



Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 7 March 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 March in Room 2006, Member's Corridor, 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

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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 - 14
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023.
- 5. Update on the progress of Manchester's Park Development Programme 2021-2025** 15 - 26
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer and the Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods).

This report provides 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.
- 6. Revenues and Benefits Service Update** To Follow
- 7. Refreshed Community Asset Transfer Policy Update** To Follow
- 8. Progress on Council Motions over the last 12 Months** To Follow
- 9. Progress Update on the Major Contracts Oversight Board** To Follow
- 10. Overview Report** 27 - 48
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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Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

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Further Information

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

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This agenda was issued on **Monday, 27 February 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2LA.

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 likelihood 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.

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to:	Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 2023
Subject:	Update on the progress of Manchester’s Park Development Programme 2021 – 2025 and an overview of the financial position
Report of:	Strategic Director Neighbourhoods & Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

Summary

This report provides 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.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to consider and make comments on the content of the report.

Wards Affected: All

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

Parks by their nature contribute to the mitigation of carbon across the City and this is a key strand of the Parks Strategy. The proposals for investment in parks are being assessed against the contribution each project will make to reducing CO2.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - the impact of the issues addressed in this report in meeting our Public Sector Equality Duty and broader equality commitments

The enjoyment of Parks remains free at the point of access and within reach of all residents and visitors to the City. Decision making on the provision of services and opportunities for investment are driven with the commitment to ensuring that actions have a positive impact on providing an inclusive and equitable offer that is accessible to all residents and visitors. Partnerships with a focus on understanding lived experience have been key to understanding impact and best practise.

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	Parks are partnering in new and fruitful ways with organisations and communities to increase opportunities for personal development through volunteering, work experience, employment and training.

A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Parks offer a unique opportunity to engage in formal educational activity in the natural environment. Opportunities to build life skills such as communication and teamwork are offered through a wide range of volunteering activities.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Parks are at the heart of our communities, offering opportunities for community cohesion through volunteering, events and activities in a setting that is open and accessible to all.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Parks are an essential part of our neighbourhoods and enhance positive outcomes for residents and businesses. The delivery of a vibrant programme of events and activities is increasing the number of visitors from outside of the City. Whilst parks naturally contribute to the low carbon city agenda, new ways of using and activating the estate in a way that can actively contribute to lowering or offsetting carbon emissions are being explored.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Parks connect our City in many different ways, physically they are expanding to offer enhanced green corridors for people and wildlife and socially by sustaining opportunities for shared experiences and common interests.

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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.

- Take a Brief Walk Through Manchester's Park Strategy 2017 – 2026
- Manchester's Park Strategy
 - Executive Summary
 - Research and Findings
 - Ten Year Action Plan
- Report to Community and Equalities Scrutiny Committee – 14 January 2021, Manchester's Park Development Programme 2021 – 2025
- Report to Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 December 2021, Manchester's Park Development Programme 2021 – 2025

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Parks current revenue budget position and an update on the programme of capital investment into Parks, including the Parks Development Programme (PDP) in the context of delivering the park strategy and the drive to reach a sustainable funding model for the service.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In December 2017 a ten-year strategy for Manchester's Parks was launched to guide their investment, upkeep and activation. The strategy set out the vision, key themes and actions that were needed to ensure parks and green spaces continued to serve the needs of communities across the city, providing popular and attractive open spaces for play, sport and informal recreation. There was a focus on 4 key themes:

1. **Parks at the Heart of Neighbourhoods** looks at the physical role of parks in neighbourhoods across the city, as well as their size, accessibility and character.
2. **Vibrant Parks, Vibrant Communities** considers the use and activities that take place in parks to ensure they are a focus of community life, providing opportunities for exercise and sport, and a wide variety of events that can both serve communities and generate additional income for the benefit of parks.
3. **A Manchester Quality Standard** sets out a good-quality standard for managing and maintaining parks.
4. **Productive Parks in Partnership** describes ways to deliver park services in a more collaborative and fruitful manner with communities and local organisations, not just the Council.

- 2.2 Strong progress on the delivery of the strategy continues, whilst maintaining a balanced revenue budget position which includes the generation of income to support the revenue budget and bringing forward capital investment in development programme projects that will further enhance the parks offer and generate further revenue.

