



Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2023

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

There will be a private meeting for committee members only from 1:30pm on Tuesday, 7 February in Room 2006, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

Access to the Antechamber

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension.

There is no public access from any other entrance.

Filming and broadcast of the meeting

Meetings of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee are 'webcast'. These meetings are filmed and broadcast live on the Internet. If you attend this meeting you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

Membership of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Councillors - Simcock (Chair), Andrews, Davies, Good, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, B Priest, Rowles and Wheeler

Agenda

- 1. Urgent Business**
To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.
- 2. Appeals**
To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.
- 3. Interests**
To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.
- 4. Minutes** 5 - 16
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2023.
- 5. Revenue Budget Update** To Follow
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer.
- 6. Corporate Core Budget 2023/24** To Follow
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer.
- 7. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2023/24** To Follow
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer.
- 8. Changes to Council Tax Charges for Unfurnished and Empty Properties and Second Homes** To Follow
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer.
- 9. Overview Report** 17 - 42
Report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit.

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

Information about the Committee

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

The Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee areas of interest include finances, Council buildings, staffing, corporate and partnership governance as well as Council tax and benefits administration.

The Council wants to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions that affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair. Groups of people will usually be asked to nominate a spokesperson. The Council wants its meetings to be as open as possible but occasionally there will be some confidential business. Brief reasons for confidentiality will be shown on the agenda sheet.

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Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council Committees can be found on the Council's website www.manchester.gov.uk.

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive
Level 3, Town Hall Extension,
Albert Square,
Manchester, M60 2LA

Further Information

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

Charlotte Lynch
Tel: 0161 219 2119
Email: charlotte.lynch@manchester.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Monday, 30 January 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2LA

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Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 10 January 2023

Present:

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

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Leader of the Council
Councillor Akbar, Executive Member for Finance and Resources
Councillor Rawlins, Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Stanton, Deputy Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Apologies: Councillor Wheeler

RGSC/23/1 Interests

During the course of discussions, Councillor Rowles declared a personal interest in item 6 – Decarbonisation of the Operational Estate.

RGSC/23/2 Minutes

Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

RGSC/23/3 Election Act 2022

The committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, which outlined the planning and governance arrangements for the implementation of the Elections Act in Manchester.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Elections Act 2022 was introduced to make new provision for and amendments to existing electoral law and will come into effect over the next two years, impacting delivery of Local Elections in 2023, the Local and Mayoral Elections in 2024, and the next Parliamentary General Election;
- The main legislative changes, including:
 - Requiring voters to show an approved form of photo ID at polling stations before a ballot paper is issued
 - A requirement to provide reasonable equipment to assist voters with disabilities in polling stations

- Allowing all British citizens living overseas to vote in UK Parliamentary elections, regardless of when they left the UK, with applications required every 3 years
- Enabling electors to apply online for an absent vote, with both online and paper applications requiring the applicant's identity to be verified
- Requiring postal voters to reapply every three years
- Further limit to the number of people an elector may act as proxy for
- Political campaigners will no longer be permitted to handle postal votes, and the number of postal votes an individual can hand in at a polling station will be limited.
- A review of the eligibility to vote for some EU citizens
- The scheduled implementation of these changes and suitable ID for voters to show at polling stations;
- Work was underway within the Council to plan the 'front door' access, and what is required for the electors' journey and processing of their enquiry;
- Modelling work had been undertaken with the support of Performance, Research and Intelligence (PRI) to determine what transaction volumes could look like in polling stations, to model resourcing requirements;
- Staff numbers had been increased per station and an additional five stations have been added to polling places where historical information indicated a larger turnout;
- Detail of the 'customer journey' in a station or the processes to check ID had not been finalised and shared by central government;
- The Elections Strategic Lead for Greater Manchester was leading on a project to seek a consistent approach to reasonable equipment and processes at all Polling Stations across the ten Greater Manchester Districts and meetings are taking place with GM Disabled persons groups to take their views on what can be delivered and how to communicate these provisions to disabled voters;
- The Electoral Commission will run a high-profile national campaign to raise awareness of the requirement for Voter ID, targeting those who may not already have the required photographic ID and a GM-wide approach to amplify this was proposed; and
- Members will be briefed on the changes being implemented, with initial focus around changes affecting May 2023 polls. The Member Working Group will also be re-established to provide regular updates as more information becomes available.

Key points and themes which arose from the committee's discussions included:

- The need for any specific electoral communications to be easily distinguished from other Council campaigns;
- Commending the inclusion of videos in British Sign Language to communicate changes around Voter Authority Certificates (VAC);
- Why only four housing associations were listed within the 2023 local elections communications approach;
- Whether members would be briefed on progress with implementing the changes arising from the Elections Act;

- Accessibility within polling stations and what flexibility there was to respond to unforeseen circumstances such as rain;
- When further information on the customer journey in polling stations and written training information was expected from central government;
- Noting that VACs can be applied for up until 6 working days before Election Day, and querying whether the Council had capacity to support this short timescale;
- Whether any Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) had been devised to monitor a return on investment in the joint campaign across Greater Manchester;
- If the joint GM campaign would utilise advertising space on screens across the city;
- Whether any additional funding would be provided from central government to mitigate the costs associated with changes introduced by the Election Act; and
- Communications regarding voting by post, and whether postal voting would be encouraged as an alternative to the new voter ID arrangements.

