy training;
- All new contract arrangements relating to activities in parks should include clear guidance regarding single use plastics; and
- What was the approach to grass cutting in parks, noting the differences in expectations of residents in relation to this activity.

The Parks Lead stated that the statement within the report regarding the use of glyphosate-based treatments was correct. In response to the broader discussion that arose regarding the approach to the use of glyphosate-based treatments in settings other than parks, the Chair advised that a specific report on this subject, including all herbicides, would be scheduled for consideration in the new municipal year.

The Parks Lead stated that the standards set in parks would support engagement and influence behaviour change with partners and key stakeholders, such as allotments. She advised that all opportunities for engagement on the issue of climate change were explored and made reference to the work undertaken in partnership with the National Allotment Society.

The Director of Neighbourhood Delivery stated that Climate Change Action Plans were important for parks and related friends' groups. He stated that the implementation of these were important to lead by example and support wider behaviour change. The Chair commented that carbon literacy training should be extended to friends' groups and volunteers.

The Parks Lead advised that options for generating energy in parks had been explored, however they were not currently viable. She advised that alternative energy solutions were considered in any new developments in parks and all opportunities would be considered. She reiterated that climate change was considered in all decision making and the service worked closely with the Zero Carbon Team. She further acknowledged the comments regarding the need for metrics and Key Performance Indicators across all workstreams, adding that consideration would be given to this. In terms of governance arrangements, she described that this work was reported to the Parks Strategy Board and the Zero Carbon Coordination Board.

The Parks Lead advised that the ambition would be to have all staff carbon literacy trained and this would be progressed over time, adding that all new staff would automatically receive this as part of their induction to the service. She added that the

bespoke carbon literacy training had been well received by all staff who undertaken this.

The Parks Lead advised that contracts were reviewed to ensure they included arrangements to remove single use plastics, adding that innovative approaches were considered to other activities, such as alternative barrier tape to be used when events were held in parks.

The Parks Lead stated that a mapping exercise would be undertaken across all parks so that those areas that would be mowed could be clearly identified to manage residents' expectations.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods stated that the Council's Parks Strategy would be refreshed to incorporate the work described. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer added that this would also be incorporated into the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

Decision

To recommend that a report on the approach to the use herbicides across all areas of the council's activities, including the use of glyphosate-based treatments in Manchester be submitted for consideration in the new municipal year.

ECCSC/23/25 Bereavement Services - Approach to Environmental Sustainability

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) that provided an update on progress on the management of the delivery of cemetery and crematorium services, describing how the activities contributed to carbon reduction, biodiversity, and sustainability.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background;
- Describing the strategy and approach, noting that each cemetery had a Friends Group who played a role in the management and maintenance of the cemeteries, bringing with them priorities led by local communities;
- Providing an update on the Cremator Replacement Project;
- Describing carbon reduction initiatives within the cemeteries;
- Describing biodiversity and sustainability initiatives within the cemeteries;
- An overview of the approach to community Involvement
- The approach to waste and recycling, noting that in 2023/24 there would be a full review of waste and recycling, including plastic waste used on floral tributes and flowers; and
- Next steps.

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

- Noting the significant amount of work already delivered, consideration should be given to developing a specific Climate Change Action Plan for the service,

similar to that described in the Parks and Open Spaces report considered earlier on the agenda;

- What was being done to engage with private crematoriums in cemeteries;
- The need to consider how mourners accessed sites, noting the impact that a large amount of vehicles parking had in residential areas; and
- Noting that all discussions on this area of work needed to be handled sensitively.

The Executive Member for Vibrant Neighbourhoods paid tribute to Barrie Jones, Business Units Lead, Bereavement Services, Retail & Wholesale Markets, Pest Control who would be retiring soon.

The Strategic Lead, who was attending on behalf of the Business Units Lead stated that work was already underway to develop a service specific climate change action plan. She advised that progress of this activity would be reported to the Committee.

The Bereavement Services Manager stated that she would engage with private operators of crematoriums on the issue of environmental sustainability and she welcomed the support offered by local Members in these discussions. She further commented that she would also discuss this subject with local Funeral Directors. She invited all Members to visit the service and see the work that was being delivered. The Chair noted that the Committee would request an update report on this area of work in the new year and a visit would be arranged to coincide with consideration of the report.

Decision

To note the report and request that an update report be submitted for consideration in the new municipal year.

ECCSC/23/26 Zero Carbon Culture

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Lead, Resources and Programmes that provided an overview of the progress that the Council's Culture Team had made in responding to the climate emergency, and how the team was working in partnership with the cultural sector to support Manchester's progress towards its 2038 zero carbon target.

Key points and themes in the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the subject area;
- Noting that the catalyst for change in the culture sector had been the ever-growing threat of the climate emergency, and the understanding that without action and a unified response, there would be irreversible damage done to the planet and our communities;
- Providing case studies;
- Noting that Manchester's Cultural Impact Survey for 2020/21 showed that a total of 427 employees across 28 cultural organisations had received training in Carbon Literacy from an accredited trainer, representing a 35% increase in

the number of organisations with trained employees when compared with 2019/20;

- Recognising the importance of volunteers and reporting that many organisations were now taking forward carbon literacy training for their volunteers;
- Describing that the cultural sector had come together to engage in collective action on climate change;
- Information on the Manchester Culture Awards, noting that since its conception in 2018, the awards had spotlighted sustainability with a “Promotion of Environmental Sustainability” award; and
- Describing the role and achievements of the Council’s Culture Team and zero carbon, including next steps.

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

- Welcoming the report and recognising the significant contribution the cultural sector in Manchester had, both in terms of a practical role and in a leadership capacity to address climate change;
- The importance of ‘story telling’ as a means of articulating progress and influencing wider behaviour change;
- Noting the positive example set by HOME;
- How these examples of good practice should be used to influence other sectors across the city;
- Welcoming carbon literacy training being made available to volunteers; and
- Noting the challenge presented by buildings in relation to carbon emissions.

The Director of Culture welcomed the many positive comments articulated by Members. He advised that the concept of ‘story telling’ was an important vehicle to engage with and influence behaviour change. He further commented that HOME did work with partners to promote this work and referred to the work with Transport for Greater Manchester on the issue of active travel to and from the site. The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer acknowledged and paid tribute to the positive work HOME delivered with partners and local businesses in Manchester on the issue of climate change.

The Strategic Lead, Resources & Programmes stated that the report that had been considered by the Committee would be shared more widely with partners to showcase the good work described. He paid tribute to Julies Bicycle, a pioneering not-for-profit organisation, mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate and ecological crisis.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport paid tribute to GMAST, a group that brought together the cultural and creative community across Greater Manchester to address the climate and ecological crisis.

The Statutory Deputy Leader stated that the cultural sector was leading on this agenda, even when a lot of the work was ‘invisible’. He further noted the opportunity for culture to serve as a catalyst to influence behaviour change in relation to climate change. He welcomed the support and many positive comments from the Committee.

Decision

To note the report and requested that an update report be submitted for consideration in the new municipal year.

ECCSC/23/27 Embedding a Zero-Carbon Workforce Culture

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive 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;
- Reporting progress against key actions identified; and
- Summary and next steps.

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

- Welcoming the inclusion of data presented at a Directorate level;
- Noting the low levels of staff in some Directorates who had attended training to date;
- Recognising the challenge for certain staff to attend training, what was being done to support staff with busy and competing workloads; and
- Requesting an update on the number of elected Members who had completed the carbon literacy training.

The Strategic Head of Organisational Development & Transformation recognised that there were differences across Directorates in the levels of staff having undertaken their carbon literacy training. She described to address this, initiatives had been deployed to encourage and maximise attendance, these included delivering bespoke/service-specific training and staff being able to book training further in advance. She further commented that all new starters had carbon literacy training as part of the induction programme, and all staff transitioning into new roles would have their training records reviewed. She stated that there had also been a focus on the Senior Leadership Group, noting that as they realised the benefits of this training this would encourage staff in their respective teams to undertake the training if they had not already done so. She stated that a staff Zero Carbon Network had been established for staff and teams to discuss carbon reduction initiatives instigated following the training and to share good practice and offer support.

In terms of the number of Councillors who had completed their training, the Zero Carbon Workforce Development Manager reported that 96% of Councillors had completed the training, and the outstanding 3 Councillors would have completed this by the end of April 2023.

In concluding this item of business, the Chair recognised the significant amount of work undertaken by Councillor Foley in relation to carbon literacy training.

Decision

To note the report and request that an update report be submitted for consideration in the new municipal year.

ECCSC/23/28 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 noted that this was the last meeting of the municipal year. She stated that work was in progress to develop the work programme for May onwards and she welcomed suggestions from Members for any specific areas of interest that they would like included. She invited Members to email her and the Scrutiny Support Officer with these suggestions.

Decision

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

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Johns (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors Good, Moran, Raikes, I Robinson, Shilton Godwin and Taylor

Also present:

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 Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Apologies: Councillor Noor

ESC/23/7 Interests

The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 – Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update.

ESC/23/8 Minutes

An amendment to the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed to reflect that Councillor Angela Moran submitted apologies.

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12 January 2023 be approved as a correct record, subject to the amendment outlined above.

ESC/23/9 Local Plan Update

The committee considered a report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing which provided an update on the Local Plan. The report also provided an overview of current planning policy; an update on emerging planning policy (Places for Everyone and the Manchester Local Plan); a summary of the current consultation on updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) expected this Spring; and potential future changes to NPPF via the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The emerging Local Plan presented an opportunity to review current planning policy and will set out how the city should meet the need for new development over the next 15–20 years. It will identify where new development should happen, which green spaces and other aspects of the environment should be protected or enhanced, and how transport and other infrastructure will be improved;

- The range of policies included within the Local Plan to address key issues and challenges;
- The range of studies commissioned to provide the evidence base of the Local Plan;
- The timetable for the stages of the Local Plan's development, with adoption planned for winter 2024;
- The Places for Everyone local plan - a joint development plan of the nine Greater Manchester districts which will determine the kind of development that takes place in their boroughs - was nearing completion of hearing sessions and would undertake further round of formal consultation on any proposed changes to the plan in late 2023 and would be adopted by individual full councils;
- The ongoing government consultation on the proposed approach to updating the NPPF; and
- Changes to national planning policy proposed under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill 2022 (LURB).

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

- The internal scrutiny process of the Local Plan, and whether this would be subject to further consideration by this Scrutiny Committee;
- How the impact of future carbon emissions and rainfall could be forecasted to support the evidence-base for the Local Plan;
- The impact of implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 concerning Sustainable Draining Systems (SuDS);
- The importance of a sense of place, and whether the city had the local services and infrastructure to support new emerging communities;
- The reforms to national planning policy proposed in the LURB and the implication of these on planning policy around affordable housing;
- If any further detail around Compulsory Purchase powers and Investment Zones was available;
- The impact of the government's recent building safety announcement on the Council's ability to hold developers to account on cladding issues;
- How planning powers are used to require developers to use local labour;
- Noting the Council's record for high-quality development, and querying whether the new National Development Management Policy Framework would require the Council to accept lower quality development in line with the revised policies;
- Whether the current evidence bases within the Council's strategies were sufficient; and
- Expressing concerns over the potential loss of flexibility for the Council through changes to the NPPF.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development introduced the item and highlighted the importance of the Local Plan for the city as it outlined the Council's ambitions and framework for development. He explained that the Local Plan would align with Places for Everyone which was a joint development plan between the nine

Greater Manchester authorities and was currently under inspection. This included targets for 50,000 affordable homes with 30,000 of these being social rent zero-carbon properties which aligned with Manchester's Housing Strategy. He explained that the Local Plan also encompassed policies and objectives around biodiversity, green spaces, and purpose-built student accommodation for which several studies had been commissioned to inform the evidence base of the Local Plan. He also provided assurances that residents and elected members would be consulted on the Local Plan prior to adoption and highlighted previous extensive feedback from residents and community groups.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control explained that the Local Plan acted as a planning policy framework and that this would align the Council's policies and ambitions to enable delivery these priorities through the planning process where feasible. She acknowledged potential challenges and stated that the Local Plan would be scrutinised by an Independent Examiner. She also explained that the refreshed Core Strategy was proposed to be adopted in 2024, which meant that evidence would need to be gathered and the Core Strategy subject to internal scrutiny processes by summer 2024 and officers were committed to meeting this deadline.

In response to a query from the Chair regarding internal scrutiny of the Local Plan, the Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control explained that it was yet to be decided which commissioned studies would be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny Committee and it was suggested that Policy Panels may be utilised.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control acknowledged that much of the evidence being produced was contemporary and explained that the Council would engage with relevant parties to forecast an evidence base for the future.

It was stated that engagement would be undertaken with key stakeholders to identify the social infrastructure required and where capacity was available and census data would be used to gain an understanding of future population figures. It was acknowledged, however, that the Local Plan could not identify who would deliver key infrastructure and the Council would not have the authority to identify specific sites for dental and GP practices, for example. The Executive Member for Housing and Development cited developments at Victoria North as an example of where the Council is working with partners to consider infrastructure requirements at an early stage in the development process. Work was ongoing across the Council and discussions underway with government departments to ensure suitable infrastructure at Victoria North and a business case for a new tram stop at Sandhills in Collyhurst had recently been submitted. He noted that the Department for Education (DfE) often waited to assess how many children moved into the development, which he felt was often too late to provide the necessary provisions.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control explained that a national consultation was underway regarding the proposed revisions to housing figures within the NPPF, but this did not include reference to a devolution deal for Greater Manchester.

Members were also advised that the suggestion of streamlining the process for Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO) had been discussed for many years with the Council participating in several rounds of consultation. The Executive Member for Housing and Development highlighted that funding for new homes within Places for Everyone would be provided to Homes England rather than the Council, which further demonstrated the need for greater devolved powers like those granted to London Borough authorities.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control stated that officers would welcome the proposal to make the CPO process easier and explained that there were certain circumstances where the Council needed to legitimately impose a CPO to deliver what was needed for the city. In response to a query around Investment Zones, the Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control confirmed that no further information had been provided to the Council regarding the process for identifying potential Investment Zones. She explained that where planning powers were proposed to be reduced, the Council would have less control over the quality and delivery of development such as the ability to impose conditions regarding local labour. The Strategic Director for Growth and Development also highlighted that it had been referenced at a recent Conference of the North that Investment Zones would be relaunched and could be aligned more closely with universities although the detail of this remained unknown.

In response to a query regarding the impact of implementing Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 concerning SuDs, the Planning and Infrastructure Manager explained that this was a key aspect in the work of the 'Our Rivers, Our Cities' programme, which helped to inform the evidence base of the Local Plan, and there had been significant discussion on existing infrastructure. This was also at the forefront of business planning for United Utilities, who had commissioned a study of the upper River Mersey to assess water management.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control explained that a consultation was underway which proposed giving local planning authorities powers to not determine applications where there had been previous issues with the developer or applicant. A second consultation on the building safety levy was also underway which proposed making developers pay a levy prior to starting work. Both consultations were open to the public and links to these would be provided after the meeting. She also provided assurances that the Council would provide a robust response to these consultations subject to the approval of the Executive Member.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that 49 developers had signed the Building Safety Pledge, which set out that leaseholders should not have to pay for any costs associated with critical fire-safety remediation work arising from the design, construction, or refurbishment of buildings of 11 metres and above. The Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had recently issued legally binding contracts on this for developers to sign within six weeks and consequences, such as not receiving planning or building control permission, were in place for those who did not do this, which he welcomed.

Encouraging local labour through the planning process had been a key focus of the Council for many years. This had previously been achieved through a legal agreement and was frequently imposed through conditions to planning approval, although there were limitations to this. The review of the Local Plan would also look to improve on this.