- 2.3 In terms of the impact on Manchester residents and visitors this reflects a continued uplift in the use of Parks of circa 13% on pre-pandemic levels, with an estimated 4.7M visits to Parks in 21/22. Visitors are also staying on site longer with an average visit of 157 minutes, the vast majority of events and facilities continue to be free at the point of access. The growth of the Service in this last year can be attributed to the uplift in events and activity which have increased by 16% year on year, from 1,557 in 2021 to 1,812 in 2022, this is alongside the ongoing investment programme to improve infrastructure and facilities and enhance the visitor experience.

- 2.4 Partnerships with volunteers, stakeholders and national bodies continue to support and drive a significant proportion of service delivery and investment across the Parks estate. The value placed on partnership is evidenced in the development of the Parks in Partnership (PIP) Fund in 2021, with a strong

locality approach, making £30k available in each ward for projects to help raise standards and the broader Parks Development Programme (PDP) which has a clear focus on return for investment and the ambition to work jointly to provide match funding and shared outcomes.

- 2.5 The Parks net revenue budget has been reduced in recent years as part of the overall Council budget setting. As part of the 2021/22 budget process Parks approved savings were £427k, to be achieved over four years through growing income with the PDP available to support achieving these targets.

Financial Year	Annual Approved Savings £000's	Cumulative Approved Savings £000's
2021/22	£127k	£127k
2022/23	£100k	£227k
2023/24	£100k	£327k
2024/25	£100k	£427k

- 2.6 The parks current approved 2022/23 revenue budget is gross expenditure £3.876M offset by income of £1.818M to give a net budget of £2.058M, this is net of the £100k approved 2021/22 savings.
- 2.7 A further £127k of savings are proposed in 2023/24 through changes to car parking tariffs at Heaton Park and the proposal to not reinstate bonfire and firework displays. The proposals have already been considered by Scrutiny as part of the 2023/24 budget proposals and are to be taken to Executive and Council for final approval. Both proposals will be subject to further consultation with key agencies and local partners.

3.0 Capital

- 3.1 The Parks Development Programme (PDP), including the Parks in Partnership (PIP) fund continue to operate within the framework set out in a report to the Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2021 titled Manchester's Park Development Programme 2021 – 2025 and can be found via this link: [Governance Report \(manchester.gov.uk\)](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/governance-reports).
- 3.2 Additional investment in the capital programme for parks continues to be secured from other sources including S106 funding and match funding from strategic partners. Partnerships with organisations such as British Cycling, the Lawn Tennis Association, Transport for Greater Manchester (via Highways) and Veolia have generated additional investment to the value of £0.797M to date.
- 3.3 A total of £3.56M has been invested across the Parks estate through PDP and Section 106 and PIP funding over 150 individual community work packages identified and delivered in collaboration with residents and stakeholders. This has resulted in projects which have widened access and participation, enabled more residents and visitors to get involved and supported the delivery of good quality parks and green spaces for residents and visitors to the city.

3.4 **Projects completed in 2022/23** - 8 projects were completed in 2022/23, totalling **£3.56M**, including match funding of **£500k**. The delivery of these projects may have been spread across a number of financial years. These are:

- **Parks in Partnership (PIP), £0.50M** - 98 applications have been made to PIP resulting in over 150 community driven work packages in parks and green spaces citywide. Within this, PIP has allocated a total of 31 direct payments to constituted groups totalling £142k which have been led by the groups with support from council officers. Works include new water and electric supplies to support the sustainability of existing volunteer programmes, through to the installation of new gym/play equipment and infrastructure repairs and improvements to support accessibility.
- **Wythenshawe Hall (PDP), £211k** - Decoration of the tenant's hall, toilets and bar area to prime the use and activation of the historic setting. The Hall has now reopened to the public with an operational office which supports use of the building by the Friends group.
- **Accessible changing facilities and toilets (PDP), £485k** – Accessible changing and toilet provision located in the sports hub at Wythenshawe Park. The project will service the existing stakeholders and visitors and the increased footfall due to the new cycling provision.
- **Wythenshawe Park Cycling Hub (PDP & British Cycling), £1.55M** - A partnership project with £500k funded by British Cycling to provide new learn to ride area, cycle trails, skills areas, and a path network to provide an accessible route for all park visitors around the site.
- **Cringle Park (S106), £30k** - Installation of new outdoor gym equipment delivered in partnership with the Friends of Cringle Park in contribution to the Park Plan and promoting health and wellbeing opportunities at a local level.
- **Whitworth Park (S106), £132k** - Installation of a water and power supply to a community growing cabin in partnership with Whitworth Gallery and the Friends of Whitworth Park.
- **Greenbank Park (S106), £134k** - Renovation of two tennis courts including new access, surfacing, tennis nets and posts. The site now forms part of the citywide tennis development strategy in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and MCRactive.
- **Debdale Park (S106), £292k** - Renovation of three tennis courts including new access, surfacing, tennis nets and posts as part of the citywide tennis development strategy.
- **Non-Turf Cricket Wickets (English Cricket Board (ECB)), £232k** – Installation of the final 2 cricket wickets at Hough End Playing Fields,

completing the programme of installation with the ECB and MCRactive of 17 wickets across the city.

- 3.5 **Development of the pipeline** - To ensure that projects are viable, contribute to the Council's key strategies, have a strong return on investment and the potential support of delivery partners willing to underwrite risk, the Parks Team have developed a series of background studies to ensure that climate resilience, travel planning, and conservation of historic and ecological features play a leading role in the development of propositions. Of particular note are the Heritage Landscape Plan for Wythenshawe Park and the Transport Plans for Heaton Park and Wythenshawe Park which have been completed in the last year.
- 3.6 A commercial master plan for Wythenshawe Park is currently under commission, on completion (expected June 2023) it will set out further investment opportunities with a focus on the existing built environment including the heritage hub, horticultural centre and sports hub. All investment opportunities will seek to dovetail with the Council's Asset Management Programme (AMP) investment and will have a clear remit to focus on any options which support progress towards the Council's Zero Carbon target to reduce carbon emissions.
- 3.7 A Parks Climate Change Action Plan has been developed ready to go live in April 2023. The plan replicates the workstreams of the corporate action plan and places an emphasis on ensuring that programmes for investment have a positive impact on climate change. Decarbonisation of park buildings, sustainable travel, climate adaptation, carbon storage and sequestration are all key considerations in the development of projects as they progress through the pipeline.
- 3.8 **Pipeline Projects** - The foundations for investment to continue at pace have been set with strategic support given to the further development of c£6.4M of investment over the next two years for the immediate, short and medium term pipeline for delivery, that is set to generate up to £4M in match funding from partners, in compliance with PDP criteria.
- 3.8.1 **Immediate - live in the next 6 months:**
- **Parks in Partnership (PIP) - £186k** is already committed and being timetabled for delivery.
 - **Platt Fields Park BMX (PIP and British Cycling)** – A Places to Ride development of c£72k in partnership with British Cycling for improvements to the existing BMX track at Platt Fields Park.
 - **Cringle Park Café (PDP)** - Installation of a café unit at Cringle Park in partnership with a community operator. The project has strategic approval to proceed and is in the final design stage with an expectation to be completed in summer 2023. The total project budget is forecast at £110k.

- **Wythenshawe Park Cycling Hub, phase 2 (PDP)** – New measures to support the control of vehicles entering the Park and ensure the safety of visitors. Improvements will also be made to interior paths that will support visitors to move easily between key onsite facilities. The latest forecast spend is £121k with match funding of £12.5k secured from British Cycling.
- **Citywide Tennis Investment Programme (PDP and Lawn Tennis Association (LTA))** – Investment in hub sites to create a sustainable parks tennis network across the city, enabling reinvestment into recreational tennis in parks. The latest forecast for spend is £444k including a commitment of £159k from the LTA.
- **Southwick Park Improvements (DCMS and MCC)** – DCMS have made £85k of Levelling Up funds available to Manchester aligned to strict criteria around improving access to green spaces and green cover. The project will improve accessibility by improving the infrastructure, reducing the hard landscape in favour of greening and a planting programme to increase biodiversity and community connection with nature.
- **City in the Community (Manchester City Football Club (MCFC))** – Installation of new football skills zones at Scotland Hall Road and Ladybarn Parks to the value of c£500k, funded by MCFC with a commitment to an ongoing programme of activation.