The Chair began discussions on the item by quoting a British Politics and Policy paper from the London School of Economics (LSE) which stated “*Conservative MPs frame voter ID as necessary to strengthen confidence in the electoral system despite public confidence in the running of elections being at its highest*” and a piece by a Young Voices UK contributor published on the Conservative Home website, which declared “*The government has failed to offer a compelling justification for voter ID requirement beyond fearmongering about non-existent fraud. These new guidelines seem to be little more than a rushed attempt to grant themselves a slightly less embarrassing election result by excluding groups more likely to vote for a non-Tory candidate*”.

In introducing the item, the City Solicitor explained that elections were ran well in Manchester in part due to a strong core Elections Team and the use of the whole organisation during the election periods. She clarified that the Election Act would come into effect over time and that two key changes would be implemented from May 2023 – voter ID and further accessibility requirements. The Electoral Commission’s consultation on voter ID was ongoing and the Council would wait to begin a communications campaign until the VAC application portal was launched.

The Leader of the Council stated that around 2 million people across the UK would be impacted by the changes introduced within the Election Act as a result of not having the appropriate forms of ID required and that this would disproportionately impact those from disadvantaged and deprived communities and those at risk of social exclusion. She highlighted the serious and focused effort of the Council’s Elections team and reiterated that the Council would amplify communications from the Electoral Commission and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in addition to its own targeted campaign.

The Head of Strategic Communications responded to members enquiries and provided assurances that the Council’s communications on VACs would be distinguishable from other campaigns. These would be created in the same style and

using the same graphics as the Electoral Commission's campaign, which featured a range of different colours. The format of communications would also be in line with the GM-wide approach.

A need for the communications to be wide-reaching was acknowledged and it was confirmed that the list of housing associations identified as channels for communication with residents was not exhaustive. Members were asked to contact the Communications team with details of other housing or community organisations who could help to reach residents.

The Electoral Services Corporate Delivery Manager explained that annual reviews were undertaken to ensure the accessibility of polling stations and risk assessments would be carried out with Presiding Officers, given their knowledge and experience of their polling station. Work was also being undertaken with GMCA and disability groups to ensure a consistent approach.

With regards to the flexibility of polling stations in dealing with unforeseen challenges and demand, members were advised that command and control hubs were in operation on Election Day and Polling Station Inspectors (PSIs) attended polling stations throughout the day. It was noted that transaction times in polling stations may be longer as a result of the Election Act's provisions and busier polling stations and staffing levels were being reviewed in response to this to mitigate queues and waiting times.

Members were also advised that other cultural and social requirements could be met, for example all polling stations would have moveable privacy screens for those wearing facial coverings and the number of female polling station staff was currently being finalised. Further information on this would be provided to members once complete.

Assurances were also provided that the changes arising from the Election Act would be covered in the Candidate and Agent Briefing and a Member Briefing was anticipated to be held.

In response to members' questions around capacity to manage the supply of VACs up to 6 days before an election, the City Solicitor advised that processes and resources were being put in place to enable VACs to be issued as soon as the government's online portal was launched. The Customer Services team had also employed additional staff to deal with telephone enquiries and all customer-facing employees within Customer Services had been briefed on the changes and timescales. The Electoral Services Corporate Delivery Manager also assured that her team was familiar with working to deadlines and time constraints given the nature of their roles. It was noted that there may be external challenges or issues around delivery of VACs, given the recent industrial action by Royal Mail, and officers would continue to monitor the situation.

Assurances were provided that additional staffing requirements had been adequately budgeted for and that the Council would apply for all available grants and funding

sources to offset any financial implication on the authority, although it was acknowledged that any grants or funding would typically be received after expenditure.

The Head of Strategic Communications informed the committee that it was difficult to scope KPIs for the communication campaign, but the Council would be able to measure and identify trends in social media engagement and the number of calls to the contact centre around key dates for the campaign.

Members were also advised, in response to a query, that GMCA's campaign approach included advertising on digital screens across the city. The costs involved in the purchase of this advertising space would be part-funded by Manchester City Council and by the Electoral Commission.

In response to a query from the Chair regarding whether postal voting would be encouraged as an alternative to the new voter ID arrangements, it was stated that the Council would not actively promote one method of voting over another and the level of communications encouraging residents to register for a postal vote would remain the same as previous years. Residents would, however, be encouraged to register for a postal vote earlier if they wished to vote via this method.

The Chair wished the Elections team and all staff involved in the running of elections good luck.

Decision:

That the Committee notes

1. the progress being made by the Elections Team and the Election Steering Group in relation to changes that will be introduced by the Election Act 2022 for the Local Elections on 4 May 2023;
2. the communication plan for local residents with regard to the changes for the May 2023 polls; and
3. the changes that will be introduced for polls after the local elections 2023.

RGSC/23/4 Decarbonisation of the Operational Estate

The committee considered a report of the Head of Estates and Facilities which outlined the activities and progress to date of the Zero Carbon Estate Programme and the decarbonisation of Manchester City Council's operational estate. These included MCC and grant funded retrofit projects delivered under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and major capital schemes that were delivering energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Council declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019 which recognised the need for the Council, and the city as a whole, to do more to reduce CO₂ emissions and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change;
- 316 buildings were reported against in the Buildings & Energy section of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25, including offices, depots, leisure centres, libraries, markets, properties that provide social care services to adults and children, buildings in parks and buildings owned by the council but operated by third parties;
- CO₂ emissions from the operational estate had reduced by 7,161 tonnes (29.7%) compared to the baseline set by the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25;
- The completed phases of the Zero Carbon Estate Programme which upgraded energy conservation measures and invested in heat decarbonisation, energy efficiency and generation projects in 11 leisure centres;
- £18.2m of funding was received from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) for phases 1 and 2 and a further £3.1m had been awarded for phase 3a. A third bid for £1.2m of PSDS funding to support energy efficiency projects at the Town Hall Extension and Woodhouse Park Active Lifestyle Centre is awaiting decision;
- The projects currently being delivered;
- 80 Energy Audits had been commissioned from Equans to inform the long-term strategy for investment, the total scale of opportunity and key challenges;
- Other projects that are being delivered in addition to the Zero Carbon Estate Programme, which support the decarbonisation of the estate, including the refurbishment of the Town Hall; and
- Potential challenges to decarbonisation.