The Director of Planning, Licensing and Building Control acknowledged that the proposed revisions to the NPPF could allow the government to reduce the matters dealt with by local planning authorities and their ability to adopt higher development standards. She reiterated that the Council was proud of the quality of development in the city and would continue to push for high-quality standards.

In response to a query from the Chair, it was confirmed that there was a substantial evidence base for the Council's strategies, but further expertise would be required in some areas to enable delivery through the planning process of key priorities.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report, and
2. requests an update on the Local Plan in the next municipal year.

ESC/23/10 Housing Allocations Policy Evaluation

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which outlined an evaluation of the Council's social housing allocations scheme which had been undertaken following 24 months of operation to analyse its effectiveness.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The scheme was designed to provide priority to rehousing applicants based on housing need, with priority within bands determined by length of time in the band;
- Demand for social housing remained high with over 14,000 households on the register, of which 8,000 were in bands 1-3 and in some form of housing need;
- The evaluation found that the overall objectives for the scheme were being met although there were increasing challenges around temporary and emergency accommodation;
- Allocations to those in priority need accounted for 64.8% of all lettings, compared to 31.6% under the old scheme;
- During the first two years of the new scheme, 40% of all allocations went to applicants on the housing register due to being homeless, compared to 19% in 2019/20;
- One of the main achievements of the scheme was the successful rehousing of a considerable number of young people who were ready to transition out of care;

- The COVID pandemic caused significant challenges with regards to repairing and refurbishing vacant properties but officers were working to make these properties available; and
- It had been necessary to make some minor changes to the process and the scheme to improve the situation around temporary and emergency accommodation. Proposed changes included awarding Band 2 status to prevention duty applicants and to permit those owed the prevention or relief duty to accept a private rented tenancy offer, to discharge either homelessness duty (prevention or relief) and to retain a Band 2 award for rehousing. These changes would encourage people to present at an earlier stage and encourage changes in behaviour to access alternative accommodation rather than temporary accommodation.

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

- Welcoming the changes and outcomes of the revised Policy;
- How the Council could keep residents experiencing domestic violence safe where they could not be moved straightaway;
- Whether there was an increase in those in band 2 as a result of the changes;
- The wait times for those with band 2 priority; and
- Noting an increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation, which was higher than in other Greater Manchester areas.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development introduced the item and explained that the report formed part of the 2-year evaluation of the revised Housing Allocations Policy which had been subject to extensive consultation. He explained that the changes looked at how the Housing Allocations Policy could help those with the most serious housing need, such as those experiencing domestic abuse and serious violence and those leaving care. He noted a challenge in the amount of housing stock available to allocate and a lack of investment in social housing over the last 13 years by the Conservative and coalition governments. He stated that the Council was working to deliver more social and affordable housing in Manchester and the Housing Strategy set out a target of 10,000 more homes in the next 10 years.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development also stated that the Policy sought to prevent homelessness before it happened, which he felt was a key strategy, and would award band 2 priority to those at risk of homelessness to try and prevent this.

The Head of Housing Access explained that the Council was the largest landlord in the city and let around 2,500 homes of which 90% were let to those in housing need. She reiterated challenges in demand and waiting times but there were a number of strategic priorities around children leaving care, overcrowding, domestic violence and prevention of homelessness. There were also challenges in suitable 4-bedroom and adapted properties within the housing stock. The Council worked with 14 housing provider partners, and she stated that there was a good working relationship with other providers. She also stated that the revised policy would allow more options and choices for those in need and would encourage them to present to the housing service at an earlier stage to prevent and relieve homelessness.

In response to a query regarding what could be done to keep residents experiencing domestic violence safe where they could not be moved straightaway, the Assistant Director of Homelessness stated that this was the third biggest cause of homelessness in Manchester and the majority of domestic violence survivors were helped either when they were already homeless or had made the decision to leave their existing home. He stated that there had been significant feedback from those living in temporary accommodation that wished they had the opportunity to stay in their existing home. He explained that the Council ran a Sanctuary Scheme which provided security measures to create a safer living environment and 30 installation schemes were delivered in 2021/22. He explained that the Council sought to give residents greater choice and control over the options in front of them.

The Assistant Director of Homelessness expressed his belief that there would not be an increase in the number of people within band 2, as the changes would encourage people to present to the Council earlier and get the same level of help as previously. The changes would also help with housing stock challenges and reduce the need for B&B accommodation. The Deputy Leader of the Council stated that the change was already having a positive impact for frontline staff in the homelessness service as it allowed for a more positive and hopeful experience with those presenting to the Council.

In response to a member's query regarding why Manchester had a higher number of households in temporary accommodation than other Greater Manchester authorities, the Deputy Leader acknowledged the increase but stated that this needed to be considered in the context of policies implemented by the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government and subsequent Conservative governments since 2010 which had a cumulative impact on the exponential rise of homelessness across the country. She stated that a lack of investment in affordable homes, benefit caps, the 'Bedroom Tax', rising rents, lack of increase in housing allowances and other austerity cuts had caused the increase in homelessness and demand for temporary accommodation. She provided assurances that the Council was working to address these issues and reiterated the Chair's point that a report on the wider Homelessness service had been provided to a recent meeting of the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development highlighted that Manchester was a significantly bigger area compared to other boroughs within Greater Manchester and it would be better to consider temporary accommodation figures per 1000 of the population. The Assistant Director of Homelessness also suggested comparing figures with other core cities to gain a more representative insight.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report, and
2. endorses the changes to the process and the proposed minor amendment to the allocation scheme, to help reduce the numbers of households that require temporary accommodation.

ESC/23/11 Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided a summary of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as it applied to Manchester, including the context of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and the competitive Levelling Up Fund (LUF) which it sat alongside.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Manchester was classed as a Priority 1 area for Levelling Up by the Government, based on need for economic growth, improved transport connectivity and regeneration;
- 2 bids were submitted by the Council in LUF Round 1, of which one – 'Culture in the City' – was successful. A bid to regenerate Withington Village was unsuccessful. A bid submitted in LUF Round 2 to regenerate Wythenshawe Town Centre was also unsuccessful;
- Culture in the City aimed to deliver 8,282m² of high quality, affordable, technology and creative work and production spaces at HOME Arches and Campfield Market, with £19,822 million awarded from LUF;
- The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) was launched in April 2022 as a replacement for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) following Brexit, and the distribution of this across all areas of the UK meant that Greater Manchester's proportion of this is substantially lower than that from ESIF; and
- Manchester was allocated a total of £5,013,823 in SPF for Communities and Place funding which was prioritised for investment in district centres.

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

- Welcoming the Executive Member's recommitment to investing in Wythenshawe town centre;
- Whether there was any indication from government to increase local funding allocations to account for the fact that some areas had disproportionately been unsuccessful with LUF and other funding schemes;
- Welcoming support for business start-up and incubation, and querying if there were any additional contingencies to support businesses during the cost-of-living crisis;
- Conveying frustration at the government rule introduced during the decision-making process that any applicant council who had been successful in Round 1 would be unsuccessful in Round 2 and the time and resources that this misused;
- How SPF could work with local labour market policies and how this would help residents;
- The process for unsuccessful funding bids;
- The devolution trailblazer scheme for Greater Manchester;
- Whether the Council is consulted on funding simplification; and
- The criteria for SPF and how are resources assigned to evaluate this.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development explained that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund were two funding pots which the government released as part of their wider Levelling Up strategy. He stated that the Council had submitted a strong bid in round 2 of the LUF for £20million to transform and invest in Wythenshawe which was rejected without formal notification to the Council. He stated that he had some concerns with the LUF allocation process generally as it made local authorities compete against each other, but he reiterated the commitment of the Council's Labour administration to investing in Wythenshawe.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) stated that the Council had tried to access LUF resources to support ambitious developments and plans and explained that the Council had one successful LUF bid for 'Culture in the City' despite subsequent unsuccessful bids in Withington and Wythenshawe. She explained that the SPF would be targeted in and around Withington to develop elements of the unsuccessful LUF bid and in Moston in line with the Council's objectives and Neighbourhood Frameworks. She also stated that some Community and Place funds from the SPF were yet to be allocated and proposals would be developed in line with Neighbourhood Frameworks.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) explained that there was limited funding for business start-up and incubation spaces, but Manchester had received almost £2million of funding for this and a Hub and Spoke model was in place to target support in different areas of the city. She highlighted that the SPF did not provide the same amount of funding as its predecessor ESIF, but officers were working to maximise its impact in the city in consultation with Executive Members.

In response to a query regarding whether the government might increase local funding allocations when an area had been unsuccessful with LUF and other funding schemes, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) stated that there were no indications of this. She informed members that there would be a third round of LUF bids, and the Council would await further detail on the criteria for this before deciding whether to resubmit the Wythenshawe bid or submit a new bid for other parts of the city.

Members were informed that the Council was seeking greater certainty over funding through the devolution trailblazer negotiations.

Members were also advised that there was no dedicated support for businesses during the cost-of-living crisis within the SPF. The Director of Inclusive Economy advised members that The Growth Company was providing support for business through its "Here for Business Campaign" and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) had brought forward some SPF funding to help The Growth Company with this. This included clinics and in-person sessions in each local authority area in Greater Manchester.

The Director of Inclusive Economy explained that GMCA administered the Supporting Local Business and Work & Skills priorities within the SPF and would work with the Council to design how this would operate in practice. On labour market interventions, she advised the committee that a 'deep dive' had recently been undertaken on economic activity in the city which could be used as an evidence base to inform the design. She acknowledged challenges in that the totality of the SPF funding was less than that of ESIF and with a 3-year timeframe with the labour market intervention toward the end of this, this could be an issue for those distant from the labour market.

In response to a question regarding the capital gateway approval process, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) informed the committee that this was an internal process for submitting an item to the Capital Programme, with proposals progressing from CP1 and CP4 as they are further developed and costed, and she confirmed that those projects which were unsuccessful in the LUF bids would be subject to this process.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) explained that various officer groups across the GMCA, such as the GM Directors of Place and GM Chief Executives Group, would review any proposals for a devolved single pot of funding. Various proposals had been put forward with a number of different priorities on issues such as transport, housing and work and skills. This would shape the Council's approach to funding as it would provide a greater degree of flexibility should the proposals be accepted.

It was also stated that the Council was subject to evaluation around the number of jobs and employment space created, low carbon impacts and training and apprenticeship opportunities arising from SPF funding. This was reported to GMCA who fed back to the government on Manchester's behalf. The Principal Resource and Programmes Officer advised that this was relatively modest and the Grant Funding Agreement which dictated the level of monitoring was very similar to that of ESIF previously.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

ESC/23/12 2023/24 Budget

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which outlined the Council's latest forecast revenue budget position, and the next steps. Following the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 19 December 2022, the Council was forecasting a balanced budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The risk moved to the next Spending Review period in 2025/26 where a shortfall of £57m was forecast and this would reduce to £40m after the proposed use of £17m smoothing reserves.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Finance Settlement meant that the budget gap identified in November could be closed, without the need for further cuts and savings, and provided some opportunity for reducing the quantum and rephasing some of the savings;
- It was now proposed that options of £36.2m be progressed, a reduction of £6.1m, although additional funding streams announced as part of the Settlement came with several spend requirements, and additional pressures had emerged since the November Scrutiny report;
- £16m of reserves per annum were being used to close the pre-Settlement budget gap and would be rephased to support a sustainable position, particularly to support closing the budget gap in 2024/25 and to deal with the significant risks faced in 2025 and beyond;
- A proposal to increase the Council Tax precept by 2.99% and the Adult Social Care precept by 2% was reflected in the base and would be alongside targeted support to residents who are most vulnerable;
- The Settlement also gave some scope for targeted investments which would put the council in a more sustainable position to face the next spending review in 2025;
- Indicative workforce reduction of 60 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) posts linked to savings proposals was anticipated to be managed through natural turnover and vacancies;
- A second phase of the budget consultation was underway and provisional results from this would be provided to the Executive on 15 February, with a full analysis to Budget Scrutiny on 27 February; and
- The next steps for the budget process.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources wished to place on record his thanks to the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and her team for all their hard work following the settlement announcements. He stated that the budget settlement needed to be considered in the context of over a decade of austerity imposed on Manchester. He further referenced the impact of inflation, population growth in the city and the cost-of-living crisis all had on budgetary pressures. He commented that the Government had failed to communicate their financial decisions for city, noting the recent experience of announcements of the Levelling Up bids.

He commented that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 19 December 2022 provided greater financial certainty than anticipated and enabled some proposed cuts to be removed or deferred.

Members expressed their disappointment at the inaction of and lack of communication by the government referred to by the Executive Member and commended the Executive and officers for their work in identifying the budget proposals.

a) **Growth and Development 2023/24 Budget**

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided a further update to members on the priorities for the services in the remit of this committee and detailed the changes to the initial revenue budget options proposed by officers in November 2022. It highlighted how the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement, announced on 19 December 2022, reflected a change in government policy in relation to funding inflation and social care pressures and provided an opportunity to review the quantum and phasing of savings. It was consequently proposed that options of £36.2m were progressed, of which £2.169m was within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.

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 and Digital Strategy;
- The Growth and Development directorate has a gross budget of £35.5 million and generates £44.8 million in income;
- The Highways service was within the remit of this scrutiny committee and has a gross budget of £25.1 million;
- Earlier proposals presented in November 2022 suggested savings options of £3.54m over three years but the Provisions Local Government Finance Settlement provided more funding than had been forecast and enabled both the quantum and phasing of savings to be reviewed to ensure minimal impact on service delivery;
- Savings of c£2.044m over the three-year period were initially proposed for Growth and Development and savings options of £100k had been removed from this following the review;
- Savings of £354k over three years were initially proposed for the Highways service but, following review, these had been reduced by £129k to a revised total of £225k. The revised proposals were made up of a combination of increased income of £160k and deleting two vacant positions amounting to £60k;
- Other changes to the proposals suggested in November 2022 included reducing opportunities to capitalise on staffing costs with the Investment Estate service from £250k to £150k per annum and to invest £300k to provide additional resources to enable the establishment of a new team within City Centre Growth and Infrastructure, and to provide additional capacity to the Highways Development Specialist team;
- An overall reduction of 2 Full Time Employees (FTE) was anticipated as part of the savings proposals and these were both vacant posts; 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, and the cost-of-living crisis.

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

- How an economic recession could challenge income generation within the Growth and Development directorate and
- Welcoming the decision to remove savings from temporarily reducing gully cleansing.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development reiterated the impact of austerity over the previous 13 years on the city, council, and residents. He highlighted that the Growth and Development directorate was an income generator and that the budget proposals before the committee sought to maximise these opportunities. This would be used to help in funding affordable homes, planning, regeneration, and retrofitting. He also stated that the Council would be able to expand on what it delivers, particularly around social and affordable housing, if the government provided fair funding.

The Executive Member for Employment, Leisure and Skills echoed comments already made and highlighted that Manchester was a financially well-managed Council. He stated that insufficient government funding constrained the Council's ambitious plans and objectives.

The Strategic Director (Growth and Development) highlighted that additional resource had been secured to further progress works on active travel and to develop and plan for strategic infrastructure across Manchester.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport stated that the Highways directorate also generated income for the Council. She explained that the Active Travel Strategy had progressed, but additional and fairer funding would have allowed this to be implemented at pace. The Head of Finance also highlighted that some savings had been removed following receipt of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement.