3.8.2 Short term – To be delivered within 6-18 months:

- **Parkway Playing Fields Play Area (PIP and Veolia)** – A partnership with the Friends which has secured grant funding of £75k matched against PIP to design and deliver a scheme of new and improved play equipment.
- **Manchester Pollinator Parks (PDP)** - This is an emerging partnership with the Eden Project to sow and harvest wildflowers seeds across Manchester Parks.
- **Mount Road, Phase 3 (S106)** – Accessibility and infrastructure improvements in Debdale Park with a value of up to £32k.
- **Highfield Country Park (S106)** - Improving access around the site and providing ecological improvements to the value of £150k. Design is emerging in partnership with stakeholders.
- **Changing Places (Changing Places Fund)** – The Council bid successfully for grant funding to introduce new fully accessible Changing Places at Heaton Park Lakeside and Wythenshawe Park Courtyard.

3.8.3 Medium-term – To be delivered within 2 years:

- **Boggart Hole Clough Hub (PDP and S106)** – To design and deliver a new multi-purpose hub which provides a community space, sports changing rooms and an operational office for local use and activation.

- **Debdale Park (PDP)** – Proposed investment into the existing barns and buildings adjacent to Debdale reservoir and growing centre. To include spaces for park operations, community activity, supporting existing stakeholder activity, options for food and beverage and new opportunities for family attractions.
- **Platt Fields Park (PDP)** – Relocation of existing staff office to back of house and repurpose Lakeside Centre to provide a visitor attraction with an associated food and beverage offer. An enhanced play offer and refurbishment of the neighbouring boathouse to return water-based activity for the lake will also be considered.
- **The Croft in Fletcher Moss Gardens (PDP)** – Overhaul of the building to build on the success of the current food and beverage offer, repurpose the area that was previously residential and expand the partnership offer with the volunteers who undertake the maintenance of the horticultural assets and the RSPB.
- **Heaton Park Orangery (PDP)** - Refit of the Orangery within Heaton Hall to kick start use for a food and beverage offer. Design and build phase funded by MCC and programmed to overlap with a concession contract tender for an operator to support the detailed design.
- **Heaton Park Family Attraction (PDP)** - A soft market test has been undertaken for a Family Attraction at Heaton Park with a healthy response from the market. Strategic support is in place for the project including a route to procure a partner to design, build, operate and maintain the asset.
- **Heaton Park Mobility Hub (TBC)** – Ongoing design to RIBA stage 2 for the creation of an outline design, cost plan and business case for a mobility hub which will protect the existing overflow car park for year round use. The hub will support active travel and include EV charging for bikes/cars, pedestrian access improvements, covered cycle storage and a Park and Stride option for the adjacent school.
- **Manchester College mitigation in Wythenshawe Park (S106)** - £524k is available to mitigate for the loss of two full size football pitches at the former college site. The project will include installation of drainage and access paths in creating the two additional pitches within the park.

4.0 Revenue

- 4.1 As at December 2022 Parks are forecasting a small underspend of £20k, this is made up of higher than forecast income of c£250k offset by covering a number of one-off costs such as essential repairs and maintenance of infrastructure across all Parks and increased security costs.
- 4.2 Looking forward to 2023/24 the table below sets out the overall proposed Parks revenue budget, this is net of both the approved savings and the

proposed £127k savings for 2023/24. The gross Parks budget is c£3.8M, of which c68% is in respect of employee budgets, equivalent to 61fte. Income generation is budgeted at just over £2M to give a net revenue budget of c£1.8M.