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

- Welcoming progress to date;
- Whether the Council would be able to continue decarbonisation works at the same pace in order to meet ambitions, given the challenges identified in the report;
- How guaranteed future funding was and where this could from and if it would be sufficient to continue the Council's decarbonisation agenda;
- Whether there was any health and safety impact on Council staff following installation of LED lighting in the Town Hall Extension;
- How decarbonisation was being approached in buildings which the Council owned but did not manage or operate;
- Why the graph of Council buildings emissions within the report did not include future projections;
- Why local authority-maintained schools were not included in decarbonisation plans;
- How much decarbonisation had occurred in Council buildings as a result of programmes to decarbonise the National Grid;
- Welcoming the installation of renewable energy generation capacity, and querying what more could be achieved by installing more solar panels;

- Why the National Football Museum was withdrawn from the scope of the works;
- Why there were no plans to make the Town Hall a zero carbon building;
- How often carbon emissions were measured; and
- If a financial figure of savings as a result of decarbonisation works was available.

The Head of Estates and Facilities introduced the item and explained that the carbon emissions from the Council's operational buildings amounted for around three quarters of the Council's total emissions, which meant it was a focus area for the Climate Change Action Plan.

The Executive Member for Environment and Transport informed the committee of the Zero Carbon Coordination Group, which brought all Council directorates together to ensure a coordinated approach and to share learning and explore challenges. The Council also had a dedicated Zero Carbon section on the website and quarterly Climate Change Action Plan updates were reported to the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee, submitted representations through the Chair and expressed her disappointment in the withdrawal of the National Football Museum from the scope of the Zero Carbon Estate Programme and stated that this demonstrated the present unsatisfactory national government system of allocating funding for such projects. She stated that this approach was constraining the city's ambition and queried why this had been withdrawn and whether it could be included in a future phase of the programme. In response, the Head of Estates and Facilities advised that the National Football Museum was a complicated building in terms of fabric and construction. There was also a challenge around using PSDS funding for works to this building as it stipulated that heating sources had to be changed from gas to an electric solution, which would require a ground source heat pump, and there was a lack of space around the Museum to enable this. He explained that some works had been undertaken at the Museum such as upgrades to air handling units to improve efficiency and contribute to reducing carbon emissions. The Council would also be able to take forward elements of the programme, such as LED lighting upgrades, for the Museum in the future.

In response to a member's query around funding, the Head of Estates and Facilities explained that there was a mix of different funding streams available, and the Council pursued external grant funding where possible and practical. There had been two successful funding bids for PSDS, and a third bid was hoped to be approved soon. There was also a significant amount of the Council's own resource invested in the programme, including on an invest-to-save basis, and some major capital schemes included firm commitments to reducing carbon emissions through these projects. There were plans to continue the carbon reduction programme, although it was not yet known if the PSDS would continue in the same form as previously, and the Head of Estates and Facilities confirmed that he was confident in the ability to continue the programme.

It was acknowledged that the future of the carbon reduction programme would change given the challenges outlined in the report and that the next phase of the programme would focus on larger Council-operated buildings which emit less carbon than those worked on in previous phases. There had been significant learning from previous phases for the Capital Programme, Energy Management and Finance teams and there had been investment in capacity to enable delivery of decarbonisation projects.

The Head of Estates and Facilities acknowledged the importance of sufficient lighting with the Town Hall Extension and explained that lighting had been upgraded throughout office spaces within the building. An advantage of this was that LED lighting levels were more adjustable compared to traditional lighting and the Health and Safety team were involved in the installation of this to ensure that lighting levels were adequate.

A query was raised regarding works to buildings which the Council owned but did not manage or operate and the committee was informed that some buildings had proposals for decarbonisation works in development and some works had been undertaken at Bridgewater Hall, such as connection to the cyclical heat network and LED lighting upgrades, and the Art Gallery.

In response to a question regarding a lack of future projections within the council building emissions graph, it was stated that this was due to accessibility of data as the Council's energy usage was based on meter readings in buildings and future usage and carbon emissions could not be predicted. Members were advised that there are targets set for future emissions and that the Council was currently meeting these.

It was clarified that decarbonisation of local authority-maintained schools was under consideration by the Council, but this fell within the remit of a different service. The Director of Education had recently met with schools to devise a plan for decarbonisation and officers from the Energy Management and Capital Programmes teams were assisting in this by sharing their learning and experiences.

The Head of Estates and Facilities expressed his hope that Energy Audits, which were underway and due for completion in May 2023, would identify where additional capacity was available to install more solar panels.

It was also clarified that the Town Hall was not included in the project's scope to become a zero-carbon building because of its status as a Grade I Listed Building, which restricted the ability to add significant retrofit elements.