In response to a query from the Chair around the potential impact of recession, the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) expressed confidence in the income generation assumptions within the budget proposals and stated that these were robust. She highlighted that significant income was generated through rent from Manchester Airport and the directorate was working on several other areas of income generation, such as the Strategic Asset Management Plan which allowed the Council to take a more strategic approach to assets, and a review of the management of the Council's commercial estate.

Decision:

That the Committee

1. notes the report, and
2. endorses and recommends that the Executive approve the budget proposals.

The committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided details of key decisions within the committee's remit and its work programme. It also included the Economy Dashboard for information.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 March 2023

Present:

Councillor Johns (Chair) – in the Chair
Councillors Moran, Noor, Raikes, I Robinson and Shilton Godwin

Also present:

Councillor Hacking, Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure
Councillor White, Executive Member for Housing and Development
John Thornhill, Chief Executive, LTE Group
Rachel Curry, Principal, The Manchester College, and Group Deputy CEO
Peter Cox, Managing Director, Novus

Apologies: Councillors Good and Taylor

Thanks

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair noted that this was Councillor Raikes' last Economy Scrutiny Committee meeting before the end of his term as an elected member in May. The Chair wished Councillor Raikes well and thanked him for his work on the committee.

ESC/23/14 Minutes

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

ESC/23/15 The LTE Group Update: Strategy and Performance

The committee considered a report of the LTE Group which provided an update on The Manchester College's progress, performance and contribution to Manchester's work and skills outcomes since the last update in 2022 and an update from Novus on the work undertaken providing learning, skills and opportunity for offenders within prisons in the region and on release.

Key themes and points within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to the LTE Group, The Manchester College and Novus;
- The recent reclassification of Further Education and Skills providers;
- The College's T-Level Strategy, College Vision 2027 Strategy and transformational estates strategy;
- Specific case studies on the College's work within the digital sector as requested;
- Learner outcomes and performance;
- The Novus Works service, which provided qualifying organisations with a free pre-selection, upskilling, placement and integration service and learners with

an opportunity to build a better future through employment on release from custody; and

- Case studies of Novus' work in resettlement, developing education and working with employers.

In opening the item, the Chair stated that Councillors Noor, I Robinson, Shilton Godwin and himself had visited The Manchester College's City campus earlier in the week and wished to place on record their thanks to those who facilitated their visit.

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

- The contradiction between the devolution trailblazer scheme for Greater Manchester and the reclassification of FE providers;
- The impact of reclassification on the Group's ability to finance capital projects;
- Suggesting that the committee recommends that the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure write to the Secretary of State for Education to support the Group's lobbying efforts;
- Highlighting the importance of work experience;
- What, if anything, The Manchester College would change about T-Levels;
- How The Manchester College was preparing for future changes in ways of working, such as increased need for green and digital skills and biodiversity work;
- If FE policy instability and unpredictability had impacted the College's ability to build relationships with partners and employers;
- What prevented more educational and employment help being available to those in custody;
- The diversity of employers engaged with Novus;
- How Novus highlighted the positive contributions of their work;
- Clarifying whether the 17% of learners who secured employment after leaving custody had received a qualification whilst in custody or if this was a general figure; and
- Reoffence rates amongst those who secured qualifications and employment upon leaving custody.

The Chief Executive, LTE Group explained that the Group was operating in a significantly different context than at its last update to the committee in 2022 following the reclassification of Further Education (FE) providers into the public sector. He explained that there were challenges in the implementation of this, such as being unable to use normal banking arrangements and loans which had been key to the operation of the LTE Group. He stated that work was ongoing between the Group, the Council, Members of Parliament (MPs) and senior officials in the Department for Education (DfE) to identify how the previous practice could be replaced with a government loan arrangement. He explained that these changes could mean that work within the FE sector would be delayed and there could be a need in the future for help from the Council in lobbying the government and the Treasury to ensure that services continue to be available to young people and vulnerable adults.

In response to a member's query, the Chief Executive, LTE Group explained that the reclassification of FE providers had been pitched as a government change to control

and effectively commission public expenditure. He stated that ongoing work with the DfE aimed to highlight the day-to-day impact on delivery and that there were some implications on devolution and levelling up for Greater Manchester as the DfE was responsible for FE providers' budgets. It was unclear what impact this would have on accountability and how projects could be delivered, and the LTE Group hoped to be used as a case study to work with the DfE and the Treasury.

The Chief Executive, LTE Group noted that the Chair's suggestion of the committee recommending the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure to write to the Secretary of State for Education to support the Group's lobbying efforts could be helpful in the future. He stated, however, that officers and the relevant Executive Members were aware of emerging discussions with stakeholders and were supporting the Group with these in the interim.

The Principal of The Manchester College and Group Deputy CEO informed the committee of the College's continuing ambitions in T-Levels and commitment to the new T-Level curriculum offer, of which, she stated, the College was considered to be a flagship provider across the country. She explained that there were now over 300 students undertaking either a T-Level course or a transition course which would lead to undertaking a T-Level and these students benefitted from direct contact and exposure to employers, who co-designed the curriculum offer. She also highlighted the performance of the College and its students and expressed hope that the College would be shown to be performing well against national benchmarks once these were released. She also stated that there would be challenges in responding to increases in cohorts over the next several years and that the College had worked closely with the Council on three bids for post-16 capacity funding, which would enable the College to create additional space for post-16 students. These bids were currently with the Secretary of State for Education and a decision was anticipated in spring 2023.

The Chair noted comments around increased numbers of students in future and queried when this peak was expected. In response, the Principal of The Manchester College explained that a gradual increase was forecasted with the peak number of students expected in the 8th year. She explained that future modelling had been undertaken, which estimated an additional 800 students in the next 8 years. The College was examining how to address this increase in student numbers and hoped to create additional space at their Wythenshawe, Openshaw and City campuses.

In response to a query regarding what, if anything, the Principal of The Manchester College would change about T-Levels, members were informed that the College was a positive advocate for T-Levels and attendance on these courses was high with positive student and employer feedback. The Principal of The Manchester College noted that T-Levels were challenging and technical, and transition courses were available to prepare students. She explained that the College had taken part in the Ofsted Thematic Survey and provided feedback on what could work better and differently.

The Principal of The Manchester College noted, however, that she had been notified that day that the DfE had deferred some T-Level routes starting in September, which

would be unsettling for those students intending to undertake these courses, and she stated that better preparation and stability on the part of the DfE would be beneficial.

The committee was advised that work placement opportunities provided students with an understanding of what employers needed and to contribute towards their placement. The Principal of The Manchester College explained that digital skills were embedded into the curriculum and provided an example of a student on a work placement who used their skills to digitalise their company's employee induction programme, which was now being rolled out in the company's offices nationwide. She explained that the green agenda was being addressed within the construction T-Level course and there were certain elements within the curriculum which referred to this.

Members were also advised that the DfE had recently amended the T-Level guidance to allow remote placements, which demonstrated how the T-Level offer was adapting to changing ways of work.

In response to a query from the Chair, the Principal of The Manchester College stated that the College was fortunate to have employers embedded within the organisation and who were committed to co-designing and co-delivering the T-Level offer, which meant that the instability in FE policy did not significantly impact partnerships with employers. She commented that this instability would not prevent the College from delivering equivalent offers, such as BTECs, for those students affected by the postponement of some courses.

The Managing Director of Novus provided an overview of the provider and explained that the curriculum mirrored that offered in mainstream colleges to work with offenders and support their rehabilitation and transition from custody to the community. The committee was informed that there were 2,500 learners from across Greater Manchester with a 93% qualification rate. He also stated that Novus worked with learners to support a transition into work at the end of their sentence and offered members of the committee the opportunity to visit a Novus department, which was welcomed.

In response to a member's queries, the Managing Director of Novus explained that there were four main providers of prison education across England and Milton Keynes College delivered education at HMP Manchester as part of a high-security estate procurement lot by the Ministry of Justice.

He also explained that prisons were complex delivery environments with complex cohorts of learners and there were challenges around prison operations, officer recruitment and the impact of this on the running of a prison, the stability of learners, and changes in stay and the impact that movement between prisons can have on opportunities to learn. He commented that Novus tried to link the curriculum between sites so that learners could continue their studies seamlessly.

He explained that Novus worked with several employers across the construction, hospitality and other industries and provided a unique and supportive offer to employers. He acknowledged that there could be concerns over the reliability and

public perception of offenders and explained that Novus worked with employers to mitigate these concerns.

The Chief Executive of the LTE Group commented that the Group continuously lobbied for change and had been successful in changing legislation on apprenticeships to enable offenders who could be released on temporary licence to undertake these programmes whilst completing their custodial sentence.

The Managing Director of Novus acknowledged the need to publicise positive stories around their work and achievements of learners. He highlighted changes to legislation, work with combined authorities across the country to better link the transition from custody to the community and highlighting positive case studies in the media, although he noted that this required permission from the Ministry of Justice.

In response to queries around employment and reoffending rates, members were informed that the 17% figure listed within the report reflected the whole population released from custody, rather than just those who had achieved a qualification during their custodial sentence, and was a statistic provided by the Ministry of Justice. It was stated that this figure rose to 30% for some Novus initiatives. Members were also informed that Novus had undertaken a study with Manchester Metropolitan University on the reduction in reoffending rates which demonstrated that those who undertook education courses and progressed into employment upon release from custody were 24% less likely to reoffend than those who did not transition into the workforce.

The Director of Inclusive Economy also took the opportunity to highlight that Jobcentre Plus were co-hosting an employer roundtable event with Timpson and Kier on recruiting ex-offenders in March 2023, which demonstrated the ongoing work to utilise the talent of those leaving custody.

Decision:

That the committee

1. notes the report, and
2. recommends that a report on training and skills provisions for offenders and ex-offenders be considered in the next municipal year, to support the reintegration of offenders into the economy and to promote further joint working between the LTE Group and Manchester City Council.

ESC/23/16 Labour Market and Recruitment

The committee considered a report of the Director of Inclusive Economy which provided an overview of the labour market in Manchester, how it had changed in the last 3 years and the current issues and opportunities.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The approaches being used by Manchester City Council in collaboration with partners to meet skill and labour market needs to combat challenges faced by

businesses and residents as a result of the volatile economy and labour market conditions, and the successes of this;

- The Manchester Employment Partnership's strategic approach and activity to co-ordinate a response and shape the future labour market;
- Examples of sector recruitment activity supporting health and social care, construction, digital and hospitality sectors;
- Examples of area recruitment activity supporting North, Central and South areas of the city; and
- The businesses supported by the Council's Work and Skills Team.

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

- Commending the Work and Skills Team for their work on hosting recruitment and careers events;
- Noting that Manchester had the fifth-highest childcare costs in the UK, and how this impacted employment rates;
- The consequences for women returning to work;
- How engaged the Council was with the Jobcentre Plus;
- Whether employers were improving their offer to attract prospective applicants for vacant roles;
- What differences residents and employers might see if there was local control over Jobcentres;
- Why there had been a low take-up of apprenticeships, and what solutions were available to address this; and
- How the Council was consulted on the Local Skills Improvement Plan to ensure it embeds with the Council's policy priorities.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure stated that Manchester's labour market was tight with many sectors reporting skill shortages and unfulfilled vacancies. He commented that Brexit and the Russian invasion of Ukraine had impacted the labour market, and this remained volatile. He noted that professional, scientific and technological services remained the biggest employing sector in Manchester and that unemployment and economic inactivity had risen over the previous three years despite growth in vacancies. He highlighted that the Work and Skills Team led strongly on a partnership approach to connect Manchester residents to employment opportunities and to support businesses to recruit the talent that they require, for example through recruitment fairs and focused support where required.

The Director of Inclusive Economy commented that some sectors had been worse hit by the Covid pandemic and energy crisis. She noted that 1 in 5 vacant Greater Manchester roles were in Manchester city centre and there were now 27% more jobs in the city than in 2015. She highlighted other aspects of the labour market such as job posting statistics; size of businesses; economic inactivity; and challenges in recruitment. She also highlighted the work being undertaken to address these challenges, such as the Work and Skills Strategy that was approved by the Executive in 2022, the work and focus of Jobcentre Plus, different work programmes such as Restart and Kickstart, the Adult Education Programme and the partnership working between agencies in Manchester.

In response to discussions around the significant cost of childcare and the impact this had on parents returning to work, the Director of Inclusive Economy acknowledged the issue and the impact of low wages on the viability of working. She noted that childcare businesses had been impacted by the Covid pandemic and many providers received business grants to maintain provisions. The committee was also informed that the childcare sector was competitive, and it was noted that there was some work required to encourage providers to become Real Living Wage-accredited.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure highlighted the need to view childcare provisions as national infrastructure, which was reiterated by committee members who suggested adult social care provisions should also be considered.

It was also noted that the income gap between men and women was lower in Manchester than nationally, but this was largely as a result of men earning less. The Work and Skills Lead noted that increases in economic inactivity during the pandemic was driven by female economic inactivity, which could be a consequence of high childcare costs or other caring responsibilities.

It was stated that the Council had a good working relationship with Jobcentre Plus and the Director of Inclusive Economy commented that the organisation was willing to work locally with the Council. She cited the Kickstart scheme as an example of where local input and design could have resulted in better outcomes more quickly.

Members were also advised that the employer offer had improved given the tight labour market with increases in the median wage.

In response to a query around apprenticeship take-up, the Director of Inclusive Economy commented that there had been low numbers of apprenticeships in the city in previous years, which was largely due to the nature of Manchester's economy and where the demand for skills was. She also explained that apprenticeships had been negatively impacted more than other learning and educational provisions during the Covid pandemic and many apprentices were furloughed which interrupted their studies. She also commented that the replacement of apprenticeship frameworks to standards had been challenged for apprenticeship providers and the resources available to them and they did not receive the same level of support during the pandemic as other learning providers. It was also stated that the apprenticeship levy had not generated the employer buy-in that was anticipated. The Director of Inclusive Economy advised members that there would be a focus on apprenticeships in the next year to promote them as an alternative offer.

In response to the Chair's query regarding consultation on the Local Skills Improvement Plan, the Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure advised that the Council was engaged in this through the Leader's input at Greater Manchester level. The Council's Work and Skills Team also met with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce to discuss the content of the Plan and ensure that there was a focus on low-skilled and unskilled workers.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure welcomed the committee's discussion on this subject and advised that regular briefings were provided through Area Committees, which he encouraged all members to engage with.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

ESC/23/17 Manchester Adult Education Service (MAES) Performance Update

The committee considered a report of the Director of Inclusive Economy and the Head of MAES which outline performance in 2021/22 and the skills challenges in the city.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to MAES;
- Current and upcoming projects;
- Key performance indicators and funding in the 2021/22 teaching year;
- Enrolment by each curriculum area;
- Outcomes of a review of the Quality of Education and areas for improvement;
- The work of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Advice Service; and
- Priorities for the current academic year.

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

- Welcoming the use of data in the ESOL provision;
- What a more stable adult education system might look like;
- Noting that 61% of people assessed as requiring an ESOL course were enrolled, and querying whether this figure was satisfactory;
- Expressing frustration over funding constraints and the impact this had on the support that MAES could provide; and
- How the service was addressing changing skillset need.

The Executive Member for Skills, Employment and Leisure introduced the item and explained that MAES was a successful service which delivered core provisions aligned to the skills needs of the city and city region. He commented that MAES aimed to develop an inclusive economy and to ensure that all Manchester residents had access to the skills they required to participate in the economy. He stated that there were significant funding challenges as the adult education budget had not increased since 2006, which impacted on capacity to deliver, but highlighted success in the opening of a new adult educational facility in the Gorton Hub, which he encouraged committee members to visit.