Parks	2023/2024 Indicative Budget £'000
Expenditure:	
Employees	2,624
Running Expenses	1,252
Sub Total Subjective Expenditure	3,876
Less:	
Other Internal sales	(41)
Gross Expenditure	3,835
Income:	
Government Grants	0
Customer and Client Receipts	(2,001)
Other Income	(2)
Gross Income	(2,003)
Total Net Budget	1,832

- 4.3 Since 2016 the income budget has increased from £0.927M to £1.818M in 2022/23, this is a 96% increase in income generated by Parks. The growth in income has not only contributed to the Councils overall savings requirements it has quickened the pace of delivering the strategic objectives, by enabling investment in parks to raise the standards at key sites and the growth of the service across the wider estate
- 4.4 The continued growth of income is the result of a strong focus for investment on workstreams that deliver to the park strategy and support a more sustainable future for the service. Investment has been focused on parks that have the most opportunity in terms of increasing visitor numbers and more effective programming of the calendar of events and infrastructure.
- 4.5 The service will continue to generate opportunities for improved revenue income, based on the track record and progress made over the last 6 years, this includes:
- Generating income from contracting arrangements, such as mobile catering and ice cream.
 - By continuing to increase visitor numbers.
 - Offering a more vibrant programme of events and activities; and,

- through the addition of new or improved attractions, such as children's play, that would increase dwell time on site and increase visitors' secondary spend.

5.0 Risk

5.1 The deliverability of the programme of investment in Parks and the continued growth in income has a number of associated risks, including:

- Priorities being agreed following local stakeholder engagement.
- Planning approval being granted, where appropriate.
- Delivery partners willing to underwrite financial risk.
- Availability in the market for specialist delivery partners.
- The stabilisation of costs as the cost of construction materials continue to rise.
- Uplift in delivery costs for partners that will impact cost of delivering services and construction.
- Cost of living and maintaining the balance of free access and activities.

5.2 The Parks team have reviewed the main challenges in the delivery of capital projects in parks over recent years and the learning has been considered in mapping out the pipeline for delivery in terms of costs and timescales.

6.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

6.1 Despite the financial challenge ahead, the alignment to the strategic themes laid out within Manchester's Park Strategy will remain. The Parks Development Programme will:

- Unlock the potential to generate additional funds, with an anticipated £427k income growth by 2024/25.
- Progress the delivery of a consistently good quality standard.
- Increase the number of visitors and enable more stakeholders to play an active role.

6.2 Delivery of the programme of investment will continue with the following key steps:

- A continued focus on engagement with stakeholders and partners to fully explore opportunities aligned to the Park Strategy.
- Progress live feasibilities for projects in the pipeline to inform business cases and checkpoint submissions.

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**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 7 March 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 **27 February 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.

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 centre	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
Contract for Provision of	City Treasurer	Not before		Report &	Joanna Thorne

<p>ICT and Digital resources to Manchester City Council (2022/01/31A)</p> <p>The appointment ICT and Digital resources to Manchester City Council.</p>	(Deputy Chief Executive)	28th Feb 2022		Recommendation	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</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief	Not before 4th Sep 2022		Report and recommendations	Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.

<p>Commercial Office Furniture and Furniture Services (2022/08/04A)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider to deliver Commercial Office Furniture and Furniture Services.</p>	Executive)				uk
<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>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Before 30 Sep 2022		Award Report	Peter Schofield peter.schofield@manchester.gov.uk, Walter Dooley w.dooley@manchester.gov.uk
<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>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 26th Sep 2022		Report and recommendations	Mike Worsley mike.worsley@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Framework for the</p>	Strategic	Not before		Report &	

<p>provision of GM Online Library Service (2022/10/27B)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider(s) for GM Online Library Service</p>	Director (Neighbourhoods)	27th Nov 2022		Recommendation	
<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>Council Tax Base 2023/24 (2022/11/11D)</p> <p>To set the 2023/24 Council Tax Base</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 3rd Jan 2023		Council Tax Base report	Neil Doherty neil.doherty1@manchester.gov.uk
<p>TC1135 - Provision and supply of a System to Enforce Moving Traffic Offences, including maintenance (2022/11/23B)</p> <p>The appointment of Provider for supply of a System to Enforce Moving Traffic Offences, including maintenance.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 23rd Dec 2022		Report & Recommendation	