Information on the amount of emissions reduced as a result of decarbonisation works to the National Grid and financial savings would be provided following the meeting.

Decision:

That the Committee notes

1. the activities and progress to date on the decarbonisation of Manchester City Council's operational estate, and
2. the pipeline of future projects that are in development.

RGSC/23/5 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 and Budget Assumptions

The committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer which provided an update on the main announcements from the provisional local government finance settlement 2023/24, which was announced on 19 December 2022. The report also focused on the impact on the Council's budget for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and the next steps in the 2023/24 budget setting process.

Key points and themes within the report included:

- The Council faced significant inflationary and demand pressures in both the current financial year and next, which the settlement addressed in part;
- The Council's proposed strategy was to use any additional funding, after covering new priority investment requirements and demand pressures, to help close the budget gap in future years and reduce the need for significant cuts in 2025/26 and beyond;
- Confirmation that the savings reported to the committee in November 2022 were sufficient to deliver a balanced budget next year without any additional savings requirement;
- The referendum principles for 2023/24, including a limit of 4.99% for upper tier authorities;
- Changes to business rates retention and the introduction of additional grant funding for social care;
- The scale of these policy changes could not have been predicted in advance of the Provisional Finance Settlement and are a significant change from the messages coming from government prior to the autumn statement; and
- Implications for the Council, including the medium- and longer-term risks.

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

- What was meant by additional targeted support for most vulnerable residents, if the Council Tax precept was raised;
- Whether additional funds for adult social care and children's services potentially raised from a 1% adult social care precept and the Social Care grant could be directed into specific areas of need;
- Staff pay awards;
- Noting that central government assumed that the Council would increase council tax;
- What the proposed council tax increase of 4.99% would equate to for the top and bottom band; and
- How questions were phrased on the council tax consultation.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources introduced the item and explained that there had been a recent marked shift in the Autumn Statement, the Policy Statement and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement which acknowledged a gap in public sector finances that would take four years to remedy, with public sector cuts deferred until after 2025.

He explained that central government anticipated the Council increasing council tax to 4.99% to enhance income. He stated that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement provided breathing space for the authority but the additional funding outlined within the report would not mitigate the inflationary pressures faced by the Council.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer explained that there had been three significant policy changes arising from the Autumn Statement and the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. Business rates would be frozen and local authorities would be compensated by central government for the difference. 3 additional grants for social care would also be awarded to the Council and would be ringfenced for supporting hospital discharges, social care improvement and a broader grant for children's and adult's social care. The final policy shift was around the reliance on the council tax precept to provide additional funding and an increase in the referendum limit from 2.99% with a further 1% for the adult social care precept and a further 1% for the general fund precept. She reiterated that none of this funding was guaranteed after the Spending Review period and that significant unknowns and budget gaps were anticipated following the public sector cuts planned for after 2025.

Members were also advised that additional funding would also result in additional costs. Inflation was predicted to be 7% in the next financial year, which was higher than originally anticipated and officers were working to link funding and costs. In response to a member enquiry about potential additional support for vulnerable residents, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer advised that officers were working through options for this and explained that £3.55m had been added to the Council's budget to address immediate pressures including support for food banks, VCSE organisations and expanding the Council's welfare provisions. Members were also informed of a government scheme in 2024 which would provide a rebate of up to £25 to those on the Council Tax Support Scheme to mitigate the impact of increased council tax and the Council would look to provide similar support, particularly for residents at risk of first-time debt and those who have previously had a repayment plan with the Council.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources reiterated that social care funding grants were ringfenced and would be used to reduce pressures and demand. Options for how grant funding would be spent were still being assessed and work was ongoing with the Director of Adult Social Care to identify investment proposals and priorities and assurances were provided that members would have the opportunity to discuss proposals before a decision is taken.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer responded to a member's query about staff pay awards and explained that the pay award for 2022/23 had only been confirmed in December and pay negotiations for 2023/24 had begun. She advised

that an uplift of 4% was originally budgeted for the pay award and this would be assessed during the budget process to ensure it is sufficient.

In response to a question around the proposed council tax increase and what this would equate to for the top and bottom band, the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer confirmed that an increase of 2.99% was proposed. The impact of this increase had been modelled for those properties in Band A, Band D and on the Council Tax Support Scheme which had informed initial ideas around support for residents. The increase would result in an additional c.£2m income for the Council.

It was also highlighted that Manchester had the smallest council tax base of all metropolitan authorities and although some grant funding compensated for this, it did not counteract the issue and raising council tax would provide some financial benefits.

The Executive Member for Finance and Resources stated that raising council tax was not done lightly, especially in the current financial climate, and clarified that the public consultation on council tax increases provided indications of where residents wanted their council tax money to be spent. The consultation explained that an increase of 2.99% of the general precept and 2% on the adult social care precept was proposed and that this additional revenue would be directed to those issues identified as priorities for residents and to improve adult social care.

The Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer wished to put her thanks on record to the Council's Finance team for their work on the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, particularly as it was received close to Christmas. The Chair concurred with this sentiment.

Decision:

That the report be noted.

RGSC/23/6 Overview Report

The committee considered a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which provided responses to recommendations, details of key decisions within the committee's remit and its work programme.

In response to a member's request, the Chair agreed to receive a report on the progress of the Major Contracts Oversight Board at the Committee's meeting in March 2023.

An amendment was also required to the work programme to reflect that the Committee would meet on Thursday, 25 May 2023.