The Head of MAES reiterated the Executive Member's comments and explained that the service worked with residents to help them be in a position to enter the job market or undertake further adult education. He commented that MAES aimed to get service

users to be economically active by improving their educational prospects. He acknowledged challenges in the service, such as the Covid pandemic which had impacted recruitment, and MAES estate was noted as a significant challenge to being able to provide services. Members were advised that some progress had been made to address this issue, such as reviewing options for the update of Greenheys and Withington Adult Learning Centres.

In response to the Chair's query regarding the percentage of people accessing an ESOL course, the Head of MAES explained that there was demand but the service was experiencing a lack of funding and staffing resources to meet this. He stated that the service tried to recruit ESOL tutors with limited success and work was underway to develop and train new tutors to deliver this provision.

In response to a supplementary question as to the cause of issues in recruiting ESOL tutors, the committee heard that there was a national shortage. The Head of MAES commented that many adult education providers were developing their own tutors to address the shortfall.

The Head of MAES acknowledged changes to the types of skills needed in the job market as the economy and working practices changed and he stated that MAES would need to examine the service it provides and its clientele. The committee heard that whilst MAES was not a provider of technical skills education, it would seek to identify niches in the market to help service users into careers where there was demand and need. Work was underway with the Work and Skills Team to reduce skill shortages in the digital sector and all learners gain digital skills through their studies with MAES.

The Resource and Performance Manager reiterated a previous point that adult education funding rates had not increased since 2006 and this impacted on the amount of funding given to MAES. He commented that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was undertaking due diligence work on the possibility of providing a 1-year uplift in funding to address impacts of the cost-of-living crisis, following discussion with providers and local authorities. This work also included identifying opportunities to increase rates and funding in the future, which the Chair welcomed.

The Resource and Performance Manager stated that cost pressures in wage inflation and particularly energy prices were impacting the service and would continue to do so in the short and medium term.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

ESC/23/18 Selective Licensing - Results of Public Consultation (2022)

The committee considered a report of the Strategic Director (Growth and Development) which provided an evaluation of the recent public consultation undertaken in areas within Moss Side, Levenshulme, Longsight, Cheetham and

Rusholme to establish whether the designation of a Selective Licensing scheme was required in these areas.

A presentation on the findings of the consultation was also provided at the meeting.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- Providing an introduction and background to Selective Licensing;
- The rolling programme and previous schemes in Crumpsall, Moss Side, Moston and Old Moat;
- The evidence base for the introduction of Selective Licensing;
- The process and method of the public consultation;
- The survey response rate including ward and respondent breakdown;
- An analysis of survey responses;
- Formal representations from landlord trade bodies; landlord representations; two petitions; and resident groups;
- The number of internal and external inspections carried out on properties within the proposed Selective Licensing area, and the actions taken arising from these; and
- Next steps, including undertaking an additional round of consultation in Cheetham.

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

- Expressing concern that there may have been a campaign to pressure Cheetham residents to respond to the consultation in a particular way, and querying whether there was any evidence of this;
- How many responses were received in other languages, and how the Council engaged with non-English speakers; and
- Noting the number of category 1 hazards of excess cold in inspected properties, and placing on record hope that the government would impose higher standards for landlords which could be built into Selective Licensing.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development stated that the extension of Selective Licensing was a key manifesto pledge for the administration and a motion had been passed at Full Council in February 2022 to deliver further landlord licensing schemes to tackle rogue landlords and improve housing conditions. He commented that there were a number of successful schemes in place across the city and consultation had been undertaken in 8 proposed new scheme areas, of which 5 were proposed to be implemented. He stated that the three schemes in Cheetham which had been paused were still intended to be implemented in the future, but more work needed to be undertaken to fully understand the results of the consultation in that area.

The Housing Strategy Project Manager explained that there were several different ways of engaging with those residents for whom English was not their first language, including having bilingual staff at drop-in sessions and during the door-knocking stage of the consultation. He acknowledged that there were more ways that this

could be achieved and a 'lessons learnt' exercise would be undertaken which would address some of the points raised by the committee.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development conceded with a member's concern around the number of category 1 hazards in inspected properties and stated that this was also reflected through the consultation responses. He commented that enforcement could currently only be taken against landlords where a property either did not have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) or was rated below E for energy efficiency and stated that he would like to see the government revise this to properties rated below C or higher to match changes to social housing regulations by 2030.

The committee was also informed that an ongoing devolution trailblazer discussion between Greater Manchester and the government included devolving decision-making over Selective Licensing.

The Executive Member for Housing and Development thanked officers for their work on the schemes and consultation.

Decision:

That the Committee

1. notes the report, and
2. endorses the proposal to implement a Selective Licensing scheme in the 5 areas detailed in Maps 1 to 4 (Appendix 1).

ESC/23/19 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 and its work programme.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

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Planning and Highways Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2023

Present:

Councillor Curley – in the Chair
Councillors S Ali, Andrews, Davies, Flanagan, Hewitson, Kamal, Leech, Lovecy, Riasat and Sadler

Apologies: Baker-Smith, Y Dar and Lyons

Also in attendance: Councillors Hilal, Midgley and Rawson

PH/23/06 Supplementary Information on Applications Being Considered

A copy of the late representations received had been circulated in advance of the meeting regarding applications 135565/FO/2022, 135566/LO/2022, 135583/LO/2022, 133148/FO/2022, 134705/FO/2022, 134946/FO/2022, 135309/FO/2022, 134891/FO/2022, 135048/FO/2022, 135321/FH/2022, 135647/FO/2022, 135604/FO/2022 and 135713/FH/2022.

Decision

To receive and note the late representations.

PH/23/07 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 as a correct record.

PH/23/08 135565/FO/2022, 135566/LO/2022 & 135583/LO/2022 - Land Bounded by Deansgate, Great Bridgewater Street, Watson Street & Peter Street Manchester M3 4EN - Deansgate Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that presented an application relating to planning and listed building consent to refurbish and convert the Great Northern Warehouse into Grade A office accommodation. The Leisure Box complex would be partially demolished and three residential buildings (16, 27 and 34 storeys) constructed to form 726 homes. Deansgate Terrace North and Deansgate Terrace South would be refurbished and altered to form commercial space. New public realm and highway works are proposed.

Two objections had been received.

The planning officer referred to the Supplementary Information, stating that there were 3 planning applications to consider for the development and the Committee could consider each individually. 10 further objections had been received since publication of the main agenda, focussing on the impact to nearby residents, Porchfield Square and St John's Gardens, concerns over associated traffic flows. Manchester Central had enquired about information on acoustics and removal of the bridge link and Historic England were to comment on the 3 towers at the development. The dwellings were built for rent. With reference to acoustic readings, some dwellings would require enhanced glazing. A proposal for traffic on Great Bridgewater Street had been modified at condition 41 to remain as a two-way street. The Committee's consideration of this application should not rely on traffic flows and other modifications.

No objector attended the meeting or addressed the Committee on the application.

The applicant attended and addressed the Committee on the application, stating that the scheme was SRF compliant, would create new job and public realm and had been devised by a passionate team. The team had been delivering great developments for the past 7 years.

Councillor Davies, spoke as a Ward Councillor. Reference was made to objections regarding Condition 41, prohibiting traffic on Great Bridgewater Street. Councillor Davies noted that Historic England had commented on the 3 residential towers as "not ideal" and would like further consideration given to the impact of them in terms of noise and light impacts. Councillor Davies and residents referred to the message not coming through in pre-planning regarding closure of roads. Consultation was also undertaken during Christmas and some residents had not understood the full focus and had thought it was just for the warehouse and square. They were surprised to learn of the other aspects of the scheme. Councillor Davies welcomed the development, stating that Great Northern Square was vastly underused and the addition of a village hall and play area were very good.

Councillor Flanagan proposed to move the officer's recommendation to approve the scheme with 2 additional conditions: Confirmation that the offer of electric charging points would equal 100% and that the developer would pay for these. Condition 41 to be addressed to remove traffic restrictions/narrowing of Great Bridgewater Street and Watson Street. Councillor Flanagan raised concern about a lack of disabled parking on Watson Street but stated that he could approve if the reference to traffic restrictions/narrowing of Great Bridgewater Street and Watson Street were removed.

Councillor Leech added that there was zero affordable housing. He noted £6m and the same amount to be spent on public realm and enquired whether £5m could be spent on public realm with a further £1m going towards affordable housing.

Councillor Lovecy raised concerns about impacts on nearby residents in terms of light and shadowing at Longworth Street and asked if this had been addressed in the report. In response the planning officer stated that this had been taken into consideration, adding that all nearby residential building were considerable distance away from the proposed towers.

Councillor Flanagan accepted that 10% profit would not allow for any associated affordable housing funds but asked if there was any condition to receive some funding if the profit margin was higher i.e., over 15% profit. The Director of Planning stated that this was already within the report.

Councillor Flanagan moved the officer's recommendation of approve for the scheme, subject to conditions within the reports and with the additional condition regarding removal of restrictions/narrowing of Great Bridgewater Street and Watson Street.

Councillor S Ali seconded the proposal.

Councillor Andrews sought confirmation that the Committee were moving approval for all three applications within the report.

The Chair confirmed that the three applications had been moved for approval with Councillor Andrews and the Committee before proceeding with the vote.

Decision

The Committee resolved to move the officer's recommendation of Minded-to-Approve subject to the signing of a section 106 agreement in relation a future review of the affordable housing position, subject to other conditions and amendments within the reports and with the additional condition regarding removal of traffic restrictions/narrowing of Great Bridgewater Street and Watson Street.

(Councillor Davies left the room after making representations as a Local Ward Councillor and took no part in the ongoing discussions or decision-making process).

PH/23/09 135278/FO/2022 - St Gabriel's Hall, 1 Oxford Place, Manchester, M14 5RP - Ardwick Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that presented an application relating to a vacant student hall of residence (St. Gabriel's Hall), situated in Victoria Park Conservation Area. The proposal involves some demolition, the erection of part 4 storey, part 5 storey buildings and, the refurbishment and restoration of buildings to form 319 student bedrooms, landscaping, cycle parking, car parking and associated works.

Two objections had been received.. Representations had been received from Schuster Road and Park Range Residents Association, Rusholme and Fallowfield Civic Society, Manchester Civic Society and Fallowfield & Withington Community Guardian Group and SE Fallowfield Residents Group.

The agent addressed the Committee. The Committee was advise that the buildings would be sympathetic to the surroundings and the developers had consulted with residents and Ward Councillors. Mature trees would be retained and tree coverage would increase by 18%. Parking conditions had been accepted with an overall traffic plan in place and this scheme would offer good accommodation to attract students to Manchester and improve the setting in the conservation area.

Councillor Flanagan stated that he did not have any issues to raise other than the provision of two blue badge parking spaces for 319 students, stating that this represented less than 1% disabled parking and enquired what the visitors space were for. He felt that disabled students would not be “car free.” He stated he was minded-to-refuse if no provision would be proposed.

The planning officer stated that a condition could be added to address Councillor Flanagan’s concerns, adding that all parking spaces could be fully accessible.

Councillor Flanagan stated that he couldn’t accept this, and it seemed uncaring to have lacked provision for disabled parking in the first place which the developer should have addressed.

Councillor Lovecy seconded Councillor Flanagan’s motion of Minded-to-Refuse.

The planning officer sought clarification that the Committee were satisfied with the scheme other than parking issues.

The Chair put the vote to the Committee for a Minded to Refuse decision based on the lack of EVC and disabled parking.

Councillor Leech enquired as to what would happen if this motion was not carried.

Councillor Andrews stated that he would move the officer’s recommendation with the added condition regarding additional EVC and disabled parking.

Decision

The Committee were Minded-to-Refuse owing to a lack of electric vehicle charging points and disable parking.

PH/23/10 134705/FO/2022 - 247 Upper Brook Street, Manchester, M13 0HL - Ardwick Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to a change of use to create short stay emergency accommodation for homeless people (sui generis).

A total of nine ensuite bedrooms (with a shower and WC) would be formed providing accommodation for families within reconfigured ground, first and second floors. The basement would accommodate a kitchen / dining room, living room and an office. No external alterations to the building had been proposed. A bin storage area would be located in the rear garden, which also has the capacity to accommodate cycle storage.

One letter of objection with 15 signatures had been received. The planning officer added nothing further to the information within the published reports.

The agent for the applicant attended and addressed the Committee stating that this was an application for homeless accommodation which was previously a homeless person's hostel. This developed scheme could provide ensuite accommodation for families in the short term for urgent need. This was a vital service for the city council which would house persons and families prior to them gaining permanent residences. The agent understood objectors concerns but felt that there may be based on stereotypical views about homeless people and noted that the council's own homeless team view this operator with high regard, as they already run other similar premises. Any persons presenting with drug use issues would be well managed and reported to the city council and the premises would be staffed 24hours a day. The agent stated that the residents would not be a nuisance and asked the Committee to lend their support to this scheme.

The planning officer stated that there was a condition attached for a management strategy for the premises to run as per requirements within the report.

Councillor Andrews moved the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application.

Councillor Flanagan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Davies sought clarification on the room layouts and space measurements.

The planning officer confirmed that the space would provide for 27 people with a maximum 8 week stay and added that there was provision for an additional room/bed for larger families.

Decision

The Committee resolved to move the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application.

PH/23/11 134946/FO/2022 - Jessiefield, Spath Road, Manchester, M20 2TZ - Didsbury West Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to a resubmission following the refusal of planning permission for a similar, but larger development that was subsequently dismissed at appeal.

The current application sought to overcome the previous reasons for refusal and the conclusions of the Planning Inspector. The redesigned development proposed the erection of a part two, part three storey building to form 26 retirement living apartments to be managed by McCarthy and Stone.

Following notification of the application 112 objections had been received, together with a petition containing 67 signatures. Following amendments to the proposal and a further period of neighbour re-notification, a further 46 letters of objection had been received.

The planning officer brought member's attention to the Supplementary Information report which stated that in response to concerns raised, the applicant had provided an additional car parking space in order to provide 20 spaces for the proposed 26 apartments. This ratio is the same as for the previously refused scheme where the percentage of the car parking was considered acceptable.

An objector attended the hearing and addressed the Committee on the application stating that there had been 112 views expressed on the application without 1 letter of support. Concerns were raised in relation to overlooking, mass and scale and stated that the report failed to cover the planning history and previous refusals properly.

The applicant attended and addressed the Committee stating that they had worked collaboratively on a great design and noted that officers now recommended approval.

Councillor Hilal, spoke as a Local Ward Councillor to the Committee and objected to the application in relation to overdevelopment, traffic issues, lack of car parking, overlooking, scale and massing, ecological issues and loss of wildlife.

Councillor Stanton also addressed Committee as a Ward Member also objecting to the application

Councillor Leech addressed the Committee as a Local Ward Councillor and welcomed the objector's points made against this scheme. Councillor Leech stated that he objected to the application, raising issues relating to car parking levels, overlooking and privacy, scale and massing, construction traffic and the lack of any mitigation for car parking on nearby roads. He also stated that the existing building should be retained and that there was a need for family housing

Councillor Leech then left the meeting and took no further part in the discussion or decision-making process.

The planning officer stated that the previous application had been refused for three reasons and had these been provided. The Inspector dealing with the appeal concluded that there would be no unacceptable loss of privacy or overlooking and the comings and goings, activity and disturbance would not be inappropriate. The officer detailed the use of obscured glazing and distances from the rear boundary and included details as to why the scheme was now acceptable in scale and massing terms including the removal of the four storey elements. It was also clarified that the previous application had not been refused due to a lack of car parking spaces. Affordable housing had been fully tested and was found not viable due to the lesser amount of units but would be re-tested as part of the recommendation for a legal agreement if approved. Also, there was a construction management condition proposed to address these concerns.