<p>Electricity contract for street lighting (2022/12/02A)</p> <p>To enter into a new electricity contract for the supply of electricity for street lighting.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 2nd Jan 2023		Report and recommendation	Peter Schofield peter.schofielod@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Funding towards City Centre Free Bus (2023/02/07A)</p> <p>Award a 3 year contract and enter into a funding agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM)</p>	Executive	22 Mar 2023		Report to Executive	Phil Havenhand, Interim Head of Infrastructure & Environment Phil.Havenhand@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (2023/02/14B)</p> <p>Approval of delivery of Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding programme</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 28th Feb 2023		BEIS EBSSAF draft guidance 8/2/2023 EBSSAF Grant Determination 2023 – 7/2/2023	Matthew Hassall, Head of Corporate Assessments matthew.hassall@manchester.gov.uk
Development and Growth					
<p>The 2-bed rate in temporary accommodation</p>	Strategic Director (Neighbourhood	Not before 24th Dec 2022		Commercially Sensitive	Nicola Rea nicola.rea@manchester.gov.uk

(2022/11/24A)	s)				
Equalise the 2-bed rate for properties in temporary accommodation.					
Strategic land and buildings acquisition 2019/06/03C	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 1st Dec 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case & Briefing Note	Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk
The approval of capital expenditure for the purpose of the strategic acquisition of land and buildings to support the Eastlands Regeneration Framework					
Disposal of site of former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development (21/05/13A)	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 13th Jun 2021		Report to the Strategic Director of Growth and Development	Mike Robertson m.robertson@manchester.gov.uk
Approval to the terms for the leasehold disposal of the site of the former Chorlton Leisure Centre for residential development.					
Restructure of existing multiple ground leases at Manchester Science Park into a new overriding single head lease (2021/07/16A)	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 16th Aug 2021		Report and recommendations	Mike Robertson m.robertson@manchester.gov.uk

Restructure of existing multiple ground leases at Manchester Science Park into a new overriding single head lease.					
<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 Drive, New Islington/Ancoats.</p>	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 18th Mar 2022		Report and recommendations	
<p>Disposal of the former Gala Bingo, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RS (2022/05/19A)</p> <p>Approval to the terms for</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

the leasehold disposal of the former Gala Bingo, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RS.					
<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 housing via a dedicated HAF budget.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 28th Jul 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	Yvette Ryle, Project Manager Yvette.ryle@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Large Scale Renewable Energy Project (2022/07/13B)</p> <p>To purchase a large scale solar farm, associated storage and maintenance</p>	Executive	18 Jan 2023		Executive Report	Leader

arrangements.					
<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 Agreement to progress work on a mixed development of market and Manchester Living Rent properties until planning permission has been granted.</p>	City Treasurer (Deputy Chief Executive)	Not before 10th Sep 2022		Checkpoint 4 Business Case	Sarah Narici sarah.narici@manchester.gov.uk
<p>Land at Kelbrook Road (2022/11/14A)</p>	Strategic Director -	4 Jan 2023		Report to the Strategic Director	Thomas Pyatt, Development Surveyor Tel: 0161 234 5469

Approval to dispose of land at Kelbrook Road for development	(Growth and Development)			– Growth & Development	thomas.pyatt@manchester.gov.uk
Gorton District Centre Masterplan (2022/12/12A) To approve the masterplan for future development and investment within Gorton District Centre	Executive	18 Jan 2023			Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk
Leasehold disposal of Unit 5, Nuovo A, Great Ancoats Street (2022/12/13B) To approve a 15 year lease of Unit 5, Nuovo A	Strategic Director - (Growth and Development)	Not before 11th Jan 2023		Briefing Note	Richard Cohen r.cohen@manchester.gov.uk
Local Authority Housing Fund to obtain and refurbish property for sustainable housing (2022/01/18A) To approve capital expenditure to obtain and refurbish property in order to provide sustainable housing for those unable to	Executive	Not before 18th Feb 2023		Capital Strategy report	Martin Oldfield m.oldfield@manchester.gov.uk