Decision:

That

1. the report be noted and

2. the Committee's work programme be agreed, subject to the amendments outlined above.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 February 2023

Subject: Overview Report

Report of: Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit

Summary

This report provides the following information:

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

Recommendation

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

Wards Affected: All

Contact Officer:

Name: Charlotte Lynch
Position: Governance and Scrutiny Team Leader
Telephone: 0161 219 2119
E-mail: charlotte.lynch@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None

1. Monitoring Previous Recommendations

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

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

Date	Item	Recommendation	Action	Contact Officer
There are no outstanding recommendations				

2. Key Decisions

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

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

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

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

An extract of the most recent Register of Key Decisions, published on **30 January 2023**, containing details of the decisions under the Committee's remit is included below. This is to keep members informed of what decisions are being taken and, where appropriate, include in the work programme of the Committee.

Subject / Decision	Decision Maker	Decision Due Date	Consultation	Background documents	Officer Contact
Corporate Core					
Manchester City Centre Triangle (2021/01/14A) The approval of capital expenditure for the construction of a scheme to connect travel hubs in the	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 31st Aug 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	Steve Robinson, Director of Operations (Highways) steve.robinson@manchester.gov.uk

city centre					
<p>Contract for Provision of ICT and Digital resources to Manchester City Council (2022/01/31A)</p> <p>The appointment ICT and Digital resources to Manchester City Council.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 28th Feb 2022		Report & Recommendation	Joanna Thorne joanna.thorne@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Write off of EoN Reality loan (2022/03/01B)</p> <p>Under the delegation agreed at February 2022's Executive, write off of existing £1.1m loan to EoN Reality Ltd and outstanding interest, following confirmation that the company has been liquidated.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Apr 2022		Companies House – liquidation progress report	Tim Seagrave T.Seagrave@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Framework Agreement for Senior Permanent and Interim Executive Search (2022/06/09A)</p> <p>The appointment of Agencies to deliver Permanent and Interim Senior Recruitment Services.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 9th Jul 2022		Report & Recommendation	Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk

<p>Framework Agreement for the Provision of Commercial Office Furniture and Furniture Services (2022/08/04A)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider to deliver Commercial Office Furniture and Furniture Services.</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 4th Sep 2022</p>		<p>Report and recommendations</p>	<p>Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Award of Electricity Supply contracts from existing Framework Agreements (2022/08/22A)</p> <p>To award a contract for the supply of Electricity from the Council's existing HH (large sites) and NHH (smaller sites) frameworks via direct award to the incumbent suppliers.</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Before 30 Sep 2022</p>		<p>Award Report</p>	<p>Walter Dooley w.dooley@manchester.gov.uk, Peter Schofield peter.schofielod@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Framework Agreement for the Provision of Specialist and Hard to Fill Agency Roles (2022/08/26B)</p> <p>The appointment of Agencies to provide Specialist and Hard to Fill Agency Roles</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 26th Sep 2022</p>		<p>Report and recommendations</p>	<p>Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk</p>

<p>Framework for the provision of GM Online Library Service (2022/10/27B)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider(s) for GM Online Library Service</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Not before 27th Nov 2022		Report & Recommendation	
<p>Adoption of Manchester Anti-Poverty Strategy (2022/11/08A)</p> <p>To adopt the new Anti-Poverty Strategy for Manchester</p>	Executive	18 Jan 2023		Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy plus accompanying report and any annexes	Peter Norris p.norris@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Council Tax 2022/23 Balance (2022/11/11B)</p> <p>To agree the estimated council tax surplus or deficit for 2022/23</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 3rd Jan 2023		Council Tax Balance report	Neil Doherty neil.doherty1@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Business Rates 2022/23 balance (2022/11/11C)</p> <p>To agree the estimated business rates surplus or deficit for 2022/23</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 3rd Jan 2023		Business Rates Balance report	Neil Doherty neil.doherty1@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Council Tax Base 2023/24 (2022/11/11D)</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief	Not before 3rd Jan 2023		Council Tax Base report	Neil Doherty neil.doherty1@manchester.gov.

To set the 2023/24 Council Tax Base	Executive)				uk
Business Rates Base 2023/24 (2022/11/11E) To set the 2023/24 Business Rates Base	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 3rd Jan 2023		Business Rates Base report	Neil Doherty neil.doherty1@manchester.gov.uk
TC1135 - Provision and supply of a System to Enforce Moving Traffic Offences, including maintenance (2022/11/23B) The appointment of Provider for supply of a System to Enforce Moving Traffic Offences, including maintenance.	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 23rd Dec 2022		Report & Recommendation	
Electricity contract for street lighting (2022/12/02A) To enter into a new electricity contract for the supply of electricity for street lighting.	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 2nd Jan 2023		Report and recommendation	Peter Schofield peter.schofielod@manchester.gov.uk
Adopting new powers to increase the Council Tax	Executive	15 Feb 2023		Report to Executive	Charles Metcalfe c.metcalfe@manchester.gov.uk