The Chair reiterated that the previous scheme was refused for various reasons and the planning officer stated that this previous scheme had an officer's recommendation of refusal for 3 reasons, but this did not include car parking.

Councillor Lovecy proposed the Committee be move of Minded-to-Refuse on two grounds:

1 – The scale and massing of the scheme - referring to the previous application warranting the same reason for refusal, Councillor Lovecy conveyed that she felt this assessment still holds weight against this current proposal in its large footprint and dominance owing to its height.

2 – Parking – this was not considered at the previous application appeal as the Committee had not considered it as a reason for refusal. This scheme required a range of parking options and Councillor Lovecy was not convinced by the current submission. The distance to shops and other amenities would not deter the use of vehicles by residents.

Councillor Davies raised concerns in relation to the level of parking proposed.

Councillor Andrews seconded proposal made by Councillor Lovecy of Minded-to-Refuse.

Decision

The Committee agreed the proposal of Minded-to-Refuse, based on the scale and mass of the scheme coupled with the lack of adequate parking and disabled parking spaces.

(Councillor Flanagan declared a personal interest in the item and withdrew from the meeting for the duration taking no part in the discussion or decision-making process).

(Councillor Sadler left during this item and took no part in the discussion or decision-making process).

PH/23/12 135309/FO/2022 - Didsbury Technology Park - Phase 3, Princess Road, Manchester, M20 2UR - Didsbury West Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to the erection of a six storey commercial office building (Use Class E(c)(i,ii,iii), Use Class E (g)(i,ii)), with ancillary cafe on ground floor (Use Class E(b)) and roof mounted Solar PV array ; together with the Erection of three storey decked car park (Sui Generis) together with landscaping, highway works, and other associated works.

In response to the notification process, four responses were received from nearby residents raising concerns around the scale of the proposed development, loss of daylight, noise, the principle of further commercial development, traffic generation, and the sustainability of the project.

The planning officer stated that for clarification purposes the late representation details that it is proposed to revise the off-site highway works condition to include Traffic Regulation Orders for additional junctions along Barlow Moor Road.

The agent for the applicant attended and addressed the Committee.

Councillor Leech, speaking as a ward Councillor, stated that his only concern had been regarding three junctions on Barlow Moor Road and stated that, if these were now covered by amendments in the supplementary information report, he could accept the proposal.

The planning officer had nothing further to add to the points raised.

(Councillor Leech left the meeting after making his comments and took no further part in the discussion or decision-making process).

Councillor Flanagan moved the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application, subject to all amendments of conditions contained in the Late Reps report.

Councillor S Ali seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee resolved to move the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application, subject to all conditions and amendments thereof, contained in the reports.

PH/23/13 134891/FO/2022 - Northern Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, Palatine Road, Manchester, M20 3YA - Didsbury West Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to the replacement of existing grass tennis courts to form 3 no. all-weather tennis courts bounded by a perimeter fence and illuminated by new floodlighting columns.

In response to the application as originally submitted, 61 representations had been received including 1 objection, 3 neutral and 57 in support. Following revised information and a further period of renotification, 5 additional representations had been received, including 1 neutral response and 4 in support.

The planning officer had no further information to add to the report submitted.

The applicant attended and addressed the Committee.

Councillor Flanagan moved the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application.

Councillor S Ali seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee resolved to move the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application, subject to all conditions and amendments thereof contained in the reports.

**PH/23/14 135048/FO/2022 - Northern Lawn Tennis and Squash Club,
Palatine Road, Manchester, M20 3YA - Didsbury West Ward**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to the erection of an 8.3 metre-high building to house two padel tennis courts, with associated lighting and infrastructure.

The proposed building is situated centrally within an existing tennis club and seeks to provide two new courts for padel – a relatively new racquet sport similar to a mix between tennis and squash. The application site is situated within Blackburn Park Conservation Area.

In response to the application as originally submitted 51 representations have been received. 28 in support, 1 neutral and 22 of which object to the proposal. Following revised information and a further period of renotification, 10 additional representations have been received, including 1 in support, 1 neutral response and 8 objections.

The planning officer confirmed that this second application for the same site as the previous application was for a new build indoor court.

The applicant attended and addressed the Committee, stating the club had engaged with acoustic consultants and that acoustic fencing was also proposed. The Padel Courts would address the lack of tennis courts across the City.

Councillor Hilal addressed the Committee as ward councillor regarding concerns in relation to noise and requested the Committee to hold a site visit.

The planning officer stated that there was an acoustic report submitted and added that environmental health officers were satisfied that the noise impacts were acceptable. There was a condition to ensure that acoustic insulation is installed alongside an acoustic fence. Expert officers at the council were assuring the planning officer that impacts would not be unacceptable.

Councillor Flanagan stated that he understood the need for such facilities in Manchester but had concerns about noise.

The planning officer stated that the advice received gave an assurance that noise would be mitigated.

Councillor Leech noted issues relating to noise but felt that a site visit would not help the Committee.

Councillor Davies stated that noise was the main issue here but felt that a site visit would not help the Committee. She added that it would not be likely that the

Committee could check other padel courts as part of their decision-making process. Councillor Davies felt that sustained durations of padel court use and the noise from this may not be acceptable and added that all individuals have a different tolerance level to noise. Noise is known to have an adverse effect on health. Councillor Davies supported Councillor Flanagan's comments and felt that the Committee required a greater understanding of noise mitigation.

The Director of Planning noted Councillor Davies having proposed a reason to defer the application, to have a greater understanding of noise mitigation, adding that the report could return to the Committee in more detail.

Councillor Flanagan expressed that it may be helpful to have a site visit with an acoustic/noise expert to explain but added that a deferral could also be considered.

Councillor Andrews proposed a motion to defer the application for the Director of Planning to arrange a more detailed report to come before the Committee.

Councillor Flanagan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Davies requested that the future report contained information in less-technically detailed terminology also.

The Director of Planning stated that they could have a colleague from environmental health to join the meeting to address any concerns.

Decision

The Committee resolved to defer the application for the Director of Planning to arrange for a more detailed report regarding noise mitigation to come before the Committee, at a later date.

PH/23/15 135321/FH/2022 - 15 Craigmere Avenue, Manchester, M20 2YQ - Didsbury West Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that proposed to erect a part single/part two storey extension to the side of the dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.

Objections had been received from four local residents, ward Councillor Hilal and the West Didsbury Residents Association. The main concerns raised include the impact on residential amenity, pedestrian/highway safety, insufficient parking and the overdevelopment of the site.

The planning officer drew members attention to the fact that the front elevation had been redesigned and that the bay window at the current property would be retained.

The applicant attended and addressed the Committee.

Councillor Hilal addressed the Committee and stated that she supported the residents living in Craigmere Avenue in their objections to this application.

The planning officer stated that the scheme had been reduced, the frontage was redesigned, and porch removed. There was also a condition for a replacement tree.

Councillor S Ali proposed to move the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application.

Councillor Flanagan seconded the proposal.

Councillor Lovecy stated that she supported the amendments to windows and the replacement of the tree.

Decision

The Committee agreed the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application, subject to all conditions and amendments thereof contained in the reports.

(Councillor Leech declared an interest in this item and left the room for the duration, taking no part in the discussion or decision-making process).

PH/23/16 135647/FO/2022 - 550 Mauldeth Road West, Manchester, M21 7AA - Chorlton Park Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to the erection of a retail foodstore (Class E) with new access arrangements, following demolition of existing structures. It is proposed that the store is operated by Lidl.

In response to the application as submitted, 180 representations had been received. 76 in support, 9 neutral and 95 of which object to the proposal. One of the letters titled Community Letter of Objection was received with 122 signatories.

The planning officer stated that an additional condition was recommended to ensure that an acoustic fence to the service yard be erected should the Committee approve the application. Also, to clarify, due to concerns raised a Road Safety Audit was undertaken by the applicant and this included a site visit. From 3-4pm in November 2022, in line with school finishing times. Highways officers and TfGM were both satisfied that all traffic concerns had been addressed in the report with further pedestrian facilities to be looked into.

An objector attended and addressed the Committee on the application stating that she was representing 122 residents in Chorlton Park Ward. There had been 97 other online objections. This scheme was not suitable due to the proximity to 4 schools, a food bank and family support charity centre. The objectors had concerns with the traffic modelling for this scheme and having made their own checks, believe that the increases in traffic could be as much as 200 cars per hour. This would have a detrimental effect on air quality and have the potential for road accidents. There had

already been a road traffic accident leading to life altering injuries for a child in the area and the objector reported an incident happening the day before the hearing. This scheme was not consistent with the Council's own strategy. The headteacher of Loreto High School had submitted a comment, stating that they had concerns for pupil safety if the development went ahead. There had been 2 hit and run incidents already. There were already queues along Nell Lane adding to car fumes, safety issues and clear signs of frustrated drivers making it already unsafe at present. This scheme would exacerbate these dangers. There are already 4.5 thousand schoolchildren in the locality and the headteacher of Chorlton High School had also submitted concerns, stating that this was an extremely difficult area due to traffic and the Metrolink stop. The shared access to Hough End Hall was already too busy and schools had made attempts to stop parents using the local highways to drop off and collect their children. It was felt that the addition of a supermarket in this location would increase parental pick ups as they would use the supermarket when arranging drop off and collection of children. Due to the lack of diligence in tackling the issues in the area and failure to consider the potential impacts, the objector requested that the Committee refuse this application. The objector inferred that the reports had been rushed through and objections not considered properly. A site visit during school hours would prove the objectors' case should the Committee want to consider this option. In their closing statement, the objector read from a parent's objection which considered that a serious and deadly accident would be likely to occur and those who let the scheme go ahead would be to blame.

The agent for the applicant attended and addressed the Committee on the application stating that the scheme would create jobs, that highways officers were satisfied with traffic and road concerns and deemed them safe and appropriate. The proposal would be a modern and attractive building matching Hough End Hall. There would be no less to amenity to local residents, and no impact to air quality and there are clear benefits. The site was a brownfield site, and the development would improve the area. The location of the store allowed for shoppers to visit via tram, bus bicycle and on foot. In their closing statement, the agent stated that approving the application would create growth and jobs.

Local Ward Councillor Rawson addressed the Committee and stated that this was a busy junction with 4 schools nearby. The plan for a Lidl supermarket was welcomed by some residents as this would bring an affordable supermarket to the area which those nearby would not have to visit in a vehicle and there was support for this being available to pedestrians and cyclists. The Merseybank estate was in a "food desert" area with a lack of local shops/supermarkets and many were keen for the scheme to go ahead for this reason. Councillor Rawson stated that he had children in local schools and so understood the concerns around the issues raised. There would be 40 jobs available at the supermarket for local people and Wards Councillors had campaigned for better parking restrictions in the area and had achieved a 30mph speed limit, pedestrian zone, pelican crossing and crossing patrol. If the scheme were to be approved, then there could always be additional highways mitigation applied in the area. Councillor Rawson expressed that there should be higher interventions at the key times of the school day. A site visit would show why the area required extra measures, such as a no deliveries condition/policy at key school times, no reduction of pavement space, crossing points and no kerb mounting. Lidl could be asked to provide a crossing patrol for the first year of operations and should

considered additional cycle parking instead of car parking space. The junction of Mauldeth Road West and Nell Lane would require some traffic calming and bus shelters should be added at the supermarket.

The planning officer addressed the concerns raised including a justification for the number of car parking spaces proposed and that Highways officers and TfGM were satisfied but conditions were in place to address issues on access to Nell Lane. An upgrade to the junction using a MOVA system was proposed, and air quality had been properly assessed. The planning officer reminded the Committee that the recommendation was for approval.

Councillor Flanagan stated that he was glad to see the current building being up for demolition but understood the issue and felt that the positive aspects of the scheme had to be balanced with safety concerns. In his closing statement, Councillor Flanagan noted the four schools and a park in the vicinity of this scheme and proposed a site visit at a peak time.

The planning officer reiterated that all traffic concerns had been fully assessed by Highways officers and TfGM.

Councillor Leech seconded the proposal for a site visit and stated that he was considering a move of Minded-to-Refuse. He did welcome the idea of a low-cost supermarket but felt that the objector had made a good case against the traffic modelling and concurred that he had little faith in this as well. Councillor Leech was in the belief that changes along Mauldeth Road West due to this scheme would shift traffic down onto an already busy Nell Lane and felt that this traffic flow had not been fully considered. It would be pertinent for the Committee to make a site visit at a peak time due to the four schools in this area.

The planning officer assured the Committee that the Highways officers had looked at all traffic considerations in great detail and added that the fallback position would be that the existing building could be back in use if the scheme was not approved.

Councillor Leech reiterated his concerns regarding the claim that there would be zero additions to traffic flow, adding that this could not be the case and expressed having no faith in the traffic modelling.

The Chair stated that the Committee had expert advice to help in the consideration of all applications.

The Director of Planning stated that a site visit may require a meeting to assess the best time for this purpose. If the scheme was deferred due to concerns that officers hadn't considered the traffic management plans accordingly then again, officers would come back with further information.

The Chair stated that some Committee members had family commitments and may not be available to make a site visit at school times so suggested an evening visit that would still be at a busy time, possibly the day before the next Planning and Highways Committee meeting.

Councillor Davies explained that there were other experts involved within the representations in that headteachers knew their area very well and stated that a plan of the site in relation to the nearby schools would have been helpful. Councillor Davies was satisfied with the proposal of a site visit and mentioned that it may be worth asking the local headteachers what they felt the best time to visit would be.

The Chair reminded the Committee that they should take both sets of experts into account, adding that there was a process within the Labour Group to deal with these concerns and then had the Committee vote on the proposal for a site visit as proposed by Councillor Flanagan and seconded by Councillor Leech.

Decision

The Committee agreed the proposal to undertake a site visit, owing to concerns raised around traffic and pedestrian safety, junctions and highways at the site.

PH/23/17 135604/FO/2022 - Land to the rear of 354 Wilbraham Road, Manchester - Chorlton Park Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to the erection of 65 dwellings (Use Class C3(a)), with associated infrastructure, including landscaping, ecological mitigation, drainage and car parking and access from Wilbraham Road. It also includes the demolition of a garage to the rear of 354 Wilbraham Road. It is also proposed to improve the floodlights on an adjacent site occupied by Maine Road FC.

The application site comprises an overgrown former playing field, it is understood this was last in use in 2016. In mitigation for the loss of the field, there is an agreed package of replaced and enhanced sport facilities.

The proposals were subject to the notification by way of 449 letters to nearby addresses, site notice posted at the site and advertisement in the Manchester Evening News.

In response 30 comments were received, 19 of these objecting to the proposals from 18 separate addresses, 11 comments were received in support.

The planning officer did not add anything to the report submitted.

An objector attended and addressed the Committee on the application stating that they were representing other local residents who wished for the Committee to undertake a site visit. It had been discovered that someone owns land that is part of the plot for development. Traffic on Wilbraham Road was very busy with two other side roads joining this road close to the proposed scheme. If allowed, the development would add to traffic issues in the area, and it was expressed that there was no detailed consideration of this within the reports. The layout of dwellings in this application were not in keeping with others in the area, being 2.5 storeys tall as opposed to 2 storeys. There was a threat to the urban character of the area and there had not been enough consideration to the flood risk posed at this site. Residents and land engineer had discussed flooding issues, but this had not

appeared in the reports. The mitigation for the loss of this plot as a playing field was to be covered at Alexandra Park but the objector questioned if residents local to the park had been consulted on this.