secure their own accommodation under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) (collectively referred to as the Afghan Schemes), Ukraine Family Scheme, the Homes for Ukraine and the Ukraine Extension Scheme (collectively referred to as Ukraine schemes).					
Lease Renewal to National Express at Chorlton Street Bus Station (2023/01/31A) Approval to renew the lease to National Express for a period of up to 10 years.	Director of Development	28 Feb 2023		Delegated Decision Report to Head of Development and Director of Development	Ken Richards k.richards@manchester.gov.uk
Disposal of land at Central Park (2023/02/16B) To approve the disposal of a plot of land at the site known as Central Park	Director of Housing and Residential Growth	Not before 16th Mar 2023		A report to Director of Strategic Housing & Development	
Disposal of land and buildings at Vaughan St,	Executive	22 Mar 2023		Part A and Part B report to the	Ken Richards k.richards@manchester.gov.uk

<p>Manchester M12 5FQ (Space Studios) (2023/02/23A)</p> <p>To agree the disposal of land and buildings at Vaughan St, Manchester M12 5FQ (Space Studios) on a 250-year leasehold, subject to delegations to finalise the terms, commercial and legal agreements</p>				<p>Council's Executive on 22nd March 2023</p>	
<p>Neighbourhoods</p>					
<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>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>1 Jun 2022</p>		<p>Waste Report to Environment & Climate Change Scrutiny Committee (10 March 2022)</p>	<p>Matthew Bennett matthew.bennett@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Q20516 – Ashton Canal Bridge (2022/11/25B)</p> <p>The works are referred to as: Victoria Northern Eastern Gateway Scheme Phase 3 – Ashton Canal Bridge. Scope of Works</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, Nikoo Nikousokhan, Project Manager nikoo.nikousokhan@manchester.gov.uk</p>

<p>comprises the construction of a new bridge and access ramps over the Ashton Canal at New Islington</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 Scheme Lot 2: Hoyle Street Parapet Replacement Scheme</p>	<p>Deputy City Treasurer, Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)</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>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, Thompson Street and Sherratt Street Junction • Additional Route Signage</p>	<p>Deputy City Treasurer</p>	<p>Not before 29th Dec 2022</p>		<p>Confidential Contract Report with Recommendations</p>	<p>Joshua Ward, Procurement Officer joshua.ward@manchester.gov.uk</p>

<p>Homelessness Lease Agreement (2023/01/24A)</p> <p>To enter into long term leases with private accommodation providers, to house homeless households.</p>	<p>Director of Homelessness</p>	<p>Not before 24th Feb 2023</p>		<p>Commercially Sensitive</p>	<p>Rob McCartney, Assistant Director rob.mccartney@manchester.gov.uk</p>
<p>Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Housing Compliance and Enforcement Fees (2023/02/27A)</p> <p>To increase fees associated with chargeable work in Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Housing Compliance.</p>	<p>Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods)</p>	<p>Not before 27th Mar 2023</p>		<p>Report requesting approval for setting fees and new fee and charge levels</p>	<p>Tim Birch, Neighbourhood Manager tim.birch@manchester.gov.uk</p>

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

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.
Community Asset Transfer Policy Update	To receive an update on the Community Asset Transfer Policy.	Cllr Rahman (Statutory Deputy Leader)	Richard Munns	
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	
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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	TBC	Cllr Akbar	Carol Culley	Will be confirmed

Management of Complaints				following Nov 2022 Audit Committee meeting.
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Items for Information

In response to a query at the meeting on 7 February 2023 regarding the implications of probate on council tax exemption (see *minute RGSC/23/11*), the Head of Corporate Revenues has provided the following information:

“If a property has been left unoccupied since the date of death of the deceased person who was formerly liable as the owner or tenant, an exemption applies. This exemption, class F, applies for as long as the property remains unoccupied or until the land registry has been updated with the name of the new owner.

*Ownership of a property cannot pass to the new owner (beneficiary) until it is transferred into his or her name by the Executors of the estate **AFTER** probate has been granted **and** the land registry has been updated with the name of the new owner*

After probate has been granted and if the property is still unoccupied, a further six months exemption can be granted. After the further six months, if the property is still unoccupied the charge should be Long Term Empty Class C. If it has taken more than two years for probate to be granted, the exemption will continue for a further six months after probate and then the Long-Term Empty Premium will be charged.”