<p>on some empty properties (2023/01/09A)</p> <p>To consider whether or not to charge double Council Tax on empty furnished properties (including second homes) and empty, unfurnished properties that have been empty for between 1 and 2 years from 1 April 2024 onwards.</p>					
Development and Growth					
<p>Strategic land and buildings acquisition 2019/06/03C</p> <p>The approval of capital expenditure for the purpose of the strategic acquisition of land and buildings to support the Eastlands Regeneration Framework</p>	<p>City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)</p>	<p>Not before 1st Dec 2022</p>		<p>Checkpoint 4 Business Case & Briefing Note</p>	<p>Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Disposal of site of former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development (21/05/13A)</p> <p>Approval to the terms for the leasehold disposal of</p>	<p>Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)</p>	<p>Not before 13th Jun 2021</p>		<p>Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development</p>	<p>Mike Robertson m.robertson@manchester.gov.uk</p>

the site of the former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development.					
<p>Restructure of existing multiple ground leases at Manchester Science Park into a new overriding single head lease (2021/07/16A)</p> <p>Restructure of existing multiple ground leases at Manchester Science Park into a new overriding single head lease.</p>	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 16th Aug 2021		Report and recommendations	Mike Robertson m.robertson@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Strategic approach to developments of social homes via a city-wide New Build Local Lettings Policy (LLP) (2021/08/10A)</p> <p>Executive adopts the New Build LLP for immediate implementation.</p>	Executive	16 Nov 2022		Report and recommendations	Martin Oldfield m.oldfield@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Land at Downley Drive, New Islington/Ancoats (2022/02/18B)</p> <p>Land disposal by way of lease for residential development at Downley</p>	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 18th Mar 2022		Report and recommendations	

Drive, New Islington/Ancoats.					
<p>Disposal of the former Gala Bingo, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RS (2022/05/19A)</p> <p>Approval to the terms for the leasehold disposal of the former Gala Bingo, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RS.</p>	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 19th Jun 2022		Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Joe Martin, Development Surveyor joe.martin@manchester.gov.uk
<p>This City - new scheme development (2022/06/17B)</p> <p>To give capital expenditure approval to build a mixed development of market and accessible rent properties, initially through the Council before transferring to a Council-owned company during the build.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 17th Jul 2022		Report and recommendation	Alan Caddick, Interim Director of Housing and Residential Growth Alan.Caddick@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Housing Affordability Fund Budget (2022/06/28B)</p> <p>The approval of capital expenditure for affordable</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 28th Jul 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	Yvette Ryle, Project Manager Yvette.ryle@manchester.gov.uk

housing via a dedicated HAF budget.					
<p>Large Scale Renewable Energy Project (2022/07/13B)</p> <p>To purchase a large scale solar farm, associated storage and maintenance arrangements.</p>	Executive	18 Jan 2023		Executive Report	Leader
<p>Lower Campfield and Upper Campfield - granting of new ground leases (2022/09/07A)</p> <p>Approval to the granting of new ground leases to allow the repair and refurbishment of both buildings by the lessee.</p>	Chief Executive	Not before 6th Oct 2022		Report to the Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Growth and Development	David Norbury david.norbury@manchester.gov.uk
<p>This City: Contractor and Design Team Fees (2022/08/10A)</p> <p>To approve capital expenditure for the delivery of This City: Norther Quarter (Postal Street) in order to appoint a contractor under a Pre-Construction Services</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 10th Sep 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	Sarah Narici sarah.narici@manchester.gov.uk

Agreement to progress work on a mixed development of market and Manchester Living Rent properties until planning permission has been granted.					
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy (2022/09/12A) The approval of the Draft Strategy and agreement to its publication.	Executive	14 Dec 2022		Report and recommendations	Phil Havenhand, Interim Head of Infrastructure & Environment Phil.Havenhand@manchester.gov.uk
Land Assembly - Back of Ancoats (2022/10/13A) To approve the acquisition of a strategic asset at the Back of Ancoats.	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 30th Nov 2022		Briefing Note	
Land at Kelbrook Road (2022/11/14A) Approval to dispose of land at Kelbrook Road for development	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	4 Jan 2023		Report to the Strategic Director – Growth & Development	Thomas Pyatt, Development Surveyor Tel: 0161 234 5469 thomas.pyatt@manchester.gov.uk
Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan (2022/11/21A) To adopt the Manchester	Executive	18 Jan 2023		Report to Executive - Manchester Active Travel Strategy and Investment	Rob Scott robert.scott@manchester.gov.uk

Active Travel Strategy and Investment Plan				Plan	
<p>Back of Ancoats: Delivery of Mobility Hub (2022/11/23A)</p> <p>To approve capital expenditure to fund construction inflation cost pressures and amendments to design.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 23rd Dec 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	
<p>Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3 (2022/11/28A)</p> <p>Approval of capital expenditure for cost increases to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) following RIBA2 designs identifying scope changes required, additional fees and inflationary pressures. These works are to improve energy efficiency and introduce heat decarbonisation measures across the estate.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 28th Dec 2022		Revised Checkpoint 4	Richard Munns r.munns@manchester.gov.uk
Gorton District Centre Masterplan (2022/12/12A)	Executive	18 Jan 2023			Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk

<p>To approve the masterplan for future development and investment within Gorton District Centre</p>					
<p>Leasehold disposal of Unit 5, Nuovo A, Great Ancoats Street (2022/12/13B)</p> <p>To approve a 15 year lease of Unit 5, Nuovo A.</p>	<p>Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)</p>	<p>Not before 11th Jan 2023</p>		<p>Briefing Note</p>	<p>Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Local Authority Housing Fund to obtain and refurbish property for sustainable housing (2022/01/18A)</p> <p>To approve capital expenditure to obtain and refurbish property in order to provide sustainable housing for those unable to secure their own accommodation under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) (collectively</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>Not before 18th Feb 2023</p>		<p>Capital Strategy report</p>	<p>Martin Oldfield m.oldfield@manchester.gov.uk</p>