The agent for the applicant attended and addressed the Committee on the application stating that all land at the site was under the applicant's control. The applicant works with disadvantaged children across Manchester and were looking at redundant land for building opportunities following funding cuts to the associated charities supported by the applicant. The site had last been used for sports in 2016 and had no on-site facilities. The applicant had engaged with local residents and Ward Councillors and conveyed that the scheme was acceptable. The playing pitch mitigation was covered by nearby availability at Alexandra Park. There was a clear need for affordable family homes in Manchester and this proposal would feature 13 homes with a mix of social rent and mortgages. Air source heat pumps would be installed at all residences meaning no gas boilers would be installed. There were no road safety issues with the scheme as each dwelling had space for two cars with electric vehicle charging and cycle storage. Gardens would be fully vegetated making this a sustainable development. It was stated that there had been no objections received and the Committee was requested to approve the application.

Local Ward Councillor Midgley addressed the Committee stating that this proposal met a need for affordable housing in the area. The applicant had made modifications to match houses in the locality and reduced the initial proposed number of dwellings. The number of affordable rental dwelling had been raised from 4 to 7 and also 6 first time buyers would be able to get onto the property ladder. In their closing statement, Councillor Midgley felt that there was a need for some assistance with traffic calming measures to Wilbraham Road.

The planning officer stated that the grant of planning permission would not override any legal issues such as land ownership and this was a matter that the developer would need to resolve. Regarding flood risk concerns, this had a full drainage scheme attached and there would be additional tree planting which would assist with any overlooking issues. The design of the residences had been considered acceptable, the loss of what was previously a playing field had been addressed and this would provide much needed affordable housing. The planning officer concluded by stating that a new junction subject to traffic regulation orders would be created for this development.

Councillor Flanagan noted objectors concerns and felt they had to be balanced with the need for affordable housing in this area. He proposed to move the officer's recommendation of Minded-to-Approve for the application with an added condition, whereby the developer would contribute towards traffic calming measures. If this could not be a condition, then it was requested that Highways officers work with Local Ward Councillors.

The Director of Planning referred the Committee to Condition 7 regarding highways works and explored the potential for rewording of this condition to address any impacts on the highway and concerns raised by the Committee. If this was agreeable, the Director of Planning stated that this could be delegated to herself to

make the required arrangements with the Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee.

Councillor Flanagan stated that this was agreeable and satisfied his earlier proposal to move the officer's recommendation of Minded-to-Approve for the application with the Director of Planning's recent comments as a condition.

Councillor Riasat enquired on the legal issue with the entrance to the site if there were an actual dispute regarding land ownership and asked where this would lead to.

The planning officer stated that there was only one access point and if this area was in dispute the developer may not be able to gain access and therefore would not be able to implement the planning permission.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal from Councillor Flanagan.

Decision

The Committee agreed the officer's recommendation of Minded-to-Approve for the application with an added condition whereby both the Director and Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee, would amend condition 7, to address the concerns of the Committee regarding impact on the highway and traffic.

(Councillor Leech declared an interest in this item and left the room for the duration, taking no part in the discussion or decision-making process).

PH/23/18 135396/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 related to planning permission, 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. Following these approvals, a further application was submitted in September 2022 (application reference 134732/FO/2022) which 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. These revised proposals indicated an increase in height of the activity hall to 9.3 metres. This application was approved by the Council's Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on the 20 October 2022.

The current proposals seek to provide a further enlargement to the rear of the previously approved extension to the north of the existing building to form a 42m² therapy room.

110 addresses were notified of the proposals, 2 responses were received raising concerns with the proposals and particularly implications in terms of pedestrian and highway safety in the vicinity of the park.

The planning officer had nothing to add to the printed report.

Councillor Flanagan moved the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application

Councillor S Ali seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee resolved to Approve the application as set out in the report submitted.

PH/23/19 135731/FH/2022 - 24 Victory Street, Manchester, M14 5AE - Moss Side Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that related to the applicant seeking permission for the erection of a single storey rear extension together with a front porch enlargement, to provide additional living accommodation for a family dwellinghouse. The property is not listed, nor is it located within a conservation area.

Thirteen neighbouring dwellings were notified of the proposed development and four letters of objection were received as well as one enquiry.

The planning officer referred to further comments from two local residents contained within the supplementary information report.

Local Ward Councillor Bell addressed the Committee and stated that she understood the need for larger family homes in the Moss Side Ward owing to a general lack but stated that local residents were against the proposal and that she also objected. The neighbours had stated that there would be a loss of light, their properties would be overlooked and that there would be disruption and distress. One local resident suffered with autism which was exacerbated by noise and Councillor Bell requested that the Committee consider the impact that this extension would have on neighbouring residents. The privacy of nearby residents would be impacted on and Councillor Bell concluded by stating that she supported a refusal of this planning application.

The planning officer stated that this extension measured 3.5 metres which met the limit stipulated in planning policy and added that 3 metres could be added without need for planning permission. There was separate legislation for construction noise.

Councillor Flanagan felt that there needed to be some balance observed, adding that it was not a huge extension and the work would probably be done reasonably quickly. Councillor Flanagan understood the need for families to have larger homes in this area and moved the officer's recommendation of Approve for the application.

Councillor Lovecy questioned whether the extension would have windows to the sides and stated that one neighbouring house is under a social rental scheme. She asked if planning considerations took into account the loss of light to the adjoining properties and noted the impact felt by these residents.

The planning officer stated that the concerns are of a tolerable level and the difference between the requirement for planning application or not was 0.5 metres and confirmed that windows of the extension looked out onto the applicant's own garden space.

Councillor Andrews seconded Councillor Flanagan's proposal.

Decision

The Committee agreed the officer recommendation of Approve for the application as detailed in the report submitted.

(Councillors Riasat and S Ali both left the meeting as this item commenced and took no part in the discussion or decision-making process).

PH/23/20 Confirmation of The Manchester City Council (Land at 52 Didsbury Park, Didsbury) Tree Preservation Order 2022 - Didsbury East Ward

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing to inform the Committee about the background and issues involved in the making of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on 6 September 2022 and to recommend the confirmation of this Tree Preservation Order.

The planning officer had nothing to add to the report submitted.

Councillor Andrews moved the recommendation within the report.

Councillor Kamal seconded the proposal.

Decision

The Committee agreed the recommendation to instruct the City Solicitor to confirm the Tree Preservation Order at 52 Didsbury Park, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5LJ, under Section 199 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and that the Order should cover the trees as plotted on the plan attached to this report.

Licensing Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 10 March 2023

Acting under Delegated Powers

Present: Councillor Grimshaw (Chair).
Councillors Davies, Evans and Flanagan

Apologies: Councillors Leech and Rawlins

LPC/23/01 Minutes

It was raised that the minutes for the previous meeting referenced a report on the progress of a gambling harm reduction programme being brought to this Committee but that had not happened. The Principal Licensing Officer stated their apologies that this had not been done but they were working on a report that linked to this programme that would be due before this Committee in the future.

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021.

LPC/23/02 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028

The Committee considered a report that presented a draft revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and the proposed method of consultation. Officers' recommendations were:

- i. To agree the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy be consulted on
- ii. To request officers to consult the statutory consultees and other appropriate persons in accordance with the proposed consultation strategy.
- iii. To request officers to bring a further report to the Committee following that consultation, detailing any consultation responses and any consequential proposed amendments to the draft policy.

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report, stating that the Licensing Act 2003 covers the following Licensable activities: Sale or supply of alcohol, Provision of regulated entertainment, Provision of facilities for regulated entertainment and Provision of late-night refreshment. The review aimed to deal with specific changes related to licensed premises since the policy was last reviewed. These included Women's Safety, Spiking, Vulnerability, Martyn's Law, and Shadow Licenses. The review aimed to take a more area-based focus with specific objectives, noting areas with a 'cluster' of licensed premises. The policy aimed to encourage a diversified and balanced licensed economy, with specific thoughts on style and type of venue, location, hours and operating standards.

There was a focus on venue diversity, density and availability, with the ultimate aim to promote growth. The policy wanted to ensure that there was an appropriate mix of venue types, including non-alcohol related venue types. It was aiming to encourage the positive development of clustering of Licensed Premises. The review wanted to contribute to cultural vibrancy without unduly impacting the local area.

It was noted that it can be difficult to clearly establish the intended nature of a venue from the information required in an application. The policy looked to change this by recognising there are different styles of operation and promoting additional information being provided with applications relating to this, such as a plan of management to set out the concept of a business. This will assist in determining the impact of the business on the local area.

Within area based considerations, the special policies related to Ancoats, Fallowfield and Withington were to be retained, whilst broadening the scope of the policy to consider all areas with notable clusters of licensed premises or emerging areas. The policy proposed a more conservative approach for alcohol-led venues in some city centre areas. The Cumulative Impact Policy for Fallowfield was revised to a more nuanced approach but retaining a strict approach towards certain new licenses, including alcohol-led venues or takeaways. The special policy for Ancoats remained in the revised policy but the wording had been amended to be more consistent with the general approach of Section 6 of the policy.

New considerations to Temporary Event Notices were proposed, particularly relating to those where multiple TENs were requested and the appropriateness of a TEN for boxing and other compact sport events. It was noted that TENs are limited in the options for Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing Panels in terms of the decisions they can take.

The policy review also aimed to address the occasional situations where a licence review is submitted and then a licence transfer application follows shortly afterwards. The policy aimed to ensure there is a clean break from the operator of the licence when the review was submitted.

The policy was to go to public consultation, with a further report to be brought back before the Committee following this.

The Committee were invited to comment and ask questions.

Questions arose relating to the dates for the consultation period, and that there was little the policy could do to prevent noise at a distance created by venues. In terms of noise at a distance, it was noted this was difficult as it is not something in the control of the venue. The consultation was confirmed to go out following the election period, but no specific dates had been set.

A question relating to delivery services was posed, noting complaints regarding the behaviour of delivery cyclists and non-recognition of the rules of the road. The difficulties of control were noted due to the use of third-party delivery services and there was uncertainty of how Licensing Policy could be used to assist with this problem.

It was queried if layout maps as part of an application could be made available to the public, why China Town was not referenced as a residential population, and whether national legislation prevents wider consultation on TENs. The Principal Licensing Officer confirmed that only the responsible authorities can make representations for TENs. They stated that the policy would be updated to reflect the residential population in China Town. It was also confirmed that layout maps were not provided for security reasons but that they can be viewed upon an appointment being made.

In response to a question relating to management of public highways during peak times, the Principal Licensing Officer stated this related there was sufficient passageway that it not obstructed through queues and smoking areas. The cumulative effect can always be considered upon applications being made. They noted that any issues with taxis and traffic was a wider consideration outside the policy.

A member requested that further guidance is provided to applicants related to disabilities and accessibility.

The Chair noted that the guidance related to reporting any issues needed to be stronger in terms of the information provided on who to report to. The Chair welcomed the report and thanked Officers for it.

Decision

1. To agree the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy be consulted on.
2. To request officers to consult the statutory consultees and other appropriate persons in accordance with the proposed consultation strategy.
3. To request officers to submit a further report to the Committee following that consultation, detailing any consultation responses and any consequential proposed amendments to the draft policy.

Standards Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 16 March 2023

Present:

Councillor Simcock – In the Chair

Councillors: Andrews, Connolly, Evans and Nunney

Ringway Parish Council: Councillor O'Donovan

Apologies:

Nicolé Jackson - Independent Co-opted Member

Geoff Linnell - Independent Co-opted Member:

Councillor Lanchbury

ST/22/01 Appointment of Chair

Decision

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillor Simcock as Chair for the meeting.

ST/22/02 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022 as a correct record

ST/22/03 Standards Committee - Annual Report

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor, that provided an update on the matters within the remit of the Standards Committee, since the last annual report produced in March 2022 which covered the period from 1 February 2022 up to 31 January 2022.

The report also provided a summary of work undertaken by the Council Monitoring Officer concerning decisions on complaints made between 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023.

The committee's comments were requested on issues raised within the report and agreement was sought to submit the Annual Report the next meeting of the Council.

The Chair invited member's questions and comments.

A member referred to paragraph 6.5 of the report and asked officers to explain the reasons two complaints listed in the report were not dealt with, due to exceeding the timeframe.

The City Solicitor advised the Committee that the complaints were delayed due to a technical issue in the exchange of emails with the Council's Independent Person. City Solicitor reported that the email issue had been addressed and mechanisms are in place to ensure that all complaints will be dealt with within the timeframe.

The Chair referred to paragraph 4.2 of the report concerning the register of member interests and officers were asked if all elected members had submitted a register of interest's form.

The committee was informed that all elected members are required to have a register of interests in place and during the year, all members are sent four reminders to update their interests form, if required. Two reminders are specific emails, and two emails include the reminder in the Ethical Standards Update. If the elected member has no changes to make since their form was submitted, no update is required. Individual members have the responsibility to update their record, as stated in the Code of Conduct for Members.

Decisions

1. To note the matters reported since the last annual report in March 2022 and the work done by the Council's Monitoring Officer during the period to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors.
2. To agree to submit the report to the next meeting of the Council on 29 March 2023, to provide assurance on standards matters.

ST/22/04 Social Media Guidance for Members update

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor that provided an update on the operation and efficacy of the Social Media Guidance for Members ('the Guidance').

Reference was made to paragraph 2.1 of the report regarding two complaints relating to social media use. One of the complaints was outside of the scope of the member complaints procedure as it related to the member not acting in an official capacity. The Committee was informed that the number of complaints received is very low with one complaint received in the last year and none received in the year before. The Guidance will be reviewed again in 2024.

The Chair invited member's questions and comments.

Officers were requested to circulate the Social Media Guidance to all members and to include the Guidance within induction materials and training for all newly elected members.

A member referred paragraph 3.1 "Blurred Identities", within the Guidance and instances where an elected member uses a personal social media account for council business matters and suggested that any council related business should be released via a separate council business social media account. Officers were asked

if guidance could be included to advise members that personal and council business should be contained in separate accounts.

Officers noted the issue of maintaining the separation of personal and council business released on elected member's social media and agreed to consider the point made of elected members having two separate accounts.

The Chair referred to the description of social media websites and applications listed in paragraph 2 of the Guidance and asked officers to include the TikTok application to the list. Reference was also made to the 3.1 of the guidance, regarding non-disclosure of information given in confidence. Officers were asked what the reaction would be to a councillor releasing information into the public domain given to them in confidence.

The City Solicitor reported that any confidential information provided to a councillor that is then passed into the public domain by the councillor would be investigated as a potential breach of the Code of Conduct for Members. This would also apply to members of staff where a potential breach would be investigated under the Code of Conduct for Employees.

Decision

To note the report and the comments and suggestions received.

ST/22/05 Member Development and Training

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor that provided details on all training delivered since the last report and noted some minor changes to the Member Development Strategy. The committee was advised that the Strategy is proposed to be updated in 2023 to reflect that responsibility for Member Development has moved from the Statutory Deputy Leader's portfolio to the Deputy Leader's portfolio. An amendment was made to the reference in Appendix B of the report 'Inclusive Leadership Training' with the category changed from 'Mandatory' to 'General'.

The Chair invited member's questions and comments.

A member referred to elected member training, where similar or the same training had been undertaken through the elected member's employer or organisation and asked officers if external training is accredited. Reference was also made to paragraph 5.5 of the report, concerning the number of elected members that had not completed Cyber Security training and the reasons for this.

It was reported that the Council has some specifically designed training packages and there is an expectation that all members complete the training. Members are offered help and support to access and undertake Cyber Security training and other training packages.

The City Solicitor reported that all members have been contacted to request them to undertake the training and welcomed suggestions to achieve 100% take up. Training

on cyber security is a high priority and very important to the council, in view of the potential dangers to the organisation from cyber-attack.

The City Solicitor undertook to write to the elected members that have not completed Cyber Security training, to make them aware of the concern expressed by the Standards Committee and to request the member to complete the training as a matter of urgency. If the training is not completed following a period specified, the matter would then be raised by the City Solicitor through the member's political group.

The Chair referred to Casework system and how the system can be used. Reference was also made members induction training and advice and guidance provided on member advice surgeries.

It was reported that the Casework system provides elected members with a tool to monitor casework and is a stand-alone application. Elected member ward surgeries are covered in induction sessions under health and safety advice to advise on location and times of surgeries and for help on risk assessment of premises used. The content of advice surgeries is not covered within the induction sessions.

Decisions

1. To note the report on training received since February 2022.
2. To approve the proposed changes to the Member Development Strategy.
3. To approve the action proposed by the City Solicitor to write to elected members that have not completed Cyber Security training, to make them aware of the concern expressed by the Standards Committee and to request the member to complete the training as a matter of urgency. If the training has not been completed following the period specified, the matter will then be raised by the City Solicitor through the member's political group.

ST/22/06 Members' Update on Ethical Governance

Consideration was given to the report of the City Solicitor seeking Committee's comments on and approval of the draft Members' Update on Ethical Governance for March 2023.

The Chair invited member's questions and comments.

In welcoming the Update on Ethical Governance, officers were requested to place Cyber Security training as the first article on the Update to raise member awareness of the importance of the training.

Decisions

1. To approve the content of the draft Members' Update on Ethical Governance set out in the Appendix of the report for circulation to all members.

2. To request officers to place Cyber Security training as the first article on the newsletter

ST/22/07 Work Programme for the Standards Committee

Consideration was given to the report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit on the Work Programme for the Committee for the year 2023/24.

A member requested the inclusion of an update report on the process for members to complete Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) checks and the follow up work to ensure completion.

Decisions

1. To note the Work Programme.
2. To agree that update report on the process for members to complete Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and the follow up work to ensure completion, is included in the Work Programme.

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Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Council - 29 March 2023

Subject: Resolution to designate certain streets as prohibited, licence or consent streets for the purpose of street trading

Report of: Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing

Summary

This report requests Council to pass a resolution to designate certain streets in Manchester as prohibited streets for the purpose of street trading. It provides details of the publication, on 10 February 2023, of the statutory notice of the Council's intention to so designate those streets and the outcome of the statutory consultation period.

The report also provides the Council with details of the remaining statutory steps which must be taken before any such designation takes effect.

Recommendations

That the Council pass a resolution to designate certain streets as prohibited streets for the purpose of street trading in accordance with Appendix 1 and as detailed in the statutory notice published on 10 February 2023.

Wards Affected: Deansgate and Piccadilly

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
None

Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable City: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Street trading consents and licences may make a valuable contribution to areas in and around Manchester. The vehicle and trailers used can be of a quality that compliments the street scene, which in turn may encourage people into the area thereby impacting positively on the economy of the sub-region.

A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The Street Trading Policy will enable the Council to create a street trading environment which complements premises-based trading, is sensitive to the needs of the residents, provides diversity, consumer choice and safety of local environments
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit and work.	Licensed premises often operate alongside to residential accommodation. Ensuring licensed premises are safe, well-run and properly regulated positively contributes to the liveability of the city
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Street trading licences and consents allow people to start a business and in addition each licence or consent will normally create employment for at least two people.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue None

Financial Consequences – Capital None

Contact Officers:

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Position: Licensing Unit Manager

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Name: Fraser Swift

Position: Principal Licensing Officer

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

Licensing & Appeals Committee Report of 5 December 2022 – Review of Street Trader Licence and Consents
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4

1. Introduction

- 1.1. On 5 December 2022, the Licensing and Appeals Committee approved the commencement of the statutory consultation process to pass a resolution to vary a resolution of 9 May 2012; this was in relation to the designation of certain streets in Manchester as prohibited, licence or consent streets for the purposes of street trading.
- 1.2. The proposed resolution (Appendix 1) designates certain streets in the city centre as prohibited streets, which means that no licences or consents for street trading may be granted for those areas, as shown highlighted in Appendix 2.
- 1.3. This brings these areas into line with similar areas such as St Ann's Square and Exchange Square, which are already prohibited.
- 1.4. Following that meeting, in accordance with the statutory requirements, a notice was published on 10 February 2023 which invited representations in respect of the Council's intention to pass such a resolution.
- 1.5. Before deciding whether to pass such a resolution, the Council must consider any representations received.

2. Designation of Streets

- 2.1. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 prescribes a statutory process to be followed in relation to the designation of prohibited, licence, and consent streets for the purpose of street trading.
- 2.2. The Act requires publication of a notice of the intention, prior to any such resolution being made. Should such a resolution be made 2 further notices must be published before the designation comes into force.
- 2.3. Table 1 is an indicative timetable for the making of the resolution and publication of statutory notices.

Table 1

9 February 2023	Newspaper notice advertising the proposal to make resolution (statutory period for making representations begins – minimum of 28 days)
29 March 2023	Report to full council to consider any such representations from advert of w/c 10 February 2023, and make resolution

3 April 2023	First post-resolution newspaper notice (minimum 28 days before resolution comes into effect)
10 April 2023	Second post-resolution newspaper notice (must within 7 days after first post-resolution notice)
10 May 2023	Designation comes into force (minimum of 28 days after first post-resolution notice)

3. Notice of Intention to pass Resolution

- 3.1. On 9 February 2023 a notice was published in the Manchester Evening News; this gave the necessary notice of the Council's intention to make a resolution in relation to the designation of prohibited streets for the purpose of street trading.
- 3.2. The Act prescribes a period of 28 days from the date of publication of the notice for any representations to be made.
- 3.3. The Act also requires that a copy of the notice shall be served on the the chief officer of police and the highway authority responsible for any streets to which the proposal relates.
- 3.4. No representations have been received in response to any of the notices.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1. Council is asked to pass a resolution to designate those streets in accordance with Appendix 1.

5. Key Policies and Considerations

- 5.1. The details in the report relate to the Council's street trading policy under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

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APPENDIX 1

Notice of Intention to redesignate streets within Manchester City Centre

Notice is hereby given that Manchester City Council ("The Council") gives notice in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1982 that it intends on 29 March 2023, to pass a resolution to amend the Council's designation of streets made on 1 February 2012 in order to re-designate the below streets as prohibited streets for the purpose of street trading (subject to consideration or representations received by the date specified below) ,

As from the 29 March 2023 the Manchester City Council designation of streets is amended to vary the list of prohibited streets in the City Centre to include the below intended schedule of streets.

Prohibited Streets:

The areas known as:

'Piccadilly Gardens' defined as the area bounded by Piccadilly, Portland Street, Parker Street and tree line along Mosley Street back to the junction with Piccadilly
'St Peter's Square' and 'Albert Square': encompassed by Princess Street at its junction with Albert Square, Mosley Street, Oxford Street, Mount Street along its length, Lloyd Street to its junction with Albert Square and Albert Square returning the junction with Piccadilly.

'Cathedral Gardens' defined as the area bounded by Long Millgate, Todd Street, Corporation Street, Fennel Street along its length to the junction with Long Millgate.

'Lincoln Square' defined as the area encompassed by Brazenose St along its length and bounded by Mulberry Street and Queen Street

For all of the above, and where the said area is bounded by a street the designation includes the whole of the street throughout the length thereof which forms the boundary.

A copy of this notice will be available for viewing at Manchester Town Hall Extension, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5DB or by e-mail from

premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk.

Any representation in relation to this notice must be made, within 28 days of the date the notice appeared in the newspaper, in writing to: The Principal Licensing Officer, Licensing Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 1, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2LA or by e-mail to premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk.

Dated this: 9 February 2023

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APPENDIX 2

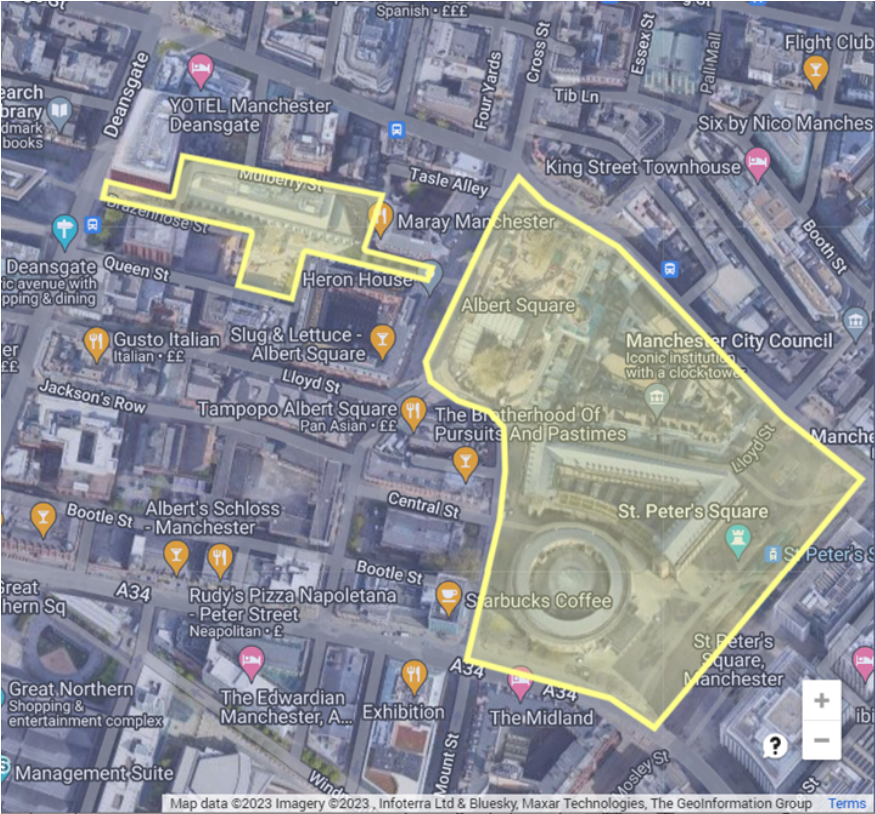
PICCADILLY GARDENS



APPENDIX 2

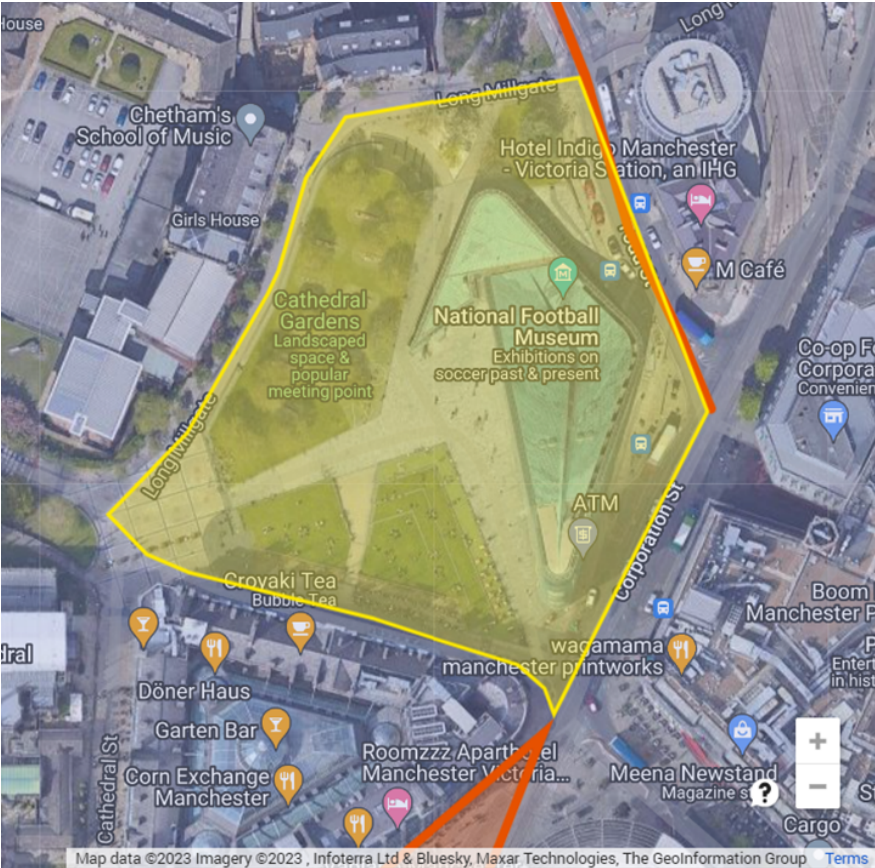
(LEFT) LINCOLN SQUARE

(RIGHT) ST PETER'S SQUARE & ALBERT SQUARE



APPENDIX 2

CATHEDRAL GARDENS



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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Standards Committee – 16 March 2023
Council - 29 March 2023

Subject: Standards Committee – Annual Report

Report of: City Solicitor

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Standards Committee on the matters within the remit of the Committee since the beginning of February 2022.

Recommendations:

1. To report on the matters within the remit of the Standards Committee since the last annual report in March 2022 and the work done by the Council's Monitoring Officer during the period to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors.
 2. To seek the views of the Committee regarding whether this report should be forwarded to full Council for assurance on standards issues
-

Wards Affected All

Financial Consequences – Revenue None directly.

Financial Consequences – Capital None directly.

Contact Officers:

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

Annual Report to Standards Committee – March 2022

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to report on the matters within the remit of the Standards Committee since the last annual report in March 2022 which covered the period up to 31 January 2022 and to summarise the work undertaken by the Council's Monitoring Officer from 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023.

2.0 The Roles of the Standards Committee and the Council's Monitoring Officer

2.1 The role and functions of the Standards Committee and the Council's Monitoring Officer ('MO') are set out in the Council's Constitution and reproduced for ease of reference in Appendix 1 to this Report. The Standards Committee generally meets 3 times a year, in March, June and October /November.

3.0 Update on matters within the remit of the Standards Committee since its last Annual Report

- 3.1 Since its last annual report the Committee has:
- Considered the operation and efficacy of the Member Development Strategy and training delivered since February 2021 and approved the Member Development Strategy 2022-2024
 - Considered the operation and efficacy of the Social Media Guidance for Members.
 - Considered the Council's partnership arrangements insofar as they are within the remit of the Standards Committee with particular focus on training in relation to members who take on company directorships
 - Considered the draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 insofar as it related to the terms of reference of this Committee.
 - Considered the operation and the efficacy of the Member/Officer Protocol
 - Reviewed the operation and efficacy of the Use of Resources Guidance for Members
 - Considered the operation and the efficacy of the Planning Protocol
 - Considered the operation and the efficacy of the process for granting dispensations in relation to members' interests.
 - Considered the operation of the Register of Members' Interests
 - Considered a report on the Government's response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life's review of local government ethical standards.
 - Considered the operation and the efficacy of the Gifts and Hospitality Guidance for Members
 - Made recommendations regarding the appointment the Independent Members of this Committee and the Independent Persons
 - Considered the draft Code of Corporate Governance

- Considered and made recommendations regarding the Arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints against members
- Approved the content of the Members' Update on Ethical Guidance Update.
- Considered the Local Government (Disqualification Act) 2022 Received an update report on the Local Government Association (LGA) Model Code of Conduct for Members.