referred to as the Afghan Schemes), Ukraine Family Scheme, the Homes for Ukraine and the Ukraine Extension Scheme (collectively referred to as Ukraine schemes).					
Neighbourhoods					
<p>Extension of the waste & street cleansing contract (2022/03/30B)</p> <p>To fund the increase in contract fee from 2023 for the remainder of the contract period - £7.95m.</p>	Executive	1 Jun 2022		Waste Report to Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (10 March 2022)	Matthew Bennett matthew.bennett@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Z-Arts Grant Agreement (2022/11/04A)</p> <p>To approve a three-year Z-Arts grant agreement with revenue support of £184,488 in 2023/4, 2024/5 and 2025/6</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Not before 4th Dec 2022		Z-Arts Overview Report	
<p>Q20516 – Ashton Canal Bridge (2022/11/25B)</p> <p>The works are referred to</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), Deputy City	27 Feb 2023		Confidential Contract Report and Recommendations	Joshua Ward, Procurement Officer joshua.ward@manchester.gov.uk, Nikoo Nikousokhan, Project

<p>as: Victoria Northern Eastern Gateway Scheme Phase 3 – Ashton Canal Bridge. Scope of Works comprises the construction of a new bridge and access ramps over the Ashton Canal at New Islington</p>	<p>Treasurer</p>				<p>Manager nikoo.nikousokhan@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Q20515 – Bridge Maintenance, Refurbishment and Replacement (2022/11/25C)</p> <p>Manchester City Council is proposing to employ a single-stage procurement process comprising of Quality, Price and Social Value elements as set out within this document.</p> <p>This ITT is composed of 4 separate lots, each of which will be awarded separately to the most economically advantageous tender for each lot. The lots are as follows:</p> <p>Lot 1: Rodger Street Union Bridge Maintenance</p>	<p>Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods), Deputy City Treasurer</p>	<p>27 Feb 2023</p>		<p>Confidential Contract Report and Recommendations</p>	<p>Joshua Ward, Procurement Officer joshua.ward@manchester.gov.uk, Paul Gee, Contracts Manager p.gee@manchester.gov.uk</p>

<p>Scheme Lot 2: Hoyle Street Parapet Replacement Scheme Lot 3: Boggart Bridge Retaining Wall Refurbishment Scheme Lot 4: Camelia Road Retaining Wall Replacement Scheme</p>					
<p>Q20509 - Victoria Northern Eastern Gateway Phase 2 (2022/11/29A)</p> <p>The works are to undertake improvement works along the Victoria North / Eastern Walking and Cycling Route, Phase 2 comprises of one location Rochdale Road / Thompson Street / Oldham Road, the scheme identified as Victoria North / Eastern Walking and Cycling Scheme Phase 2. The works will be undertaken in the following locations: • Area G Rochdale Road and Thompson Street Junction • Area G Thompson Street • Area G Oldham Road,</p>	Deputy City Treasurer	Not before 29th Dec 2022		Confidential Contract Report with Recommendations	Joshua Ward, Procurement Officer joshua.ward@manchester.gov.uk

Thompson Street and Sherratt Street Junction • Additional Route Signage					
<p>The rate for temporary accommodation properties (2022/12/13A)</p> <p>Increase the rate for properties in temporary accommodation due to market conditions.</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)	Not before 13th Jan 2023		Commercially Sensitive	Nicola Rea nicola.rea@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Homelessness Lease Agreement (2023/01/24A)</p> <p>To enter into long term leases with private accommodation providers, to house homeless households.</p>	Director of Homelessness	Not before 24th Feb 2023		Commercially Sensitive	Rob McCartney, Assistant Director rob.mccartney@manchester.gov.uk

3. Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme – February 2023

Tuesday, 7 February 2023, 2.00pm (Report deadline Friday 27 January 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/Lead Officer	Comments
Corporate Core Budget Report 2023/24	To receive and consider the final 2023/24 budget proposals that will go onto February Budget Executive and Scrutiny and March Council.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley Tom Wilkinson	
Changes to Council Tax discounts for empty properties	To receive a report on proposed changes to Council Tax discounts for empty properties.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley Charles Metcalfe	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	N/A	Scrutiny Support	

Monday, 27 February 2023, 10.00am – BUDGET (Report deadline Thursday 16 February 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/Lead Officer	Comments
The Council's Budget 2023/24	To receive an update on the Council's financial position following scrutiny of the draft budget proposals and Directorate budget plans by all Scrutiny Committees.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley Tom Wilkinson	

Tuesday, 7 March 2023, 2.00pm (Report deadline Friday 24 February 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/Lead Officer	Comments
Progress on Council Motions Over Last 12 Months	To receive an update on the progress made in respect of motions that have been passed before Manchester City Council since the last update in March 2022.	Cllr Craig (Leader) Cllr Rahman (Statutory Deputy Leader)	Fiona Ledden Mike Williamson	
Revenues and Benefits Update	To receive an update on collection of business rates and council tax, ethical collection and an update on Council Tax Scheme and resident support schemes with a focus on cost-of-living and the use of discretionary welfare funds.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Lee Owen	
Manchester's Parks Development Programme Update	To receive an update on the progress of Manchester's Parks Development Programme 2021-2025 and an overview of the financial position for parks.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources) Cllr Igbon (Vibrant Neighbourhoods)	Carol Culley Neil Fairlamb	Extend invitation to the Chair of CESC.
Progress Update on the Major Contracts Oversight Board	To receive an update on the work of the Major Contracts Oversight Board since July 2022.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	N/A	Scrutiny Support	