4.0 Update on matters considered by the Committee

- 4.1 The report relating to the efficacy and operation of Gifts and Hospitality Guidance which came to this Committee in June 2022 indicated that during the period 1 October 2021 to 12 May 2022 two entries had been recorded. Between 13 May 2022 and 31 January 2023 five members updated their entry in relation to gifts or hospitality. The current threshold for registration of gifts and hospitality is £100. The Monitoring Officer is of the view, bearing in mind covid issues and the threshold, this level is unsurprising.
- 4.2 As usual reminders to Members regarding updating their Register of Interests are contained in the Ethical Governance Update sent to all Members and in email reminders sent to Members during the course of the year. Email reminders were sent to members in May 2022 and January 2023. As indicated in the report on this matter in June 2022 between 1 February 2022 and 30 April 2022, 22 members had updated their Register of Interests. A further 31 have updated their registers between 1 May 2022 and 31 January 2023. Members will be aware it is the responsibility of individual Members to comply with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Members including regarding members' interests. As a matter of good practice specific guidance will continue to be provided to Members regarding declaration of interests at meetings where necessary.
- 4.3 As indicated in the report on Members interests in June 2022 all members have been advised that, if they consider that the disclosure of the details of a DPI or personal interest could lead to violence or intimidation against them, or to a person connected with them, and the Monitoring Officer agrees, the details of the disclosable interest can be withheld from the public register under section 32(2) of the Localism Act 2011 (Sensitive Interests). 4 requests for redaction of Members' register as sensitive interests have been agreed by the Council's Monitoring Officer in the last year.
- 4.4 It remains the view of the MO that the codes and guidance are well understood by Members. The MO is not aware of any queries or issues that have not been addressed through existing procedures.
- 4.5 A report on the operation and efficacy of dispensations was last considered by this Committee at its meeting on 16 June 2022. Other than normal budget dispensations no further dispensations have been sought since the date of that report. It is the Monitoring Officer's view that there are no issues regarding requests for dispensations that give rise to concern.

5. Councillor Training and Awareness

- 5.1 There is a separate report on this agenda relating to Member Training and Development.

6. Complaints against Councillors

- 6.1. There are 3 potential stages through which a complaint may proceed:

Stage 1 - Initial Assessment stage where the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Council's Independent Person, will decide whether to reject the complaint, seek informal resolution of the matter or refer the complaint for formal Investigation.

Stage 2 - Where a complaint is referred for Investigation, the Monitoring Officer will appoint an Investigating Officer to investigate the matter.

Stage 3 - If the Investigating Officer's final report concludes that there is sufficient evidence of a failure by the Member to comply with the Code, the Monitoring Officer will consult with the Independent Person before either seeking a local resolution to the matter or sending the allegation before the Hearing Panel for determination.

- 6.2 The last Annual report covered the period 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022. The Monitoring Officer has received 17 complaints about Manchester City Councillors between 1 February 2022 and 31 January 2023. This compares with 12 complaints received in the previous year.

- 6.3 Of the 17 complaints received:

- 2 was not pursued by the complainant;
- 11 were rejected at Stage 1 as set out in the table below;
- 4 have been resolved informally;
- None were sent for investigation.

- 6.4 The timeframes within the Council's Arrangements for dealing with complaints that Council Members have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members ("the Arrangements") are as follows:

- (a) The Monitoring Officer will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 10 working days of all required information being provided and at the same time, the Monitoring Officer will write to the Subject Member with a copy of the complaint
- (b) The Subject Member may, within 10 working days of being provided with a copy of the complaint, make written representations to the Monitoring Officer
- (c) A decision regarding whether the complaint merits formal investigation or another course of action will normally be taken within 20 working days of either receipt of representations from the Subject Member or where no

representations are submitted 20 working days of the expiry of the period mentioned in paragraph (b) above.

- 6.5 The initial response to complaints continue to be processed timely with 15 of the 17 complaints received being acknowledged and forwarded to the subject member for comment within the 10 working day timeframe. The other two complaints exceeded the timeframe by 3 and 14 working days respectively.
- 6.6 Six of the 11 complaints considered at stage 1 initial assessment exceeded the 20 working day timeframe for taking an initial assessment decision following receipt of the subject member's response to the complaint. This reflects a period when there were technical issues experienced by one of the Council's Independent Persons in receiving relevant papers electronically which have now been resolved.
- 6.7 **Complaints Summary: Decisions on Complaints made between 1 February 2022 and 31 January 2023**

Complaint No.	Provision of the code alleged to have been breached	Outcome
CCM2022.01	Do anything which may knowingly cause the Council to breach the Equality Act 2010; Do anything which compromises the impartiality of those who work for or on behalf of the Council; Bringing office or council into disrepute	Complaint rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment because Subject Member not acting in their official capacity. The complaint related a social media tweet.
CCM2022.02 Complaint	Do anything which may knowingly cause the Council to breach the Equality Act 2010; Bully or be abusive; Do anything which compromises the impartiality of those who work for or on behalf of the Council; Bringing office or council into disrepute	Complaint rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment because there was no clear information leading to the implication there was a breach of the code of conduct for members. In all the circumstances there is no overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation. To pursue an investigation would be a disproportionate and not good use of public funds. The complaint related to a social media tweet.

CCM2022.03	Not specified by the complainant	Complaint not pursued by complainant. Complainant did not complete a complaint form as requested
CCM2022.04 Complaint against 3 members	Bringing their office or Council into disrepute; Use or attempt to use his/her position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for himself/herself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage	Complaint rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. There was no overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation. To pursue an investigation would be a disproportionate and not good use of public funds. The complaint related to a regulatory matter
CCM2022.05*	Bringing their office or Council into disrepute	Complaint rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. There was no overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation. To pursue an investigation would be a disproportionate and not good use of public funds. The complaint related to the same regulatory matter as above.
CCM2022.06*	Bringing their office or Council into disrepute	Complaint rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. There was no overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation. To pursue an investigation would be a disproportionate and not good use of public funds. The complaint related to the same regulatory matter as above
CCM2022.07*	Bringing their office or Council into disrepute	Complaint rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. There was no overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation. To pursue an investigation would be a disproportionate and not good use of public funds The complaint related to the same regulatory matter as above.
CCM2022.08	Do anything which may	Complaints rejected at Stage 1

	<p>knowingly cause the Council to breach the Equality Act 2010;</p> <p>Disclose information given to you in confidence; Bringing office or council into disrepute</p>	<p>initial assessment. The events complained about happened so long ago that those involved are unlikely to remember it clearly enough to provide credible evidence. The resources needed to investigate and determine the complaint would be wholly disproportionate to the allegations & would not be a good use of public funds</p>
CCM2022/09 Complaint against 3 members	<p>Bully or be abusive; Bringing their office or Council into disrepute; Use or attempt to use his/her position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for himself/herself or any other person an advantage or disadvantage</p>	<p>Complaints rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. The conduct of the Subject Members was not a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members. The complaint was not serious enough to merit any action. In all the circumstances there is not an overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation.</p> <p>The complaint centred around alleged failure to respond to a constituent.</p>
CCM2022/10	<p>Bringing their office or Council into disrepute</p>	<p>Complaint withdrawn</p>
CCM2022/11	<p>Bully or be abusive; Bringing their office or Council into disrepute</p>	<p>The complaints were rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. The conduct of the Subject Member was not a breach of the Code.</p> <p>The subject matter of the complaint related to a debate at a meeting</p>
CCM2022/12	<p>Bully or be abusive; Bringing their office or Council into disrepute</p>	<p>The complaints were rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. The conduct of the Subject Member was not a breach of the Code; The complaint was not serious enough to merit any action; In all the circumstances there is not an overriding public benefit in carrying out an investigation;</p> <p>Same debate as above.</p>

CCM2022/13	You must give reasons for all decisions in accordance with any statutory requirements and any reasonable additional requirements imposed by your authority	Following consultation with the Independent Person the Monitoring Officer recommended at Stage 1 initial assessment that the complaint be resolved informally by the Subject Member apologising to the complainant
CCM2022/14 Complaint against 3 members	Do anything which may knowingly cause the Council to breach the Equality Act 2010; Do anything which compromises the impartiality of those who work for or on behalf of the Council; Bringing office or council into disrepute	The complaint was rejected at Stage 1 initial assessment. The Subject Members were not acting in their official capacities as a Member of Manchester City Council at the time of the alleged failure to comply with the Code
CCM2023/01	Bully or be abusive; Bringing their office or Council into disrepute	The decision notice is yet to be issued as at date of compiling this report. The complaint has been resolved informally and relates to interaction with the complainant. An apology has been given by the subject member
CCM2023/02	Bully or be abusive; Bringing their office or Council into disrepute	Same incident as above
CCM2023/03	Bully or be abusive; Bringing their office or Council into disrepute	Same incident as above.

* relate to same member about the same matter by different complainants.

6.8 2 of the complaints related to matters which were outside of the scope of the member complaints procedure as the subject members were not acting in an official capacity. Complaint 2202.04 was a complaint by the same complainant against 3 members. 2 complaints related to discussions during the same debate at a committee meeting. Four related to the same regulatory matter where the complainants were unhappy with the subject members' views though their views were reasonable and rational based on information known to them at the time. Members will recall that at the last meeting of this Committee it endorsed a change to the Arrangements for dealing with Member complaints to enable early rejection of a complaint where for example a Member's failure to respond to correspondence and where the complaint merely expresses dissatisfaction with a decision taken by a Member. It is the view of the Monitoring Officer that no other particular pattern

emerges from the complaints received.

- 6.9 As the Committee will be aware complaints about failure to register a DPI are subject to criminal sanction. The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any action having been taken by the Police in relation to DPI requirements regarding Manchester Councillors.

7. Recommendations:

The recommendations appear at the front of this report.

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Appendix 1

The role of the Standards Committee

Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, Co-opted Members and church and parent governor representatives;

Assisting Councillors, Co-opted Members and church and parent governor representatives to observe the Council's Code of Conduct for Members;

Advising the Council on the adoption, revision or replacement of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and the Council's Arrangements for dealing with Complaints that Council Members and Co-opted voting members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members ("the Council's Arrangements");

Monitoring the operation of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and the Council's Arrangements;

Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and Co-opted Members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members and other issues relating to Standards and Conduct;

To take decisions in respect of a Council Member who is found on a hearing held in accordance with the Council's Arrangements to have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members ("the Subject Member") following referral by the Monitoring Officer for a Hearing conducted by a subcommittee of the Standards Committee;

To grant dispensations from section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 (after consultation with one of the Council's Independent Persons) if having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the Standards Committee:

- considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area; or
- considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

To determine appeals against the Monitoring Officer's decision on the grant of dispensations;

To deal with any reports from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred to it for determination;

To deal with reports of the Monitoring Officer regarding breaches of the protocols/guidance to Members accompanying the Council's Code of Conduct for Members which do not in themselves constitute a breach of that Code;

To report from time to time to Council on ethical governance within the City Council;

To consider the Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement.

The Responsibilities of the Council's Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer role is to support the Standards Committee, to handle complaints about Members and promote and maintain high standards of conduct. She has delegated authority under the Council's constitution:

- To act as the Council's Proper Officer to receive complaints that Council members have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members;
- To determine, after consultation with the Independent Person and in accordance with the Council's Arrangements for dealing with complaints that Council Members have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members ("the Council's Arrangements") whether to reject or informally resolve or investigate a complaint;
- To seek informal resolution of complaints that Council Members have failed to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members wherever practicable;
- To refer decisions dealing with a complaint against a Council Member to the Standards Committee in exceptional circumstances;
- To arrange for the appointment of an Investigating Officer to investigate a complaint where the Monitoring Officer (in consultation with the Independent Person) determine that a complaint merits formal investigation;
- To issue guidance to be followed by an Investigating Officer on the investigation of complaints;
- To determine, after consultation with the Independent Person and in accordance with the Council's Arrangements, to confirm an Investigating Officer's finding of no failure to comply with the Council's Code of Conduct for Members;
- Where an Investigating Officer's report finds that the Subject Member has failed to comply with Council's Code of Conduct for Members, to determine, after consultation with the Independent Person and in accordance with the Council's Arrangements, either to seek a local resolution or to send a matter for local hearing;
- To make arrangements to advertise a vacancy for the appointment of:
 - i Independent Persons; and
 - ii Co-Opted Independent Members

- To make arrangements, in consultation with the Chair of the Council's Standards Committee for short-listing and interviewing candidates for appointment as Independent Persons and to make recommendations to Council for appointment;
- To prepare and maintain a Council Register of Member's Interests to comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, and ensure that it is available for inspection and published on the Council's website as required by the Act;
- To prepare and maintain a register of Member's interests for Ringway Parish Council to comply with the Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Conduct adopted by Ringway Parish Council and ensure that it is available for inspection as required by the Act;
- To grant dispensations from Section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 if, having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the Monitoring Officer:
 - (i) considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) of the Localism Act from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business; or
 - (ii) considers that without the dispensation each member of the Council's Executive would be prohibited by section 31(4) of the Localism Act from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the Council's Executive;
 - (iii) considers that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Council – 29 March 2023

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

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
N/A

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
15 February 2023	To approve the calculation of the Council's Council Tax income for 2023/24	The calculation of the estimated Council Tax Base is finalised during January to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify precepting authorities by 31 January 2023 it is requested that the decision is exempt from Call In. Following a report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2022 the Chair of the Committee has agreed to exempt this decision from Call In	Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer	Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee
28 February 2023	Approval of delivery of Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding programme, spending an initial allocation of up to £2.3m government fund to support Manchester households who do not directly contract with a domestic electricity supplier and so have not received previous support for their Energy Costs; and to increase the revenue budget by that	EBSSAF is planned to allow applications from 27 February 2023 to 31 May 2023 with final payments made by 30 June 2023. Government confirmation of funding was received on 7 February 2023. Final guidance is not yet available. The anticipated timing of final government confirmation of the scheme means that if the scheme were to progress through the standard Key Decision process there may be a delay in the provision of critical support to Manchester residents.	Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer	Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

	<p>amount for the grant received.</p> <p>Funding was confirmed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 7 February 2023.</p>			
22 February 2023	<p>Determine the Council Tax element of the estimated Collection Fund 2022/23 year-end surplus or deficit.</p>	<p>The calculation of the estimated Council Tax Base is finalised during January to support the key decision required. Due to the requirement to notify precepting authorities by 31 January 2023 it is requested that the decision is exempt from Call In. Following a report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2022 the Chair of the Committee has agreed to exempt this decision from Call In.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer</p>	<p>Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>
10 March 2023	<p>Approval of delivery of Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding programme, spending an initial allocation of up to £117k government fund to support Manchester households use alternative fuels – such as heating oil, biomass and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) – as the main source of heating; and have not received the AFP automatically through their electricity supplier.</p>	<p>AFPAF is planned to allow applications from 6 March 2023 to 31 May 2023 with final payments made by 30 June 2023. Government confirmation of funding was received on 24 February 2023. The timescales applying to delivery of the scheme mean that if the scheme were to progress through the standard Key Decision process there may be a delay in the provision of critical support to Manchester residents.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer</p>	<p>Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>

	<p>Also, to increase the revenue budget by that amount for the grant received.</p> <p>Funding was confirmed by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 24 February 2023.</p>			
16 March 2023	<p>Approval to provide support to families with children who are eligible for Free School Meals during the Easter Half Term Holidays at a cost of up to £1.1m. This will be funded from the £12.9m government fund allocated to Manchester under Household Support Fund 4 which will provide support to households across Manchester impacted by the energy and cost of living crisis.</p>	<p>HSF4 runs from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Government confirmation of funding and of the scheme requirements were received on 21 February 2023. The timing of final government 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. The first element of which will be support to families with children who are eligible for Free School Meals during the Easter Half Term Holidays at a cost of up to £1.1m.</p>	<p>Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer</p>	<p>Councillor A Simcock – Chair of Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee</p>