Thursday, 25 May 2023, 10:00am (Report deadline Monday 15 May 2023)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director/Lead Officer	Comments
Factory International Progress Update	To receive a progress report on Factory International ahead of the project's completion and opening.	Cllr Rahman (Statutory Deputy Leader)	Carol Culley Becca Heron Jared Allen Pat Bartoli	
Commercial Activity	To receive a report on the Council's commercial activity, including the impact of the Covid lockdown, cost of living, inflation and other factors on the Council's ability to maintain rental incomes from commercial properties with leaseholders.	Cllr Akbar (Finance and Resources)	Carol Culley	Deferred from Feb 2023 with Chair's agreement.
Work programming	To draft the committee's work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.	N/A	Carol Culley Charlotte Lynch	
Overview Report	The monthly report includes the recommendations monitor, relevant key decisions, the Committee's work programme and any items for information.	N/A	Scrutiny Support	

Items to be Scheduled

(Items highlighted in grey indicate that these have been included in the work plan of one of the above meetings).

(New items added are highlighted in blue)

Item	Purpose	Executive Member	Strategic Director / Lead Officer	Comments
Contract Monitoring	Precise Details to be confirmed	Councillor Akbar	Carol Culley	
Review of investments being made by the Council into its Capital Strategy in terms of delivering future VFM post COVID19	Precise scope to be determined	Councillor Akbar	TBC	
GMCA Governance and Public Sector Reform	To receive an update on what is being delivered for the City through these arrangements	Councillor Craig	TBC	
Revenue and Benefits	Themed meeting to include activity around position of Business Rates and Council Tax and impact on residents and how to target support most effectively	TBC	TBC	
Annual Section 106 Monitoring	To receive a report on the Governance arrangements relating to Section 106.	Councillor White	Julie Roscoe/Des Jones	Report to be considered around Sept 2023

Our Town Hall Project Update	To receive an update on the progress of the refurbishment and partial restoration of the Town Hall and Albert Square under the Our Town Hall (OTH) project	Councillor Rahman	Carol Culley Jared Allen Paul Candelent	Report to be considered in October 2023
Governance and Management of Complaints	TBC	Cllr Akbar	Carol Culley	Will be confirmed following Nov 2022 Audit Committee meeting.

Items for Information

RGSC/23/3 Elections Act 2022 - Information on the number of female polling station staff, to ensure cultural and social requirements can be met.

Requirements for the gender of poll clerks are not specified in regulations. Electors may wish to request a specific gender poll clerk to view their photographic identification; this request should be met if there is a female poll clerk available and Returning Officers may wish to consider their staffing arrangements for polling stations.

Ideally you will have a female member of staff at each polling station, but where this is not possible then you should think about how you can deploy other staff flexibly to meet the request, for example by utilising female polling station inspectors (PSIs) who have been delegated the authority to carry out these checks.

We are in the process of assigning staff to roles now, but this is an ever-changing situation until the day of poll. We can confirm that in the majority of cases (currently) we have a female member of staff within each station. We also have a number of female PSIs in place, so should we get to polling day, and we are aware of any stations where this could be an issue, we will ensure that we have a female PSI on hand to assist.

RGSC/23/4 Decarbonisation of the Operational Estate

Q: Has there been any learning from carbon reduction work at the Museum of Science and Industry?

A: Officers have contacted MOSI to discuss lessons learned from their works programme.

Q: What carbon reduction activity has been planned for Our Town Hall?

A: The OTH team recently updated Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee (October 22). The team reported that Our Town Hall will significantly increase its energy efficiency through the refurbishment process. Carbon emissions per person will be reduced through increasing the efficiency of the building services and increasing the use of the building. The operational phase of the project is predicted to emit between 20,223 and 22,303 T CO₂e between 2024 and 2038. The carbon emissions per person are reduced between 17% and 24% when compared to pre-refurbishment CO₂ emissions, and the energy consumption per head is reduced by up to 43%. The construction phase of the project is forecast to emit 402 tonnes of CO₂. This number is significantly lower than a typical construction project of this scale, through the procurement of renewable electricity for the construction period and limiting the use of diesel powered equipment.

Q: Are there proposals to improve the green credentials of the Civic Quarter Heat Network?

A: The CQHN Team have confirmed that proposals are in development to adopt a fuel mix that contains a proportion of 'green gas' which will reduce the carbon emissions without impacting the operational performance of the engine. The volume of 'green gas' utilised will be dependent on its cost and availability of the fuel source

and the delivered benefit. A future stage of carbon reduction will be to consider the introduction of hydrogen to the fuel supply to the engine. This will be dependent on the availability, source and pricing of the hydrogen supply. The proportion of hydrogen that can be added to the fuel supply will be determined by the capabilities and tolerances of the CHP engine.

Q: How much of the reduction in emissions is due to decarbonisation of the National Grid?

A: The Energy Management Team have compared the Government published Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors for 201/20 and 21/22. These show that the UK gas supply has decarbonised by c0.4% over the period, while the electricity supply has decarbonised by c16.9%.

Q: Is it possible to estimate how much money carbon reduction measures have saved the Council?

A: The Energy Management Team have compared utilities consumption for the 2019/20 and 2021/22 financial years, and estimated the costs avoided against current prices (these are additional costs that MCC would have incurred if consumption had not reduced). They estimate that:

- For electricity, MCC have avoided costs of c£2.48m due to reduced consumption.
- For gas, MCC have avoided costs of c£0.24m due to reduced consumption.